



# Friends' News

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library April 2009  
210 Central Ave, Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Phone: 360-778-7250 e-mail: [bellinghamfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:bellinghamfriends@yahoo.com)

## ANNUAL MEETING -- April 25 -- 2 p.m.

### MEET CHUCK ROBINSON

Chuck Robinson will be guest speaker at our Annual Meeting on April 25.

Chuck is well known as owner, with his wife Dee, of Village Books in Fairhaven and as the intrepid host of Chuckanut Radio Hour. In both guises he has been responsible for bringing many distinguished and interesting authors to our community and is extremely active in local, regional, and national bookseller associations. Possibly less well known are his wide ranging civic and philanthropic activities and interests.

Chuck has served on the Whatcom County Mental Health Board, the Whatcom Human Rights Task Force, and was a founding Board Member of City Club Bellingham. He served on the board of the Whatcom County ACLU Chapter and was a founding member of the board of Sustainable Connections, and served for fifteen years on the board of the North Cascades Institute, including two years as its chair. He has taught for Whatcom Technical College, Whatcom Community College, and Western Washington University. Village Books was named the 2008 Outstanding Philanthropic Business in Washington.

We hope you will join us in meeting this dynamic and interesting man at our Annual Meeting.

### MAY 20-23 SKI-TO-SEA BOOK SALE

Double the marked price  
PREVIEW SALE on  
Wed 5/20 from 3 to 6 pm  
No admission fee

#### Regular Sale Hours:

Thurs 5/21 10 am -- 8 pm  
Fri 5/22 10 am -- 6 pm (1/2 price)  
Sat 5/23 10 am -- 3 pm (\$3 bag)

### Message from our President

Dear Friends,

Please join us for our Annual Meeting and election of new board members on April 25th at 2:00pm. Chuck Robinson from Village Books will be our guest speaker.

It's time to pass the gavel on and lean my support in different areas of the Friends. I cannot express how much I have enjoyed this experience.

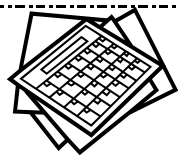
Times are changing in our 'behind the scenes' area. Ken and Phyllis Weber have decided to travel and enjoy some new aspects of life, much to our chagrin. We will miss them as their work efforts have been such a benefit to the organization. Not to forget the great humor they always have.

Thank you for all of your support this past year. If you see any area you would like to volunteer in, please fill out the membership form and we will contact you.

See you in May at the Ski to Sea Sale.

Christine Walsh

President, Friends of the Bellingham Public Library



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2009

Annual Meeting ..... April 25  
Ski-to-Sea Book Sale ..... May 20-23  
September Book Sale ..... Sept 2-5  
20th Annual Fischer Award Program .... Nov 21  
December Book Sale ..... Dec 2-5

**S**urplus Books?? -- if you have surplus books, please think of the Friends when you are looking for a new home for them. You can bring up to 4 boxes labeled "For Friends" to the library check-out counter. For larger quantities, phone one of the following:  
Garland Richmond - 752-1423  
Jim Paulsen - 715-2030  
Jerry Lawson - 398-2716  
Richard Zarnowitz - 676-9938  
Becky Falacy - 733-6719

**Note: Please place books to be picked up in small, easy-to-handle boxes.**

### BOOK SALE PROCEEDS

Internet Sales - 2008 Total \$19,949  
Internet Sales - 2009 thru Mar \$11,155  
December 2008 Book Sale \$7,891  
March 2009 Book Sale \$7,166

#### PURCHASES Nov 2008-Mar 2009

Computers ..... \$1,990  
Greeting/Security Desk ..... 2,059  
Presentation Screen ..... 404  
Summer Program T-Shirts ..... 136  
Audio Book Download Station ..... 3,000  
Thursday Nite Spotlight ..... 1,360  
Audio Tape Downloads ..... 1,997  
Reference Desks ..... 2,087  
Raise a Reader Program ..... 1,000  
Trivia Bee ..... 425  
Graphic Novel Collection ..... 2,500  
Bookshelves ..... 1,000  
Children's Library DVD Collection ..... 20,000  
Total ..... \$37,958

# Ken and Phyllis Weber Retire

Every used book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library is a special event for readers who appreciate the chance to buy books for a tiny fraction of their original cost. But the March sale this year was one of unusual significance, since it marked the retirement of Ken and Phyllis Weber, who have volunteered with the Friends for the past 18 years, and for the last 14 have planned and supervised the quarterly book sales. Ken and Phyllis devoted thousands of hours to these events that have raised over six-hundred thousand dollars for the Library over the years. These generous funds have been used for much-needed improvements like the automatic checkout machines in the Central Library and the recent purchase of a basic children's collection for the new Barkley Branch. In addition, many popular outreach programs of the Library have been supported by funds that Ken and Phyllis have been instrumental in raising, including the summer youth reading initiative, reading incentive awards for children in Title I school programs, and many others.

