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Spark is what's created when Anythink customers walk into our libraries – it's a spark of creativity, of imagination and interest. Anythinkers offer the fuel.

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495 7th Street • Bennett, CO 80102  
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**Anythink Brighton**

327 E. Bridge Street • Brighton, CO 80601  
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**Anythink Commerce City**

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**Anythink Huron Street**

9417 Huron Street • Thornton, CO 80260  
opening February 6, 2010

**Anythink Perl Mack**

7611 Hilltop Circle • Denver, CO 80221  
303.428.3576

**Anythink Thornton**

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# A Letter From the Director

*"Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave foot-prints in your heart."*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

One of the many people who have left footprints in my heart is my dad. He was born and raised in Kansas during the Dust Bowl. He taught his children to be practical, to look for good value and take good care of whatever we own. He taught me to always polish my new shoes before wearing, how to change the oil in my car, how to build a peanut butter jar radio. He always expected his family to deliver the very best – that was just a given. He was a quiet, unassuming person who didn't believe in things like marketing. He didn't believe you should draw attention to yourself; you should just deliver on your word in a quiet way. One thing my siblings and I learned, whenever we needed our dad, he would be there for us. When we were in the middle of some pretty tough hurricanes in Florida, at some of the most frightening moments, he would give us a call updating us on the latest weather news so we would know what to expect next.

On the flip side, he was full of a sense of whimsy. As a military family with six children, we never had extra money, but somehow we always had what we needed and more. My dad was always filled with a desire for adventure. When my mom was sick and couldn't make dinner, he would pull out the Betty Crocker cookbook, give me a wink and say, "Let's

make something delicious!" So we'd find a recipe like shish kabobs and make dinner together.

On weekends, we would pile everyone into our Ford station wagon and head to John Muir woods, Stinson Beach, or Golden Gate Park for a family outing and a picnic. Whenever we transferred from one city to another, we made the move a vacation and the family would visit the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, or Disneyland, whatever was on the way to our new assignment.

He had a huge sense of curiosity, and even though he was one of the shyest people I knew, he was an avid ham radio guy, chatting with people all over the world. We had a teletype machine in our basement that never worked, but he loved the idea that it might come in handy someday. He was the first person I know who bought a computer, a Commodore, I think. He was always building radios, tinkering with his computer and thinking about the next road trip he might take. After he retired, he created a woodworking shop in the garage, making a special piece for each of his children and grandchildren: a toy box, a wooden scooter, a small table and chairs.

He loved to read and I know he would love our new libraries. The beautiful wood shelving would make his eyes sparkle. The thought and care of design-

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# Anythink Brighton Feeds Imagination and the Grid



*Contractors from Namaste Solar began installing the 108.9 kW photovoltaic system on the roof of Anythink Brighton in October. The system reduces 272,529 lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, the equivalent of reducing vehicle miles driven by 298,097 miles per year or planting 10,482 trees.*

When the mill levy passed in 2006, securing funding for the district, the board of trustees knew without a doubt that new facilities were necessary to better serve Adams County residents. They also knew they wanted to build responsibly, creating libraries that were as sustainable as possible. What they didn't know at the time was that their decision to act responsibly eventually led to the district building the first carbon-positive library in the country.

"Carbon positive" is an elusive term that confounds many, partially because it's so new. "Carbon neutral," which means a building isn't emitting any carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, is a more frequent occurrence in the green building industry. Using renewable energies like solar, wind and geothermal, along

with environmentally safe products, recycled materials and energy-efficient features help offset carbon emissions thus lessening a building's impact on the environment. In the case of the Brighton library, all of these things in combination were used to achieve carbon positivity.

"To reduce the impact on our environment we need to do better than we're doing now," says Renee Azerbeji of Ambient Energy, energy consultant to Humphries Poli Architects, referring to current building practices. Developers are striving for energy-efficient buildings, and there are also those moving towards carbon-neutral facilities, but "restorative buildings" – those that generate more energy than they use – is the way we should be moving, she says. Anythink Brighton isn't quite there – the

carbon credits don't count as energy production, per se – but "it's a step in the right direction."

