



Summer 2008

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Madame President (of the United States) by George Granholt

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No, it hasn't happened yet, but there have been numerous efforts to acquire the title. Since 1872, twenty-six women have been nominated, or selected by some other means, to represent a political party for the highest office in the land. Additionally, there have been seventy-four women selected as a vice-presidential running mate. However, with the exception of the nomination in 1984 of Geraldine Ferraro for Vice-President on the Democrat ticket, no woman has been nominated for either President or Vice-President by one of the two major parties. Hillary Clinton did, of course, make a very determined effort to become the Democrat Party's Presidential nominee this spring, but, as we know, she was defeated by Barack Obama.

So, who were some of the women who made a run for the highest office in the land? The first woman to seek the U.S. Presidency was Victoria Woodhull in 1872. Although her name never appeared on any official ballot, (women were not even allowed to vote, yet) she did represent the newly formed Equal Rights Party. Realistically accepting the possibility of women never getting the right to vote, Woodhull promoted the idea that "a woman's ability to earn money is better protection against the tyranny and brutality of men than her right to vote." Woodhull's running mate was none other than Frederick Douglass, the Black abolitionist and former slave who published the influential abolitionist newspaper, North Star. The Woodhull/Douglass ticket received only two votes. After a woman named Belva Atwood, running on the National Equal Rights Party in both the 1884 and 1888 elections, received only 4,149 votes in 1884 and a mere four votes in 1888, fifty-two years elapsed before a third woman made a try for the Presidency.

That individual's name appeared on ballots as Grace Allen, better known to millions of Americans as "Gracie." Yes, Gracie Allen, the wife of George Burns, declared her candidacy for President of the U.S. in 1940, running against Democrat Franklin Roosevelt and Republican Wendell Wilke. What started as a gag developed into a quasi-serious bid for the Presidency with a convention in Omaha and a party platform. Running as a member of the Surprise Party (what else?), Gracie received an estimated 42,000 votes, far outdistancing the previous two candidates of her gender. Gracie never selected a running-mate, declaring that she would absolutely allow no vice in her administration!

A second hiatus of twenty-eight years occurred before a woman named Charlene Mitchell ran for President in 1968. Running on the Communist Party ticket, Mitchell received only 1,076 votes, but her effort presaged a run of women declaring for the Presidency every four years until the election year of 2000. With the exception of Ellen McCormack running on the Right to Life Party in 1980, Diane Beall Templeton running on the American Party in 1996, and Cathy Gorden Brown running as a third-party candidate on the Independent Party, the majority of the women candidates for President claimed Communist or Socialist affiliation. One such party, the New Alliance with Lenora Fulani as its candidate, garnered over 217,000 votes in 1988. However, of the twenty-six women candidates for the Presidency of the United States, none received a single electoral vote.

One may question why the United States has not, to this date, had a woman make a serious run for the Presidency while other Western nations have had a woman serve as either a ceremonial or a political head of state. This question becomes particularly relevant since the U.S. prides itself on its democratic social structure. There are two overarching possibilities, starting with the inception of our federal republic in 1787. (Continued on page 2)



Madame President (of the United States)

by George Granholt

(Continued from page 1)

The U. S. Constitution was drafted by men with, most likely, the tacit acceptance that the chief executive office of our federal government would be occupied by a man. Obvious is the exclusive use of the masculine singular forms of the pronoun, "he," in most sections of Article II of the Constitution. It seems that if the Founding Fathers had considered the possibility of a woman President, they would have insisted on making this likelihood clear, especially in the qualifications for holding the office. Still, to the credit of the framers, or to democratic good fortune, the list of qualifications uses only the terms, "citizen," "person," and "resident." No restrictive "he, "his," or "him," is present.

"No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained the Age of thirty-five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States."

The Constitution of the United States Article II, Section 1, Paragraph 5

A second reason for the failure to elect a woman to the Presidency may be laid at the feet of our strong two-party political establishment. For either the Democrat Party or the Republican Party to nominate a woman for the Presidency requires some risk-taking, since such action challenges both political tradition and the ethos of paternalism, possibly derived from the Founding Fathers' Judeo- Christian heritage. In this regard, it may be interesting to consider why, at this particular time, one of the two major political parties decided to accept the risk. The writer leaves the answer to this question with the reader.

Now, to the present. The election of 2008 will open new doors as far as our political heritage is concerned. Even as the tradition of "men only" for the Presidency continues, the opportunity for a wider field from which to choose politically qualified candidates for the office is established. For this, America's electorate can be thankful.

