

# Starved Rock Reading Council

Issue #2  
Winter 2010

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## Message From Your President

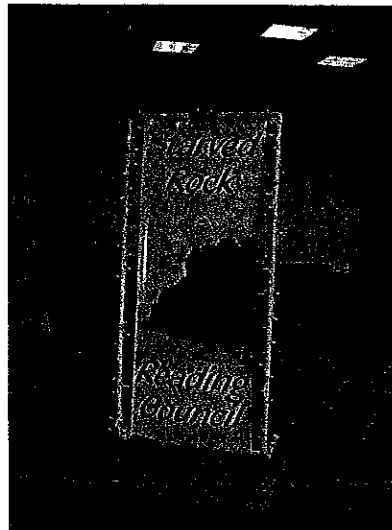
Happy New Year !!!

As we say good-bye to 2009 and begin a new decade, the Starved Rock Reading Council will be hosting some new monthly events for 2010. Graves-Hume Public Library and the SRRC will sponsor *A Chat With Ben Franklin* on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the public library. Hopefully the electricity will be working while Ben is visiting...

during the recent holiday, Ben's invention was on the blink due to the weather conditions.

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, lovers of literacy are invited to Maria's Restaurant and Pizza in Morris for a Winter Literacy Make & Take event. This event will take place from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

March 6<sup>th</sup> will bring the Seuss-a-Thon to the Book Mouse in Ottawa. This annual tradition will bring various student groups to the Book Mouse to entertain you. Please put this date on



your calendar and bring the children and grandchildren.

I hope you will follow my resolution for the new year and keep in touch with all the activities happening in all of the councils throughout the Illinois Reading Council. Please check out

[www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org) and find some great events to attend in the future and meet some new literacy lovers in the state. You will find an events calendar to lead the way!

As we put away the holiday lights, let us continue to light the way to literacy leading to the Illinois Reading Conference in March. Hope to see many of you in March!

**Karen Happ**  
President  
Starved Rock Reading Council

## SRRC T-Shirt Day

Attending the IRC Conference in March? Let's show solidarity by all wearing our SRRC Reading Rocks T-Shirts on

**Friday, March 19.**

See order blanks inside...

## New Project: Books for Babies

Retired Ottawa teacher, Nancy Schmitt, has created a new literacy project. She travels to area Lamaze classes to discuss the importance using language with children. She suggests that when they are quietly feeding or even changing the baby they can talk about events of the day or anything else that comes to mind, including a nursery rhyme they might remember. After each program, she distributes books to each of the attending families.

In addition she presents a short bibliography and created a small display for board books and other books which might be appropriate for infants or toddlers.

She stated, "Reading a book like *Pat the Bunny* may pay off with a toddler imitating what has been read to them several times. I finish with reading Rosemary Well's *My Shining Star*."

After the read aloud, Ms. Schmitt held a lottery of due dates handing the winner a copy of the book.

SRRC wants to encourage this worthy project and decided to fund the presentation of books for all parents attending the Lamaze classes.

## Underground Railroad Had Stations in LaSalle County!

This year's Fall Dinner was highlighted by a fascinating and informative program by Steve Dancey about the Underground Railroad Stations right here in LaSalle County! According to Dancey, William Hickok's family was one of those stations in Troy Grove. "I expect Will was involved as a young man," stated Dancey.

In addition to the historical program, there were door prizes won by Julie Baima, Marge Fulton, & Sharon Sovey.

Kudos go to Laura Cuchra & Susan Lawrence for planning this fun and educational event. The food was excellent and the company better!

YOU could be the next recipient of an SRRC Mini-Grant

Look for the application in the next newsletter

Applications due JUNE 1.

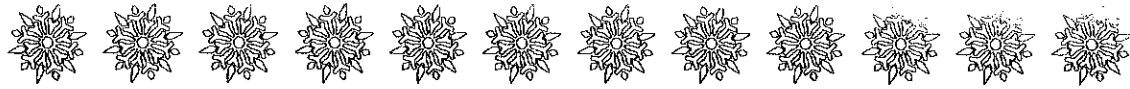
**PLAN NOW!**

## Winter Event: *Food, Fun, & Foldables*

Last year's Book Bash was such a success that a follow up is planned this year. In addition to great food, fellowship, and fun, a great *Make & Take* event is planned. Every person attending will learn a great new reading activity which they can take home and try out with her own students.

This year's *Food, Fun, & Foldable Make & Take* will also be held at **Maria's** Italian Restaurant in Morris. SRRC will provide Foldables....YOU provide new or gently used books for use in projects including Habitat for Humanity and Snuggle Up with a Good Book.; Maria's will provide the pizza buffet @\$15/person.

Mark your calendars, invite your colleagues, and join us at Maria's on **Thursday, February 4** from 5:30pm.-8:00pm. CDPU's will be available. For reservations contact Stephanie



*Starved Rock Reading Council*  
Winter Social & Meeting

***“Food, Fun and Foldables”***

The Starved Rock Reading Council will host its winter event on **Thursday, February 4, 2010 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.** at **Maria’s Pizza Restaurant in Morris**. Join us for a gathering of ***Food, Fun and Foldables!*** Enjoy Maria’s famous pizza while creating a variety of fantastic foldables that you can take back and use immediately in your classroom. All supplies will be provided for your folding enjoyment.

