

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 2004

The Children's Summer Reading Program ended for another year with the Mayor's Recognition Awards on Friday, August 13th. Scott Blume, Reader Raccoon and I congregated with Mayor Mark on the steps of City Hall to acknowledge the achievements of the many participants in this year's program, "Discover New Trails".

The Library will be partnering with the Law Advocates this Fall/Winter to bring "Street Law at the Library". Volunteer lawyers will be available one Saturday each month in the Library Lecture Room to answer legal questions posed by local citizens. It is an immensely popular program, and the Library will provide the location and will also offer additional legal resources to citizens for further research.

Training and implementation are well under way for our new computer system. Madeline Sheplor from our library and Robin Barker from the Whatcom County Library are the masterminds behind the system configuration. Staff members from all divisions are pitching in to offer training help or to offer helpful advice in system design or suggestions for refining some of our procedures.

We are coordinating our publicity with WCLS in producing posters and bookmarks that will alert the public to the impending change. The County Library will be closing for three days during the changeover, but we will remain open. Joan Airoidi, WCLS Director, and I have issued a joint press release to the Bellingham Herald.

The staff Safety Committee, chaired by Deborah Brewer, has been working for over a year on formalizing procedures governing how we should respond to various emergencies—fires, earthquakes, power outages, severe weather, bomb threats, blood borne pathogens, etc. Deborah has spent many hours contacting emergency personnel for advice and creating a manual for staff to follow in the event of any of these emergencies. This manual will be available at all public service desks, and the policies and procedures are being documented for inclusion as part of the body of Library Policies.

At our regular monthly staff meetings, Deborah and members of her committee have conducted presentations outlining procedures in a selected emergency situation.

We all eagerly await the arrival of our new Director, Pam Kiesner. She will be arriving at the end of the month, but she has already been preparing by studying various documents that have been provided her. It's not all work, however— staff have sent a package of newspapers and brochures on local topics and cultural information.

The Staff Association is also gathering various local products to present to Pam in library book bags upon her arrival. She should indeed feel welcome.

Gayle Helgoe  
Acting Director