

FOOTNOTES

A newsletter for the Friends of the Multnomah County Library

Mark your calendars:

Spring Book Sale is April 30 and May 1

FOL Annual Meeting is Wednesday, May 25th from 5:30 to 7 pm.

Library Store Sale starts at 4 pm.

Honoring our volunteers and board members

2005 Annual Meeting will feature Whitney Otto

By Greg Simon

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Multnomah County Library is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25th, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the US Bank Meeting Room at Central Library. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and other beverages will be served at this event, which is free for FOL members.

Please join the FOL Board in welcoming several incoming Board Members, saying goodbye to a long-time Board Member and honoring our volunteers. Look for your invitation in the mail the first week in May.

The evening's featured speaker will be novelist Whitney Otto. Ms. Otto lives in Northeast Portland with her husband and son. She has been a volunteer in her son's public school libraries, and has taught writing classes at Grant High School and Portland State University.

She is the author of the very popular *How to Make an American Quilt* (Villard Books, 1991), which was made into a movie in 1995 starring

Maya Angelou, Ann Bancroft, and Winona Ryder. In the meantime, Ms. Otto had published *Now You See Her* (Villard, 1994), followed by *The Passion Dream Book* (Harper Collins, 1997).

Her latest book, *A Collection of Beauties at the Height of Their Popularity* (Random House, 2002), is an elegantly constructed novel about a group of twenty-year-olds living in San Francisco in the 1980s, haphazardly thrown together by their patronage of a cool (but fictional) North Beach hangout called the Youki Singe Tea Room.

Ms. Otto has prefaced each chapter with a woodblock poster representing seventeenth century courtesans from Japan's legendary Floating World. There, it is said, patrons could pursue their fill of music, sex, food, poetry, theater, and fashion. Centuries later, the young denizens of San Francisco find themselves on similar crusades as the novelist explores the consequences of their awkward, unexpected, and complex co-mingling.

"Your twenties are exhilarating love years," Ms. Otto told interviewer Ellen Kanner, "even as they can also be the heartbreak years. You may not have wisdom, but love is huge."

Local readers may find it gently ironic that Ms. Otto, who grew up in Pasadena, California, moved to Oregon and then wrote a book about San Francisco. As someone who visited



John Riley

Author Whitney Otto is the guest speaker

Friends' Library Store Update

As you know the Board made the decision to close the store for several months. Future plans for the store are not fully developed yet, but the Board wants to invite you to a large **INVENTORY BLOWOUT SALE**, the night of our Annual Meeting.

Wednesday, May 25th

4:00pm – 5:30 p.m. before the Annual Meeting and 7:00 pm – 7:45 pm after the Annual Meeting

Everything in the store will be 40% off (or more), so stop in and shop!

We appreciate your support.

Continue on page 2



From the President

Dear Friends,

It's been an eventful few months for us. As you know, in mid-February we decided that we needed to close the Friends' Store at Central Library for a few months. It was a painful decision but we are certain it was the right one. We felt the need to really take a step back and evaluate

the store's business model, its merchandise, and its priorities. The Board of Directors is working very hard to get that job done, although it's turning out to be more time-consuming than we expected. We are considering a number of different ideas and if you have any suggestions (about the store or anything else we do), we'd love to hear them. Don't miss our inventory blow-out sale the night of the Annual Meeting!

One great thing about the Friends is that our activities truly are driven by our members, especially those who take the time to volunteer on committees, in the store, in the office, in the book sorting room, and at the book sales. I want to mention a few who give of themselves with exceptional energy. I have to start with **Carol Clifton**, who has used her special expertise to increase the Friends' return on the romance fiction donated to the book sales. **Lou Burton**, **Rosmary Wegert** and **Donald Stocks** are longtime book sale stalwarts. **Jo Burch** has worked tirelessly in the Friends' Store for years, and her grasp of the store's business issues rivals that of any paid employee. **Tom and Willa Holmes** and **Ralph Wright** have served in the Store with equal distinction and in fact, Willa goes back to Opening Night as a Store volunteer! In the Friends' office, Sara has been ably and loyally assisted for years by **Alan Locklear**, **Nina Cook**, and **Sheila Finch-Teppe**r (Sheila is the one who painstakingly hand-writes all of our names on our membership cards once every year). These are just a few representative names; there are dozens of others. You are all heroes to me.

