

FRIENDS CONTRIBUTE TO NEW IDEAMILL

When Millennium Library's new ideaMILL makerspace opened in July 2018, two contributions from The Friends of the Library shone brightly – a brand new interactive whiteboard projector, the focal point of our Media Lab, and four bookable sewing machines, located in the space's Craft Lab.

The interactive projector is a multi-purpose wall-mounted device that allows users to digitally scribble out ideas on the board



"This reminds me so much of watching my mother make our clothes," notes Mayor Bowman as he hones his sewing skills as the Friends' Kathy Blight looks on.

using digital markers – for example, edit on top of images or diagrams live on the big screen as part of a group brainstorm – and then save that content to a computer or drive.

In addition to being used in the meetings, classes and workshops held in our new Media Lab, one interesting use of the interactive projector has been during Make Music Mondays, a drop-in jam program that encourages people to bring their own instruments and play together, either to work on skills or to write new music. Says staff member Brittany: "It's been so easy to jam out the chords to songs when everybody can see them up on the board. At this point I don't know what we would do without it!"

The four bookable sewing machines have seen regular use, booked 271 times over the past year, with an average booking time of 3 hours per session. "Many people are excited and amazed that we have machines," says Ivy, another staff member. "When I help customers on them, they are amazed at the functionality of the machines. We've had people working on their hobby projects, fixing their clothes and practicing on them

SOPHIE FIRBY, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR OF INFORMATION AND VIRTUAL SERVICES



for jobs they want to apply for."

Tapiwa Nzira (above) has been coming to use the sewing machines in the ideaMILL on an almost daily basis, learning how to make backpacks. He's told staff that one of the reasons he's making these backpacks is because he wants his sister-in-law back in Zimbabwe to be able to make some money on her own. Once he irons out his designs, he plans to send her materials and a sewing machine so she can be a bit more financially independent.

The sewing machines are free to book and can be booked for up to 4 hours at a time – reserve yours today!

MEET CHILDREN'S AUTHOR AND FRIEND HARRIET ZAIDMAN

JANE BRIDLE, VOLUNTEER

When teacher-librarian and longtime Friend Harriet Zaidman retired, she aspired to write a novel. *City on Strike: A Novel*, her fourth children's book, is the timely



Harriet Zaidman

result. Set in the tumultuous days of the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 it tells the story of a 13-year-old boy caught up in the workers' struggles for better wages and working conditions. Here are highlights of a conversation with Harriet:

What are your early memories of using the public library?

We didn't own many books but we always had material borrowed from St. John's or West Kildonan branches. I remember challenging myself to read *A Tale of Two Cities* in Grade 2. Later *Cry, the Beloved Country* had a great impact on me at 13.

Tell us about your involvement with the Friends of the Library.

I have been an avid supporter for many years ...

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AMAZING BOOK SALE!

The Friends 2018 Fall Book Sale at Grant Park High School in October was a book lovers' delight. The CDs, DVDs, LPs, Art Prints & Posters were a hit too. The Book Room Team did an impressive job of selection for the sale, resulting in sales breaking records again: \$23,046, 20% higher than 2017, and a startling 86% increase since our 2016 Sale - pretty good for a short 2-day sale. Aviva Tabac, as the Book Sale Event Coordinator, welcomed over 60+ volunteers who were really in the trenches, from set-up to busy Saturday to pack-up, working so hard to make it an enjoyable experience for our shoppers.

The Friends' Book Cart at Millennium Library continues to serve the downtown shoppers well. Together, the two outlets raised \$36,911 in 2018 to contribute to the Friends fundraising in support of our treasured public libraries.

Our gratitude also goes to the St James Library Staff, as well as the friends of the Friends at Millennium Library and all the Branches for their support.

BILLIE STEWART
BOOK SALE MANAGER

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR BOOK SALE VOLUNTEERS

Bob Blight
Kathy Blight
Pamela Bowles
Janet Carriere
Janice Chance
Wanda Ciereszko
Arthur Cohen
Wade Cudmore
C. Drachuk
Lori Ebbitt
Melody Ebbitt
Marlene Enns
Lucille Eustache
Connie Feschuk
Sylvia Flam
Ken Friesen
Gillian Glover
Pam Goundry
Heather Graham
Rodney Graham
Brenda Greenberg
Trudy Hansford
Luba Harasym
Susan Harasym
Raquel Higginson

Eddie Higginson
Theo Higginson
Eric Homich
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Terra Jentsch
Edie Kent
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V. Light
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Laurie Logan
Christie MacDonald
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Marlene Milne
Peter Mitchell
Ann Morton
Loraine Napora
Carolyn Rickey
Connie Sarchuk
Joshua Stanton
Pat Stanton
Bill Stanton
Billie Stewart

Bill Stewart
Etoile Stewart
Gerry Suski
Sandra Stuart
Phyllis Toews
MacKenzie van den Berg
Morley Walker
Rick Walker
Fraya Zaidman
Paul Zaidman
Harriet Zaidman

