

NOTES



The Newsletter of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

Winter 2016

Help make our libraries the best they can be

Dear Friends:

I'm pretty tickled with the "I Love Libraries" column in this edition because it was written by my son! He's 30 now but I can still transport myself back to his pre and grade school years when the Brooklands Branch was our special haven.

Our relationship with the staff, the books and the programs made a big difference in our lives back then and nothing much has changed in that regard. The public library will morph into whatever one needs it to

be depending on who you are and what your circumstances are.

As we welcome refugees from Syria to Winnipeg we are reminded that the public library is an important resource for refugees and other newcomers, as well as for their sponsoring groups.

The public library. There for us all. Thankfully.

Happy New Year!

Thank you for being a friend of the Winnipeg Public Library.

From the President Billie Stewart

We wrapped the year with good news - 2015 saw a record number of volunteers helping out with our fundraising work at Books & Brunch, the Fall Book

Sale, and Best of Friends Gift Shop. We're fortunate - these three ventures are not just worthwhile, but enjoyable to work at. So a great big welcome to our new friends, and a big thank you to them and all our long time volunteers (see list, p. 3)

First: get the **2016 Books & Brunch** date into your calendar: **MAY 1st**. At The Gates on Roblin again - we have no interest in leaving that charming venue. Our *Books I Have Known and Loved* guests: **Lara Rae** and **Catherine Hunter**. Lara (then known as Al) was scheduled to appear last year, but an unplanned flight cancellation trapped him in Saskatoon. We're delighted to have Lara with us. A bookish comedian is such a perfect fit for B&B. With her on stage we have Catherine Hunter, a well-known Winnipeg writer of poetry, mysteries, essays and a new novel *After Light*.

BOOKS: we moved a lot of them in 2015. The Fall Book Sale showed another good revenue jump of over 15% to \$14,017. This is a year-round labour, and it's encouraging to our volunteers to see such good progress. Even our Book Cart at Millennium Library did well - close to a 25% increase in sales over 2014.

My colleagues on the Friends Board earned my gratitude in 2015 - it was a very busy year, and they all deserve gold medals.

11th Annual Books & Brunch

MAY 1st

with guests



Lara Rae
and
**Catherine
Hunter**



Speaking
about the
books
they
have
known and loved.

Ticket information coming
soon but please....

Mark your calendars now!

Best of Friends

Good Friends and Good Shopping

The Best of Friends Gift Shop conveniently located in the lobby of the Millennium Library features unique creations from local artisans, eclectic gifts, quality used books, DVDs, CDs, and more.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers who, by working together, manage the shop's operations.

Thanks also to our customers who support special public library programs and projects through their shop purchases.

Farewell but not good bye to **Pam Goundry** and **Joy Simpson**, two familiar faces at the *Best of Friends Gift Shop*. Both have dedicated many years to the success of the shop. Volunteers and customers will miss their personal touch and seeing them regularly. We hope they will stop in and visit often!

A great volunteer opportunity:

If you or anyone you know, is looking for an engaging volunteer experience and would like to meet to learn more about working in the Best of Friends Gift shop, please email the shop at bestof@friendswpl.ca

— Janet Carrierre

FOLLOW BEST OF FRIENDS ON



[BOF.fwpl](#)

Winnipeg Public Library is an important resource for refugees and immigrants.

<http://wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/libraryservices/refugees.asp>



From the Membership Committee

Kathy Blight, Chair

Since 2000 the Friends have proudly contributed over \$150,000 to enhance Winnipeg Public Library programs and services. Some programs would not be possible without our support and others benefit from a little extra financial help.

Membership is invaluable to the continued success of the Friends.

—Everyone leads such busy lives these days, so it is most likely an oversight if you did not renew your membership this past year. A change has been made in how members receive the renewal notice. As of June all notices of Membership Renewal are being sent via email to those who have given the Friends their email address. All others receive theirs by mail. A friendly reminder phone call has been made to those who hadn't renewed and it appears that many either didn't receive the renewal notice or didn't recognize it as such. **Please note that all Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library notices will be coming from this email address: enews@friendswpl.ca.** If your membership has lapsed, we encourage

you to renew and join us in our commitment to support all twenty Winnipeg Public Library branches in their service to our community.

Our web site, www.friendswpl.ca offers you the opportunity to renew and donate on-line, in a safe and secure way, by using PayPal: <http://friendswpl.ca/get-involved/>. This saves administrative costs such as paper and postage, leaving more funds available to support our Winnipeg Public Libraries, which is what we are all about.

However, you can still, if you like, mail or drop off your membership renewal at the Best of Friends Gift Shop. Just print the **MEMBERSHIP (PDF)** form by clicking here <http://friendswpl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/JOIN.pdf>. Including a donation is a welcome vote of confidence. It is much appreciated. And remember, a charitable tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$15 or more.

Happy New Year to you all!

—Kathy.

Book Sale 2015: A Huge Success!



