



# FOOTNOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS  
OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY LIBRARY



## 'Tis the Season, for the FOL Store!

*By Jo Burch*

In 1990, Alice Meyer, President of the Friends of Multnomah County Library, approached Ginnie Cooper, Director of Libraries, with a proposal for a retail venture in Portland's downtown Central Library. The gift store would carry book-related merchandise, be staffed by volunteers, and contribute its profits to the Multnomah County Library system. Ginnie enthusiastically gave her approval and the Friends' Library Store became a reality in 1997 when Central reopened following its extensive, award-winning renovation.

seven days a week. Although floor space is limited, the shelves are regularly stocked with new items, as well as those that are always in demand. Patrons know they can count on finding the perfect gift for book lovers of all ages.

The current store manager, Sherry Alicki, was hired in



*Store manager Sherry Alicki waits to greet customers with her assistant, Alicia Davis.*



After nearly five years in operation, the Store is still very much in evidence, attracting both new and repeat customers,

May 2000. She had previously managed the gift store at Strohecker's. The assistant manager, Alicia Davis, is a full-time student at the Art Institute.

If you haven't recently made a visit to the Friends' Library Store, you must come soon. This holiday season, give the gifts that give twice: your purchases at the Friends' Store will delight your friends and benefit our library! ■

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Winter 2002 • Visit our website [www.friends-library.org](http://www.friends-library.org)

## 2001 Book Sale a Roaring Success

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*By Adair Law*

Despite one of the more unusual Septembers on record for our nation and for the Friends' Book Sale, we exceeded all expectations. Our Book Sale Chair for the 1999 and 2000 sale, the late Marcia Pry, set a high standard for us to meet and I'm happy to say that we met



*Eager customers start to flood the aisles of the old PSU Bookstore between 200 tables packed with books.*

and exceeded her strong work. With myriad volunteer skills, good humor and love of a great deal on good books, we were able to bring in \$76,000, an increase of \$4,000 over our 2000 sale. We also counted people coming into the sale this year, and we know that 4,200 came through the door. We counted folks by putting a sticker on them.

Warm thanks to the volunteer who came up with the lovely slogan of "You've been BeFriended," as she put the sticker on them.

As our planning (and changing our planning) progressed throughout the month of September, one literary phrase kept running through my head. Lewis Carroll penned it in "Alice in Wonderland" and the phrase was "Change lobsters and dance!" About two weeks before the sale, we learned that the site we had planned on would not be available. We looked at different venues, we discussed postponing the sale (horrors!). Fortunately, we were able to land in a new site (the former PSU

bookstore) and it worked out very well for us. It also reminded me that earlier Friends' sales were more nomadic than we have been in the past few years, and that perhaps we might be more adventurous with where we hold the 2002 sale.

In the past it has struck me that every Friends Used Book Sale is its own small miracle, a miracle that we resurrect and improve upon each year. That seemed painfully true this year, with a beautiful Oregon September shrouded in so much sadness and anxiety from the World Trade Center bombings. Our Book Sale was touched by the bombings in unexpected (and unplanned for) ways. After unloading a moving truck-and-a-half of book boxes, a bomb scare in southeast Portland sent our very able crew of work-release inmates back to Inverness Jail. They left so fast, they weren't able to

take the pizzas we'd ordered for lunch with them. We didn't plan for that but the pizza was eventually dispersed and more importantly the truck was unloaded by several volunteers, some more stout-hearted than stout-backed, but it all worked out. Wrap-ping up the sale on Sunday, we all had heard that the U.S. had started to bomb Afghanistan.

Looking out over our diminishing load

of books, I found myself wondering if the people in Afghanistan had books to read, wondering if they had working libraries.

This year, a portion of the proceeds from the sale will



*FOL Board President Greg Simon and Book Sale Chair Adair Law open the double doors to the sale at 5:59 on Friday night.*

# From the President's Desk

*By Greg Simon*

The Friends were the first donors to the Library Election Committee, turning over a check for \$15,000. Every member of the Friends should feel very proud of the foresight and frugality of former board directors and donors because our ability to donate such an amount during a period when the economy of Oregon is in recession means a lot to our Library. This is the maximum donation we can make at this time, according to IRS regulations for 501(c) (3) non-profit corporations, although we will be able to donate a smaller amount in July when the new fiscal year begins.

