

Welcome to

# The Page Turner

The Mount Pleasant Public Library Bi-Monthly Newsletter

March/April 2009



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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Gayle Trede

It has been a busy year for programs at the library. There has been the Great River Reads with the Burlington Hawkeye, Family Literacy Night, Girl Talk with Henry County Extension Office and The Big Read program in conjunction with the African American Museum of Iowa. We are really excited about our April program.

**On April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm in the Civic Center Auditorium Jason Emerson will be giving a presentation on his book, The Madness of Mary Lincoln. There will be a reception following the program where the author will be available to sign books and answer questions.**

Books are available for checkout from the library and can be purchased at the Iowa Wesleyan Bookstore. There will even be some books available for purchase during the reception.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Harlan-Lincoln House at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant Public Library, Trustees of the Mount Pleasant Public Library, Friends of the Mount Pleasant Public Library, Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant Public Library Foundation and the William M. and Donna J. Hoaglin Foundation, Inc. The event will be listed on the websites of Iowa Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. The public is invited to attend and admission is free.

Mr. Emerson has appeared on the History Channel for the documentary “*Stealing Lincoln’s Body*” and Book TV. His books are [The Madness of Mary Lincoln](#) and [Lincoln the Inventor](#). He is currently working on a book about Robert Todd Lincoln. Don’t miss this opportunity.

I’d like to take this time to welcome you to our new **APOLLO AUTOMATION SYSTEM**. You can access this system from the comfort of your own home. In order to access the catalog online, you must have a current Mount Pleasant Public Library Card. To log in you type the last 5 digits of your library card number and then put in your phone number. The phone number can be 555-5555 or 5555555. Be sure it is the primary phone number you put on the library card application.

Here are just a few of the features this system offers:

Renew materials online

Reserve materials online

Receive an e-mail reminder of materials out, three days before they are due.

Make changes to your personal account like address and e-mail

Check to see what you have out and when it is due.

Make material suggestions online

Review the books you have been reading so other patrons can see it.

The online card catalog denotes what items are not on the shelf by highlighting the item in pink. The front covers of most of the materials are shown in the catalog. Eventually we are going to be able to have your account show your favorite authors and when their material comes in you will automatically be put on the reserve list. With any luck you could be the first one who gets to read it.

Like all programs this is going to take some time to get use to, but it offers so many options for you, the patron, that in a few months you’ll wonder how you got along with the old system.

If you want to take advantage of any of the e-mail options, please make sure we have your latest e-mail on file. All you need to do is call us or go online yourself and add it.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me via phone (385-1490), e-mail ([directormppl@iowatelecom.net](mailto:directormppl@iowatelecom.net)) or come in and talk to me.

See you at the Library.

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# BOARDWALK

The next two meetings will be reviewing policies and finalizing the 2009/2010 Budget. Meetings are open to the public and will be held at 6:30 PM, March 10<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>.

These are open meetings and anyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to speak to the Board we would appreciate it if you could notify Gayle Trede, the library director, before the meeting.

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## STAFF PICKS

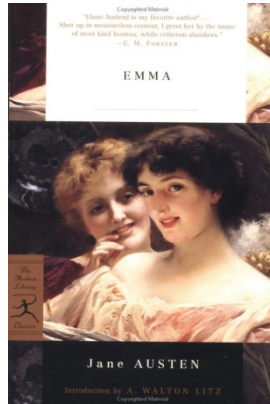
By Alisha Iserman

Although she was not extraordinarily well-known as an author during her lifetime, Jane Austen has gained much popularity these last two centuries. Not only have her novels been made into many film adaptations but there are also numerous Jane Austen sequel books such as Jane Fairfax: The Secret Story of the Second Heroine in Jane Austen's Emma by Joan Aiken, Lovers' Perjuries; or, The Clandestine Courtship or Jane Fairfax and Frank Churchill: a Retelling of Jane Austen's Emma by Joan Ellen Delman and Mr. Darcy's Daughters by Elizabeth Aston.

When the novel opens, we find Emma Woodhouse and her father mourning the loss of Emma's governess of sixteen years. Though Miss Taylor marries and lives only a half mile away, they are both distraught with her departure. Not sad for too long, Emma finds comfort in befriending Harriet Smith, a young girl who may not be a gentleman's daughter. Emma attempts her matchmaker skills with Harriet. She wants to match her with a gentleman. And while focusing on Harriet's love life, Emma finds a love of her own. In fact, he is a certain gentleman that she has known for quite some time.

One of the aspects of Emma that I much enjoy is the relationship between Emma and Miss Taylor. Miss Taylor is Emma's governess but they act more like sisters. Emma goes to Miss Taylor when she craves conversation or even when she needs advice. Emma cherishes Miss Taylor's advice even though she does not always heed her advice. Another aspect that I enjoy is the setting. I like picturing the English countryside and the people who once inhabited it. I imagine huge estates with beautiful courtyards. I imagine taking tea with the characters on a porch overlooking the gardens. I also enjoy Emma as she plays the role of matchmaker. While she has good intentions, her matchmaking most often goes awry. This

reminds me of my own attempt at matching my sister with different friends of mine. My intentions were always good; however, good intentions are sometimes not enough.



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# KID'S PLAY

Dear Parents,

I'm using this space in the newsletter to remind you of a few things that you may have forgotten about or maybe didn't know.

The Children's Department may be one of the most under-utilized departments in the Library. Please remember to come see us when those crazy questions kids come up with leave you stumped. Questions like:

- Where do boogers come from? (see [Grossology](#))
- How many toes does a black bear have? (5 – [Black Bears](#) by Julie Murray)
- What's that one poem about the boa constrictor that eats you? ("Boa Constrictor" by Shel Silverstein in [Where the Sidewalk Ends](#))

We are also a great place to come when your child is facing everyday issues, like going to the dentist or eye doctor, having tonsils removed, or getting the chicken pox.

