

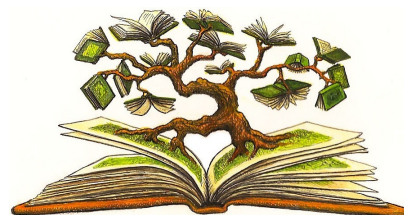
# Friends' News

**Friends of the Bellingham Public Library**  
**210 Central Ave, Bellingham, Washington 98225**

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**January 2020**

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## Co-President's Report



As Co-Presidents, it is a pleasure to work with such a hard-working, dedicated Board of Directors. In addition to the Co-Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and At-Large Member, we have four very active

committees who work hard all year to accomplish the mission and goals of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library. The committees are Books, Hospitality, Membership and Publicity. If you would like to serve on any of these committees, please let us know – we can always use more help.

Thanks to you, our generous supporters, we have plenty of excellent books for our sales. We also want to thank Village Books for their continuing donations of books in great condition for our sales. Several volunteers work in the backroom to sort, clean and ready books for the sales. It is a huge job, but these volunteers are relentless in their efforts to present the best books possible for our book sales. Because of their hard work, this year we were able to fund the Bellingham Public Library in the amount of \$55,000 for staff development, the Books for Babies program, youth and teen programming, adult programs, Whatcom Reads and funds for use with the remodeling of the library this year.

One of our goals for 2019/20 is to increase our membership which has been stagnant for several years. To do that, we are finding new and better ways to communicate with members and potential members. You may have noticed what we call “tabling” going on in the library, with volunteers centered around a well-decorated table, talking with library users, interpreting what the Friends do for them, with the hope that they will be willing to join. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find instructions for joining. You are needed!

Recently Library Director Rebecca Judd took the Friends Members on a tour of the library to interpret what is going to happen with the planned improvements on the main floor of the library this year. We look forward to these renovations with great excitement and anticipation. There will, of course, be some temporary inconveniences, but it will be well worth it. Our newly remodeled library will be a delight to all library users.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the Friends volunteers, board members and committees. We also want to thank the wonderful library staff for their patience, friendliness and expertise. Bellingham is fortunate to have such a grand library.

Chris Johnsen and Faye Hill, Co-Presidents

## 2020 Book Sale Dates

**January 22-25, 2020      May 20-23, 2020**  
**September 23-26, 2020**

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

## Director's Report: A Year in Review

By Rebecca Judd

Special thanks to the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library for many contributions during 2019. Friends funding allowed us to send staff to conferences and trainings, to help us learn and bring fresh new ideas to our library. And many of our most popular programs – like Summer Reading and Whatcom READS – would not be possible without your support.

We started 2019 by replacing our library computer system with a new one, and kept a steady pace through the year with:

- Designing a remodel of the Central Library's main floor. This project will take center stage this year, with construction expected to be completed in 2020. Visit [www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org](http://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org) for schedule updates and more.
- Saying farewell to overdue fines and clearing them from patron accounts. In doing so, we join a growing number of public libraries across the country making libraries more accessible to everyone.
- Hosting dozens of group Community Conversations and, based on that feedback, drafting our Strategic Plan for 2020-2024.
- Filling vacancies and training using additional resources in the 2019-2020 city budget.
- Making changes in our day-to-day work to use resources wisely and improve public service.

We're looking forward to a busy and productive year ahead. Please contact us if you have any questions. See you at the library!

## Tabling

This year we're excited to add a new volunteer opportunity called Tabling to our outreach work for the Friends. We're looking for volunteers who enjoy meeting new people to join us in promoting our book sales, raising the visibility of the Friends, and inviting people to become members.

You may have already noticed Tabling as a new opportunity on our Sign Up Genius call for volunteers or have seen us in the Skill Share area of the library either back in October or earlier this January.

We believe that Tabling is going to be a fun and very effective way of attracting new members. Based on our tabling results from October, we did not receive a single negative comment in our conversations with people, we had 14 new members sign up for the Friends as a result of the tabling, and of those who signed up, more than half indicated an interest in volunteering.



