



FVRC Newsletter

August 21st, 2023

President's Letter

While the end of August implies the end of summer, it also signifies the beginning of so many things! We are in a professional field that allows us very distinct beginnings of the year and affords us the privilege of meeting new faces and shaping new minds. In addition to the typical start of a school year, maybe your days are filled with learning new curriculum or adjusting to a new schedule; perhaps you are starting at a different school or entering your retirement year. Whatever this month has brought you, we can all agree it centers around change.



The Fox Valley Reading Council's executive board has not been immune to change this summer. Our very own Dawn Lutz (co-president since 2018) made the tough decision to step down from her role. While she will continue to participate as past president and has already played a major part in our event planning, we will miss her as an integral part of our executive board. On the flip side, we are very excited to have Ashley Falkos join us as our social media chair. She joins us with great ideas and has already enhanced our social media platforms in the short time she has been on the executive board! If you are interested in becoming more involved in FVRC, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are always looking for new faces and fresh ideas!

I can promise you a few things that will not change. We have scheduled our annual book talk with Anderson's and Bert Crossland for Monday, September 25, 2023. (Ok, there is a tiny change; we moved it from a Saturday to a Monday.) We have also scheduled our annual Wine, Dine, and Collaborate for May 17, 2024. Keep an eye out for our winter event; we are in talks with an author who is sure to bring joy to those who teach and learn in an elementary/middle school setting.

Our August newsletter is posted over all of the information you



98

few moments to look ahead for you.

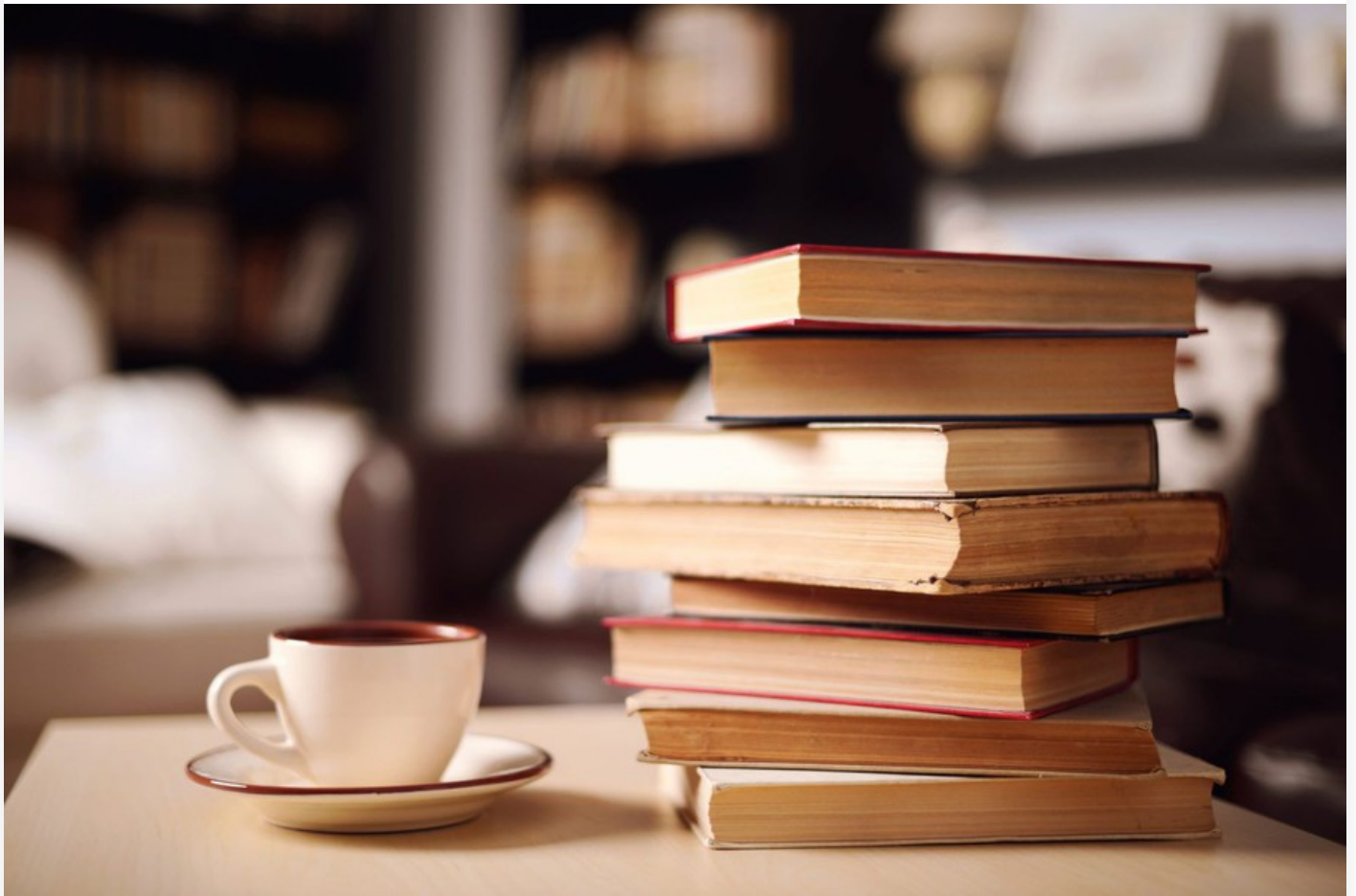
Inspire Growth,
Camille Lutz (minus my favorite co-president, Dawn Lutz)

