

# The READ Review

A Quarterly Publication of READ La Porte County, Inc.  
Fall 2014 Edition

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## What's New with READ?

### **READ on the Radio**

READ will be featured on WLOI's Breakfast Showcase on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and WEFM's Community Focus on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m. Tune in to hear us speak live about upcoming events.

### **2014 Sunflower Fair**

The City of La Porte's favorite fall festival will take place Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> in the downtown area. Exciting entertainment options include a 5K race, vendors, music, train rides, a car show and more.

For the first time this year, READ will be selling beverages from our Sunflower Fair booth. We will be located in the middle of Harrison Street, across from the rib cook-off and just north of the car show on Michigan Avenue. Come quench your thirst, then pick up a Student or Tutor application. You can also bid for our September 25<sup>th</sup> Silent Auction or purchase a piece of jewelry made by the LPHS Art Club to benefit READ!

### **Read Like a Rock Star!**

Students in La Porte County Schools are in for a treat on September 30<sup>th</sup> thanks to Rotary Club of La Porte in conjunction with several other local organizations. During the day, performer Thaddeus Rex will put on a "concert" to promote reading to third graders. At night, students can bring their parents to the La Porte County Public Library at 5:30 p.m. for a public version of the event. Keep an eye on Rotary Club of La Porte's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfLaPorte](http://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfLaPorte) for further details!

### **Scrabble Tournament Early Registration Deadline Approaches**

If you love playing *Words with Friends*, come make words with us! READ's annual Scrabble Tournament fundraiser will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2014, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Best Western Plus Hotel & Conference Center in La Porte.

We invite two-person teams to compete in our two-round tournament. No partner? We'll match you up with one! The cost to play is \$25.00 per person on or before September 10<sup>th</sup> or \$30.00 per person for those registering after that date.

Your tournament fee includes a variety of delicious appetizers, and a cash bar will also be available. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams and the top word scorer. We also encourage players to arrive by 6:50 p.m. to participate in our first optional "Lightning Round" and check out the Silent Auction prizes.

Your registration form is attached. Don't forget, current tutors play for FREE as a "thank you" for everything you do for READ!

### **Thanks Again, United Way!**

READ would like to thank the United Way of La Porte County for making a very generous allocation of \$6,000 to READ for the 2014-2015 cycle. They also offered a few suggestions for our programs which we are working to implement.

We are proud to be a United Way agency! You can find a complete list of partner agencies at [www.unitedwaylpc.org/agencies](http://www.unitedwaylpc.org/agencies).

# Tutor News and Events

## **We want YOU!**

We are currently taking applications for new tutors and students for the fall. READ offers FREE tutoring to students of all ages in the areas of reading, math, English and digital literacy. At the moment, we have a particular need for tutors in the areas of digital literacy and English as a Second Language.

If you would like to join our awesome team of tutors and students, you can find our updated applications at [www.readlaportecounty.org](http://www.readlaportecounty.org).

## **Celebrating READ Tutors**

Mark your calendars! This year's Tutor Recognition Lunch will be held on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. We invite all those who have tutored in 2014 to join us at Louie's Café for a delicious meal before the craziness of the holiday season begins. More details will be sent via email as the event approaches.

## **Tutor Training News**

Our next Tutor Trainings will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on October 8, 2014 and from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the La Porte County Public Library. The October event will focus on tutoring children, while the November session is intended primarily for those interested in tutoring adult and ESL students.

Both current and potential tutors are welcome. Please RSVP to Mary Hedge at [mhedge8@comcast.net](mailto:mhedge8@comcast.net) or (219) 325-0875 by October 6<sup>th</sup> for the October training or November 12<sup>th</sup> for the November training so we can be sure to have enough materials and food, which will be provided courtesy of a generous grant from Bethany Lutheran Church of La Porte Foundation, Inc.

## **READ Success Story**

READ Tutor Marv Witbeck recently shared his thoughts about an adult student he has been working with for more than two years.