Get to know your child's heroes better by reading a short biography together. We have books about such celebrities as Tony Hawk, Jeff Gordon, and Steve Irwin.

Cooking is a great way to increase mathematical skills. We have some fantastic cookbooks. Our books feature everything from international fare to super sandwiches to yummy desserts. These are kid-friendly recipes that you would both enjoy creating – and eating!

Is your child having trouble in school? Come check out a book about getting along with others, making friends, coping with a bully, or showing respect for others. We also have books dealing with math problems, foreign languages, and parts of speech, to name a few.

If you've been wishing for something to do besides watch tv or play computer games night after night, come check out a book on science experiments, origami, magic tricks, juggling, chess, knitting, or face painting.

These are just a few ideas to get you started. Remember, we have books on nearly any subject and for any age – pre-school on up. And don't forget your toddlers! We have a large variety of board books for that age group, as well.

So, please come visit us. Tell us what you're looking for. Let us help you find it. That's why we're here!

Sincerely,

Susan, Chris and Jacki

Children's Department Staff

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## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The friends have a new meeting time!! It is 5:45 PM the second Tuesday of the month. The next two meetings will be March 10<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>.

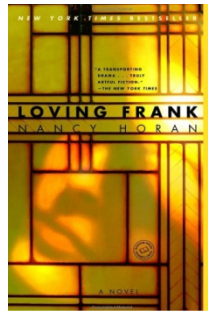
The Friends are holding a contest for middle school-age children. It is entitled "What Does Freedom Mean to You?" It coincides with the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Abraham Lincoln. It can be a written story, poem, play or audio-visual presentation. If it is a play or audio visual presentation there must be a script. The contest will start March 30<sup>th</sup> and must be turned in by April 27<sup>th</sup>. All contestants are welcome to come to the Jason Emerson presentation on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Contest rules and regulations will be distributed March 12<sup>th</sup>. This information can be picked up at the library or Mount Pleasant middle school and Christian school.

The Friends is a non-profit organization that helps raise funds for the library. If you are interested in membership, please contact Gayle Trede at the library by e-mail ([directormppl@iowatelecom.net](mailto:directormppl@iowatelecom.net)) or phone (319) 385-1490.

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## 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

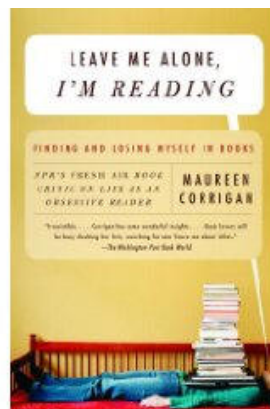
March 24<sup>th</sup> the group will be discussing Loving Frank by Nancy Horan.



### Amazon.com Review:

It's a rare treasure to find a historically imagined novel that is at once fully versed in the facts and unafraid of weaving those truths into a story that dares to explore the unanswered questions. Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney's love story is--as many early reviews of *Loving Frank* have noted--little-known and often dismissed as scandal. In Nancy Horan's skillful hands, however, what you get is two fully realized people, entirely, irrepressibly, in love. Together, Frank and Mamah are a wholly modern portrait, and while you can easily imagine them in the here and now, it's their presence in the world of early 20th century America that shades how authentic and, ultimately, tragic their story is. Mamah's bright, earnest spirit is particularly tender in the context of her time and place, which afforded her little opportunity to realize the intellectual life for which she yearned. *Loving Frank* is a remarkable literary achievement, tenderly acute and even-handed in even the most heartbreaking moments, and an auspicious debut from a writer to watch. --Anne Bartholomew

Next up, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, is Leave Me Alone, I'm Reading: Finding and Losing Myself in Books by Maureen Corrigan.



The editorial reviews for this book are somewhat mixed, so the discussion should be lively this month! Here is the review from Publishers Weekly:

Corrigan, the book reviewer for NPR's *Fresh Air* and mystery columnist for the *Washington Post*, makes her own book debut with an often longwinded and tedious account of how books have shaped her life. It's clear from every page that Corrigan is obsessed with reading books. Her compulsion is a bit far reaching, however: she offers books as the reason why she delayed getting married and why she adopted her daughter in China. She intersperses lengthy descriptions and analysis of her favorite books, like *Jane Eyre*, *Lucky Jim* and *Karen* (Marie Killilea's memoir of her daughter) with stories from her own life. At times, the book reads like a feminist diatribe against the injustices female authors (and graduate students) have endured and the stereotypical portrayal of female characters. In its favor, the book allows readers to re-experience some perennial favorites, such as *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Maltese Falcon*. Corrigan does speak to the ability of books to provide escape and solace, and for the creation of characters we can relate to, but these few gems are buried deep in text so thick and analytical that the reader is often left gasping for air.

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## IMPORTANT DATES FOR



### BOARD MEETINGS

March 10<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm

April 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:30pm

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

March 10<sup>th</sup> – 5:45pm

April 14<sup>th</sup> – 5:45pm

### 4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

March 24<sup>th</sup> – 1:30pm

April 28<sup>th</sup> – 1:30pm

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Don't forget to



on March 8<sup>th</sup>!



Saint Patrick's Day is March 17<sup>th</sup>



April 12<sup>th</sup>

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## LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Thursday	10:00am – 8:00pm
Friday	10:00am – 5:30pm
Saturday	10:00am – 5:00pm