

NOTES

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

Autumn 2013

Help make our libraries the best they can be

Dear Friends:

Summer's over - but the good news is that the Friends' BIG Fall Book Sale is just around the corner. And our Best of Friends Gift Shop is celebrating **eight** great years in the foyer of the Millennium Library. Lots to do and enjoy while we support our favourite public places: our libraries!



BOOK SALE!

Saturday Oct. 26, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. & Sunday Oct. 27, Noon - 3 p.m.

Grant Park High School Gym. 60 tables loaded with good used books from nearly new to very old + DVDs, CDs, LPs & much more! **AND ON SUNDAY EVERYTHING IS HALF PRICE!**

There's still time to donate your no longer wanted gently used books. Drop off at any branch library. Mark your box "FRIENDS"

A Message from the President

BY DIANNE ZUK

I am taking advantage of our wonderful newsletter *Notes* to introduce myself. Some of you may know me as Chair of Books & Brunch, but now, as of the last AGM, I have taken on the role of President of the *Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library*. I was uncertain if I wanted to take on this responsibility especially given the exemplary work of my predecessors Rochelle Blumenthal and Susan Fraser. The one factor that convinced me to accept was that both these ladies will be there to mentor me along with my other dedicated colleagues on the Board.

I have always been involved in literacy, from an early age as an avid reader and frequent user of the library to my career as a

reading specialist/teacher. I served on the Library Board and as my term ended I joined the *Friends'* Board in 2009. I am also a past member of the Library Foundation.

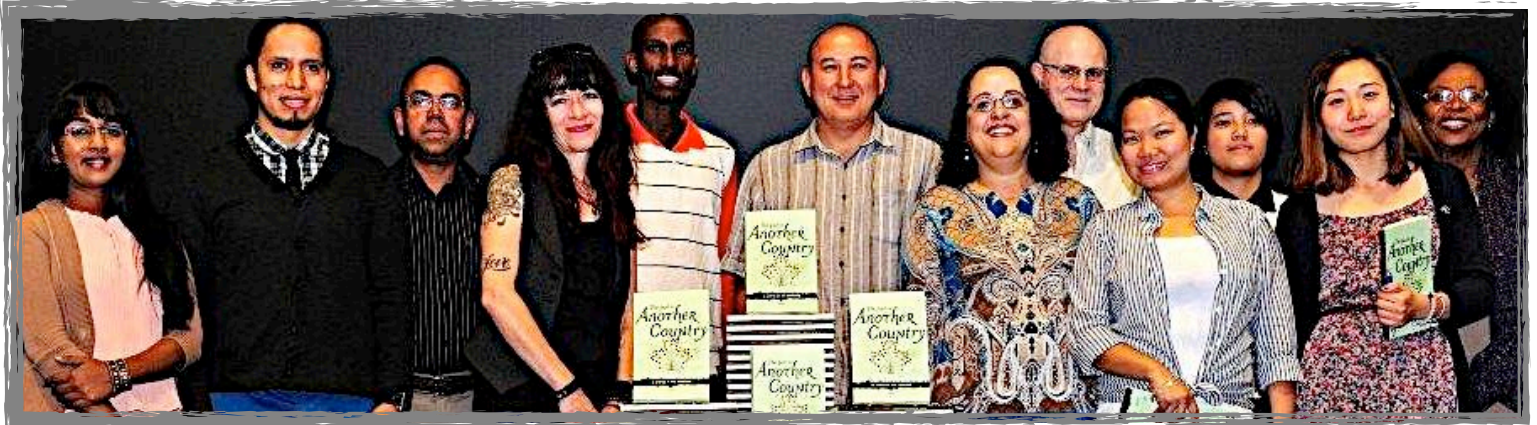


Friends' new president, Dianne Zuk, loves libraries so much she visits them in other cities.

I am a strong advocate of our public library system. Manager Rick Walker and his staff are doing marvellous things for the citizens of Winnipeg. I know firsthand the value of having such an institution which is free and accessible to everyone. I love to travel and like to visit libraries in other cities. This past summer I had the chance to see two Carnegie buildings in Bemidji and Hamilton. The sad thing is that they are no longer libraries, bringing me to another reason to be proud of our system: in Winnipeg we are preserving two of our Carnegie Libraries.

I enjoy being a member of the Friends. Supporting library and literacy programs is a fantastic way to give back to the community. I am looking forward to serving my term and meeting more of you at *Friends'* events. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at info@friendswpl.ca.

