

Friends' News

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library

April 2006

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ANNUAL MEETING – APRIL 8 – 2 p.m.

LOCAL MYSTERY WRITER FEATURED SPEAKER

Local mystery writer and librarian Jo Dereske will speak at the Friends' Annual Meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 8 in the Bellingham Public Library's lecture room. Jo is the author of the popular *Miss Zukas* mystery series featuring a "Bellehaven", WA librarian, as well as the *Ruby Crane* mystery series and three books for young people. *Miss Zukas's* ninth adventure, *Bookmarked to Die*, will be published in early June and all earlier books in the series will be reissued in 2006 and 2007.

Members will be asked to vote on changes to the Friends' by-laws. A copy of the proposed by-laws and an explanation of the changes is attached to this newsletter.

Door prizes will include gift certificates from four local book stores, book bags, and several of Jo Dereske's books.

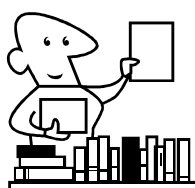
Light refreshments will be served after the program, and as always, donations of cookies or other pastries will be appreciated.

Many **THANKS** to the bookstores contributing \$25.00 gift certificates to be used as door prizes at our annual meeting: **Eclipse Bookstore, Henderson Books, Latte Books, Michael's Books and Village Books.** We very much appreciate their support.



RECENT PURCHASES

Public Computers.....	\$11,181
Express Check-out Software.....	14,609
Begin with Books Program.....	1,000
Book Carts.....	4,677
We Share a Story Program.....	467
CDs-Foreign Language & Large-Print Books..	5,200
Total.....	\$37,134



SKI to SEA BOOK SALE

MAY 23 - 27

PREVIEW SALE
Tues 5/23, 4 to 7 p.m.

There is no admission fee to the Preview Sale which offers books at double the marked price.

Regular Sale
Wed 5/24 and Thurs 5/25 from
10 am to 8 pm
Fri 5/26 10 am – 6 pm
(half-price sale)
Sat 5/27 10 am – 3 pm
(\$3 bag sale)

If you are interested in helping at the sale, please call Alma White at 733-2023 or Phyllis Weber at 671-5241.

The kids' section, along with videos, CDs and DVDs, will again be located in the lower lobby. Cecilia Morales and Bea Doran are in charge of this area of the sale.



SPRING BOOK SALE UP-DATE

Our first sale of the year was very successful, bringing in a total of \$5,871. We tried something new this time with the books selling at half-price for 1-1/2 hours on Sunday, then \$3 a bag for the remainder of the day. This helped clear out more books and will probably be incorporated in the smaller book sales. Note the name change from *Mini* to *Spring* and *Fall* as these sales have grown beyond *Mini*!

Dear Friends,

I would like to give all of our volunteers a very grateful THANK YOU for all of your time and hard work this past year. In 2005 The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library exceeded our fund raising projection for the library.



We provided the library with over \$57,000, raised primarily through the sale of donated books. It takes hard work and many volunteer hours to make all of this happen. Books must be picked up, culled, and priced throughout the year. Our quarterly book sale events require a major effort to set up, staff and manage. Each of these sales was a great success in '05.

Our ongoing support of the library throughout the years serves to enhance the children and teen reading programs as well as many other library needs. Volunteers are essential for the success and expansion of our library programs and service needs! The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library focus public attention on library services and assist the library to better serve the citizens of this great community. I am very proud to be a part of such a dedicated, generous and hard working association.

Please join us at the annual members meeting on April 8, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. in the large meeting room. This is an opportunity to review our past activities and show appreciation for our volunteers and other members. --

Christine Walsh, President, Friends of the Bellingham Public Library

2005 BOOK SALE PROCEEDS

March Mini Sale.....	\$5,318
Ski-to-Sea Sale.....	17,245
Kids' Sale – August.....	394
Sept Mini Sale.....	5,278
Nearly-New (Main Branch).....	14,596
Nearly-New (Fairhaven).....	1,007
Collector Books	4,833
Holiday Book Sale.....	10,307
Total	\$58,978

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Friends have donated some of the nicer childrens' books to **Roosevelt Elementary School** for a program called **Birthday Books**. Students are encouraged to donate favorite books on their birthday. These books, which will include their name on a special plaque, will become a part of the school library. Students who are financially unable to provide a book may choose one from the books donated by the Friends for inclusion in their school library collection.

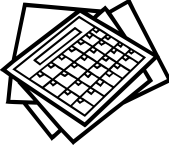


At **Sunnyland Elementary School** students may receive books donated by Friends as an incentive for good behavior and for doing worthwhile projects serving their school and/or community.

April 24-30 is TV- Turnoff Week. **Sunnyland School** will be actively promoting activities to do other than viewing TV. As an incentive, the Friends will give each student - who does not watch TV that week - a coupon for one free book at May's Ski-to-Sea Book Sale. The schools mentioned very much appreciate the support of the Friends.

HISTORY OF FOBPL PURCHASES FOR THE LIBRARY

1987-1999	\$146,542
2000	29,733
2001	24,296
2002	53,688
2003	24,710
2004	31,198
2005	57,117
Total	\$367,284



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2006

Annual Meeting..... April 8
Ski-to-Sea Book Sale..... May 23-27
Fall Book Sale.....Sept 15-17
Fischer Award Program.....Nov 18
Holiday Book Sale.....Dec 6-9

News from the Friends of the Fairhaven Library

With the assistance of the Whatcom Museum, the Friends of the Fairhaven Library recently placed five large historic photographs of the library in the Fireplace Room of the Fairhaven Library. They include four photographs of the 101 year old library taken in various years and a photograph of C. X. Larrabee, the local philanthropist who gave the land for the library. We have added a written history of our treasured Fairhaven Library to the group of photographs. We are grateful to Chuckanut Bay Gallery and Sculpture Garden for generously providing the framing.

