

NOTES



The Newsletter of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

Summer 2014

Help make our libraries the best they can be

Dear Friends:

It's summer! Yay! And I've got a great idea for an outing with family and friends: **Library Day at the Ball Park!** Folks from the Winnipeg Public Library will be there with information and will be heralded through the PA system. The game is against the Wichita Wingnuts and is on Sunday August 10th at 1:30 p.m.

Speaking of baseball allows me to segue into "stepping up to the plate"

which is exactly what Heather Graham does for every edition of NOTES. She does such meticulous checking and re-checking for form and content – with good grace and humour to boot. *I couldn't do it without you Heather - thank you!!*

I hope you enjoy this edition of NOTES. I'd love to hear from you if you have any comments or suggestions for upcoming issues.

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



Join Winnipeg Public Library's
Teen Summer Reading Club!
It's easy, FREE and it's ONLINE.

The Teen Summer Reading Club sounds like a whole pile of fun! We're happy to be able to support this great WPL program.

From the President Billie Stewart

Since our last newsletter, we've wrapped up another Annual General Meeting and enjoyed another Books & Brunch, our favourite fundraiser and sign of spring.



At the AGM on April 23rd, Dianne Zuk and I traded hats; I'm your new Friends' President, and Dianne is nearby as our Vice-President. Dianne deserves double thanks from us for her service as both Friends' President and as Chair of

Books & Brunch. We should give her a medal. However, we are optimistic that workloads like that will be relieved in the future, as board member Janet Carriere is now our Volunteer Coordinator, a new position. Demands on board members and other volunteers have grown in the past few years. The Fall Book Sale has nearly tripled in revenue in five years and that means more work. We want Books & Brunch and the Best of Friends Gift Shop to continue to thrive as effective fundraisers, but must spread the work among more people. So welcome, Janet.

A Books & Brunch highlight was our announcement of a special donation from the family of retiring board member, Reesa Cohen. To honour her eight years on the board and her career supporting children's literacy, her husband Lawrence Cohen is making a donation of \$3,000 to the Friends. This

donation will be directed towards a fitting project: the Family Literacy Playgrounds, a new initiative by the Winnipeg Public Library, and one supported by the Friends. Drop in to the Fort Garry Library to see the first one - take a toddler with you if you can.

We will certainly miss Reesa's participation on the board, and we thank the Cohens very much for this donation - the largest in our history.

We are so fortunate in Winnipeg to have such an excellent public library system. This is not something to take for granted, but to nourish and appreciate every day. By your membership and participation you have supported an impressive list of important projects, such as the Literacy Playgrounds. We thank you and are happy you "Love Your Library."

Books & Brunch 2014

by *Dianne Zuk, Chair*
 2014 Books & Brunch Committee

Books and Brunch 2014 was another success story thanks to our loyal supporters; 219 tickets were sold!

Joanne Kelly was once again our gracious MC who introduced our presenters. Unfortunately, one of our scheduled speakers, Dr. Frank Albo, had to cancel at the last moment due to a family emergency. He

was very apologetic about the situation and donated items for the auction as well as providing a speaker in his place. **Dave Courchene Jr.** known as Neeghani Aki Innini (Leading Earth Man) with Turtle Lodge spoke from the heart about the "Book of Nature" and shared some titles he is currently reading. **Alison Gillmor**, journalist and columnist with



the Winnipeg Free Press, wowed us with humour and depth as she shared her favourite books. Book lists have been posted on our web page and are listed to the right.

As usual the meal was delicious and the service exemplary. Thanks to manager Ray Louie, Chef Toby and the staff at The Gates. They are always so helpful, accommodating, and gracious.

An event of this scope cannot be done without the

help and work of many people. Thanks to the B&B Committee and the board who started the planning for this event months in advance. A note of appreciation is extended to **Kathy Blight** for all her hours of work and to **Reesa Cohen** and **Janet Carriere** for the beautiful table decorations that were given as prizes at the end of the morning. Thanks to **Billie Stewart** and her team (**Pat Stanton** and **Laurie Sodomlak**) for organizing the auction. I know those who won a prize were delighted. A big thank-you also goes to the volunteers who helped with the setup, decorations, selling raffle tickets and greeting guests.

We did not receive financial support from TD Canada Trust this year, which will have an impact on the bottom line. An appeal to make a donation was included in the B&B invitation. Thanks to all who responded with a donation of the ticket price whether attending or not and especially to Susan Scott who donated \$1,000! All will receive tax receipts for their generosity. I encourage

Books They Have Known and Loved

Dave Courchene Jr.