The collaborative spirit of the Anythink Brighton project led to this accomplishment. All of the involved parties were on parallel paths before the project even began. The stars aligned and the result was a new way of thinking about public spaces.

Dennis Humphries, principal of Humphries Poli Architects, says that prior to his firm's work with the district they, along with many others, pledged to reduce fossil fuels in the buildings they design by 60 percent in 2010 with the ultimate goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.

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Architecture 2030, the non-profit developed by architect Edward Mazria, created these milestones for individuals and organizations to help lessen the environmental impacts of development. According to Architecture2030.org, "These targets may be accomplished by implementing innovative sustainable design strategies, generating on-site renewable power and/or purchasing (20 percent

in natural light all contribute to these energy savings. The library was also designed with a geothermal well field below the 96-space parking lot that uses the earth's heat to regulate heating and cooling in the facility.

"We are thrilled that our role in a truly collaborative design and construction process has resulted in the citizens of Brighton being the recipients of a gift of such significance. We are

the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Sandlian Smith and owner's representative Justin Sager of Wember, Inc. worked together to apply for a \$300,000 matching grant that allowed the district to purchase a solar photovoltaic system for the Brighton library. The grant was awarded and the RLD board of trustees found a way to match the funds; a 108kW photovoltaic system was installed in October and became one of the largest factors in the building's energy generation.

Fransen Pittman, general contractors on the Brighton project, continues to be hugely supportive of the district and its mission to create incredible libraries for the people it serves. One way they've contributed to that mission is through a gift purchase of renewable energy credits for Anythink Brighton. According to the EPA, these credits allow organizations "to support renewable energy development and protect the environment when green power products are not locally available."

"While purchasing carbon offsets was a great option, we went with the renewable energy credits because we liked the reputation and responsiveness of the credit provider," says Jim Andrews, vice president of Fransen Pittman.

The working relationship between the architects, Fransen Pittman, owner's reps Wember, Inc. and the district has been stellar throughout these capital construction projects. Fransen Pittman has been particularly generous, going above and beyond what many contractors would do.

"We feel incredibly grateful to be a part of the Anythink projects, and it's pretty easy to feel a personal connection to these facilities when you see the resources and opportunities they provide to the Front Range communities," says Andrews. "Anythink's zeal for forward-thinking library design and construction was

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**Materials & Resources**  
Regional Materials  
LEED™ Credit 5.1

At least 10% of Brighton Library is composed of regional materials, produced within a 500 mile area. These materials include local concrete, brick, stone, and recycled steel.

**anythink**  
A REVOLUTION OF RANGEVIEW LIBRARIES

A series of plaques like the one above are displayed throughout the library describing the building's sustainable features.

maximum) renewable energy and/or certified renewable energy credits."

Anythink Brighton will have an energy savings of 67.9 percent in 2010, going above and beyond the pledged goal, and the design of the building was a major contributor to these savings. Features like ground-source heating and cooling, an exterior sun shade to minimize excessive solar gain, and Solatubes that bring

hopeful the design of the Brighton library has created a new legacy for the entire community to be proud of for many, many reasons beyond just being a wonderful place to get books and knowledge," says Humphries.

Another part of the puzzle clicked into place when the Governor's Energy Office tipped off library director Pam Sandlian Smith to a grant awarded by

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contagious. Our project team searched for ways to go the extra mile because we became personally engaged with the district's goals. In terms of carbon credits, that was another way to show both our support for Anythink and passion for sustainable construction."

Although Anythink Brighton will be the first such library, Andrews believes we will see more carbon-positive facilities in the future. "I think more owners are seeing the operational savings achieved through sustainable building. The influx of suppliers offering green products and services will help reduce the upfront costs, making sustainable building more attractive and achievable to a wider audience. I also believe that the social movement for environmentally friendly building and energy efficiency will encourage owners to make this investment."

