

Friends' News

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library

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President's Report

Because so many faithful volunteers contribute to the success of the Friends' work, I wish it were possible to thank all of them here personally, but that would be a long list indeed. Please know that, whatever your role in the work of this organization might have been, it is deeply appreciated. The funds that the Friends raise through books sales continue to provide library materials and educational outreach programs that enrich the lives and minds of so many in our community. You can read about some of these programs and purchases elsewhere in this Newsletter.



The members of the Friends who serve on our Board of Directors deserve special thanks for their many contributions of time and talent to the ongoing business of the organization. Some of these Board members have served for a number of years and may decide to step

aside and give other Friends the chance to serve. I hope that every Friend who reads this message will give some thought to serving on the Board. On April 25 at the Annual Meeting of the Friends, the membership of the new Board will be announced. In the meantime, I urge you to talk to a Board member you know about joining us in supporting our library in this or some other way.

Garland Richmond, President
Friends of the Bellingham Public Library

Membership

Our new schedule of one Newsletter a year has helped move our yearly dues notice into January 2015 (instead of early in November which was confusing to many). There are many options to pay your dues. If you received a paper copy of the Newsletter, send in the Friends membership application with your check. If you happen to be at the Library, you can pay by cash or credit card at the main desk (but please remember to fill out a membership form so we know who paid). Finally, if you received the Newsletter via email, you can print a Friends membership form from the Library website: <http://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/QuickLinks/friends/Friendsapplication.pdf>. Please fill out your information completely even if you have belonged for years because if it is right in front of us, it is easier to enter and/or update. Thanks.

We appreciate all your support. We DO need more volunteers for our quarterly sales. Please check on your application that you would like to be involved in volunteering for our book sales so that we can keep up our support of our library. Most volunteers are cashiers or "rovers" who keep the tables neat and fully stocked with 3 hour shifts. It is not hard and we'll help you know what to do. We have fun and it's for a good cause. Please give it a try!



2015 Book Sale Dates

March 5-7 (three day)

May 20-23 (four day)

August 20-22 (three day)

December 2-5 (four day)

All sales are from 10 am to 6 pm except Saturdays (the \$4 a bag day) which runs from 10 am to 1 pm. Three day sales have no half-price day.



Library Update

With the New Year now underway, I find I have much to report to our Friends! We're looking forward to a productive, interesting 2015; here are a few highlights for the year ahead.

Restoring hours at branch libraries

With last year's restored Sunday hours now well established, we're working on restoring hours at the Fairhaven and Barkley branch libraries. With the leadership of Jack Weiss, City Council member and Library Board liaison, the City Council recently approved additional funding for four additional hours per week at each branch. We plan to make those changes in hours as soon as we have the staffing on board to do so -- hopefully during the first quarter of 2015. We also plan to take this opportunity to make our branch hours more consistent and predictable. Stay tuned for more details and a new schedule of branch library hours, and be sure to thank your City Council representatives for their support of library services!

Whatcom READS! events coming right up

January kicks off winter events and author visits for 2015 Whatcom READS!, a community collaborative program that receives generous support from the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

April 27 Timothy Egan presentation

Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and author Timothy Egan will speak in Bellingham on April 27, thanks to generous funding from the Friends. The Bellingham Public Library has partnered with the Whatcom Museum and Village Books to bring Timothy Egan to speak about his most recent book *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward S. Curtis*. Timothy Egan's discussion of this riveting biography is the signature event as part of the Whatcom Museum's exhibition of Edward S. Curtis images, on display February 7-May 10, 2015. More details available at www.whatcommuseum.org.

These are just a few highlights. We've launched our SkillShare programming and it is gaining momentum. We are already gearing up for our 2015 Summer Reading programs, always highly successful. We're placing orders to boost our collections, most recently for adult fiction, large-type books and the Happy-Go-Lucky collection at Barkley. These achievements and others are all possible because of generous funding from the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library!

Thank you for believing in us and for your hard work to support our mission: connecting our community with each other and the world.

Photo: Visitors sample Qi Gong movement exercises in SkillShare, a new initiative of the Bellingham Public Library supported by our Friends. Photo by Jenni Johnson for the Bellingham Public Library.



By Pam Nyberg Kiesner, Library Director

Volunteers

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library runs on the efforts of volunteers. Our current need is volunteers for our book sales. If you are able to contribute a few hours during our next sale March 5-7, 2014, contact us at friendslibrary3@gmail.com, please. The sales are a great opportunity to connect with others who enjoy books, to enjoy the camaraderie of working together for a good cause, and to get new and varied book recommendations from coworkers! We hope you will join us in our efforts to aid the library.

Winter Book Sale



The weather outside was cold, but the book sale warmed the hearts of the many Friends of the Bellingham Public Library volunteers who contributed their time and energy to make our December sale a success. The busy first day of the sale brought in crowds of adults and children looking for materials to get them through our cold, rainy winter days. Our high quality books and great prices kept them coming back through "Bag Day" where our four dollar per bag books were irresistible to many.

During the past three months, volunteers put more than 1,200 hours behind the scenes preparing for the sale. An additional 400 volunteer hours at the sale kept the sale moving smoothly. Thanks to all of our great volunteers substantially more than 12,000 books are now in the hands of Bellingham readers!

