

the Limited edition

Bismarck Library Foundation • Bismarck, ND



Bismarck Library
Foundation, Inc.

Since 1975

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Vol. 28 No. 1
Spring 2020



Mel Nearly Finished

Mel and Her Magnificent Murals

Mel Gordon has been painting since she was a young girl. She remembers selling her first piece when she was just 12 years old.

“It’s the only thing I can do... Numbers are not my thing.”

Although she was born in California, Mel considers North Dakota her adopted home. She’s now been here for 36 years. And she’s recently taken quite an adventure into exploring Burleigh County.

“I got a couple pictures of scenic Burleigh County, flag for the veterans, Capitol obviously, and the big crops, sunflower, wheat, corn, and then the state bird, the state flower, and the capitol with the rotunda.”

Mel was commissioned to create two murals in the Library. One is located in a stairwell leading to the basement, and the large one in the Lobby brightens up around 750 square feet of otherwise plain white wall.

“I like the meadowlark because I like painting animals. I also like flowers, I like the geese, it’s like asking you to pick your favorite child I guess,” she laughs.

It’s hard for her to pick her favorite part of the massive artwork, but the goal was to bring the outdoors inside. You’ll also see the Burleigh County Bookmobile winding throughout familiar countryside.

continued on page 2

Magnificent Murals *Cont. from page 1*

“I’m grateful for the opportunity, I’m thrilled the Library contacted me to do it, it’s an honor to be able to paint something so permanent in such a public place. Yeah, I was just really grateful for the opportunity.”

It only took her around three weeks to finish.

“I have good paint,” she laughs.

The paint isn’t all that’s good. You can see Mel’s work all around Bismarck/Mandan.

Here are a few places you can see her work:

- Mural on the outside of the Glance Salon and Spa building
- Sitting Bull in Art Alley in downtown Bismarck
- Bearscat in Mandan
- Two tornado shelters in Mandan (Graner Park and Harmon Lake)
- Trustlands - Theo Art
- Mary Stark School

She can now add two murals inside the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library to her impressive collection of work.

“The mural in the stairwell represents everything that goes on in the meeting rooms.

If you look at the meeting room mural, it’s this myriad of stuff, so that’s what the tree represents. When she [Library Director Christine Kujawa] asked me to create a tree of knowledge, I painted a tree similar to the one in *Go Dog Go* by P.D. Eastman, which is one of my and Christine’s favorite children’s books, and I just put little symbols in there

representing the different activities that go on downstairs.”

The most challenging part of completing the larger mural was trying not to spill any paint in

the Library, and the fact that Mel is afraid of heights.

“Just try not to look down too much, it’s like a treehouse.”

She’s had to look down frequently from all the people wanting to meet the artist and share with her. Something she says has been her favorite part.

“Talking to all the people, all the people that come and stop by and they say hi, they want to visit and tell me a story, that’s the best.”

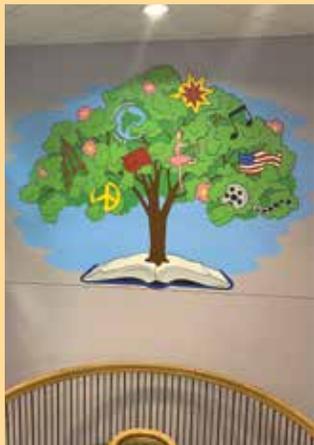
**The Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. funded both murals.*



Mel smiling



Mel on scaffold



Meeting room mural

Bookmark

Bookmobile Campaign Crosses Finish Line!

You can see the Burleigh County Bookmobile in the mural, but soon, the new Bookmobile will be rolling into town!

The Bismarck Library Foundation helped raise more than its goal of \$150,000 to pay for the construction of a new Bookmobile. The fundraising goal was achieved with the help of six grants, three business partnerships, a large contribution from a family estate, board member donations, money raised at the Art of Books fundraiser, and overall,



Bookmobile rendering

donations from more than 287 individual and businesses.

The new Bookmobile will have an approximate lifespan of 20 years and will be ready to roll by summer 2020.

