

FALL 2011

SUMMER READING PROGRAM IS GLOWING SUCCESS

Summer reading programs exceeded expectations, Jennifer Cummings, Sherman Public Library children's librarian reported. Her report follows.

Summer Reading Club 2011

Youth Program for ages birth -11: Dig Up A Good Book!

Teen Program for ages 12-18: Going Global Staying Connected!

Youth and Teen Summer Reading Club Registration

808 children and teens signed up for the Summer Reading Club. **700** of these Reading Club participants are ages birth – 11 and **108** are ages 12 - 18. Total Youth and Teen Registrations for all of last summer were **604**: **543** youth and **61** teens. This summer youth ages birth-11 turned in **1,515** completed Reading Logs and teens ages 12-18 turned in **532** Reading Logs for a total of **2,047**.

Last summer youth turned in **1,115** Reading Logs and teens turned in **228** Reading Logs for a total of **1,343**. That is an increase of **204** participants and **704** completed Reading Logs. In 2009 there were **372** youth participants and **23** teens for a total of **395** participants.

Total Summer Reading Club program attendance June 1-August 18 2011: 4,476.

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VOLUNTEERS PLAN FOR THE FALL BOOK SALE

Book sales held in spring and fall provide the major source of income that supports the activities of the Friends of the Sherman Public Library.

The books, both fiction and non-fiction, audiovisual materials and other items sold are donated by members of the

community, sorted by volunteers and on sale days, placed in the Hope Waller room and in the workroom of the library.

Friends' members will get the first choice of books, etc., from 5-7 p.m. Sept. 16. The sale will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 17.

The 29th annual Sherman Arts Festival will be held that same weekend. Among the Saturday attractions at the library will be the dulcimer group, Red River Dulcimer Band, which will be playing in front of the library from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

SAVE THE DATE!

Did You Know?

You can access the library's card catalog from your home computer by going to www.barr.org. Then click on BARR:CAT:An OnLine Catalog to check on library holdings. With your library card number and PIN you can place holds and renew your items online. If you do not have a PIN, please visit the library to set one up and get a demonstration on using the online catalog.

Members of Friends of the Sherman Public Library get a first peek at the books at each book sale.

Encourage your friends to join today.

Membership is a bargain at \$15 for an individual, \$25 for a family.

We offered **81** programs this summer. Total 2010 Summer Reading Club program attendance: **3,526**. We offered **61** programs last summer.

Summer Reading Club Kickoff

110 children attended our Summer Reading Club Kickoff event on June 2 and painted flower pots. **15** children have brought in drawings or photographs of themselves reading to their plants. These pictures are displayed on the bulletin board behind the Children's computers. Kids who bring in a photograph or a drawing of themselves reading to their plant won a treasure box prize.

Monday Madness

2,502 children and parents attended the **8** Monday Madness performances at the Municipal Ballroom. The Friends of the Sherman Library partner with the Sherman Parks & Recreation department to offer this program. Last summer **2,115** people attended the **8** Monday Madness programs.

Crafternoons Kids

345 children ages 5-11 attended the **16** Crafternoon Kids programs this summer. We consistently had waiting lists for the Crafternoon Kids programs. Last summer **281** children attended **13** Crafternoons Kids programs. Craft projects included making sidewalk chalk, decorating squares in the new library quilt, creating dinosaur mobiles, building kazoo cars, decorating kites, sculpting with Model Magic Clay, designing dinosaur sand art, and decorating giant cardboard books.

Crafternoons Teens

96 teens ages 12-18 attended the **8** Crafternoon Teens programs this summer. This is the only weekly summer program that is exclusively for teens. Last summer **80** teens attended **8** Crafternoon Teens programs. Craft projects included decorating a square for the new library quilt, painting ceramic piggy banks, decorating masks, making decoupage pencils, painting bobble-head dragons or ducks, painting fabric animals, making key chains and bookmarks and painting paper fans and rubber ducks.

