

NOTES



The Newsletter of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

Spring 2014

Help make our libraries the best they can be

Dear Friends:

Spring has maybe not burst forth quite yet but Campbell Rose is a ray of sunshine as she peeks through the big sunflower which is part of the literacy playground at the recently re-opened, newly renovated Fort Garry Library. The Friends are proud to have been able to contribute to the literacy playground - the first in a Winnipeg public library.

I recently enjoyed popping in on a session of the Friends' Day Book Club and meeting a few of their members. Read more about them on page 2. You may like to join them.

I hope you enjoy this edition of NOTES. I'd love to hear from you if you have any comments or suggestions for upcoming issues.

Thank you for being a friend of the Winnipeg Public Library.



Spring Cleaning? Downsizing?

Billie, of Fall Book Sale fame, would love to get her hands on your gently-used but no-longer-wanted books. CDs, DVDs, LPs too.

Pop them in a bag or box labelled "Friends" and drop off at any Winnipeg Public Library Branch.

More than you can carry?
Call (204) 488-3217 for a pick-up.

Thank you!



Books & Brunch with Dr. Frank Albo and Alison Gillmor

We're delighted to have **Dr. Frank Albo** and **Alison Gillmor** to speak on "Books I have known and loved" at our 9th annual **Books & Brunch**. Dr. Albo is a scholar and the code-breaking protagonist of *The Hermetic*

Code. Alison Gillmor is an arts and entertainment writer and a Winnipeg Free Press columnist. Book club host, teacher and broadcaster **Joanne Kelly** will be our MC. A rainbow auction of fabulous prizes rounds out a program sure to please.

SUNDAY MAY 4th at 10:30 a.m.

THE GATES ON ROBLIN

Tickets: \$55 (tax receipt of \$25)

For more information and to buy tickets contact Best of Friends Gift Shop • 947-0110 • info@friendswpl.ca.



Friends' Day Book Club

After 13 years, still going strong

As newsletter editor, I was delighted to meet a few members of our Friends' Day Book Club recently. I popped in on their March meeting in the Millennium Library where Yvette Dion was leading the discussion on *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich.

The Friends began two book clubs in 2001, one which met in the day time, the other in the evening. Lynda Bagacki was designated by the Friends' board to oversee the daytime one. Lynda passed the baton to Faith Johnston a few years ago. If Faith's name rings a bell, you may have read one her best-selling books! And Faith isn't the only published member; Hazel Birt is the writer and illustrator of a number of books.

As with most book clubs, books are suggested and voted on and chosen a few months ahead. The titles are varied. "Many of us find that we read books we would normally not choose and that are interesting to us", Hazel Birt told me.

At each meeting, the person who originally suggested the title will start

the discussion by reviewing the book and then they go around the table so that everyone has the opportunity to share their own opinions. Listening and considering other points of view is important: "They often see things I miss or see things from a different angle" explained Valerie Wilson.

It is a wonderful group of people who are always welcoming to new members and who take reading seriously but are tolerant of other tastes and opinions.

Faith Johnston

After the discussion some head downstairs to *The Human Bean* for coffee.

The club meets at 10 a.m. on the 3rd

Tuesday of the month, September to June, in a meeting room on the 2nd floor of Millennium Library. If you're interested in joining the Friends' Day Book Club call (204) 488-3217 or email info@friendswpl.ca or just show up... you will be most welcome!

The books for the rest of the season are:

APRIL: **We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves** by Karen Joy Fowler

MAY: **Where'd You Go, Bernadette** by Maria Semple

JUNE: **The Conductor** by Sarah Quigley

Dianne Zuk
President



This has been a brutal winter but a good one for curling up with a good book! Luckily for the

citizens of Winnipeg, the public library has been a refuge for many seeking a friendly, warm place to visit. Let me quote Andrew Carnegie "A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never ending spring in the desert."

21st century libraries do not remain static. Changes to programs and materials are part of responding to different needs and new technology. The contents of @ **The Library** are an indication of the many offerings for people of all ages and needs. Physical spaces also change. The *Friends* were very proud to attend the opening of the renovated Fort Garry Library. The renovations are super but of special note to our membership is their Family Literacy Playground that was funded in part by the *Friends*.

I want to mention two upcoming events of interest. The first is the Friends' Annual General Meeting Tuesday, April 23. All members are invited to attend. Second, I want to personally invite you to the 2014 Books & Brunch fundraising event at the scenic Gates on Roblin. We were delighted that **Dr. Frank Albo** and **Alison Gillmor** readily agreed to be this year's speakers. It is sure to be an interesting morning of dining, conversation and discussion. Tickets are on sale now so please do not wait too long to buy yours. If you are unable to attend, I encourage you to consider a donation of the price of a ticket. Your purchase directly affects the *Friends'* organization in their support of our Winnipeg Public Library system. Hope to see you on Sunday, May 4.

Members of the Friends' Day Book Club just before they settled down to discuss their March book selection. Back row from left: Helen McIver, Yvette Dion, Valerie Wilson, Robert Hayes. Front row from left: Wendy Downes, Hazel Birt and Audrey Nutter.





