



**BENZONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY**

# NEWS

*from the Top of the Hill*

**MILLS COMMUNITY HOUSE**  
*Est. 1909*

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the building that houses the Benzonian Public Library. Built as a girl's dormitory for Benzonian Academy (successor to the Benzonian College), the Mills Community House has served as the home for the Benzonian Public Library since 1925.

Formed on the principles that education is a key factor in solving social problems and finding personal fulfillment, the Benzonian Public Library has a rich history of service to the community. Records from the earliest days of the library provide a fun and insightful glance at how public libraries have evolved while maintaining the core values the institution was based on so long ago. Issues that faced the library 85 years ago still perplex librarians and administrators today.

When the Benzonian Public Library was formed, it was decided that a loan period of one week was optimal. Within a couple years, that was adjusted to two weeks and, just last fall, the library moved from the two week loan period to three.

Regardless of how long we permit individuals to keep borrowed items, much of our time is spent on

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reminding people that the borrowed items need to be returned in a timely fashion. In 1925, the fine was 1 cent per item for each day overdue. Inflation calculators suggest that by today's standards, that penny a day fine would be 12 cents per day. Our fines remain very low at 5 cents per day for each overdue item. However, we did need to begin charging patrons if, due to non-return of borrowed items, we needed to mail them a notice. The U.S. Postal Service began to issue stamps in 1925, and the domestic letter rate was 2 cents..now it is 44 Cents. If you receive an overdue notice in the mail, your account is billed an ADDITIONAL \$.50 to cover the cost of postage and handling.

Employee salaries and benefits were also given a great deal of attention. In October of 1925, Etta Whiteman was hired to serve as Librarian at a salary of \$5.00 per week and two weeks vacation with "full" pay. The custodian was originally hired for \$1.50 per week. That rate was soon raised to \$12 per month. The custodian petitioned for and received a higher pay rate for the winter months. Snow? The boiler?

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# Helping Hands

Many library visitors have noticed a new face behind the checkout desk. Helpful and smiling, Teresa Stolz has been volunteering in the library for almost a year. No stranger to the library, Teresa recognized that our staff needed a bit of assistance and added a weekly commitment to her schedule. After learning the routine tasks our volunteers perform, Teresa offered to come in an extra day just to process the many interlibrary loans we were regularly receiving. Teresa finds fulfillment in learning new skills and is regularly offered new challenges as her willingness to serve and her aptitude for library procedures became apparent.

Teresa began visiting the Benzonia Public Library regularly as a young mother. After picking up her step-son, Ben, at school, they would stop by the library to pick out books. Her love for the library and worlds of knowledge available through books on every subject continued to grow and her daughter Sarah began a regular visitor also.

Our newest volunteer is no stranger to the area. Teresa Laffleur Stolz attended Crystal Lake Elementary and Benzie Central High School.



Most of her life has been spent in this area that she considers to be the most beautiful place on earth. She did, however, give other locations a chance. Teresa, along with her husband Mark, spent time in the Florida Keys, Connecticut, North Carolina and Vermont. Still, nothing is quite as nice as the small, safe community, friendly faces, and beauty Benzie County offers. Teresa does not take her fortune for granted. When time permits, she loves to hike, go to the beach, to garden, and just about anything outside.

All that makes her willingness to regularly volunteer in the library more appreciated. Teresa joined us at a time when we really needed another committed and capable assistant. We value her service to the library and to this community.

## Help Preserve our Valuable Resources

The Benzonia Public Library is privileged to maintain bound editions of the Benzie Banner/Record Patriot dating back to 1888. These editions are regularly used by historians and genealogists as well as visitors interested in an old news item or humorous advertisements. The challenges involved in maintaining an historic collection are many. We encourage visitors to use gloves as they carefully search the papers. Digital photography has decreased the need for excessive handling while obtaining valuable information. Now our concern for storage has reached a crisis stage. Thirty eight of our bound editions are sitting on top of the shelving. Their precarious positioning makes it difficult to remove the desired volume from the stack.

In order to better protect these historical documents, the Friends of Benzonia Public Library are committed to providing suitable storage for the newspaper collection and 100 Lynch, Jim, [d1961-245 14 The highest tide :|ba novel /|cJim Lynch. 250 1st U.S. ed. 260 New York :|bBloombsury :|bDistributed to the trade by Holtzbrinck Publishers,|c2005. 300 247 p. :|c22 cm. 600 10 Carson, Rachel,|d1907-1964|xInfluence|vFiction. 650 0 Teenage boys|vFiction. 650 0 Marine animals|vFiction. 650 0 Tides|vFiction. 651 0 Puget Sound Region (Wash.)|vFiction

exploring digitalization. However, due to the costs of these projects, the group must raise additional funds. If you would like to assist in providing capital for newspaper preservation, please designate this on your check made payable to the Friends of Benzonia Public Library or on your cash envelope. All gifts are tax deductible to extent allowed by law.

# Youth Services

Congratulations to Paige Papineau, winner of the summer reading program pass to Crystal Mountain's Crystal Coaster Alpine Slide. Thank you to each of the businesses that offered coupons, area professionals who presented exciting programs each week, families and caregivers who ensured that children made it to the library throughout the summer, and to the Friends of the Benzonia Public Library for funding the program.

