

## **More than Books**

### **February is Food for Fines Month**

February is Food for Fines Month at Freeport Library. For every can of food or non-perishable food item brought in during the month of February, the library will “forgive” up to \$1 in fines. All food collected stays in the community and will be divided between the Salvation Army and Freeport Area Church Cooperative (FACC).

Library users - and abusers - have a chance to do two good deeds at once: clear those pesky overdue fines from their records and help others less fortunate in the process.

You don't have to have library fines to donate to the drive. Please consider bringing in non-perishable, nutritious food, such as peanut butter, canned meats, chili, tuna, baby food, or baby formula, and help match or even beat our all-time donation record of over 1,000 pounds of food for the needy.

"Why February?" a friend asked me. Well, it allows us to take advantage of a valentine theme and ask that you "Have a Heart and Donate Food for Fines." It is also a good time, post-holidays, to help replenish supplies at the Salvation Army and FACC.

### **Frederick Douglass in Freeport**

Next Tuesday February 4, at 7 p.m., the Tenth Anniversary Edition Lecture in American History Series kicks off with Steven Cole's presentation, "Frederick Douglass in Freeport." We're getting a twofer, as Steve's presentation also kicks off Black History Month.

Steve is known for his stirring reenactments of Frederick Douglass speeches. He is also a tireless researcher of local African American history. Now everyone knows about the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates. Steve is going to tell us about a less well-known but absolutely fascinating episode that took place four years earlier. It was in 1854, when Frederick Douglass and Stephen Douglas appeared in Freeport on the same day, but not on the same stage. I'll leave the rest of the story to Steve.

Next up in the series: George Buss, on Thursday, February 13 to talk about "1864: Lincoln's Re-election." Jim Phillips follows George on Thursday, February 20, when he will tell us about "Songs & Soup Lines: The Music of the Great Depression."

### **Secret Book Challenge**

Youth Services Supervisor Anna Doyle invites children to try something new during February's "Secret Book Challenge." Anna will pre-select books suited to a range of ages and put each title in a plain brown wrapper, which includes a few descriptive phrases.

Adventurous children are to read the book, rate it with one to five stars, and get their names in a prize drawing. This challenge provides kids with the opportunity to find something they love, that they might never have picked up before. The other possibility, of course, is that some of them get stuck with something they don't like one bit. Either way, they get to tell us about it. "Accept the challenge!" she urges. I like this idea so much I may steal it for the Adult Department.

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