

NEWSLETTER

Jan ~ Feb 2012



President ~ Susan Fraser

Editor ~ Heather Emberley
editor@friendswpl.ca

The Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library 7th **Annual Books & Brunch** is **May 6, 2012** at The Gates on Roblin. We are delighted to announce our guest speakers for the popular feature "Books I Have Known and Loved." are award-winning Winnipeg author – in both French and English - **J. R. Léveillé**, and journalist-teacher and well known book lover **Joanne Kelly**.

The speakers change each year, but the lovely Gates setting on the Assiniboine stays the same, and the excellent brunch menu just tastes better every time. The Friends Board members are already at work rounding up lovely and interesting items to make the Rainbow Auction better than ever.

Joanne Kelly is a former host/producer at Shaw TV, and is host of Joanne Kelly's Bookclub, held monthly at McNally Robinson. She teaches in the Creative Communications program at Red River College. J.R. Léveillé's book *The Setting Lake Sun* was named winner of *On The Same Page*, the Winnipeg Public Library's province-wide reading initiative. J.R. Léveillé is the author of more than a dozen works of poetry, fiction and essays and has been published in Manitoba, Quebec and France. Watch for more about these fascinating guests in the next newsletter.

Tickets to Books & Brunch go on sale in March. For now, tell your friends and save the date!

~Susan Fraser and Billie Stewart

Editorial

Happy New Year dear readers of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library Newsletter. Thanks for all your support and e-mails in 2011 and I look forward to hearing from you in 2012.

Congratulations to Best of Friends Gift Shop certificate winner **Pat Kobyak** from Anola who was the first to identify **Ron Robinson** as the mystery shopper featured in our last edition.

Friends! We know you like to read. Are you a budding author as well? Your membership fees help to support the Winnipeg Public Library **Writer-in-Residence**. Writer, editor, educator and playwright, **Terry Jordan**, is available until April 1/12 to critique your work (15 pages of prose or 6 poems.) Submit electronically to: wpl.writerinres@gmail.com or mail double spaced 12 pt. manuscripts to Millennium Library, att: Writer-in-Residence, Reader Services, 251 Donald St. Winnipeg, MB, R3C 3P5.



Celebratory Volunteers

2012 ~ 20th ANNIVERSARY of the FRIENDS OF THE WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY

In the early 1990's a number of individuals and groups, intent on protecting the breadth of the public services provided by the Winnipeg Public Library joined forces. **Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library** was incorporated on January 20, 1992, and later became a registered charitable organization.

Initially the main focus was advocacy and distribution of library-discarded books to social service agencies. Over time, the objectives have evolved and **Friends** has become involved in programming initiatives and fundraising activities in support of the Library.

Here are some of the things we have done:

- From 2000 to 2011 we contributed \$15,250. to the Writer-in-Residence program.
- In 2006 we began to sponsor the Spring Break Program; total to date is \$15,000.
- We supplied furnishings for the West End Library tutorial room: \$3,500.
- Book Baskets were supplied to all branches \$3,200.
- Materials for the Summer Reading Program: \$1,000.
- Our latest endeavour, the animal Ottomans located in the libraries in the children's areas, will total approximately \$6,500.

Come celebrate our anniversary on Friday, January 20, 2012 in the foyer of the Millennium Library. Please join us for cake and coffee/tea from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

A library is a gateway to a world of ideas, and is free and open to all. It is a place to be informed, entertained, inspired and enriched.

FRIENDS..... Helping to Make Our Libraries the Best They Can Be

Volunteer Profile ~ Arthur Cohen



True book lovers never retire. They just get new titles. We are most grateful that Arthur Cohen has accepted the position of Treasurer with the Friends Board after his recent retirement as Administrative Co-Ordinator of Support Services with the Winnipeg Public Library. Besides words, Arthur says, "I like numbers." He's also rather fond of his family – his wife, daughter and dog. Arthur likes that retirement is giving him more time to spend with his family and to garden and play guitar. He also hopes to revisit his two favourite cities, Venice and Paris.

A lifelong Winnipegger, Arthur has an undergraduate degree from the U of M and a Masters of Library Science from UBC. It all started with his first library card from the children's department at St. John's Library. He was captivated by Babar books and especially liked to follow the adventures of a character named Arthur.

Arthur's prior involvement with the Friends – as the Library Liaison on the Friends' Board and his volunteer time at our book sales makes him a valuable asset as we celebrate twenty years of service to the public. Arthur's favourite quote is from Oscar Wilde: "We are all in the gutter but some of us are looking at the stars." Thanks Arthur, we know a star volunteer when we see one.

Ed.