

FOOTNOTES

A newsletter for the Friends of the Multnomah County Library

FOL Store Reopening Celebration and Double Discount Days!

By Babs Adamski, Store Manager

The store re-opened quietly in early October this year. We were blessed by the return of several volunteers, along with many new ones. Altogether, more than 30 volunteers have been getting their routines down in the newly formatted store, which features a regular influx of used books from the sorting room and a mix of gift items intended for the holiday season and beyond.

Now that the store and our crew of volunteers are ready, we want to have a Grand Reopening celebration. We have timed it with the tradition of double discount days for Friends' members. There is usually a 10% discount to Friends' members. However, for the days of December 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th, members will enjoy a double discount of 20%. Come join us for any part of our celebration but keep in mind that we will be having cider and cookies and extended hours on Wednesday. Several volunteers have come forward to be of extra assistance during this time and we look forward to



The Friends' Store is brimming with terrific gifts plus a strong selection of quality used books.

helping you find the perfect gift. See the box below for details.

Mix of New and Old

New arrivals in the store include a section of Shakespeare-iana (coffee mugs, cards, finger puppets as well as complete sets of his work), calendars with book and art themes, tote

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Be sure to check out the Friends' Library Store for unique and wonderful gifts for the booklovers in your life.



Grand Reopening of the Friends' Library Store
Come in for Warm Cider and Cookies
Wednesday, December 7th: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

This will be our kickoff for
Double Discount Days
20% Off for Friends' members !!
Wednesday, December 7th: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday through Saturday,
December 8-10th: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Take this opportunity to join the Friends and do your holiday shopping!!
Memberships available at the Store.



From the President

The holidays are upon us! I don't know about you, but I am most certainly not ready. So just like Santa, I am making lists like mad, to help myself remember all the things I need to accomplish before the end of the year, not the least of which is the holiday gift list. If you're like me you are always happy to find you can save some

time in getting things done, so I'm hoping you'll be as excited as I am about the [reopening of the Friends' Library Store](#). We reopened quietly and without fanfare a few weeks ago, to work out our new format, and I'm pleased to report that so far it is a real success. You'll find the store less cluttered than it was in the past, with a really well-edited selection of cards, gifts, and accessories for book lovers, and now a wonderful assortment of good quality used books. It's one-stop shopping for a great variety of thoughtful gifts that will delight the recipients. Also available at the store: Friends membership! In addition to renewing your own, please consider giving the gift of Friends membership to a special library lover on your list. Your "giftee" will receive all of the benefits you enjoy, including his or her own discount at the Friends' store and first-night admission to the big book sale, as well as newsletters and other information from the Friends. Especially with the library levy coming up on the ballot next fall, it's important for all library lovers to join the campaign to preserve our local treasure. Being a member of the Friends is a great way to do that.

Because this time of year is about giving, we think of it not only in the material sense, but also giving time and attention to friends and family members, and remembering those less fortunate. We are still mindful of the millions affected by conflict and natural disasters in the past year, and we also start thinking about other worthy beneficiaries of our philanthropic impulses. That December 31 deadline for year-end tax benefits hovers over us as well, and there's nothing like a deadline to get our attention! We have two suggestions for your consideration, and the best part is: these contributions can be made with "free money" because you get a tax credit on your Oregon state income tax return equal to the amount you gave (up to applicable limits). Read about both in our "The Friends Step Up..." article on page 4.

Happy holidays to all, and thanks for your great support all year long.

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, Hillary Ayliffe, Ginny Benware, Carly Brown, Janet Christ, Robin Denberg, Diane Gutman, Paul Haulbrook, Nancy Lee, Kate McDonald, Tami Parr, Ann Pearson, Carol Ramsey, Carla Rathbun, Mei-Ling Shiroishi, Kevin Thomas and LisaMary Wichowski-Hill

Staff: Babs Adamski, Sara Lindgren, and Angie Surmon **Library Liaison:** Penny Hummel

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Send news and comments to **Footnotes** at FOL, 522 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 1103, Portland, OR 97204 or call the Friends at 503.224.9176, fax at 503.223-4386 or e-mail: foladmin@europa.com or visit www.friends-library.org.

Editor: Bryan Aptekar **Design:** Jeanne E. Galick

Store Reopening continued

bags with caricatures of writers and the always popular Edward Gorey "Cat, Books, Life is Sweet" print.