Note: the historical information concerning women for the Presidency was taken from the following Internet sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_female_United_States_presidential_and_vice-presidential_candidates

<http://feministgeek.com/teaching-learning/woodhull/>

<http://www.geocities.com/hollywood/hills/1836/campaign1940.html???00820>

**FROM THE DESK OF THE
CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN**

by Jill Pratt

The Summer Reading Program has been buzzing right along and will be finishing up with parties for each age group in mid July. Kids and families all "Caught the Reading Bug" in record numbers at the Greensburg Library, the Bookmobile and the Westport Branch. Kids were able to make a variety of crafts with the buggy theme, watch some terrific performers like Alligator Aaron and Magic Don Miller, and watch movies. Of course, the main focus of the program was to keep kids reading and earning prizes like free book and food coupons. The Teens participated in a Claymation workshop, made duck tape crafts and a bandana bag.

A big thank you goes out to all of our sponsors. Kids received coupons from Arby's, Dairy Queen, Domino's, Starbucks and Wendy's this summer. A number of other organizations, businesses and local banks donated money and savings bonds and the Friends of the Library continued their annual sponsorship of the program as well. Without the support of the local community and businesses the Summer Reading Program would not be possible.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

Bring Your Grandparents to the Library Tea - Sunday, September 14 - 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Bats and Boo...ks - Halloween at the Library - Friday, October 24 - 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.



Dear Friends of the Library Members,

It has been my pleasure to work at the Greensburg Library for a total of 19 years -- the last six as director. With very mixed feelings, I will be resigning effective June 6, 2008 in order to spend more time with family and pursue my hobbies and interests.

I would like to take this time to say how much I appreciate the Friends of the Library members and all they have done to benefit the Library. The Friends have busily raised funds to help the Library through Book Sales and other special projects such as the Library Cookbooks.

The Library has been able to improve and expand our program offerings due to the financial and volunteer help from Friends members. Just a few of the programs that benefit from the generosity of the Friends are: Children's Summer Reading; Adult Winter Reading; Bats and Boo...ks; Santa Day; Grandparents Day; Stories Under the Stars; and many others.

The Friends have also purchased many needed items to help supplement the Library's budget. One of the newest items they purchased is a popcorn machine. It will be used to help supply refreshments for many Library programs including the very popular Summer Reading kick-off. The Friends also purchased a machine that cleans and repairs DVDs and CDs -- this helps these expensive items to last longer so they can be enjoyed by more patrons. Computers, a printer, and microfilm for the Indiana Room are just a few of the many other items purchased by the Friends of the Library.

Thanks to you, all our great Friends members who made this possible -- by paying your membership dues, volunteering to help with Book Sales, helping with craft programs, or serving refreshments -- your help has greatly benefited the Library.

I hope in my retirement to be able to join the ranks of Friends volunteers!

Sincerely,
Vicki Butz



Remaining Friends
of the Library
Meeting Dates for
2008

September 16

November 18

Meetings are held
at 5:00 p.m.
in the Library
Conference Room

Membership Form

Name

Address

Phone

Yes, I would like to help with:

- Friends Book Sales
- Summer Reading Kickoff
- Special Events

Mail to:

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Greensburg-Decatur County Public Library
1110 E. Main St.
Greensburg, IN 47240

Type of Membership

- Benefactor Membership for Year 2008:
\$50 or more
- Contributing Membership for Year
2008: \$25 or more
- Family Membership for Year 2008:
\$10 or more
- Individual Membership for Year 2008:
\$5 or more

Friends Coordinators

Finance:
Nancy Wilhoit 663-8290

Program:
Louise Eversull 662-6200

Book Sale:
Russell Wilhoit 663-8290

Membership:
Tim Irwin 663-2253

Meeting:
Margaret Parker
663-8430

Library Contact:
Becky Perkins 663-2826

NEWS FROM THE BRANCH

by Martha Hershauer

WESTPORT BRANCH HOURS		
DAY	OPEN	CLOSE
MON	3 PM	7 PM
TUE	10 AM	1 PM
	3 PM	7 PM
WED	3 PM	7 PM
THU	10 AM	1 PM
	3 PM	7 PM
FRI	CLOSED	
SAT	9 AM	1 PM
SUN	CLOSED	

Now that the muggy days of summer and early fall are here, let's keep our little one's interest in stories alive and well. Gather your children, grandchildren or even the neighbor's children and begin a fun adventure! Reading is such a wonderful lifetime pleasure. Do not let any of the children in your life miss out!

Here are some great suggestions to get you started.

Pigsty by Mark Teague. What happens when little boys don't clean their rooms and the pigs move in?

Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin. This is a true diary written through an earthworm's eyes. You will never look at an earthworm in the same light again!

For nature lovers, try **Lost in the Woods** or **First Snow in the Woods** by Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick. Both of these books have beautiful wildlife pictures and touching stories about the animals.

The Water Hole by Graeme Base. This counting book has wonderful illustrations of the many animals that can be seen around a diminishing water hole, and THEN IT RAINS!

