

# Friends' News

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library November 2011  
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## Donations

Uniformity and sameness are not watch words of our community. The people who live here come from diverse backgrounds and cultures. We are not shy about expressing our individuality in our dress, homes, and the causes we support. The books we receive reflect that diversity. Sorting donations is my favorite job because every day brings a discovery of something wonderful, or at least very, very unusual. Obviously, these donations are essential to our fund raising activities on behalf of the Library. No books. No book sales. Your book donations sometimes help the Library more directly. Books published within the last three years as well as DVDs and CDs in excellent condition are automatically set aside for librarians to consider as additions to the catalog. Also, just before our quarterly sales, usually the day before, librarians are invited to search the sale room for books to replace worn copies, extra copies of popular titles or special books to add to the library collection. We cannot track the cumulative value of the books that go directly from your home to the library collection, but it is considerable and a tremendous help in stretching a tight budget. Thank you for your books. They make a real difference.

— Doraine Jensen



## Volunteer Opportunities

There are a number of ways that you can help the Bellingham Public Library, including some new options.

- ◆ The Friends are always looking for more folks to help with our book sales. Most sales require about 100 volunteers to staff all the shifts. If you love books, you'll love our book sales!
- ◆ The Friends have some specific needs—help putting together our newsletter, work on a website and social media, creation of literature, such as brochures and flyers and more.
- ◆ Join the Programming committee to create and support programs for all ages.

For more information on working with the Friends, call 778-7250.

The library has recently added new volunteer positions. You might like to:

- ◆ Be a Program Host, helping to offer the public more community events.
- ◆ Be a Library Shelf Helper.

For more information on these positions, check out one of these orientation presentations in the Central Library Lecture Room:

Monday, November 7 from 6 - 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, November 15 from 2 - 3 p.m.



## From the President

Did you know that there is a National Friends of Libraries Week? This year it was held during the week of October 16-22. We were touched by the gratitude and attention that our local organization received to mark this event. The library staff put together a Wall of Thanks, with photos of some of our purchases for the library, as well as some volunteers in action. There was a Mayoral Proclamation acknowledging our contributions and urging everyone to join the Friends and thank them. In addition, the Board of Trustees presented a resolution commending the Friends as well as a beautiful bouquet of flowers at their October meeting. We all felt much appreciated!



“Change is inevitable, change is constant,” spoke Disraeli. That is certainly true with this organization, as we are consistently revamping, revising, and refining our work. One big upcoming change is that the December sale will make the end of term for Doraine Jensen as our Books Chairperson.

Doraine has led the charge on making many changes and improvements in this area. Her discerning eye, good thinking, and organizational skills have made a huge impact on how we process books, as well as the success of our book sales. Most importantly, she has helped create an atmosphere of camaraderie, where folks feel valued and have fun.

Luckily, Doraine isn't going far. She will continue to be a liaison to our on-line marketers, work with our publicist Catherine Reade, and work to prepare books for our sales. Kudos to the brave souls who are stepping in to form a committee to tackle this role: Karen Hannah, Vicki Nulle, Holly McLeod, and Kathie Wilson. Those are some mighty big shoes to fill!

Kathie Wilson, President

## Hospitality Help Requested!



If you would like to help occasionally with providing food and/or general hospitality services at the book sales or for the library staff, please call Vicky Marshall at 671-6861.

## Book Sales

It is always a pleasure to tell you about our book sales. The only down side is finding new ways of honoring the volunteers who work so hard to make the sales happen as well as the library staff who offer daily help and encouragement, and thanking the people who attend and support our library through their enthusiastic spending. Since last March, the Friends have hosted five sales: three quarterly sales, a children's sale, and a one day clearance sale. All of the sales were well attended and, cumulatively, raised \$31,918.

In addition, we have two venues of ongoing sales, Nearly New Books and the downstairs display case. From March through September revenue from Nearly New books was \$6,508 and from the display case, \$1,253.

It is satisfying to know that our hard work pays off and that, in spite of a difficult economic climate, the Friends are able to continue giving financial support to needed Library programs and projects.



## Book Sale: Dec. 7 – 10, 2011

Wednesday, December 7: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Regular price  
Thursday, December 8: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Regular price.  
Friday, December 9: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Half price sale.  
Saturday, December 10: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - \$4.00 a bag.

## Children's Sale

February 17-18, 2012

## Spring Book Sale

February 28 - March 2, 2012

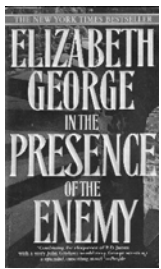
## Library Update

Right before last year's Friends of the Library Annual Meeting, Bellingham Public Library participated in the first-ever Library Snapshot Day. We took hundreds of pictures, both behind-the-scenes and in public areas, of everything that happens at your library on a typical day. It's amazing, and now we have the pictures to prove it: lines of people waiting at the front doors to get in, crowds of toddlers in strollers eager for story time to begin, day-brightening visits to homebound seniors in assisted living facilities, every Internet computer in use. The day was a great reminder of all the different ways the library impacts the lives of people in our community.

Budget cuts continue to be a challenge. This past Spring, staff made the difficult decision to postpone long-overdue recarpeting and repainting projects indefinitely until finances are more favorable. Since then, library staff have been adjusting to the "new normal," finding ways to work more efficiently to provide top notch service with fewer people and resources. We couldn't do it without the help of the Friends of the Library!

