

Friends' News

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library

April 2010

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BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars now for a special afternoon with the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library! We will be holding our annual membership meeting on April 24th at 2:00 p.m. in the library's lecture room.

We will have a short business meeting, hear the latest library news, and hear from our speaker, Jim Henterly (see related story). We'll have yummy refreshments, our usual door prizes, and a chance to chat with other Friends.



We hope you'll join us!

Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

We are excited to have as our guest speaker this year, local illustrator Jim Henterly (published under the name Jamichael Henterly). He will be speaking on the topic of "What's the Story with Book Illustration?"



Jim is the illustrator of over a dozen books for major publishers, textbooks, and scores of greeting cards. Some of his popular titles are *A Fairy went a-Marketing*, *Heart of a Tiger*, *Good King Wenceslas*, *Forest Bright*, *Forest Night*, and *Good Night Garden Gnome*. He has won several illustration awards, including WA Library Media Association's Children's Choice Picture Book Award.

Jim is an adjunct instructor at WWU teaching drawing and illustration. He has been an arts educator at events and in schools and libraries throughout the Northwest for over twenty years, as well as teaching through the Allied Arts Education Project.

Jim lives near Deming, where he is a volunteer firefighter/EMT. In the summers, he works as a Forest Service lookout in eastern Washington.

Come hear about the art of illustration from a local expert! Jim will bring copies of some of his books to purchase and will be available to autograph them as well.

From the Friends of Fairhaven Library

Our beautifully restored Fairhaven Library overflowed with appreciative patrons, neighbors and friends at the grand re-opening on January 9th. If you haven't had a chance to see the improvements, stop by the library for a visit soon! While there, plan to purchase some nearly new books at great prices, with proceeds going to the Friends of the Fairhaven Library to be used for the library. Faye Hill

Ski to Sea Book Sale

May 26 - 29, 2010

Wednesday, May 26: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (New Hours)

Preview Sale: Double the marked price.

Thursday, May 27: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Regular price.

Friday, May 28: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Half price sale.

Saturday, May 29: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - \$3.00 a bag.

The following book sale will be the Labor Day Sale, September 1-4, 2010.

Library Update

Budget cuts continue to have an impact on library services in 2010. All told, the library books and materials budget was reduced by 29% versus 2008. Hours have been reduced at all three facilities (Central, Barkley and Fairhaven) for a combined loss of 28 hours per week. Outreach Services to 16 Senior Apartments have been eliminated. Several programs, such as the Barkley Author Spotlight, Thursday Night Spotlight, and Saturday Storytimes at the Barkley Branch have been discontinued. With nine fewer staff positions, we're stretched thin just staying open. Each small change is being made so we can maximize the staff hours we have left to provide core library services despite a greatly reduced budget.

Not all the news is grim - we have already had several bright moments this year. The repaired Fairhaven Branch Library reopened on January 5 and we celebrated with a Grand Re-Opening Party on January 9. The Fairhaven Friends Committee did an excellent job hosting the event, with refreshments and musical entertainment from the Sehome High School String Quartet. We gave tours of the branch, pointing out areas where water infiltration had made a mess of window sills, beams, and masonry. We're confident the repairs will keep the building water-tight for many years to come.

On January 28, staff and volunteers attended a Friends of the Library Appreciation Tea and felt very loved—and very full, after we snacked on delicious goodies. Thank you, Friends, for your generosity and support!



On February 8, we welcomed acclaimed author Tobias Wolff to Bellingham as the highlight of this year's **Big Read: Whatcom READS!** program. The Friends of the Library contributed funds to purchase several book club kits which were shared with Bellingham high schools so their students could read the featured title "Old School." Over 400 people came to see Wolff speak at Whatcom Community College, with another 100+ students attending a presentation at Western Washington University that afternoon. Next year we will not have the backing of a federal grant, so we will be looking to the Friends to help us continue this successful program, which encourages everyone in Whatcom County to read and discuss the same book.



The financial support of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library continues to be invaluable; your latest efforts will go towards the purchase of new pull-out shelving for music CDs. Our pages (who can spend up to 4 hours a day re-shelving all the music CDs that have been returned) are particularly grateful, as are all the music fans who will now be able to browse returned items more quickly.

Thank you, thank you!

Christine Perkins, Assistant Director

Wanted: Book Sale Volunteers

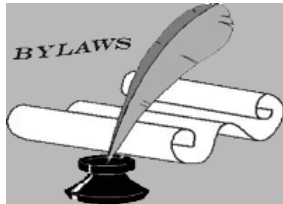
Book Sale volunteers have more fun. Meet fellow readers and library supporters. Be part of one of Bellingham's most popular fund raising events. If you are not already on our volunteer call list and would like to help, write us at bellinghamfriends@yahoo.com or call 778-7250. You may have to leave a message, but someone will call you back at the first opportunity. We'd love your help.



Bylaws Updating

The board of directors of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library has spent time this year bringing some of our documents up to date.

You will find a copy of our adapted bylaws attached to this newsletter. At the annual meeting, members will have an opportunity to vote to adopt these new bylaws for use by the organization.



