

January 2010

For immediate release:

Your Lockport Public Library... An Open Door Update

A mystery has been solved! Above our East Avenue entrance the following words are inscribed, "Books are like an open door to set the spirit free." The source of this quote has been a mystery to the staff and community. We have often been asked to name the author of this quote which was inscribed during construction of the original building in 1935-36. Until late 2009 when Timothy Binga of the Center for Inquiry Libraries visited the library and asked that very question, we'd never been able to discover the answer. Tim was compelled to research the quote, and he found that in 1927 the American Library Association published a work called "Why We Need a Public Library: A Clip Sheet for Newspapers and Magazines." On page 18 is a poem by Edith Kathleen Jones (or E. K. Jones), who was a librarian in Massachusetts:

Books are like an open door,
Out of which the mind can soar,
Rove the world on mighty wing,
Watch the stars and planets swing;
Books can set the spirit free
Though the body shackled be.
--E. K. Jones

E. K. Jones' specialty was medical libraries, and, Tim says, "As her work indicates, books were a kind of therapy that would help patients go beyond their broken bodies, and in this spirit, I think this work was adapted for the inscription over the door." We agree with Tim that this poem is most likely the source of the inscription, and we are grateful to him for helping to solve this mystery.

"Books are Brain Food" is the title of our adult winter reading program. Read or listen to any book with a culinary theme from January 1st – February 28th and then fill out an entry for a raffle prize. Three winning tickets will be drawn at the end of the program for a prize. Check out the eye catching and mouth watering display on the second floor near the circulation desk and submit your title in the entry box. The program will surely increase your appetite for books. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Lockport Public Library.

Stop by to see a beautiful display of woodworking artistry in our second floor entryway cabinets. Artists and craftsmen, John Cave and Mike Wright, members of the Lockport Woodworkers Association, have on display a selection of expertly crafted carved wood bowls and jars that will surely impress. The display will be available for viewing during the months of January and February.

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