

the Limited edition

Bismarck Library Foundation • Bismarck, ND



Bismarck Library
Foundation, Inc.

Since 1975

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Library lovers enjoy The Art of Books



The Art of Books event at the Library on April 28 provided an evening of entertainment. A large group of Library lovers and art enthusiasts arrived to mingle, munch, and marvel at the magnificent artwork on display.

Twenty-six local artists produced works of art that were inspired by books and literature. Some of the items even incorporated pieces of books into the artwork. Guests at the event snacked on pizza, chocolates, nuts, and popcorn, sampled several different wines, and enjoyed locally-brewed Buffalo Commons beer. A few of the attendees entered winning bids on the art items and were able to take home some one-of-a-kind art treasures. Several lucky folks were the winners of the door prizes donated by supporters of the Foundation – from book and movie



gift baskets to photo prints to Library goodies.

Scott Wild and his Trivia Tour engaged the crowd with a round of trivia. This is the first year teams were offered the option of buying “Lifesaver” cards. Each team could have up to two cards and could use those to ask the Librarian Team for an answer to any of the questions in the first two rounds. The Librarian team has been the champion for the past

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few years. This year the Librarians were not eligible to win, but they were able to help the other teams rack up some points. The winning team did utilize two Lifesaver cards, helping to spur them on to the championship

The evening was a kickoff to the Library's 100-Year Anniversary. Library supporters were encouraged to donate \$100 for 100 Years – supporting the Foundation's efforts to help provide for the needs of the Library.

Thank you to all who attended and to all our volunteers who helped make this evening a success.



Bookmark

Thank you, Elizabeth Lucas

Elizabeth Lucas has recently retired from serving on the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors, after serving on the Board since 2014. Thank you so much to Liz for her years of service to the Foundation and her unending dedication to the Library.

Welcome Back, Ed Klecker

The Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. is excited to welcome back a former board member, Ed Klecker. Ed previously served for

nine years on the Foundation Board. We are very excited to have Ed, with his expertise and enthusiasm for the Library, back on the Board.

Thank you to the Fredrikson & Byron Foundation

The Fredrikson & Byron Foundation continues their support of the Library Foundation with a \$1,000 sponsorship of the Pearce Award and a \$2,000 unrestricted grant. Thank you!

Booklet written about the history of the Bismarck Public Library

With the Bismarck Public Library's 100th Anniversary year in full swing, many people are curious about the complete history of the Library. Kate Waldera, Head of Reference at the Library, has put together a booklet with everything you would like to know.

Kate began investigating the Library's history several years ago while researching information about past Library directors. As the anniversary events approached, Kate spent about six to eight weeks working in earnest to dig for more information about the past of our beautiful Library.

She dove into Chronicling American to view Bismarck Tribune articles up to about 1920 and worked her way through the Newspaper Access Archive database, which holds Bismarck Tribune articles from 1973-1956. She mostly used these online resources, but also spent a bit of time scanning through some microfilm from the North Dakota Historical Society.

Kate says a few of the pictures of Library directors were especially hard to find. One was of Ellen B. Lawin, who had also been a Library Director in Washington state. Kate emailed a local historical society in that area and a woman there was able to dig up a book with Lawin's photo. She scanned it and emailed it for use in the Bismarck Public Library's booklet.

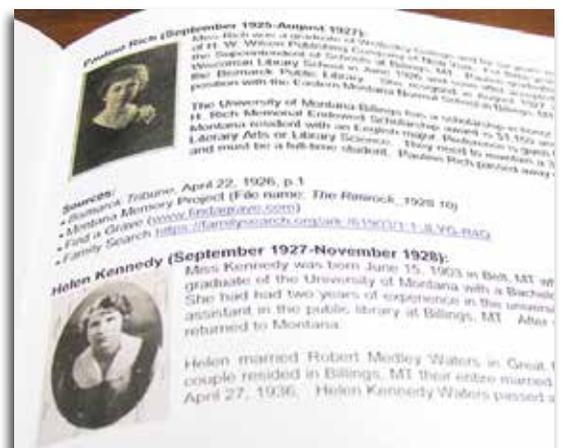


Kate Waldera displays her new booklet about the history of the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library.)

As with many American libraries, the Bismarck Public Library received an infusion of cash from Andrew Carnegie. This donation of \$25,000 allowed for the construction of the first Library building in 1917. Over the century, our Library has grown, moved, and changed, but has continued to be a bright spot in the community – a haven for those who want to learn, read, dream, and grow.