Quick Reads Chapter Books, a new book club for younger independent readers, began Saturday, September 19th. It meets the 3rd Saturday of the month 1-2 pm, in the Children's Room. Club members get to vote on what to read, and share a snack. Kids who like The Magic Tree House, Geronimo Stilton, or Goosebumps will love this new club.

Book Girls! club for girls who devour books, returns for another school year. The club is open to girls ages 9-12 who enjoy reading books like the Children of the Lamp series, Hoot, and The Invention of Hugo Cabret. Girls lead the discussion, bring the snack, and choose what to read next. It's a lively and welcoming group. The club meets the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Teens can celebrate this year's Teens Read Week theme Beyond Reality at 1pm on Saturday, October 24th. Fun food will be provided.

Preschool age children who attend the Crystal Lake Head Start program, will visit the library monthly throughout this school year. second graders at Crystal Lake Elementary will also make visits throughout the school year. Plans are underway for outreach to Platte River Elementary. These visits will help younger children discover what lies beyond the mechanics of learning to read.

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

We value the talents and time donated for the benefit of the Benzonia Public Library. We are in the process of adding books to our collection in honor of those who have given of themselves to make the library better for all. The books listed below have been added to our collection in honor of volunteer hours served:

Always Looking Up : the Adventures of an Incurable Optimist by Michael J. Fox (Gary Michalek)

Backroads & Byways of Michigan by Matt Forster (Ann Osborn)

Backroads & Byways of Wisconsin by Kevin Revolinski, (Jackie McManus)

Bodies from the Ice by James Deem (Helen Dewey)

The Branch and the Scaffold by Loren Estleman (Harold and Linda Saffron)

Crystal Lake by Louis Yock (Susan Lutes)

Dinner on the Porch by Jim Voltz (Marti Mollema)

Front Porch Tales by Phillip Gulley (Betty Wilcox)

Ghost Towns of Michigan : Volume 3 by Larry Wakefield (Margie Clous)

The Girls from Ames by Jeffrey Zaslow (Lee Kane)

Grandma Moses in the 21st century by Jane Kallir (Jan & Ed Baker)

Horse Soldiers : by Doug Stanton (Leo Wilcox)

Perennials for Michigan by Nancy Szerlag (Hazel Heyn)

The Sea Hunters II: More True Adventures with Famous Shipwrecks by Clive Cussler (Paul Michalek)

Tears in the Darkness by Michael Norman (Dick Kishline)

View from the Veranda by Phil Porter (Liz Gaines)

Wild Nights! by Joyce Carol Oats (Art Schneider)

Wildflower by Mark Seal (Marjorie Kingsbury)

Younger (Thinner) You Diet by Eric Braveman (Teresa Stolz)

# Mills Community House

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Library Boards have long struggled with open hours. Balancing the needs of the public we serve with the budgetary limitations always presents a challenge. In 1925, the Library Committee voted to keep the Library open from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Sunday, all day Saturday and "such afternoons and evenings as committee finds practicable."

Recognizing the value of the State Library, on June 3, 1925, the Board voted to enlist a person to receive instruction on library methods from the State Librarian. Miss Sarah Thomas of the State Library at Lansing classified the books with the assistance of local volunteers. The project was completed in November, 1925. Libraries throughout Michigan still seek assistance from the Library of Michigan and are working to maintain the resources and services dependent on state funding.

Today, the patrons and staff at the Benzonia Public Library treasure the building that houses our collection. Located on U.S. 31, a highway that stretches from Alabama to Northern Michigan, the Mills Community House welcomes visitors to the area, and the Library is a place to obtain information about local attractions

and businesses. Our WELCOME flag lets travelers know that we are open and want them to stop by. The layout of this old building, allows laptop users, tutors, and small groups privacy as needed. We have assisted many in earning degrees through online classes, learning to read, and exchanging ideas. While these activities can be achieved in many locations, the privacy offered in the Catton Room has allowed users to actively participate in distance learning without disturbing those around them. The Mills Community House porch welcomes laptop users at any hour. The building's proximity to Crystal Lake Elementary makes library visits possible, educating a new generation of the value of community resources and opportunities.

While we treasure the historic resources we make available, our ties to the past are not all bound and stacked. The building itself serves to remind the staff on a daily basis of our mission to provide educational and cultural services to the people of the Village of Benzonia and the surrounding area. The rich history of the Benzonia Academy and the early establishment of the Benzonia Public Library reminds us daily that many of society's ills can indeed be solved through education and opportunity. While all libraries work to this end, our location in the historic Mills Community House is inspiring. Happy Birthday, Mills Community House!

## Support Your Library by Joining the Friends.

Please make checks payable to

### Friends of Benzonia Public Library

P.O. Box 445

Benzonia, Michigan 49616

#### 2010 Membership Dues

Individual	\$5.00	_____	Patron	\$25.00	_____	Business/Professional	\$35.00	_____
Family	\$10.00	_____	Contributing	\$50.00	_____			
				or more				

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ I WOULD LIKE TO BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER. PLEASE CALL ME. \_\_\_\_\_

All Membership Dues and Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.