

Friends' News



Friends of the Bellingham Public Library
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Co-President Report - January 2022

Dear Friends,

With another year of Friends' activities curtailed, it's surprising how busy we all have been. In July, soon after the Library re-opened, we began receiving a tremendous



amount of book donations. Since we were not able to host indoor book sales, this led us to a new venture resulting in four energetic outdoor PopUp Sales in August. In September we were able to set up our Nearly New area by the Central Library's main entrance. It is packed with fabulous low-priced books, in great condition. Then in November we added a new Friends Display Case located on the lower level next to the free book shelves. Along with information about the Friends, the case contains items of special and local interest, unusual, rare, vintage, and more expensive books.

Knowing that we haven't had a big book sale in almost two years we want to thank all the Friend's members, new and old, for your continued support by renewing your memberships, telling your friends about the Friends, contributing cash and book donations, and by shopping our PopUp Sales, Nearly New area and Friends Display Case. You make it possible for the Friends to provide ongoing support for our Library. In 2021, the Friends donated \$29,000 to the Library to help fund projects including Books for Babies, Whatcom READS, the Summer Reading Program, Discover Washington Backpacks, book kits and an archive of community COVID-19 experiences. The Friends also donated \$69,440 towards the 2020/2021 Central Library remodel.

We have many more people to thank. The Library Staff has been so supportive, helping us with materials and projects. Rebecca, our favorite Library director, listens to our ideas, gives us suggestions and supports us as we try new activities. We also want to thank all of our volunteers who keep the Friends moving forward by delivering donations from Village Books, processing donations, boxing books and DVDs/CDs, helping with the PopUp Sales, and managing our volunteers and financial records. Thanks to Vicki and Kathie for all their years of creative organization in the backroom and for keeping us on track. Thanks to Myra who promoted membership during National Friends Week and on many Saturdays at the Bellingham Farmers Market.

We will meet the challenges 2022 may bring us with the creative and energetic efforts that have always helped us support our Library.

Cheers to a Happy New Year -

Leigh Ann Giles and Jennie Tuckerman, Co-Presidents

Books Committee

It was a very long wait indeed for our volunteers to finally be able to get back inside the library and consider how to move forward in such unprecedented times! Finally, in May, we were given the go-ahead.

Of course, we had not been idle awaiting that moment. Planning for a variety of possibilities had been underway for months, largely under the direction of Vicki Nulle. There were many unknowns. How many donations we would receive? How many volunteers would be ready to return? How will we proceed with the uncertainty of a future book sale? And what the heck will we do with all these books? The pop-up sales in August were a new venture which took a lot of organization and work, but helped us get some of our saved books out to the community's eager hands.

Fortunately, we have a strong leadership team, which has met regularly to discuss options and develop new procedures.

We are blessed with a group of devoted volunteers. They continually show up, are flexible with our on-going changes, and brighten our spirits with their devotion to the library and Friends. Bev Wegrich stepped up to help process books for the Nearly New area and Leigh Ann Giles, Jennie Tuckerman, and Scout Mitchell have been curating the materials for the lower level Display Case.

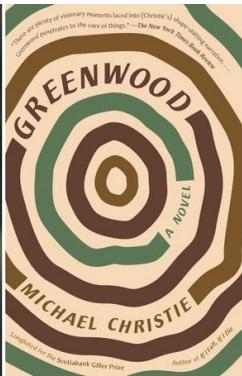
Not all of our team has returned and we thank those former volunteers who have moved on from the bottom of our heart for their time of service. We were saddened by the death of regular book researcher, Richard Abbott, who passed away in November. It has been a hard year for so many.

But we are buoyed by the support of the library staff, the patrons' purchases from our Nearly New and Display Case areas, and the hope of a new year. Thank you all for your membership in our endeavors.



Nearly New Books

Whatcom READS 2022, Greenwood by Michael Christie



The 2022 Whatcom READS selection is the generational saga Greenwood by Canadian author Michael Christie. Set in the Pacific Northwest, Greenwood opens in the near future in one of the last surviving old growth forests. The narrative skillfully navigates a cross section of generations, themes and times. As Christie peels back those layers, he exposes the heartwood of what it means to struggle, survive and thrive; in essence, what it means to be human. This rich, well-paced tale delivers poignant writing with interesting characters.

