



# De Soto Public Library Notes & News November 2011

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## It's About Community

The clocks have been shifted back an hour, the sun rises later and sets sooner, and even though we haven't had much snow yet, winter is definitely on its way.

The De Soto area is not known for many things, but it is known to have a wonderful community that is active in many ways to assist others in the area.



One of the nicest things that happens at this time every year is the Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the De Soto Community center.

Please participate, and donate to, this great annual event!

This month marks one year since the beginning of our newsletter. In the past 12 months, we've had 8 issues. We look forward to bringing you more news in the year to come!

**We're OPEN**

**Tues & Wed**

**1:00-8:00**

**Saturday**

**8:00-1:00**

**Will's email:**

**despl@mwt.net**

**Library Phone:**

**648-3593**

**Newsletter Ideas?**

**desotopubliclibrary**

**@yahoo.com**

## Did You Know?

All about the many services we offer our patrons

You can now "LIKE" the De Soto Public Library on Facebook!

Just do a simple search and then "Like" us to be updated on new arrivals, newsletter notifications and other fun information!

An additional email address has been linked to the Facebook page, and can also be used to email questions or suggestions for the newsletter!

Send your ideas to: [desotopubliclibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:desotopubliclibrary@yahoo.com)!

Hope to hear from you soon!

## *A Sample of Our Newest Acquisitions*

### **Books:**

- ◆ Joy for Beginners by Erica Bauermeister
- ◆ Caleb's Crossing by Geraldi Brooks
- ◆ Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine
- ◆ Torment: A Fallen Novel by Lauren Kate
- ◆ Passion by Lauren Kate
- ◆ Sojourn by Andrew Krivak
- ◆ State of Wonder by Ann Patchett
- ◆ Middle School: the Worst Years of My Life by James Patterson
- ◆ Tear of the Gods (Rogue Angle Book) by Alex Archer
- ◆ The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie, and The Weed that Strings the Hangman's Bag by Alan Bradley
- ◆ County Line by Bill Cameron
- ◆ Books by Lee Child (Jack Reacher Novels)
  - ◆ Tripwire, Echo Burning, One Shot
  - ◆ Persuader, Running Blind
- ◆ City of Fallen Angels by Cassandra Clare
- ◆ Little Black Book (preschool) by Renee Khatami
- ◆ Always Dakota by Debbi Macomber
- ◆ Super Diaper Baby 2: The Invasion of the Potty Snatchers (ages 7-10) by Dav Pilkey
- ◆ Spider Bones by Kathy Reichs
- ◆ Maine by J. Courtney Sullivan
- ◆ Playing Dirty by Susan Andersen
- ◆ Silk is for Seduction by Loretta Chase
- ◆ Iron House by John Hart
- ◆ Veil of Night by Linda Howard
- ◆ East on Sunset by Ken Mercer
- ◆ The Oregon Experiment by Keith Scribner
- ◆ White Shotgun by April Smith
- ◆ Should I Share My Ice Cream? By Mo Willems
- ◆ The Hour that Matters Most: the Surprising Power of the Family Meal by Les & Leslie Parrott
- ◆ Nightwoods by Chalres Frazier
- ◆ Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman
- ◆ Son of Neptune by Rick Riordan
- ◆ Cleopatra: A Life by Stacy Schiff
- ◆ Life Before 80: Autobiography by Arvid Erickson
- ◆ Living Beyond Your Feelings: Controlling Emotions so they Don't Control You by Joyce Meyer
- ◆ Start Something That Matters by Blake Mycoskie
- ◆ Wrong Man Running by Alan Hruska
- ◆ The Leftovers by Tom Perrotta
- ◆ Fateful by Claudia Gray
- ◆ Down River by John Hart
- ◆ The Cut by George Pelecanos
- ◆ Flash and Bones by Kathy Reichs
- ◆ Moo by Matt Van Fleet
- ◆ The Burning Lake by Brent Ghelfi

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## *A Publishing Trend or A Trick?*

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In a recession, authors find it increasingly difficult to get published. Especially new authors, unknowns or those who have no ties to family deep in the publishing industry.

However, I've noticed a trend in recent years that is perhaps a result of the recession or is it just a fancy trick? Co-authorship.