Sweet Carolyn! Pearce Award Winners Honored Twice



Carolyn laughing

We played what's become known as a Boston Red Sox anthem, "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond during a special Pearce Award Luncheon. That's because we were honoring Dr. Walter and Carolyn Frank, and Carolyn loves the Boston Red Sox. Almost all of the attendees also stepped up to the plate to show their support and wore red socks!



Smiling board members

More than anything, the Pearce Award Luncheon was about honoring the 2019 Pearce Award recipients for all they've given and done for the Bismarck Library Foundation. The Pearce Award is the Bismarck Library Foundation's highest award.

Walter and Carolyn donate annually to be Gold Card members through the Bismarck Library Foundation and have contributed generously to the past four campaigns to improve the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library. That includes a new Teen Center, a renovated Children's Library, The Gifted Bean Coffee House, and the most recent campaign



Seated



Carolyn and Walter with painting

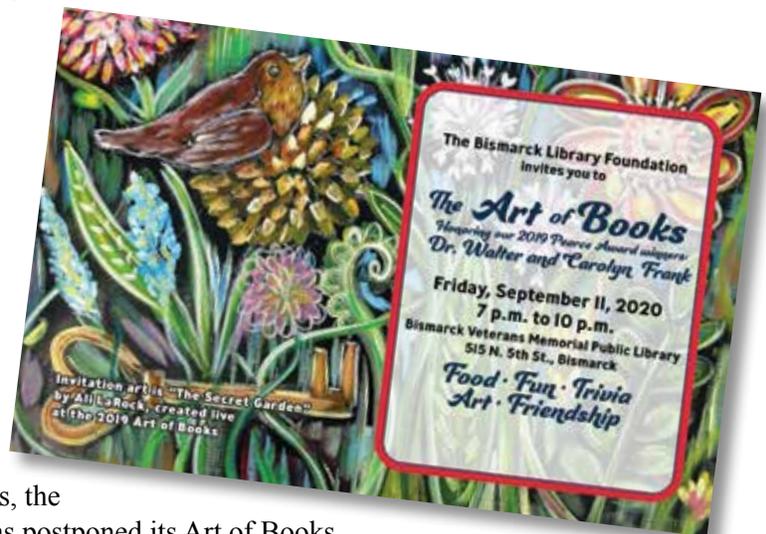
to fund a new Bookmobile. The Franks have also contributed to the Foundation's Endowment fund.

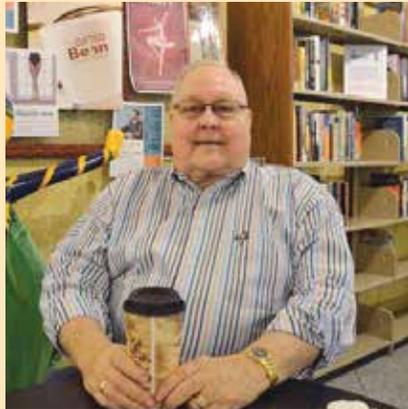
Carolyn has also been an active member of several committees and boards connected to the Library. She is currently a member of the Foundation Board and has been since 2003. She is also a member of the Development Committee.

Thank you, Dr. Walter and Carolyn Frank!

Art of Books: Postponed until Friday, September 11th

We are living through unprecedented times right now. Due to concerns surrounding the COVID-19 virus, the Bismarck Library Foundation has postponed its Art of Books spring event until the fall. We're hoping by then, to be able to safely celebrate with you for a much needed evening of trivia, food, art, friendship, and fun!