This year we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the labor union representing many of our library employees to allow limited use of library volunteers (in addition to the volunteer efforts of the Friends). We plan to hold presentations in November to launch our new volunteer program.

Thank you to everyone who voted in the Local Pepsi Refresh Project sponsored by Walton Beverage; we received \$2,000 to begin transforming the Dodson Room (where we hold story times) into a drop-in Early Literacy and Learning Center.



Other good news: a \$7,500 grant from Humanities Washington to supplement Friends' funding for Whatcom READS! 2012, which will bring author Elizabeth George to Bellingham. Have you read *In the Presence of the Enemy* yet?

Finally, if you haven't heard: library eBooks will now work on the Kindle! eBooks are really taking off, and library staff are putting together a series of monthly workshops to get you up to speed on downloading materials to eReaders.

We wish you a cozy Winter filled with books – eBooks or otherwise, as a welcome break from all your hard work for the Friends of the Library. Thank you!

--Christine Perkins, Assistant Director, FOBPL Liaison

## New Donation Site

You may now bring your book donations for the Friends to the Community Food Co-op's Cordata location. We have a box ready to receive your unwanted books, located next to the Library drop-off box and save yourself a trip downtown.

Thanks so much to John Blethen, of New Whatcom Interiors, for the donation of the beautiful box for your books!



## Summer Reading News

This year's Summer Reading Programs were bigger than ever, thanks to the Friends. The kick-off party featuring Harry and the Potters, a concert held at the Mount Baker Theater, and sponsored by the Friends, getting things off to a rollicking start! Over 1,100 children finished their goal of reading for 15 hours, which was a 10% increase over last year. Yard signs were seen throughout the city and many children received a free book at the special children's book sale put on by the Friends. Holly McLeod and Vicky Marshall did a spectacular job organizing that event.

A special program for teens drew 107 participants, who wrote over 1000 book reviews. And 65 adults took part in the Adult Reading Program, a 42% increase over last year. All in all, there was a whole lotta reading going on this summer through our library!



## 2012 Membership Drive

**To all current and future members:** your annual dues help the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library to support the Library and community in many ways. Our fund-raising efforts are ever-more important with budget cuts to the Library happening year after year!

Please join or renew at any membership level and encourage your friends and neighbors to join, also. Your involvement beyond your dues is purely optional. If you have been wanting to work at a book sale, help in other ways or if your contact information changes, please let us know by emailing [friend-slibrary3@gmail.com](mailto:friend-slibrary3@gmail.com) or phoning 360-778-7250.



A 2012 membership envelope is enclosed if you are receiving a paper copy of our newsletter. For those of you receiving your newsletter via email (thank you for the cost-saving to our group), there is a membership/renewal form available on the Library's website that you can use to send in your membership dues: [http://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/QuickLinks/friends/fof\\_membership-1.pdf](http://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/QuickLinks/friends/fof_membership-1.pdf)

We appreciate your support. — Holly McLeod, Membership

## Exciting News for the Future

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library recently voted to award scholarships for education. A committee is being formed to finalize details. Watch for further information on this important new project of the Friends.

## Treasured Tomes

On Saturday, September 10th, the program committee sponsored "Treasured Tomes," an "Antiques Roadshow" style event for books. For a donation of \$5.00 people brought up to three books from their personal collections, of which one was evaluated by an expert. Michael Elmer, owner of *Michael's Books* in Bellingham, Eugene Vigil, owner of *Antiquariat Botanicum* in Lynden and Gyngr Schon, co-owner of *The Old Antique Bookshop* offered their expertise in evaluating the books of about 36 folks who presented their special books for the event. The experts also shared some of the guidelines and research tools for use when evaluating an old book. It was a great opportunity for the Friends of the Library to collaborate with local booksellers to raise money for the library. We hope to have another such event next year!



## Friends' Income Mar - Sept 2011

The Friends of Bellingham Public Library had the following income between March and end of September 2011:

Display Case Books:	\$ 1,253
Nearly New Books	\$ 6,508
Online Sales:	\$ 12,697
Book Sales:	\$ 31,918
Book Bag and Bumper Sticker Sales	\$ 608
Membership	\$ 609
Donations	<u>\$ 1,036</u>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 54,629</b>

## Purchases Mar - Sept 2011

The Friends of Bellingham Public Library made the following purchases between March and the end of September 2011:

Movie License Fee:	\$ 500
Adult/Teen Summer Reading Program:	\$ 1,753
Children's Summer Reading Program:	\$ 4,351
"Raise a Reader" Program:	\$ 2,000
Trivia Bee Sponsorship:	\$ 375
Whatcom READS! Program:	\$ 5,000
NextReads Subscription:	\$ 2,375
Other Subscriptions:	\$ 1,850
Chairs for Fairhaven Branch:	\$ 1,141
Parent Teacher Reserve Collection:	\$ 1,500
Multi-media BiFolkal Kits:	\$ 2,402
Games/Equipment for Gaming Program	\$ 730
Book Trucks:	<u>\$ 3,815</u>
<b>Total Purchases:</b>	<b>\$ 27,792</b>