There are new t-shirts with the Multnomah County Library window logo on them in a variety of new colors including chic black. We also have Brian Foulkes' card showing a snowy Central Library scene. This calming, reflective scene would be a perfect non-traditional holiday card of a subject that is personal to many of us library users. We also have boxed holiday and individual cards for Chanakuh, Christmas and New Year's.

One of the most exciting acquisitions in the store has been an original painting by Deborah DeWit Marchant. Deborah and her husband Bob have long supported the Friends' Library Store and continue this tradition by offering to make prints available at the reasonable price of \$85.

Other items of note in the store are a wide variety of journals, literary magnets, Multnomah County Library umbrellas and bookends. The book-end selections include children's dinosaurs, cats, and cast iron bull and bears for your favorite business reader.

I hope to see you in the Friends' Library Store soon! With all this focus on our holiday coming and goings, I have neglected to mention the fine used books that make up a large portion of our inventory. I'll write more about that in our next newsletter.



Store Manager, Babs Adamski, left, with Vailey Oehlke, Director of Central Library, who was our first customer after the reopening. She bought an Oxford English Dictionary that day and said she was thrilled to have the store reopen.



WHAT A BOOK SALE!

By Janet Christ

This October's event drew the biggest crowd and earned the highest gross income of any previous fall book sale for the Friends of the Library.

An estimated 5,000 persons bought donated books and other material totaling more than \$93,000. Proceeds from the four-day sale topped the previous highest-income sale in 2003.

The 32nd fall sale — like the book sales before it — was a success because so many volunteers helped. More than 130 people gave their time and brought their muscles to set it up and work through the busy weekend. This was the second year that the sale was held in a big former car dealership building at Northeast Sandy Boulevard and 16th Avenue. The net income goes toward the nonprofit Friends' mission of support for



Volunteer Susan Hathaway-Marxer works the membership line on Members Only night at the sale.

Multnomah County's public library system. That includes helping back levy renewal campaigns such as the current one.

"The book sale is so important to the Friends, especially now with the next levy coming up in 2006," said Friends' board president Stephanie Vardavas. "It's our number one source of revenue. It is really inspiring to look out front just before the doors open and see all those members lined up to buy books. I'm so grateful to everyone for their support," she said, also praising the work of board member Anne Pearson and her book sale committee. Pearson, too, stressed how appreciated sale volunteers are, and she thanked Wells Fargo Bank for corporate support of its employees who volunteered. She said she hoped those who enjoyed the sale would pass on their experience to friends and neighbors to encourage them to attend future sales. Combined with

other book sales including the spring Gresham sale, the Friends' organization has made about \$115,000 this calendar year.

But besides being the top money-maker for the organization, the sale offers great bargains, and sometimes treasures, for buyers. Book room manager Angelita Surmon noted a young man who was thrilled to have completed his Christmas shopping for less than \$30.

Other things that go on during the
Continue on page 8

Thank You to our Book Sale Donors

The Oregonian
Dennis Moving and Storage
Bagel Land
Culligan
DocuMart
Fred Meyer
Friends of PSU Library
Grand Central Baking
Hands On Portland
Marsee Foods
Multnomah County
New Seasons Markets
Portland Rent All
Safeway
Starbucks
Wells Fargo Bank



the many hours of volunteer time
donated by our members!



Enthusiastic sale leaders include (from left to right): Stephanie Vardavas (FOL Board President), Angie Surmon (Sorting Room Manager) and Anne Pearson (Book Sale Committee Chair).

The Friends Step Up First with Pledge to Protect Library Programs and Services

We Need Your Help Now, Too

By Bryan Aptekar

Our library needs us in order for it to continue providing the programs and services kids, families and seniors depend on. As the fall 2005 issue of *Footnotes* highlighted (back issues on our website at www.friends-library.org), the Library's 5-year levy is up for renewal in 2006. The levy provides more than half of the Multnomah County Library's annual operating budget, so its renewal is essential to maintaining current levels of service.

Our library needs people who can speak up about how they value the library, and who can step up financially to support the levy campaign which will ensure that the library is able to continue serving us. Thanks to you, the members of the Friends, we the Board of the Friends have done just that. Advocacy for the library is part of the Friends' mission, so the Board had saved funds from the 2005-

06 budget, as well as planned for funds from the 2006-07 budget to contribute to this critical effort. We were the first organization to pledge financial support to help get the campaign up and running.