Welcome!

Welcome new members!

Katlynn Davis
Stacey Kilburg
Amy Zapata

HOORAY!



Event Information

FVRC Fall Book Talk Event

Join us for our annual fall event with Anderson's Bookshop and Crossland Literacy! Pizza will be served. Registration coming soon.

When?

Monday, Sep 25, 2023, 0



98

Where?

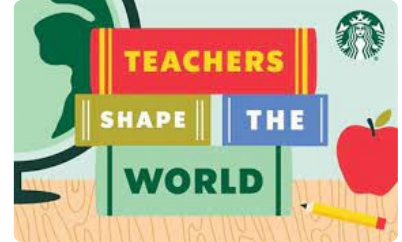
Anderson's Bookshop, West Jefferson Avenue, Naperville, IL, USA

 Open maps

The following individuals won a Starbucks gift card in our monthly drawing of members that renewed their membership:

May: Kirsten Corp

June: Maria Chamorro



Meet our New Board Member: Ashley Falkos

1. What is your name and position with FVRC? What do you do?

Ashley Falkos- Social Media Chairperson

2. What's one professional skill or concept you are passionate about?

Ending the literacy crisis



3. What behavior or person organized! I am a type-A planner and labels!



98

o and why? Being organized. I love

4. What led you to this career? What was your first job? *My first professional job was a second-grade teacher, which was my dream job! I admired my second-grade teacher so much and was thrilled to follow in her footsteps. To this day, I get to be creative and help others for a living thanks to her influence on me.*

5. What energizes you at work? *When a student makes progress and is reading at grade level (or just enjoys reading in general).*

6. What's a work-related accomplishment you're really proud of? *I founded a group at the Kane County ROE called Reading Leaders.*

7. Tell us about your family. *My husband retires from the Marine Corps on 8/31. My stepson plays football at GHS and is learning to drive. My oldest daughter just started 2nd grade and is playing volleyball this fall. My youngest is training at St. Charles Gymnastics and just started Kindergarten! We love to travel, read, and watch movies together.*

8. What's one thing people don't know about you? *I was always the youngest in my class (late August birthday).*

9. Dog or cat person? *Dog*

10. What's your guilty pleasure? *Bravo TV*

11. If you could snap your fingers and be an expert in something, what would it be? *Playing the piano*

12. What's one of your favorite memories from the past year? *A Royal Caribbean cruise!*

13. What do you bring to FVRC? Are you learning anything now that might help the group? *I help with the literacy mission by working for PaperPie Publishing Company in addition to teaching. I am able to match donations, fundraise, and use my digital marketing skills to help FVRC. It is so fun to get more books in more kids' hands!*

14. What are three words you would use to describe yourself? *Kind, Loyal, Fun*

15. Share anything else you'd like to share with us. *It's an honor to be the newbie on the FVRC board! I look forward to a great year!*

Fox Valley Reading Council's Literacy Project Partnership with Love Smiles

Love Smiles is an Illinois-based 501 non-profit organization dedicated to bringing awareness to pediatric cancer while providing moments of peace to those diagnosed and their families.

We accept donations of any age books. If you would like to donate, contact dianawilkie@aol.com. Or bring donations to our Fall Book Talk. <https://www.love-smiles.org/>



Little Caesars Pizza Kits during the month of AUGUST!

[Follow this link](#) or scan the QR code at the bottom with your phone to buy delicious Pizza Kits and In-Store Meal Deals. Pizza Kits will be delivered directly to your buyers via FedEx, so feel free to share this link with family & friends across the country, too. Every item sold will earn \$6 profit and make an impact.



