

## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

# BellinghamPublicLibrary

READ · LEARN · MEET · DISCOVER



### LIBRARY STATISTICS

#### CARDHOLDERS

49,773 borrowers  
81,360 city population

#### COLLECTION

242,112 items  
\$4.90 spent per capita  
438 print subscriptions  
20 databases  
14,893 eBooks

#### CIRCULATION

1,672,401 total items  
checked out  
3,703 items borrowed via  
Interlibrary Loan

#### VISITS

825,772 in-person visits  
619,773 website visits  
91,945 public internet  
sessions

#### PROGRAMS

793 programs  
26,119 attendees  
4,617 Summer Reading  
participants (all ages)

#### STAFF

45.52 FTES  
(full time equivalents)

## From the Director and Board Chair

How did the Bellingham Public Library serve you in 2013? Your library now has an Early Learning Center for families with young children; the trustees eliminated library fines for children on children's/teen materials to encourage greater library use; and, through City Council action, Sunday hours were restored for 2014. See more highlights inside.

With new parents in mind, we implemented our twelfth storytime per week - especially for babies. For groups and individuals who want to collaborate, we began planning the best way to use a grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation (THEY sought US out to receive a

grant!) and developed SkillShare. For people on-the-go, we introduced our mobile app - how cool is that? And, because of super supporters like the Friends of the Library, and a special bequest, we were able to improve the appearance of our facilities, making it more pleasant for you when you visit.

We especially want to recognize the City Council and City Administration for supporting the restoration of Sunday hours for 2014 at the Central Library. This service is one of our most requested, and we are grateful that the City was able to find the funds once again.

At year's end, we bid goodbye, with great appreciation, to David Edelstein who served as a Library Trustee for ten years. We also thank Stan Snapp for his several years of service as City Council liaison to the Library Board of Trustees.

We all know that the public library landscape

is changing with the evolution of eBooks and other digital resources. Our community continues to be made up of strong library users and voracious learners. Providing relevant and useful library services to you will take many forms in the coming years.

How can we continue to meet your needs today and in the future? We love it when you give us feedback, and welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions.

Happy reading, listening, and viewing!

Pam Kiesner  
Library Director  
and  
Faye Hill  
Chair,  
Library Board of Trustees

### Board of Trustees

Faye Hill, Chair  
J. Robert Gordon, Vice Chair  
David Edelstein  
Marilyn Mastor  
Rachel Myers

Pamela Kiesner,  
Library Director

Stan Snapp,  
City Council Liaison





*Bellingham Public Library's mission:  
Connecting our community with each other and the world.*



## READ

### Inspiring Bellingham to read, view, and listen:

The Library Board of Trustees eliminated a barrier to children's library access and encouraged more family use of library resources by **eliminating fines on children's/teen materials on children's cards**.

**Library Card Campaign, "The Smartest Card"**: staff reached out to all schools, including our academic library partners: we had a 40% increase in cards issued

Sept 2013 over Sept 2012; staff attended fourteen school events during the fall campaign.

Bellingham Public Library is a major participant, and the Friends of the Library are a primary funder, of Whatcom READS! 2013's visiting author was David Guterson, featuring his book, **Snow Falling on Cedars**.

Library staff started two new library-based **book clubs**, one for teens and one for adults; staff also began **book talking** in schools and retirement centers.



## LEARN

### Promoting Lifelong Learning from birth through adulthood:

The **Early Learning Center** at Central Library opened with fresh paint, new carpet, and an abundance of educational toys and learning activities. The library also received grant funding for, and created an Early Learning Space at the Fairhaven Branch Library.

Youth Services staff began a **"Builders Club"** to promote open, creative play for children ages 4-12 and families.

Legos, duplos, wooden blocks and other building materials are available to inspire young builders.

We implemented **Baby Time**, adding to the eleven already popular (and filled-to-capacity) story time classes for preschoolers; staff models songs, rhymes, movement, and stories for non-walking babies and their adults.

The Library was awarded a \$15,000 grant from Paul

G. Allen Family Foundation to reimagine our library space; staff began planning in 2013 and will implement the **"SkillShare"** space in 2014.