This dedicated student has never missed a tutoring session without advance notice. "Some of the time in the past year, he has had to work about 60 hours per week but always gets to our sessions," says Marv. "I don't think he has ever forgotten to tell me "Thank you" after a session."

The duo's efforts have paid off. "He seems to learn rapidly and I enjoy working with him," Marv says. Prior to attending tutoring, the student had not read a book since graduating from high school. However, Marv reports, "He is now reading books on a regular basis."

We thank this student for his commitment to READ and Marv for his three-plus years of service for our organization!

## **Stats Update**

Since a new academic year just started, we are still waiting on our numbers for students who are tutored in school. Outside of the school setting, our tutors are currently working with 9 children, 12 English-speaking adult students and 20 adult students who speak English as a Second Language.

The substantial bump in the number of English-speaking adults in our program this year can be attributed to our new program at the Community Corrections Center. Thanks to Tim Todd for his hard work!

## What We're READING... A Review of Donna Tartt's "The Goldfinch" By Peggy Cunningham

The Goldfinch is a famous painting that actually exists. It was painted by a student of Rembrandt, Carel Fabritius, who died in a gunpowder explosion in 1654 in which most of his work was destroyed. The Goldfinch is considered the finest of his paintings that survived. The novel by author, Donna Tartt is a work of fiction.

The narrator of the novel is Theo Decker, a 13 year-old boy on the cusp of adolescence, who lives with his beautiful and much loved mother in a Manhattan apartment building. His life changes forever the spring day he and his mother run into the Metropolitan Museum of Art to escape a downpour of rain.

Moments after his mother tells him the history of The Goldfinch, and her love of the painting, there is a terrorist attack and a bomb explodes causing terrible destruction in the museum. Dazed and disoriented, Theo finds himself in a room filled with smoke, plaster dust and dead and injured people. The painting, The Goldfinch, is half buried in plaster and debris. A dying man urges him to take The Goldfinch and save it from damage. Clutching the painting, he struggles to find his way out of the museum, and make his way home hoping his mother has made it home safely. Audrey Decker, however, is a casualty of the bombing.

Having lost his mother and his home, Theo is emotionally and physically unmoored. He learns that the painting is believed to have been destroyed in the attack, and he makes a decision to keep it. He is tormented by his longing for his mother and by the guilt and burden of keeping the painting. Physically, Theo and the stolen painting drift from one temporary home to another.

The plot follows Theo through his adolescence into adulthood and is filled with surprise and intrigue. Grief and loss are important themes, but the themes of friendship, love and the power of art provide balance. Most importantly, in Theo Decker, the author creates a character so likeable that he draws the reader into his life, and makes one wish him all the best at every fascinating turn.

*\*The Goldfinch won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. The La Porte County Public Library has copies available for check-out in regular and large print, on CD and online.*



See you  
at the  
Sunflower  
Fair!



## **Join us for our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Scrabble Tournament!**

**Thursday, September 25, 2014**

**Best Western Plus La Porte Hotel & Conference Center**

**6:30 p.m. – Doors open**

**7:00 p.m. – Tournament begins**

Two-person teams compete in a two-round tournament. Your tournament fee includes a variety of delicious appetizers. A cash bar will also be available. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams and the top word scorer. Arrive by 6:50 p.m. to participate in our first “Lightning Round!” We will also have a Silent Auction with a variety of prizes for those who wish to participate.

This year’s event pays tribute to La Porte County’s rich heritage by featuring themed décor honoring many of our community’s special places and people. Attendees are encouraged to dress in apparel showing off their favorite local sports team or business. We hope to see you there!

**Questions? Please call 219-325-0875 or email us at  
readlaportecounty@gmail.com.**

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**Early Registration (By September 10<sup>th</sup>) - \$25.00 per player**  
**Late Registration (After September 10<sup>th</sup>) - \$30.00 per player**

Team Member #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this portion and your check to Mary Hedge, READ La Porte County, Inc., 904 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, IN 46350.**