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Registration Form

**Due: Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
Return by Mail or Email

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ member    non-member

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ home    work

Dinner:  
Pizza Buffet \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00

Return to: Stephanie Benson  
708 Congress St.  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
(815) 245-6560  
stephie78@mchsi.com

## **SRRC Shirts Available!**

**Get YOURS NOW & let's show how *Reading Rocks* at SRRC!!**



**Starved Rock Reading Council T-shirts and sweatshirts are now available! Starved Rock Reading Council will be printed on the left sleeve. Order now and have them before March. People attending the Illinois Reading Conference, please wear your shirts on Friday, March 19. We'll have a meeting place/time and get a group picture. Thanks!**

**T-shirts \$17**

**Crew sweatshirts \$23**

**Hoodies \$28**

**Sizes: S M L XL 2X 3X**

**Colors: royal blue, sand, and charcoal.**

**Please e-mail your Name, phone #, email address, school & address along with Shirt choice, size, & color to Karen Happ: ([khapp@m289.lasall.k12.il.us](mailto:khapp@m289.lasall.k12.il.us)) Shirts will be delivered to your school. Payment will be due at that time.**

**Let's Show IRC that *Reading Rocks* at *Starved Rock Reading Council*!**

**Graves-Hume Public Library**  
and the  
**Starved Rock Reading Council invite YOU to...**



## **A Chat With Ben Franklin**

**Tuesday, January 19, 2010**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Graves-Hume Library**  
1401 West Main Street  
Mendota, Illinois

**Admission is FREE!**  
Refreshments will be Served

**The Book Mouse &  
The Starved Rock Reading Council  
Present**



**Including:**

*Reader's Theatre Performances:*

*Harding Drama Club*

*Mendota Lincoln School 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students*

*Ottawa HS Drama Students*

*Audience Participation*

*Pictures w/ Cat in the Hat*

*Come as your favorite Dr. Seuss Character!*

**Saturday, March 6, 2009**

**1PM—3:00 PM**

**FREE!**

**For more information contact : THE BOOK MOUSE  
815-433-7323, 820 LaSalle, Ottawa, IL 61350**

## Ben Franklin to Visit Mendota Library

Ben Franklin, alias Larry Penne, will be visiting the Mendota Public Library to share his discoveries and observations.

The public is invited to attend this FREE event, which will take place at 6:30pm on Tuesday January 19. The Graves-Hume Public Library is located at 1401 W. Main Street.

Larry has presented his program at IRC conferences, IRA Conferences, and numerous school and regional educational meetings.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Franklin will be appearing at Mendota's Lincoln School. For further information, contact Karen Happ,



### 4th Annual Dr. Seuss A-Thon

Yes, SRRC will be celebrating its 4th Annual Dr. Seuss A-Thon. Again it will be hosted by The Book Mouse in Ottawa on March 6 from 1-3pm. Again there will be featured a variety of Dr. Seuss read alouds and area students preparing Readers' Theatre productions.

For further information or to volunteer, contact The Book Mouse or chair Donna Stone, [dbpstone@aol.com](mailto:dbpstone@aol.com) or phone 815-672-8355.



Plan to bring  
**YOUR**  
Students to perform at this  
fun-filled event!

For more information contact  
Eileen Fesco @ the Book  
Mouse  
Or  
Donna Stone @  
815-672-8355  
Or  
Email: [dbpstone@aol.com](mailto:dbpstone@aol.com)

## April 21 Marks Young Author Event

One of the highlights of the year for students who enjoy writing is participating in the Young Author Celebration. Chaired by Julie Hettel, & Becky Nett, the event will once again be held at the Grand Bear Lodge in Utica.

Like last year, there will be a morning and an afternoon session. Schools may choose which session to attend on a first-come, first serve basis. As in past years a book sale sponsored by Anderson's books will be held.

This year we will host **2 authors:** K-4 Esther Her-

shorn & 5-8 Stephen Layne. Both are Illinois authors. Crimi is best known for her picture books; & Layne has written books for young adults as well as picture books and inspirational books for adults. Students works will be displayed.

**You should receive your YA packet by the end of February. If not**

Or for more information contact:  
Julie Hettel: [ajhettel@mtco.com](mailto:ajhettel@mtco.com)

Events & Deadlines

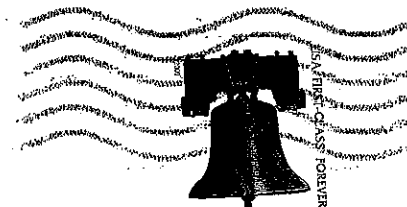
Clip & Post: Mark Your Calendars!

- Tuesday, January 19: *A Chat with Ben Franklin*, Mendota Graves-Hume Library
- Thursday, February 4: *Food, Fun, & Foldables* Winter Event at Marias in Morris
- Saturday, March 6: *4th Annual Dr. Seuss A-Thon*, The Book Mouse in Ottawa
- Wed. March 17-Sat. March 20: *Illinois Reading Council Annual Conference*, Springfield
- Wed. April 22: **YOUNG AUTHORS**, Grand Bear Lodge
- Sunday April 25-Thurs. April 29: *International Reading Conference Convention*, Chicago
- May 1: IRC Program Grant Application Due

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 13 JAN 2010 PM



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