

Atchison Public Library Celebrates POSSIBILITIES during National Library Week

by Cheryl Sylvester, Administrative Assistant, Atchison Public Library

What picture comes to mind when you think of a great book you've read? The possibilities are endless! The Friends of Atchison Library sponsored a great celebration of books to kick off National Library Week on April 1.

The theme was *POSSIBILITIES*. About 60 people came to enjoy good food and a wonderful speaker and to bid on uniquely decorated books. Paper mache books had been purchased by the Friends group for individuals or groups to adopt and decorate in the previous two months. The ones who finished their books in a timely manner were able to have them on display at a local bank for the month prior to the auction. Some were decorated with a certain book title but most were ornately decorated with a picture theme such as "Cruising Atchison" by the local car group or old school buildings of Atchison by the P.E.O. Chapter. The decorated books were then donated to the silent auction at the "Possibilities" luncheon.

One book left the display and became the focus of a treasure hunt. Clues and puzzle pieces led participants to a business downtown and the possibility of two free lunch tickets. Kansas City mystery author Joel Goldman was the guest speaker at the luncheon.

One of the goals of this luncheon was to raise awareness for the Friends of the Library. The committee had decided to sell buttons to have wider participation in the celebration. A button was designed with a book and "*POSSIBILITIES 2006*." The middle school volunteered to make them for a community service project. Businesses in town helped sell them. Most of these same businesses also gave discounts to people wearing them during National Library Week! The Friends of Atchison Library was very pleased with the overall celebration and felt that it really did give people attending the luncheon a reason to consider the Friends of the Library an active group.



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