



# Common Place...where love works!

# GOODNEWS

March 2009

Connie Voss  
Managing Editor

Stephanie Marchand  
Editor

*Our Mission is to strive to eliminate the root causes of poverty, racism, and other social injustices by recognizing the dignity and self-worth inherent in each person.*

**Common Place Board Chair**  
Roberta Koscielski

**Board Officers**  
Stan Ogden  
Karen Scott  
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**Heart of Illinois United Way**

## Summer Youth Programs

Every spring dozens of neighborhood youth come to Common Place wanting to know if we are having the Summer Youth Work Study (ages 8 – 12) or Summer Teen Employment Program and Services (ages 13 – 15) and to fill out an application. Word gets around fast among the youth that Common Place's summer programs are a lot of fun, and fill to capacity very fast.

Each youth is enrolled in one, four-week session and will participate in 4-H gardening and nutrition classes; one week of chef's school; studying the summer theme of African-American influence on our culture, specifically inventions; litter pick-up and delivering fliers in the neighborhood; early employment skills; and, take a field trip that corresponds to the studied theme.



Based on attendance, timeliness, participation, attitude, performance of tasks, and cooperation with others, each child could earn an allowance up to \$20/week for the younger children and \$25/week for the older youth. Many of these children use the allowance to help buy school supplies, school clothes and shoes, or special items such as a new CD. Some of the children even share their allowance with their siblings. Allowances are possible because of the generosity of individual donations.

Common Place also provides summer tutoring for grades K – 12. This gives children an opportunity to get the extra help they need in a certain subject, such as math, science, reading, or alphabet recognition, or to just get a boost in their studies and skills they already have acquired. During the seven-week tutoring program, children meet two days a week for a one hour or two hour session. Tutoring will run from June 16 through July 30. If you would like to volunteer your time tutoring a child with their school studies, please call Shirley at 674-3315.

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## Common Place Love In Action Award Dinner

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

*5:30 p.m. Reception & Cocktails*

*6:30 p.m. Dinner*

*Pere Marquette Hotel*

*Tickets \$40*

*Reservation deadline May 26*

*Call Stephanie at 674-3315 ext. 11, for information or reservations*

## Letter from the Executive Director

*During a discussion at a recent school board meeting, research was cited that determined that children who “disengage” from school often do so as early as 3<sup>rd</sup>. grade. We are not surprised. We frequently meet children of all ages who newly enroll in our programs with a disinterest in school and/or learning for a variety of reasons. Then our loving and experienced staff and tutors take them by the hand and help them to discover that they have skills and abilities, and that the world is a wondrous place full of exciting learning experiences. They discover that learning to read and to embrace books opens an infinite world of possibilities. Oh, yes, there is homework help and tutoring. But learning is so much more—just read through the newsletter to find some recent experiences—from walking in the steps of Rosa Parks to writing a mystery play.*

*Thank you for your generosity this past year in supporting over 150 children and youth in summer work and learning skill activities, after-school tutoring, and learning experiences that change lives.*

*Gratefully yours,  
Connie*

## Volunteer Corner

Volunteers are the heart of all not-for-profit organizations. Since January, Mary McAfee has been volunteering at Common Place several hours each week assisting the administrative staff.



Mary is from Peoria, and is married to Robert. She has two adult daughters and three granddaughters. Mary retired from Caterpillar on October 1, 2003, after 31 years of service as a Material Analyst at the Mossville Tech Center.

The need to get involved and help disadvantaged children is what Mary said got her searching the Internet for an organization where she could volunteer. Mary said what keeps her coming back every week is “the warm, friendly, receptive staff, and the reward of helping anyone who needs help.” Mary enjoys volunteering so much that she has now added tutoring Common Place’s kindergarten children after school.

## Meet Our 2009 Board of Governors

Common Place is proud to announce its new slate of officers and board members.

Roberta Koscielski (Peoria Public Library), Chairperson  
Stan Ogden (Ameren CILCO), Vice-Chair  
Karen Scott (Busey Bank), Treasurer  
Johanne Grewell (Retired), Secretary

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## Pennies! Pennies! Pennies!

Remember to save your pennies to help support the summer youth programs. Pennies can be dropped off at Common Place anytime.

## Money Smart Week in Peoria

The third annual Money Smart Week is coming to Peoria, with finance-related workshops to be held throughout the community. The following workshops are open to the public, and will be held at Common Place.

●Monday, April 20\*  
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
*Preparing to be Financially Responsible*  
Event Audience: high school students  
\*RSVP Required by 4/17/09, Call Stephanie at 674-3315

●Tuesday, April 21  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
*What’s New with Food Stamps and WIC Program?*

●Tuesday, April 21  
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
*Township Relief Services*

●Thursday, April 23  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
*Shop Thrifty and Look Great!*

