



Whitman Public Library

Fall Newsletter 2011

Volume 1, Issue 3
October 2011

October is Family History Month



Upcoming Events:

- Plymouth County Jails, Then and Now. A spooky history of local prisons. 10/18, 7pm, no registration required.
- Big Ryan's Tall Tales for ages 2-6. 10/6, 11am.
- The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree. A beginning genealogy program. 10/22, 1pm, registration required
- Fresh Floral Pumpkin Arrangements. 10/24, 6:30pm, registration required.
- Big Ryan's Tall Tales for ages 2-6. 11/10, 11am.
- Gaming Day! 11/12, 12pm. A great family event!
- Holiday Beading Workshop. 12/3, 1-3pm, registration required, adults ages 18 and up.

The Whitman Library is pleased to introduce our newest database—Ancestry.com. We've all probably thought about how we should get started on our family tree while Grandpa is talking about his glory days, so now is your chance to use a fantastic resource to plant the tree.

The Library edition of Ancestry.com differs slightly from the commercial version. With so many users, it would be impossible to differentiate between everyone's family tree, so this online feature is disabled. You can, however, print one off that you can fill in as you discover new branches. Also, this database is only accessible in the library due to copyright restrictions. We will

be unveiling a dedicated ancestry workstation very soon, so as long as you're in the library you'll have access to ancestry.com.

Ancestry.com is very easy to use. You can enter as much or as little information you know about an ancestor to start searching through historical documents. However, we know that even starting the search can be daunting, so there will be a special presentation with a renowned lecturer from the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Rhonda McClure is the author of many books, including *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beginning Online Genealogy*. She will be talking about how to begin a

genealogy project. The workshop, "The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree" will go over ancestry.com, as well as the multitude of other local resources you can use to make your family tree flourish. For more information about this database, or to register for the workshop, please call the library.

Workshop: 10/22, 1pm



National Initiatives at the Library:

Banned Books Week

One of the greatest things about a public library is having a place where people of all different backgrounds can come to find information relevant to their own life and needs. To some, this might be a computer or a WiFi connection. Others rely on their public library as a source for current information and diverse book selections. Banned Books Week (BBW) is an annual event celebrated nationally to observe the challenges that have been made to library materials around the world. Attempts to remove a book from public consumption include reasons like: it challenges traditional roles for women and girls, blasphemous dialog, racial issues, and religious differences. Check out our display of banned books, which will remain up through the middle of October, and enjoy your right to freedom to read as you enjoy the library through the year!

Gaming Day

A national initiative to show that libraries are more than just books is National Gaming Day. WPL hopes to reconnect people around the educational, recreational, and social value of all types of games. This year, on Saturday, November 12 we invite everyone to come to the library for pizza and refreshments, and to enjoy a wide assortment of games—from Old Maid to Wii sports, come visit with your neighbors and see the assortment of fun activities happening at your local library!



Job Seekers Corner

October 2011 marks the official conclusion of the Libraries for Job Seekers Grant the Library received. The last year has been full of exciting programs for job seekers—some of the most popular ones were the workshops led by employment specialist Gary Gekow, the Monthly Job Seekers Networking Group, and a visit from a Monster.com executive. Although the funding for jobs programs has run out, the Library is still committed to helping patrons find meaningful employment. To this end, the section with materials for job seekers will remain in place into the future, and the Reference Librarian is available to help people learn how to use the software program Optimal Resume for composing job documents. We also have an assortment of partners who are eager to help local people find jobs. If you or someone you know is out of work, continue to look toward the Library as a place for help. This Spring lookout for the return of the Monthly Job Seekers Networking Group!



The Great Courses are a new collection available at the WPL. These items bring engaging professors into your home through courses on DVD. These are ideal for lifelong learners, without the homework or exams! They are available between the audio book section and the Feature DVD, and we have a wide selection of titles, so you can get started today on learning about that subject you always wish you had majored in.

Save Some Money, Kill a Watt!

The library has two new devices you can check out to test the energy efficiency of your home appliances. Ask at the circulation desk about these money saving devices!



Supporting the library through our Friends group—

Did you know that the library budget does not cover our many wonderful programs and some of the other great library resources, like discounted museum passes?

The Friends of the Whitman Public Library work tirelessly to raise money to support library programming and other resources for patrons.

You can help by joining the Friends group—membership is inexpensive (\$5 for an individual for 1 year) and really goes a long way. You can also get involved with the Friends' fundraising efforts through book sales and special events.

Pick up an application at the library today!

"The best way to have a friend, is to be a friend" -Ralph Waldo Emerson



TumbleBooks are here—

TumbleBookLibrary is an online collection of TumbleBooks – animated, talking picture books which teach kids the joy of reading in a format they'll love.

TumbleBooks are created by adding animation, sound, music and narration to existing picture books in order to produce an electronic picture book which you can read, or have read to you.

If you and your kids love the AWE learning station located in the children's room of the library, you'll really enjoy accessing these TumbleBooks from home.

Just visit our Web site (www.whitmanpubliclibrary.org) and click on the link in the bottom left hand page for TumbleBooks.

*"Delicious autumn!
My very soul is wedded to it,
and if I were a bird I would fly
about the earth seeking the
successive autumns."*
-George Eliot



Another way to support library programming is to purchase fun and useful library merchandise.

We have tote bags in two different styles, Friends of the Library Cookbooks, Whitman History Books, magnets, plants, and more...

Every dollar goes back into the library's programming budget, so your purchases directly benefit the workshops and events we are able to offer at the library!