



Libraries Change Lives

Rochester Public Library News and Events

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July 2012

History Research @ the Library

by Susan Hansen



Anna Cook at the State History Day Competition.

National History Day makes history come alive for America's youth by engaging them in the discovery of the historic, cultural and social experiences of the past. Through hands-on experiences and presentations, today's youth are better able to inform the present and shape the future. NHD inspires youth in grades 6 through 12 through exciting competitions and transforms teaching through project-based curriculum and instruction.

Anna, a 7th grader at Willow Creek Middle School was in an accelerated flex class in Social Studies this past school year. A requirement of the class was to prepare a History Day Project in keeping with this year's theme of Revolu-

tion, Reaction, Reform in History. The project could be presented as a website, a documentary, a paper, an exhibit or a performance.

Pondering a list from her teacher of possible projects, Anna thought Nellie Bly, a reporter famous for going around the world in 80 days, looked interesting. Laura Zeccardi, from the Minnesota State Historical Society, helped Anna and her classmates narrow their topics. She suggested Anna focus on Nellie's entering the Women's Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island under an assumed name and doing an undercover story on the atrocities taking place in that institution. This was in 1887, a time in history when people were reacting to the horrors taking place in hospitals and instituting reforms.

Anna decided to do a website as it allowed her to use pictures, music, and movement to illustrate her story.

Having to find primary sources from the 1800's was the hardest part of Anna's research. A primary source is the "original"--done by the people involved at the time being studied. It could be a literary or philosophical work, an historical document, first hand newspaper or magazine accounts, the report of original research, original data, a photograph, a speech, letters, pamphlets, posters, eyewitness accounts, diaries or journals, or official records. With help from the Rochester Public Library staff

When the Tornado Whistle Blows...

It's tornado season in Minnesota and in order to be prepared, Library staff hold tornado drills every spring.

Every year it seems we have a chance to put our knowledge into practice. When the city's tornado whistle blows library staff make an announcement via the overhead speaker system. Patrons and library staff alike, are expected to go to the auditorium and have a seat to wait for the all clear. Staff will fire up the laptop and projector in the auditorium and stream our local weather station for news during these events. Sometimes we will bring in coloring books and crayons to help pass the time for the over-excited children (and adults, one is never too old for a good coloring book).

Patrons do have the option to leave the building if they wish; however, if they stay, they need to go to auditorium. The skyway and library lobby are not safe places to be during high winds since there is so much glass surrounding the area. There will not be any library transactions taking place during a tornado or bad weather situation.

For more information about tornadoes and what to do to protect yourself and your family, check out the National Weather Service <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/safety.php> or the Weather Channel http://www.weather.com/life/safety/tornado/tornado-safety_2011-11-03.

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July 2012

All events at Rochester Public Library are free and open to the public

Tuesday, July 3

Bedtime Stories
Auditorium 6:30pm
 Puppets and stories to give you sweet dreams!

Wednesday, July 4

The Library will be closed in observance of Independence Day.

Friday, July 6

Baby Time
Auditorium 10am
 Bring in your baby for fingerplays, rhymes, songs and stories just right for little ones (ages birth to 18 months).

Toddler Time
Auditorium 10:30am & 11am
 Special stories and songs for active toddlers (ages 18 months to 3 years).

Tuesday, July 10

Library Time
Auditorium 10am
 This program for adults who are disabled to enjoy reading books, watching films, making crafts and other fun learning activities.

Introduction to Digital Cameras

Meeting Room B 5:30pm
 Learn about the differences between a digital camera and a conventional camera. Learn how to transfer photos to your computer and how to print them. If you already own a digital camera, bring it (along with its manual and any cords or other accessories). Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 507.328.2309.

Bedtime Stories
Auditorium 6:30pm
 Puppets and stories to give you sweet dreams!

Writing Group
Meeting Room A 6:30pm
 Stuck on your first draft? Not sure about your plot? Let's get together and help each other out.