Dick in the Gifted Bean Coffee House

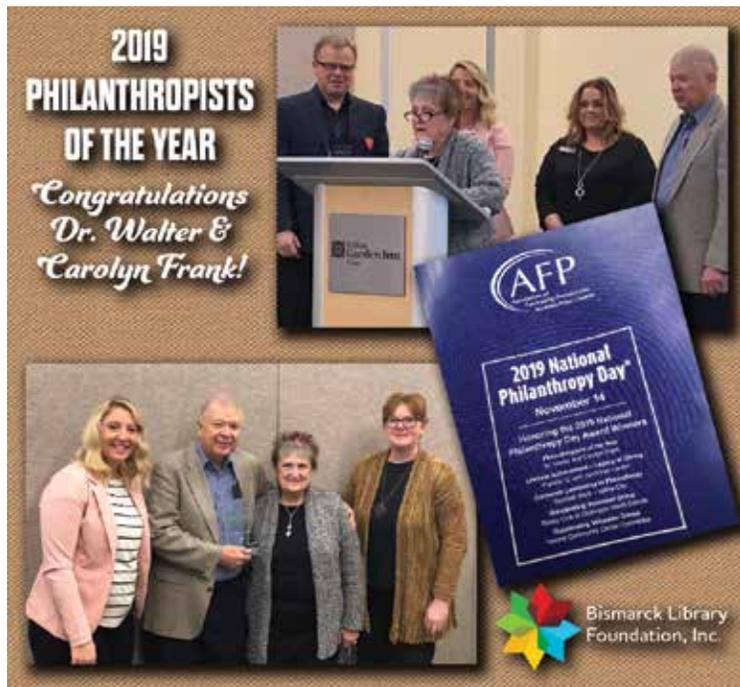
The Pearce Award luncheon was sponsored by Fredrikson and Byron. They awarded the Bismarck Library Foundation a grant of \$1,000 toward the Pearce Award, and \$2,000 toward unrestricted funding.

Thank you to Fredrikson and Byron for awarding us the chance to honor some of our biggest supporters!

**The Bismarck Library Foundation made the unanimous decision that the 2020 Pearce Award winner will be our friend, the late Richard "Dick" Weber.*

Philanthropists of the Year

In November, Dr. Walter and Carolyn Frank were also awarded the Northern Plains Chapter, Association of Fundraising Professionals' "Philanthropists of the Year" award at a luncheon in Fargo.



Showing Our Appreciation

Around 28 employees and volunteers feasted on a baked potato bar, desserts, and candy for the Employee Appreciation Lunch, February 17th.

The Bismarck Library Foundation hosts this luncheon to show appreciation to all the Library employees and volunteers, and to

build a relationship between Foundation and Library staff.

Foundation Board member Nikki Ferderer requested some appreciation gifts from her employer MDU Resources. They donated 70 nice travel/tote bags containing a journal and a pack of gum for each employee and volunteer.



Aria with the candy



Employee Appreciation Luncheon

Aria Forster won the candy jar, by guessing it held 174 pieces. She was off by only two! There were 176 pieces.

She proceeded to share her winnings with the staff. Just another reason why Library employees are so sweet!

Who's Who

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If you would prefer to have your newsletter emailed to you, please send your email address to ksimenson@bismarcklibrary.org

Support your community by supporting the Library!

The Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc., offers several different ways to support the Library. All memberships are tax deductible. Use the membership envelope inserted in this newsletter and start your legacy of Library support. To

view our membership perks, visit bismarcklibrary.org, click on Support the Library, then Library Foundation. Help the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library remain an amazing place to read, study, learn, and grow!

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Find out what's happening at the Library and the Library Foundation. Like us on Facebook at the following pages:

- Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library
- Teen Center at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library
- Miss Sparkles at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

the GIFTED Bean coffee house

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CLEVERLY HIDDEN INSIDE THE LIBRARY LIKE A GOOD BOOK.

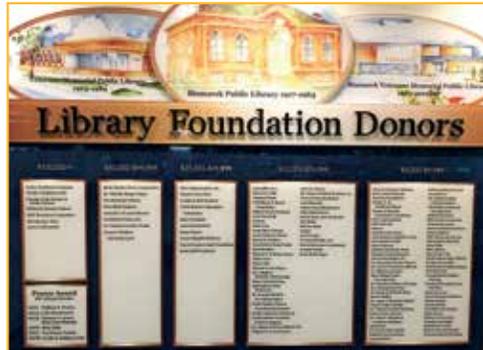
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The Library Foundation, Inc. gratefully acknowledges gifts from the following supporters.

November 16, 2019 through March 31, 2020



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**In Memory of Harold Neff
(continued)*

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Louise Zuern

Net proceeds from the 2019 Art of Books event were designated toward the Bookmobile Campaign.