Karaoke on the Big Screen

A total of **117** children, teens & parents attended the **8** Karaoke programs. Karaoke is a fun way for children to practice reading aloud. Last summer **69** children, teens and parents attended **8** Karaoke programs.

Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies is a new program this summer. Teen Volunteers are paired with young students going into the 1st – 3rd grades. The Young Readers read aloud to the Volunteers and the Volunteers read to the Young Readers. We offered **8** Reading Buddies programs. The total attendance was **157**. We had **85** Young Readers and **72** Teen Volunteers.

Read to Win StoryTimes

We offered **24** StoryTime programs this summer with a total attendance of **798**. Last summer **619** children and parents attended **21** StoryTime programs. We gave away **62** Read to Win grant funded books at the Summer StoryTimes. Children must attend 4 weeks of programs to receive a free book.

Read to Win Summer Outreach

Read to Win Coordinator Rosalyn Flemings presented **35** sessions this summer with the ACES programs and area Childcare centers. The total attendance was **654** and she gave away **256** Read to Win grant funded books.

School Visits to the Library

Elementary school aged children from Stepping Stones came to visit the library once in June and once in July. I read stories to them in the Community Room and gave them a tour of the library. 1st-4th graders in the Sherman ISD ACES program visited the library twice in July for rainforest stories and videos. A total of **284** children and teachers attended these **4** programs.

Awards Day was held on Saturday, August 13 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Reading Club participants selected prize books and spent the Book Bucks they earned. The Youth and Teen Grand Prize Drawings were held on Awards Day. **290** children, teens and parents attended this year's Awards Day compared with the **185** that attended last summer. Reading Club participants earned **2,004** prize books and **1,565** Book Bucks this year. I spent more on books this year than I did last year and had several large boxes of leftover books from previous years and yet so many more children and teens participated

this year and so many more completed Reading Logs were turned in, we almost ran out of prize books on Awards Day! There were only a few juvenile and teen fiction titles left at the end of the event. The Friends very generously agreed to provide additional funding and I ordered more books the Monday after Awards Day so that participants who were unable to attend Awards Day can still receive their prize books.

Teen Volunteer Program

69 Teen Volunteers have worked for a combined total of **1,173** hours June 1-August 13. Teen Volunteers sign kids up for the reading club, accept completed Reading Logs and distribute prizes, and assist kids with the Game Board. They also assist me at the Crafternoons Kids programs, the Summer Reading Club Kickoff program, read with young readers in the Reading Buddies programs, and they shelve books. The Teen Volunteer Program ended on August 13. Last summer we had **31** Teen Volunteers who worked for a total of **505** hours. The Teen Volunteer Pizza Party was held on Thursday, August 18. **32** teens attended the Pizza Party. Teen Volunteer Caleb Butler won the award for Most Volunteer Hours Worked for the second year in a row! Caleb worked **78.5** hours. The Sherman Public Library Advisory Teens (SPLAT) group met twice this summer. A total of **15** teens attended the **2** meetings.

Reading Club Game Board & Book Review programs

Children and teens going into the 3rd-12th grades could play the Game Board and write Book Reviews. The purpose of the Game Board is to encourage participants to read different types of books and to learn how to use library resources to answer research questions. Children and teens were encouraged to write Book Reviews in order to promote critical thinking about books and provide a reader's advisory service to their peers. Completed Book Reviews were placed in a binder for other children to page through to find recommendations. Participants won 1 Book Buck for each correctly answered Game Board question and for each completed Book Review form. This was the second summer we offered the Book Review program. Participants earned **1,565** Book Bucks this summer. For the first time, participants could also select Book Bucks in lieu of a Treasure Box prize when they turned in a completed Reading Log. **79** children and teens played the Game Board **658** times. They answered **320** research questions. **28** 3rd-12th graders wrote **77** Book Reviews.