I hope to see all of you on April 30–May 1 at the Spring Book Sale and again on May 25th at the Annual Meeting. Thank you for being such good Friends.

Stephanie Vardavas, President

Friends of Multnomah County Library

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 the sale of used-books.

Board of Directors:

Stephanie Vardavas, President; Amy Fuller, Vice-President
Debby Simone, Secretary; Tami Parr, Treasurer
Bryan Aptekar, Ginny Benware, Janet Christ, Diane Gutman, Nancy Lee, Tami Parr, Ann Pearson, Carol Ramsay, Carla Rathbun, Ron Savitt, Greg Simon, Kevin Thomas

Staff: Sara Lindgren, Anne McFall **Library Liaison:** Penny Hummel

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Annual Meeting *continued*

that city many times between 1968 and 1990, I can testify that she is wonderful at reproducing the restless nature of Bay Area life of that era with both humor and critical affection.



"Your twenties are a time to discover who you are, what you want, what you don't want..." Ms. Otto told another interviewer. "I don't think anything in the book was directly lifted from my own life—I just remember what all that felt like."

Want to help the Friends help the Library?

The Board is planning to welcome between 6–8 new board members this spring. The Friends of the Library are passionate about the continuing health of our library system and rely on a strong and active board for our successes. Here are the areas of experience and skill sets we are particularly in need of:

- ◆ legal
- ◆ finance and accounting
- ◆ retailing
- ◆ marketing and public relations
- ◆ technology/computers/web retailing
- ◆ advocacy

If you want to share your passion for libraries and would like to contribute to a dynamic, community-based board, please contact us at foladmin@europa.com. We will email you more information and a board application. Come join us!



We welcome Malcolm Grant. He's a proud recipient of a MCL card and the son of our book room manager Anne McFall and Darrell Grant.





Volunteer Iris Kimbark helps with book sorting

What is life like in the Friends' book room?

By Angelita Surmon, Book room assistant

To quote Forest Gump, it's "like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." It's an experience full of curiosities and surprises. Volunteers open boxes to find everything from the latest Tom Clancy thriller to a William Faulkner first edition. From here, sorters shelf books by category and price levels. There are always staff members to help maneuver through questionable designations. For some books there is no definite answer, and that's what makes life interesting. After our ace authorities have priced books, volunteers place colored stickers on the spines and pack them for our two annual sales. The number of boxes is impressive.

Working here in the book room, we naively think we've come across every title known to mankind. Then we find some unusual or humorous title that gives us a moment of levity and we laugh at ourselves for our audacity. Here are a few that stood out during the past year: *How Does Olive Oil Lose its Virginity? (Answers to Enigmatic Questions of Contemporary Life)*; *The Book on the Book Shelf (The His-*



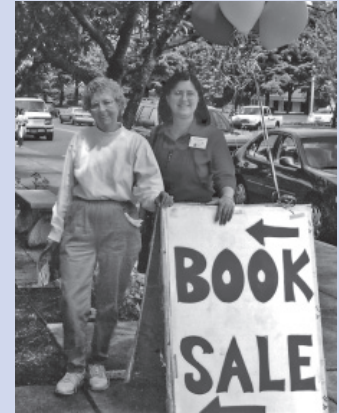
tory of Shelving for Books); *Is Our Children Learning? The Case Against President George W. Bush*; *Men and Other Reptiles*; and *My Husband Said He Needed More Space So I Locked Him Outside*. For those people who are short of time, we've found these treasures: *How to Make People Like You in 90 Seconds or Less*; *How to Make Someone Love You in 90 Minutes or Less*; and *How to Find a Husband in 30 Days*.

The atmosphere is relaxed and con-

4th Annual Spring Used Book Sale in East Multnomah County is fast approaching!