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

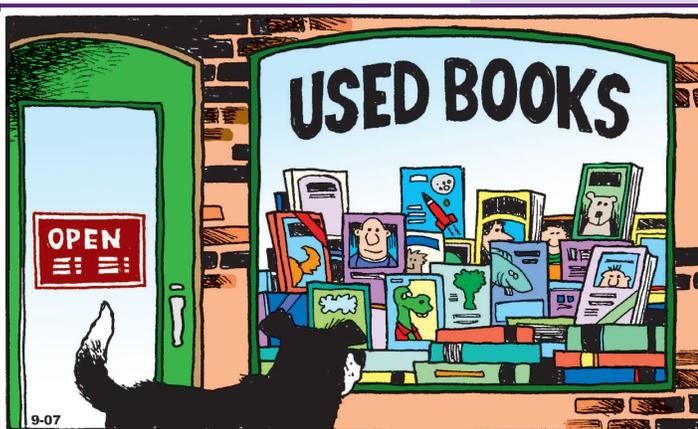
Grant Park High School
Leadership Program

**Boston Pizza, Subway and
McDonalds for providing
refreshments**

GloboSapiens Books

PSDesign

Ev at Henry Armstrong's
Digital Print Shop on Corydon



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TOO MANY BOOKS??

Remember the Friends of the Library and our much loved October Book Sale.

We welcome your donations of gently used Books, DVDs, CDs, LPs, plus posters & prints. Just label your box or bag "FRIENDS" and drop off at any Winnipeg Public Library branch.

- Please ensure boxes are "liftable" size and weight (no more than 25 lbs) and no more than 5 or 6 boxes dropped off at a time.
- Larger collections can be received at the St. James-Assiniboia Library, 1910 Portage, by appointment.

Call the Friends at 204-488-3217 to arrange a delivery time.

Please: no textbooks, encyclopedias (unless 1920s or older), professional books (law, accounting, medical) or magazines (exceptions: History, Art).

See you at the Fall Book Sale at Grant Park High School.



REMEMBERING ROCHELLE

With the recent passing of Rochelle Blumenthal, we have lost a very special Friend who was an integral part of the Friends for 16 years in both leadership and supporting roles.

As President from 1997 to 2002 she was instrumental in revitalizing the Friends. In 2002 she reflected on several Friends' accomplishments during those years: sponsorship of successful literacy and literary conferences; and convening Friends' Day at an annual Canadian Library Association conference for delegates from across Canada. She said that, during her tenure, "the focus of the Friends evolved from educating our members by having speakers of note address the group, to that of fundraising to support library projects".

A very successful venture was the Friends' Café in the lobby of the Centennial Library. (I recall Rochelle taking several of us to a used furniture vendor with whom she bargained for a good price for three

tables and nine chairs!) Friends arranged for the addition of vending machines, the profits from which funded magazine subscriptions for several library branches. The provision of book bags to sell in library branches was also an excellent source of revenue, she said.

After her terms as President and subsequently as Vice-President, she remained a passionate cheerleader for Friends' events. She shone as a talented ticket seller for Books & Brunch – indomitable, in fact. More recently she would phone intermittently with creative ideas for fundraising, and other suggestions.

In an article about Rochelle in a 2014 issue of NOTES, Rochelle was described as "a respected and treasured member" of the Friends. Regarding her years as President, Rochelle told us, "What began as dogged determination turned into a lot of fun!"



Rochelle's family asked that donations in Rochelle's honour be made to the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library. We are grateful for the generous response.

HEATHER GRAHAM

MAKING WISHES COME TRUE

Each year the Friends' Board invites Library managers to present their wish lists.

In 2019, we were pleased to contribute \$43,000 for the following:

- Annual support for the **Writer-in-Residence** program
- As a major sponsor of the **Spring Break Family Programing**, annual contribution
- Purchase of a **Family Literacy Playground for St Boniface Library**, first FLP in the city to be English and French
- To go with the above FLP at **St. Boniface Library**, **wall decals** to support early childhood literacy skill development – "Talk, Sing, Read, Write, Play"
- Purchase of **three sewing machines** - industrial, embroidery, and quilting - as well as add-on software to enhance the four sewing machines previously provided by the Friends for the ideaMill

- Purchase of **Tote Bags** with Friends' logo, for giveaways at major library events

Cheque presented by departing Friends' Board member Luba Harasym and Friends' President Kathy Blight to Manager of Library Services Ed Cuddy



BEST OF FRIENDS GIFT SHOP

Photos by Lori Ebbitt

Millennium Library Lobby
251 Donald at Graham
Monday – Saturday
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 204-947-0110

Email: bestof@friendswpl.ca

facebook.com/BestOfFriendsGiftShop

instagram.com/BestOfFriendsShop

These are only some of the beautiful items waiting for you at the Best of Friends Gift Shop. Drop in to shop for games, puzzles, art-themed items - like recycled bags, trivets, collapsible vases plus much more.



Find a perfect gift for someone special, for almost any occasion. Or, treat yourself - you deserve it!



NOW IN STOCK - summery gifts to warm hearts throughout the year and the best socks for a good time!



