



The Limited Edition

BISMARCK LIBRARY
FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

A Library Celebration!

ART OF BOOKS EVENT A ROUSING SUCCESS

A big THANK YOU to all who attended the Bismarck Library Foundation's Art of Books Annual "Fun"raiser on Friday, April 29. Held after-hours on the library's main level, the sold-out event welcomed 135 guests and raised nearly \$4,000, which will directly benefit library programs and services. "There is so much support for the library and Bismarck Library Foundation in our community," said Nikki Ferderer, board president of Bismarck Library Foundation. "It's exciting to be able to gather and celebrate while raising funds for a good cause."

**THE SOLD-OUT EVENT RAISED NEARLY \$4,000,
WHICH WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT LIBRARY
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

Local artist Ali LaRock provided a live art demonstration while guests browsed the silent art auction and sampled food and beverages. A rousing game of trivia and a live auction added energy and fun-spirited competition to the evening. The Foundation's Pearce Award winner Dick Weber was also honored with a memorial presentation.

(Continued on page 2)

Great Libraries Build Great Communities

The Bismarck Library Foundation is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to enrich and enhance Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library collections, resources, and facilities through the generous support of our partners and donors.

What's New

- ▶ **SPEEDIER SPRING CLEANING**
- ▶ **GROWING A LIBRARY GARDEN**
- ▶ **ART ACCESS FOR ALL**



A Library Celebration!

CONTINUED...

The Art of Books 2022 event was made possible by our sponsors Fredrikson & Byron, Richard & Marilyn Gunsch, and Patty Sandness; contributing local artists; and our contributing donors Anima Cucina, Bismarck Larks Baseball, Bismarck Parks & Recreation, Buffalo Commons Brewing, Cashman Auctioneers, Christine & Sky Kujawa, Dakota Stage Ltd, Fern Candle, Glimpse of the Prairie, Scott Wild, Sleepy Hollow Theatre & Arts Park, and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. THANK YOU!



FRIENDS, FOOD, FUN
Guests to the 2022 Art of Books enjoyed food, drinks, trivia, and art in support of the Bismarck Library Foundation and library programs and services.

Photography by Mike LaLonde



Clean-Up Just Got Faster (and More Fun)

FOUNDATION FUNDS RIDE-ON VACUUM CLEANER

Did you know Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is approximately 70,000 square feet, mostly carpeted, and until recently, all vacuumed by hand? Thanks to Bismarck Library Foundation, the library is now the proud owner of a new ride-on commercial vacuum, slashing staff time spent cleaning floors and making this daily task more efficient and enjoyable.

“The time savings with the new ride-on unit is tremendous,” says Library Building and Grounds Manager Lynn Bryntesen. “Plus, it’s so quiet that we can even use it during operating hours.” Staff are very appreciative!



Library Building and Grounds Manager Lynn Bryntesen takes the new vacuum for a test drive

A Garden for the Children’s Library

GROWING VEGETABLES AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The library is growing a garden! “I hear children coming in and saying to their grandparents, ‘Let’s go look at the garden!’” says Traci Juhala, head of youth services at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library. “It draws people in.”

The new LED-lit Tower Garden® sits on the children’s library balcony. It currently holds six different herbs and leafy greens. This unique community partnership resulted from conversations between Bismarck Library Foundation and Bismarck Burleigh Public Health (BBPH). The library is partnering with BBPH and Bismarck Parks and Recreation on healthy eating children’s programming through the summer. “From Tower to Table” programs will be held by the children’s library garden 11 am on Thursdays, June 9 & 23 and July 14 & 28.

“I’ve been excited about library garden programming for years,” says Juhala. “I’ve seen it done successfully at other libraries. With our short growing season, an indoor solution works perfectly.”

Staff extend gratitude to BBPH, Bismarck Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and the Caring Foundation for making this library garden initiative possible.



Katherine, a children’s library page, checks on the Tower Garden® lettuce she helped plant

“The **purpose** of
ART is
washing
 the daily dust of
LIFE off
 our
SOULS.”

- Pablo Picasso

Art Access for All

GRANTS FUND LIBRARY ARTS ACCESS INITIATIVES

Bismarck Library Foundation recently partnered with Dakota West Arts Council, North Dakota Council on the Arts, and Northern Plains Dance on grant opportunities to fund three programs positively impacting arts access in our community.