By Janet Christ

Booklovers will have twice as much to love at this year's Friends of the Library spring book sale in East Multnomah County: The formerly one-day annual sale will run for two weekend days, **April 30** and **May 1**. It also will be at a new and bigger location — in the Gresham Village shopping center, 2340 SE Burnside Road at Powell Boulevard. Hours will be 9 AM to 6 PM Saturday and 10 AM to 4 PM Sunday. No members-only sale will be held. "We've been trying to expand this sale for a while," said Friends' board member and former book sale chairwoman Amy



Fuller, "and are real happy to find this space that would allow us to bring three times as many books and hold the sale for an extra day." This year will mark the fourth annual spring sale of donated books. Donations of used and new books continue to grow, and the bigger fall Portland sale will be held as usual in October. Proceeds from the sales support Multnomah County Library programs (see article on page 4) and the purchase of books and other materials.

While last year's one-day Gresham sale enticed 1,060 book buyers, this year's expanded sale will offer browsers many more books and more categories from which to choose.

The book sale committee expects at least 20,000 books to be available. The sale will include subject areas of fiction, mystery, classics and literature, history, biography, cooking, children's, nature, gardening, crafts and hobbies, math and science, and old books — those dated 1950 and earlier. Titles will be priced starting at 50 cents, and most adult books will be \$1.50 to \$6 each.

Free parking will be available in the shopping center, and the TriMet Number 80 bus serves the site. Sale attendees may transfer at the Gresham Transit Center to the Number 80 from the light-rail Blue Line or from bus numbers 4, 9, 12S, and 20. For more sale information, contact the Friends office at 503-224-9176 or write foladmin@europa.com

genial. Special people from diverse backgrounds, like our longtime children's book packer Iris Kimbark from Sri Lanka and avid bird watcher Marilyn Burke, converge to share their love of books.

If this sounds appealing to you and you have a few hours to share with us on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings, call us, or leave a message at 503-988-6191.

“An Awesome Place for Chilling With Your Smurf Friends”

A Friends’ Grant in Action: Multnomah County Library’s Teen Lounges

By: Sara Ryan, Teen Services Specialist

One afternoon per week, at seven different branches of the Multnomah County Library, (Belmont, Gregory Heights, Hillsdale, Holgate, Hollywood, North Portland, and St. Johns) teens in grades 6-12 take over.

Specifically, they take over the meeting rooms, which become, for

that afternoon, Teen Lounges. But what exactly is a Teen Lounge, and why do teens go there? We’ll let the some of the teens who come to Hollywood’s Teen Lounge explain:

“It’s a really great place, where you can just hang out and get your homework done and over with for the night. I made my own magazine at school and I was able to write my article here. And I have four pages of math homework every night and I work on that here. I’m able to do all the stuff I’d usually have to do at home. I have three younger sisters at home, so it’s louder there. Here it’s quieter so you can focus on your homework. I even sometimes practice my lines for a theater troupe that I’m in. You feel open here and part of the community here even though it’s a wide range of grades. You learn to know everybody.” –Evangel, age 11

“It’s fun to get out of the house once in a while. It’s better than playing video games and watching TV all the time. Also it’s nice to know there’s someone to help me if I have a big assignment. It’s helpful being able to print my work right there too.” –Dante, age 14

“Teen Lounge is an awesome place for chilling with your smurf friends and catching up on homework.” –Melissa AKA Melba Rocker, age 13

Thanks to a grant from the Friends



of the Library, Teen Lounges are one of the library’s most recent success stories. Funding from the Friends has supported the purchase of magazine subscriptions, bulletin boards, school supplies, beanbag chairs, and games for those necessary study breaks. “Teens in our community have consistently identified teen spaces as one of the best resources the library could provide for them. The gift from the Friends has given the library the chance to provide the elements that make each Teen Lounge accessible, friendly and fun for teens,” said the library’s Teen Services Specialist, Sara Ryan. “The Teen Lounges demonstrate that the library welcomes teens, and that we offer resources that are relevant to their lives. When teens see that the library values their needs, they’re more likely to continue using and supporting libraries in the future. Teen Lounges are also a way for us to help bridge the digital divide, by reaching teens who would otherwise lack access to the Internet.”

There’s a link to the schedule of upcoming Teen Lounges on the front page of the Outernet, the library’s website for teens: [www.http://www.multcolib.org/outer/](http://www.multcolib.org/outer/)



Thank you for your generous donations!

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In Honor of Nancy and Paul Bragdon
Nancy Glass

What's Happening with the Library's Budget?

By Bryan Aptekar

Since last fall, Multnomah County has been involved in a new budgeting process for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2005. The new process is based on the book, *The Price of Government* by David Osborne and is designed to be similar to the way people manage their spending at home — by buying programs and services that the county can afford with the resources available.

