

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

July 2004

Following a nationwide search for a new Library Director, four well-qualified individuals were invited to Bellingham for a screening and interview process that stretched over three days. The Library staff were excited to be a part of this process and organized a full day packed with information delivered to and gleaned from the four candidates. The public reception that evening would never have been as successful without their organizational skills and participation.

The Library Board conducted final interviews and in a special meeting, July 6th, announced that a conditional offer of employment would be made to Pam Kiesner, Interim Director of Brown County Library, Wisconsin.

The staff is excited about the prospect of working with Pam and forging ahead with creative ideas for providing continued excellent customer service for the citizens of Bellingham even during a time of shrinking revenues.

Migration to a new computer system continues on track. We are coordinating efforts with the Whatcom County Library System and combining our resources for a smooth transition along with a cooperative publicity campaign. Let's see now...a new computer system scheduled for implementation on September 1st, a new Library Director scheduled to come aboard on August 31st. What else can we do to shake up everyone's comfort level?

Oh, yes, we can order new shelving units and rearrange the collection. This can wait, however, until the end of September. Even though many of the staff are trained in CPR, we don't want to put them to that test unnecessarily.

The children's summer reading program is going full tilt. I made the mistake of dropping by on a Friday afternoon and was overcome by a hoard of young excited munchkins eagerly signing up and walking out with armloads of books.

Sandy and Bethany organized "Dragon Tales" with a craft project to make the tail of a dragon, telling stories of dragons, then parading outside the library with their colorful tails (or, is that tales?).

Children's Librarian, Scott Blume will spend the 8th of July at the National Storytellers Conference that is being held this year on the campus of Western Washington University.

July 30th is the annual Children's Craft Fair held on the Library lawn—a favorite event for both buyers and sellers—so if you're looking to purchase a unique object at a low price, be sure and attend.

A new Citizen's Survey just completed gives the Library high marks as an important and respected service in our community. In spite of this excellent report card, the Library will still need to face some agonizing decisions in the City's attempt to balance the 2005 budget and in future years of shrinking revenues and increasing expenses.

Gayle Helgoe  
Acting Director