- David Suzuki, *The Legacy*, 2010
- Ellen Gunter and Ted Carter, *Earth Calling: a Climate Change Handbook for the 21st Century*, 2014
- Charles HRH The Prince of Wales, *Harmony: a New Way of Looking at Our World*, 2010

Alison Gillmor

- Penelope Fitzgerald, *The Beginning of Spring*, 1988.
- Anthony Powell, *A Dance to the Music of Time*, 1951-1975.
- Ross McDonald, *The Chill*, 1964.
- Jane Austen, *Persuasion*, 1818.
- Richard Yates, *Revolutionary Road*, 1961.
- Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*, 1989.
- Patrick O'Brian, *HMS Surprise*, 1973.
- Barbara Pym, *Excellent Women*, 1952.
- Pat Barker, *Regeneration*, 1991.
- Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*, 1920

All books listed are available from Winnipeg Public Library; some are available in various formats.

you to consider this for next year and/or if you have a business, to consider becoming an event sponsor. However, due to this continued support and all in attendance, Books & Brunch netted a respectable profit of \$5,800! These monies will go a long way to supporting many Winnipeg Public Library programs and initiatives.

We are always open to suggestions for speakers or ideas to make this event even better. I invite you to submit them.

And remember to mark your calendars for next year - **Sunday, May 3, 2015**. See you then and happy reading!

Thank you to these generous silent auction donors !

- d.a. Neils * The Gates on Roblin *
- Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra * Dorothy Dobbie * Pea & Bee Beaded Jewellery *
- Heather Graham * Biaggio Hair Salon *
- Cristalla Nail Bar * McNally Robinson *
- Manitoba Chamber Orchestra * Frank Albo & Heartland Travel * Best of Friends Gift Shop *
- International Cello Festival of Canada * Winnipeg Library Foundation * Lynne Gauld * Rorie Bruce * HarperCollins Canada Ltd *
- United Library Services * CVS Midwest Tape

Maureen Taunton: A Friend Indeed

I asked Susan Fraser for a bio for Maureen Taunton who wrote the piece on St. John's Library on page 4. What she sent me was too long for that purpose but too good not to print and share with you. So here it is:

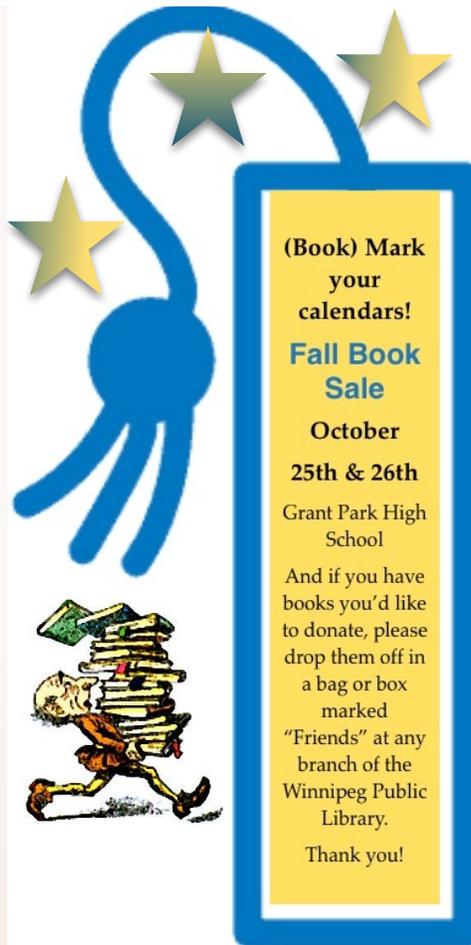
Maureen Taunton attended her first FWPL board meeting January 2002. Being *very* good at spotting talent, we put her to work immediately. The Millennium Library was in renovation planning mode and a gift shop was seen as a natural inclusion. Friends were offered the opportunity to take on this project; it was quite a stretch for a small group. But Maureen took up the challenge, did the research, presentations, grant applications and pretty much everything needed to make it happen. *Best of Friends Gift Shop* opened November 2005 and will be celebrating nine years in business this November. It never could have happened without her hard work and determination.

Maureen resigned in 2011, but continues to be a supportive member of FWPL. She keeps telling us she is moving to Vancouver, but she sure is taking her time. In the meantime, she is an active writer of letters to the editor and don't even get her started on that traffic calming roundabout the City built on her street corner.