Staff vacancies were filled with people who have expertise to directly address the library's strategic directions in **Early Childhood Development/Early Literacy**, and **Readers' Advisory**.





*We said "Happy Retirement!" to two long-time staff members: Marc Poulsen (Technical Services) and Helen Scholtz (Youth Services).*



## MEET

**Creating thriving spaces where the community connects, accesses library resources, and shares their stories:**

The Library's budget request was supported to **restore Sunday hours in 2014**, improving public access to library services. Planning for reopening began in 2013 and included increasing staff resources to serve the public.

Library Now, a **mobile app** to access Bellingham Public Library resources was introduced to the community. With the mobile app you can check your account, find out if the library owns a title, and place holds with just a few clicks!

**Facilities were improved** to provide more inviting and contemporary environments: the exterior of Central Library was **painted**; and **furnishings and access to technology were improved at Fairhaven** using funding from the Winifred Wilks bequest.

## DISCOVER

**Providing library collections that introduce ideas, build skills, support lifelong learning, and spark creativity:**

The Library's books and other **materials budget grew** by \$25,000 for 2013 to continue diversifying materials formats, including eBooks; an increase was also supported by City Council for 2014. One of the library's strategic goals is to restore the significant cutbacks

sustained by the library materials budget in recent years.

**Zinio online magazine service** was added for the community, providing free online access to 100 titles.

Library staff provided valuable expertise to the

Whatcom Museum, and the community has greater access as a result to the **Morse Reference Library of art books** housed in the Lightcatcher Building; materials are now visible through the library's online catalog.





## 2013 HOURS & LOCATIONS

### CENTRAL LIBRARY

M - T 10:00a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
W - Sa 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Su Closed

### BARKLEY BRANCH LIBRARY

M 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
T - Th 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
F Closed  
Sa 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Su Closed

### FAIRHAVEN BRANCH LIBRARY

M Closed  
T - Sa 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Su Closed

**Total Annual Hours Open to  
the Community: 4,641**

### ONLINE BRANCH LIBRARY

[www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org](http://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org)

### LIBRARY CONNECTIONS

(Materials drop boxes and holds pick-up)

Our academic partners:  
BTC, WCC, and WWU

### COMMUNITY DROP BOXES

Barkley, Meridian, and  
Sehome Haggen Stores

Community Food Co-op  
Cordata

# 2013 BUDGET

## REVENUE

General Fund	\$3,430,106
Library Fines and Fees	\$137,768
Intergovernmental Services	\$147,381
Room Rentals	\$29,167
Gift Funds	\$69,942
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$21,181
Grants	\$999
Capital	\$0

## TOTAL

**\$3,836,544**

## EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,526,863
Library Materials	\$404,044
Other Oper. Exp.	\$905,637
Capital Expenditures	\$0

## TOTAL

**\$3,836,544**

## SPECIAL GIFT

\$17,830 was gratefully received from the estate of Norah Brusven, and given to the Bellingham Public Library Endowment Fund at the Whatcom Community Foundation.

# Friends of the Library

We have the best friends a library could wish for! Our Friends of the Bellingham Public Library members are on site every day, taking in your donated materials, pricing and organizing them for several book sales each year. Their hard work pays off for the library and this community because all membership fees and book sale proceeds are used to benefit users of the library - that's you!

In 2013, the Friends pledged \$103,000 for important purposes like: a collection of new Picture Books for

staff to use in storytimes; the library's 3-year subscription to Mango Languages online; \$25,000 to supplement Adult Fiction, Large Print, and Children's materials; folding chairs for Fairhaven Branch Library community room users; funding support for the Summer Reading Program for all ages; scholarships for library staff who are working on their Masters' degrees in Library and Information Science - and so much more.

Thank you, Friends!



## 2013 Friends' Officers

Kathie Wilson	President (Jan - April)
Garland Richmond	President (April - Dec)
Karen Hannah	Vice-President
Faye Hill	Secretary
Ann Therkelsen	Treasurer