At the outset of the capital construction projects, the goal of the RLD board was to achieve LEED certification for the facilities. Anythink Brighton is currently pursuing LEED gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and is only a few points away from platinum – a rare accomplishment. Anythink Huron, opening in February 2010, will be LEED silver once it's completed. With Brighton becoming carbon positive, the district has taken a new look at all its projects and created new objectives.

"From the beginning of our capital projects, the library trustees set the standard to incorporate LEED into our buildings," says Rangeview Library District director Pam Sandlian Smith. "At every step, we have made our decisions based upon long-term sustainability. While the short-term costs may be higher, over the lifespan of the library, we are much more energy efficient and giving our community a higher return on their investment. Our goal is to eventually be carbon neutral at all of our libraries."

To learn more, visit [anythinklibraries.org](http://anythinklibraries.org).

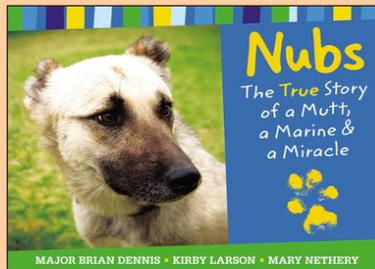
## New Books: Check 'Em Out

Here are ten books available at Anythink to help you celebrate the season of giving.

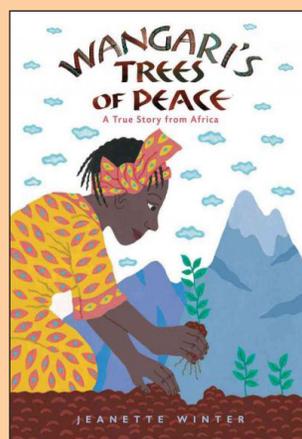
### Children/Teen

*Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg and Three Cups of Tea*  
by Greg Mortenson

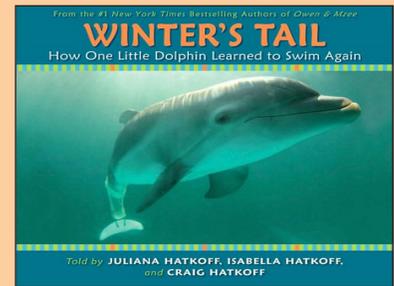
*Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine and a Miracle*  
by Brian Dennis



*Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa*  
by Jeanette Winter



*Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan*  
by Jeanette Winter



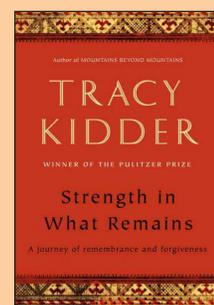
*Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again*  
by Juliana Hatkoff

### Adult

*Believe It, Be It: How Being the Biggest Loser Won Me Back My Life*  
by Ali Vincent

*The Happiness Project: Or, Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun*  
by Gretchen Rubin

*Strength in What Remains*  
by Tracy Kidder



*The Last Day of My Life*  
by Jim Moret

*Have a Little Faith: A True Story*  
by Mitch Albom



Kerry Wuthrich, bottom left, along with her family, Northglenn staff and volunteers, waved signs outside the new Huron Street library on the day of the Anythink brand launch.

## Rediscovering the Library: It's for Adults, Too!

As a young girl growing up in Virginia, or traveling the country with her military family, Kerry Wuthrich loved reading books like the *Chronicles of Narnia*, escaping to a different world. “I loved to read as a little girl – until I had to read,” she says. Once the book reports were due, she became frustrated with reading, especially since the challenging books she enjoyed were never finished in time for the book report. It took the joy out of reading for her, she says.

