

The GOOD TIMES

The Newsletter of the FRIENDS OF THE BISMARCK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library are committed to increasing public awareness and use of the library through cultural, educational, and social activities, and to raising funds to supplement and enhance library programs and services.

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What the Friends Mean to the Library—by Tom Jones, Director

Since 1992, when the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library organization was “resurrected,” the Library has relied on their volunteer help and their financial assistance.

the Friends in the form of materials purchases, equipment/furniture and programming. The Friends have certainly provided the Library with the “frosting on the cake.”

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Mary Jane Schmaltz

When the Library began contracting with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to jointly hold the annual used book sale in 1991, we were providing the space and the collection point for the books. We were unable to supply the workers. However, within two years, the Friends became organized and stepped forward to become equal partners with AAUW in handling the sale.



Tom Jones, Library Director

The last sale the two organizations held jointly was in March, 2004. After that sale, AAUW decided that they were no longer interested in co-sponsoring the sales. Since then, the Friends have had sole responsibility of this major fund raiser. Last year, it was decided to hold a Spring and a Fall Used Book Sale (March and October). The funds netted from these two sales each year, plus other fundraisers, now total over \$25,000 annually! Almost all of these funds are donated back to the Library by

The members of the Friends also help the Library with various volunteer duties—staffing survey tables, collating surveys, hosting author talks, hosting the Ice Cream Social each August—to name a few. They are always willing to help us with a multitude of tasks.

In the past few years, the Friends have purchased a multi-tasking Ricoh Color Printer, banners for the Library plaza, canvas and vinyl bags

and calendars for patrons to purchase, an annual Large Print Book subscription, projector screens, a defibrillator, and various Rough Rider Industry made oak furniture. They’ve helped us out with buying computers, puzzles, books, cameras, AV equipment, videos, CDs and software. Recently, they’ve earmarked funds toward the construction of a coffee shop.

The Friends of the Library are truly our FRIENDS! We appreciate them and

President's Report— by *President, Darrel Spencer*

It has been a great year so far! Our March Used Book Sale was a great success! V. President Ann Mayher did a fantastic job of co-chairing the sale with me. Hats off to Board Member Deb Igoe, our membership chair, who contacted and scheduled all the many volunteers who worked the sale. Thanks, too, to ALL our Friends of the Library members who did such a great job of sorting and selling the many thousands of books to take in the \$12,000+ that we did this sale.

It is refreshing to realize that we no longer have to make last-minute stressful negotiations and decisions with mall management for a space large enough to hold our book sales. The library's Meeting Room A suits us just fine. With our next sale coming up in October, we'll also be using Meeting Room C (across the hall from A) for the sale.

We are indebted to Ed and Jan Fibiger for donating about 70 boxes of books. It took the combined efforts of several strong members, Dave Bickel, Rick Pfenning, Cliff Keller and myself, with our four vehicles, to haul those boxes of heavy books to the library. This immense gift of books was a very significant gift to us.

And, as long as I'm thanking people, how can we ever adequately thank library staff member, Donna Maston, who volunteers many hours each week to sort and box all the donated materials as they are delivered to the library. She goes far beyond the call of duty, making our jobs much easier by doing the major presorting on her own time. Thanks, Donna!

We purchased 65 6-foot tables for use at the book sales. These new tables are a blessing; they are light, easy to store, and, most of all, we no longer need to beg and borrow tables from others. To top it off, they certainly make our sale look more orderly and professional. We've recently purchased two table

carts, each capable of carting 10 tables at a time, to assist us with the set-up and takedown.

Our "after sale thank-you" Volunteer Picnic was held in May at the Jaycee Park. Fun and food were the themes of the evening. As part of the festivities, Ann Mayher presented a Lifetime Membership Card to major donors, Ed and Jan Fibiger. This appreciation picnic has been growing in attendance each year (this was our 4th year) and is a small way of expressing our thanks to all the volunteers who've helped at our sales.

We've recently had a change in pol-



icy of the pre-sale purchasing of books by the workers. It used to be that workers could purchase books as they were sorting for the sale. However, to keep in line with Library policies, rather than purchasing as we sort, we will sort the books first, then have one or two times set aside for the workers to purchase items before the sale opens to the public. This is truly one of the great benefits of being a Friend!

