friends

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

SPRING 2013

Help make our libraries the best they can be

Spring, when everything is new

Dear Friends:

With this spring edition I'd like to both introduce myself as the new editor and also the name of the newsletter of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library. My name is Jillian Glover and I've been a member of the Friends for a number of years and for the last couple a member of the board. And now I have the very happy task of bringing to you news of the Friends four times a year via our newsletter NOTES.

A very big thank you goes out to Heather Emberley for being such a great editor and fun colleague for the last three years!

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

Susan Fraser stepping down

After more than 10 years as President of The Friends, Susan Fraser is stepping down. Her "reign" witnessed increased activity and dollars-raised for public library programs. Please read her last column as President on Page 3



Join us for Books & Brunch

DIANNE ZUK Chair 2013 Books & Brunch

The Friends' signature spring event, Books & Brunch, is just around the corner. Once again we offer you a delicious brunch in a beautiful setting with two interesting and entertaining speakers.

I want to personally invite you, our members, to the 2013 Books & Brunch fundraising event at the scenic Gates Restaurant. As is the Friends' practice, two interesting authors will be the featured speakers. Regular readers of the Free Press will be familiar with the column by journalist Doug Speirs In the Doug House. His sense of humour,

writing style and comfort in addressing a crowd will delight those in attendance.

Jila Ghomeshi (yes, Jian's sister) is a wellknown member of the literary community. She is a linguistic professor at the U of M and a "language lover" as witnessed by her book Grammar Matters: The Social Significance of How We Use Language. These two diverse individuals will share their favourite books and thoughts on reading and writing with the audience. But before their presentations guests will enjoy delicious food prepared by the Gates' staff. Menu items include, not only the traditional breakfast fare, but

also eggs benedict, grilled chicken, salads and of course a scrumptious dessert. Oh, and don't forget the fabulous rainbow auction; we have great prizes!

It is sure to be an interesting morning of dining, conversation and discussion. Tickets are now being sold so please do not wait too long to buy yours for this event. Your purchase and attendance directly affects the Friends organization in their support of our Winnipeg Public Library system. Hope to see you on Sunday, May 5.

Sunday May 5 10:30 a.m. The Gates - 6945 Roblin Blvd

Tickets \$55 (tax receipt \$28)

Available at Best of Friends Gift Shop in the Millennium Library lobby 204-947-0110 info@friendswpl.ca Tables of 8 may be reserved

Books & Brunch supported by 🔟 Canada Trust



are our guest speakers

The library of the future can be a more engaging place than ever before

by Benjamin Gillies

or thousands of years, libraries have offered citizens a place to gather and share ideas, or simply get lost in the pages of a book. At the turn of the last century, however, there were those who believed in the Internet era, nobody would have the time or inclination to use a library anymore. In the 21st century, they argued, these palaces of literacy and learning would become obsolete.

Well, maybe not. According to a 2012 report published by Lumos Research, per capita library usage has increased 45 per cent in the last decade in Canada. Many libraries are seeing record numbers of borrowers. And, of course, one cannot forget last year's major public backlash against recommended cuts to Toronto's library services. Despite all the entertainment options of the modern world, Canadians still love their libraries. To their credit, librarians have worked hard to ensure their institution remains relevant to the public. Recognizing the fast-growing power of the e-reader -- in 2010, six per cent of North Americans used such a device; by 2012, the number had exploded to 33 per cent -- they have heavily invested in making e-books and electronic audiobooks available for download.

Besides making it incredibly convenient to borrow and return a book online, the popularity of the Kobo and Kindle provides new opportunities to increase the efficiency of the library system itself. For decades, public libraries needed to be large spaces housing an expansive collection of books, which requires money for heating, lighting, and maintenance. While there will always be joy in perusing the physical stacks, as more people choose e-

Notes from a Friends' **Board Meeting**

JOY SIMPSON

Joy Simpson, a new member of Friends, joined us at our board meeting in January. Here she shares her observations.

