

# Check out kittens, adopt one to take home

## BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

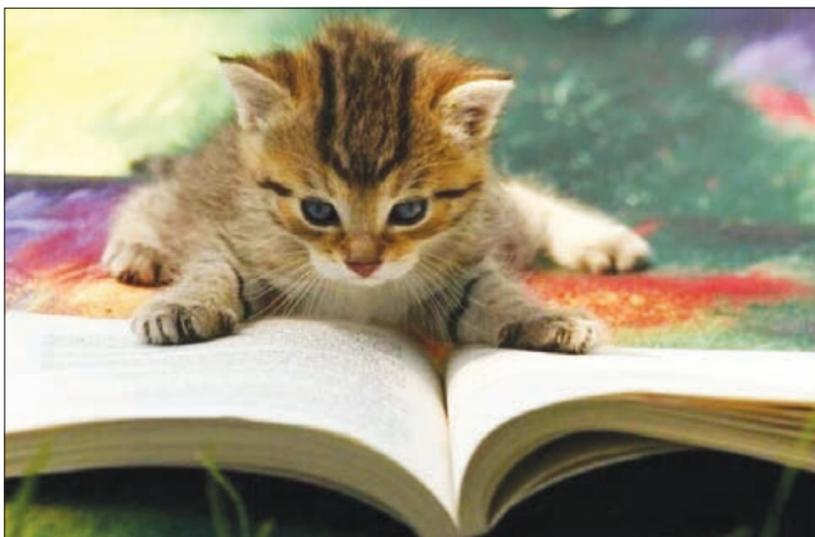
Cats have had a place in literature, libraries and the lives of readers for hundreds of years. It may have begun in the middle ages as a mutually beneficial relationship focused on rodent control and manuscripts, but it's also something more.

Cats love a lap, and a reading human often does create a warm lap just right for a cat. A mature cat's beauty and grace and calm convey a sense of peace and timelessness not unlike what happens when humans disappear into the pages of a good book.

Given all of this, you won't be surprised to hear that when Shawn Gunnin of the Georgetown Animal Shelter called to say the shelter was overfilled with adorable kittens and asked if shelter staff and volunteers could hold a kitten adoption event in the library, we pounced on the opportunity like tabbies on a cat treat. Not only do we want to support our colleagues at the shelter, but we also really want to see all these remarkable kittens find very good homes with people who will care for, play with, read to and snuggle them (when they want to be snuggled) for the rest of their lives.

Here are the details about this week's "Kittens in the Library?!" events — Kittens from the shelter will take over the library's lobby from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday with the goal of purring their way into your heart and family. Adoption fees will be \$35 per kitten, but only if you adopt from the library. Adopted kittens may leave directly from the library (cardboard carriers will be provided). Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted for adoption fees.

Why are we in the library so enthusiastic about this event? Library people tend to be cat people. At least two-thirds of our library staff live with cats. Among the 22 cats waiting at home for us when the library closes each night are felines named Bella, Dusty, Molly and Aldwyn, who was named after the tuxedo cat hero in the junior fiction series *The Familiars* by Adam



The Georgetown Public Library will host kitten adoption events with staff and volunteers from the Georgetown Animal Shelter from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

Jay Epstein and Andrew Jacobson.

Some public libraries are even home to a library cat. Dewey Readmore Books was the name given to an orange tabby who, after being dropped as a kitten into the library book drop, stayed on to be the library cat in the Spencer, Iowa public library. He lived at the library for 19 years and his adventures there inspired the librarian who cared for him to write a book.

At this point I should note that no, the Georgetown Public Library won't be adopting a library cat. Don't think the staff have not asked, implored, begged, whined, purred and meowed about it. We have, and it is not going to happen. However, if you have a well-behaved leash-trained cat (or dog, of course!) you are welcome to bring them in with you when you come visit the library. So check out a book about cat care or a cozy cat-themed mystery, and fall in love with a new furry family member as well. Write a happy ending for a kitten or two! We'll see you at the library.

Dana Hendrix is the Fine Arts Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

### Library events

- August 8 and 9, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Kittens in the Library?! Georgetown Animal Shelter adoption event
- August 14, 7-8:30 p.m. Space Jam Finale (ages 18+)
- August 18, 2 p.m. Hot Pickin 57s (Live Music at the Library) Bluegrass, Classic Country and Americana
- Through August 23

## Cat-centric reads

In addition to their role in libraries, cats also figure frequently as characters in literature and film. The Georgetown Public Library's online catalog lists more than 1,000 items with cats as a subject. Here are some library staff favorites that feature cats in one way or another:

- *Garfield: Niego Todo* by Jim Davis
- *Sabriel: Old Kingdom Trilogy* by Garth Nix
- *I am a Cat* by Galia Bernstein
- *Bad Kitty* series by Nick Bruel
- *Pete the Cat* series by James Dean and Kim Dean
- *Kitten's First Full Moon* by Kevin Henkes
- *The Very Fluffy Kitty*, by A. N. Kang
- *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss
- *They All Saw a Cat* by Brendan Wenzel
- *Binky the Space Cat* by Ashley Spires
- *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
- *The Familiars* series by Adam Jay Epstein and Andrew Jacobson
- *Bunnica: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery* by Deborah Howe
- *The Warriors* series by Erin Hunter
- *The Cricket in Times Square* by George Selden
- *Chi's Sweet Home* by Konami Kanata
- *Junji Ito's Cat Diary: Yon & Mu* by Junji Ito
- *Under the Moon: a Catwoman Tale* by Lauren Myracle
- *Breakfast at Tiffany's* by George Axelrod
- *Cats: The Musical* DVD CATS
- *Whiskers in the Dark: A Mrs. Murphy Mystery* by Rita Mae Brown and Sneaky Pie Brown
- *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* by Haruki Murakami
- *Lending a Paw* and other titles in the Bookmobile Cat Mystery series by Laurie Cass
- *Wine Cats* by Craig McGill and Susan Elliott
- *A Street Cat named Bob: And How He Saved My Life* by James Bowen
- *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World* by Vicki Myron
- *I Could Pee on This: and Other Poems by Cats* by Francesco Marciuliano

Georgetown Photographers' Exhibit (second floor Bridge and West Hallway galleries)

• Through August 28 Sun City Visual Arts Club: When Words and Images Collide (first floor Café Gal-

lery)  
• August 26-September 22 Classical Works: Watercolor Paintings After Classical Artists in History (second floor Bridge and West Hallway galleries); Artist reception August 29, 6-8 p.m.

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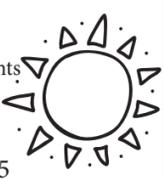
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