

Friends' News

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library

210 Central Ave, Bellingham, Washington 98225

Phone: 360-778-7250

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e-mail: friendslibrary3@gmail.com



President's Report

Once again, it has been my privilege to serve as the President of Friends of the Bellingham Public Library during 2018. I continue to be amazed at the number of hours so generously given to accomplish the mission of the Friends. In addition to the many volunteers who work at our book sales, there are also volunteers who work in the backroom each day of the week to sort and clean the donations. Because of their hard work and the generous donations of books by our community, we were able to fund the library in the amount of \$48,000 in 2018 for many library-sponsored programs such as parent education, author events, Whatcom Reads, programs for teens, Books for Babies, and professional development for staff.

This year it has been a pleasure to get to know our new Library Director, Rebecca Judd, who came to us this summer. Rebecca has offered valuable assistance to the Friends as we work together with the Library to serve our library users. We are grateful to her for her guidance and look forward to working with her for many years to come.



Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Take out your new 2019 calendar and mark the day **April 27th at 10:00** in the Lecture Room for the Annual Meeting of the Friends. We plan to honor our volunteers, elect new officers for 2019-2020, enjoy a presentation by Katie Bray on exciting books to read, and enjoy wonderful homemade refreshments.

If you are as enthusiastic about what the Friends are doing as I am, there are many ways you can help: become a volunteer, become an officer or committee chair, donate books and/or funds to the Friends, become a member (memberships, both new and renewing, are due in January) and support us in our celebration of volunteers at the Annual Meeting.

My heartfelt thanks go to all the officers, committee chairs, our bookkeeper, volunteers and all of the staff of the Bellingham Public Library. The Friends would not be able function without your special help and support.

Faye Hill, President



Did you know that many of the purchases you make at Amazon are eligible for a donation to The Friends through the AmazonSmile program? To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com on your computer or mobile device. When you make your first purchase, you will be asked to select a charitable organization – **Friends of the Bellingham Public Library**. Amazon will remember your selection so that every eligible purchase you make on smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 % of your purchase price to the Friends. For more information, go to the Amazon website. In 2018 we received \$45.21, but with your help, we can increase that amount.

Read the Book, Join the Conversation: Whatcom READS presents

The Big Burn

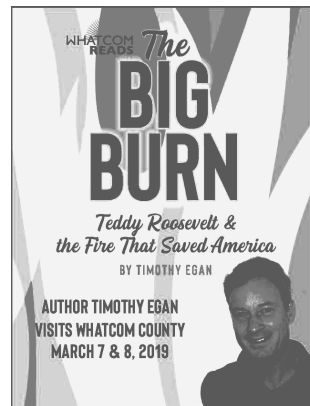
Whatcom READS – Whatcom County's premier annual literary series – presents its 11th title, *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt & The Fire That Saved America* by Timothy Egan.

Whatcom READS is a county-wide program that encourages everyone to read and discuss the same book. It is one of several recurring Bellingham Public Library programs that receives significant funding from the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library, vital support that is key to the program's growth and success over the years.

The Big Burn is the bestselling story of the nation's largest wildfire and the birth of the national conservation movement. Though set in 1910, it is a timely, provocative story sure to spur interesting county-wide "book club" discussions. Community members also are invited to engage with free events in early 2019, including appearances by the author on March 7 and 8, 2019.

The Big Burn is available in book, eBook and audiobook formats at all Bellingham and Whatcom County public libraries and from Village Books, which donates 10 percent of *The Big Burn* sales to Whatcom READS.

Information and full schedule of events at www.whatcomreads.org.



In Memorium

Dot Banister (September 24, 1925-July 3, 2018)

For over 20 years, Dot Banister worked behind the scenes preparing books for our sales. Her lively interest in life and books inspired us all. She is truly missed.

Barb Clearman (April 3, 1943-June 13, 2018)

Barb Clearman became a back area volunteer two years ago, but quickly jumped in with both feet and became the chair of the Membership Committee. Her dry wit and down to earth attitudes are missed.

Moving On

Richard Zarnowitz has volunteered with the Friends for 32 years. **Elsie Zarnowitz** has also been a long time volunteer with the Friends. Their volunteer efforts have been invaluable in the backroom. Volunteering with the Friends kept Richard young and vibrant. We wish both Elsie and Richard the best in this new phase of life when they move closer to their family in Oregon.

Alan Kemble has worked with the Friends for many years. His help in answering questions and helping us prepare our tax returns has been a life saver for our organization. Thank you, Alan for all of your help.

Newsletter Archive

Copies of our newsletter can always be found online. Go to the library website. At the bottom you will see *Friends of the Library* under *Get Involved*. At the bottom of that page you will find the archive.

