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Our Libraries: Helping for the Holidays

* The Medford Circulation branch invites you to partner with the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots and bring donations of new, and lightly used books for children and teens in to the Medford Circulation Department, now through Friday, December 22. Over 97% of your donations goes to providing toys, books, and other gifts to less fortunate children. Less than 3% is spent on fundraising and overhead. All proceeds and donations will remain in Jackson County to provide toys and books to the children in need within our community.

* The Medford Teen Library will collect donations of cold weather items such as gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers and also snack foods and single-serve meals during the month of December to benefit the Maslow Project. The Maslow Project is a community organization dedicated to serving the needs of homeless youth and families in the Rogue Valley. All items donated need to be new. Please bring your donations to the Medford Teen Library upstairs at the Medford Branch Library, 205 S. Central Avenue from Dec. 1 - Dec. 31.

* The Medford Children’s Dept., Ashland Children’s Dept., and Central Point Children’s Dept. will collect donations of pajamas, socks, underwear, warm winter clothing, and diapers for children in the CASA program. The donation drive will run during the months of November and December 2017. Items collected would be serving children ages 0-10 and would need to be new.
Welcome New Volunteers!
Barbara Jackson (Medford)
Hailey Graybill (Medford)
Kasandra LeVeque (Eagle Point)
Jessica Swift (Central Point)

Our wonderful volunteers gave 1,315 hours in the month of October!

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<th>December Anniversaries</th>
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<td><strong>One Year</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathy M. Murphy</td>
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<td>(Medford)</td>
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<td><strong>Two Years</strong></td>
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<td>Bayley Peters</td>
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<td>(Central Point)</td>
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<td>Logan Berry</td>
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<td>(Central Point)</td>
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Christmas Traditions from Around the World

★ In Finland, it’s traditional to visit the sauna on Christmas Eve. Families will listen to the national “Peace of Christmas” radio show. It is also customary to visit the gravesites of deceased family members.

★ The American minister to Mexico, Joel R. Poinsett, brought a red and green plant from Mexico to America in 1828. Due to their coloring, poinsettias became immediately popular as a holiday decoration and by 1900, the poinsettia was a universal symbol of the Christmas holiday.

★ Italians call Christmas Il Natale, meaning “the birthday”. Buon Natale!

★ Christmas in Australia is right in the middle of summer so it’s not unusual to celebrate Christmas by hitting the beach and hosting barbecues.

★ In Greece a tradition that goblins appear to cause mischief during the 12 days of Christmas is called kallikantzeri. Gifts are usually exchanged on January 1, St. Basil’s Day.

★ Scandinavian children leave their shoes on the hearth rather than their stockings.

★ The tradition of the Yule log comes from Norway. The ancient Norse used the Yule log to celebrate the return of the sun at winter solstice.

★ The Celtic peoples had long considered mistletoe to have magic properties and hung it in their homes to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck. In Victorian England, families would hang sprigs of mistletoe in doorways and ceilings. If someone was found to be standing under the mistletoe, they would be kissed by someone else in the room, a behavior not customarily seen in proper Victorian society.

★ Decorating evergreens has long been part of the German winter solstice tradition, but the first “Christmas trees” decorated specifically for the holiday appeared in Strasbourg at the beginning of the 17th century. When German Prince Albert married Queen Victoria, he brought the tradition to England.

Winter Weather Advisory

There’s little doubt the weather is changing and we just want to remind all our volunteers that YOUR safety is first! We are so grateful for your dedication, but please exercise caution and care when determining whether or not to brave the weather for your volunteer shift. We are 100% in favor of the “better safe than sorry” policy!

We would also like to remind you of the importance of making sure your supervisor has your current contact information so you can receive notification of branch closures, opening delays and other important notices.

Thank you for your dedication and STAY WARM!
Old Librarians Never Die
(they just keep getting renewed)

By Marian Barker

I first started working for the Central Point Branch of the Jackson County Library in 1968 as a student worker during the summer months. It was an ideal job for someone my age who loved books. I made a whopping fifty cents an hour (good pay in those days) and the branch librarian (Mabel Van Horn) very kindly hired me every summer and during holiday breaks for eight years until I completed my undergraduate degree at SOU. She was also most insistent that I should get a Master’s Degree in Library Science, so I went on to graduate from the U of O’s program in 1977.

In 1978 Library Director Hardin Smith hired me for my first professional position, as the Children’s Librarian at the Medford Branch. Over the past 30 years, I have held positions as a reference librarian, branch manager, assistant supervisor of branch services, cataloging supervisor, branch manager and manager for youth service/zone manager.

I have worked with some amazing people, had a lot of fun and always felt that libraries were the cornerstone of our democracy and a darn cool place to hang out! I still plan to hang out in libraries (but not in a creepy way) and hope to finally catch up on my extensive reading list. To all the co-workers I leave behind, remember to work hard, have a little fun and never, ever forget that what you do makes the world a better place for everyone.

Hugs!

Marian Barker

Editor’s Note: 
After 40+ years of hard work and dedication to our libraries, Marian Barker, Program & Youth Services Manager is retiring December 1, 2017. Because Marian is such an institution here, we wanted to give her an opportunity to reflect on her time with JCLS and share any words of wisdom she might have instead of our customary “Staff Spotlight” feature. Marian will be truly missed—not only for her incredibly breadth of institutional knowledge, but for her level-head, kind heart, and genuine love of our libraries.

We wish you much joy and happiness as you turn the page to the next chapter of your life Marian.

Thank you!