Visit www.whatcomreads.org to learn more about Greenwood author, Michael Christie. The following free community programs enrich the reading experience.

Jan. 22, 11 am – noon, Online

Climate Fiction and Climate Change Literature

Professor Stephen Siperstein will explore how climate change literature, and particularly climate change fiction (also known as cli-fi), can be a source of radical hope in our burning world.

Jan. 27, 7 – 8 pm, Online

Wood Songs

Local luthier Devin Champlin discusses musical instrument making and the treasured woods that are used in the craft.

Feb. 3, 7 – 8 pm, Online

Poetry reading with Washington State Poet Laureate Rena Priest

Join Washington State Poet Laureate Rena Priest for a poetry reading focused on the themes in this year's Whatcom Reads selection, Greenwood.

Feb. 10, 7 – 8 pm, Online

Intersectional Environmentalism: The Key to Fighting Racism and Climate Change

Communities of color and low-income communities have carried the heaviest burden of environmental injustice, but these communities have been excluded from the conversations, including science policy and outdoor recreation. Scientist Emily Pinkney shares how to combat the racism embedded within the environmental movement, resulting in more impactful solutions for the planet.

Feb. 17, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Online

A Million More Trees for Whatcom County? YES!

In this interactive Q&A webinar with Executive Director Michael Feerer, you'll learn the why, who, what, and where and how of Whatcom Million Trees Project's exciting initiatives to plant one million trees in Whatcom County over the next five years.

Feb. 24, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Online

The Woodstock Farm Story – and its Fruitful Future

Discover the storied history of this wonderful 16-acre City of Bellingham waterfront park along Chuckanut Drive, and its orchard planting in-progress that will enhance local food resiliency while keeping the character of this special site.

Feb. 27, 2 pm, Online

Whatcom WRITES

Attend a reading by local writers whose work was selected for the 2022 Whatcom WRITES anthology.

Mar. 3 – 5, **Author events with Michael Christie**

The author visits Whatcom County to discuss the book and his creative process. Event details and locations will be announced.

Library Director's Report

by Rebecca Judd

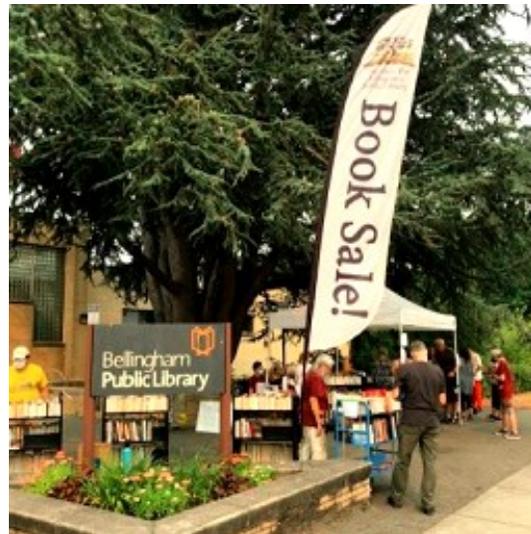


2021 was another year for the history books. Due to the pandemic and our Central Library main floor remodel project, the Library's Curbside Holds Pickup Service continued six days a week through June, providing hundreds of thousands of materials to our community. On June 7, after 448 days, the Central Library opened its doors once again. Library staff were greeted with joy, tears and almost unilateral acclaim for the newly refreshed main floor.

Although the pandemic continued for the remainder of the year, June through December the Library was gradually able to resume many services including reopening the Fairhaven and Barkley Branches. We were thrilled to bring

the Friends' Book Donation area and Nearly New space online, as well as the Friends' use of the display cabinet on the ground floor. Thank you all for your patience with our services in 2021, and for your friendly enthusiasm shining brightly behind the masks!

We were truly impressed with the Friends dedication to holding outdoor book sales in August. Thank you also for continuing to support so many critical Library programs such as Summer Reading, Whatcom Reads, and WiFi hotspots, as well as your ongoing support of our Library staff. The Friends "Book Bucks" donations was a highlight of our end of year staff appreciation.