I very recently joined the first hand the hard working Friends of the Winnipeg Library. I did so for a people who carry the load of couple of reasons. Firstly, it had been recommended to me by a friend and secondly, as a retired teacher I am interested in supporting libraries and literacy initiatives.

When I received my forms in the mail there was a place to indicate my volunteering interests as well as the opportunity to attend a board meeting as a guest. Since I was really not that familiar with what the organization did and how it operated I decided that attending a meeting might be the quickest way to get up to speed.

I am very glad I did attend a board meeting. I met members of the executive and got to see first hand the hard working people who carry the load of keeping the organization running so well. I found out more in one meeting about what is happening and how the organization works than I would have understood in a year of "just being a member." I appreciate that the

I met

members of the

executive and got to see

board is so welcoming to visitors and readily answered any questions I had. They made me feel welcome and helped me feel more connected to the Friends.

keeping the organization If you are a new member running so well. or even a long time member who has never attended a board meeting I definitely recommend it as a way of making your connection to the Friends even stronger and as another way to show your interest in this worthwhile organization.

> Ed. note: It was a pleasure to have Joy at our meeting and I invite YOU to take us up on the open invitation to attend a board meeting. Please contact us for date, time and location (they change)

readers, city library systems will not have to purchase and store quite so many hard copies.

In San Antonio, Texas, in fact, there are plans to open what is likely the world's first book-free library branch. Called BiblioTech, it will offer only e-books, and patrons will be able to borrow a Kindle as you would borrow a book. In the future, could public library systems have a handful of larger branches -like the gorgeous Millennium Library -- for those who enjoy browsing, with smaller satellites in community centres or other accessible locations where patrons can read the newspaper, pick up materials delivered from the larger branches, or peruse online collections?

Of course, some may ask why they would even bother to go to the library if they can just borrow online. The answer is a library is about more than just the books themselves; it is also about building a

relationship between a librarian and patrons, which studies show helps citizens become more engaged with reading. Thanks to technology, this relationship can become stronger than ever.

Matthew Bingham, librarian supervisor at Victoria, B.C.'s central branch notes, "There is so much information out there, but how much of it is good? Librarians can help people navigate the sea of information." Courses offered by knowledgeable librarians on evaluating web sources, online investment or a myriad other subjects could strongly complement the library of the digital age.

Technology is transforming libraries into dynamic new areas of community life. By incorporating traditional and electronic resources, libraries can provide a more pleasurable and engaging experience for patrons, while actually costing less to run. These developments can only help ensure libraries continue to flourish -- which, it seems, is exactly what Canadians want.

Benjamin is a political economy graduate from the University of Manitoba, a passionate reader, and an enthusiastic supporter of Winnipeg's public libraries

I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries. ~Carl Sagan, Cosmos

We love books. We love libraries. And for a growing



And for a growing number of us, we also love our social media!

So, if you use Facebook I invite you to find the Friends at facebook.com/FriendsWPL and hit the LIKE button!

If you tweet please follow us on Twitter: FriendsWPL.

And you'll even find us on Pinterest: bofshop

A little bit of wisdom goes a long, long way

And for North End crafter, **Catherine Anderson** her *Little Wisdoms* have indeed gone a long, long way - from her home to the Best of Friends Gift Shop to the hearts and homes of hundreds of people.

Last month Susan Fraser, Gift Shop Manager, reported that the 1,000th *Little Wisdom* was sold. If you've been in the shop you will have noticed the bowl on the front counter filled to the brim with eye-catching



little envelopes. Priced at \$1 they are the perfect little extra something for whoever. They are the much more attractive alternative to the fortune cookie! Catherine chooses her paper with an eye on quality and design and finds proverbs and sayings from around the world. Watch out for a new line of paper being used for the envelopes as Catherine is learning to marble her own paper.

The last one I bought (I can't resist!) contains a Nepalese proverb "Opportunities come, but do not linger". Wise words indeed!

I wonder whether Catherine has used this one:

A wise person will always find a way ~ Tanzanian proverb

She must have because she is and she did! Here's to the next 1,000!

