



NWIRC NOTES

Winter, 2010

A publication of the Northwestern Illinois Reading Council

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Used Book Sale— May 29

If you have gently used or new books you would like to donate, contact Debbie, Beck, or Janell. Not only would we like books, but we would also appreciate help with this event. If you can spare an hour that morning that would be great!

Let Us Pamper You—
Postponed *Membership Appreciation at The Cutting Edge in Lanark* scheduled for Thursday, February 10 has been postponed due to scheduling conflicts.

Fall Highlights

- ★ Congratulations on NWIRC having the highest membership increase of all the councils in the state for October! We received Barnes & Noble gift cards which will be awarded as door prizes at our April meeting!
- ★ We had a great time with Susan Cisna in October! It was a good preview of all the fabulous authors that will be at the IRC Conference in March! We want to extend a welcome to Lisa Kenney, Carrie Tresemer, Linda Rankin, Jane Bardelas, Celina Earlywine, & Becky Yochem who joined NWIRC that night!
- ★ We still have some turquoise t-shirts left from our fall sales. If you are interested in an "It's all about READING" (text in lime) call one of the officers soon. They are \$15.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

NWIRC is celebrating *The Very Hungry Caterpillar's* 40th anniversary with a quilt raffle. Our very own Joan Hartman has designed & crafted an interactive wall hanging using *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* fabric as a



focus. Watch soon for this fabulous wall hanging to come to your school. We would like your help in getting this to as many schools as possible this spring. Please contact one of the officers to schedule a week for you to help us with this special opportunity. The drawing will be held

after our book sale on Saturday, May 29. Thanks also go out to guest quilters Muriel Rafferty & Donetta Brunner for helping with this project! All proceeds will go toward helping fund literacy projects in our council's area.



Story Hour with Santa—written by Mary Stayner

What is in a dream? Well...in 1998 at 2:00 in the morning, Mary Stayner woke up, sitting straight up in bed, and said, "Santa can READ..." This made no sense to husband, Jack, but he asked the next day what she was dreaming about. Dreams really do come true... thanks to good friends like Santa Claus.

This dream became a reality and for the past 12 years, the Northwestern Illinois Reading Council has sponsored a program known as, Story Hour with Santa through a Literacy Support Grant issued by the Illinois Reading Council. Its roots were in the Freeport Lincoln Mall in Freeport, Illinois and have relocated in local libraries. Since that time, the program has evolved to what has become a very rewarding and successful venture in

supporting literacy in our area.

This year the program reached out to seven libraries in Carroll, Jo Daviess, and Stephenson counties – Elizabeth, Freeport, Mt. Carroll, Pearl City, Savanna, Stockton, and Thomson. Word is getting out and we will be expanding to two more libraries next year.

Several of the libraries welcomed Santa Claus himself, while others received visits from Mrs. Claus, Father Christmas, and even a few elves. Each visit was filled with holiday cheer and excitement as children gathered to hear stories read by their beloved Santa and friends. Each child was warmly welcomed to share their Christmas wishes and have a holiday snack or treat.

The children were invited to choose a book from Santa via Northwestern Illinois Reading Council.

This year 272 children received books from Santa. Their little eyes just sparkled as they enthusiastically chose a book... from Santa. What a joy it is to share the love of reading!



Northwestern Illinois Reading Council is committed to supporting literacy efforts in their little corner of the state and is very appreciative of the guidance and encouragement received from the Illinois Reading Council. Check out our schedule of appearances for next year and make plans to visit the library to see a wonderful role model in action.




2009-2010 EVENT CALENDAR


Mark your calendar and plan to join us for some of these events! Contact one of the Executive Board members if you can help in any way with any of these! Thanks and we'll look forward to seeing you !

Postponed

 **Thursday, February 11**—*Let Us Pamper You—Membership Appreciation* at The Cutting Edge in Lanark at 5:30

 **March 18—20**—*Lighting the Way to Literacy*
IRC Conference in Springfield



 **Thursday, April 8**—*Annual Meeting* at Massbach Ridge Winery at 5:30

 **Saturday, May 29**—*Used Book Sale* at Mt. Carroll's Mayfest from 9:00—3:00



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Lighting the Way to
Literacy!

“Our mission is to provide support & leadership to educators as they promote & teach lifelong literacy.”
—Illinois Reading Council