The Bellingham tradition of volunteer public service has had no more impressive representatives over the years than Ken and Phyllis Weber. Their enthusiasm and tireless work have inspired and motivated all the volunteers who make up the Friends, and earned high praise from the Library staff as well. As one Friends member put it: "I couldn't imagine this Library without the Friends, and it is equally hard to imagine the Friends without Ken and Phyllis Weber."

Many Friends, library staff, and other grateful citizens of Bellingham attended a reception in the Library on March 17 to honor and thank Ken and Phyllis for their enormous contributions to all of us who believe in the importance of reading.

## Magazine Exchange

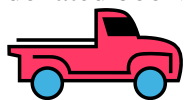
Garland Richmond, coordinator of the magazine swap spot, says "Bring your magazines to share with others after you've read them. Take some home that others have brought in. Put them in the magazine bins in the downstairs hallway near the Children's Section in the Central Library."



**V**olunteer Needed -- if you would like to help 1 hour per week with the magazine exchange, a volunteer is needed on Mondays to check the neatness of the bins, discard damaged magazines, and occasionally clean the bins with a hand-held vacuum (provided by the Friends). Call 752-1423 if you're interested in helping out.

## Used-Book Pickup at Village Books:

Would you like to help the Friends by picking up donated books once a week at Village Books and taking them to the Central Library? The job generally takes about an hour once a week, and you can deliver the books at your convenience whenever the Library is open. A relatively strong back is needed to tote boxes of books. Call Garland Richmond at 752-1423 to volunteer.



\$\$\$  
Enclosed with your newsletter is an "FOBPL Book Buck" which can be used at the Ski-to-Sea sale. This is our thanks for supporting the Friends and your library.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Enclosed with your newsletter is an envelope for membership renewal. Be sure to indicate if you want to be included on the membership list for the Fairhaven or Barkley Branch. Thanks so much for supporting the library through your membership!



We want to send a big **Thank You** to the following book stores for their donations to the Maude Heyes Fischer Award Program that was held in November. Please remember that if you are unable to locate a book at one of our book sales, you will probably find it at one of these stores.

**Village Books**  
1200 11<sup>th</sup> Street

**Eclipse Book Store**  
1104 11<sup>th</sup> Street

**Michael's Books**  
109 Grand Ave.

**Henderson Books**  
116 Grand Ave.

**Cozy Corner Books and Coffee**  
2500 Cedarwood Ave.

## Friends and books for children

Many thanks to the Friends for providing me with the opportunity to give books to children who may not otherwise be given books. I'd specifically like to share 3 of these opportunities with you.

Last December, because of the snow and ice at Christmas time, some gifts were not available that were to be delivered to disadvantaged children. I was able to provide over 25 books from our December sale to be distributed to children who otherwise might not have had gifts for Christmas.

At my 4 Roosevelt Elementary School English Language Learner Parent Education classes, I provide the children with books. This is a strong incentive to bring parents to our meetings, helping them to become involved in the life of their children's education through their participation in school activities.

This Winter I was teaching another Parent Education Class at the Lummi Reservation, and again, I was able to provide books to the children of the parents in attendance at my class, which again was a great incentive to get parents out and participating in ways to be more effective parents.

Again, thanks so much for allowing me the freedom to give books to families while encouraging parents to learn and grow.  
Vicky Marshall, Retired Parent Educator for the Bellingham School District

## Thank-You From the Webers

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in book sales with us throughout the years -- from the sorter/pricers and book "picker-uppers" to all those who have helped out during the sales. It's been a fun and challenging time for us, and we've really enjoyed getting to know all of you.

A new, energetic crew has taken the reins and we know that the Bellingham Friends will continue to set new records with book sales.

Thanks again - and we hope to see you 'down the road'.

Ken and Phyllis Weber