Our end of the summer reading program Ice Cream Social is scheduled for August 10th. Starting at 6:30 on the Library's front plaza, ice cream cups, with various toppings, will be offered to anyone in attendance. The Cookie Cutter Clowns will be painting youngsters' faces and handing out balloon animals to the children. Friends Joy Wezelman and Ann Dahl are coordinating the Social and invite everyone to attend and help us celebrate reading!

The Friends have voted to not par-

ticipate in the Downtowner's Street Fair this fall. Although our pulled pork sandwiches were gaining in popularity, the decision to no longer host a booth was made for several reasons: the cost of the pork product is quite expensive and the process of preparation is extremely labor intensive. We would have needed a much larger base of volunteers to have continued this project.

We are in the planning process of developing a web page. We'll focus on our projects, volunteers and happenings. This newsletter would also be online and we hope that, in the long run, our own site will help in recruiting more members.

We have always prided ourselves on providing benefits to the Library that it normally wouldn't be able to afford—sort of the "frosting on the cake." We have an excellent opportunity to do just that with an upcoming project the Library Foundation is spearheading. They are exploring the idea of a coffee shop located within the Library. The Library would remodel and build the coffee shop and lease it out to a vendor. Different flavors of coffee, tea, and baked goodies would be sold. It is hoped that more people would be drawn into the Library if they could enjoy a coffee or tea or goodies while they were reading. So, in support of this project, the Board has voted to earmark \$10,000 toward the building of it. The Foundation will match our \$10,000 and another \$20,000 will, hopefully, come from grants and the remaining amount could be borrowed from the city and paid off with the lease payments. After five years, all lease payments made to the Library could be used for new materials or program support. All in all, it sounds like a win-win situation for everyone.

One last time, I'd like to express my appreciation to the entire Board of Directors for all they do. Their wisdom and foresight are providing wonderful things for the Library.

Membership is the Key! - by Deb Igoe, Membership Chair

By way of introduction, let me tell you that I have worked at the ND Highway Department for most of my adult life and have also recently received a Master's Degree in Library Science via online instruction. I've been an active member of the Friends for many years and I love our Library! When asked to chair the Membership Committee, I jumped at the chance as I feel strongly that membership is the life blood of any organization. I'm anxious to see what we can do to attract more members and provide incentives for them to volunteer and remain active members.

One of the first changes you'll notice is that your membership may begin at any time throughout the year and your renewal will be due on that anniversary date. So, no longer are we going strictly by the calendar year for membership renewals. Soon, I will probably be the person who'll be calling you to sign you up to work for our semi-annual used book sale and other volunteer opportunities. If we haven't already met, I look forward to visiting with you.

Welcome to the following 2006 New and Renewing members..... (* denotes New Members...others are Renewing Members)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Paula Amelsberg	Gen Pfliger*
Vicki Beitelspacher	Rebecca Quanrud
Heather Braaten*	Ted Quanrud
Wayne Burslie*	Della Reardon*
David Byberg*	Gil Ringuette
Dwight Comfort	Roger Roehl
Ann Dahl	Jim Roth*
Lois Engler	Vivian Schafer
Anne Heinle	Gayle Schuck
Bette Hendrickson	Marilyn Stenslie*
Sharon Hoffer	Patrick Stoeckig*
Rita Johnson	Ron Swanson
Jeanie Kraft*	Betty Teske
Pat Krieger	Diane J Weber
Christine Kujawa	Diane Wilson
Stacy Larson	Eileen Wiese*
E. Diane Laub	Delores Witt*
Mike Mabin	Marge Zeller*
Donna Maston	Michelle Zeller
Judith Maxwell	

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Valerie & Keith Abrahamson
Al & Janet Beltran
Clark & Mary Bormann
Don & Pat Eck
Mary & Austin Engel
Ron & Rachel Fedorenko
Marci Goldade & Annie & Molly Fischer
James & Connie Hildebrand
William & Evelyn Campbell
Cliff & Sharon Keller
Byron & Bernice Knutson
Shelly Martel
Kent Morrow
Alice Ospovat & Andrew Rysavy*
Mikiel & Odell Ottmar
Bill & Lois Rambough*
Anita Casey-Reed*
Carol Solberg
Darrel & Audrey Spencer
Sol & Sybil Wezelman
Jerry & Peggy Zimmerman

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIPS

Marvia Boettcher
Walter & Carolyn Frank
Deb Igoe
Betty Mills
Joy Wezelman

LIFE MEMBERS

Edward & Jan Fibiger
Jeanne & Thomas Myers
Michael & Kim Schaff
Mary Jane Schmaltz

Please send any changes in your address, telephone numbers or email to:
bplfriends@hotmail.com
or call: 223-8689



You're Invited..