Another favorite here at the Branch is **Big Chickens** by Leslie Helkoski. Four big chickens, although they are very scared, go on an accidental adventure and find out that they are brave after all.

These and many other books are just waiting to be checked out. Gather the children, even if you have to borrow some, and enjoy a good book together.

Fall



Craft Day
October 7
3:30 P.M.
Call the Branch at 591-2660 to reserve your spot!

There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.

Jackie Kennedy

Storytime



Each Tuesday morning
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Digital Updates

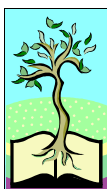
Intermediate Internet
Beginning Internet
Introduction to Computers

JULY
Wednesday, July 9 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, July 22 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 29 2:00 p.m.



AUGUST

Researching Your Family Tree w/ Ancestry.com Tuesday, August 5 2:00 p.m.
Microsoft Word Thursday, August 14 6:00 p.m.
Microsoft Mail Merge Tuesday, August 19 6:00 p.m.
Beginning Internet Wednesday, August 27 2:00 p.m.



SEPTEMBER

Microsoft Publisher
Beginning Internet
Intermediate Internet
E-mail

Wednesday, September 10 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 18 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 24 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 30 6:00 p.m.



DESTINATION – THE LIBRARY!

by Judy Cupp – Library Board Member

The Library is a destination for me. Throughout my lifetime, I have gone to the Library. When I was in elementary school, we did not have a Library in a separate room. We did have bookshelves along the side of the classroom, which became a Library of sorts for me. When I was in high school, I would go to the first floor of the school and check out books from the Library. During the summer, I would go to our city Library and get a Library card so I could check out books from that Library. When I went to college, I would go to this huge building that contained what seemed like all of the books and media resources in the world and use the Library for research and studying. Then, after we were married and lived in different parts of Indiana, I had the opportunity to go to different libraries in the communities where we lived. Our children participated in Library programs. Through the years we have enjoyed attending programs and meetings in addition to checking out books, magazines and movies at the Library in the communities in which we have lived.



Two years ago, I was asked if I would serve on the Library board for the Greensburg-Decatur County Public Library. This seemed like the greatest opportunity I could have to be part of a system that has had so much meaning in my life. Our Library board is an 11 member board. Because it represents the county and the city, there are board members from each of those areas. I knew there would be at least one board meeting each month. I also realized each board member would be assigned to at least 1 committee which would meet as often as needed. Examples of the committees include personnel and long range planning. The committees meet and make recommendations to the full board at a board meeting.

In order to understand what I needed to know before going into that first board meeting, I reviewed the notebook given to each member which is the reference manual for public Library board members. Obviously, one of the sections dealt with a description of the responsibilities. The job description says “The Library board is responsible for the Library and all that happens in it.” One of the tasks as a part of that description is to advocate for the Library in the community and advocate for the community as a member of the Library board. Advocating for the Library in the community has been easy. Our Library provides services in many forms such as classes, programs of interest, and rooms for meetings as well as the traditional Library materials. Our Library staff members make our facilities a positive atmosphere in which to be. Whether a person needs something in the main Library, the Westport branch or the Bookmobile, attempts are made to take care of the patron. Decatur County residents with a Library card can access books, audio and video resources and technology with assistance at every step of the way. These materials are made available to many age levels.

Advocating for the community is an ongoing effort. We need to make sure our Library serves the community in worthy ways and continues to be “user friendly.” Because other tasks of the Library board include planning for the future of the Library and monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Library, we try to be aware of the overall happenings of the Library through communications from the director and visiting the Library ourselves. Another task of the board is the hiring of the Library director.

We are currently seeking a person to fill that position.

There is also the responsibility of approving the budget. There are meetings in August and September that deal with the sole assignment of reviewing and then passing the budget for the upcoming year.

Being on the Library board has allowed me to gain a greater degree of understanding of the inner workings of a Library. It has also increased my appreciation for what a Library means to many people and how we, as a Library board, need to continue to make sure our Library is a focal point in the community. We want the Library to be a destination for many people in Decatur County.



Hot dogs, hot movies and hot reads...
Hot diggity - It's summertime!

Cookbooks



Better Homes and Gardens: Summertime Grilling: 60 Great Outdoor Recipes

Paul Kirk's Championship Barbecue : BBQ Your Way to Greatness With 575 Lip-smackin' Recipes
From the Baron of Barbecue by Paul Kirk



Picnics : Outdoor Dining for the Patio, Park, and Beach by Louise Pickford

Camping and Outdoor Cooking by Rae Oetting

Fiction

4th of July by James Patterson

Watermelon by Marian Keyes

The Grilling Season by Diane Mott Davidson

Midsummer's Eve by Philippa Carr

Summer People by Elin Hilderbrand

Hens Dancing by Raffaella Barker



DVDs



August Rush

Juno

27 Dresses

Cloverfield

The Bucket List