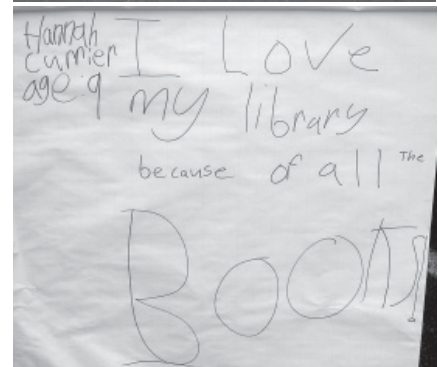
"We're very grateful that the Friends offered such early support for the levy campaign," said Director of Libraries, Molly Raphael. "Our library and community are very fortunate to have such great Friends!"

Help us help the library at this critical time. Being a Friend of the Library means more than supporting our organization, the annual book sales and shopping in our store. At crucial times like this, the library needs help from each of us individually as well.

Here are several ways you can help:

1. Donate "free" dollars to the "Libraries-Yes! Committee"

Thanks to creative tax laws put in



Young library user Hannah Currier shares why she loves the library.

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 \$100 Patron Sustaining (minimum \$10/month on credit card)

I would like to pay using (please check): check VISA Mastercard

Card number _____ Exp. date _____

Please enclose this form, along with your check (if applicable) and mail to:

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
522 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1103
Portland, OR 97204

Thank you for your generous support

place by the Oregon legislature, all Oregonians are encouraged to support political campaigns at NO EXPENSE TO YOU. Each taxpayer may give up to \$50 to a political action committee or political campaign each year, and get that exact amount as a tax credit on their annual state taxes — you can effectively give this money for free. We are encouraging all Friends members to give to the Libraries-Yes! Committee both this calendar year, and again in 2006. You must make your donations for 2005 before the end of the year, then you could make another donation next year, for a tax credit on your 2006 state taxes as well. Here's how:

Make checks out to: "Libraries-Yes! Committee."

Please write your specific occupation on the "memo" line of your check, as this is required by the Sec-

retary of State's office for every contribution to a campaign. (If you don't, campaign staff will just have to call you before the check can be accepted.)

Mail checks to: Libraries—Yes!
1100 NW Glisan, Suite 300B
Portland, Oregon 97209

Limit of tax credit: \$50 per person, \$100 per couple. Check with your accountant for details, or see Oregon's website at: www.oregon.gov and search for "political contributions", or call the Oregon Department of Revenue at 1-800-356-4222.

2. Make more Friends!

You're a Friend. You know how important the library system is to you, and through many of our feature articles, hopefully you are learning how important it is for others as well. The more members that the Friends have, the better we are able to support the Multnomah County Library system, both with dollars during the Levy campaign, and in testifying before those that make decisions. During this holiday season, consider giving a Friends membership as a gift to your family, co-workers, friends and other library-lovers or encourage them to join.

3. Contribute to the Oregon Cultural Trust

Another way to support the library, and other arts and cultural organizations, is to make a donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust (OCT). For



Membership committee members (from left) Bryan Aptekar, Hillary Ayliffe and Carla Rathbun reaching out to gain more Friends at the Gresham Farmers Market.

each dollar you have contributed to the Friends of the Library, and other eligible organizations in 2005 up to \$500 per person, you can make a matching donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust, and then get this same dollar amount as a tax credit on your 2005 state taxes. It's a way to target your state tax dollars to causes you support. Arts and cultural organiza-

tions statewide can apply to the OCT for grants. These donations must also be made by the end of 2005. Check out the details by calling the OCT in Salem at 1-503-986-0088 or looking on the web www.culturaltrust.org.

We thank you for your continued support of the Friends, and hope you can take these extra steps to join us in supporting our library.

Volunteer Spotlight

Wells Fargo Volunteers

By Tami Parr

Jesse Reding of Wells Fargo Bank volunteered at her first Friends' book sale eight years ago. Book sale organizers put her in charge of the credit card machine, and at the time the only convenient area for her was in a small closet. "People had to find me if they wanted to use their credit card!" she says. Since then, credit and debit cards have become much more popular, as has the Friends' fall book sale.



Jesse Reding, back row, far left, with some of her fellow Wells Fargo volunteers at this year's book sale.

