

Friends' News

Friends of the Bellingham Public Library
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January 2023

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Co-President Report - January 2023

The Friends have a long history of great financial management which includes being frugal and creative. This helped us to move forward with measures to counter the Covid challenges such as widening the criteria for our Nearly New selections, instituting the Friends Display Case with rare, vintage and local books as well as switching to every other month pop-up book sales. The good news is that all of these actions helped us to continue our support for the Library. Drum roll please! We are happy to announce that multi-day large book sales are back on the schedule starting with the Ski to Sea Book Sale in May 2023. And before the large May book sale we have two one-day pop-up book sales scheduled. There is a list of the 2023 book sale dates included in this newsletter. Mark your calendars and come volunteer or shop our book sales. If you are not a current volunteer and are considering joining our volunteer book sale team, we encourage you to contact Susie at libraryfriends3@gmail.com for more information.



Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped us support the Library. We value all of your contributions whether you volunteered in our backroom; worked at our pop-up sales; served on the Board; donated books and magazines; made a financial donation; became a new member; renewed your membership; or shopped at our pop-up book sales, Nearly New Area or Display Case. Plus, a special thank you to the Library staff for all of their assistance. You have all played a vital part in helping the Friends support the Library.

Our donation to the Library in 2022 was \$27,900. The funds raised by the Friends helped support Whatcom READS, Books for Babies, Summer Reading Programs for all ages, Library Materials Community Outreach, Digital Story Telling/Community Voices, Adult Reading Program Special Projects/Acknowledgements, Staff Development, and the BPL Board of Trustees Library Giving Day initiatives to develop Children's Community Voices Book Kits & purchase new community drop boxes.

Serving on the Friends' Board over the past four years has certainly been an honor for us. We are grateful for our wonderful partnership with Rebecca Judd, the Library Director, the Library staff and the Library Trustees. We are especially lucky to have been surrounded by dedicated people from our own organization who have been very supportive and quick to lend assistance. We are both looking forward to continuing to volunteer

with book sales and book processing. We'll see you at the next sale.

Jennie Tuckerman
and Leigh Ann
Giles, Co-
Presidents



Books Committee

It is now nearly 3 years since we all heard the words Covid—and had no idea how they would change our world. But thanks to a hearty and devoted group of volunteers, the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library pulled together and continued to offer financial and other support to the library and community.



Our experiment and successes last year with pop-up sales led to 6 more one day sales this year. Our

last was held in November and in our former book sale location indoors in the lecture room. We limited the number of shoppers allowed in at a time---and we were so pleased with everyone's positive attitude about our new strategy. We look forward to more pop up sales this year, as well as a (fingers crossed) return to our multi day sales, beginning with our May Ski to Sea sale. Hooray!

We continue to enjoy great success with our Nearly New area and Display case sales. This source of revenue has been really helpful, without the ability to hold our longer sales. And we are still using Better World Books as a partner for items that we haven't sold locally.



Your donations of books and other materials, memberships, and time have enabled us to continue our work---and we are very grateful.

By Kathie Wilson, Books Committee Chair

Board Meetings

All members of the Friends are welcome to come join us at our Board meetings.

The Board typically meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every other month (except during the summer) in the



Lecture Room at the Central Library from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Please note that the September meeting has been moved to the 2nd Wednesday due to our book sale. Email [friend-library3@gmail.com](mailto:friendslibrary3@gmail.com) for information and updates.

2023 Board Meetings:

January 18th
March 15th
May 17th
Sept. 13th
November 15th

Library Director's Report

by Rebecca Judd

Although we began 2022 still amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Library made great strides in the past year to re-open our doors at all branches and rekindle relationships in the community. By year's end there were more than 374,807 in-person visits to Bellingham Public Library. A major highlight of the year was returning to in-person indoor Library programming. The Children's



Dept. initiated a highly successful series of spring Storytimes at Belis Fair Mall in April, then resumed a full slate of Storytime programs at the Central Library in the summer and fall. In May, the Library co-hosted an in-person training opportunity at Mount Baker Theatre with nationally-

recognized speaker Ryan Dowd featuring "Skills for Interacting Confidently and Compassionately with Individuals in Crisis."

