

CHAPTERS

Deschutes Public Library Newsletter

H *Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." ~Seneca*

Happy New Year! I am excited to start this year as your new Library Director! I have worked the past 10 years as the Branch Manager of the Redmond Public Library and as the Assistant Director for Deschutes Libraries. I started in libraries as a children's librarian where I performed regularly with my puppet sidekick Morris the Moose. It should come as no surprise that I am an avid (but slow) reader. You can check out my favorites on our staff picks web site: http://www.dpls.lib.or.us/bridges/lists/books/staff_picks/page.asp?ID=787

Spring is my favorite time of the year because it means our annual community reading program is coming. This year is special—Oregon's 150th birthday and **Oregon Reads 2009** which highlights three books by Oregon authors. It's also the time of year that I kick myself for not starting to read the book earlier in the year (again, I'm a slow reader). I hope to break that cycle by starting *Stubborn Twig* early, but I am afraid procrastination will win out.

I am also an avid (but slow) runner. I can be seen plodding the trails of Central Oregon throughout the year. So far only one cougar sighting and one bear that turned out to be a feral poodle. I did leave the trails long enough to participate in the Portland Marathon this year and am happy to announce that I broke the age group time record for runners age 85 and up. Unfortunately, I missed qualifying by about 40 years.

The new year offers us a chance to reflect on the past and ponder our future. Taking over as Library Director at the turn of the calendar also offers me an opportunity for reflection. The past 10 years saw a tremendous period of growth for our libraries. Overwhelming community support rescued us from closed buildings and provided a stable base of funding. Thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers we were able to expand our services and open new buildings. From those humble beginnings we grew into one of the top library systems in Oregon.

We are ready for new beginnings. Our goal of supporting a love of reading, access to information, and to support lifelong learning is more vital now than ever with a downturn in the economy. The Library is your calm port in a financial storm. We are dedicated to providing quality teen and children's programs that support early literacy skills and the love of reading, to providing access to the latest technology, to connecting you with information in the Library or at home through our web site, and, of course, to provide great reads!

I look forward to the opportunity to help guide our great community resource and look forward to the chance to serve you all over the coming years.

I'd love to hear from you about the library, what good books you are reading, or new ways to fend off mountain lions. Feel free to e-mail me at toddd@dpls.us.

Todd Dunkelberg
Library Director



Todd is currently reading "What I Talk About When I Talk About Running: A Memoir" by Haruki Murakami.

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