Friends' News

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library
210 Central Ave, Bellingham, Washington 98225 **January 2024**
Phone: 360-778-7250 **e-mail: friendslibrary3@gmail.com**

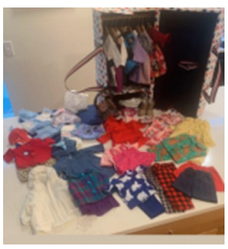
BOOK SALE!

January 2024 Winter Book Sale

This January 2024, our Book Sale is fewer days and longer hours. Time to try something new and different:

Thursday, January 25 – 10 am–7 pm – full price day
Friday, January 26 – 10 am–6 pm – full price day
Saturday, January 27 – 10 am–1 pm– ½ price day
Saturday, January 27 – 1 pm–4 pm – $5/ bag day

Location: The Lecture Room on the lower level of the Central Bellingham Public Library.



And… Checkout our **January Book Sale Raffle.** Do you have a little darling who would love to have a lightweight Doll Carrying Case? The case includes 20 handmade outfits and accessories that will fit any 18" doll. This raffle item also includes American Girl books and more. Raffle tickets are $1.00 each. Purchase as many as you want. All proceeds benefit the Bellingham Public Library.

More Book Sale news:

2024 Ski to Sea Book Sale

Wednesday, May 22 – 10 am–6 pm – full price day
Thursday, May 23 – 10 am–6 pm – full price day
Friday, May 24 – 10 am–6 pm – ½ price day
Saturday, May 25 – 10 am–1 pm - $5/ bag

Location: The Lecture Room on the lower level of the Central Bellingham Public Library.

2024 Fall Book Sale

Thursday, Sept, 25– 10 am–7 pm – full price day
Friday, Sept. 26 – 10 am–6 pm – full price day
Saturday, Sept. 27 – 10 am–6 pm – ½ price day
Saturday, Sept, 27, 1 pm–4 pm Bag Day

Location: The Lecture Room on the lower level of the Central Bellingham Public Library.

Check the Friends website bellinghampubliclibrary.org/friends-of-the library for up-to-date information.

President's Message

What a year 2023 has been for us! Last April I took over the reins of the role of president for the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library from Leigh Ann Giles and Jennie Tuckerman. They had led us through the time of the pandemic when not only were we not doing sales, but the library was closed for a period of time and then re-opened to only limited access. In their capable hands, we were finally able to resume the work of accepting donations of books, sorting through them and then offering them to the public in "pop-up" sales. This year they stepped up to do Oversight on our first Big Sale since the pandemic. With a team of folks taking on the tasks that are necessary for running a Big Sale, we once again held a Ski-to-Sea sale in May that was very successful! We followed that up with a pop-up sale in August in a partnership with Wander Brewing and then another Big Sale at the library in September, this time led by me and Chris Johnsen. We are so grateful to all of the volunteers who resumed working for the Friends and all the new volunteers who have signed up to work at our sales. We raised over $33,000 for library and literacy projects in our community! In addition to our on-going projects like Books for Babies, Summer Reading programs and Whatcom Reads, we were able to fund the purchase of multiple copies of the book, "The Rest of Us" by Sam Quinones. Those were shared to the public in a manner called "read and release" and were part of an effort that will be on-going to look at the problem of controlled substance addictions in our community. More recently, we have funded the purchase of "Happy Lights" that can be checked out from the library to those who are affected by the lack of light in these short winter days.

I am very grateful for a board that has put in many hours to make the work of the Friends happen, for the countless hours put in by backroom volunteers to sort books and keep the Nearly New and Display Case areas supplied, and for all of the volunteers' help to set up and serve at our sales. We also all really appreciate the book donations that we get from Village Books and from the community. We look at every book that comes in for condition and value. We determine whether we will send it to an online reseller if it has a higher value, keep it for our sales or offer it out free to the public if the condition of the book is not up to our standards.

We are looking forward to continuing with this work in 2024 and fulfilling our mission of supporting the Bellingham Public Library and literacy in our community!