Friends Support Youth Services

In 2014, the Friends continued to support ongoing projects as well as new, exciting initiatives for Youth Services. The Friends began the year by continuing to support the **Raise A Reader: Books for Babies** program jointly with the Whatcom County Library Foundation. This program provides a brand new board book and library information to each of the nearly 2,000 babies born in Whatcom County each year. Some of the information provided to parents highlights the importance of Early Literacy, specifically talking, singing, reading, writing and playing with your child every day. To further the library's commitment to Early Literacy, the Friends supported the creation of **Early Literacy Kits**. There are 10 kits total with two kits on each of the five Early Literacy practices: talking, singing, reading, writing and playing. Each kit includes a selection of picture books, an activity, music, parent/teacher resources and related activities. These kits will be available for checkout in January 2015 and we anticipate them to be very popular!



The Friends also supported the Summer Reading Program. Both Children's and Teen Services reported record-breaking numbers in terms of finishers and participants. A total of 1,782 children completed the program and each of those finishers received a yard sign and free book, provided by the Friends. We are so grateful for the support the Friends provide Youth Services. Without your generosity, we would not be able to reach the thousands of children and families, providing free, fun and important opportunities and enrichment.

By Bethany Hoglund
Head of Youth Services, Bellingham Public Library

Thanks to Village Books

The tremendous success of the Friends' book sales would be unimaginable without the unwavering support of Village Books. When people bring their books to the store to sell them, VB reminds them that books the store can't purchase may be donated to the Friends for the benefit of the Bellingham Public Library. Our heartfelt thanks to Village Books for their support, and to the Friends who pick up donated books daily at VB and take them to the Library for processing by the Friends for sale.



Kudos!

Many thanks to the following stores for donating gift certificates to the Friends:

Michael's Books 109 Grand Ave.	Village Books 1200 11th Street	Eclipse Book Store 1104 11th Street
Henderson's Books 116 Grand Ave.	Cozy Corner Books and Coffee Bellingham - 3094 Northwest Avenue Ferndale - 5772 2nd Avenue	

Thanks to The Great Harvest Bakery for the continued support they have provided over the years, by donating loaves of their delicious bread for our Annual Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library had the following financial activity January 1 - December 31, 2014:

Income

Book Sales: Mar., May, Aug., Dec. 2014	\$ 45,532
Nearly New Books	\$ 7,320
Display Case Books	\$ 806
Miscellaneous Books	\$ 1,051
Online Book Sales.....	\$ 10,666
Bags and Bumper Stickers	\$ 1,790
Membership	\$ 2,245
Donations	\$ 2,283
Dividends and Interest	\$ 263
Total Income:	\$ 71,956

Major Expenses for the Library

Reading Programs—Kids, Teens, Adults	\$ 7,219
Humanities WA Speakers	\$ 481
Early Literacy Kits.....	\$ 1,200
Movie Licensing Fees	\$ 776
Staff Professional Development	\$ 1,990
Whatcom Reads Programs	\$ 8,000
Fairhaven Builders' Club.....	\$ 100
Raise-a-Reader Program	\$ 5,000
Library Collections	\$ 25,000
Furniture.....	\$ 1,141
Library Card Campaign	\$ 1,005
Summer Reading Software	\$ 2,400
Total Expenses for the Library:	\$ 54,313

Whatcom READS:
The Boys in the Boat

Whatcom READS! -- the annual county-wide one-book reading program -- kicks off the New Year with programs and activities highlighting this year's book selection: *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*.

Thanks to our Friends!
Special thanks to the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library, which is one of two major contributing sponsors for Whatcom READS! along with the Whatcom County Library Foundation. Whatcom READS! is organized by all the public and academic libraries of Whatcom County and our community partner, Village Books. *The Boys in the Boat* is proving to be a popular choice, and it is not too late to join in! Pick up a copy of the book from your local library or from Village Books. We're looking forward to captivating presentations by author Daniel James Brown, thought-provoking programs being held throughout the county, and lively community conversation about this book.

Here are just a few highlights of the dozens of events and activities planned in January and February, all free and open to the public:

The Story Behind The Boys in the Boat
Don't miss the chance to hear from the family of one of the "Boys in the Boat!" Judy Rantz Willman, daughter of Olympian Joe Rantz, will speak about the genesis of *The Boys in the Boat*, share several stories about her dad, and reflect on why the best-selling book is having such an impact on readers across the nation. Two sessions:

- February 12, 6:00 p.m., Fairhaven Library Auditorium
- February 13, 6:30 p.m., Everson Library

Author visits February 24-26, 2015
Daniel James Brown will visit our area February 24-26 for five in-person events, including keynote presentations at the Jansen Art Center in Lynden at 7:30 p.m. February 24 and at 7:00 p.m. February 25 at the Mount Baker Theatre. More information and event details available at the Bellingham Public Library and the Fairhaven and Barkley branch libraries, and at www.whatcomreads.org.

Newsletter Archive

Copies of our newsletter can always be found online at: <http://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/QuickLinks/FriendsoftheLibrary.aspx#Membership> click on the *Newsletter* date of your choice.