Membership and Volunteering

Whether this is your first year or you are a long-time member of the Friends, we are grateful to each and every one of our wonderful members for your support as a Friend of the Library.

We're pleased to let you know that our organization is growing. Fifty-eight new members joined the Friends in 2021 to bring membership to a year-end total of 188. Moreover, we are gratified by the number of returning members who generously chose to step up to a higher membership level, including 43 who are now Best Friends of the Library.

Please consider inviting your friends to become our Friends as well. There are several options for people to join. One of the easiest is to go to our webpage ([Friends of the Bellingham Public Library - Bellingham Public Library](#)) and join online. There are also paper membership forms that can be picked up at our Friends of the Library Display Cabinet in the lower level of the Central Library.

Be sure to let your friends know that there is absolutely no obligation to volunteer if they join the Friends; however, also let them know that if volunteering sounds like fun, they should check the categories that interest them when they fill out their membership application.

Once the pandemic has subsided and we feel safe enough to hold a book sale, there will be plenty of opportunities to assist with on-site help, publicity, and even year-round advocacy in support of our Library. Of our 58 new members, the majority have expressed interest in volunteering. If you are one of those, expect to hear from us well before a book sale. We will request that you jump through a few hoops required by the City for all on-site workers, such as a background check and proof of vaccination. Volunteering at one of our book sales is a great way to meet members of your community and fellow readers.

If you like the Bellingham Public Library...

Become a Friend!

Book Donations

This year we updated our donations guidelines, which you can view by clicking [FOBPL Donations Guidelines](#) or by going to the Friends' website [Friends of the Bellingham Public Library - Bellingham Public Library](#) and clicking the button labeled **Guide to Materials Donations**.

We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have donated books to our organization during 2021 and past years. Virtually all of the money we raise for the library and our work to make available free reading material to the community is made possible by your generosity.



ANNUAL MEETING



10:00-12:00. This year is the 50th anniversary of our first book sale and the 70th anniversary since the Friends organized in 1952. Location to be determined. Come celebrate with us!

Looking forward, our Annual Membership Meeting is Saturday, April 23, 2022 from

Strategic Planning

A year ago, with covid having put everything else on hold, the board of directors of the Friends decided to spend some time assessing our non-profit and doing some goal setting. It was a wonderful experience!

Members of the board and a few other stakeholders met several times via Zoom in

January and February. We started with a SWOT analysis (each person contributing their perspective on our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). From there, we decided to set 4 goals for just the coming year, since there were so many unknowns.



1. Dealing with backroom issues, including assessing some mold by the freight elevator and doing a thorough cleaning and decluttering of our work space. This was completed.
2. Develop our partnership with the board of trustees. Our first collaborative meeting is set for January. We hope to find ways to work together to support our library.
3. Develop a Books plan. Our leadership team has been meeting regularly to continue to move forward dealing with donations, processing guidelines, and using available opportunities to create income while awaiting a larger book sale.
4. Increase membership by 10%. Myra Harmer has been working hard on this goal, trying new venues for outreach and new ideas for connecting with folks. We got very close, with an increase of 9.2% and will continue this work in the coming year.



I think we all gained greater understanding of this process and will continue to grow and develop our organization to better serve our members and the library.

For Amazon Users

You can donate to the Friends through the AmazonSmile program. 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**. Every eligible purchase you make on smile.amazon.com will result in a donation of 0.5% of your purchase price to the Friends. In 2021 we received \$150.45, more than 70% more than in 2020. Thanks to all who participated.



Newsletter Archive

Copies of our newsletter can always be found online. Go to the library website. At the bottom you will see [Friends of the Library](#) under *Get Involved*. At the bottom of that page you will find the archive.

From the Library Board of Trustees



While facing the restraints of the second year of a pandemic, the Bellingham Public Library Board of Trustees was privileged to take part in forward looking initiatives that work towards implementation of The Strategic Plan for 2020-2024.

The current and future successes of these initiatives are due to the achievements of the library management and library staff who carry out their responsibilities and mission with industriousness, expertise, and ingenuity.