HARRIET ZAIMMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

...and enjoy volunteering at the annual Friends' Book Sale. My sister-in-law Fraya Zaidman along with Mavis Minuck were co-coordinators in the early days of the sale.

What inspired you to write *City on Strike*?

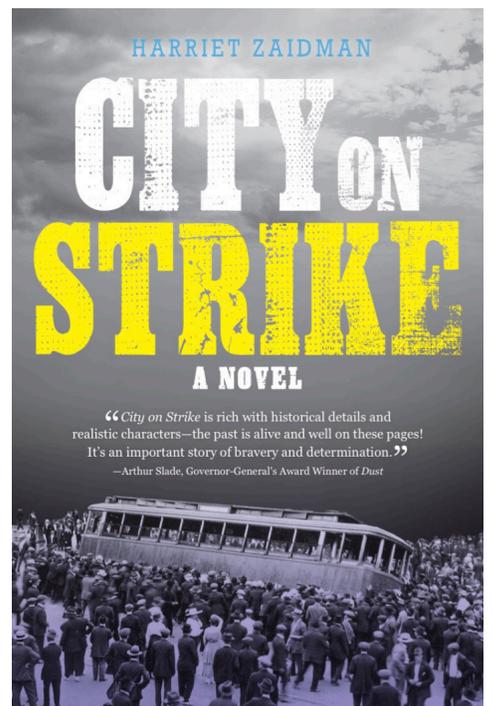
City on Strike honours the memory of all people who came to Winnipeg and Canada to work hard and to do good things for their families and this country. It is a legacy not only for my grandchildren but for all children. As a teacher that was my vision. I wove my grandparents' stories into the narrative as my tribute to them. For example, my grandfather Harry Zaidman hid in a cold cellar after he tried to stop a policeman from beating a striker. My grandmother

worked in the garment trade and walked out with other women.

My novel is based on memoirs and first person accounts I discovered at the Local History Room. A big shout out goes to Winnipeg Public Library for its unique and rare resources. During my research I realized that racism and fake news were used to create divisions and undermine the demands for better wages and the right to organize. Those tools are still being used today to divide society to its detriment.

I hope *City on Strike* reminds us that most people have common interests and we should resist racism and other negative attitudes that are divisive. We need to understand our history and make choices that bring us together.

Thank you Harriet!



CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

The Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library is an incorporated, volunteer-based charitable organization that believes in the value of public libraries and is committed to supporting Winnipeg Public Library and the projects and programs it offers to the community.

We are seeking interested individuals to participate on our working Board, which:

- Raises funds in support of projects and programs for our Public Libraries
- Reviews Friends' operational needs, makes decisions on funding expenditures and plans events
- Meets on the third Tuesday of the month (except during July and

December) from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Skills and Experience:

- Computer skills a requirement
- Financial
- Retail experience
- Communications
- Web design
- Newsletter writing, editing and/or design

If you are interested in this opportunity and have a passion for literacy, please complete an application on the Volunteer Manitoba site, www.volunteermanitoba.ca, and provide your resumé including previous board experience.

2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SECRETARY

Heather Graham

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WPL LIAISON

Theresa Lomas

SOME EARLY REVIEWS OF BOOKS & BRUNCH

Thank you to all who attended another successful Books & Brunch! Our speakers' superb presentations were warmly received, and Charlene Diehl demonstrated her skill as an MC.

Charlene Diehl, MC:

"I had FUN! Great conversation at our table, wonderful presentations, tasty food, smooth behind-the-scenes organizing—it was delightful. And I came home with a sweet little plant & a wonderful new book bag! Thanks for inviting me. Congratulations on your success, once again. It's so satisfying to support such important work."



John Einarson, guest speaker:

"Thank you all so very much for inviting me to speak at this year's Friends of The Winnipeg Library annual brunch. My wife and I had a wonderful time, the meal was scrumptious, and we met many warm and friendly people. Kathy Knowles' presentation was inspiring and informative. I hope I wasn't too off the wall for you. I had a blast presenting and kept it on Winnipeg libraries and books that influenced me, with some humour in between. Thank you as well for the lovely gifts. That was very thoughtful and much appreciated."



Kathy Knowles, guest speaker:

"Thank you for including me as a guest speaker for your annual Books and Brunch and for your thoughtful gifts. It was enlightening to hear about John's passion for music and his work and also to hear about the exciting initiatives sponsored by the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library."

Full details about this year's Books & Brunch will be published in the fall issue of NOTES.



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. For more information phone Faith at (204) 452-3369 or Joan at (204) 254-6697.

BOOKS FOR 2019:

January 15

Wolf Willow • Wallace Stegner (classic)

February 19

An American Marriage • Tayari Jones

March 19

The Water Beetles • Michael Kaan

April 16

The House of Mirth • Edith Wharton (classic)

May 21

I Let You Go • Clare Mackintosh

June 11

Members will choose books for the fall meetings, which start on Tuesday September 17.

FRIENDS OF THE WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY
251 DONALD STREET
WINNIPEG, MB R3C 3P5
204-488-3217 • info@friendswpl.ca
www.friendswpl.ca

NOTES EDITOR: Heather Graham