In June, we received the Library's new hybrid outreach vehicle.

Throughout the summer, BPL staff brought a Library presence to a wide variety of local community events including the



Barkley Market, Bellingham Pride Parade, Western Washington University's Red Square Fair, Bellingham Back to School Block Party, the Goodwill Immigrant & Refugee Resource Fair, Library Parties in the Parks, and more.

And in July, we joyously welcomed the return of the popular Children's Craft Fair event in Lee Memorial Park.

Our thanks to the Friends for continuing to support so many initiatives at the Library. The continuation of the Friends' pop-up book sales at the Central Library's outdoor plaza throughout much of the year was also a bright spot in 2022.

This year, the Friends support of Library Giving Day allowed us to complete and put into circulation our new Community Voices book kits that center and celebrate diverse voices and experiences in our community. These kits, developed for children ages birth – 8, provide stories, conversation opportunities and resources to help bridge learning, understanding and connection with others. Each kit contains a variety of children's books, as well as resource guides to help navigate topics of race, belonging and connection.



The Library celebrated Native American Heritage Month in November with the posting of our Land Acknowledgement in the Central Library. We also celebrated the local indigenous Digital Stories of the Resilience Circle produced by Connecting Community with support from the Friends.

As we closed 2022, the Library staff was happy to see the lifting of pandemic-related Emergency Orders at the state, county and city levels, as well as the removal of plexiglass barriers at the Help Desks. We look forward with hope to many possibilities of 2023.

ANNUAL MEETING



You are invited to attend our Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday April 22, 2023 from 10:00-12:00 in the Central Library Lecture Room. Come and celebrate the work of the Friends.

Serving on the Board

The Annual Membership Meeting is an opportunity for you to meet and approve a new slate of members who have agreed to lead our organization forward. We are always looking for new board members to help energize and shape our organization. Serving on the Board is a great way to meet other likeminded colleagues who enjoy books and want to help support our Library. We already have three people who have graciously offered to fill the vacancies of President, Vice-President and Treasurer. We are looking for a new Secretary, Membership Chair, Publicity Chair and At-Large Board members. Board members serve a two year term which typically starts the fourth Saturday in April. Are you willing to consider sharing your ideas and efforts to help support the Library? If so, please contact anyone on the Board or email us at libraryfriends3@gmail.com.

There are seven members of our Board who will be stepping aside and deserve special thanks for their many years of dedicated service to our organization: Faye Hill, past President & current Secretary; Kathie Wilson, past President, current Co-Vice President, current Book Committee Chair; Susan Shuhler, current Treasurer; Myra Harmer, current Membership Chair & Publicity Chair, Bev Wegrich, current At-Large Board Member; Leigh Ann Giles, current Co-President & past Co-Vice President; and Jennie Tuckerman, current Co-President & past Co-Vice President. Luckily for us all of these members will be either continuing to volunteer with the Friends &/or will be mentoring their replacements. Thank you all for your awesome service!

Lineup of Speakers

We also have an fantastic lineup of speakers for the Annual Membership Meeting including:

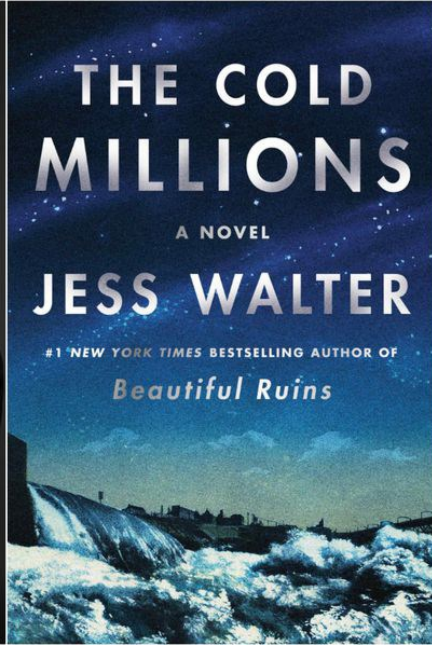
Rebecca Judd, Library Directory
Rick Osen, Library Board of Trustees Chair

Katie Bray, Public Services and Readers' Advisory Librarian. Katie will highlight and suggest books for your reading pleasure.

