

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

September 2005

Director's Report and Highlights
September 20, 2005
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Even with small children beginning school each fall (years ago!), I did not have the sense of “new beginnings” – and cycles – as much as I do this year. A few recent events signal what is ahead:

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library

The Friends of the Library have mostly new officers; thanks are extended to those who have served so well for many years, and we offer enthusiasm to those who take over. The book sale that just concluded brought in over \$5,200 – these results are due to the dedication of many volunteers who are keeping Bellingham Public Library in the news.

A new plaque dedicated on September 12 marks the centennial year for the Fairhaven Branch. It is significant, and symbolizes the dedicated individuals and groups who have played an important part in this library's history – and future. The plaque looks timeless, as if it has been there for years! Special recognition and appreciation to the Friends Committee who work hard on behalf of the library and who initiated this project.

A Retirement

People have reminded me that without the rainy season that is approaching, we wouldn't have the beautiful springtime flowers in Bellingham. It's a cycle – and within the library we have cycles, too – especially apparent when someone retires. We celebrate the thirty-five years that Gayle Helgoe has spent with the library, and recognize that “the way we do business” will not be the same without her.

I've begun meeting individually with many staff members about their job responsibilities and their ideas for positive change in our organization. It's important to assess every job in the organization and use openings as opportunities to re-position ourselves, and fill gaps that may exist in our structure. With this “ending”, there is the opportunity for a “beginning” as well.

One Year

It is interesting to have been here long enough – one year – that certain events have repeated themselves: the Harvest Dinner at Village Green, darker mornings, the Literacy Breakfast, and budget meetings.

We have been talking about plans for a new library, and strategic planning, for one year. We have narrowed down our site questions, have received answers, and had many discussions about site options. We have reviewed where we have been and where we are headed. We've had progress, and the process continues with forward movement. This next year, indeed the next few months, could – and should – include some important decisions.