Years later, during a visit to the Northglenn Library, all this changed. She had continued to read during school and as a parent to her children. “My husband [Marc] is an avid reader,” Wuthrich says. Their home is always filled with classic books. Yet she stopped reading for herself. As her children grew, she says, “I didn’t want to pass my bias on to them.” Soon

after she moved to the area, Wuthrich discovered the Northglenn Library. She made a point to incorporate reading into her children’s lives, she says. She brought the girls in for story time and checked out learning kits, which they still remember. A couple summers ago, she visited the library with her daughters – Savannah, now 15, and Aubrey, 9 – to sign them up for summer reading. She was amazed to find a flier for *adult* summer reading. “I thought, ‘Someone’s motivating adults to read? Wow!’” She had an epiphany then. “I forgot that libraries were for grown-ups, too.”

After moving around for years, Wuthrich’s father retired in Kansas. She always loved *The Wizard of Oz* and her husband bought her a copy of *Wicked* after a few missed opportunities to see the show. For years it sat on her nightstand

untouched after several attempts at reading it. Then she saw the audio book at the library and decided to give it a try. Her father had always encouraged her to listen to them during the long drives out to visit.

“It just blew me away,” she says. “For me, listening to it was like going back to being a child, like someone was reading to me.” This opened a whole new world for her, but after *Wicked*, she had no idea what to read next.

At the Northglenn circulation desk, she asked the woman working there for a recommendation and explained she had just come back to reading. The woman at the desk was Huron Street guide Shannon Smith, who shared her own

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experience of discovering reading for enjoyment later in life, says Wuthrich. It was Smith who suggested she try the Northglenn Reads book club. Right then, Wuthrich sought out guide Katharine Phenix, who runs the popular book club. Phenix happened to be working that day, and encouraged Wuthrich to join.

“Her passion – you could feel it,” Wuthrich says.

She has been a loyal member of the club since and gives Phenix much credit for her current love of reading. She has also become a passionate advocate for the library. She was impressed to learn customers could place holds on books anywhere in the district and they would be sent right to Northglenn for her to pick up. “It’s like a doctor on call,” she says, “like they decided, ‘We’ll make it even easier for you to have access to knowledge.’”

Both her daughters are in the highest reading levels at school, a proud Wuthrich says. She often finds herself telling her daughters, “Today a reader, tomorrow a leader,” a phrase attributed to Margaret Fuller, the journalist and women’s rights activist.

Northglenn Reads book club has become an important part of Wuthrich’s life. She is constantly impressed and inspired by Phenix, she says. “She knows so much, but she is constantly putting herself through refinement.” It’s the personal touch Phenix adds to the group that makes it special, says Wuthrich, whether that means bringing in gelato when they discuss *Eat, Pray, Love* or sharing personal anecdotes about her family or the authors. “She’ll bring in maps, history, video clips – she puts her heart into everything she does.”

The other women in the group also enhance the experience for her. “They share their stories, and it’s like you have real parts of history right here,” she says. “The book club has filled a void in my life that would



Loyal Northglenn customer Kerry Wuthrich.

have been there had I not joined.” Wuthrich quotes Phenix as describing the library as the “third place,” besides work and home, and this has resonated with her. “This is not your grandfather’s library,” she says.

Wuthrich remembers her seventh grade teacher taking her class to the library and saying, “You’ve entered the realm of silence. Please act accordingly.” Not so at Anythink libraries, but Wuthrich is a fan of the library being a place for everyone, even if the teens get a little noisy.

On a cold Saturday in September, Wuthrich and her family, along with her book club friends, waved signs in front of the new Anythink Huron Street construction site as they celebrated the launch of the district’s new brand. “It was great to do as a family,” she says.

Wuthrich has a genuine desire for others to be as impacted by their local library as she has been. “I hope that the new library will be inspiring to more people,” she says. Her family lives closer to the new Wright Farms location, which opens in summer 2010, but she will continue traveling to Anythink Huron Street, though a little farther away. “I couldn’t leave Katharine.”

FYI:

## Anythink Food Drive

Earlier this year, as a thank you to the residents of Adams County, Rangeview Library District eliminated overdue fines. Now we ask our customers to say thank you in return to the residents of Adams County by donating non-perishable items throughout December at your local Anythink location. All donations will go to Adams County Food Distribution for distribution to local families.

