

Visit Traveling Exhibit about Midwest POW's in Nazi Germany

Hardly anyone today is aware the first U.S. troops sent to fight in WWII came from the Upper Midwest, or that the region's 34th "Red Bull" Division served the longest uninterrupted duty in U.S. military history—about 600 days. Even fewer know that, as some 1,800 mostly Midwest soldiers were captured in one night in North Africa in February 1943, until the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 the most U.S. POWs in Nazi-German camps came, per capita, from the same region.

"Behind Barbed Wire", a new traveling exhibit, explores the experiences of Midwest prisoners of war (POWs) who were imprisoned in Hitler's Third Reich, and the human context in which their experiences took place. The St. Paul-based, non-

profit educational organization TRACES created this exhibit. The mobile exhibit is housed in a converted school bus.

This unique BUS-eum will be at the Pekin Public Library on Wednesday, March 26th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the library's parking lot.

"Behind Barbed Wire" poses five primary questions: why did some Midwest POWs survive certain conditions or experiences, while others did not; what roles did art, freetime and religion play in helping those men who did survive imprisonment by the Nazi regime; why did some Germans or Austrians assist Midwest POWs, while others did not; how did the liberated POWs later come to terms with their own experiences, and how do countries once in armed conflict

reconcile with each other: how do nations and the individuals who constitute a nation get beyond war?

As the opening panel of the exhibit reminds viewers, "The prisoner of war experience is one few men or women know directly. Being taken prisoner is, in itself, neither dishonorable nor heroic. Capture is largely an accident; often, it comes as a complete surprise and is frequently accompanied by injury. Usually, the confinement is painful; too often, it is fatal. In war, not everyone is lucky: some lose. Those taken captive are part of the unlucky ones."

This exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information, please call the library at 347-7111 ext. 2.

The Incredible Dinosaur Show comes to Pekin Public Library!

Dinosaurs are one of the most interesting puzzles that scientists continue to explore. Everyone seems to be fascinated with these animals that long ago wandered the earth.

The Incredible Dinosaur Show comes to the Pekin Public Library on Saturday, February 23 at 2:00 p.m. in the library's Community Room.

Kids will learn that there were many differences in the various dinosaurs. In the story of the very hungry Tyrannosaurus, kids learn that there were plant eaters and meat eaters. Magically a skinny T-Rex manages to get a meal and ends up with a big smile and a fat belly. During the show everyone meets a grouchy Velociraptor, who missed too much school because he

was running around. There's a mini-dino dig and a fossil is found by an audience helper.

Dinosaurs continue to be a favorite among kids. Presented by Elsenpeter Productions from Barry, IL, this program will be entertaining as well as educational. Please register for this program in the Children's Department, or call 347-7111 ext. 3.

Time to Downsize?

Pekin Public Library's favorite organizing guru Kate Varness, President of Green Light Organizing, returns to the library on Wednesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. with "Time to Downsize, but Where Do I Start?"

Do you want to embrace a new stage in life, but looking around your home of 20, 30, or 40 years leaves you overwhelmed to begin the process? Varness will give you tips to decide what you need at your new location; how to honor the past without taking it with you; dispose of the belongings you no longer need; make the most of a smaller space; and break a big project into manageable pieces.

Green Light Organizing provides consulting, plans, and assistance to the organizing process. Please register at the Reference Desk, or call 347-7111 ext. 2.

UnValentine's Day Party!

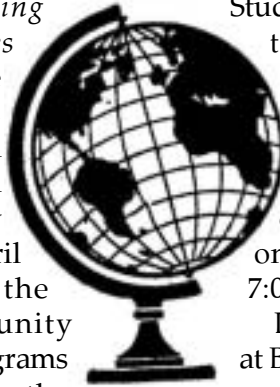
Teens in grades 6-12 are invited celebrate Valentine's Day in an untraditional way at the library's "I'm Just Not That Into You" UnValentine's Day Party on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

Participants should wear black! We'll write and judge the best break-up letter, and put a new twist on the traditional candy conversation heart. Registration is required by calling 347-7111 ext. 2.

Great Decisions Program & Discussion Series

The Pekin Public Library, in conjunction with the Friends of the Library, Kiwanis Club of Pekin, and the Pekin Women's Club, present the *2008 Great Decisions Programming and Discussion Series* that focuses on a wide range of global topics; programs begin on Monday, March 3 and will continue every Monday through April 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the library's Community Room. All eight programs are free and open to the public.

This year's discussion kicks off March 3 with Dr. Issam Nassar, Assistant Professor of Middle East History at Illinois State University, for the topic "Exiting Iraq: Deadline for Democracy." Dr. Nassar is associate editor of *Jerusalem Quarterly* and is a published author and editor.



Additional speakers include Angela Weck, Executive Director of the Peoria Area World Affairs Council, and part-time instructor at the Institute of International Studies at Bradley University—teaching courses mainly pertaining to Russia and Eastern Europe. Ms. Weck will lead the program and discussion on, "Reexamining Russia," on Monday, March 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Ali Zohoori, Professor at Bradley University who is currently working on a book on the communication and culture in Iran, will present, "Dangerous Dialog: Talking with the Enemy," on April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Program guides are available for purchase at the Pekin Public Library. For more information on any of these programs and a complete schedule of events, please contact the library at 347-7111 ext. 2.

Upcoming Events You Won't Want to Miss!

Great Decisions Discussion Series
Mondays, March 3-April 21, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Toddler Time - For children ages Birth-3 years and their Caregiver
Wednesdays, March 5-April 9, 2008
10:00 a.m.

'Fishing in Illinois' by Peoria Journal Star Sportsman Jeff Lampe
Wednesday, March 19
7:00 p.m.

Jazz and Poetry Coffeehouse
Tuesday, April 15, 2008
7:00 p.m.

'Harriet Tubman Program' as part of Tales from the Trails
Friday, April 18, 2008
6:30 p.m.