Marketing the Reading Club

I advertised the Sherman Public Library Summer Reading Club with an article in the newspaper, information on the BARR and city library websites, and posters and flyers in the library. I also participated in the May Parks and Recreation Staple and sent our flyers home with every Sherman ISD K-6th grader in the Parks and Recreation Center packets. I contacted all of the Sherman ISD schools in April to request visits in May to promote the Reading Club. I was able to visit Piner Middle School, Dillingham Intermediate School, Washington Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, Neblett Elementary, and Sory Elementary. I sent a Youth or Teen Reading Club commercial to all Sherman ISD schools. The commercial was created in Windows Movie Maker and was provided for their morning announcements or class visits to the school library.

Demographics

688 of this summer's Reading Club participants live in Sherman. **46** live in Denison, **21** live in Bells and **53** live in other cities. **155** participants are ages birth – 4, **273** are ages 5-8, **152** are ages 9-11, and **108** are ages 12-18. The most common age of Youth Title Log participants is **6 years old**, the most common age for Youth Time Log participants is **9 years old**, and the most common age of Teen Reading Club participants is **13 years old**. **74** participants are home-schooled, **52** attend Sory Elementary, **44** Dillingham Intermediate, **41** Piner Middle School, **32** Fairview Elementary, **30** Crutchfield Elementary, **28** Wakefield Elementary, **26** Texoma Christian School, **25** Neblett Elementary, **25** Jefferson Elementary, **20** St. Mary's, **13** Washington Elementary, **9** Sherman High School, **5** Fred Douglass Early Childhood Center, and **384** left this question blank or attend other schools.

A GREEN OPPORTUNITY

Children who see their parents and grandparents and friends and neighbors reading newspapers, magazines, books or even the back of the cereal box are more likely to value reading. If you subscribe to magazines suitable for kids to read and don't want to throw them away, give them to the kids you know who don't have magazines in their homes. Or give them to teachers in your neighborhood school.

Please Help Our Library

Mackin’s Funds4Books

Sherman Public Library plays a critical role in increasing literacy among children and teens, assisting teachers with curriculum, and contributing to your child’s lifelong joy of reading.

We need your help because there is simply not enough money in the budget to fill our library with the books our students and teachers need for reading and research. With your help, we can buy the library books our children need.

Here’s what you can do. Contribute money to Funds 4 Books.

100 percent of your contribution will go toward buying books for the Sherman Public Library. You can contribute in either of two ways: (1) write a personal check made out to Funds4Books and bring it to the library or (2) go to www.Funds4Books.com. Enter code 2ffa to view Sherman Public Library’s personal web page. While you are there, make your contribution.

For every \$15 donated, we can buy a new book for the library, ready to be checked out. Every penny you donate will go to buy much-needed library children’s and teen materials for the Sherman Public Library.

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**KEEP THE FUNDS FLOWING!
THE RESULTS ARE WONDERFUL**

We have now raised \$1,555 for new children's and teen books with the Funds For Books fundraiser! Patrons interested in donating can visit www.funds4books.com and enter code 2ffa or bring a check made out to "Funds4Books" to the library. Personalized memorial or celebration bookplates can be placed in the donated books on request. All Funds4Books donation books can be identified by their Funds4Books bookplates.

I have sent off our first Funds4Books order and the new books are starting to arrive!

Thanks!

**Jennifer Cummings
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Note from the editor: The list of books acquired from this fund raiser was just too long to include in the newsletter. I’m sure Mrs. Cummings will be glad to share it with you on request. By the way, Jennifer announced at the last Friends meeting that she and husband Tim are expecting a baby!

Sherman Public Library Houses Outstanding

Genealogy Resources

The Sherman Public Library is fortunate to have a premier genealogy department and even more fortunate to have a staff librarian who is both expert researcher and genealogist. He provided the following information about the genealogy classes he provides

I do a genealogy presentation, Climbing Your Family Tree, at least a couple of times a year, fall and spring. I will be scheduling the next one for October, (watch for date!). Following the initial presentation we do a Genealogy work day, usually a week or two later. This is held when the library is closed to the general public, which gives genealogy researchers time on computers not limited to an hour. My presentation is done on a PowerPoint and covers how to begin genealogy research, census records, internet resources, and summary of materials available in our library, including online access to Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest, and Fold3 (previously Footnote). The last two we also furnish as off-site resources to our patrons with a valid Sherman library card. I include a packet of information along with a website list for those attending the presentation, as well as others who come in to the genealogy area between presentation events. I am generally available in the genealogy area for questions and assistance with resources.