The Vision of the Illinois Reading Council

The Illinois Reading Council advocates for high-quality literacy opportunities that empower all learners. As a leading literacy organization, the IRC provides access to research, materials, and methodologies to teach literacy and promote lifelong learning. As an active well-organized system of local and special interest councils and state committees, the IRC provides a supportive network for grassroots involvement and the exchange of information for a diverse membership.

Don't Miss Your Opportunity to Share Your Voice in Literacy.

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2024 IRC CONFERENCE
March 14-15, 2024
Springfield, Illinois

Submit a Program Proposal to present at the 2024 [IRC Conference](#) by September 1st!

Family Reading Night!

Illinois Family Reads Supplies

Reading is a gift that provides endless enjoyment and sets young readers on the path to lifelong learning. In an effort to highlight the importance of reading at all ages and to support Illinois authors, the Illinois Reading Council is excited to share the annual "Illinois Reads" Program. The Illinois Reading Council would like to

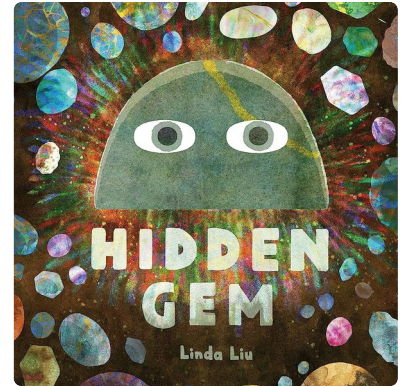
encourage everyone to get involved by becoming an Illinois Reads Ambassador, hosting or participating in a Family Reading Night program, attending an "Illinois Reads" author event, and/or



Book Reviews

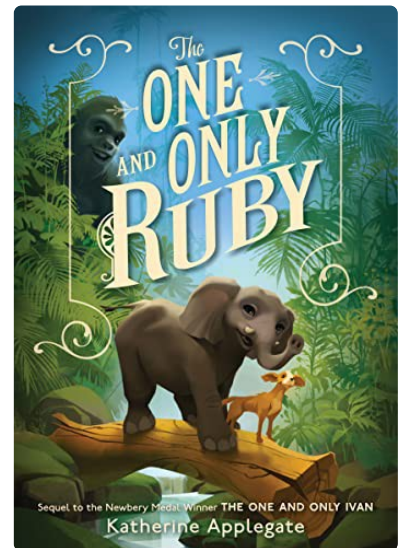
Hidden Gem

A small pebble sees others gathering on the steps of the Museum of Rocks and is curious as to why everyone is there. Once he goes inside, he is shocked by all the crystals, geodes, and glittering gemstones and begins to wonder if he will ever be special too. This is a heartwarming story of a tiny, unassuming rock's journey to self-confidence.



One and Only Ruby

Ruby's story picks up a few months after the events of *The One and Only Bob*. Now living in a wildlife sanctuary, Ruby's caretaker from the elephant orphanage in Africa where she grew up is visiting. Seeing him again brings back a flood of memories both happy and sad of her life before the circus, and she recounts the time she spent in the African Savannah to Ivan and Bob. This novel is heartfelt and humorous and will tug at your heartstrings.



if he had been with me

The novel tells the story of Autumn and Finny as they navigate the complicated waters of high school and intimate relationships. Best friends since birth, they find themselves separated by misunderstandings all through high school, only to be pulled back together the summer after graduation, and then ripped apart again.

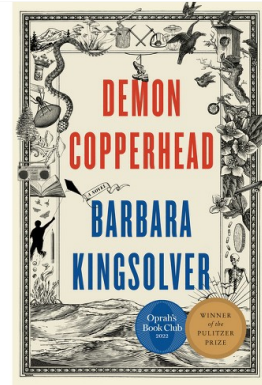


Demon Copperhead



98

Demon Copperhead is a novel by Barbara Kingsolver. The story of Demon, a young man who is born into poverty in the mountains of southern Appalachia. The novel is set in the early days of the opioid epidemic, and it explores themes of addiction, poverty, and redemption. (Adult)



Wine, Dine, and Collaborate! Spring FVRC Event 2024

You don't want to miss this! Put Fox Valley's *Up North Wine Tasting Room* event on your calendar for Friday May 17, 2024. We will again offer partner wine tastings and snacks, so be ready to bring a friend and enjoy this teacher appreciation event. More information to come!



Fox Valley Reading Council

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