

Friends' News

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library
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President's Report

Once again, it is a great privilege to serve as President of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library and work with this amazing group of Friends volunteers. Their hard work, organization and dedication to supporting our library in a variety of ways cannot be overstated. You can see some of these volunteers in action at our book sales, but many volunteers work behind the scene on a daily basis. They are all star players who make the book sales possible, raising funds that go directly to library programs. In 2017 we were able to give \$55,000 to these programs.

In 2017 we had to reduce the number of book sales from four to three due to lack of volunteer strength. This reduces the amount of money we will be able to give to the library projects in 2018. If you have been thinking about becoming a library volunteer, please contact us at the next book sale which takes place January 24-27 or give us a call at the library. You are needed.

Please remember that the Friends welcome your financial support in whatever way you wish to give. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find out about becoming a Friend of the Bellingham Public library and renewing your membership dues. These membership dues and other gifts to the Friends are immensely important and appreciated.

This year our Annual Meeting will be on April 28th at 10:00 in the Library Lecture Room. Rather than having a keynote speaker, we are planning to recognize and celebrate our key players, our volunteers.

Please come to help us do that. There will be tasty goodies and door prizes to enjoy. A library staff member will highlight and suggest books for your reading pleasure.

Pull out your new calendar and write this event in. We need your help to honor these dedicated folks for all they do for the library.

It has been my great pleasure to work with the Board of the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library and our committees his year. My sincere thanks go to: Chris Johnsen (Vice President), Susan Shuhler (Treasurer), Carol Comeau (Secretary), Barb Clearman (Membership Committee), Trudie Goodman (Hospitality Committee co-chair) Addis Chapman (Hospitality Committee co-chair), Rita Rukashaza (Publicity Committee), Barb Shepard (At-Large Member of the Board) and Kathie Wilson (Books Committee). Many thanks to all of you.

Faye Hill, President

2018 Book Sale Dates

January 24-27, 2018

May 23-26, 2018

September 26-29, 2018

All sales are from 10 am to 6 pm except Saturdays (the \$4 a bag day) which runs from 10 am to 1 pm.

Whatcom READS 2018:

Fast-paced absorbing novel, events planned through March 2018

Whatcom READS presents "Your Heart is a Muscle the Size of a Fist," by Sunil Yapa. It's a fast-paced, raw and absorbing story set amid the 1999 World Trade Organization protests in Seattle.

Whatcom READS continues to be one of several Bellingham Public Library programs that receives significant funding from the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library, which is key to its growth and success. The Whatcom READS organization has existed now for almost a decade, with Yapa's novel being the 10th book selected by Whatcom READS organizers for community discussion and events.



Photo by Beowulf Sheehan

The Events

Whatcom READS is a county-wide program that encourages everyone to read and discuss the same book. Book discussions, musical performances and other events are planned now through March, with author presentations March 8-10, 2018.

Author Sunil Yapa's visit to our area March 8-10 includes five free-of-charge events in Bellingham and Whatcom County, including his keynote presentation - An Evening with Sunil Yapa - at 7 p.m. March 9 on the Main Stage of the Mount Baker Theatre. No tickets are required at Whatcom READS events and seating is first-come, first-served.

A complete schedule of events, information about the author, and much more available at www.whatcomreads.org. Look for us on social media, too!

Whatcom READS is organized by all public and academic libraries in Bellingham and Whatcom County and our community partner, Village Books. We receive significant funding from Friends of the Bellingham Public Library and Whatcom County Library Foundation, and support from other local businesses and organizations.

AmazonSmile Donations

Did you know that many of the purchases you make at Amazon are eligible for a donation to The Friends through the AmazonSmile program? To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com on your computer or mobile device. When you make your first purchase, you will be asked to select a charitable organization - **Friends of the Bellingham Public Library**. Amazon will remember your selection so that every eligible purchase you make on smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 % of your purchase price to the Friends. For more information, go to the Amazon website.

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.

