

**Batavia Books Between Bites Program**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Batavia's Books Between Bites Program for 2011-2012 Announced**

**(BATAVIA)** Batavia's popular noontime book program, **Books Between Bites**, announces its 25th season. The monthly series is held at the Batavia Public Library, 10 S. Batavia Avenue, from noon to 1 p.m., featuring a number of local authors and presenters, including several returning favorites.

The 2011-2012 season opens Thursday, September 15, welcoming Glen Ellyn resident Melanie Benjamin, author of *Alice I Have Been* and *The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb*. Inspired by the photograph of a young Alice Liddell, taken by the man who would one day immortalize her as the little girl who fell down a rabbit hole, *Alice I Have Been* is a love story and a literary mystery. *The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb* is the story of Mercy Lavinia "Vinnie" Warren Bump, who was only 32 inches tall—but her legend reaches out to us more than a century later. "Never would I allow my size to define me. Instead, I would define it." Benjamin's books will be available for sale and signing at the program.

**(Complete 2011-2012 schedule attached)**

The public is invited to attend these free programs from 12:00 to 1 PM, presented September through May on the third Thursday of the month. Reservations are not required. The program is held in the large community room located on the main level of the Batavia Public Library. Parking is available in the lot just south and adjacent to the library.

People are invited to bring their lunch and eat as they enjoy the program and discussion. Lunch items, beverages and baked goods can be purchased at 10 South Coffee House, located just inside the library and adjacent to the meeting room. To pre-order for pick-up just before the program, please call 630-406-8870.

Books Between Bites was established in Batavia in 1987 by the late Lee C. Moorehead. The program has been continued by Moorehead's wife, Betty, and his daughter, Becky Hoag, in partnership and co-sponsorship with George H. Scheetz and Stacey Cisneros of Batavia Public Library.

For more information about **Books Between Bites**, please call program director Betty Moorehead, at 630-879-4426. The complete schedule can be found on the Website: [booksbetweenbites.com](http://booksbetweenbites.com). Printed season schedules are available at Batavia Public Library in the entry hall kiosk.

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**Batavia's Books Between Bites Schedule for 2011-12**  
**Batavia Public Library, 10 S. Batavia Avenue, Batavia, Illinois**  
**Noon - 1 pm    Third Thursday of the month**

Bring your lunch and enjoy a different book review/discussion each month.  
Purchase lunch from 10 South Coffee House in the Library – To order in advance call: 630/406-8870  
**Betty Moorehead, Director, 630-879-4426    Batavia Public Library, 630-879-1393**  
**Website: [booksbetweenbites.com](http://booksbetweenbites.com)**

**Thursday, September 15, 2011**

***Alice I Have Been* and *The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb***

**Author/Presenter: Melanie Benjamin**

Inspired by the photograph of a young Alice Liddell, taken by the man who would one day immortalize her as the little girl who fell down a rabbit hole, *Alice I Have Been* is a love story and a literary mystery. *The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb* is the story of Mercy Lavinia "Vinnie" Warren Bump, who was only 32 inches tall—but her legend reaches out to us more than a century later. "Never would I allow my size to define me. Instead, I would define it."

**Thursday, October 20, 2011**

***A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson**

**Presenter: Tom Parisi**

Bryson, known for his humorous books on travel, tries his hand at writing about the history of science. The result is a fascinating, funny, accessible and hugely successful book that ought to be used as a primer for high school science. Parisi, a longtime Fox Valley journalist, has worked at the St. Charles Republican, Beacon News and Batavia Sun. He currently works in media relations for Northern Illinois University, where his duties include working with science reporters nationwide.

**Thursday, November 17, 2011    *The Pilgrims' Thanksgiving A to Z***

**Author/Presenter: Laura Crawford**

Laura Crawford is a reading specialist at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. She has enjoyed exploring science and social studies along with her students, and has written six picture books, including *The Pilgrims' Thanksgiving from A to Z*, *The American Revolution from A to Z*, and *In Arctic Waters*. Her series, *Postcards from Washington*, *Postcards from Chicago*, and *Postcards from New York City* introduces elementary students to the historic and entertaining aspects of these important cities.

**Thursday, December 15, 2011**

***My G-String Mother: At Home and Backstage with Gypsy Rose Lee***

**Presenter: Jim Edwards    by Erik Lee Preminger**

Two great entertainment genres were created in the United States—jazz and burlesque. When these two met, the masses had their art form, a new version of ballet. If opera had Salome's "Dance of the Seven Veils," then Minsky's Follies had Gypsy Rose Lee to wow audiences. Gypsy Rose Lee's son's book tells all about his mother and her life. Jim Edwards, a music critic and former high school American Studies instructor, is a writer for the magazine, *Clavier Companion*.

**Thursday, January 19, 2012**

***Ernie Banks: Mr. Cub and the Summer of '69* by Phil Rogers**

**Presenter: Lester Munson**

Nationally known commentator, writer, and ESPN editor Lester Munson, returns for his annual visit to share his impressions of this new book. It is a brilliantly researched and well-written profile of one of Chicago's most beloved sports heroes, combined with a compelling account of the tragic 1969 season. In addition, Munson is sure to mention other good sports books he has recently discovered.

**Thursday, February 16, 2012**

**Batavia Literary Highlights, Part 5**

**Presenter: Mayor Jeff Schielke**

Mayor Jeff Schielke continues sharing his discoveries in literature, both new and old, which feature Batavia, Illinois, and Batavians. The highly entertaining pieces are sure to catch the interest of local readers.

**Continued –**

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**Thursday, March 15, 2012**

**One Book, One Batavia selection 2012  
*A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord**

**Presenter: R. J. Lindsey**

The R.M.S. Titanic sank 100 years ago and this "One Book" selection is a nonfiction account of the event. Lindsey, an historical dramatist, shares with us the research he did to create his portrayal of New York Times Managing Editor Carr Van Anda as he reacts to the sinking of the Titanic. (In addition, Lindsey will present his actual portrayal at 7 p.m. on March 15 at the Library.)

**Thursday, April 19, 2012**

***Ghosts of the Fox River Valley and Ghosts of Interstate 90***

**Author/Presenter: Donna Latham**

Batavia author, actor and ghost tour guide Donna Latham tells shivery tales from her collections, *Ghosts of the Fox River Valley* and *Ghosts of Interstate 90*. She'll share the area history that inspired her works. Her newest book is entitled *Garbage: Investigate What Happens When You Throw It Out*.

**Thursday, May 17, 2012**

***The Jane Austen Book Club* by Karen Joy Fowler**

**Presenter: Barbara Kalina**

According to Batavia education consultant Barbara Kalina, Jane Austen had it right, two hundred years ago. Through their characters, great authors move us beyond their murky present into a reasoned understanding of life. Austen's characters are like us, with the external variables changed. Similarly, Fowler's characters reveal themselves as they interpret Austen's characters through their own prisms. They address what all of us ultimately recognize as the essence of our selves: our relationships.