If you donated a book or bought a book you were part of the most successful Friends' book sale ever! Grant Park High School gym on the 3rd weekend in October was the place for all book lovers to be. Everything ran smoothly thanks to the leadership of **BOOK SALE QUEEN BILLIE** (Billie Stewart) and her team of volunteers. The final figure has just been announced: **\$14,017.00** - almost \$2000 more than last year! So it is with great pleasure we say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped made it happen.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Audrey Abrenica | Nadine Kitchekeesik |
| Ayed Ahmed | Lorraine Koltek |
| Shiloh Antonio | Marvyn Lick |
| Lori Blande | Dianne Logan |
| Bob Blight | Laurie Logan |
| Kathy Blight | Cliff Loganberg |
| Pamela Bowles | Lois Loganberg |
| Warren Bowles | Christie Macdonald |
| Mackie Burdeny | Joan Macdonald |
| Janet Carriere | Sheldon Maguet |
| Matthew Carriere | Jan McLeod |
| Liane Carter | Marlene Milne |
| Wanda Ciereszko | Jan Mitchell |
| Arthur Cohen | Peter Mitchell |
| Reesa Cohen | Samantha Mitchell |
| Ed Cuddy | Peter Mueller |
| Wade Cudmore | Lorraine Napora |
| Jane Curtis | Barb Purvis |
| Marlene Enns | Deb Radi |
| Lucille Eustache | Bailey Rhule |
| Sylvia Flam | Carolyn Rickey |
| Kathy Friesen | Irene Shapira |
| Jillian Glover | Laurie Sodomlak |
| Heather Graham | Bill Stanton |
| Brenda Greenberg | Pat Stanton |
| Jim Hansford | Bill Stewart |
| Trudy Hansford | Phyllis Toews |
| Luba Harasym | Ann Tyre |
| Raquel Higginson | Fraya Zaidman |
| Dennis Hudspith | Bill Zuk |
| Bruce Kettner | Dianne Zuk |
| Fern Kettner | |

Special Thanks To:

Co-ordinator, **Branigan Samson**, and the youth helpers from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg; Roger's Raising the Grade (RRTG), a youth technology academic enrichment program. **Heather Black**, Director of Community Engagement from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg and the University of Winnipeg Learning Education Program students. Teacher **Donna Alexander** and the students of the Grant Park High School Leadership Program.

OUR STARS!

You were all... **Awesome**

Thank you to our corporate friends in the book sale neighbourhood. Everything was delicious!



Donnie Paille 1160 Taylor



Alex Kravetsky 1180 Taylor



Richard Gajes
425 Nathaniel



I LOVE LIBRARIES

“Neither a borrower nor a lender be.” I’m glad that both I, the City of Winnipeg, and many others have, when it

comes to libraries, ignored Shakespeare’s warning. Of course, borrowing *money* carries risk and the potential to put us into financially precarious situations by masking our means. Banks tell us that we’re richer than we think but they’re really saying that we can be in more debt than we think. However, libraries *do* make us richer than we think - and it’s not a ploy!

My earliest library memory is as a young child at the Brooklands branch (RIP). After having been advised that I could pick out some books to bring home, I became overwhelmed by the abundance of riches I had. Seemingly endless amounts of books were mine - all mine! I turned into an obsessed greedy monster (think Gollum) and began preparing stacks and stacks of books to check out. I had no selection criteria and didn’t discriminate against any book.

libraries ... make us richer than we think

After all, who was I to judge without having read them? In that moment, I felt rich indeed.

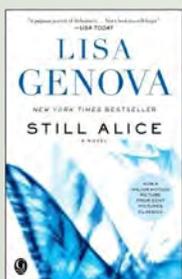
Thanks to some sensible borrowing policies, I came home from Brooklands with a fraction of the books that I had stacked. With my measly two books, I felt like I’d been misled - I wasn’t as rich as I’d thought! But in recalling this memory, I realize now that I was, and still am, rich thanks to the generosity that fuels libraries. The ease with which we can all access such a variety of material in different forms is amazing but is easy to overlook. I overlooked this reality for many years until recently when my wife and I renewed our memberships at the River Heights branch. When I browsed all of the eBooks I could borrow with a few touches of my tablet from my bed, I felt the same sense of wonderment as I had as a young child! Mercifully, those same policies are still in place.

Peter Mueller is a labour/employment lawyer with Taylor McCaffrey where he spends many hours in the library.

FRIENDS DAY BOOK CLUB

.....meets on the 2nd floor of the Millennium Library at 10:15 a.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (except for March when it’s the 4th Tuesday). Here are the books for this winter session:

January 19:



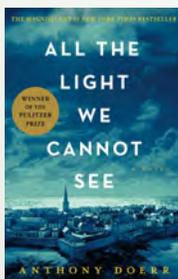
Still Alice by Lisa Genova

February 16:



The Bones of Paris by Laurie King

March 22:



All The Light We Cannot see by Anthony Doerr

MORE INFO: (204) 488-3217 info@friendswpl.ca

2015-2016 Board of Directors

- Billie Stewart — President
- Vacant — Vice-President
- Brenda Greenberg — Treasurer
- Heather Graham — Secretary
- Janet Carriere — Chair, Best of Friends Gift Shop
- Kathy Blight — Chair, Membership Committee
- Billie Stewart — Chair, Fall Book Sale
- Jillian Glover — Communications
- Janet Carriere — Volunteer Coordinator
- Rorie Bruce — Member at Large
- Luba Harasym — Member at Large
- Dianne Zuk — Member at Large
- Winnipeg Public Library Liaison — Ed Cuddy
- Manager, Best of Friends Gift Shop — Vacant
- Newsletter Editor — Jillian Glover

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