“The need for emergency food packages is 600 a month now up from 200 a month a year ago – all for households facing lack of food, choice of food or essential bills, or just no other food resource,” says Lily Rhoades, coordinator, Adams County Food Distribution.

Last year, the district and its customers broke all previous records by donation 8,800 lbs. of food for a total dollar value of \$11,500. Because the need is greater than ever, we hope to break this record. Non-perishable items can be dropped at all Anythink locations, including administration offices.

## Print Jobs

We are happy to let our customers know we are no longer charging for employment-related printing. Please ask at the service desk for details.

*Stay up to date on all things Anythink by following us on Facebook and Twitter. Just search for “ilove-myanythink.”*

# Events Not to Miss



## New Year's Eve Party and Balloon Drop

Anythink Perl Mack's second annual New Year's Eve Party is almost here! Enjoy crafts and food for all ages with a spectacular balloon drop at noon.

*Anythink Perl Mack*  
Thursday, Dec. 31, 2009  
11 am-12:30 pm  
7611 Hilltop Circle  
Denver, CO 80221

## Family Fun and Games

Come one, come all. Join us for an afternoon of board, card and video games. Parents, come teach your kids Yahtzee! Children, come teach your parents the Wii. Bring your favorite game to show off to your friends and family or enjoy games available at the library. An intergenerational joy for everyone. Hot chocolate too!

*Anythink Brighton*  
Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010, 1-3 pm  
327 E. Bridge Street  
Brighton, CO 80601

## Anythink Huron Street Grand Opening: "A Celebration of Light"

Bring your friends and family to celebrate the grand opening of our newest

library, Anythink Huron Street. Enjoy wintertime favorites like hot cocoa and roasted chestnuts throughout the day – or stop by the children's area to create your own kaleidoscope. The signature even will be a series of fabulous laser light shows inside the library coordinated by world-renowned light artist Manick Sorcar. Bring your own light-inspired pieces to read during "Reflections on Light," an adult story time with special guest readers by the fireplace. This is definitely an event not to miss!

*Anythink Huron Street*  
Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, 1:30-6 pm  
9417 Huron Street  
Thornton, CO 80260

*For a complete listing of Anythink events, visit [anythinklibraries.org](http://anythinklibraries.org)*

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ing every detail so that they are not only beautiful, comfortable and functional, but that our buildings are energy efficient would meet his approval. The geo-thermal and photovoltaic systems, the Solatubes and the green roof would send him to his computer to monitor our energy savings. The fact that our Brighton library is carbon positive is a remarkable achievement and an added bonus. Over the years, this building will not only be saving taxpayers' money, but contributing to the sustainability of our environment.

In many ways, the values of Rangeview Library District reflect the values that my dad relayed to his children. A sense of practicality coupled with a sense of imagination and whimsy. This perfectly

describes Anythink. We are combining the best of the comfortable, enduring library values which people have come to know and love with a sense of curiosity and an endless thirst for knowledge. At an Anythink library, anything you want to explore, experience or imagine is possible. Our libraries are places filled with learning, a sense of hope and possibilities. As we close out the work of 2009, I want to say thanks to my dad for teaching me to be practical, yet filled with a sense of imagination, and always ready to invent great experiences. My dad was one of the original Anythinkers. And I want to say thank you to all of the Rangeview Anythinkers for being such brave pioneers as we invent our library's future.

*Pam Sandlian Smith*

Helping to bring sparks to your Anythink is the Rangeview Library District Board of Trustees:

**Kay Riddle, President**  
**Dot Lindsey, Vice President**  
**Ray Coffey, Treasurer**  
**Debra Neiswonger, Secretary**  
**Linda Wisniewski**

The board meets monthly on the third Wednesday of the month at 5 pm. Locations vary and are published at [anythinklibraries.org](http://anythinklibraries.org). Meetings are open to the public.

When you're done reading SPARK, share with a friend, give back to your librarian or recycle.