Multnomah County Commissioners chose this approach because a significant gap exists between the cost of the programs the county currently funds and the amount of general fund revenue that is expected. About half of the library's budget comes from the levy approved by voters in November 2002; most of the rest comes from the County's general fund. As Friends, we are concerned that cuts might be made in the library's budget in the upcoming year.

Here's how the new budget process has worked. This winter all county departments, including the library, were asked to categorize various aspects of their operations under one of six priority areas and submit program offers for each of them. All of the library's operating programs fit into two of the six priority areas: Vibrant Communities and Education. To read them, visit the Multnomah County Web site at <http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/priorities/index.shtml>. Overall, the library has requested support to maintain services at current levels.

After the program offers were submitted, they were evaluated and ranked by cross-departmental teams of county employees and all members of the Board of County Commissioners. On May 5, 2005 Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn will announce her executive budget, followed by several opportunities for the public to give feedback and input.

How to get involved

The dates, locations and times of public hearings on the Multnomah County Budget are below. If you'd like to testify and would like the Friends to alert you by e-mail about how the recommended Executive Budget will affect the library, please e-mail Sara Lindgren in the Friends office at foladmin@europa.com. It's critical that the commissioners hear from library advocates about the importance of maintaining library services at current levels, so if you can't attend a hearing, please consider writing, calling or e-mailing the commissioners. **Together, we can make a difference!**

Schedule of Hearings on the County Budget

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

North Portland Library
512 N. Killingsworth (Portland)
6 – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Multnomah County East Building
600 NE 8th (Gresham)
6 – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

Midland Library
805 NE 122nd (Portland)
6 – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, May 31, 2005

Multnomah Building
501 SE Hawthorne (Portland)
6 – 8 p.m.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Nan Lieberman

Not many Portland folks travel to San Francisco for meetings of a book discussion group, but Nan Lieberman has been doing just that for several years. It's not because there



Nan Lieberman

aren't many wonderful book clubs in Portland. In fact, she participates in one that was started by Friends of the Library members who volunteered in the Store. It's just that she can't give up the interaction with old friends and she likes the variety of belonging to more than one book club. One is more structured, the other is more social and loose. One started with just reading books by women, primarily fiction. The other is a little more intellectual with all members coming prepared and with occasional non-fiction and/or classics added to the mix. Nan is a longtime member of the Friends and has volunteered in the store from the beginning. She loves meeting the shoppers and talking about the library, about books, and about our city. She and her husband Gilbert moved here from San Francisco because Nan was transferred to the Portland United ticket office. (Yes, her many years with United help her afford those flights to San Francisco). Nan is a very strong library supporter. For her 25th wedding anniversary in 1997, Nan asked for, and received, tickets for the very first Foundation Gala. She is a frequent Central branch user, but lives in the Northwest part of the city and sometimes uses that branch. She loves city life and she and Gilbert know a lot about the fun places to eat in Portland. They enjoy friends and food and good conversation about food. For four years, Tai

Continue on page 6



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Mark your calendars!

📅 **April 30 & May 1,
Used Book Sale in Gresham**

📅 **May 25, Annual Meeting
with author Whitney Otto &
Library Store blowout sale!**

Volunteer continued

Chi has been a favorite activity for Nan and she is also a devoted crossword puzzle solver. Her love of libraries is mostly due to her reading family, but she also credits her very first job. While a high school student in New England she worked in a small town library with two traditional—some would say “old fashioned”—librarians who gave her an opportunity to see the range of services they provided and insight into their devotion to the world of books and libraries. She also remembers being a reading champion one year in a summer reading program at her local branch library.

Those who know Nan would add that she is a wonderful friend who frequently delights others with her small but thoughtful actions and words.

Friends of the Library Membership Form

Your support, through annual membership dues, helps the FOL in its advocacy, outreach and stewardship efforts. Your membership benefits our libraries and strengthens our community. Become a Friend, or renew your membership, today.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Most used library branch _____

Membership Levels

- \$30 Individual \$45 Family \$20 Senior (65+) \$40 Senior Family (65+)
 \$75 Supporter Sustaining (minimum \$10 /month on debit or credit card) Other

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