I'm not referring to ghost writing, where a famous person or politician hires a writer to assist them in penning their memoirs.

What I'm referring to is well-read, famous and seemingly-able-to-get-published-on-their-own authors who are teaming up with relatively unknown writers to churn out books in their genre with the names of both persons emblazoned on the front (albeit the famous person's name is always the more prominent of the two).

For example, take James Patterson, who by 1996 had published nearly 10 books, most of which were *New York Times* Bestsellers. That's a feat that most writers would give their eye teeth to brag about.

But in 1996, Patterson's book *Miracle on the 17th Green* has a startling entry at the bottom of the cover. While Patterson's name is splayed wildly at the top of the page, tucked neatly along the bottom it states "& Peter De Jonge."

Not having read the book, I can't say if the additional help from Mr. De Jonge was an improvement or not upon Mr. Patterson's style, as it seems pretty obvious that people were plenty happy with his writing already, hence the multiple best-sellers.

So why did Patterson co-author? 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it' is my belief.

Ten books later, Mr. De Jonge shows up again to co-author *The Beach House*, 2002. Not a feel-good story like *Miracle*, this book goes back to what Patterson is known for: thrills and chills. Murder and mayhem. Cat and mouse plots.

Perhaps Patterson, who apparently enjoys writing across a variety of genres, realized that the public wanted him to stick with thrillers. For every non-thriller book he's published, it has been offset by at least 5 thriller-titles.

At any rate, as the years have progressed, more and more of Patterson's works have shown up with the minor-league co-author, including Andrew Gross (*The Jester, 3rd Degree, Lifeguard, Judge & Jury, etc.*), Howard Roughan (*Honeymoon, You've Been Warned, etc.*), Maxine Paetro (*4th of July, 5th Horseman, 6th Target, etc.*), Peter De Jonge (in addition to those mentioned above, *Beach Road*), Michael Ledwidge (*Step on a Crack, The Quickie, etc.*), Hal Friedman (*Against Medical Advice*) and numerous others.

By 2007, 4 of the 6 books published by Patterson were co-authored. In 2008, that number was 5 of 7 books published. In 2009, Patterson's books numbered 8. Of those, only 2 bear his name alone. Even one of the titles from his beloved 'Alex Cross' series was co-authored in 2009! His 'Women's Murder Club' series was passed off as early as the 2nd title in the series, but Alex Cross had been his alone. "The Maximum Ride" series has *so far* remained in his name exclusively.

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In 2010, Patterson's name emblazoned 10 book covers. Only two of them were written by him alone. So far in 2011, his site lists 9 titles, of which, only one gives him sole billing.

Do you see a trend here? The publishing industry knows that Patterson's name sells. They want more and more work from him every year, but yet it's not feasible to write eight, ten or more quality books in a single year. Anybody who's even attempted to write a single novel can tell you that.

So this leaves me, as a reader, wondering the obvious. Is James Patterson really writing any of his books at all anymore? In a *Time* Magazine interview (July 2010) Patterson admitted that the co-authors generally write the first draft and he writes "subsequent" drafts.

I know I'm not the first one to say this, and neither will I be the last, but I find this type of

writing to be nothing more than pseudo-literary churning akin to Tin Pan Alley.

To be fair, I did read a recently released co-authored book of Patterson's before writing this piece. I read *Now You See Her* which was written with (or by?) Michael Ledwidge. While there were some good ideas and potential, I knocked it off in one day (no mental challenge there). If I had been sipping a margarita on a warm, sandy beach under a cabana it would have been marginally entertaining.

Overall, however, I was left with the sad realization that Patterson (if indeed he even contributed more than his moniker) has fallen a long way since *Along Came A Spider*.

My score for this publishing trend:



*Cheryl Russell, of De Soto, is an avid reader and sometimes-writer.*

## *Waiting for the Turkey to Cook?*

Here are a few of the best sites on the web to surf while your turkey is crisping in the oven! All of these sites are family-friendly and many of them link to other sites that have a plethora of trivia quizzes, puzzles and other games to play on Thanksgiving day!

