

# Reading's *Alive!*

also available at [www.garypubliclibrary.org](http://www.garypubliclibrary.org)

The Gary Public Library's Newsletter and Calendar of Events  
Volume 17, Issue 1

January / February 2012

## From the Director O. D. Alexander



*The global economy crisis is quickly affecting the economy of the United States. The global economy includes the globalization of ser-*

*VICES, products and production, markets, finance, information, communications, and the labor force. Consequently, the free public libraries in the United States are also definitely a part of this economic crisis that is affecting all Americans.*

*Citizens of the United States who have enjoyed the services and products of the free public libraries are now realizing that they are witnessing the tail end of an informational and recreational privilege that many other countries have never enjoyed. These free libraries that may have been taken for granted by some community members, are now re-evaluating free offerings. Some of them are actually considering including fees for services and products in order to survive, while others are being forced to close doors.*

*I know that, the Gary Public Library will continue to be a trendsetter in creating relevant free programs, activities, and information for the growth and development of our ever changing society. In addition, we will continue to expand our role as civic agents-infusing public values and competencies for the anticipation of the needs and desires of the Gary community.*

*The Gary Public Library (GPL) is a Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). This actually means that the system is connected with respect to an insured depository institution (as defined in section 3 (c) (2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act for which no conservator or receiver has been appointed (US Legal, <http://definitions.uslegal.com/f/federal-depository-institutions-regulatory-agency/>, accessed December 21, 2011).*

*With the creation of the South Shore Museum and Cultural Center (SSMCC) that will be housed at the Gary Public Library on West Fifth Avenue, there have been numerous questions of concerns. One major question has been: What will happen to the Federal Depository Collection (Government Documents) that has been designated at GPL? And yes, we should be concerned about the Federal Depository Collection and the professional services that we render to our community. In other words, the documents should continue to be accessible to the public.*

*According to Elisabeth Hedges, Federal Documents Librarian with the Indiana State Library, the Gary Public Library system will be able to continue as a depository even if the materials are housed at a separate facility. This is because SSMCC will still be under the guidance of GPL. Therefore, the Selective Housing Agreement will not be necessary.*

*In pursuance of the above-mentioned agreement, the Library*

*continued on page three -*



## Library Closures

January 1, 2012 marked the permanent closure of the Main Library, 220 W. 5th Avenue (above) and the Tolleston Branch, 1113 Taft St., (below).

To return Main Library materials (books, DVDs, magazines, etc.) patrons are encouraged to use the book drop (located in the north/parking lot entrance) or return items to any Gary Public Library branch.

Coming in the summer of 2012 at the 220 W. 5th Avenue location will be the South Shore Museum & Cultural Center.



## Chess Fest

Chess players of all levels and ages are invited to improve or test their chess skills at the Gary Public Library's Du Bois Branch, Saturday, February 4 from 12 - 3:30pm. This free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Gary Public Library.

The public is invited to meet special guests Bernard Parham and Sedrick Prude. Chess sets will be provided but players may also bring their own. For more information contact Dan at 886-2484 ext. 335.

**Architectural Designs for the South Shore Museum & Cultural Center**  
available on [www.garypubliclibrary.org](http://www.garypubliclibrary.org)

# Kids' Calendar

## January

System Wide Special: DO YOU KNOW MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

- **January 9-14.** Trivia and Martin Luther King, Jr. coloring sheet. Pictures will be displayed in each unit, during library hours.

### BRUNSWICK BRANCH

#### 5 Thursday

- **JUST FOR FUN** - Play table games, 3:30pm

#### 18 Wednesday

- **SCRABBLE FUN** - Join in the fun of this classic board game, 3:30pm.

#### 26 Thursday

- **HERE IS A GOOD BOOK** - We're sharing good books, check us out, 3:30pm.

#### 30 Tuesday

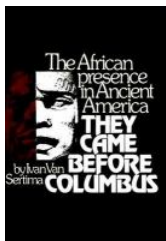
- **CRAFT TIME** - Make a Valentine's Day card for someone special, 3:30pm.

## February

System-Wide Program: African American Reading Quilt

## Book Review

by O. D. Alexander



Ivan Van Sertima, (1976), *They Came Before Columbus: The African presence in Ancient America*, (New York: Random House)

Thirty-six years ago, *They Came Before Columbus: The African presence in Ancient America* by Ivan Van Sertima became a component in the treasure chest of scholarship in libraries and cultural centers globally, and the Gary Public Library was able to secure copies for its community too.

