

NOTES



The Newsletter of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library

Spring 2015

Help make our libraries the best they can be

Dear Friends:

The big news from the editor's desk this time is that after a year or more in the making we have finally launched our brand spanking new website. For many years we have had a web presence on the Winnipeg Public Library website but we weren't always easy to find and we weren't able to do such things as accept donations and memberships online. And now we can - yay! So please check us out at www.friendswpl.ca and let me know what you think.

The very observant among you will see that Susan Fraser has signed off on page 4 without using her usual phrase 'til next time. Sadly there will be no next time for Susan Says as Susan has said that after 15 years with the Friends she's retiring from the board and the Best of Friends Gift Shop. Oh how she will be missed.

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

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday April 14th at 2:30 p.m.

Millennium Library, 251 Donald @ Graham

Anhang Room, 2nd Floor

Refreshments will be served



From the President Billie Stewart

One of the hardest working members of Friends of the Library is Susan Fraser. When the downtown library was being redeveloped in 2003-05, the Friends of the Library was approached to create and operate a gift shop in the new Millennium Library. The Friends was a very small organization then, but fortunately Susan, the Friends' new president, was on hand to take charge. The result is the charming Best of Friends Gift Shop, a fabulous asset to the Library as well as a Friends' fundraiser.

During Susan's terms as president we saw the birth of two more fundraisers, the *Fall Book Sale* and *Books & Brunch*, both flourishing. As well, she helped build a bigger Board of Directors and was responsible for attracting and training many new volunteers to help run all these activities, all while managing the Gift Shop. Susan is what is known as a "doer." She stepped down as President in 2012, and has now announced her retirement from the Best of Friends Gift Shop

and Board as well. And we do wonder what we will do without her. Many thanks, Susan.

We will have an opportunity to say thank you and farewell to Susan at our AGM (see above). Please join us.

I'm also looking forward to seeing you at Books & Brunch! And remember us when you're spring cleaning and find you have too many books.

FRIENDS DAY BOOK CLUB

.....meets on the 2nd floor of the Millennium Library at 10:15 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.



Here are the books for this Spring:

April 21: *My Salinger Year*. Joanne Rakoff

May 19: *The Word Exchange*. Alena Graedon

June 16: *My Journey*. Olivia Chow

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



That volunteer agency is unfair!

When they asked me to volunteer

They said it was just for one time

They didn't tell me I'd get hooked!

Why do people volunteer?

- Give something back to their community or society;
- Make use of special interests and talents;
- Learn new skills and/or develop new interests;
- Meet new people with similar interests;
- Have a chance to take on some responsibility and make decisions;
- Be an active citizen;
- Make a difference.

Our volunteers rock!

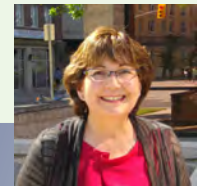
Each volunteer action is like the ripple of a stone cast into a lake. Like the ripples, volunteer efforts have a direct impact; they reach out far and wide to improve our library. FWPL volunteers rock every day of the year. They are the foundation of our success so a **special thank you to all during National Volunteer week, April 12-18!**

FWPL Needs You!

FWPL thrives because of our amazing volunteers! Our existence depends on the willingness of members to volunteer and serve on the board of directors. Board planning and governance is critical to the success of FWPL. Are you interested in getting actively involved in the work of FWPL? Are you willing to work with others to direct activities so we can continue our partnership with the library, supporting their

programs and initiatives? Please consider serving on the FWPL board. If you would like to be an observer at one of the board meetings, please contact me. Our Annual General Meeting is fast approaching on April 14 and there are openings for board members immediately and throughout the year. FWPL Needs You!

MAKE 2015 THE YEAR TO GET HOOKED ON VOLUNTEERING!

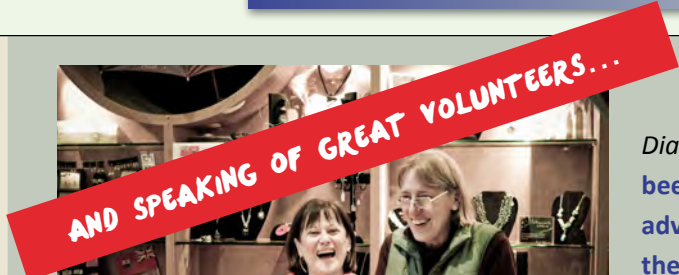


Janet Carriere
Volunteer Coordinator

If you were asked to pick ten books which you have "known and loved" which would they be?

This is the question the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library has asked two people every spring since 2006. And then we have asked them to come to a brunch and tell a couple of hundred people what those books are and why they are *known and loved*.

Books & Brunch 2015 is our 10th and will be held on Sunday May 3rd at 10:30. Our guests, who will share their most loved books with us, are writer **Charlene Diehl** and comedian **Al Rae** and we couldn't be more delighted! Tickets (\$55 with a \$25 tax receipt) are already selling well so please get yours soon by popping into the Best of Friends Gift Shop in the Millennium branch or by calling 204-947-0110. It will be a wonderful event in the beautiful surroundings of The Gates on Roblin.