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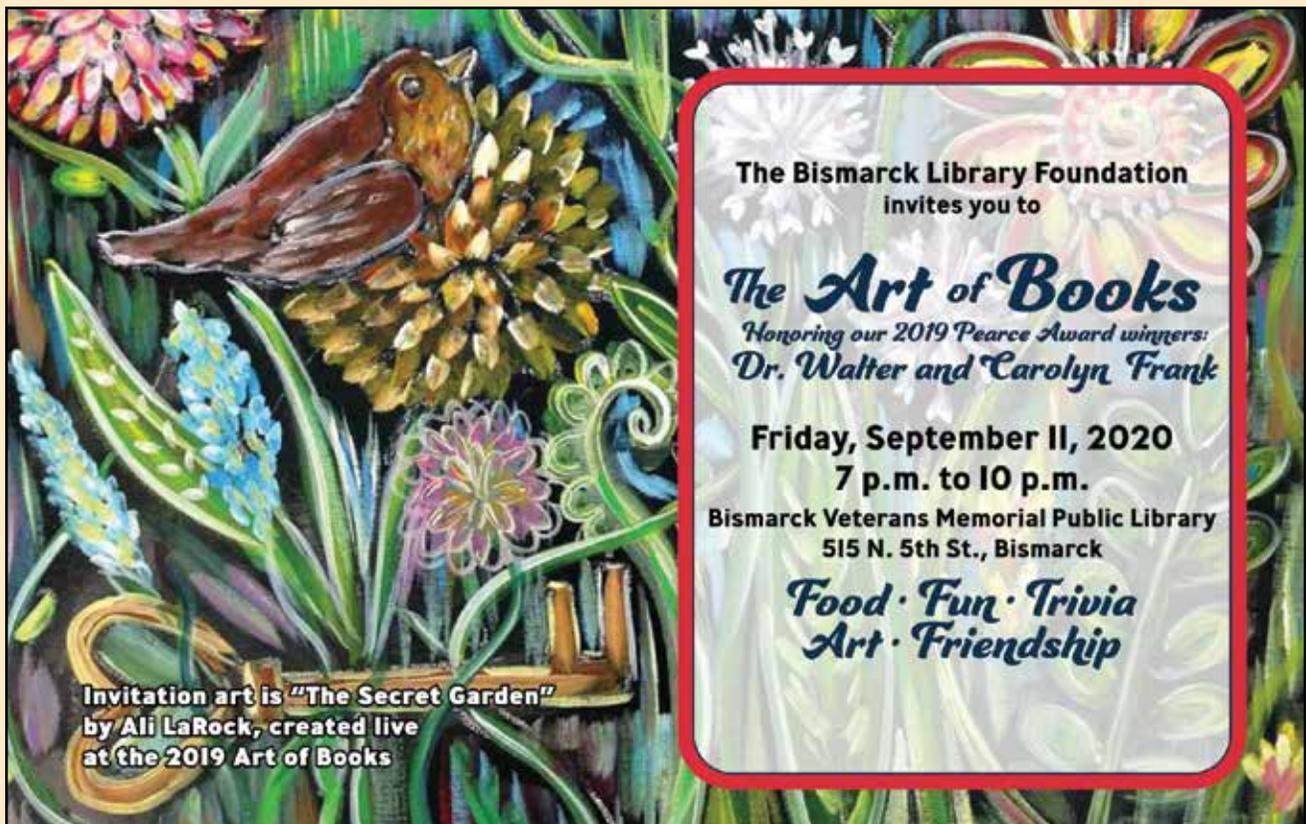


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THANK YOU to Mike LaLonde for contributing photos to this newsletter.
THANK YOU to Kevin Tengesdal for contributing graphic design to this newsletter.



The Bismarck Library Foundation
invites you to

The Art of Books
Honoring our 2019 Pearce Award winners:
Dr. Walter and Carolyn Frank

Friday, September 11, 2020
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library
515 N. 5th St., Bismarck

Food · Fun · Trivia
Art · Friendship

Invitation art is "The Secret Garden"
by Ali LaRock, created live
at the 2019 Art of Books