THEY HAVE FOUND THEIR VOICES



Thanks to Janine LeGal (4th from the left) and the Winnipeg Public Library and with the support of the Friends, New Canadians are becoming published authors

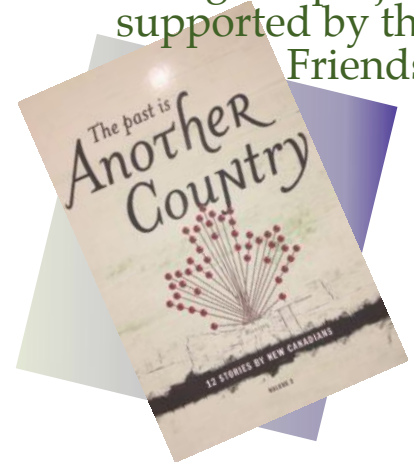
(Photo: Quanhai Tonthat)

Susan Fraser and your editor were delighted to attend the recent launch of the second volume of *The Past Is Another Country* on behalf of the Friends. *The Past is Another Country* is the tangible output from *FINDING YOUR VOICE*, a creative writing program for new Canadians, conceived and facilitated by writer **Janine LeGal**. It was obvious that Janine has made a big impact on the participants and her enthusiasm for her work and for the people in the program was a joy to

observe. *FINDING YOUR VOICE* gives New Canadians the opportunity to talk about their experiences as newcomers and to write them down in a creative way so that we can all learn and better understand their unique journeys which have brought them to Winnipeg.

The Friends were warmly acknowledged for the financial contributions made in 2012 and 2013 for printing costs.

Another great project supported by the Friends:



CHECK US OUT! NEWS FROM THE BOARD



and we are thrilled to have her a-"board"!

For the past number of months Janet has been attending board meetings as a guest - to check us out I guess! If you would like to come along to one of our meetings you'd

be most welcome! And other volunteer opportunities are available even if you're not into the meetings-thing. Give us a call or drop us a line if you're interested and let's talk!

When *Janet Carriere* spotted a Friends' brochure at the library she joined FWPL as a member as a way to show her support for public libraries. After a couple of years, she volunteered for the Friends' Book Sale. She appreciated the contributions of the FWPL members and the library projects that they supported so much that she joined the board.

Janet has a deep love for public libraries as vibrant community hubs of information, learning and enjoyment



Your Board (from L to R): Jill, Luba, Ed, Kathy, Rochelle, Dianne, Arthur, Susan, Reesa, Heather, Billie and Janet (inset) with our 2012 Gabriele Schreiber "Friends of the Year" Award

Friends helping Friends

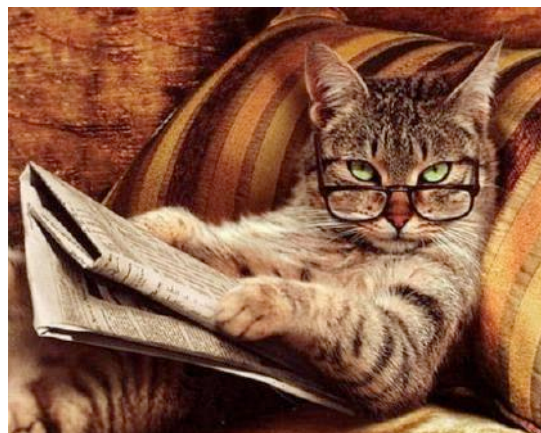
Kathy Blight, Chair, Membership Committee

Congratulations to Melanie Dorrington who was absolutely thrilled to win the draw prize when we were at the River Heights Farmers' Market in August.

Friends in the Community: The Membership Committee is looking forward to holding a "Meet & Greet" at the Fort Garry Branch when it reopens later in the year and to seeing the Family Literacy Play Centre installation which has been supported by the *Friends*. We will also have a table at the Manitoba School Library Association Conference "Connecting Through Literacy" on October 27th.

Editor's Note:

*And here is our illustrious Membership Chairperson, **Kathy Blight**, checking out one of Winnipeg's Little Free Libraries which are popping up in various neighbourhoods. This particular one is on Dorchester between Guelph and Harrow. The library steward is **Gracie Sweetstory** assisted by Friend and our former newsletter editor, **Heather Emberley**.*



THERE'S A SOCIAL WORKER IN THE LIBRARY?

For the past year there has indeed been a social worker in the library and the *Friends* were interested to learn more about him.....so we invited **Bruce Fiske** to our board meeting in August. Here he is, in his own words:

There's a Social Worker in the Library? I can't count how many times I have heard this. When I started here last year, I was a new staff member to the Library and a newcomer in the recently emerging field of Library Social Work. People from all walks of life visit the Library; many bring with them a vast array of social problems. Many problems can be resolved quickly, such as when a young man arrives fresh off a bus looking for emergency housing and work, or when a troubled patron needs someone to talk to. More complex cases include help with immigration documentation, tenancy issues, housing forms, by-law enforcement issues, and mental health resources to name a few. Situations requiring urgent attention include helping those in crisis or when vulnerable people or children are involved. Sometimes there is a happy ending with a steady job and secure housing; in other cases, social work referral services are more ongoing due the need for follow up, monitoring and review.