Most of the changes are minor, such as including information about our board members and officer duties, leaving our dues rate open-ended, and cleaning up out-dated language.

One significant change is a re-worked mission statement. We felt that the previous one was unclear and didn't really cover our activities and goals. We are excited about our new, active mission statement and think it will help guide us in making decisions about the work of the Friends.

We hope you will read the document carefully and ask that you bring it with you to our annual meeting on April 24th.

Book Sale Update

As ever, community support of Friends of the Library book sales remains strong. People return to our sales not only because they get great value for a modest price but because the library is important to them. It is not uncommon for a customer to tell us to 'keep the change' because it is 'for a good cause.' Since our last newsletter, we have held three sales: our usual quarterly sales at the beginning of December and end of February and a special one day media sale in January. The sales figures are impressive: December, \$9700; January Media, \$1470; February, \$8300. Those figures represent an



incredible number of individual purchases. While we have some loyal customers whose purchases require checks of more than two figures, most of our sales are for very small amounts. At the end of the day there are many one and five dollar bills sent to the bank.

Last newsletter we introduced our new standard pricing system. Long time Friends volunteers have told me standard pricing was how it was done in the early years of our book sales. So, now the old is new again. The current change has generally been well received by our customers and definitely made work more efficient for volunteers before and during the sale. However, changing pricing methods has had bumpy moments. The rule for our adult and teen books—all small paper backs, fifty cents; all other books, one dollar or as marked with an orange dot on the book cover—has not been clearly communicated to all of our patrons. We are working on more effective signage for the Ski to Sea sale which we hope will make all prices clear to everyone.

Thank you to every one who helped with this great fund raising project—customers, volunteers, and the always helpful library staff who endure our comings and goings through their work areas with warm, friendly smiles.

Thanks to These Book Stores

Can't find a specific book at our sale? Try looking for it at one of the following book stores. They support us with donated gift certificates for our annual meeting; let's support them as well!!

Village Books	Eclipse Book Store
1200 11th Street	1104 11th Street
Michael's Books	Hendersons Books
109 Grand Ave.	116 Grand Ave.
Cozy Corner Books and Coffee	
2500 Cedarwood Ave.	



Have Your Renewed Your Membership?

Our membership runs for the calendar year. If you haven't renewed your membership, an envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. Thanks so much for supporting the library through your membership!

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library Board of Directors

Who are the people helping to guide the work of the Friends? We are a group of committed folks who meet most months to provide oversight for the organization, plan for our events, and monitor our finances.

Officers were elected to two-year terms last year. Continuing on this year will be:

President—Kathie Wilson
Vice-President—Ruby Larive
Treasurer—Brigid Wilson



Our elected secretary from last year, Margaret Holland, was unable to continue in that position, so Vicky Marshall has stepped in and was appointed to finish Margaret's term.

In addition, chair people of some of our committees are also appointed to the board and serve two-year terms. For the coming term, those voting members are:

Membership—Marcia Leishman
Books—Doraine Jenson and Mike Price (co-chairs)
Events—Christine Walsh
Donations—Garland Richmond
Fairhaven Friends—Faye Hill or Marilyn Olsen

Christine Perkins serves as library liaison and attends our meetings to provide updates and information.

We are very grateful to these people who give of their time and energy to ensure continued growth and stewardship of the Friends' organization!

Community Food Co-op Shopping Day—Saturday, August 21st

The Friends received exciting news this year! After submitting a grant proposal to the Community Food Co-op, it was announced that we would receive a Community Shopping Day Donation.

This is how it will work:

On our appointed day, Saturday, August 21st, we will receive 1% of that day's total sales. In addition, all during the month of August, shoppers can donate to our organi-



zation at the registers. Large bulletin boards will be displayed during the entire month and we will be recognized for our work with an article in their monthly newsletter. Volunteers will table at both locations on that day to answer questions and encourage shoppers to become members.

The grant was submitted to specifically fund more materials for the library collection in the area of sustainable living. Books and videos on topics such as urban homesteading, organic gardening, frugal living, green building, and alternative transportation will be purchased for use by our patrons. Heartfelt thanks to Beth Farley for her help with the funding ideas and to Helen Scholtz for bringing the idea to us in the first place!

You can help with this project in a number of ways.

- The more people who shop on that day, the larger our donation will be! Plan to stock your cupboards and tell your friends, neighbors and relatives to do the same.
- We will need help with designing the bulletin boards. If you have a knack for this kind of project, we could use your support!
- We will need folks to table at each of the co-op's locations.

Let us know if you would like to be part of this great opportunity to do outreach for the Friends and to support our library and community.

Purchases Sept 2009 - Feb 2010

The Friends of Bellingham Public Library made the following purchases between September 2009 and February 2010:

CD/DVD Security System	1,500
Conference Room Projector	1,412
Children's Library Celebrations	52
Maude H. Fischer Awards	229
Teen Library Committee	406
WhatComics publication	500
2010 Trivia Bee	375
New CD bins/shelves	18,095
NextReads subscription	2,305
Shopping Carts	170
Barcode Duplicators	7,000
Total:	\$32,044