

MARCH 2021

LIBRARY NEWS

James River Valley Library System



Non-fiction Review of *How to Feed a Dictator* by Witold Szablowski

WRITTEN BY MARY JANE WESTERHAUSEN

It seems to me that the answer to the title *How to Feed a Dictator* is with plenty of arsenic. However, the title isn't a question, but rather the result of extensive interviews Witold Szablowski conducted with the surviving cooks for former dictators. It's tricky to keep your head when serving a dictator, even if you are a good cook. A bonus is that under socialism it is difficult to get enough to eat, unless you are feeding the leader of the country. Szablowski, who is Polish, travels the world for four years, tracking down the head cooks for Saddam Hussein, Idi Amin, Enver Hoxha, Fidel Castro and Pol Pot. All of these dictators are dead, but the cooks are still living--or were living when the book was written--and have interesting, often brutal, stories to tell. The cooks are surprisingly loyal to their former leaders. It is hard to live under a dictatorship and not suffer great losses, which sometimes includes family members. Why should you read this book? Because when the dictator is dead and the propaganda clears, the truth of what it's like to live under a dictatorship remains. An interesting tidbit: Fidel Castro took his own mother's farm and gave it to Cuba.

*How to Feed a
Dictator* by
Witold
Szablowski

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LIBRARY



From the Director
Exciting Happenings at Stutsman County Library

Many great things are taking place at Stutsman County Library (SCL) this winter. Even though winter seems to have us thoroughly in its grip, spring is on the way! That means the Seed Library is about to open. Laurie Podoll has done a great job of coordinating seed donations, so we have a lot of seed packages to distribute. Starting March 1 at 10 am, seeds will be available at SCL. You can check them out, but you don't have to bring them back. It's so simple! We're also offering a Zoom program entitled "Modern Day Victory Gardens," by Alicia Harstad from the NDSU Extension Service, on March 16 at 6 pm. Please call Jill at 252-2990 to receive a Zoom invite.

Last month's newsletter introduced our new Library of Things at SCL. The Library of Things will include puzzles, games, kitchen implements, tools, and craft items available for checkout. We're requesting donations of gently used items that you may no longer need in your kitchen, game closet, or tool shed. Please call Nichole at 252-1531 to see what we need. The Friends of the Library are raising money for the Library of Things, and we deeply appreciate their support.

New carpet is coming soon to SCL, and this project will require closing the library for several days because most of the books and bookcases must be moved. We'll keep you posted on Facebook at James River Valley Library System and on our Website at jrpls.org.

--Joe Rector



Alfred Dickey Hours:

Monday - Friday
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
105 3rd St SE
701-252-2990
adpl@daktel.com

Stutsman County Hours:

Monday - Friday
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
910 5th St SE
701-252-1531
stutsman@daktel.com

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