## Calendar of Events

February 21 – March 7	The Peoria Art Guild invites you to design your own book cover for <i>The Maltese Falcon</i>
Sunday, March 1	Nominations open: <i>Love In Action Award</i>
Monday, March 2 6:30 p.m. Free - open to public ICC North Arbor Hall Auditorium	Big Read: Peoria Reads PBS Documentary “American Masters – Dashiell Hammett”
Tuesday, March 3 7:00 p.m. Free - open to public ICC North, Arbor Hall Auditorium	Big Read: Peoria Reads Travels Through Literature
Wednesday, March 4 Noon - bring your lunch Lakeview Library	Big Read: Peoria Reads “ <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> and Beyond” book discussion
Sunday, March 8 2:00 p.m. Free - open to public Lakeview Museum Auditorium	Big Read: Peoria Reads The Mystery of the Peoria Falcon
Monday, March 9 9:00 a.m. Free - open to public ICC Lecture Arts Hall, Room 127, East Peoria Campus	Meet author Julie Rivett granddaughter of Dashiell Hammett
Monday, March 9 2:00 p.m. Free - open to public Bradley University, Neumiller Hall	Meet author Julie Rivett
Monday, March 9 7:00 p.m. Free - open to public - free Parking Peoria Public Library, Main Street Branch	Meet author Julie Rivett
Wednesday, March 11 12:00 p.m. Lakeview Museum	Julie Rivett Luncheon Tickets \$15 Reservations required 309-674-3315
Saturday, March 14 2:00 p.m. – free event – free parking Reservations required, call 497-2186 Peoria Public Library, Main Street Branch	Author Sara Paretsky

Wednesday, March 18 6:00 p.m. Comcast channel 22 & 44	Broadcast of <i>The Case of the Missing Manuscript</i>
Wednesday, March 25 6:00 p.m. Comcast channel 22 & 44	Broadcast of <i>The Case of the Missing Manuscript</i>
Wednesday, April 1	Deadline: <i>Love In Action Award</i> nominations
Friday, April 10	Closed – Good Friday
Saturday, April 18	Money Smart Week begins (see article for Common Place workshops)
Wednesday, April 29 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 1
Saturday, May 2 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 2
Saturday, May 16 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Tutor Training Workshop, Session 3
May 21 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Youth Awards Banquet
Monday, May 25	Closed – Memorial Day
Tuesday, June 9	<i>Love In Action Award Dinner</i>

\* For more information on the Big Read: Peoria Reads *The Maltese Falcon*, please visit [www.bigreadpeoriareads.org](http://www.bigreadpeoriareads.org) (note: new website)



This is your chance to get a beautiful, weed-free lawn and support Common Place at the same time. Community Lawn Care is locally owned by Don Schumacher, who has over 30 years of golf and lawn turf experience. Community Lawn Care provides fertilization as well as weed, insect, and disease control services for the turf grasses of central Illinois. **The good news is that 10% of every dollar you spend goes to support Common Place.** All Community Lawn Care services are competitively priced and guaranteed. Call 309-369-2378 for a free lawn analysis and estimate.

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## Family Reading Night Focuses on Mysteries

Adults and youth alike are getting involved with the Big Read: Peoria Reads genre of mystery. The youth at Common Place are doing just that. In honor of the inauguration of our President, Common Place's latest family reading night focused on mysteries of our nation's Capitol.

The youth of Common Place's after school programs entertained their families with a play they wrote based on the book series *Capitol Mysteries*. The third and fourth grade students acted out the play, "Who Cloned the President?" while having interchanging background scenes projected behind them. The children wanted to know from their family if they could identify the real president.

Other plays included, "Kidnap at the Capitol", presented by the seventh and eighth grade students; "Skeleton in the Smithsonian", written by the first and second grade children; "A Spy in the White House" written and acted by the fifth and sixth grade youth; and, short animal mysteries by the kindergarten class.

The families had a great time watching their children act out the play they helped write, and trying to solve the mysteries presented to them. The staff and children also enjoyed the night and plan to have another mystery family reading night in April with a mystery meal theme and poetry.

### Teach an Adult to Read

The Adult Literacy staff at Common Place is offering a **Tutor Orientation and Training Workshop** series at Common Place on

- **Wednesday, April 29, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, May 2, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
- **Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Cost is \$15 for materials. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call Delvera Collins at 674-3315.

## Students Celebrate Rosa Parks' Birthday

Although the definition of a hero varies, depending on who you ask, everyone can name at least one person who they consider to be a hero. Who is on your list? Would your list include Rosa Parks?



*Chris Berto of Delta Kappa Gamma, Nu Chapter, stands in front of the bus she replicated from Rosa Parks' life.*

On February 2, the kindergarten through fourth grade students learned what a hero is, and how Rosa Parks is a hero. Delta Kappa Gamma, Nu Chapter, read to the children *If a Bus Could Talk*, which is a story of Rosa Parks' life from childhood through adulthood. In her adult years it explains how she refused to give up her bus seat, and how it took 381 days of protests and finding alternative routes of getting to and from work before being allowed to ride on the bus again. Mary Sutton designed a historical timeline for the children to follow as they listened to the story. Chris Berto made a replica of the famous bus that Rosa Parks rode. The children marched 381 steps around the room and were finally given tickets to ride the bus. The song "Hero Within Us" played as the children boarded the bus.

The children also had silhouettes made of their faces and were given time to draw in the details of their face. The portraits were then placed in the windows and doorway of the bus. The evening ended with singing "Happy Birthday" to Rosa Parks and enjoying patriotic cupcakes.



*Children drawing detailed features of their face on their portrait silhouette.*

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**We are also thankful for...**  
the following grant funding to  
support our program participants.

In support of The Big Read: Peoria  
Reads *The Maltese Falcon* –  
Community Foundation of Central  
Illinois  
Illinois Humanities Council

To provide a strong educational  
foundation for children in  
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Quest programs –  
Community Development Block  
Grants for public services, through  
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To provide learning enhancement  
activities for adult learners and  
their families in our Adult Literacy  
Program – Washington Rotary



## Yes! I want to help with the Summer Youth Programs.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please accept my tax deductible gift to help provide allowances for the Summer Youth Programs at Common Place.

\_\_\_\_\_ I can help by volunteering to tutor.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please call me at \_\_\_\_\_.

**MY NAME & ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

COMMON PLACE  
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