Monica Koller, Storyologist and Owner of Connecting Community. Monica has partnered with the Library to share local storytellers cultural perspectives through videos to improve community connections, equity and inclusion.



Whatcom READS 2023 *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter



The Cold Millions by Spokane-based author Jess Walter is the 2023 Whatcom READS selection. This saga is an intimate exploration of love, family, betrayal and loyalty. *The Cold Millions* presents a wide range of discussion and event opportunities leading up to the March 2-4, 2023, in-person author events.

The 2023 season marks 15 years of Whatcom READS programming. Visit whatcomreads.org to learn more about author Jess Walter. A variety of upcoming programs that enrich the reading experience will be offered both online and in-person. Registration for some events is required. The Friends of Bellingham Public Library are among the key sponsors that make this annual program possible.

She Travelled Solo: Strong Women in the Early 20th Century

Inspired by her own 5,000-mile solo bicycle ride, Tessa Hulls researched little-known intrepid female adventurers. In this presentation, she demonstrates why female role models — such as characters in *The Cold Millions* — are vital in affecting social change.

ONLINE, Thursday, Jan. 12, 7 – 8 p.m., Registration required.

IWW Archive Photos

Archivist Conor Casey, head of the Labor Archives of Washington, University of Washington Libraries Special Collections, will discuss the dynamic history of the labor and social justice movements of the Pacific Northwest through the frame of the collections of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Also known as the Wobblies, the IWW is featured in *The Cold Millions*.

IN-PERSON, Ferndale Library, 2125 Main Street, Saturday, Jan. 21, 1-3 p.m.

Vintage Vaudevillians Photo Exhibit

Echoing characters chronicled in *The Cold Millions*, this photographic exhibition highlights a dozen vaudeville acts that performed in Bellingham in the early 20th century.

IN-PERSON, Whatcom Museum Lightcatcher building, 2nd floor hallway, 250 Flora Street, Bellingham

Feb. 3 – May 31, 2023, Wednesday-Sunday, Noon-5 p.m. General admission: \$10. Free museum passes are available at the Bellingham Public Library. There is no admission fee during the Feb. 3 First Friday Art Walk.

The IWW Today

Yes, the Wobblies are alive and well. An organizer for the Whatcom-Skagit Industrial Workers of the World will discuss the current activity of the union, its goals and its principles. Hear about IWW union activity in the Pacific Northwest and around North America today.

IN-PERSON, Village Books' Reading Gallery, 1200 11th Street, Bellingham. Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7-8 p.m., Registration required.

Unsettling Settler-Colonial Education

Join us for an interactive book discussion with co-editors Dr. Robin Zape-tah-hol-ah Minthorn of University of Washington-Tacoma, Dr. Anna Lees of Western Washington University and Dr. Cornel Pewewardy of Portland State University. Their book presents an innovative framework for promoting critical consciousness toward decolonization efforts among educators. The impacts of colonization and racism are part of *The Cold Millions* story.

ONLINE, Thursday, Feb. 16, 5-6 p.m., Registration required.

Vaudeville and Vice in the Early 1900s

Kolby LaBree from Bellinghamhistory Tours with the Good Time Girls will discuss life on the vaudeville circuit and its ties to the underworld. She will share examples from *The Cold Millions* as well as stories from Bellingham history.

IN-PERSON, Whatcom Museum, Old City Hall, Rotunda Room, 121 Prospect Street, Bellingham. Saturday, Feb. 18, 1-2 p.m., Free; donations to the Whatcom Museum are welcome. Sponsored by the Whatcom Museum

History of Spokane

Lynden Library Assistant Branch Manager Wendy McLeod was born and raised in Spokane. In this presentation, she shares the history of the city at the heart of *The Cold Millions*. ONLINE, Saturday, Feb. 25, 3-4 p.m., Registration required.

