

NOTES



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:

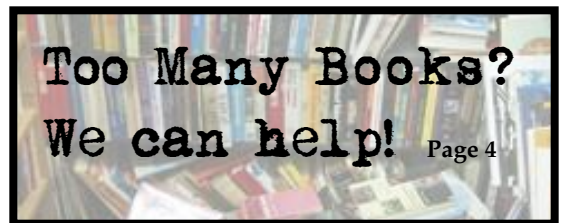
With this spring edition I'd like to both introduce myself as the new editor and also the name of the newsletter of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library. My name is Jillian Glover and I've been a member of the Friends for a number of years and for the last couple a member of the board. And now 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 well-known 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



New!
A Cash
Bar

Jila Ghomeshi and Doug Speirs
are our guest speakers

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

by Benjamin Gillies

For 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

New Member

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 Friends of the Winnipeg Library. I did so for a 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 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 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 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.

If you are a new member 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



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 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 **PastForward** 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**
- Heather Graham — Secretary**
- 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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