

Booktalking

A Reader's Advisory Service from the Davenport Public Library

321 Main Street * Davenport, Iowa 52801 * 563.326.7832 * www.davenportlibrary.com

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Online Suggestion Service Up & Running!

The Davenport Public Library is happy to provide our community of readers a new and exciting service - the "Online Suggestion Service."

This easy-to-use service is found on the homepage of the Library's website at www.davenportlibrary.com. At the top right of the site you will see a link called "Reader's Advisory Information." Click on this link to be connected to this online form:

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Suggestion - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the URL <http://suggestion.davenportlibrary.com/suggestion.htm>. The page content includes a section titled "Genres and Formats" with the instruction: "For each of the following, mark the button that indicates your interests". Below this are two columns of checkboxes for various genres: Literary Fiction, Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance, Science Fiction, Graphic Novels, Fantasy, Western, Inspirational (Religious), Horror, Young Adult, Biography/Memoir, Non-Fiction, Romantic Suspense, and Action/Adventure, Multi-Book Series. Below the checkboxes is a section titled "Reading History" with the instruction: "Please list 5 of your favorite books and / or authors and what you enjoy about them." There is a text input field with a "1." label and a small arrow icon.

Fill in as much of the form as you wish. Leave areas blank when you have no preference. Librarians will use your answers to create a customized reading list just for you.

This service is good for people who enjoy all types of reading material. The Reference Department will find matches for all genres, in addition to biographies and non-fiction. Moreover, this service is also for people who

enjoy listening to audiobooks on tape or CD, as well as print material.

Each list will contain approximately 5-10 suggested titles, along with annotations and a reason it was selected for you. Information will be kept in strict confidence between you and the Library staff. If you have questions, or want to follow-up with us, please feel free to send an email to Reference@davenportlibrary.com; or call us at 563-326-7844. This Online Suggestion Service is just another way the Davenport Public Library connects you to the world.

Banned Books Week, Revisited

Banned Books Week (September 23 - 30) was quite a success this year! We had displays at both Main and Fairmount highlighting this important week. If you missed out on celebrating your "Freedom to Read," may we suggest one of the following "Top Ten Banned Authors from 1990-2004":

1. Alvin Schwartz
2. Judy Blume
3. Robert Cormier
4. J.K. Rowling
5. Michael Willhoite
6. Katherine Paterson
7. Stephen King
8. Maya Angelou
9. R.L. Stine
10. John Steinbeck

For more information about Banned Books Week, visit the American Library Association website at: www.ala.org/bbooks.

Booktalking is a bi-monthly publication produced by the Public Relations staff of the Davenport Public Library. If you would like to submit content or ideas to Booktalking, please email Angela at: acampbell@davenportlibrary.com.

For the Prevention of Cruelty: The History and Legacy of Animal Rights Activism in the United States

By Diane L. Beers

Reviewed by Danielle Bartling

Organized advocacy on behalf of animals emerged in the United States after the Civil War and has flourished ever since. Are you an animal rights activist? Or do you think it's absurd? No matter which side of the argument you take, this book is a must-read. Beers provides a detailed and thorough examination of the history of animal rights activism. But unlike other historical texts that simply expand on a chronological time-line, she breathes life into the facts and turns this book into an engaging read.

If you've ever wondered when People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) was started or why certain animal rights change with each decade, then this book will ease your inquisitive mind. The beginnings of animal rights activism and the journey that it has taken over time is very interesting. Beers does not take sides on the issue, but simply wants to "resurrect the movement's influence and locate it within a social and environmental history framework as well as in the context of larger social changes" (p. 5).

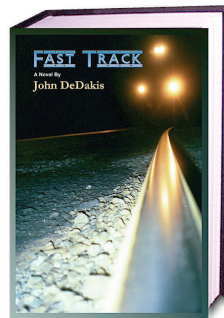
For the Prevention of Cruelty is a great resource because there are so few neutral historical books on the topic. Everyone has an opinion, but this book will strengthen your argument with facts. If you like legal issues, United States history, animal topics, or sociology, you should "check out" this book!

Book Discussion Groups Now Forming!

Book discussion groups are now forming. The Library has two contemporary fiction discussion groups, a science-fiction discussion group, a short story discussion group, and a young-adult discussion group. Call 563-888-3371 for more information, or check us out online at www.davenportlibrary.com.



Spotlight on Fiction: *Fast Track*



On September 23, John DeDakis, CNN Senior Copy Editor for Wolf Blitzer's "Situation Room" made an appearance at the Fairmount Street Library. Those attending his program were engrossed in a conversation featuring his new novel, *Fast Track*.

John spoke about his career as a former White House correspondent, a CNN writer and editor; and his experiences with turning his technical writing into creative fiction.

The highlight of the evening was when he read from his novel, *Fast Track*, a mystery/suspense recently released by ArcheBooks.

Fast Track is about Lark Chadwick, a twenty-something year old woman who comes home to find her aunt dead of carbon-monoxide poisoning. This was the aunt that raised her after her parents were tragically killed in an auto-accident. Lark finds that there is a mystery surrounding the aunt's death *and* the car accident. In the following days, she desperately seeks to find the truth.

This gripping story is a must-read for anyone who enjoys the mystery/suspense genre. It is smart book, with a masterfully planned plot, all sprinkled with humor which keeps the story moving. The Davenport Public Library owns multiple copies of the book, so check with our Reference Department at 326-7844 for more information and availability.

If you would like to learn more about the author, or purchase the book, visit his website at: www.johndedakis.com.