“Many people think of a library first and foremost as a place for books,” says Assistant Library Director Elizabeth Jacobs. “But a library is a place for information and enrichment across a wide spectrum of media and programs, including the arts.”

Local Art Circulation with Dakota West Arts Council

Did you know you can check out art pieces at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library, just like you check out a book? The library’s circulating art collection includes reprints of famous works from the likes of Degas and Monet, available for patrons to check out and hang on their walls. Now, thanks to Bismarck Library Foundation and Dakota West Arts Council, patrons will also have the opportunity to check out select pieces of locally made art as well.

“We’re excited to help provide art access to everyone in our community, and that includes circulating local art in patron homes and offices,” says Lora Rose, head of technical processing. Patrons may check out works from the circulating art collection for eight weeks at a time.

“We have so much talent right here in our community,” Rose says. “I’m glad we can help shine the spotlight on local art.”



Bill Brien’s Turtle Mountain Summer is one of six local art pieces that will soon be available for patron checkout.



DID YOU KNOW...

25%

INCREASE IN
LIBRARY CHECKOUTS
IN 2021



471

AVERAGE
DAILY LIBRARY
VISITORS IN 2021



\$198,597

IN FOUNDATION GRANTS &
GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY IN 2021

Sensory-Friendly Dance Performance with ND Council on the Arts

Earlier this spring, Bismarck Library Foundation worked with North Dakota Council on the Arts and Northern Plains Dance to bring inclusive arts programming to the community with a special sensory-friendly ballet performance of *Alice in Wonderland* on May 10. Held at the Belle Mehus Auditorium, the event was free of charge. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library's own Miss Sparkles appeared on stage as the performance narrator.

"Miss Sparkles always talks about kindness. The small changes made to create this welcoming experience were acts of kindness that made all the difference for these kids," says Library Children's Program Director Jana Maher, who portrays Miss Sparkles. "It was a true joy to be part of it."

Sensory-friendly performances are designed for persons with sensory input disorders like autism or other disabilities. Adjustments include shortened program length, lower volume levels, and soft consistent lighting. Guests were free to talk, sing, laugh, and move during the performance – no shushing needed! University of Mary occupational therapy students were on hand to assist guests as needed, supplying fidget toys and creating a quiet area for those who needed a break. The performance served as a test model for possible future sensory-friendly programs.

"AS PARENTS OF AN AUTISTIC CHILD, WE COULDN'T BE MORE THANKFUL FOR SENSORY-FRIENDLY EVENTS LIKE LAST NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE. IT WAS SUCH AN INVITING ENVIRONMENT AND (OUR DAUGHTER) WAS FREE TO BE HERSELF - TO MOVE AROUND, TALK, AND SING TO HER HEART'S CONTENT. A SPECIAL THANKS TO NORTHERN PLAINS DANCE, BISMARCK LIBRARY FOUNDATION, AND NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE FOR FAMILIES LIKE OURS."



Miss Sparkles (Jana Maher) and Alice (Claudia Purdon) are all smiles after the sensory-friendly Alice in Wonderland ballet performance



Dance Me a Story Workshops with Northern Plains Dance

This summer, thanks to funding from Bismarck Library Foundation, Northern Plains Dance will bring a condensed version of their popular Dance Me a Story summer workshops to Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library. A class specially geared towards youth ages 7-11 with zero dancing experience, children work together to choreograph a story and present their dance production at the end of the session.

"Programs like these fall outside of our usual operating budget," says Traci Juhala, head of youth services. "Bismarck Library Foundation has always been a wonderful funding partner to make opportunities like this possible."

Workshop dates are June 16 & 23, pre-registration is required. Visit bismarcklibrary.org and click on Children & Teens for details.



The Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. Donors

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS FROM THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS (OCTOBER 1-MAY 15, 2022).

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Why not Espresso Yourself?

Gifted Bean Coffee House
Located inside Bismarck Veterans
Memorial Public Library
Mon-Thurs 9 am – 6 pm
Fri 9 am – 4 pm
Sat 10 am – 3 pm



Honorariums to the Endowment Fund

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Jerry & Jean Newborg
In Honor of Zoey Gillespie
Cheryl Gillespie
In Honor of Betty Mills
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Nancy Mills Panvini
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In Honor of Joshua C. Moline
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In Honor of Jerry & Jean Newborg
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Mort & Shelly Bank
Fortnightly Club
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Bill & Joan Severin
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Dean & Rhonda Reese



Bismarck Library
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FROM A TO Z

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