More Book News

Nearly New: Don't forget we have our Nearly New area on the main floor of the Central Library. You can shop for high quality, barely used, nearly new books, children's books and puzzles whenever the library is open. Prices range from $2.00 to $5.00.

Display Case: If you are looking for something special or unusual, checkout our Display Case located on the lower level of the Central Library next to the Free Bookshelves. Here you will find classics, rare and collectable books as well as books about Bellingham and Whatcom County history. You might also find tarot cards, special edition boxed books and out of the ordinary items. The display case is locked but there are instructions on how to contact the Friends to set up an appointment to view display case items.

Our Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library will be held on Saturday, April 20th from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 in the Lecture Room of the Central Library and is open to all members. This is a great opportunity to meet with all of the Friends, take care of any business items, and enjoy a program which is currently being planned by a sub-committee of the Board. There will also be refreshments, so please plan to join us!

Board Members

These members of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library were elected in our Annual Meeting or in other board meetings this year when vacancies arose.

President: Scout Mitchell
Vice-President: Susie Poth
Interim Vice-President: Carol Comeau
Secretary: Chris Johnson
Treasurer: Kate Riordan
At-Large (Membership Coordinator): Brigid Wilson
At-Large (Publicity Coordinator): Jane Brooks
At-Large (Trustees Representative): Carol Comeau
At-Large: Barbara Shepherd
At-Large: Wendy Westgate

Board Meeting Schedule

The board of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library meets from 1:00-3:00 PM five times a year on the third Wednesday of the month. Our schedule for 2024 is:

January 17
March 20
May 15
September 18
November 20

Our meetings are held in the Lecture Room on the Ground Floor of the Library. Members are welcome to come to the meetings (you can find out more about how the work of the Friends gets done!) Only Board Members can vote.

Library Director's Report

by Rebecca Judd

In 2023, the Library had an extremely busy year and we are so grateful for the Friends' tremendous support. The year began with Whatcom READS featuring ***The Cold Millions*** by Jess Walter and a full slate of programming in January and February. The author visit March 2 – 3, included an in-person attendance of 691 at the Mount Baker Theatre on Mar. 3. In the meantime, Library staff were fully immersed in behind the scenes planning January through April for the new Bellis Fair Branch, which joyfully opened on April 26 with a public open house. Then in May (and September), we welcomed the return of the Friends big book sales at the Central Library.

Summer saw the return of a BPL-focused Summer Reading Program, with lots of Friends involvement in book giveaways at Parties in the Parks. We even kicked-off Summer Reading with Library Card Night at the Ballpark in partnership with the Bellingham Bells on June 8. Summer celebrations also included two Children's Craft Fairs, and participation in the Whatcom Youth Pride parade and the Bellingham Pride Parade.

Friends support helped the Library participate in important community dialogue about substance use in 2023. In response to the local opioid crisis, we circulated more than 100 copies of ***The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth*** by Sam Quinones to community members, assisted with a highly-attended author visit to Bellingham, and hosted BPL-led Community Conversations, and a BPL-led Citywide training event on the topic.

Lighter topics returned to the Library in fall and winter. Friends support allowed the Library to purchase large, wooden, interactive wall panels for the Children's learning spaces at both the Bellis Fair Branch and the Fairhaven Library Branch. On the Winter Solstice we began circulating 23 Light Therapy Lamps to our community, also made possible by the Friends. Thank you.

Last, but not least, the year finished out with the freight elevator working again – a huge relief to all!

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library had the following financial activity Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2023:

Income

Book Sales: in 2023	$ 41,900
Nearly New, Display Case & online	$ 23,600
Membership	$ 4,500
Donations & Memorials	$ 52,000
Dividends and Interest	$ 1.000
Total Income:	**$123,000**

Major Donations to the Library

Summer Reading Programs	$ 3,500
Books for Babies	$ 5,000
Books for Book Club Kits & Special Events	$ 3,000
Staff Professional Development	$ 7,000
Youth and Family Programming	$ 3,000
Happy Lights	$ 1.000
Whatcom Reads	$ 7,500
Memorial gift to Bellis Fair Library	$ 500
Interactive Panels/Children's Area/Fairhaven	$ 6,400
Library Giving Day donation	$ 3,000
Memorial gift honoring Joan Airoldi	$ 50
Total Donations:	**$ 41,050**