Au Revoir but not goodbye

SUSAN FRASER President

I am very pleased to submit my last piece as President of Friends of the Library in this spiffy first-issue of our newstyle Newsletter. My final meeting will be at our Annual General Meeting, April 9th – I hope to see you there! Here is how it all began.

I mailed a \$50 donation to Friends of the Library on September 6, 2000. We had categories back then and I chose to be a Patron. Rochelle Blumenthal, President at that time, invited me to the October 18th meeting as a



Susan and Rochelle - a great team for 13 years

guest and the rest, as they say, is history. Who could have guessed that mailing a donation would start me on a thirteen year journey? All I can say is it's the best \$50 I ever spent!

I served as Vice President 2001-02, Rochelle continued as President. 2002-03 we exchanged positions and have been working as a team ever since. And as a team, we will step down and pass our duties to others. We are not going far though; Rochelle will continue as a Member-at-Large and I will continue as Gift Shop Manager.

Friends of the Library has come a long, long way since 2000. The success of our fundraising projects - Books & Brunch, Fall Book Sale and Best of Friends Gift Shop, has allowed us to donate over \$100,000 to library projects to date. Through the years, we have been blessed with many willing, generous board members and volunteers. Library management could not be more supportive and library staff are just plain inspiring.

Stay posted for more Friends news and please consider attending a meeting as a guest – you might just end up being President! I highly recommend it.

"A bookshelf is as
particular to its owner as
are his or her clothes; a
personality is stamped on a library
just as a shoe is shaped by the
foot." Alan Bennett

Friends helping Friends

Kathy Blight, Chair, Membership Committee

Have you thought about what a great gift for the book lovers in your life a donation to the Friends would be? You can honour their birthday, an anniversary, retirement or *just because*. A card is mailed to the recipient along with a message you provide. This not only lets them know you have donated but also gives them information about our organization.

Call or email us for more information or to make a gift donation. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$15 or more.

And a donation in memory of a person's passing is a nice way to remember those who were lovers of books and libraries. A special card is mailed to the family with your own message.

PastForward

Friends support WPL Digitization Project

When Winnipeg Public Library's Coordinator of Information and Virtual Services, Theresa Lomas, spoke at a Friends' board meeting about their "coup" of being able to digitize local

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postcard collector Rob
McInnes' amazing historical
Winnipeg collection there
was a palpable excitement!
This sounded like such a
fabulous project that we
eagerly got on board and
earmarked funds to support
further scanning and cataloguing.

Friends' president, **Susan Fraser** chatted with **Rob McInnes** (*left*) at the launch of *Past*Forward at the Cornish Library in February after his fascinating presentation where we learned so much about the role of postcards in interpreting our history.



A few of Winnipeg's Handsome Buildings from the Rob McInnes' collection

On the

PastForward
website you will
find images, audio,
and more, related to
Winnipeg's past.
From postcards to
historical directories to
oral histories, these
materials can be

browsed, downloaded and commented on.

Go Ahead - live in the past! wpl-digitization.winnipeg.ca

Too Many Books? We Can Help!

Billie Stewart, our extraordinary book sale coordinator, has a solution to your overflowing shelves: let us find new homes for your gently used books.

The Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library 2012 Fall Book Sale was the best ever, raising over \$9,000 to support programming at our public libraries. And now, we are collecting more books for the next sale to be held this fall at Grant Park High School.



If you have gently used books which you'd like to donate please package them up and label the box or bag "Friends" and drop them off at any public library branch. We can pick up larger donations. Pack in sturdy boxes (not too big please) and phone us at 204-488-3217. We welcome all categories except textbooks, encyclopedias and general magazines.

And please, tell your friends too.

Let's keep Billie and her team of volunteers busy!

Board of Directors

Susan Fraser — President

Rochelle Blumenthal — Vice-President

Arthur Cohen — Treasurer

Kathy Blight — Chair, Membership Committee

Billie Stewart — Chair, Fall Book Sale

Dianne Zuk — Chair, Books & Brunch

Jillian Glover — Communications

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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