- ◆ [http://puzzles.about.com/od/trivia/1/bl\\_thanksgivingquiz.htm](http://puzzles.about.com/od/trivia/1/bl_thanksgivingquiz.htm) This site has an 11-question quiz for the die-hard historian!
- ◆ <http://puzzles.about.com/od/holidaypuzzlesforkids/a/ThanksgivingKids.htm> Thanksgiving themed word searches for kids
- ◆ <http://www.brownielocks.com/thanksgivingtrivia.html> A longer, 100-question trivia quiz
- ◆ <http://www.brownielocks.com/thanksgivingbingo.html> For the really adventurous, here is a Thanksgiving Bingo game you can download & print.
- ◆ <http://www.hwdyk.com/quiz/m/428/a-charlie-brown-thanksgiving> Test your recall of the kids' classic special!
- ◆ <http://quotations.about.com/od/specialdays/a/thanksgiving4.htm> Use this site and others it links to for making a list of quotes about the holiday. Test your family & friends!~

## ***New Magazines & A Recipe to Share***

### **Recent Additions to our Magazine Collection**

- ◆ Cook's Illustrated & The Food Network Magazine

### **Pecan Squares**

#### **Crust:**

2 1/4 cups flour  
6 tablespoons sugar  
3/4 cup softened butter  
1/4 teaspoon salt

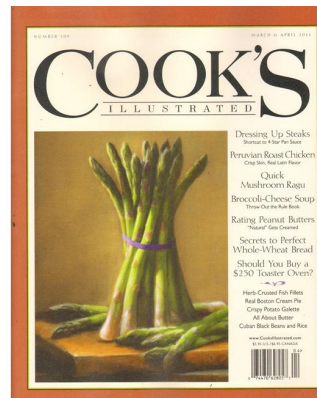
#### **Filling:**

3 eggs  
1 cup + 2 tablespoons  
dark corn syrup  
2 tablespoons of melted butter  
1 1/4 teaspoons vanilla (less if real, more if artificial)

Put flour, sugar & salt in a bowl. Cut in the butter until you get a crumbly mixture. Press lightly in a 9x13" pan. Bake 10 minutes at 350°

Mix together all filling ingredients well. Spread on top of freshly baked crust and top with 2 cups chopped pecans ( or more if desired). Bake 20-30 minutes more at 350°. Do no overcook. Cut into squares and watch them disappear!

*Recipe courtesy of Kathy Talley, Eau Claire WI*



## ***Opportunities and New Services***

### **Attention Collectors, Crafters & Artists**

The De Soto Public Library offers 2 glass cases for display of patrons' artwork, crafts or collectibles that you'd like to share with the public. See Will for more details.

### **Just the fax, please!**

Items can be faxed from the library for the cost of 25¢ per page.

### **Have Something to Say?**

If you live in the service area of the De Soto Public Library or use this library, you can contribute!

- ◆ Write a book review, an author profile or an article about a hobby
- ◆ Share a recipe or photo
- ◆ Be in the spotlight or nominate someone local for the spotlight
- ◆ Let us know what services or programming you'd like to see at the library

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## *Summer Reading Program 2012*

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While it seems unlikely that we'll be turning on the a/c anytime again soon, it is time to start planning for our 2012 Summer Reading Program! This year's theme is "Dream Big: Read" and the focus of our "dreams" will take us all the way around the universe! Our astronomy-themed summer will feature two groups for kids, so that younger kids can focus on stories and crafts that are applicable to them, while kids 2nd grade and up can focus on more difficult challenges and crafts.

To get started on the planning, we are looking for 3-5 adult volunteers to help plan out the various portions of the weekly program. You don't have to be able to attend every program in order to be involved! Grandparents and community members are also encouraged to participate.

To be part of the committee, please send an email to: [desotopubliclibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:desotopubliclibrary@yahoo.com)



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### *Help Trim The Tree*

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Once again this year we'll be offering a chance to decorate our library's tree! Come into the library between November 26th and December 21st to make an ornament for our tree, and one to take home for your own tree!

November 26-December 21  
**November 26-December 21**  
**Trim the Tree!**



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### *Will's Corner*

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"Come forth into the light of things, let nature be your teacher."  
William Wordsworth

If you do not wish to receive this emailed newsletter from the De Soto Public Library anymore, please send an email to [despl@mwt.net](mailto:despl@mwt.net) with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. To add an email address to our mailing list, email us!