Wednesday, July 11

Ventriloquist Gary Wick and Clarence the Duck!
Auditorium 10am & 1pm
 Clarence the Duck and his best friend, Gary Wick, will tickle your funny bone with jokes, songs, and amazing ventriloquism!

iFilms: International and Independent Films
Auditorium 6pm
Amador - Marcela, a young immigrant, finds a summer job looking after Amador, a bed-ridden elderly man whose family is away. She thinks her problems are solved, but Amador soon dies, putting Marcela in a predicament. Faced with a difficult moral dilemma, Marcela will prove that death can't always stop life. *The iFilm series is intended for mature adults. Please provide guidance to your children.*

Thursday, July 12

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Writer's Workshop
Auditorium 2pm
 Explore the writing world of fantasy and sci-fi with young adult author Kathryn Sullivan. This interactive workshop will help young writers develop their own fictional world.

Ancestry and Heritage Quest Genealogy Databases
Meeting Room B 4:30pm
 Dig through online census records, read family histories, or find immigration records. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 507.328.2309.

Friday, July 13

Baby Time
Auditorium 10am
 See description from July 6.

Toddler Time
Auditorium 10:30am & 11am
 See description from July 6.

Saturday, July 14

Second Saturday Sale
Library Foyer 10am-1pm
 It's Christmas in July! Holiday books, crafts & hobbies, gift books, kids books, etc.

Monday, July 16

Computer Basics Workshop
Meeting Room B 1pm
 Do you have general questions about computers, using email, using the library website or the internet? Come to the library on the 3rd Monday of every month to practice on our computers and ask a librarian your questions.

TLC Meeting - Teen Library Council
Meeting Room A 4pm
 Come let your voice be heard! Assist in providing insight into tween/teen reading interests, programming needs and activities. Any questions, contact Lynette @ 328-2305.

Tuesday, July 17

Photo Editing Basics
Meeting Room B 5:30pm
 Learn how to touch up, crop, resize and email your digital photos using free online tools. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 507.328.2309.

Bedtime Stories
Auditorium 6:30pm
 Puppets and stories to give you sweet dreams!

Wednesday, July 18

Children's Recording Artist

Hans Mayer

Auditorium 10am & 1pm

Feeling silly? Back by popular demand, Hans Mayer will have you laughing and singing along to original music from his award-winning recordings.

World Music Series: Feufollet

Auditorium 3pm

Deathbed ballads meet glockenspiels and omnichords. Cajun French choruses are written on iPhones. Indie--rock vibes invade Acadian archives. Feufollet has been performing worldwide since it's founders were pre-teens, their considerable musical talent evolving into prodigious instrumental and vocal skills. Now in their early twenties, they are already seasoned veterans, with an original and mature sound.

This activity is funded by the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council through the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

Thursday, July 19

Solar System Adventure: Is There Life on Mars?

Auditorium 1pm

The largest robotic rover ever will land on Mars in August! Find out about this incredible real life adventure from NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador, Earle Kyle. This program is best suited for children in Grade 2 and above.

Friday, July 20

Baby Time

Auditorium 10am

See description from July 6.

Toddler Time

Auditorium 10:30am & 11am

See description from July 6.

Monday, July 23

Senior Techies: Beginner's

Computers

Meeting Room B 1:30pm

Have you never owned a computer (or does the computer your kids gave you just collect dust)? Have you never used a computer mouse? Have you never written or received an email? Then this class is for you. No experience with computers whatsoever is required for this class. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 507.328.2309.

Celebration of Rochester

Authors and Ice Cream Social

Auditorium 4-7pm

The Friends of the Library are serving up some summer fun! Meet 17 local authors for conversation and ice cream.

Tuesday, July 24

Sharing Photos Online

Meeting Room B 5:30pm

Would you like to put your digital photos on the internet to share with family and friends? In this class, we will look at some web sites that allow you to share your photos and set up a free photo sharing account. Please bring some digital photos you want to use (on a flash drive, CD-ROM, memory card or camera) during the class. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk or by calling 507.328.2309.

Bedtime Stories

Auditorium 6:30pm

Puppets and stories to give you sweet dreams!

Wednesday, July 25

Summer Science Fun! Dream Big & Reach for the Sky

Auditorium 10am

Join Jim Birkel and staff of Mad Science of Iowa as they demonstrate amazing science experiments to help us explore the summer sky!