Administrative Expenses

Insurance	$ 3,300
Bank charges	$ 700
Book Sale and backroom supplies	$ 1,200
Book Sale advertising	$ 1,200
Book Sale refreshments	$ 80
Tax preparation fee	$ 300
New computers	$ 1,900
Meetings	$ 70
Total Expenses:	**$ 7,550**

Membership and Volunteer Report

We are excited to report that our membership grew this year to 244! We welcomed 47 new members and 197 people renewed their memberships. Many of our new members indicated that they were also interested in volunteering and we are looking forward to meeting many of them at our sale in January.

Our volunteer corps remains strong with people taking on roles in our organization that help us to put on our sales. This year we welcomed Jane Brooks as our Publicity Coordinator, Brigid Wilson as our Membership Coordinator, and Kate Riordan as our Treasurer.

You can join the Friends and not volunteer and we welcome the support that memberships give us, but our group is all-volunteer and we really appreciate all the work they do! You can renew your membership or join the Friends at this link: If you want to volunteer, you can indicate that when you join. When you volunteer for the Friends, you not only contribute to your community, you get to know a wonderful group that become your friends!

We have openings for two positions with the Friends. One is a regular, weekly opportunity and the other happens just once a year.

Village Books pickup: We pick up boxes of books from Village Books three times a week. Joe Donnelly has been doing the Wednesday pickup (thanks, Joe!) but can no longer do it. The position requires the ability to lift heavy boxes. Because it is a backroom position, it also requires that the volunteer completes an online training called "Darkness to Light" that is required by the city. It takes about one hour to pick up the books and deliver them to the library downtown.

Newsletter: We send out this newsletter in January every year and we're looking for a new editor. This position entails collecting reports from board members as well as library staff and formatting them in a newsletter which gets sent out by our membership coordinator. This takes about 10-20 hours once a year in December and January.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact us at libraryfriends3@gmail.com

In Memoriam:

This past year saw the passing of three of our volunteers:

Richard Zarnowitz served on the board as our treasurer for many years and boxed the books for Better World Books shipments.

Connie Faulkner was a long -time volunteer at our sales and a member of the Backroom Volunteers who sort the books.

Janai Symon picked up books from Village Books for us and had just signed on to be our secretary.

We will miss them and are grateful for all they did for the Friends.

Retirement:

Tris and Dot Shirley both retired from volunteering for the Friends. They were both committed backroom volunteers. Tris was also our computer wizard who wrote the program "Good Ol' Books" that we have used for years to look up the value of our books.

Myra Harmer was our membership coordinator, our Square sales guru, and took boxes of our "free" books every Saturday to the Farmer's Market where she gave them away and promoted joining the Friends.

Rita Rukashaza served on our board for many years and has been the editor of our Annual Newsletter for even more. This is her final newsletter and we so appreciate the work that she has put into all those newsletters!

We are very grateful for all the work these folks did to support the Friends.

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.

Whatcom READS announces community programs and conversations that explore 2024 book selection, *Red Paint* by Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe

Whatcom READS has announced the literary program's 2024 schedule of community and author events, celebrating *Red Paint: The Ancestral Autobiography of a Coast Salish Punk* by Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe. Winner of the Washington State Book Award for creative nonfiction, *Red Paint* traces LaPointe's personal story of trauma, healing and the search for home. The book presents a wide range of discussion and event opportunities leading up to the March 14-16, 2024, in-person author events.

Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe is from the Upper Skagit and Nooksack Indian Tribe. Native to the Pacific Northwest, she draws inspiration from her coastal heritage as well as her life in the city. She writes with a focus on trauma and resilience, ranging topics from PTSD, sexual violence, the work her great grandmother did for the Lushootseed language revitalization, to loud basement punk shows and what it means to grow up mixed heritage. With strange obsessions revolving around Twin Peaks, the Seattle music scene, and Coast Salish Salmon Ceremonies, Sasha explores her own truth of indigenous identity in the Coast Salish territory.

