



BENZONIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWS

from the Top of the Hill

Benzie Central School students participate in Community Reading Initiative

Early last year, Shaun Johnson, area resident and teacher at Benzie Central Middle School, approached the Darcy Library of Beulah and the Benzonia Public Library with an idea. Wouldn't it make sense if we were able to provide area students with all their reading choices for recreation and research? Realizing that many students were unable to physically travel to the public libraries, Mr. Johnson suggested we work together to make it easier for students to borrow public library materials.

Each library, Darcy, Benzonia, and the school media center, uses the Nugen Library Automation System to track circulation and maintain patron information. Nugen offers a web-based catalog called the IPAC (Internet Public Access Catalog). Mr. Johnson worked with Nugen Systems to incorporate the holdings for the Darcy Library and the Benzonia Public Library into the Benzie Central School IPAC. Students searching the IPAC can see holdings for all three libraries

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WEATHERED
pastel by Ron Gianola



It's not too late to view Ron Gianola's art in the Benzonia Public Library. Fifteen months ago, Ron graciously provided a sampling of his works to grace our walls. We are pleased to have exhibited pieces from this established artist.

Ron was born in Detroit, drew from an early age, attended Detroit's premier magnet Cass Technical High School and the Art School of the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts, later known as Center for Creative Studies, during its legendary early period, studying Industrial Design, Drawing, and Painting, and worked throughout the state of Michigan as an artist and designer.

He has had 14 one-man exhibits and has been in 72 group shows, including many juried shows at the Traverse Area Arts Council where he won
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<p>Library Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11am - 5 pm Tuesday, Thursday 11am-7pm Saturday 11am-3pm</p>
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Congratulations to Benzonia Public Library on being a Picturing America award recipient! Sponsored by the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Picturing America introduces citizens of every age to our nation's history and culture by bringing great works of American art into classrooms and libraries.

In a few months, the library will receive a collection of 40 high-quality reproductions of American art, along with a Teachers Resource Book. The book includes information on all the images and suggestions for using them to enhance library learning in a wide range of subjects: including American history, social studies, writing, literature, art, and civics. A collection of books that compliment the reproductions may also be awarded to the library.

As a recipient of this grant, we will keep as many as possible images on display during the '09 – '10 school year. This spring, the library will be hosting an exhibit and open house for the general public, offering them a chance to view not only the prints, but also the other resources available through this grant. The prints are ours to keep.

Bruce Cole, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, congratulated the recipients. "I hope you find Picturing America to be a unique and engaging way for children and adults alike to experience American history and culture."

simultaneously and are able to request books not housed in the media center be sent to them at school.

The Benzonia Public Library welcomed the opportunity to better reach students by working on this collaborative project with Benzie Central Schools and Darcy Library of Beulah. Bob Hanson and Al Patrick of Nugen Systems developed a process that maximizes the capability of the system while limiting the amount of additional work for library staff. Last spring, a pilot group of students began requesting books from our collection. Students pick up and return our library books at school. In addition, like all card holders at Benzonia Public Library, the students can also use MELCAT to request books from other public libraries, colleges, and universities throughout Michigan.

The Benzie Central School Board welcomed the partnership with local libraries and is expanding the program and fine-tuning delivery procedures. The Benzonia Public Library is pleased to serve all county residents, especially our young people.

The Benzonia Library encourages all patrons with valid cards to use this IPAC to view our holdings, check due dates, renew items and place reserves on materials. A link to the library catalog is available on our web site (www.benzonia.lib.mi.us).



Youth Services Update

Exciting events continue to occur in the Children's Room of the library. Boys will get a chance to construct something from a favorite story at *Boys Building Stuff* Saturday, January 24th at 1pm. Participants will build their own structures and games inspired by books. Redwall fortresses, a Matt Christopher sports story transformed into a game, and a Rick Riordan style labyrinth are just a few possibilities for construction projects. There will be a glider influenced by the one featured in Erin Colfer's *Airman* to demonstrate how an idea might be implemented with the materials on hand. Interested boys outside the 9 – 12 age range, including retired engineers and builders, should contact the library regarding participation.

