

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Jill Owens

New and worth noting @ your library

Regular users of the Columbus Public Library are well acquainted with the shelves that display our newest titles. In the past we’ve had two bookcases holding the newest additions of both fiction and nonfiction. In the interest of space we recently reduced this new book display to one bookcase.

One other drawback to the physical shelf for new books, in addition to the crowded space, is that patrons can only see what is currently checked in. Some new books are so popular that they remain checked out constantly; consequently, the casual browsers never see them on the new books display. Browsers don’t know about what they don’t see.

Staff at the library solved this problem, as well as the problem of having reduced shelf space for the new books, by putting together a list of new additions and publishing it each month on the library’s website. Now patrons can see the entire list of new books added each month whether they are checked out or not. In addition to being able to see what’s new even if it is checked out, users can investigate this electronic “shelf” from anywhere that has internet access, even when the library is closed. Simply go to <http://www.columbuslibrary.info/> and click the “New Items” link on the left. Now you won’t miss any new titles because they happened to be checked out when you were in browsing.

In other news, we are pleased to announce a new member to the Library Board of Trustees. Melodee Pedersen has a Masters degree in Library Science, 11 years of experience as a library employee, and 2 years of experience as a library director. She also was instrumental in the founding of the Friends of the Columbus Public Library, on whose board she has worked countless hours over the last several years. Melodee was the 2009 recipient of the Municipal Recognition Program Citizen Volunteer award. She also volunteers for her church. She and her husband, Dr. Todd Pedersen, have 3 children.

Melodee will fill the spot on the Board of Trustees vacated by Craig Neid. Craig rotates off the board this month, having worked hard for the library in this capacity since December of 2004. The staff and board members will miss Craig on the Board of Trustees, but are happy to have his talents working for the library a little while longer as he is the current president of the Columbus Library Foundation. Library staff and patrons are very grateful to the citizens who agree to serve on all the library-related boards.

In Foundation news, Columbus Bank & Trust employees chose the Library Foundation as the recipient of their monthly donation. Lois Loomis was memorialized by Faye Berkheimer, Gloria Olson, Dr. and Mrs. Ervin Heiser, Mr. and Mrs. John Cieloha, Mary Miller, Madeline Kuska, Kathleen Mueller, and Marilyn Gangel. Sandra Riley donated in memory of Monica Sorensen. Bud and Rita Fleischer gave memorials for Bud Murray and Gerald Spelts. Also donating in memory of Gerald Spelts were Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hollinrake, Bill and Barbara Ferguson, and Roberta Saalfeld.