

Librarian's Shelf by Kelli Keyes

Blind Date with a Book

How are you planning to celebrate Valentine's Day this year? A romantic dinner? Chocolate candies? A poetic Valentine card? Red roses? All of the above? These are great ideas but maybe your budget doesn't stretch that far.

According to U.S. News and World Report, those celebrating Valentine's Day this year are likely to spend an average of \$146.84 on Valentine's Day gifts. The National Retail Federation estimated Americans would fork over about \$19.7 billion for Valentine's Day. I was amazed to read those numbers until I started to think about what I spend for Valentine's Day. I buy treats and cards for my children's school classmates and my wonderful husband usually takes me out for dinner – so I spend more than I first thought!

I wanted to come up with a fun idea for Valentine's Day here at Columbus Public Library for patrons to enjoy free of charge. We came up with "Blind Date with a Book". When you walk into the main doors of the library, to your immediate left you will see a Valentine Book display with colorfully wrapped books. On each book is a little description of your possible "date" book. You can choose one or more wrapped books - just in case you don't like the first "date"! Take your "blind date" book to a librarian for check out and then you can take your book home to unwrap and find out what it is. Hopefully it's a good surprise! When you have it unwrapped, inside your book you will find a "rate your date" slip. We would like to know how your "date" went. Circle one of the options and return the slip back to the library when you bring back your book. There is a jar for the slips on the Valentine display table. We will have a drawing from all of the returned "rate your date" slips, and one lucky person will win a \$30 gift certificate to "Stack n' Steak" here in Columbus. So take advantage of our Valentine display and enjoy a fun blind date with a book!

On February 18, Saturday at 2 PM, Steve Tamayo, a traditional Sicangu Lakota artist, is coming to the Columbus Library in the Art Gallery downstairs to talk about the 4 Tribes of Nebraska. He earned his BFA in Fine Arts from Sinte Gleska University and has developed and taught a curriculum of Traditional Arts for their Lakota Studies Department. Tamayo has worked with the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in their collections management and conservation team to help preserve the material culture of the Indian People. Steve will bring Native artifacts that he has created and his grandsons will demonstrate the song and dance of the Indian People. We were able to bring Steve Tamayo to the library through the sponsorship of the Friends of the Library. We are very thankful for all the support, monetary and volunteer service, which the Friends provide for our benefit. If you haven't yet, you still have time to shop at their book sale in the basement of the library. It ends on the 5th of February at 5 PM, their Sunday \$2 per bag deal. Come get great bargains and help support the Friends of the Library!