Ice Cream Social
Thursday, August 10th
6:30—8:30 PM
Library Plaza



Join the Friends and the children and teens celebrating the end of the Summer Reading Program.

Cookie Cutter Clowns will be doing face paintings and making balloon animals.



How To Take Care of That Special Book - by *Cliff Keller*

You have finally been able to locate that elusive signed first edition of *GONE WITH THE WIND* or the old family Bible has been entrusted to you for its care and eventual passing down to the next generation. What should you do to preserve these treasures? This article will deal with some of those basic questions of book preservation such as proper storage, dealing with mold and mildew smells, and cleaning and repair of books. You can apply these tips to the care of books from commonplace to rare. Obviously, we will be more careful with rare books.

Probably the most important thing about caring for books is to know that damage is cumulative and has a memory and that continued mishandling, incorrect storage and failure to deal with book problems can quickly reduce a book in fine condition into something that cannot be repaired and is barely readable. A common question asked is how to store books. Before we get to that question, we will try to answer the “where” of book storage. Some places to avoid when storing books are locations subject to direct sunlight, attics, basements or under water pipes. Direct sunlight contains ultraviolet rays that will fade leather and cloth; attics harm books with excessive heat and dryness while storage of books in basements can subject them to mold and excessive moisture. Storing books in bookcases of unfinished wood should be avoided due to the leeching of natural oils in the wood that can stain book covers. Wood surfaces should be finished with a polyurethane coating to prevent this from happening. Sometimes you have to create an environment for special books. This can range from a separate room with temperature and humidity controls and special lighting to nothing more than a box. That box should be constructed of archival materials as the chemicals in regular cardboard boxes will harm books over a period of time.

How should you store your books? Books should be shelved vertically with similar-sized books next to each other. A tall book can, over time, warp or bend toward an adjoining shorter book. When stored on a shelf, the books should not be placed too tightly or too loosely—give your volumes a chance to breathe. Books should stand straight up as leaning books can cause warped covers. When taking a book from a shelf, do not grab it at the top of the spine as repeated grabbing will loosen and eventually tear the spine. It is better to reach behind the book and push until both sides of the book can be firmly grasped and then withdraw the book with one continuous motion.

Just like cars, books need to be broken in whether they are old or brand new. When opening a new book for the first time or an old book, you may want to place it into a cradle that supports the covers and the spine and controls how far the book can be opened. You can also lay it on a flat surface. If you don't have a cradle, you can simulate one by placing books of equal thickness under the front and back covers. This allows the

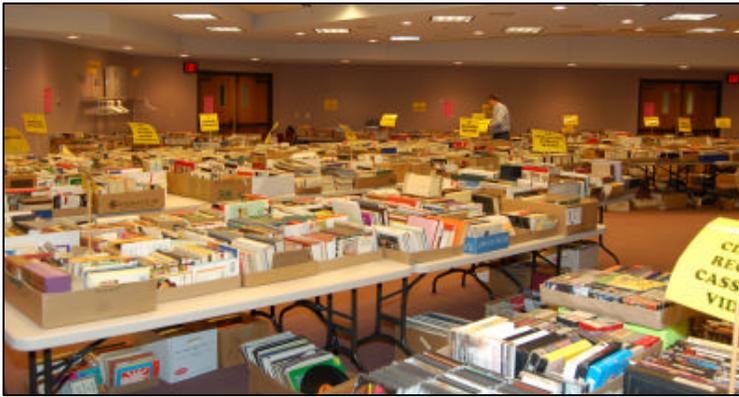
spine to not bear the entire weight of the book when it is laying flat. Breaking in a book simply means opening a couple of pages from the front and opening out a couple of pages from the back and repeat this process until the middle of the book has been reached. Of course, one cardinal rule of book handling is that you should always wear cotton gloves when handling rare or old books because your hands secrete oils which are harmful to books. If gloves are not handy, then wash your hands thoroughly before handling these treasures.