Visit whatcomreads.org to learn more about upcoming programs that enrich the reading experience. All events are free except for the Chuckanut Radio Hour. Some require registration to attend.

Borrow *Red Paint* as a book, eBook, or audiobook from the Bellingham Public Library or Whatcom County Library System. Or purchase a copy from Village Books, which donates 10 percent of each sale to Whatcom READS.

Community Events:

All programs are free except where noted. Pre-registration is required for some events. Find more information and register to attend at whatcomreads.org.

How to Write a Family Portrait

Thursday, Jan. 18, 6-7 p.m. Whatcom Community College (Classroom location will be emailed to registered participants.) Space is limited; registration is required via whatcomreads.org . Essayist and novelist Kristen Millares Young will use guided prompts and discussion to help you plan, write and revise your family stories. Sponsored by Humanities Washington.

LifeSong Project Workshop

Saturday, Jan. 27, 1-4 p.m., Lynden Library. Space is limited; registration is required via whatcomreads.org In this three-hour workshop, Havilah Rand will help you translate your life story to song through lyricism and music. Rand is an award-winning singer-songwriter and educator.

Family's Legacy! Art Class: Antiqued Mixed-Media Painting with Ms. Rachel Simpson

Friday, Feb. 9, 1-4 p.m., Allied Arts Thrift Store

Create a work of art that you can enter in the Whatcom READS Art Challenge. In this exciting art class, art teacher Ms. Rachel Simpson will share a wide variety of art techniques, materials and textures. You'll make a painting of your own that reflects your family's legacy. See online event listing for more information. Space is limited; registration is required.

What Is a Chief? How Native Values Can Teach Resilience

Saturday, Feb. 17, 2-3 p.m., Everson Library. John Halliday shares his personal story and presents Washington state history from a Native American perspective. Halliday is an artist of Muckleshoot, Duwamish, Yakama and Warm Springs Indian descent. Sponsored by Humanities Washington.

Whatcom WRITES

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2-3 p.m., Village Books in Fairhaven
Sunday, Feb. 25, 2-3 p.m., Village Books in Lynden

Listen (and applaud) as local writers read from their work selected for the 2024 Whatcom WRITES anthology.

Cedar Weaving

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2-4 p.m., Sumas Library
Saturday, March 2, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Lynden Library

Weave a cedar headband in this class with Lummi artists Lee Plaster and Toshi Simmonds. Space is limited; registration is required. Two sessions are available. Register online or call the participating library branch.

Homelessness and the Meaning of Home

Saturday, Feb. 24, noon-1 p.m., Ferndale Library
Saturday, March 9, 1-2 p.m., Blaine Library

Often thought of as only an urban problem, homelessness also occurs in suburban and rural areas throughout Washington state. Author and University of Washington Professor Josephine Ensign will share her research on the history of homelessness and discuss what these stories can teach us about the contemporary crisis of homelessness. Sponsored by Humanities Washington.

Allied Arts Art Challenge

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED: Feb. 27
EXHIBITION: March 1-31

Explore your own personal legacy in original artwork for display at the Allied Arts Gallery in Bellingham. See submission guidelines at whatcomreads.org/art-challenge.

Janet Yoder presents Where the Language Lives: Vi Hilbert and the Gift of Lushootseed

Saturday, March 2, 6-7 p.m., Nooksack Community Building Mí sq' eq' ó

Where the Language Lives draws from interviews conducted over author Janet Yoder's 30-year friendship with Skagit tribal elder Vi Hilbert, who helped breathe life into her language and culture. Hilbert is Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe's great-grandmother.

A Conversation on Language with George Adams and Joshua Olsen

Saturday, March 9, 3-4 p.m., Everson Library

Join us for a discussion between Nooksack tribal elder George Adams and his apprentice Joshua Olsen as they talk about their individual journeys to becoming preservers of the Nooksack Language, Lhéchalosem.

Book Discussion with Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe

Thursday, March 14, 11 a.m.-Noon, Deming Library

Space is limited; registration is required via whatcomreads.org. Attend this lively book discussion with author Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe.