Many thanks to Millwork Supply for donating a beautiful new bench for the front porch of the library. This will be a welcome addition for our patrons.

The Friends of the Fairhaven Library have several projects in the planning stage which will enhance our wonderful library. We welcome all who are interested to attend our monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month at 4:00pm in the Fireplace Room of the library. We do not meet in July, August or December.

News From Our Library Director Pam Kiesner

Spring Cleaning

It appears that spring is just around the corner. Your lists are probably as long as mine, for all those things you hope to get done once it gets a little warmer, a little less wet, and the days become even longer. At home, at work, in the organizations we belong to - it doesn't matter - those lists are never-ending. Our list at the library seems very long, but it is all good, with the goal of improving library services for this amazing community. I want to tell you about a few things on our list!

Positive feedback

In your last newsletter, I told you about where we were in our facilities planning process. I also wrote about many improvements the Friends helped to fund, including the Express Checkout.

Our experience, so far, with the Express Checkout has been positive. Customers appear to like using it, and once-in-awhile we even see customers waiting to use them (although the lines have nearly disappeared completely!) rather than our assisted checkout area. All the anticipation and hard work seems to have resulted in an innovative change that has helped both the staff and the customers. Many thanks to the Friends for helping make this possible.

New Fairhaven desk

Fairhaven Branch will also be undergoing some improvements. The checkout desk, built over 20 years ago, will be removed in favor of a more ergonomic alternative - and the Express Checkout will be incorporated into that change. Once we have a final budget for the desk, we will approach the Fairhaven Friends Committee for help with this part of the project (which the Friends have already helped to fund). Because of the large volume of materials crossing the circulation desks, we need to make the ergonomic changes to avoid further repetitive stress injuries that some of our staff have experienced.

Your right to information

As I write this, we are celebrating "Sunshine Week," efforts to make sure that the public realizes their right to government information that is public. I'd like to suggest a way that you can find out more about the library. If you have access to a computer at home, or here in the library, please visit our website at www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org. There is so much information available to you via our website, not the least of which is a link to the Library Board agendas and minutes. You will also find the Director's Reports that I write each month. By reading these and other sources, you will be "in the know" about what is happening in and around the library.

Thank you - and look for more this spring!

Each day I am impressed with the support and hard work of our Friends. I see you everywhere around the library and in the community! As we get closer to determining the future of the Bellingham Public Library, we will continue to seek your support and tireless efforts on behalf of the library. This spring we will be presenting more information to the public about plans, hopes and dreams for the library. When you see an announcement of an event about the library, I hope you will attend and voice your questions, comments, and encouragement. You are at the top of our list of priorities - in the spring - and year round!

It is good to have Friends - thank you! – Pam Kiesner, Library Director

ARTICLE I - MEETINGS

Section 1. The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library shall meet annually in April, on a date to be determined by the Executive Board, for the election of officers and the transaction of other business.

Section 2. Special meetings of this association may be called at any time by the Executive Board.

Section 3. Any number of association members present at a scheduled meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE II - OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers shall be elected every other year by the general membership at the Annual Meeting. A majority of those present and voting in each instance shall be necessary for election. The manner in which votes are taken is at the discretion of the President and may be by voice, show of hand or written ballot. The terms of officers so elected shall begin on the first day of June following the Annual Meeting and shall continue for two years.

Section 2. The officers shall have all the usual powers and duties exercised by the officers of a voluntary association.

Section 3. In the event of a vacancy of the office of President, the Vice-President shall become President. Any other vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term through appointment by the Executive Board.

Section 4. The officers of this association shall be nominated by a committee to be appointed by the President. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting, providing that the prior consent of the nominee has been obtained.

ARTICLE III - DUES

Section 1. Annual dues will be established by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV - CONTRIBUTIONS

Section 1. The officers of the association are authorized to accept contributions either for a specific purpose or for the general purposes of the association.

ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of this association by a majority vote of the members present and voting, provided that notice of such proposed amendment shall have been published at least two weeks before the said meeting.

ADOPTED this 8th day of April, 2006.

President

Amendments recorded in the minutes of 8/27/1985, 12/5/1989, 4/2/1991, and 4/8/2006.

The Executive Board recommends the membership approve the following changes to the By-Laws. A complete copy of the By-Laws as amended is printed above for your information.

ARTICLE I - MEETINGS.

Section 3 is amended to read "**Any number of association members present at a scheduled meeting shall constitute a quorum.**" and replaces "*Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of this association*". We often do not have twenty-five members present at a scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE III - DUES.

Section I is amended to read "**Annual dues are established by the Executive Board.**" This replaces "*The annual dues shall be \$2.00 per member and shall become due June 1 of each calendar year.*" This change will allow the Board flexibility in adjusting dues as necessary to reflect increased costs or other conditions as called for. The Board has voted to establish a new annual membership rate of \$5.00 per regular member and \$3.00 for seniors (self identified) with a due date of January 1 each calendar year. The last dues change was made in the 1980s. January 1 will reflect a more common starting date. Current memberships will be extended until next January (2007).