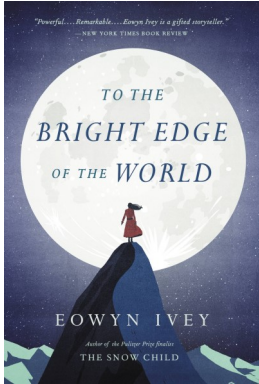
Whatcom READS 2020: Read the Book, Join the Conversation



Featuring Eowyn Ivey, WWU Graduate and Pulitzer Prize Finalist, March 5-7, 2020  
Eowyn Ivey’s book “To The Bright Edge of the World” is the Whatcom READS 2020 selection. A series of programs and special events January through March follow the book’s themes, culminating with Ivey’s visit to Bellingham and Whatcom County

March 5-7.

Set in the first decades after the United States purchased the Alaska Territory, this year’s Whatcom READS book features rich descriptions of the Alaskan wild, a compelling adventure story, and a fascinating glimpse at the burgeoning fields of naturalism and photography in the late 19th century. Told in epistolary form with a variety of narratives, To The Bright Edge of the World skillfully weaves history, naturalism, and even a touch of magical realism throughout its pages.



Whatcom READS is a county-wide program that encourages everyone to read and discuss the same book. It is organized by all the public and academic libraries in Whatcom County and Village Books, with generous funding from the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library and the Whatcom County Library Foundation. Visit [www.whatcomreads.org](http://www.whatcomreads.org) for a full schedule of events and other details.

Treasurer’s Report

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library had the following financial activity January 1 - December 31, 2019:

Income

Book Sales: (Jan., May and Sept. 2019)	\$ 42,217
Nearly New Books	\$ 9,371
Display Case Books	\$ 3,375
Miscellaneous Books	\$ 504
Online Book Sales	\$ 5,510
Bags and Bumper Stickers	\$ 1,355
Membership	\$ 4,370
Donations & Memorials	\$ 25,563
Dividends and Interest	\$ 788
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 93,053</b>

Major Expenses for the Library

Summer Reading Program	\$ 5,500
Books for Babies	\$ 5,000
Large Type Collections	\$ 10,000
Library Strategic Plan Support	\$ 11,440
Staff Professional Development	\$ 7,000
Whatcom Reads	\$ 7,500
Teen Reading Programs	\$ 1,750
Books for Book Club Kits	\$ 3,000
Parent Education Series	\$ 2,500
Adult Reading Program	\$ 500
<b>Total Purchases for the Library:</b>	<b>\$ 54,190</b>



A special “THANK YOU” goes out to the estate of Norman Grossman, who bequeathed \$20,000 to the Friends of the Bellingham Library.

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.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to all new and renewing members of FOBPL! Thank you for the supportive response to the membership email that we sent out in early January.

Our big news regarding membership is that this year we’re introducing Junior Membership to our list of membership categories. We want to make sure that everyone in Bellingham, no matter their age, feels a warm welcome to show their support for the library by becoming a Friend. A Junior Membership costs \$5 and is available to everyone aged 18 and younger.

Also this year, we are switching to a twelve month basis for membership. So, folks who join later in the year will now get a full twelve months for their membership dues. Please consider inviting your friends and family to become Friends of the Library as well.

There are several options for people to join the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library. One of the easiest is to fill out the application form in one of our membership brochures the next time they’re at the library and then pay at the Help Desk. Another is to print a Friends’ membership application from the Library website and send it to the address on the form with a check for payment made out to The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library. The web address for downloading the membership application is:

[www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-Membership-Revision.pdf](http://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-Membership-Revision.pdf)

Be sure to let your friends know that they shouldn’t feel obligated to volunteer if they join the Friends. The money from dues covers our operating expenses, which makes it possible for us to donate all proceeds from our book sales to the Bellingham Public Library. However, also let them know that if volunteering sounds like fun, they should check the categories that interest them when they fill out their membership application. We can always use more volunteers at our book sales. Taking a cashier’s or rover’s shift is not hard. Let them know that we’ll show them what to do. Taking a two-hour shift as a volunteer for our book sales is a fun way to support a very good cause.



The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library annual meeting is an opportunity for all members to share a social event and to honor our many wonderful volunteers. The annual

meeting this year is scheduled for April 25th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon in the Central Library Lecture Room. Please be sure and check the Friends link from the library website to confirm the location, since we will be in the middle of the main floor remodel during that time. Rebecca Judd, the library director, will discuss the library and we are currently looking for a speaker. We love the fun of door prizes, a few tasty munchies, and small gifts for attendees. Hope you will be able to attend.



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](http://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](http://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 2019 we received \$73.64, which is \$28.00 more than last year. with your help, we can increase that amount in 2020.