Village Books' Chuckanut Radio Hour

Thursday, March 14, 7-8:30 p.m., Crystal Ballroom, Hotel Leo, Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Ticket required. Tickets will be available via villagebooks.com in January 2024. Join us for an evening of live music, poetry, comedy and an interview with Whatcom READS featured author, Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe. Tickets to this event are $5. Your ticket can be used as a $5 voucher on any purchase that evening.

Art and Craft of Writing

Friday, March 15, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Log Building on the campus of Northwest Indian College, 2522 Kwina Road

Space is limited; registration is required via whatcomreads.org. Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe shares her writing practice and tips to inspire your own writing.

An Evening with Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe

Friday, March 15, 7-8:30 p.m. Mount Baker Theatre, 104 N. Commercial St., Bellingham. This event is free; however, tickets are required via mountbakertheatre.org . Join us at the beautiful Mount Baker Theatre for our premiere event. Following her lecture, Sasha LaPointe will answer audience questions and sign books. We'll also announce our 2024 Whatcom READS selection.

Kristen Millares Young in Conversation with Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe

Saturday, March 16, 11 a.m.-Noon, Online

Registration is required via whatcomreads.org This year's author events close with a virtual conversation between Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe and fellow author, Kristen Millares Young, who is the 2023 Distinguished Visiting Writer for Seattle University and the University of Washington Bothell MFA.

Nearly New Books

For many years, the Friends' in-library sale area has been a great source of nearly new books for the community and income for the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library. The space, generously set aside by the library, welcomes patrons to the main floor with its shelves of items available for purchase.

We offer a great selection of both fiction and nonfiction books in both paperback and hardback editions. We have a variety of children's books as well as some vintage books. After the pandemic forced us inside, many of us turned to jigsaw puzzles for entertainment---and since the library resumed normal hours, we have also made puzzles available for sale. Holiday books were part of our display in November and December.

Most items are priced from $3-$5 and purchases can be made in cash at the upstairs Help Desk or by credit card downstairs in the children's room. Last year, the Friends netted a total of $14,069 from sales in this area!

All these items come to us through donations, so we never know what will turn up! We certainly welcome your donations of books in great condition as well as jigsaw puzzles that have all their pieces.

And be sure to stop by often to see the ever-changing selection for yourself or for gifts!

Board of Trustees 2023 Report

After completing a Library Facilities Master Plan, in conjunction with consultants Godfrey's, Inc., in 2022, the library has proceeded to tackle two of the near-term projects outlined in the report's recommendations. The first was the opening of the Bellis Fair Branch Library during National Library Week in April, 2023. There had been citizen advocacy for northside library services for many years, and through leasing existing space at the mall this came about quickly once the city produced funding. It was the first additional space added to the library system in 15 years—the Barkley Branch opened in 2008.

The second near-term project is the completion of the interior renovation of the Central Library affecting the ground level floor and the mezzanine. After a long process of scoping the project and subsequent contract negotiations, The Miller Hull Partnership was given the notice to proceed with design in November, 2023. Since a majority of the funds for this project came from the federal government's Covid distribution to local governments, the project will need to be designed and bid with a contractor hired by the end of 2024. This is a rather rushed time frame for a project of this size and complexity. Construction would not begin until 2025.

A major decision by the Board this year was to extend the Library's current Strategic Plan. This decision was based on several factors, including the disruption from the renovation project outlined above and the fact that over the next year there will be significant turnover on the Board of Trustees.

One of the new trustees was announced in October, Kendra Bradford. She takes the place of Melissa Morin who resigned when she accepted a position with the City's Communications team.

The Board entertained several presentations/visits at its meetings this year. These included a meet-and-greet with Police Chief Rebecca Mertzig; a presentation on City Revenue & Budget Outlook by Finance Director Andy Asbjornsen; a presentation on Protecting the Rights to Read by Washington State Librarian Sara Jones; and a detailed look at the Library's collections and collection development from Deputy Director Bethany Hoglund with assistance from Head of Digital Services Jon McConnel.

As always, the Board of Trustees expresses its ongoing gratitude to the Friends for their dedication and commitment to supporting so many important and popular programs for both library users and the community at large.

Rick Osen, Chair, BPL Board of Trustees