This well-researched, novel-like historical acquisition actually chronicles

- February 1 - 29. During library hours for grades K-6th. A book patch will be displayed for each African American book read. Note: books can be read in each unit and parent or guardian can read to children who cannot read.

### BRUNSWICK BRANCH

#### 2 Thursday

- **JUST FOR FUN** - Play table games, 3:30pm.

#### 9 Thursday

- **CRAFT TIME** - Make a Valentine's Day card for someone special, 3:30pm.

#### 16 Thursday

- **DO YOU KNOW YOUR PRESIDENTS?** - We're sharing really good books about the Presidents of the United States, check us out, 3:30pm.

#### 23 Thursday

- **B-I-N-G-O** - We are playing just for fun, 3:30pm.

#### 29 Wednesday

- **SCRABBLE FUN** - Join us for this classic board games, learn to play and have some fun, 3:30pm.

the Black African Presence in Ancient America far beyond the claim discoveries of Christopher Columbus. The late Ivan Van Sertima, then a professor at Rutgers the State University of New Jersey, illustrated the historical and cultural relationship that existed between Africa and America during the Pre-Columbian period.

In twelve detailed chapters, the book starts off with some fascinating conversations between Christopher Columbus and Don Juan, the King of Portugal, after Columbus' first voyage to the Indies. To be sure, Don Juan is not at all interested in any of Columbus' so-called discoveries. However, he really wants to know a little more concerning the secret trade route to the Americas that the Africans had been traveling for some time. This secret trade route was

## Ongoing Programs

**ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM** - Tutoring available for low or non-readers as well as training for tutors. Literacy office - Du Bois Branch, 882-2744 for appointment.

**ALZHEIMERS SUPPORT GROUP** - Join in the discussion with other caretakers as we share and gather information.  
*First Saturday of each month, @ noon - 1pm*  
Brunswick Branch

### AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

Sensory activities, information, guest speakers; families welcome  
*First Wednesday of each month, @ 5-6pm,*  
Kennedy Branch

**GED TUTORING** - 5- 7pm  
Mondays, Kennedy Branch

**GARY GENEALOGY GROUP** - 10am-12pm

1st & 3rd Saturday of each month;  
Kennedy Branch

### KENNEDY BRANCH PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

@ 1- 6pm

- **CHESSTISE YOURSELF** (Let's play chess) - Mondays
- **CARD GAMES** (Uno, Bridge & more) - 5th Monday monthly
- **SCRABBLE** - 2nd Tuesday monthly
- **DOMINOES** - 3rd Wednesday monthly
- **CHECKERS For Everyone** - 4th Thursday monthly

@ 12-4:45pm

B-I-N-G-O - 3rd Saturday monthly

@ 2-4pm

MOVIE DAY (Free snacks) 4th Saturday monthly

@ 3pm

ARTS & CRAFTS - 4th Wednesday monthly

### MORNING BISHOP THEATRE PLAYHOUSE

*Fourth Saturday of every other month, 3pm - 4:45pm, Woodson Branch*  
Beginning March 24; May 26; July 28; Sept. 22; Nov. 24



### SENIOR CITIZENS FRIENDSHIP CLUB -

*Wednesdays @ 1pm*  
March through May  
@ Du Bois Branch  
Guest speakers, informative programs and cultural events for ages 55 and older - membership is free. 886-2484 ext.340 for more information



something that was new to Columbus, inasmuch as he had been to Guinea a decade prior and had witnessed the fortress which

## Gary Public Library Board of Trustees

**Meeting** - Public Meeting - Tuesday, January 24 at 6:15pm, at 220 W. 5th Avenue, Gary, IN 2nd floor auditorium (in the former Main Library building) please use north/parking lot entrance only

### Holiday Closings *All units of the Gary Public Library will be closed*

- Monday, January 2 - New Year's Day (observed)
- Monday, January 16 - Martin Luther King Day
- Monday, February 20 - President's Day

## From the Director O. D. Alexander

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will agree to the following (fdlp desktop, <http://www.fdlp.gov/component/content/article/154-appendixd?start=1>, accessed December 21, 2011):