Another important aspect of my work is providing training and support for Library staff working with vulnerable customers.

So there is a Social Worker in the Library. My hours are 10 – 4:30 Monday to Friday for any patron who is having a difficult time or just wants to say hello. I am here and ready to assist. If you have further interest about the Library Social Worker please call or drop by: visitors are always welcome!

BRUCE FISKE 204-986-3981, bfiske@winnipeg.ca
2nd floor of the Millennium Library.

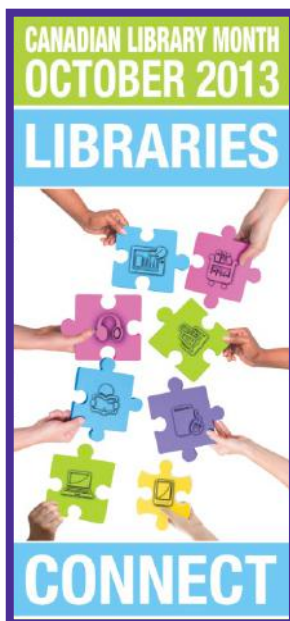


THE BEST OF FRIENDS GIFT

SHOP will be celebrating **EIGHT** great years! Really?!? Eight years you say? Hard to believe, but it's true! Watch out for updates on all the special offers and celebration details...but mark it on your calendar now.

NOVEMBER 13th - 16th

It will be so much fun!



My Library is... the St. James Branch

"What a sad want I am in of libraries, of books to gather facts from! Why is there not a Majesty's library in every country town? There is a Majesty's jail and gallows in every one." Thomas Carlyle, 1832

It wasn't quite that desperate in St. James as there was a public library "next door" in the city of Winnipeg but it was miles away and St. James was an energetic growing city in the 1950s. So, in April 1954, the Lions Club of St. James championed the idea of a local public library and one year later, housed in two rooms at the St. James Collegiate, the library was officially opened. Pretty fast work!

Of course, as the population kept growing, the two rooms proved inadequate in no time. So the Lions and the people of St. James got busy again. The move next door to a fine new building in February 1958 made St. James the second city in Manitoba to build its own public library. The head librarian, John Russell described St. James as "an intellectual community".



The location is such a plus for this branch Bruce Park ... Assiniboine Park ... good coffee... ice cream ...

The location is such a plus for this branch - a short walk to the west and you're in charming little Bruce Park on the Assiniboine River. Another stroll will take you through Deer Lodge Place and the bridge to Assiniboine Park. And along Portage you'll find good coffee, ice cream, even a good used book store. In the library there is always a show by the St. James Art Club. Art exhibits have quite a history here, starting with a Canadian Painting Show in 1960 which featured such names as A.Y. Jackson, Lawren Harris, Arthur Lismer, Emily Carr, LeMoine Fitzgerald!

My relationship with the St. James Library goes back to the early 60s when I lived in a little apartment nearby. After a sojourn in Regina I returned to St. James with two small daughters in tow. After another exile in Wolseley, we've returned to St. James and – thanks to my volunteer work for the Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale - I'm happily here in my old library several times a week.

Billie Stewart, Vice-President and Chair of the Fall Book Sale

Susan Says

Notes from the Best of Friends Gift Shop

What a lovely summer we had at Best of Friends - every day brought something new. We met travelers from all over the world; how nice to hear the raves about our city, our library and especially Library Park. Our regular customers always stop in for a chat and to see what's new - we never disappoint.

Soon the shop will be filled to the brim with excellent holiday gifts for everyone on your list. Check Facebook for photos featuring the newest and the coolest.

And finally, the best news. Sylvia Flam (aka Super Sylvia) is back at the shop. She had some health issues earlier this year, but is feeling fine now and we are thrilled to have her back. Thanks to all the other loyal volunteers for helping while she was away. I cannot say enough about the fabulous group we have. We couldn't do it without them!

'til next time, Susan Fraser, Manager



Board of Directors

- Dianne Zuk — President
- Billie Stewart — Vice-President
- Arthur Cohen — Treasurer
- Heather Graham — Secretary
- Kathy Blight — Chair, Membership Committee
- Billie Stewart — Chair, Fall Book Sale
- Dianne Zuk — Chair, Books & Brunch
- Jillian Glover — Communications
- Rochelle Blumenthal — Member at Large
- Janet Carriere — Member at Large
- Reesa Cohen — Member at Large
- Luba Harasym — Member at Large
- Winnipeg Public Library Liaison — Ed Cuddy
- Best of Friends Gift Shop Manager — Susan Fraser
- Newsletter Editor — Jillian Glover

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