As of this writing, it seems likely that the request to renew the Library's 5-year serial levy will be put before county voters in May 2002. The recommendation of the Library Board and the Election Committee is to renew the existing levy with few changes in services. At the current levels of spending, this renewed levy will represent over 50% of the MCL operating budget.

The rate for the current levy is 59.47 cents per thousand dollars of assessed value, which adds up to about \$119 in taxes per year for a \$200,000 home. The committee's initial recommendation is that it will require an increase of 10 to 13 cents per thousand just to maintain current levels of library service, which would bring the total in taxes per year for a \$200,000 house to \$142. Why the increase? During all but six months of the cur-

rent 5-year levy, two to four branch libraries have been closed, undergoing renovation or replacement. For the new levy period, every library will be up and running. (Also, this funding will include operation of the first two new library locations in nearly 30 years, and the addition of the promised North Interstate area Library in year three of the levy.) To pay for these costs, plus inflation (projected to average 3%), an increase is absolutely necessary. The difference between the current levy and the proposed increase is equal to the cost of one hardback book per year, or 10 to 15 books if they are purchased at the Friends' Annual Used Book Sale!

The Election Committee would very much appreciate getting feedback from interested taxpayers on three other potential enhancements, which would require an increase in the levy beyond the 10 to 13 cents per thousand discussed above.

Open all libraries seven days a week. COST=3 to 6 cents. As of now, only the four largest libraries are open on Mondays.

Increase the book budget from 15% to 18%. COST=4 cents. The Library currently spends 15% of its operating budget for books and other library materials. To accommodate additional libraries and because inflation for books and library materials is greater than inflation for other items, an increase is needed.

Increase Library support to schools. COST=3 to 6 cents. Nearly all school libraries in Multnomah County are below the standards called for in the Oregon Department of Education's Quality Education Model. While both the Library Board and the Library Election Committee are concerned about outright transfer of funds from the public Library to schools, the recommendation is for the Library to look for ways to partner with schools to improve children's access to books and other Library services.

Please remember that one of the things the MCL counts on is the willingness of members of the Friends to take time *(continued on page 4)*

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## Book sale . . .

help to support the Books 2 U program. The Books 2 U programs uses highly trained volunteer book talkers to encourage and re-inspire elementary school students (grades 3-5) to read for personal enjoyment and to become library users. I thank all of you Friends who help make the sale such a success. Aside from raising money for a strong library system, your work has helped us all to do good work in hard times, which is a gift on its own. The Friends of the Library thanks you for befriending us. And gosh, it was QUITE a memorable sale. ■

## The Friends of Multnomah County Library

is a non-profit community organization dedicated to supporting the Multnomah County Library. We accomplish this principally by promoting public involvement in the Library and by raising money through membership fees, the Friends' Library Store, and an annual used-book sale.

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### Footnotes

Volume 13, Number 2

Footnotes is published about five times a year for members of The Friends of Multnomah County Library.

Send news and comments to Footnotes at FOL, 522 SW 5th Ave., Suite 1103, Portland, OR 97204, or call the Friends at 503-224-9176, fax at 503-223-4386, or email foladmin@europa.com

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## *From the President's Desk . . .*

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for informed reflection on issues relating to our great library system. At a recent conference I attended, Jim Scheppke, the State Librarian of Oregon, identified the golden age of public libraries in Oregon as the time we are living in now. Never before, he pointed out, have so many communities been renovating or rebuilding libraries, and expanding their collections and staff. Yet it was not all that long ago that the library system in Multnomah County was in a dark age, with buildings deteriorating, and closed as many hours or more than they were open.

To get a book of modern literature from Central Library, a patron had to weave his or her way through a maze of scaffolding, and risk being hit on the head by a piece of the ceiling. We have come a long way since then in a very short period of time! Let's all make a pledge right now that we will never allow our library system to return to those dark days. Your Friends' Board of Directors promises to keep you informed of volunteer opportunities to promote the passage of the library levy.