Friends helping Friends

Kathy Blight, Chair, Membership Committee

The membership committee had successful information tables at three events recently: Spring Break *Meet & Greet* at Fort Garry and Westwood branches and then at the Manitoba Libraries' conference. We had free draws at each and the lucky winners were: **Chad Recksiedler, Todd Sherbonvich and Marj Zulkoski.** *Congratulations!*



(Book) Mark your calendars!
Fall Book Sale
October 25th & 26th
 Grant Park High School

And if you have books you'd like to donate, please drop them off in a bag or box marked "Friends" at any branch of the Winnipeg Public Library.
 Thank you!



Past President Dianne Zuk and Treasurer Arthur Cohen happily handing over a cheque to WPL representative Ed Cuddy, to support another year of great library programs and projects - programs like the Teen Summer Reading Club. Last summer 270 teens participated - an increase of 29% over 2012. Funds from the Friends will go towards the purchase of incentives to participate in TeenSRC: contest-specific gift cards (books, music, photography, art supplies), board games, and literary items from The Best of Friends gift shop.



Janet Carriere

Volunteer Coordinator

"Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries."

This quote by American writer Anne Herbert sums up one of the reasons that I volunteer for Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library (FWPL). When I was a child, my library opened the world to me when I had nowhere else to go. I support a vibrant library, open to all.

The valuable projects and initiatives funded by FWPL are many and each one strengthens community participation and positive relationships. I've met exceptional FWPL volunteers who invest their time and energy at the annual book sale, the Books & Brunch, the gift shop, on the board of directors and the committees that keep FWPL thriving. Whether you are a current volunteer, past volunteer or future volunteer, I invite you to take a moment to think about your challenges, concerns and interests as a volunteer.

CLICK HERE to Volunteer!

Let me know what is working well and where we need to improve.

The Volunteer Coordinator is a new position on the Friends' board which Janet has enthusiastically embraced. —ed.

"A Library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert"
Andrew Carnegie

My Library is...the St. John's Branch

When first approached to write about St. John's, I was excited about the prospect and quickly agreed to do so. Susan Fraser knew from the time we had worked together on the Friends' board that I had a certain zing whenever that branch was mentioned. With apologies to a not-just-existing but increasingly vibrant North End icon, this is a somewhat nostalgic view of my St. John's.



St. John's Library: one of the few remaining iconic structures from early 1900's North End

St. John's is a Carnegie library and as such was funded by Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy. Its intent was to provide access to information for self-education and also for immigrants to acquire cultural knowledge of their new home: people like my grandparents. St. John's was built in 1915, shortly after they came to Canada to start their families and their lives in the burgeoning North End.

St. John's was a mere 35 years old when I got my first library card. "Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes": that was in my

first repeat withdrawal. I can still remember the drawing that accompanied the rhyme. The next book that I remember vividly was "Here's to You Miss Teen". Witch hazel, as I recall, was recommended as a solution to a variety of ills. That it didn't seem to be available in Winnipeg was a huge disappointment.

As a student at St. John's High, my tastes matured somewhat. I think Andrew Carnegie would have been relieved. My first job was as a Page in the Library. I would see what people were reading and follow suit.

St. John's Library's 100th Anniversary is coming up and renovations are in the works - sponsored in part by the Winnipeg Library Foundation which is conducting a fundraising campaign and I urge you to contribute.

Maureen Taunton went on to higher education, other books and other jobs. In 2001 she retired from Manitoba Hydro where she was an economist. See page 3 for more about Maureen.

Susan Says

Notes from the Best of Friends Gift Shop
Conveniently located in the Millennium Library

I am pleased to welcome Sandra Hardy, our newest consignment artist. *Filiforme* is a botanical term for "threadlike"; threads and fibres are her inspiration. Her beautiful porcelain pieces may feature a knitted surface, sometimes a lacy detail. I love her small dishes that are cable-knit and have a tiny button on the side! She makes earrings and buttons in all shapes and sizes, coasters and dishes. All handmade - each a unique little art-piece.

Best of Friends currently represents seventeen local artisans, selling everything from funky buttons to knock-your-socks-off jewellery. Partnering with these talented folks was always the plan; the bonus is being able to assist their promotion and being part of their success. As you can tell, we are big fans of our Group of Seventeen!

'til next time, Susan Fraser, Manager



Board of Directors

- Billie Stewart — President
- Dianne Zuk — Vice-President
- Arthur Cohen — Treasurer
- Heather Graham — Secretary
- Susan Fraser — Chair, BOF Gift Shop
- Kathy Blight — Chair, Membership Committee
- Billie Stewart — Chair, Fall Book Sale
- Jillian Glover — Communications
- Janet Carriere — Volunteer Coordinator
- 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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