- Assign the responsibility for carrying out the provisions of this agreement for the United States Government publications deposited or loaned by (Lending) library to the (Reference, Medical, etc.) Librarian of the (receiving) library.
- Make available for the free and unrestricted use all United States Government publications to the general public. Lend to (Lending) Library any United States Government publication that is selectively housed for a period up to (specify length of time).
- Maintain all United States Government publications selectively housed in compliance with Title 44, United States Code, the Federal Depository Library Handbook and etc.
- Inventory, identify, and maintain a public record of the United States Government publications selectively housed under this agreement.
- Retain any classification numbers, stamps, and notes as supplied by (Lending) Library.
- Return to (Lending) Library all United States Government publications which were selectively housed and which are no longer considered useful.
- Replace any lost publication..On the other hand, the lending library agrees to the following (fdlp desktop) <http://www.fdlp.gov/component/content/article/154-appendixd?start=1>. (accessed December 21, 2011):
- Transfer and continue to send publications which include, but are not limited to (specify publications of agencies, series, subjects, etc.) to (Receiving) Library.
- Keep records indicating the location of publications involved in this agreement.
- Abide by any borrowing agreement made with (Receiving) Library.

Hopefully, this information will satisfy the informational needs and concerns of the tax payers. And if you have additional concerns, that will make GPL a better place for all, please feel free to share them with us in person or by technology.

## Meet the Director

The Gary Public Library Board of Trustees recently appointed Otis D. Alexander, Director of the Gary Public Library.

Alexander is the former director of Southeastern University Library (DC) and the Danville (VA) Public Library System, as well as the Associate Librarian at Cuttington University College (Republic of Liberia), and Head Librarian for the Virgin Islands Division of Libraries, Museums, and Archaeological Services at the Frederiksted Branch.

He has also been a Public Services Librarian at Saint Paul's College; and lecturer in the Arts & Science Division at the Danville Community College where he taught "Controversial Issues in Contemporary American Culture," and "Introduction to African-American Studies." In addition, he has taught the following courses, "20<sup>th</sup> century American Poetry," "Harlem Renaissance Literature," "Children's Literature," and "Research Skills."

Alexander, who is an accomplished classical musician and storyteller, earned the BA in Urban Studies and music, and an MS in Media Science from the Federal City College now the University of the District of Columbia. He also received an ALA accredited MLS degree in Library & Information Science from Ball State University (Indiana). He studied at the Harvard Graduate School of Education Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians and Oberlin Conservatory of Music Institute for Voice Performance Pedagogy.

His doctoral dissertation at International University for Graduate Studies, "Public Library Services to Underrepresented Groups: Poor & Unemployed, Emphasizing Danville, Virginia" appeared in *Public Library Quarterly*, (Volume 27 Issue 2 2008) as well as book chapters and articles appeared in *Still Not Equal: Expanding Educational Opportunity in Society*, *Virginia Libraries*, *Scribner's Encyclopedia of American Lives: The 1960s*, *African American National Biography*, and [ilovelibraries.org](http://ilovelibraries.org).

## Book Review - continued

Don Juan was constructing there.

In this historical account, Professor Van Sertima also highlights the Mali Empire, Mandingo Traders in Medieval Mexico, the Black Kings of the twenty-fifth Dynasty, and other aspects and evidence documenting the Black African impact in Pre-Columbian America. This was an area in which scholar Alex Haley did not emphasize in *Roots*.

So make this African-American History Month a real treat

by traveling to the Gary Public Library's Carter G. Woodson, W. E. B. Du Bois, Brunswick and Kennedy Branches, and ask the librarian for a copy of *They Came Before Columbus*. You may read it there or check it out, but more importantly explore for yourself the experience of this book and see how Professor Van Sertima has added to the wide body of knowledge with scholarship, dignity and pride.

**READ**

GARY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
220 W. 5TH AVENUE  
GARY, IN 46402

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GARY, IN  
PERMIT NO. 92

Return Service Requested

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### Library Locations & Hours of Service

<b>BRUNSWICK BRANCH</b>	<b>4030 W. 5th AVENUE</b>	<b>944-9402</b>
Monday - Thursday.....		10am-6pm
Friday & Saturday.....		noon - 4pm
<b>DU BOIS BRANCH</b>	<b>1835 BROADWAY</b>	<b>886-9120</b>
Monday - Thursday.....		10am-6pm
Friday & Saturday.....		noon-4pm
<b>KENNEDY BRANCH</b>	<b>3953 BROADWAY</b>	<b>887-8112</b>
Monday-Thursday.....		noon-8pm
Friday & Saturday.....		10am-5pm
<b>WOODSON BRANCH</b>	<b>501 S. LAKE STREET</b>	<b>938-3941</b>
Monday-Thursday.....		noon-8pm
Friday & Saturday.....		10am-5pm

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### Reading's Alive

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Comments or questions should be directed to the  
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[www.garypubliclibrary.org](http://www.garypubliclibrary.org)  
[www.gary.lib.in.us](http://www.gary.lib.in.us)

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