But you have to make time to help us. The other thing I remember Jim Scheppke saying was that while librarians can fill a building with up-to-date library materials, they depend on their Friends to provide moral support, to reflect and interpret community values, the moral compass they should be following. So for now, if you have opinions about the upcoming Library levy renewal, and what it should or should not include, or if you are in a position to donate money for the levy campaign, please contact Cameron Vaughan-Tyler, Multnomah County Library, 205 NE Russell Street, Portland, OR 97212. (503 988-5438.) Your Library needs you now.



The Portland chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has honored Multnomah County Library Director Ginnie Cooiper with the 2001 Layperson Award. This annual award recognizes individuals who are not architects for their achievements contributing to the physical environment of Oregon. With 16 library building projects completed since 1996, Multnomah County Library plans to have all 19 of its facilities renovated or rebuilt by 2003.

"Ginnie has clearly demonstrated commitment to quality design, and the architects who have worked with her hold her in high regard," says Sandra Stevens, *(continued on page 5)*

Executive Vice President of the Portland AIA chapter.

“In her role as Director of Libraries, she has shown incredible leadership and vision, and we have all benefited from her efforts—as architects and as citizens.”

Earlier this year, the AIA and the American Library Association honored Multnomah County Library with two awards for architectural design for the renovation of historic Central Library and the newly built Woodstock Library.

There is no question that it is Ginnie Cooper’s vision and her ability to make that vision a reality that is being honored with these well-deserved awards. But I am also sure that Ginnie would be the first to include both recognition and thanks to the Library’s Renovation Manager, June Mikkelsen.

I think any organization in the state would be lucky to have an employee as dedicated to the well-being of her constituents as June is. It won’t be long now before all of us will see what June and Ginnie have wrought for us at the new Hollywood and Sellwood Branch Libraries. A golden age indeed. ■

## Thank you, Friends and Donors!

Jean Des Camp  
Stan Friendenberg and  
Sandra Tetzloff  
Margaret Gribskov  
Lester Jenkins  
The Joy Family  
Helen Ott  
Janice Peterson  
Helle Rode and Greg  
Simon  
Jon Savidge  
Rosmary Wegert  
Nadine Wolfe

In recognition of  
Elaine and  
Edward Kemp  
Calaroga Terrace Library

In memory of  
Marcia Pry  
Amy Fuller and Frank  
Wilson

## What the Branches are Buying

We love it when Multnomah County’s branch libraries tell us how they’re using the funds we raise through your dues, the annual Used Book Sale and the Friends’ Library Store. Here’s a sampling:

### Holgate:

A new set of the *Encyclopedia Americana*, world globe, *English as a Second Language* materials

### Hollywood:

Updated their collection of books on antiques

### North Portland:

Four globes:one each of Mars, Venus, the moon and the world, *English as a Second Language* materials

### Sellwood-Moreland:

*Portable Shakespeare, Oxford Companion to American Literature, Oxford Companion to American Theater, Rough Guide to World Music, Crafting Your Own Heritage Album, The Pushcart Prize 2001, Encyclopedia of Ephemera*

Patricia Welch from the North Portland Branch writes, “Because the branch is located near the campus of PCC, and within a lively, multi-cultural neighborhood, there is always a strong demand for materials dealing with English as a Second Language. Thanks to advice from the Library’s Selection Department, and with funds from the Friends, North Portland was able to acquire an excellent package of ESL materials to help meet this important need within the community.”



Thank you to our dedicated Friends' Library Store  
volunteers. The success of our Store depends on you!

**1300+ hours**

Jo Burch

**700+ hours**

Merl Grossmeyer

**600+ hours**

Alan Locklear  
Joan McNurney

**550+ hours**

Mildred Katz  
Robert Katz

**500+ hours**

Mary Evans  
Alice Meyer  
Sharon Simmons  
Ralph Wright

**450+ hours**

Charlotte Sarlos  
Willa Holmes

**400+ hours**

Betty Dagg

**350+ hours**

Cecilia Goodnight  
Tom Holmes  
Elizabeth Joseph

**200+ hours**

Pat Himes  
Pat Knott  
Nan Lieberman

**100+ hours**

Nancy Lee  
Helen Thorsen  
Bev Watkins

**100 hours  
and under**

Shelby Clark  
Elsie Fraser  
Diane Gutman  
Pat Kellet  
Eugene Lam  
Sarah Lockhart  
Maxine McGrath  
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Joanne Skirving  
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