Volunteer View
Volunteer Services Newsletter

Farewell Fines!
The year 2017 has brought many exciting changes to our library system, and we are going to end it with a bang! We are excited to announce that beginning January 1, 2018, Jackson County Library Services will no longer charge fines for overdue materials! That’s right, no more fines for overdue books!

Our JCLS board members want to make our materials as accessible as possible to all, and after extensive research found that there is no correlation between the assessment of fines and prompt return of materials. Rather, the imposition of fees has been shown to be a disproportionate barrier to services for children and those with less financial resources in our communities.

Some might wonder how this will impact that availability of materials—without fines, how will the library ensure that materials are returned in a timely manner? Several other library systems that have eliminated overdue fines have reported that books, movies, and other materials still get returned by their due date. Library cardholders understand that it is their duty to return materials so other people can use them. The Library will continue to issue reminders (through email or text message) when due dates are approaching and when an item is overdue. If an item is 3 weeks overdue, we will charge the account for the item’s replacement cost. The library account will be blocked from checking out more materials until the items are returned or the replacement charges are paid.

We are very excited by this change and the opportunity it affords members of our community to access our materials. If you have any questions regarding this new policy, please feel free to contact Susan Bloom, Assistant Library Director, or your volunteer supervisor.

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January Anniversaries

**One Year**

Leslie Genereux (Eagle Point)
Will Hilligoss (Ashland)

**Two Years**

Karen Baker (Prospect)
Connie Crow (Ashland)
Vicki Fox (Ashland)

**Four Years**

Ella Stringer (Ashland)

**Six Years**

Ruth Draper (Medford)
Rosemary Pease (Phoenix)

**Eight Years**

Marcia Zink (Applegate)

**Ten Years**

Janis Gorden (Medford)
Paul Prinsen (Eagle Point)

**Eleven Years**

Ann Strauss (Ashland)
Martha Abshear (Ashland)

**Seventeen Years**

Liz Northrup (Jacksonville)

**Twenty-Eight Years**

Paul Draper (Medford)

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**Welcome New Volunteers**

Judith Trautman (Ashland)
Jeanie Martinez (White City)
Kamar Sanchez (Central Point)
Victor Mlotok (Phoenix)

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Our wonderful volunteers donated over 1,360 hours in the month of November!
Name: Thalia Truesdell
Position: Ruch Branch Lead
How long have you worked with JCLS? Ten years as of December 16th!
Describe yourself in five words: Energetic, creative, stubborn, sensitive, busy
Name of a book you have read more than once? *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. I borrowed some books from our paperback non-cats to take to Brazil for an extended stay, and this book was one of them. I am a huge fan of historical fiction, and I studied art history in college, and was very moved by the building (and partial collapse) of a cathedral eight hundred years ago. I left the book in Brazil and forgot the author, and a colleague and I tried every avenue to find the name of this book, but we could find nothing about architecture, flying buttresses, or cathedrals in the card catalog that could help. Several years later, en route to Africa, I grabbed the same book, after reading the back cover about a love story. I was thrilled to discover it was *Pillars of the Earth*. This time I read it for the love story, not so much the architecture, and had the pleasure of extracting two very different stories from the same book.
Who or what inspires you? Beautiful nature, Ghandi, Anne Lamott
Best present you ever received as a child? Set of Little House Books by Laura Ingalls Wilder
What is the most useful advice you were ever given? Just Do It.
What is an interesting fact about yourself that someone might not know? I grew up in Hawaii.
What title would you give your autobiography? *Still Crazy After All These Years*
One thing you wish people knew about the library? We can order that book for them!

National Blood Donor Month

Originating in 1970, the American Red Cross designated January as National Blood Donor Month because January has the lowest number of donations of the year. Cold weather, weariness from the holiday season, and various ailments keep those who regularly donate home. As we all know, having a continuous supply of blood on hand is crucial to our communities, so the drop in donations are impactful. I personally know how important blood donations can be. After an accident at work last fall, my older brother was bleeding internally and in need of blood. There was no blood matching his type in the area he lived in, so blood had to be flown in from Seattle in order to save his life. I am grateful he was able to get the blood he needed, and am so glad someone with his rare blood type donated. I would like to personally encourage anyone who can donate to do so. It really does make a difference! It did for my family!
Did you know that one of our digital book providers Overdrive has partnered with Google to help those searching for books see if they are available electronically at their local library?

When Googling a book title, the “knowledge panel” on the right of the screen gives details about the book and where it can be found. If you look at the bottom of the example on the left, you can see that the book “Grave Peril” is offered by Overdrive through JCLS.

Of course, the results aren’t perfect every time, but it is another way to raise awareness of our digital collection, and to give folks the option of borrowing an eBook rather than buying it! That’s great news, so be sure to tell a friend!

Think About It:
January 1 is both the furthest away and closest day to December 31st!