Michael Miller, MLS

903-892-7240

Reference/Genealogy Librarian

Events and activities sponsored in full or in part by the Friends of the Sherman Public Library include Authorfest, Book Review Luncheons, the Summer Reading Program, and Monday Madness Children's Programs. Contact the Sherman Public Library at 903-892-7240 for additional information.

Recent Gifts and Memorials:

Little Miss Patriot given as a gift by the Grayson County Republican Women.

The Rabbit and the Turtle and *Turtle Splash!*: Countdown at the Pond given in memory of Walker Jack Rainey by Margaret, Meg, & Kenneth McCord.

My Soccer Book and Golf: the Best Putting Instruction Book Ever! given in memory of Kyle Haigis by the Friends of the Sherman Public Library.

Big Book of Bicycling: A Reintroduction given in memory of Raymond D. Cathey by Ruby Moran & Jana Garner.

Are You Afraid of the Dark? given in honor of Sam & Carrie Jo Wilson by Dan Keever.

The Ransom given in memory of Dr. Don Keever by Dan Keever.

H.R.H. given in honor of Charlene Owens by Dan Keever.

Jeff Davis's Own: Cavalry, Comanches, and the Battle for the Texas Frontier given in honor of Dr. Chris Grooms by Peggy Erickson Grooms.

The Help given in memory of Larcenia Bluitt by Peggy Erickson Grooms.

Caleb's Crossing in memory of Tat Osterhout by the Reader's Forum.

This and That

Having a Sherman Public Library card gives you access not only to the Sherman library, but also to the Denison Public Library, Grayson College Library and, with a little additional paperwork, the Austin College Library.

SPLAT, the library auxiliary for teens will resume regular meetings September 15. Membership is open to everyone ages 12-18. If you know a teen who is looking for a great volunteer opportunity and an opportunity to learn about the library, send them to SPLAT

If you are in your car several hours each week, you will enjoy “reading” the books in the library’s audio books section. Books on CD’s and also on tape, if you still have a tape deck, are available. Fiction and non-fiction are available. Some books you will never have time to sit down and read for yourself are there—and no one ever outgrows enjoying having someone read aloud to them. Try it! You’ll like it!

Recommended Reading from Your Newsletter Editor

The Help is available in both print and audio editions at the library and is well worth the time of both male and female readers. It is powerful enough that both readers and people who see the movie are quick to deny that their families ever treated the women who worked for them as the families in the book and movie did. Me thinks they are both too quick and too vociferous in their protests. The book, as is to be expected, is richer in detail than the movie.

Tangled Webs by James B. Stewart, examines the impact that lies told by celebrities and politicians has on our society as a whole and on the judicial system specifically. He carefully details the perjury trials of Scooter Libby, Martha Stewart, Barry Bonds and Bernie Madoff. Although the book is at times tedious because of the author’s meticulous research, his premise that the epidemic of lying is having a destructive effect on society is thought provoking. Perhaps the most important point the book makes is that the American social and legal system cannot operate if lying under oath is tolerated.

Welcome to the World, *Baby Girl*, *Standing in the Rainbow*, and *Can’t Wait to Get to Heaven* are the parts of a trilogy about the ordinary and wonderful people in Elm Springs, Missouri immediately after WWII and into the latter part of the 20th century. Each book is a stand-alone, so they need not be read in any particular order. Indeed, the author, Fannie Flagg, sometimes makes us wonder whether she forgot what happened to her characters in earlier books. However, the characters and the situations are so clearly drawn in each book, that details from the other books are relatively unimportant. These books are worth reading at least twice each, and maybe more often. They may not be quite as classic as *Huckleberry Finn*, another good read, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but they will do until Fannie Flagg writes another one.