Let's look at some of the problems we all encounter from time to time such as books that smell of mildew. Remove the materials to a drier environment that allows for good air circulation around the materials. Extended storage, under these conditions, will kill the bacteria and therefore cause the smell to eventually disappear. An outdoor exposure will speed up the process but it may also expose the material to sunlight which can cause color fading—so this method is a trade-off. If you see active mold on your books, do not attempt to remove it until it is thoroughly dry. Grinding the mold into the covers or paper will cause stains which are impossible to remove.

How about wet books? The most important thing is to do something as soon as possible. Mold can start to grow within a day in warm and humid conditions. Air dry when possible and use fans to increase air circulation. Do not aim the fans directly at the wet materials. What cannot be taken care of in this fashion should be frozen until you have time to dry them or get the affected materials to a conservationist.

We all have some of those beautiful leather-bound volumes and many are starting to crack. What should we be doing with them? The use of leather dressing is no longer recommended. The better approach is to contact a conservationist for advice. Another common “fix it” is to repair torn pages with good old scotch tape. It just takes a minute to do but can take a conservationist many hours to deal with the residue and yellowing that accompanies these quick repair jobs. If you are going to repair the tears with tape, make the repair with acid-free tape. You can also glue the page together using an acid-free glue. This is a complicated process and is not recommended for the beginner. If the boards on a book are dirty, try using a good quality art gum eraser to remove dirt, smudges and pencil marks. Good erasers crumble very easily and therein lies their value as they will collect the marks or stains and will not scuff or scratch the book. As with all cleaning operations, start cleaning a very small area and view the results to see if they are satisfactory and the book has not been irreversibly changed or damaged.

Advanced book care tips can be obtained by contacting the Library of Congress or the ND State Historical Society. Remember, a good book is like a good friend; take care of it, look after it and you will have a companion for life.



REMINDER
Fall Used Book Sale
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
October 19, 20, 21 at
Bismarck Public Library



Treasurer's Report—by Carol Solberg, Treasurer

Current balance in checking: \$21,082.00

Since January of 2006, the Friends have purchased and/or sponsored the following items/events:

- * 2 ceiling-hung projector screens
- * 2 sets of wooden display cubes for library displays
- * 65 tables for our semi-annual used book sales
- * 2 table carts for hauling the tables
- * large print books
- * volunteer recognition picnic
- * t-shirts for the summer reading program volunteers
- * color laser printer



Approximately \$12,000 has been earmarked for the following: banners for the library plaza; the Ice Cream Social; programs for the teen and children's summer reading programs. The bulk of the money (\$10,000) has been earmarked for the Friend's contribution toward construction of the anticipated Library Coffee Shop.

Our sources of funds continue to be book sale profits, membership dues, withdrawn book sales, sale of the "I Love My Library" canvas bags, and the ink cartridge recycle program.

Musings—by Mikiel Ottmar

The secret life of a volunteer library book cleaner involves surreptitiously reading a page or three of any given book before re-shelving it; the latter is probably the hardest work ever done by a volunteer. Books with titles such as: *Sin and Fear*, *A Marginal Jew*, *Jumbos and Jackasses*, *Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII*, *The Ladies of Seneca Falls*, *Mind If I Differ*, beg to be read....NOW. Becoming acquainted with new titles is a major benefit of being a volunteer at the library.

To compensate for having to press on with the cleaning rag, I jot down call numbers. So far my 'to read' list should take me through 2015.

My scrubbing finds the most soiled books in the sex and economics sections. Is there some meaning here? I'll ponder this as I continue down the shelves scrubbing away.

At home I look at my list of call numbers, then at my bulging book shelves and their overflow, and settle in with the latest John Kellerman, a cup of Tazo green tea and read away—using my latest call number reading list as a bookmark.

The Friends of the Bismarck Public Library
515 North Fifth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501-4081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Ice Cream Social...Aug. 10th
Used Book Sale....Oct. 19, 20, & 21



JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE BISMARCK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Membership Categories

Individual	\$5.00
Family	\$10.00
Contributing	\$25.00
Life	\$100.00

YES, I want to be a FRIEND _____

I want to renew my membership _____

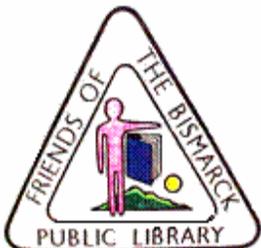
Membership category: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Mail or return this form to: **THE FRIENDS**
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Bismarck, ND 58501-4081