Sign Up Genius

We use the SignUpGenius (SUG) program to sign up people for all of the book sale tasks. Some volunteer names were inadvertently deleted last spring when two lists were merged. Please let us know as soon as possible if you wanted to volunteer and did not receive the January 2018 sign up by contacting us at the Friends email: friendslibrary3@gmail.com.

There are three ways to sign up to help at the book sales:

1. Sign up via SignUpGenius. SUG will be sent out one month before the first day of each sale. If you do not receive the email from SUG, first check your spam or junk folder to see if it has ended up there. Be sure to click "Submit" at the end of the page!
2. You can also log on to the SignUpGenius on the web. Click on find a sign up. When you reach the site, search for the sign up created by libraryfriendsvolunteers@gmail.com. That should take you to the currently active sign up.
3. You can call Chris Johnsen, 360-927-7326, after you receive the SUG and she will sign you up over the phone.

Hope to see you at the sales!

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 Haggan 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.



Treasurer's Report

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library had the following financial activity January 1 - December 15, 2017:

Income

Book Sales: (January-December 2017)	\$ 33,410.32
Nearly New Books	\$ 7,899.00
Display Case Books	\$ 2,549.00
Miscellaneous Books	\$ 689.60
Online Book Sales	\$ 3,638.78
Bags and Bumper Stickers	\$ 1,602.00
Membership	\$ 3,393.00
Donations & Memorials	\$ 2,156.81
Dividends and Interest	\$ 141.48
Total Income:	\$ 55,479.99

Major Expenses for the Library

Reading Programs - Children, Teens	\$ 1,750.00
Adult Reading Program	\$ 5,055.00
Summer Reading Program	\$ 5,500.00
Whatcom Reads!.....	\$ 5,000.00
Children's Collections	\$ 13,000.00
Raise-a-Reader Program	\$ 5,000.00
Library Collections (Large Type)	\$ 12,000.00
Library Improvements	\$ 1,400.00
Author Events	\$ 500.00
Total Purchases for the Library:	\$ 49,205.00

Membership

Happy New Year 2018, and welcome to all new and renewing members of FOBPL! The new year is a reminder that it is time to renew your membership. There are several ways to renew; if you get the newsletter in print, you can send in your Friends application with a check. If you are in the library, you can pay at the main desk; please be sure to fill the form out completely so we know who you are. Or, if you get the newsletter by email, you can print a Friends membership form from the Library website by going to the Friends of the Library page and clicking on the Application link. Please note that dues are for a calendar year no matter when you pay. Also please fill out your complete information even if you are a long time member; it is very helpful when we are entering your data. Your dues are one way to help support our organization so we can put on the book sales. If you want to be part of the fun of our book sales, please consider volunteering; we are always looking for help during our busy sale days! It is a great way to support the Friends who help fund library programs. Thanks for your support!

Important New Requirements for All Sale Volunteers Beginning May 2018

There will be new requirements for all Friends of the Bellingham Public Library volunteers beginning May 2018. Since space is limited here, please look for an email from the Friends at the beginning of January. That email will explain the requirements and how to obtain the paperwork involved. Please let us know if you are a volunteer and do not receive the email. Thank you!

Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you for continuing to support our library through your hard work behind the scenes and at book sales. Your time and work has allowed us to fund \$55,000 worth of library programs and library materials in 2017. Your work has contributed to **Books for Babies, Adult Programs (Tech Training, New Readers Advisory Program, and Community Outreach), Whatcom Reads, Large Print Books, Children's Books, Kids' and Teen's Summer Reading, Teen Games and Anime Nights, Charging Stations, Youth Author Event, and Display Space.** Whew! Great work, everyone!

Your membership dues help pay for our newsletters as well as supporting library programs. A lot of volunteer hours go into picking up, preparing, and selling books for a year. Stellar job! Be sure and join us at the Volunteer Celebration that will be held on April 28, 2018 in conjunction with our Annual Meeting. Invitations will be sent out via email in March.

**VOLUNTEERS
DO NOT
NECESSARILY
HAVE THE TIME;
THEY HAVE
THE HEART**