The lucky winner of the Valentine's Day draw at the Best of Friends Gift Shop was

Lisa Pitura.

Lisa won a lovely necklace donated by

Jan Rosenby (thank you Jan!)

Be a winner too - show your *Friends'* membership card and get 10% off at the best little gift shop in town!

Did you know?

Apart from the *Friends*, there are other groups assisting the Winnipeg Public Library...

THE LIBRARY BOARD

Appointed by City Council, the Library Board, in consultation with the Manager of Library Services, makes recommendations on library policy and budget, administrative matters to the extent that they have significant policy or service implications on the library system, long range plans for the library system and public involvement in the library system.

City of Winnipeg Community Committees appoint citizen members to their *Library Advisory Committee (LAC)*. LACs advise and report to the Library Board on Library services within their community.

The Library Board is also charged with establishing fundraising programs for the benefit of the Library

system. To meet that mandate, The Winnipeg Public Library Board established **THE WINNIPEG LIBRARY FOUNDATION** which works to raise money for innovative, major projects that enhance and extend the programs and services offered at the Library, over and above the level supported by available public resources. The Foundation's latest project focusses on raising \$2.5 million for renovations to ensure that our two Carnegie Libraries (Cornish & St. Johns) are updated and accessible to everyone. Helen Norrie is the Honorary Chair of this most worthwhile campaign.

Heather Graham represents the Friends as a non-voting representative on the Library Foundation board.

Friends helping Friends

Kathy Blight, Chair, Membership Committee

The Friends are proud to support Winnipeg Public Library Spring Break programs.

Members of our committee will have a *meet and greet* table at Fort Garry Library on April 3rd at 6:30 p.m. where storyteller **Leigh-Anne Kehler** will delight, and at **Fiddlers on the Loose** at the Westwood branch on April 5th at 11 a.m. Please drop by and say hello!

Our new banner... coming soon to a library near you!



Love your library?

You've got friends.

Join us.



BANNER DESIGNED BY PAT STANTON - THANK YOU!

Annual General Meeting

It's that time of year again: time for the Friends' AGM!

BY-LAW CHANGES: This year we have some changes to our bylaws to discuss. Please go to the News & Awards section on our website to see details of these proposed updates.

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED FOR THE FRIENDS' BOARD:

Imagine this: getting together once a month with a great group of people and working together with them to help make our libraries the best they can be! If you'd like to be a member of our board (or know someone you'd like to nominate) please call (204) 488-3217 or email info@friendswpl.ca.

MEET RICK WALKER: Rick is the Manager of Library Services and he will be our guest speaker.

Wednesday April 23 at 3:30 p.m.

Cindy Klassen Recreation Centre - 999 Sargent Avenue

Hope you can come!

<http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/contact/board.asp>
www.winnipeglibraryfoundation.ca

My Library is...the Fort Garry Branch

Absence makes the heart grow fonder
(Thomas Haynes Bayly - Isle of Beauty 1844)

No truer words could have been penned about how I felt when the original closure for the renovation of my beloved Fort Garry Library kept being extended. I had prepared myself not to think about my treasured place for six months but when that deadline passed, I thought more and more about how much I enjoyed going there even if it was only to return a book. It was a link to a happy past.

As the date for the re-opening drew close, I started to wonder if the modifications would make it a different library. There had been changes over the years but they had been so gradual that I had hardly noticed them. When I was young, there were card catalogues and not a computer in sight but throughout the

years the important components had not changed. It had always been a warm and welcoming environment with every type of media and helpful staff.

I am happy to report that absence did make my heart grow fonder but not just from the time apart. The renovations have let in more light and it is now more accessible and easy to navigate. The children's section is particularly fun with lots of activities for young ones and a great place for them to hang out as they read all those wonderful books. It still feels like the same warm and friendly library of my childhood but now it has entered the 21st century!



Lanthe's cherished library now includes a literacy playground

Lanthe Warner, an instructor at Winnipeg Technical College, developed

a love of books because of the way her parents cherished reading. Lanthe's mother was Felicite Warner, a fondly-remembered Friend of Libraries.

Susan Says

Notes from the Best of Friends Gift Shop
Conveniently located in the Millennium Library

If you are reading this - Congratulations on making it through a cold, hard winter! We now must turn our minds to all-things-Spring and if you need a little help, I have just the answer. Gorgeous journals, notepads and pen/pencil sets covered in colourful flowers, birds and butterflies have recently arrived. Lovely to look at and who can have too many journals?

Another excellent way to mellow-out is with a cup of *Library Blend Tea*. Created by Murchies, this lovely blend is rich and smooth and goes with anything you happen to be reading. Very pretty packaging, loose or tea bags - what a nice gift idea!

'til next time, Susan Fraser, Manager



Board of Directors

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- Billie Stewart — Vice-President
- Arthur Cohen — Treasurer
- Heather Graham — Secretary
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- Billie Stewart — Chair, Fall Book Sale
- Dianne Zuk — Chair, Books & Brunch
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- Winnipeg Public Library Liaison — Ed Cuddy
- Best of Friends Gift Shop Manager — Susan Fraser
- Newsletter Editor — Jillian Glover

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