Songs of Protest with Jimmy Brite

Join local musician Jimmy Brite for a spirited performance of songs of protest, social justice and inspiration.

IN-PERSON, Deming Library, 5044 Mt. Baker Highway. Saturday, Feb. 25, 4-5 p.m.

Whatcom WRITES

Local writers read from their work selected for the 2023 Whatcom WRITES anthology. This year's theme inspired by Jess Walter's *The Cold Millions* is Between Fact and Fiction.

- ♦ IN-PERSON, Village Books in Lynden, Inn at Lynden conference room: Sunday, Feb. 19, 2-3 p.m.
- ♦ IN-PERSON, Village Books in Fairhaven: Sunday, Feb. 26, 2-3 p.m.

Allied Arts Whatcom READS Challenge

Submit original artwork inspired by *The Cold Millions* for display at the Allied Arts Gallery in Bellingham. Submissions accepted: Feb. 28-March 1

Exhibition: IN-PERSON, March 2-31, Allied Arts Gallery, 1418 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham

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Book Discussion with Jess Walter

Deming Library Manager Katrina Carabba and Public Services Assistant Erin Suda will co-host a conversation with the author about *The Cold Millions* and his other books. Audience questions are welcome.

IN-PERSON, Deming Library, 5044 Mt. Baker Highway. Thursday, March 2, 11 a.m.-12 p.m., Registration required.

Village Books' Chuckanut Radio Hour

Jess Walter is the featured guest on Village Books' popular radio variety program.

IN-PERSON, Hotel Leo, 1224 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham, WA. Thursday, March 2, 7-8:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Purchase \$5 tickets online or at the event. Space is limited.

Art and Craft of Writing

Jess Walter shares his writing practice and tips to inspire your own writing.

IN-PERSON, Village Books' Readings Gallery, 1200 11th Street, Bellingham. Friday, March 3, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Registration required.

An Evening with Jess Walter

Whatcom READS' premiere event is at the beautiful Mount Baker Theatre. Following his presentation, Jess Walter will answer audience questions and sign books. The 2024 Whatcom READS title will be announced at the event.

IN-PERSON, Mount Baker Theatre, Friday, March 3, 7-8:30 p.m.

A Conversation with Jess Walter

This year's author events close with a lively online conversation between Village Books co-owner Paul Hanson and Jess Walter.

ONLINE, Saturday, March 4, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Registration required.

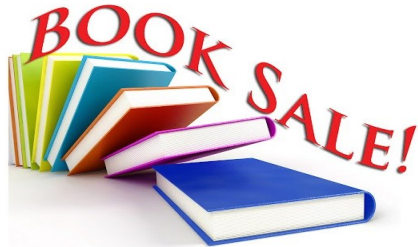
Book Donations

We have 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 and magazines to our organization. The money we raise for the Library and our work to make available free reading material to the community is made possible by your kindness.

We also want to thank Village Books which has been supportive for many years. We receive new and used book donations from them that are added to our inventory for book sales. Village Books has been a wonderful community supporter and we are grateful for their generosity to the Friends.



2023 Dates

- February 11, Saturday, Pop-Up Book Sale
10:00 - 3:00 Central Library - Lecture Room
- April 5, Wed., Library Giving Day Pop-Up Book Sale
10:00 - 3:00 Lecture Room or Outdoor Plaza
- May 24-27, Wed.-Sat., Ski to Sea Large Book Sale - Lecture Rm.
 - 10:00 - 6:00 Wednesday and Thursday
 - 10:00 - 6:00 Friday - Half Price Day
 - 10:00 - 1:00 Saturday - \$5 Bag Day
- September 20-23, Wed. - Sat., Fall Large Book Sale - Lecture Rm.
 - 10:00 - 6:00 Wednesday and Thursday
 - 10:00 - 6:00 Friday - Half Price Day
 - 10:00 - 1:00 Saturday - \$5 Bag Day