Susan and Pam having way too much fun at Best of Friends Gift Shop

Dianne says: Susan has been an incredible advocate and leader for the Friends. Heather says: Susan has contributed soooo much to the Friends, and leaves huge shoes (figuratively) to fill.

Arthur says: Susan has done an amazing job for the Friends in so many different

ways. Kathy says: Susan has been a big advocate of the Friends and brought the organization to where it is today. Her contribution has been huge.

Janet says: Susan has set an excellent example ... with her professionalism, energy, leadership, friendliness and dedication.

**Thank you Susan.
We miss you already.**



Thank you Reesa & Lawrence!editor



I missed the grand opening of the new Charleswood Library so it was with some considerable excitement I arranged with Reesa and Lawrence Cohen to meet them there. We were going to see what their generous donation had added to this long awaited new facility. We'd heard that the new library was beautiful - and we certainly were not disappointed!

"WOW" would about sum it up.

Reesa, a former Friends' board member, and her husband

Lawrence, gave a generous donation to the Friends so that we could support

the installation of a Family Literacy

Playground. The structure chosen is a Purple Puppet Place and

came with a team of delightful puppets. Staff tells us that

the little ones just love it!

What better way to act out the Portly Pigs' Parody with Parts

for Puppies. Pandas and Penguins?



Pamela Bowles
Book Sale Volunteer

"Great-looking new website

for Friends!! Well done! Easy to get around to find things and very professional looking!"

Friends helping Friends

Kathy Blight, Chair, Membership Committee

Having our own website has given us more opportunities to better serve our members. Apart from being the place to find all the information about our work, the site also offers you a safe and secure way to renew your membership and/or make a donation online using the PayPal system. Donations can also be made through CanadaHelps.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: As of now, those members who have provided an email address will receive a membership renewal notice by email. (Others will continue to receive this by regular mail). This saves administrative costs (paper, postage) leaving more available funds to support Winnipeg Public Library projects and programs. And, thanks to folks like you, since 2000 that amount is over \$133,000!!

You can still, if you like, mail or drop off your membership renewal form at the Best of Friends Gift Shop. Just print the PDF form from the website.

Any questions? Please drop me a line at info@friendswpl.ca or call 204-488-3217. I'd love to hear from you!



www.friendswpl.ca

My Library is...the Charleswood Branch

My name is Dianne Zuk and I've been on the Friends' board for a lot of years during which time I got the reputation of being the one who was always asking "What's happening in Charleswood?" "When will we get a new library?"

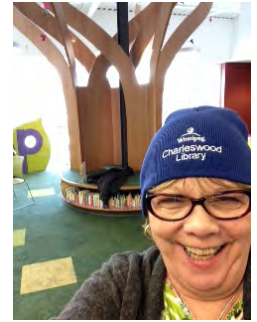
I'd lived and taught in Charleswood for many years and knew what a great resource the library was for the kids - and the teachers too. But, oh what a squeeze sometimes, trying to fit a class of students into that small space which was the Charleswood Library.

But everything changed in January and I'm thrilled. Charleswood now has the library it needs to serve and strengthen our community. The grand opening took place on January 19th and what a wonderful sight it was, seeing all the public, supporters, Dieppe School students and staff along Roblin Boulevard moving the last of the books, hand to hand, from the old facility to the *new* Charleswood Library!



Getting the last of the books from the old library to the new.

This new library is gorgeous. It is bright, colourful and modern. The most important aspect is the size. Now there is space to offer more programming and much needed meeting rooms for clients and the community as well as good parking. The décor is lovely with a nod to the history of the area. The children's space is unique and the literacy centre sponsored by the Friends fits in perfectly. It is still a library with books, reading material, librarians and computers - but with new technology - a real learning commons for Charleswood.



The Charleswood Lady takes a selfie at the opening of the new Charleswood Library

This is a place we can be proud of and that will serve the residents for many years to come. I encourage all to drop by and visit.

Dianne Zuk, who no longer has to ask "What's happening with the Charleswood Library", is a School Trustee in Pembina Trails School Division.

Susan Says

Notes from the Best of Friends Gift Shop

Susan Says... See you later Alligator. Yes, the time has come for me to say goodbye to Best of Friends. I am very fortunate to have been there from Day One - all the planning and worrying. And now... I feel like a proud parent, so pleased (and a bit amazed) at how well "The Kid" turned out.

Thanks to everyone who has been part of this adventure - it was a great pleasure and a lot of fun. I am looking forward to a summer off - hope it's a good one! And everyone knows I am a relentless "Idea" person so I expect it won't be too long before I am off pitching a new project.

Thanks to all our loyal shoppers and volunteers for your contribution to this success story. 2015 marks 10 years in business, which is *very* impressive. So, Susan says... keep shopping at Best of Friends!



Susan

2014-2015 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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