

# Friends' News

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library  
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## President's Report



Thank you for the privilege of serving as President this year for The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library. We have had a great year. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers and the many Bellingham citizens who donated their used books

and supported our four book sales this year, we were able to fund library programs in the amount of \$53,328. These programs vary in scope, but are all dedicated to increasing literacy and providing outreach services to our patrons and the community. This year we were able to fund the library in the many ways. See the Treasurer's report for details.

Memorial gifts in the amount of \$1,695 were given to the Friends in honor of former board member, Vicky Marshall. See details in the article on the reverse.

If you are a library user, you may have noticed that the library has provided the Friends with a new, larger space for the sale of nearly new books. The space is located near the front entry. These gently used books for adults and children are often like new and sell for very reasonable prices. In the area you will also find a locked glass display case with specialty books for sale at a variety of prices. Library staff is happy to open the case so that you can take a closer look. You do not need to wait for the next book sale to buy these excellent books – just come on in and browse. Every penny you spend goes to the Friends for their work of supporting the library.

In this newsletter you will find information on becoming a Friend of the Bellingham Public Library. In addition to your financial support, volunteers are needed to keep our successful book sales going. Beginning this year, we will try having three book sales instead of four. See the Books Committee article for details.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the dates for the book sales this year. I encourage you to mark your calendars for the sale, remember to donate your gently used books and let us know if you would be willing to offer some volunteer hours to support the Friends. You are needed!

Faye Hill, President

## Annual Meeting of the Friends April 22, 2017

### Keynote Speaker—Library Director Nancy Kerr

The public is invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library on Saturday, April 22nd at 10:00am in the Lecture Room of the Central Library. Delicious goodies and beverages will be served and you will get a chance to meet our new library director, Nancy Kerr. Nancy has graciously consented to be our keynote speaker for this great event.

 The Annual Meeting is the day to celebrate the Friends of the Library and find out about the exciting things going on at your library now and plans for the future. It is a time to express appreciation to the outgoing officers and committee chairpersons and to elect new officers for the 2017/18 term. Mark your calendar now for this special event at our library.

## Newsletter Archive

Copies of our newsletter can always be found online at: <https://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/get-involved/friends-of-the-library> and click on the *Newsletter* date of your choice at the bottom of the article..

## Library Welcomes New Director

The Bellingham Public Library is ringing in the new year with a new director. Nancy Kerr began the position of Library Director for the Bellingham Public Library the first week of January 2017.

Nancy, who has worked at several public libraries in the Midwest and California, said she "wakes up happy every day that she is lucky enough to work in a library."

"It is an honor to be chosen to work with the enthusiastic team at the Bellingham Public Library," she said. "Bellingham has a top-notch library that is well regarded by all. I was impressed by the library's statistics on paper, but even more impressed when I met the library staff, Trustees and city staff."



Nancy most recently served as the director of the Kern County Library in Bakersfield, California, a public library with 24 branches serving urban, suburban and rural communities across an 8,000-square-mile area. She also held leadership roles at public libraries in Santa Clarita and Banning, California, as well as serving as a librarian at public libraries in Illinois and California. She holds a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Illinois.

"Nancy is an energetic, enthusiastic professional library director with wide-ranging experiences at public libraries," Library Board of Trustees Chairman J. Gordon said when the Board selected Nancy in late November 2016.

Kerr steps into the position previously held by Pam Kiesner, who announced in September she would be retiring in January 2017. Kiesner led the Bellingham Public Library for 12 years, and this year celebrated her 40th year in library administration.

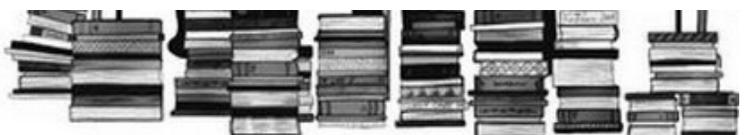
Gordon praised Kiesner's leadership and calming hand at the library. "She has been an absolute pleasure to work with. She is a strong and creative leader and has an exceptionally thorough, thoughtful approach to library service. She is passionate about public library values and the library's role serving all individuals and groups in our community," Gordon said.

Gordon said Kerr's appointment is "limited term," defined by the City of Bellingham as 18 months to three years. He said the Board of Trustees will use that time to work with city officials and the community to explore funding and other options for the Bellingham Public Library. The Library Board chose to fill the position with an interim director until this study is complete. The Bellingham Public Library is a department of the City of Bellingham, and, like other cities in the region, the City of Bellingham faces financial challenges to maintain existing services. City officials have said developing a sustainable funding model for the library is one of several studies being undertaken in 2017 to identify financial and operational strategies to provide relief to the city budget.

## 2017 Book Sale Dates

March 2-4 (three day)      May 24-27 (four day)  
September 27-30 (four day)

All sales are from 10 am to 6 pm except Saturdays (the \$4 a bag day) which runs from 10 am to 1 pm for four day sales and to 2 pm for three day sales. Three day sales have no half-price day.



## Vicky Marshall Memorial

On October 22, during National Friends of the Library Week, the Library and Friends honored the life and legacy of long-time Friend, Vicky Marshall. Vicky's love of stories and of helping children become readers, and her devotion to community service, were well-known throughout the Bellingham community; her presence, contributions and kindness were treasures that are missed by all since her passing in June 2015. Using memorial donations made in her name to the Friends, we commissioned Ben Mann to create a 4' by 5' multicultural painting of children listening to a story. The cheerful and colorful "Story Time in the Northwest" painting is now hanging in the Story Time Room of the Children's Department. During the celebration and unveiling, Ben Mann also took us through his painting process. We also enjoyed several stories from local storyteller Doug Banner during the morning. Delicious refreshments were served.



