

NOTES

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

Summer 2013

Help make our libraries the best they can be

Two Awards in Two Weeks!

Dear Friends:

Just in time for this Summer edition of NOTES we were thrilled to learn that The *Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library* were named a co-recipient of the 2012 The Gabriele Schreiber (Random House of Canada) "Friends of the Year" Award which is given by the Friends of Canadian Libraries to a Friends of the Library group for outstanding support to its library and for outstanding volunteer involvement. This, along with Susan Fraser's award, is a wonderful testament to the tireless work of all our members and volunteers! A big pat on our collective backs!

Thank you for being a Friend of the Winnipeg Public Library!

Too Many Books?

Billie Stewart, our book sale coordinator reports that her volunteers are busy preparing for our **9th FALL BOOK SALE** at Grant Park High School October 26 & 27. **Your gently used books (CDs & DVDs too) would be most welcome.** To donate clearly label your

box or bag "**FRIENDS**" and drop off at any Winnipeg Public Library Branch. Our tireless volunteer, Wade, can pick up larger donations. Call us at (204) 488-3217. (Sorry, we can't take: textbooks, encyclopedias, foreign language or most magazines.)

Susan Fraser receives MLA Award

We are bursting with pride at the recent announcement that our own **Susan Fraser** received the 2013 Manitoba Library Service Award in the volunteer category. It was a wonderful way to honour Susan's amazing work. She was, and continues to be, an inspiration and a mentor to all of us. Under Susan's leadership the organization reached new heights which translated into increased and sustained financial support for the public library and its programs.

For many, Susan is the face of the *Best of Friends* Gift Shop. In the early days of her presidency the Library management approached the Friends about operating a gift shop in the soon to be renovated Millennium Library. It was a daunting task to raise \$50,000 in three years but with the energetic enthusiasm so characteristic of her, Susan, along with other board members, especially Maureen Taunton, worked tirelessly so that the shop was ready to go when the library reopened in November 2005.



Stephen Carney of MLA presented Susan with the award at the Friends' June board meeting

....continued on back page

Why Libraries Matter

BY JOAN THOMAS

Our town, Carberry, didn't have a library when I was growing up, and I remember long hot summers reading and rereading the handful of books my mother owned. I believe there were eight, and I can still name them: Pilgrim's Progress, Lorna Doone, Gone With the Wind, a medical encyclopedia with lurid colour plates . . . A strange collection, but I'm glad now I didn't grow up on a diet of Nancy Drew mysteries.

Walking into an actual library always makes me happy. Even though I write fiction, I've made enormous practical use of libraries as a writer. I count on research to furnish my imagination about other times and places. Researching for Curiosity, I spent 6-8 days in the Rare Books Room of the British Library—that was a thrill. But the essential research happened in Winnipeg, with the help of librarians who ordered titles for me through Inter-library loans.

It's so easy now to do electronic searches from your home computer, and this has fuelled a lot of talk about the future of libraries. But no serious researcher would want to rely on the flotsam and jetsam of the Internet alone.

I like to research by foraging along a physical bookshelf. I look up the call number of one title in my subject area, and then plant myself in that aisle, and know I might be there for weeks. When I was researching for Curiosity, I read through the History of Paleontology shelves . . . and then I moved over to the History of Geology, and found the same cast of characters,



In April, Joan hosted a wind-up presentation with some of the writers who sought out her services during her tenure as Writer-in-Residence. L to R: Wencke Rudi, Rochelle Squires, Joan, Bob Armstrong, Sonya J. Penner and Jerrod Bacon

viewed through a different window. I could never have built up the necessary grasp of early 19th century scientific thinking through an electronic search—I didn't know what I was looking for when I started. The richness of a novel's depiction of its world depends on this sort of digressive research.

That's one reason why libraries matter to writers.

Joan Thomas has just finished a term as the Winnipeg Public Library's 2012-13 Writer-in-Residence. Her third novel will be out in 2014.

Supported by the Friends:

WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

The popular Writer-in-Residence program of the Winnipeg Public Library began back in 1985 and, apart from a few years when funding was unavailable, it has been offered every year.

As co-sponsors since 2000 the Friends have made significant annual contributions to ensure its ongoing success.

A LIBRARY LOVER ... A CONFESSION BY SINOPIA



Yes, I admit it. I am having an affair with my library. It has been going on for some time.

I receive more emails from my library than I get from friends or family. It is impossible for me to stay away so I visit three times a week or more. My library is the Millennium Library. I always wander through the 'New & Noted' section, peruse the 'Express' shelves and visit the 4th floor. Sometimes I check my email, pick up interlibrary loans, attend

a presentation or select CDs and DVDs. Summer days I spend lazy time reading newspapers and magazines on the patio. After picking up items on hold, I always stagger happily home with all my treasures. This relationship is going to last for the rest of my life.

Are you having an affair with your library? We'd love to hear your stories. And if, like Sinopia, you need to be anonymous.....that's OK!

Books & Brunch: A great success!

Dianne Zuk, Chair, 2013 Books & Brunch

After a gloomy spring the sun finally came out and shone brightly through the windows of the Gates and on our *Books & Brunch*. And we had the second highest attendance ever with 201 tickets sold!

MC Joanne Kelly introduced our most interesting guest speakers: **Doug Speirs** and **Jila Ghomeshi**. They entertained the audience by speaking with humour and passion about "books I have known and loved". (Their book lists are on our web page).