Create a Mini-Vehicle Race Track

Auditorium 1pm

Do you collect Hot Wheels® or other mini-vehicles? Create cardboard tube tracks and see how fast the cars can race! Mini-vehicles will be provided by the library. This program is best suited for children in Grades 2 to 6.

Movie @ your library

Auditorium 7pm

On vacation in Los Angeles, Walter, the world's biggest Muppet fan, and his friends Gary and Mary from Smalltown, USA, discover the nefarious plan of oilman Tex Richman to raze the Muppet Theater and drill for the oil recently discovered beneath the Muppets' former stomping grounds. To stage The Greatest Muppet Telethon Ever and raise the \$10-million needed to save the theater, Walter, Mary and Gary help Kermit the Frog reunite the Muppets, who have all gone their separate ways. Rated PG.

Friday, July 27

Baby Time

Auditorium 10am

See description from July 6.

Toddler Time

Auditorium 10:30am & 11am

See description from July 6.

Monday, July 30

Senior Techies: Email I

Meeting Room B 1:30pm

Learn how to set up your own free email account to help you stay in touch with family and friends. Learn the basics of writing and sending emails, and talk about email safety (and some email scams to avoid).

Tuesday, July 31

Bedtime Stories

Auditorium 6:30pm

Puppets and stories to give you sweet dreams!

at a History Hullabaloo Event, Anna learned about the historic New York Times that had stories from the 1800's on Nellie's experiences. Staff also helped her access an on-line copy of the book that Nellie wrote describing her experience. One of Nellie's greatest worries was getting out after being committed. A lawyer from the New York Times had to intervene to get her released.

For inspiration, Anna was able to view previous project winners from the National History Day (NHD) site (<http://www.nhd.org/>). She used Weebly, the NHD website creation tool with templates, to insert her photos, music, and information.

Anna entered her project in the Junior Individual website category at the regional contest held in Winona in the spring. A winner there, she was able to compete in the State History Day competition.

Between each competition she was able to refine her project with assistance from Laura. One frustrating aspect was trying to meet the word limits on the pages without affecting her story. Anna placed second at the state competition and was able to attend the National competition in Washington D.C.

Anna found the experience at the National competition interesting and a lot of fun. About 2,000 students from the 50 states, Guam, Shanghai, and Washington D.C. were in attendance. Students stayed at the University of Maryland Campus where the judging was held. Only the top three in each category received medals. Anna placed seventh in her room out of a dozen other students. Only the top person in each room (12 rooms total) was considered for the final ranking. All-in-all, she finished up somewhere in

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the middle of the ranks. When looking at the thousands of students that prepared projects to compete against, Anna was pleased with her first-time performance.

In addition to the competition, Anna and her mother were able to explore the Library of Congress, the National Archives and the Air and Space Museum. She is already mulling over what she will do next year and will definitely be back to the library's History Hullabaloo for assistance with her next project.

Anna's website may be viewed at <http://12436282.nhd.weebly.com>.

History Hullabaloo events are for students to interact with librarians and history center staff to narrow their topics and do research. In 2013, Hullabaloo dates will be Saturday, January 12 from 10 am - 3 pm and Thursday, January 17th from 4 pm - 8 pm.

Nellie Bly: Undercover At Blackwell's Island

Home
Early Reforms
Going Undercover
Reactions
Grand Jury's Visit
Conclusions
Process Paper
Bibliography
Newspaper Article

In 1887, Nellie Bly, a New York World journalist, went undercover as an insane woman at Blackwell's Island asylum in New York City. After ten days, she was rescued and published her writings on the appalling conditions. Public reaction was swift. After people read about the conditions at Blackwell's Island, there were many reforms. One new law gave an additional \$50,000 annually to the asylum. Many people donated money to change the facility and make it better for the patients. Bly's work was revolutionary in exposing the conditions of an insane asylum and it was revolutionary for a woman journalist to be taken seriously.

Picture of the Blackwell's Island Insane asylum

irahms Concerto in A Minor 2:15

Described asylum as a "human rat-trap. It is easy to get in, but once there it is impossible to get out."
-Bly

Anna Cook
Junior Division
Individual Website

Next (Early Reforms)

The main page of Anna's website about Nellie Bly.



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