

Friends' News

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library

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President's Report

It is both a pleasure and privilege to serve as President of the Friends and work with this amazing group of dedicated Friends of the Bellingham Public Library. There are dozens of Friend's volunteers performing a variety of tasks, all committed to raising funds for the Bellingham Public Library programs. In 2015 the Friends were able to fund Bellingham Public Library programs in the amount of \$53,117.09. The programs vary in scope, but are all dedicated to increasing literacy and providing outreach services to our patrons and community. Here are some of them: Whatcom Reads!, children's story time, digital signage, annual movie licensing, children's summer reading program, the Happy-Go-Lucky book collection at Barkley Branch, the Raise a Reader program for new babies and their parents, grants for staff professional development, teen programming, teen summer reading and book club kits.



The Friends would not be able to do this without the support of our community. Thank you for your purchases of books at our book sales and from the Nearly New Collection now located near the entrance of the Central Library. Please accept our invitation to celebrate and applaud the work of the Friends at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 23rd, in the library lecture room. We will provide interesting speakers, great refreshments and door prizes; we are asking you to bring your enthusiasm and appreciation for this hard-working group of Friends of the Bellingham Public Library.

I would like to thank the members of the Board of the Friends and the committee chairs: Chris Johnsen (Vice President), Susan Shuhler (Treasurer), and Garland Richmond (Secretary). Our committee chairpersons are Holly McLeod (Membership), Rita Rukashaza (Publicity), Barbara Shepard (At Large Member), Jan Weaver (Hospitality), and Kathie Wilson (Books). We could not do this without you!

Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library

The public is invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library on Saturday, April 23rd at 10:00am in the Lecture Room of the Central Library. Come and help us celebrate the work of the Friends and find out about the new and exciting things that are happening at your library.

Speakers: Mauri Ingram and Rachel Myers of the Whatcom Community Foundation. Mauri is the President and CEO of the Foundation. Rachel is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library in addition to her work with the Foundation.

Refreshments and Door Prizes: Provided for you by the Friends. Don't miss out on the fun!

Little Libraries

Have you noticed how many of the little free libraries have been popping up all around Bellingham? So have we. And, because we often have books left over from our sales, we wondered if we could be of help to the folks who create and stock them. In December, the Friends began to reach out to some of the Little Library caretakers and delivered several boxes of books for their dispersal. We are looking forward to continuing this project this year. If you have a Little Library and would like to be included in future book distributions, you can email us at libraryfriends3@gmail.com.



Library Update

Please Pardon Our Construction - customer service improvements underway!

If you've been to the Central Library in recent months, you may have noticed a few changes: library materials moving to new locations, construction barriers blocking exposed pipes, Nearly New Books in a new location, and more. These are signs of progress!

These small changes are leading up to a big change: combining our main floor circulation and information services into one location. We're moving many materials and rearranging shelves to make room for a new information desk that will be prominently located in the middle of the main floor.



This new information desk will provide "one-stop" circulation, reference and other information and assistance. You'll see these and other changes as they unfold in the weeks ahead, all designed to improve patron satisfaction, use our staff more efficiently, provide more direct customer service and improve traffic flow in the library.

Please ask if you need help finding something that may have moved in the process. We apologize for any inconvenience, and we look forward to providing top-notch services to our patrons in our newly configured spaces!

Volunteers



The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library is an entirely volunteer organization. This year volunteers contributed approximately 7,000 hours by working at quarterly book sales, by working behind the scenes culling, sorting, cleaning and valuing books, and by working to support our wonderful library staff during National Library Week. We hope that you have been

able to participate as a volunteer. We appreciate every one of you!

Some Ways Volunteers Can Help

- ◆ Hospitality: providing food for an occasional event, such as staff appreciation, National Library Week, or others
- ◆ Raffle Basket Donations of new items or business services/items (we could include a business card with them) can be brought to the donations cart upstairs in a box clearly marked "For Raffle Basket" We have one per Book Sale.
- ◆ Donating books
- ◆ Buying books at our sale
- ◆ Saving brown paper bags for the Book Sale
- ◆ Computer/ social media expertise
- ◆ Organizing our "free" books area
- ◆ Helping with Outreach events to help increase our membership
- ◆ Connections to Little Free Libraries in Bellingham
- ◆ Providing finger food for Book Sale Volunteers
- ◆ Most importantly, volunteering for a shift at our quarterly Book Sales

Any questions, offers or suggestions, email friendslibrary3@gmail.com

2016 Book Sale Dates

March 3-5 (three day) May 25-28 (four day)
Aug. 18-20 (three day) Dec. 7-10 (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 for four day sales and to 2 pm for three day sales. Three day sales have no half-price day.

Vicky Marshall 1948-2015



Vicky Marshall was a very special, long-term Friend of the Library and her love-of-reading legacy continues. The Library and the Friends of the Library received many memorial donations in her honor. Through her book groups she promoted the use of the Library's Book Kits and seven new book kits have been funded. We still have other projects under consideration from donations in her honor. Even in the community, a Little Free Library has been dedicated in her honor. She inspired many to join the Friends, and served on the Friends Board as well as the Board of Trustees of the Library. We miss her!