Volunteers

Wouldn't you like to volunteer with the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library? We have many volunteer opportunities at our book sales in January, May, and September. Like a lot of activity? Help move boxes into our sale room for an hour or two. Need a quieter, sit down job?

Help monitor the staff doorway. We also have rover positions (helping restock tables) and cashier

slots available each day of the sale. Most shifts on sale days are two hours long. If you are interested in volunteering at our sales, please email us at friend-slibrary3@gmail.com and we will send you the required background check forms, add you to our sign up list, and answer any questions you have.

Your volunteer time of just two hours at a sale gives so much to our library community. This past year's volunteers have funded children, adult, and teen programs, as well as staff development and library materials. Thank you, volunteers!



Treasurer's Report

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library had the following financial activity January 1 - December 31, 2018:

Income

Book Sales: (January-December 2018)	\$ 40,562.52
Nearly New Books	\$ 9,506.00
Display Case Books	\$ 3,805.00
Miscellaneous Books	\$ 507.20
Online Book Sales	\$ 5,004.20
Bags and Bumper Stickers	\$ 1,401.00
Membership	\$ 3,765.00
Donations & Memorials.....	\$ 3,455.28
Dividends and Interest	\$ 197.63
Misc. Library Promo Products	\$ 301.52
Total Income:	\$ 68,505.35

Major Expenses for the Library

Reading Programs - Teens	\$ 1,750.00
Parent Education Series	\$ 2,500.00
Summer Reading Program	\$ 5,500.00
Whatcom Reads!.....	\$ 7,500.00
Children's Collections	\$ 10,000.00
Books for Babies/Raise-a-Reader Program	\$ 5,000.00
Library Collections (Large Type)	\$ 10,000.00
Book Club Kits	\$ 3,000.00
Library Staff Prof. Dev. Funding.....	\$ 5,956.00
In Kind Donation to BPL Collection	\$ 123.50
Total Purchases for the Library:	\$ 51,329.50



Happy New Year 2019, and welcome to all new and renewing members of FOBPL! The new year is a reminder that it is time to renew your membership. Here

are ways to renew: Get an application from your newsletter or from the Library website under the Friends link, print it off and send it with a check made out to FOBPL, Central Library, 210 Central Ave, Bellingham, WA 98225. You can also pay at the main desk at the Library. Please note that dues are for a calendar year no matter when you pay. Also please fill out your complete information even if you are a long time member; it is very helpful when we are entering your data. Your dues are one way to help support our organization so we can put on the book sales. Thanks for your support!

Kelly, Paul, and Sarah at **Village Books** continue their support of the Friends and the Bellingham community. We are very grateful for their generosity to The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library. When folks bring books to Village Books for reselling, the staff there box up all the ones that they can't use and that people wish to donate. We receive great quality books that add enormously to our sales. Thank you to our independent book store, **Village Books**!



New Library Director Addressing Key Priorities

Rebecca Judd hit the ground running last summer as the Bellingham Public Library's new director, taking the reins of our busy public library and leading many priority projects, some new and some already underway.

When she was appointed, Library Board of Trustees Chair Rick Osen said Rebecca is "an enthusiastic and distinctive leader, with excellent administrative and strategic planning skills and experiences. She is a great fit for the library, the city government, and for our community."

All those skills and experiences have been very important in her first six months, as she gets to know a new community and new staff and tackles key priorities. In addition to leading overall library administration and operations, Rebecca has completed the first phase of a remodeling plan for the main floor of the Central Library, overseen a major computer system upgrade, and launched a strategic planning process.

Rebecca joined us from Kitsap Regional Library, a multi-branch system serving 258,000 people on Washington's Kitsap Peninsula, where she most recently served as the manager of collections and technical services. She also served for 10 years as Kitsap Regional Library's Bainbridge Island branch manager, where she oversaw numerous signature projects, was extensively involved in the community, and was named Employee of the Year in 2017.

Prior to moving to Washington, Rebecca held various positions with libraries in Massachusetts, including as library director for the Pelham Library in Western Massachusetts. She has a master of library science degree from Indiana University and a bachelor of arts from Northwestern University.

"It is an honor and privilege to serve as the director of the Bellingham Public Library," Rebecca said. "This is a great library with wonderful, dedicated staff. I treasure the relationships we have in this community and the good work we do for people every day. Public libraries are at the center of strong, healthy communities. This is an exciting time for our library as we work with the city and our community to create a shared vision for the library's future."



2019 Book Sale Dates

January 23-26, 2019

May 22-25, 2019

September 25-28, 2019

All sales are from 10 am to 6 pm except Saturdays (the \$4 a bag day) which runs from 10 am to 1 pm.