Like many corporations in the Portland area, Wells Fargo encourages its employees to volunteer in the community. But with the wealth of volunteer opportunities available, how do employees decide where to put their time and energy? Jesse is not only a great volunteer but an exceptional recruiter — she encourages people to choose the Friends by putting up promotional flyers to remind people about the fall book sale and other Friends' volunteer opportunities. Now, people sense when it's time for the fall book sale. "They will start asking me about the fall book sale as the date approaches," she says. Jesse's efforts have paid off — twenty one Wells Fargo volunteers assisted at this year's fall sale, including a core group of about 15 who volunteer at the book sale every year. Wells Fargo volunteers, including Jesse, also volunteer at the spring sale in Gresham and at other library events.

Many of the Wells Fargo volunteers enjoy working at the same book sale jobs every year. Jesse has been a cashier ever since those first days in the "credit closet"; others enjoy sorting and book counting. In her role as cashier, Jesse says she has had some interesting moments. During the most recent sale, a woman paying for her books found herself \$1 short. As a result, she spent a few minutes trying to decide which books she should leave behind, and Jesse helped her go through her stack of books. After seeing the woman's concern over choosing which books to give up, Jesse ended up giving the woman \$1 so she could buy all of her books. Now that's going above and beyond the call of duty! Thanks very much to Jesse Reding and all of the volunteers from Wells Fargo Bank for helping to make the fall book sale a success!

Branch Profile

Holgate Library – Serving Kids of All Ages

By Patrick Provant, Library Assistant at Holgate

When you visit the Holgate Branch Library (SE Holgate and SE 79th), keep perspective in mind. It would be easy to say things like “Good grief, there are too many kids in here,” or “Why aren’t all these teenagers doing their homework?” or “Isn’t there a section for adults?” What we staff like to think goes more along the lines of “They’re here at the library because they need us.” Sometimes we even achieve a zen state of understanding, with thoughts like “They’re playing games now, because that’s age-appropriate behavior.” The truth of the matter is that Holgate has more children under 18 living within a 2-mile radius than any other Multnomah County library. It shows!

While we do our best to keep noise down to a dull roar, this is not your grandma’s library. So many people use our branch for so many purposes that



great, they are inadequate to meeting the need; we frequently see people wait in lines over two hours long for their turn to use the computers.

Holgate serves as a gathering place, where friends meet (and increasingly, stay) to work and play together. It is a place where you can get information, work on your resume, read materials in your native language (if that is Chinese, English, Russian, Spanish or Vietnamese), have access to cultural events, meet with your friends, have fun, and stay warm and dry — all for free. There’s no other nearby venue that fulfills these roles.

We’re glad to have you come visit us at Holgate. It’s a busy place, so come prepared to wait your turn, but you will get the help you need. And if you are looking for a volunteer opportunity where you can make a difference, give us a call at (503) 988-5389.

even if everyone is talking at a reasonable volume, there’s always a hub-bub pretty much any time school is out of session. You might hear singing or clapping from one of our various storytimes, laughter from the Wednesday Teen Lounge, or witticisms and banter shot back and forth during the International Chess Club on Saturday. There might be animated chatting heard from the Book Club, Adult Discussion Group or multilingual conversation practices, or maybe just people working together at the computers. Add to this the phone ringing, library staff helping our guests, then throw in a squeal or two from a gleeful baby and you get a very different picture from the bespectacled librarian of the past “shushing” you.

We can accept all this because of what we perceive our role to be in Southeast Portland. This is not the most affluent part of town. Many people in the neighborhood do not have their own computers. The demand for our public computers is so



Thank you for your generous donations to the Friends!

Anonymous
Marilyn Drichas
Florence Heim

Shirley and Bill Hendrickson
Louis and Ruth Kaufman
Keith and Marilee Tillstrom
Gerard J Van Deene
Walker Family Foundation

In Memory of Clara N. Paige
Members of the Tustin Public
Schools Foundation

In Memory of Elaine Feifers
From Her Book Group

Matching Funds from NIKE for:
Stephen Bahnson
Employee Volunteer Grant from PGE
For Tami Parr’s Volunteerism

Why I Love the Library...