The year 2021 began with the Board welcoming a new member, Kristy Van Ness, who replaced the outgoing Rachel Myers after her stellar service of 11 years on the Board. The year also began with a finalized agreement to expand both the space and operational control of the Barkley branch library.

BPL participated in the nation-wide Library Giving Day for the second year in April, and total donations of \$15,183 resulted from that effort to fund digital storytelling, a refresh of the Spanish language collection, and continued funding of the Library's anti-racist digital reading list. The Board formed a Fundraising Committee to look at other possibilities, concentrating on a process that could involve more intentionality in planned giving. The Board hopes to make progress on this in 2022 through the engagement of a consultant.

As usual, the Board was involved with Library Administration in submitting a mid-biennium budget request to the Mayor's Office and eventually to City Council. These were mostly minor adjustments and all were approved. About half of the dollar amount added to the budget goes to support materials acquisitions as part of the ongoing quest to move forward on Level of Service standards.

Another big effort this year was the Board's Facilities Committee [Board committees include two Board members plus the Library Director and selected other members of the Library Management Team] basking over the achievement of the first major renovation/remodel of the Central Library in more than 35 years. This was meant to be the first step in longer-term plans to address all library facility needs. The next step is the hiring of a consultant to work with us on the development of a 10-year master plan for library service needs related to facilities and space. We are nearing the hire of the consultant and work on the plan is expected to commence in early 2022.

And, the Board recognizes the importance of coordination between it and the Board of the Friends of BPL. The Board chair began attending the FOBPL Board meetings in July. We look forward to all of us making contributions to the ongoing success and excellence of the Bellingham Public Library.

Rick Osen, Chair, Library Board of Trustees

Tabling at the Farmer's Market

Have you seen us at the Bellingham Farmer's Market? We set up a table just outside the Market Depot building on Saturdays during November and December to give away books to the community. This new project



has proved so popular that we plan to continue it for the next Farmer's Market season.

So, when you're at the Farmer's Market, please stop by. We'd love to say hello.

Website & Newsletter Update



We now have a prominent place on the Library's website, thanks to **Annette**, who maintains the website. Annette also edits the Library monthly e-newsletter and has invited us to add articles to that publication. We started in October and plan to continue to write articles throughout the year. The newsletters are archived on the Library's website and can be accessed by selecting the "News & Events" menu followed by "[Subscribe to Newsletter](#)" or at this link.

Bookkeeper News

We want to extend a big welcome to Kate Frazee as she will replace Cathy Matthews as our volunteer bookkeeper.

Kate has volunteered at our books sales, previously worked at the Library and currently works at the Food Bank. We are grateful for the excellent job Cathy did volunteering for many years as our bookkeeper. Fortunately for us Cathy plans to continue volunteering by processing books.



Treasurer's Report

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library had the following financial activity Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2021:

Income

Book Sales: in 2021 (Pop-Up: August)	\$ 3,691
Nearly New Books	\$ 2,853
Display Case Books	\$ 433
Miscellaneous Books.....	\$ 422
Online Book Sales	\$ 988
Bags and Bumper Stickers	\$ 160
Membership	\$ 5,321
Donations & Memorials	\$ 23,412
Dividends and Interest	\$ 753
Total Income:	\$ 38,033

Major Expenses for the Library

Summer Reading Programs.....	\$ 5,500
Books for Babies	\$ 5,000
Adult Fiction Collections	\$ 3,000
Special Library Projects (Remodel)	\$ 8,000
Whatcom Reads	\$ 7,500
Staff Professional Development.....	\$ 00
Teen Library Programs	\$ 00
Children's Collections	\$ 00
Total Purchases for the Library:	\$ 29,000

Little Library at Gardenview Village

In December, the Friends set up a little library for the Gardenview Tiny Homes Community, located at the corner of Lakeway and Woburn Streets. The little library was built and donated by a local carpenter. The Friends will keep it stocked with books of interest to the Gardenview residents.

As Library Director Rebecca Judd noted, "We see this as a perfect win-win since it honors the generosity of the donation and is aligned with one of the Friends core tenets, which is to encourage literacy by making available free reading material to the community."

