

About the book...

The Primrose Way is an engaging novel that vividly portrays the challenges faced by the first settlers in Ipswich. The heroine, Rebekah Hall, leaves a comfortable life in England to join her father in the new settlement of Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Rebekah's encounters with the Native American population and her growing respect for their customs and beliefs place her in conflict with some of her neighbors. Although written with young adults in mind, *The Primrose Way* is rich with historical information about early Ipswich. It is also an exciting narrative and a fine read. As the *Kirkus Reviews* said of the book: "Politically contemporary, and not historically impossible—a rousing good tale."

This book was an appropriate choice to read and discuss as part of the 375th



primrose way
a popular phrase denoting a hedonistic lifestyle thought by Puritans to lead directly to the gates of hell.

Celebration of the Town of Ipswich. It is also an entertaining and enlightening story which should stimulate discussion on themes of authority, religious tolerance and cross-cultural interaction.

— *Victor E. Dyer*
Director
Ipswich Public Library

Related Events



March 8, 2 PM
Performing Arts Center
(admission fee required)
Three Texts of Early Ipswich:
A Pageant by John Updike

March 11, 7 PM
Collins Meeting Room, Library
Ipswich's 375th Anniversary

March 22, 2 PM
Performing Arts Center, Ipswich High School
When Ipswich Was Agawam:
Exploring 11,000 Years
of Native American Heritage

April 1, 8:30 AM
Ipswich Inn
Library Volunteers' Breakfast & Book Discussion

April 26, 2 PM
First Church in Ipswich
The Life & Legacy of John Winthrop Jr.

Credits:

"Eagle feather" photo courtesy of
normanrich.com

Koller, Jackie French. *The Primrose Way*,
New York: Harcourt, c1992.

Koller portrait www.agirlsworld.com



25 North Main Street
Ipswich, MA 01938
978.356.6648
www.town.ipswich.ma.us/library

IPSWICH READS One book!

The Primrose Way



Jackie French Koller

2009 Ipswich Reads...One Book!



Jackie French Koller is the author of over thirty books for children

and young adults. She is also an accomplished artist. Her first book was *Impy for Always* published in 1989. Her historic novels for young adults include *Nothing to Fear*, about an impoverished immigrant family in New York City in the 1930's, *Someday*, about the disruptions in a young girl's life when her hometown is swallowed up by the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir, and *The Primrose Way*, an award-winning novel, set in Ipswich, about the relationships between the earliest settlers and the Native Americans they encountered.

Koller and her husband George have three grown children. They live in Westfield, Massachusetts along with two Labrador retrievers, Cassie & Tess.

Programs

March 25	Renegades & Captives: White Indians in New England by Anne Brown	7 PM	Collins Room
April 4	Children's Colonial Field Day	10 AM	Collins Room
April 7	Weaving Fact & Fiction: The Inspiration, Research and Writing Process Behind <i>The Primrose Way</i> by Jackie French Koller	7 PM	Performing Arts Center, Ipswich High School

Book Discussions

March 2	Brown Bag Discussion	12 PM	Ipswich Historical Society
March 9	B. Johnson's Book Club Discussion	8 PM	Members Only
March 17	Cape Ann Literary Society Discussion	7:30 PM	Members Only
March 26	Library Book Discussion	7 PM	Collins Room, Ipswich Library
March 30	Ipswich High School Book Club	2 PM	High School Library
April 2	Sisters of Notre Dame Discussion	2 PM	Members Only
April 7	Council on Aging Book Group	11 AM	Town Hall
April 8	East End Bookies	7 PM	Members Only
April 10	Library Book Discussion	2 PM	Collins Room, Ipswich Library