Crystal Lake Elementary School third graders visit the Children's Room of the library monthly thanks to their teacher, Crystal Milne, and a team of adult volunteers. Students learn how to find material on specific topics and experience the excitement of unexpected discoveries. The students have been introducing their families to all the library has to offer, too.



Boys Building Stuff!



Books Girls! meets the second Saturday of each month!

Book Girls! the club for girls who devour books, turns one year old February 14th. Girls, ages 9-12, lead their own discussion, choose what to read, take turns providing a snack and do an activity or craft related to the selected book. Girls who are unable to attend the club may request a copy of the month's selection. Several girls participate in the group in this manner.

Baby Bears Storytime meets at 11am on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Babies, preschoolers and their caregivers share finger plays, movement, craft and a story with Flower Bear.

In response to patron queries, materials have been added to the audio music collection, folk/fairy tales, foreign language and cooking nonfiction sections. History fans will enjoy *The Trouble Begins at 8*, a new biography of Mark Twain, and *I'll Pass for Your Comrade: Women Soldiers in the Civil War*.

Excitement awaits in the collection and events in the Children's Room this winter.

Ron Gianola - Continued from page 1

several awards. Ron was awarded Viewers Choice Award in the Second Northwest Michigan Juried Exhibition at the Dennon Museum Center in Traverse City, First Place in 2005, 2nd Place in 2007 Crystal Lake Art Center Juried All Media Show in Frankfort, Michigan. His work is in the Permanent Collection of the Dennon Museum in Traverse City.

His work is a unique artistic vision in a contemporary style, sensitive to the effects of light expressed through color.

“After relocating wooded rural setting on the Platte River, my work of 1990 through 2002 has been mainly landscape. Prior to that my art revolved around the human figure.

A composition usually inspires me by the combination of colors, almost like a musical chord, as well as the larger shapes or masses and their relation. It’s basically the natural world as the start of a composition. Nature is the source, but the art is nature seen through the artist’s temperament or psyche.

I use the infinite varieties of natural color and tone in my paintings in several ways. I try to vary a large area of color in a subtle gradation from side to side or top to bottom. I also layer a veil of color over another dry area or into a wet area. These colors can be sympathetic in hue or value or saturation, depending on the effect. This results in a flickering oil surface and takes on some qualities of Color Field painting. Other

times I use several colors in the brush and vary the pressure just so to get unique, expressive passages. I also do a lot of scraping with the palette knife, for changes as well as effects and paint application. I balance realism with abstraction, using a classic oil painted surface. My technique generally is to work in oil or acrylic initially from Nature with brushes, finishing in the studio using a palette knife to apply veils of color. This allows me to capture the initial impression from the scene itself, as well as creatively improvising afterwards.

Since 2002 my work is abstractions of my studio and various interiors, combined with landscape elements. Some are called Passage as they are a passage from the exterior to the interior, in the painting and in the artist. The interiors of my studio are an obvious reference to the interior creative life of the artist, as are the various female figures, all called Psyche, the Greek goddess of the soul, heart, or spirit. Rather than depict the specific, I work in a more personal, poetic manner using a harmony of forms from observed, created, and remembered sources in their own beautiful color universe. I paint with enough content that the mind and imagination are pleased and with enough literal image that the eye is also satisfied. Hopefully, my art conveys a sense of balance and beauty in an increasingly chaotic world.”

The Benzonia Public Library thanks Ron Gianola for loaning us his work. To view additional pieces, visit Ron Gianola’s web site at <http://www.coslink.net/personal/rgianola>.

Support Your Library by Joining the Friends.

Please make checks payable to

Friends of Benzonia Public Library

P.O. Box 445

Benzonia, Michigan 49616

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