Treasurer's Report

The Friends of the Bellingham Public Library had the following financial activity Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2022:

Income	
Book Sales: in 2022 (Pop-Ups)	\$ 18,370
Nearly New Books	\$ 14,258
Display Case Books	\$ 1,193
Miscellaneous Books.....	\$ 749
Online Book Sales	\$ 4,614
Bags and Bumper Stickers	\$ 746
Membership	\$ 7,482
Donations & Memorials	\$ 27,716
Dividends and Interest	\$ 124
Amazon Smiles	\$ 42
Total Income:	\$ 75,294

Major Expenses for the Library

Summer Reading Programs.....	\$ 3,000
Books for Babies	\$ 5,000
Adult Reading Programs	\$ 4,500
Special Library Materials	\$ 1,000
Staff Professional Development	\$ 4,000
Whatcom Reads	\$ 7,500
Books for Book Club Kits	\$ 2,400
Hospitality Fund-Public Events.....	\$ 500
Total Purchases for the Library:	\$ 27,900

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. Thanks to all who participated.



Library Board of Trustees Report



the library’s Board of Trustees, in conjunction with Library Administration and city officials, continued to look at future opportunities to improve and expand spaces for library service.

At the beginning of the year the consulting firm of Godfrey’s Associates, Inc. was hired to assist the Library in developing a Facilities Master Plan. Work on this project took place from March through September. The Library’s Facilities Committee (representatives from the Board, Library Administration, and Public Works) collaborated with Godfrey’s throughout the course of the project. Input was gained from a wide variety of stakeholders. As the report neared its conclusion, it was presented to the City Council, where it received solid support.

Two of the short-term recommendations are already approved and planning for their implementation have begun. One of these is a pilot project to open an additional branch library in the Bellis Fair Mall in order to provide services for northside residents. Longer term options for the northside will be evaluated over the next few years. The second project is to finish renovation of the Central Library. That involves the ground level floor and the mezzanine level, but also includes a new HVAC system for the entire building.

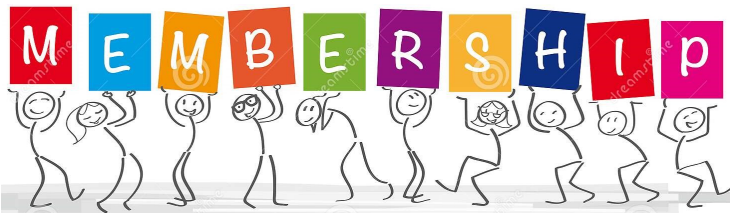
Also related to the future, the Board participated with Library Administration to develop funding requests for the city’s 2023/24 biennial budget. We are pleased that both the Mayor’s office and the City Council broadly supported our requests. Besides the facilities projects outlined in the previous paragraph, the Library also requested much needed additional staffing, increases to the materials budget, and supplements for existing services and programs. Each one of these requests was directly related to gaining improvement on the Library’s adopted level of service standards.

The year 2022 also welcomed a new Trustee to the Library’s Board. Melissa Morin was nominated and appointed to fill a vacancy, and she will begin her first full term in 2023.

Finally, the Board wishes again to thank the Friends of the Library for their ongoing efforts to support and enhance the Library’s mission. New in 2022 was the Friends’ initiative to stage a book sale on Library Giving Day, which they plan to duplicate in 2023. In addition to the Library’s excellent and hard-working staff, it is advocates like the Friends who help make the Library a well-respected pillar of the community.

Rick Osen, Chair, BPL Board of Trustees

The year 2022 was notable as the first year where the Bellingham community was able to take full advantage of the Central Library’s main floor renovation that was completed in 2021. Meanwhile,



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

Membership in the FOBPL continues to grow. Fifty new members joined the Friends in 2022 to bring membership to a year-end total of 200.

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 on 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 can select the categories that interest them when they fill out their membership application.



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.