As usual the meal was delicious and the service efficient. Thank you to Ray Louie and his staff at the Gates. They are always so accommodating and gracious.

Lots of people helped make this event such a success. Thank you to the committee who started planning months before and to the volunteers. Special notes of appreciation to **Kathy Blight** for all the hours she spent with tickets, receipts and table assignments; **Billie Stewart** for organizing the auction and **Dr. Doug MacEwan** who once again came to sell auction tickets as he has done for many years. **And a very big THANK YOU for the special financial support given by TD Canada Trust and Friends' members Deb Gray and Susan Scott.**

All the work and support paid off handsomely with a net profit of \$7500 realized. This will go a long way to supporting many Winnipeg Public Library programs and initiatives.



A full house at this year's Books & Brunch

A big thank you....

.....to all the generous donors to the Rainbow Auction. The prizes were *wonderful* – from tickets to technology, fine dining and kitchenware, beauty services & jewellery, DVDs, CDs and *great* books!

*The Gates on Roblin *DA Niels Gourmet Kitchenware
 *Heather Graham *Crisalla Nail Bar *Galbraith House Bed & Breakfast
 *Pea & Bee Beaded Jewellery *Best of Friends Gift Shop
 *Biagio Uniset Hair Salon *Manitoba Chamber Orchestra
 *Thin Air International Writers Festival *TD Winnipeg International Jazz Festival
 *Promenade Cafe & Wine *Cutting Loose Hair Design *Harper Collins *Rorie Bruce
 *CVS Midwest Tape *United Library Service *Jila Ghomeshi
 *Doug Speirs

The Passing of the Crown



Susan Fraser crowns Dianne Zuk

Friends' Annual General Meeting

On April 9th the Friends held their AGM in order to receive reports from 2012 activities and elect a new board.

After 13 years as President, Susan Fraser stepped down and we welcomed **Dianne Zuk** as our new President. Susan remains on the board as

the manager of the Best of Friends Gift Shop. Outgoing Vice-President, Rochelle Blumenthal, remains on the board as a member-at-large and Billie Stewart took over the VP reins.

Our guest speaker was Rick Walker, Manager of Library Services who had an interesting PowerPoint presentation highlighting how our libraries have changed from "shush" environments to the busy active places they are today with much more than just books. And we mean busy! He reported that the WPL gets 2.8 million visits in a year!

Our accountants, Brenda Zielke and Dawna Suche were in attendance and treasurer Arthur Cohen presented the financial statements for 2012. It was a successful year for the Friends - and hence for the libraries and all of us.

Friends at CLA Conference

Our intrepid secretary, **Heather Graham** (pictured), along with Friends' board members **Reesa Cohen**, **Luba Harasym** and **Kathy Blight**



showcased the work of the *Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library* at the recent Canadian Library Association Conference and Trade Show held in Winnipeg. A big thank you to **Carol**

Humphries, the president of Friends of Canadian Libraries (FOCAL) who invited us to share their booth.

MLA Award continued from page 1

Since that time, Susan has spent thousands of volunteer hours each year working in the shop, ordering merchandise, training volunteers and attending to a myriad of other details to ensure the success of the *Best of Friends*. Through her efforts, the gift shop has established itself as a unique Winnipeg downtown destination.

AND IN THE WORDS OF OTHERS:

"Susan has made volunteering for the Friends a fun, exciting adventure".

"Excellent managerial and people skills are always in evidence, whether she is chairing Board meetings, mentoring new volunteers, working with gift shop consignors or Downtown Biz, negotiating advertising, or solving problems ... "

"Susan is conscientious in everything she does. She has had a life-long love of reading and learning and has dedicated many hours to making sure that everyone has the same opportunity. She has done an admirable job of growing the Friends organization so that it can enrich the library experience of Winnipeggers. Besides her dedication and excellent organizational skills, her care and concern for the patrons of the library, its staff and volunteers is exceptional."

And finally, this board member's statement just about sums up our feelings..."Susan is not only a highly competent, dedicated and imaginative leader, but she has also modeled her leadership and delegated responsibility so that others could follow her lead. Members of the Board are highly motivated to continue Susan's fine work, guided by her sterling example. In this way, Susan has left a legacy for the Friends for years to come."

Congratulations Susan! You're the best!

As reported on page 3, Susan stepped down as President of the Friends after 13 years but remains on the board as the Manager of the Best Of Friends Gift Shop

Friends helping Friends

Kathy Blight, Chair, Membership Committee

Congratulations to **Judy Danchura** who won the membership door prize at Books & Brunch. Welcome aboard Judy!

Friends in the Community: On Friday August 23, from 2 - 4 p.m., the membership committee will have an information table at the Farmers' Market at River Heights Community Centre, 1370 Grosvenor. Come by and say hello!

Susan Says

Notes from the Best of Friends Gift Shop

During the last week of May the Millennium Library was a-buzz with delegates to the Canadian Library Association annual conference and our little shop was kept busy, busy! I met interesting people from across the country and I heard from them how wonderful our library was and how they wished they had a gift shop like ours! I had great stock including unique new pieces and the cash register just kept a-dinging! It was better than Christmas in May!

I'm looking forward to seeing **YOU** in the shop. Remember, as a member of Friends, you get a 10% discount on all regularly priced items such as **Andy Warhol**: We love him at the Art Gallery and we love the note cards and sticks!



'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
- 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

Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library
 251 Donald Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3P5
 204-488-3217 info@friendsWPL.ca
<http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/contact/friends.asp>



friendsWPL