If you would like to learn more about the Library's history, there are a limited number of free copies of the booklet available. Check at the Library's Information Desk to receive your copy. The booklet is also available to view online at the Library's website (www.bismarcklibrary.org) under the About menu. Click "History of the Bismarck Public Library."

You can also view the Library's 100th Anniversary video by clicking the "100th Anniversary" link. The YouTube link to Kate's presentation about the Library's history will also be available soon on the Library's website.



Pearce Award winner, Betty Mills, honored at The Art of Books

The Bismarck Library Foundation Pearce Award recognizes and honors a community member who has made significant contributions to achieve the mission of The Library Foundation. This award is open to any past or present Bismarck native, resident or business who has made significant financial, volunteer and/or inspirational contributions to the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library or the Foundation. It is the Foundation's highest award.

Congratulations to Betty Mills, the winner of the 2016 Bismarck Library Foundation Pearce Award.

Betty received her award at The Art of Books event from Library Director, Christine Kujawa.

Christine had this to say when presenting Betty with her award:

“Betty is a lifelong advocate of this library and literacy for all ages. She played a significant role in starting the first Friends of the Library group in 1961. The group’s goal was to start a campaign to build a new library, because the community had outgrown the Carnegie Library, formerly on Thayer Avenue and 6th Street.

The campaign was successful, and in 1963, the Veterans Memorial Public Library was constructed. One of my favorite “Betty stories” about this time period relates to the moving of the collection from the Carnegie building to the new library. Betty and a few other library supporters filled grocery carts with books and walked them back and forth until the entire collection – close to 100,000 titles – was moved from one building to the other. They did this in one day!

After the library opened, the Friends started a book club named “The Book Thing” that met at the library. Several of the founding members of this book club still meet – their book discussions continue 54 years later.

In 1964, Betty co-authored the book, “Mind If I Differ?” with Lucile Hasley. She served on the Veterans Memorial Library Board from 1965-1971. She later served on the Library Foundation board. Betty is a Gold Card Club member of the Library Foundation. She has supported major library capital campaigns, including the renovation of the Children’s Library in 2009 and construction of the Teen Center, which opened this past January.

Betty has also been very active with several other organizations throughout the years. These are just a few: She was a founding member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship & Church, which started in 1952. Betty was a politics and government columnist for the Bismarck Tribune for 25 years. She was instrumental in bringing public television to Bismarck. She was a charter member of the League of Women Voters chapter in Bismarck. She taught non-violent communication methods to prisoners at the North Dakota State Penitentiary.

Betty’s cousin Kermit Lidstrom, who also served on the Library Board and Foundation Board, once said about her, “In her quiet way, she founded the local League chapter, started a church and built a library.” What an impressive record of public support.

Betty also served on several committees, including the Bismarck City Planning Commission, North Dakota Educational Broadcasting Council, the ND Advisory Committee to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission, Supreme Court’s Public Trust and Confidence Implementation Committee, and the North Dakota Legislative Compensation Committee.

Last year, I asked Betty, “Why is this library important?” She said, “The Bismarck Public Library has grown with the demands made on it over the years since I’ve been a member – from the overcrowded original Carnegie building to the present multipurpose structure. That it also provides education, amusement, creativity, and comfort for every age makes it a treasure for all of us. If I could only show potential residents one feature of our community, I would take them to the library.”



Betty Mills received the 2016 Pearce Award from the Bismarck Library Foundation.

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Sign up to have your newsletter emailed!

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

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Teens active in new Teen Center

By Laura Rysavy, *Teen Programming Coordinator*

Teen Headquarters at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library has been a very busy place the last few months. The Center offers open walk-in hours after school for teens and ongoing programming for middle and high school students. Teens often come in to do homework or play games with friends, and there is a dedicated group of artists who use their talents to craft works of art that they have been using as gifts for family and friends.



During the winter, the center offered an anime club, board game nights, Pinterest Party craft afternoons, movie afternoons when school was out, Lego club with robotics, and classes. Erin Weichel taught a special costuming class leading up to Comic Con, and artist Ali LaRock taught an art class.

This summer the center will continue the clubs and movie days and add in the summer reading program. The Center is teaming up with libraries across the nation for a National Library Lock-In Night. Young Adult authors will Skype with students from across the country and talk about the book they have written and their writing process. Teens will be given a chance to ask questions of their favorite authors and get a real time response!

Teen HQ is a great place for middle and high school students to hang out, meet new people, try new things, and work on their schoolwork. Plans are to add programming opportunities and volunteer hours for the teens to help them become well-rounded citizens in the community.



Teens work on a “crafternoon” project with Perler beads – one of the favorite activities at Teen HQ.