## Whatcom READS Welcomes Author

### Jonathan Evison March 9-11



This year Whatcom READS is reading Jonathan Evison's award-winning book, *The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving*, and welcoming author Evison to our area March 9-11, 2017 for six free events, including at 7 p.m. Friday, March 10 at the Mount Baker Theatre.

More information about all 2017 Whatcom READS activities is available at [www.WhatcomREADS.org](http://www.WhatcomREADS.org).

Whatcom READS is organized by all the public and academic libraries of Bellingham and Whatcom County and Village Books. Special thanks to the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library, which is one of the major long-time financial sponsors of Whatcom READS.

If you like really digging into a great book and enjoy discussing and exploring a book's themes, you're going to love Evison's novel. This is a story about forgiveness, especially about forgiving oneself. At turns hilarious and heart-rending, you'll fall in love with the characters and root for everything to turn out right. Read the book and join in the discussion! What page are YOU on?

## From the Books Committee

The books committee meets after each sale to determine how to make processing of donated books as smooth as possible, to evaluate the book sales and to suggest changes in the sales for consideration by the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library (FOBPL) Board. The major change that is taking place in this year is a change in the number of sales we will have per year. Starting in May, we will have three four-day sales per year. This change will make it easier for our customers because the number of sales days will be consistent and there will be a half-price day for each sale. Our sales will be in January, May, and September. As we make this change, we will have our last three-day sale March 2-4 and then we will start our new 2017 four-day schedule: May 24-27 and September 27-30.

Thank you for your donations of books, audio and video materials. We are currently revising our book donation criteria. Be sure you check out the new link to the Friends' page in the coming months before you make donations. Any presorting of your book donations according to the criteria really helps the volunteers deal with the number of books we process. Keep on reading!

## Volunteers

It is amazing how a few hours of work by many individuals at our book sales, along with many hours of work by others working behind the scenes, add up to a great year of support for our library. Your regular membership pays for this newsletter, but Best Friend memberships, book sales, and bequests provide a major part of our donations to the library.

This year the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library Board decided to recognize all the efforts of all of our volunteers by including a post sale celebration in our post sale meeting. So, if you have volunteered with the Friends (book sales, backroom work, book pick up, etc.), please join us for a celebration of volunteers on March 9, 2017, from 1:00-4:00.



Most of the money we make comes from our book sales, but we also sell books through Better World Books, Nearly New Books, and Special Case Books. Every aspect of our fundraising involves volunteer efforts. If you haven't volunteered for a shift at the book sale, please join our group of people who love books and our public library. It's fun and a great way to make new friends who can recommend books. We have many volunteer opportunities during our book sale. Some jobs require a bit of lifting, but others are more sedentary. If you would like to volunteer for a shift at our book sale, please contact the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library at [friendslibrary3@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary3@gmail.com) for more information.

## Treasurer's Report

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library had the following financial activity January 1 - December 31, 2016:

### Income

Book Sales 2016: (Mar, May, Aug and Dec).....	\$ 45,558
Nearly New Books .....	\$ 8,534
Display Case Books .....	\$ 2,145
Miscellaneous Books .....	\$ 1,083
Online Book Sales .....	\$ 5,156
Bags and Bumper Stickers .....	\$ 1,592
Membership .....	\$ 3,700
Donations & Memorials.....	\$ 3,834
Dividends and Interest .....	\$ 187
<b>Total Income:</b> .....	<b>\$ 71,789</b>

### Major Expenses for the Library

Summer Reading Programs.....	\$ 4,853
Books for Babies .....	\$ 5,000
Adult Fiction Collections.....	\$ 4,950
Website Update Project .....	\$ 27,545
Staff Professional Development .....	\$ 2,320
Whatcom Reads .....	\$ 5,239
Teen Library Programs .....	\$ 1,992
Children's Collections .....	\$ 1,499
<b>Total Expenses for the Library:</b> .....	<b>\$ 53,328</b>

## Membership

Welcome to all new and renewing members of FOBPL! There are many options to pay your dues. If you received a paper copy of the Newsletter, send in the Friends' membership application with your check. If you happen to be at the Library, you can pay by credit card at the main desk but please remember to fill out a membership form completely so we know who paid. Finally, if you received the Newsletter via email, you can print a Friends' membership form from the Library website: <https://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Friends-online-application.pdf>. Note that dues are for the calendar year no matter when you pay.



We appreciate any and all of your support. We are in need of Sale Volunteers. Please check on your application that you would like to be involved in volunteering for our book sales so that we can keep up our support of our library. Our dues pay for our organization's operating expenses so that we can raise funds during our sales. Taking a cashier's or rover's shift is not hard and we'll help you know what to do. We have fun for a very good cause. Please give it a try!

## So Many Heartfelt Thanks

Our heartfelt thanks go out to **Village Books**. They have been incredibly supportive for so many years! When folks bring books to Village Books for reselling, the staff there box up all the ones that they can't use and that people wish to donate. We receive great quality books that add enormously to our sales, as well as nearly new and display case areas. Chuck and Dee Robinson have been wonderful community supporters and we feel that Kelly, Paul, and Sarah will continue their legacy. We are very grateful for their generosity to The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library.

Our Raffle Baskets at book sales are a big hit. Thanks to those who contribute gifts for the baskets, including Haggen for their gift certificate.

Thanks to The Great Harvest Bakery for the continued support they have provided over the years by donating loaves of their delicious bread for our Annual Meeting.