From the Books Committee

It has been another busy and successful year of book-wrangling for the Friends. Thanks to a devoted group of year-round workers, thousands of donated books were processed and sent on their way to various destinations.

Volunteers carefully look over each book and many are researched on the internet for their value. Books in excellent condition may go to our Nearly New shelves. If you haven't seen the new area, please check it out soon.

It is bright and welcoming—and we are very appreciative of the library staff for making it happen. Some books of local interest and higher value may go to our display cases. The new museum case upstairs in our Friends' area is getting a lot of attention and the books have been flying out of it. Most books will be sorted, cleaned and boxed for our sales. Our last sale, we had over 325 boxes of books to offer to the public. Some books of higher value that we think will not sell here are sent to Better World Books, who give us a percentage of the sales. And some books go to the Free shelves for our community.

As you can see, there is a lot involved and it takes hundreds of hours of hard work to make it all happen. We couldn't do it without our trained backroom workers! Special thanks go out to Vicki Nulle, who oversees the Nearly New area, is our liaison to Better World Books, keeps up with the box count, puts together our layout plan for each sale, and puts in hours every month to sort and price books. Her level head and devotion are one reason we are so successful!



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

Michael's Books Village Books Eclipse Book Store
109 Grand Ave. 1200 11th Street 1104 11th Street

Henderson's Books Cozy Corner Books and Coffee
116 Grand Ave. Bellingham - 3094 Northwest Avenue
Ferndale - 5772 2nd Avenue

Village Books is such a great supporter of the Friends and the library. But all those wonderful books that they donate would be languishing in their backroom, if it weren't for a group of hearty volunteers who pick up those boxes and deliver them to the library nearly every day. Our heartfelt thanks to Lee Ashe, Rick Bullman, Bill Hamelin, Skip Johnsen, Bruce McLeod, Mike and Bobbi Robinson, and Rob Ruchholz—we are so grateful for your work!

Our Raffle Baskets at book sales are a big hit. Thanks to those who contribute gifts for the baskets, including Haggen and Karen Morgan of Karen Morgan Physical Therapy, and to our volunteer, Lee Ashe, who assembled the lovely basket for the December sale.

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.

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.

Treasurer's Report

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library had the following financial activity January 1 - December 31, 2015:

Income

Book Sales: (Mar, May, Aug and Dec	\$ 47,786
Nearly New Books	\$ 6,929
Display Case Books	\$ 1,240
Miscellaneous Books	\$ 10,499
Online Book Sales	\$ 6,939
Bags and Bumper Stickers	\$ 1,856
Membership	\$ 4,891
Donations & Memorials.....	\$ 10,358
Dividends and Interest	\$ 226
Total Income:	\$ 90,724

Major Expenses for the Library

Reading Programs—Children, Teens	\$ 8,980
Timothy Egan Event	\$ 2,500
Book Club Kits	\$ 2,500
Promotional Items	\$ 1,082
Staff Professional Development	\$ 4,004
Whatcom Reads	\$ 5,000
2015 BA~CON funding	\$ 995
Raise-a-Reader Program	\$ 5,000
Library Collections	\$ 23,000
Bibliocommons software/website	\$ 2,000
Total Expenses for the Library:	\$ 55,061

Membership

Happy New Year 2016 to all Friends of the Bellingham Public Library. The New Year is also the reminder that your 2016 Membership dues are due. If you received a paper copy of the Newsletter, send in the Friends Membership Application with your check in the envelope you received. For those who have 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 or update. Thanks!

Whatcom READS 2016:

A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki



It's the year of Ruth Ozeki! A best-selling author, Zen Buddhist priest, filmmaker and more, Ruth Ozeki and her book *A Tale for the Time Being* were selected for Whatcom READS 2016.

Zen Buddhism, physics, school bullying, Japanese culture, ocean currents and journaling are just a few of the many thought-provoking topics Ruth Ozeki explores. Throughout this brilliant, unforgettable novel, Ozeki intersperses humor and hope, historical detail and pop culture, explorations of the notion of self, and the relationship between readers and authors.



Author visits March 3-5, 2016

Read or listen to the book, share it with your family and friends, and mark your calendar for Ruth Ozeki's visit March 3-5, 2016. An interesting, diverse schedule of free events is planned with multiple opportunities for people to hear Ruth speak in Bellingham and throughout Whatcom County.

Check the Whatcom READS website (www.whatcomreads.org) for more details and schedule.

About Whatcom READS

Whatcom READS is our community's reading and discussion program, encouraging all Whatcom County residents to read and create a county-wide book club experience. Now in its eighth year, it includes activities centered on the themes of one book culminating in free public presentations by the author. Whatcom READS is organized by all the public and academic libraries of Whatcom County and our community partner, Village Books.

Thanks to our Friends!

Special thanks to the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library, which is one of two major long-time financial sponsors of Whatcom READS, along with the Whatcom County Library Foundation.