By Bryan Aptekar

One of the many things I love about the library is using it as a travel research resource. This last summer I was in desperate need of a vacation — one that truly took me away — the kind where I'd forget the names of the people I've worked with for years because I was transported to such a new world. I'd been saving up my vacation time for over a year and everywhere in the world was on my list of possible destinations. I had frequent flyer miles to spare and three weeks to play — somewhere. But where should I go? It was time for a trip to the library.

I'd been toying with the idea of a trek through Europe. I had heard on the radio some time ago about the annual world championship bog snorkeling in Llanwrtyd Wells in Wales. I've been determined to go there ever since I heard about it. I know it sounds crazy, and I think it would have been fun. I've got a friend who was spending the year in London whom I wanted to see and we'd both toyed with the idea. If there are folks crazy enough try bog snorkeling then I was crazy enough to go watch. So in preparation, I checked

out *True Brits: A Tour Of Great Britain In All Its Bog-Snorkeling, Shin-Kicking, and Cheese-Rolling Glory* from the library to read up on the sport. It was quite a laugh reading the author's interpretation of competing in this event that takes about one part determination, one part bliss (as in ignorance equals...), and one part madness. A few beers probably helps too. After a week with my friend in London and at the bog snorkeling competition, I figured I could visit friends in Prague, in Paris, and in Poland, where I'd served as a Peace Corps volunteer. I checked out books on all of these places to see what I might do.

Much as watching people breath in ice-cold murky bog water while snorkeling through the windswept grandeur of Wales and visiting my friends was a draw, I changed my mind. This had something to do with ticket prices for later August to London and frequent flyer seats that involved at least 4 legs of travel each way. I won't bore you with the details...

So back to the library, where I searched the globe and revisited an idea I'd had in the past — taking one of the world's greatest train rides —

the Trans-Siberian rail trip. I checked out the *Trans-Siberian Handbook* for descriptions of the various route options, the visa requirements, and tour companies which help those of us who don't speak Russian, Chinese or Mongolian make our way across two continents. Given the various route options, I settled on the Trans-Mongolian trip, which would start in Beijing, with a side-trip to the Great Wall, and the terracotta army in Xian. Then I'd be off to Mongolia for a few days where I'd wander the open steppe by day, and by night I'd sleep in a felt ger — sort of like a yurt, used by the nomadic herdsfolk of the steppe. Then the trip would lead to Lake Baikal in Russia. This is the world's deepest lake, holding 20 % of the earth's fresh water, and home to the only fresh-water seal species on the planet. From there the trip would lead to Moscow and St. Petersburg, both worthy destinations in their own right. I pored over books on China, rural Mongolia and Russia's cultural meccas, but ultimately decided now was not the time for this trip either, as I've been to Lake Baikal, and wanted more time at each of the other places than the train ride affords. So I was off once again to the library for more research.

I finally settled on a gourmet-focused group tour of Japan for two weeks, followed by a week on my own exploring the northern island. This time I checked out several books on Japan's history, culture, food and some general travel guides.

I particularly like getting books from the *National Geographic Traveler* and *Insight Guides* travel series from the library before I leave on a trip, as they are full of photos to drool over, to help set my travel agenda. These books are often heavy on photos and light on details about where to stay

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This centuries-old cemetery in a beautiful old growth forest in Koyasan, Japan is where Kobo Daishi, the founder of the Shingon sect of Buddhism, was buried.



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A Holiday Special!

Members receive a double discount at the Friends' Library Store, December 7-10!



Book Sale continued

sale also touch her. "I loved seeing kids on the floor sharing books with each other and parents huddled with children reading to them." And though the sale is well-organized for a volunteer organization, Surmon laughs about being asked if books are alphabetized. No, not yet.

Just one sour note arose. A few book dealers took huge numbers of books from tables and hoarded them along a wall while they phoned cohorts for information on resale desirability. Not only were the unwanted books left on the floor, but also during this time no one else was able to look them over. Several Friends' members have complained about this, and the book sale committee is working on rules to prevent a recurrence.

In the meantime, the work goes on collecting book donations, sorting, boxing and storing them for the next sale. That will be in Gresham this spring.



Members Only night at the book sale drew hundreds of Friends ready to indulge their love of books.

Love the Library continued

and eat, so they are perfect for pre-trip planning, perfect for borrowing from the library.

Now that I'd selected the final destination, I bought the actual travel guide that I carried with me on the trip. In this case, *The Rough Guide To Japan* proved the best, though I ended up buying and bringing the *Let's Go Japan* as well. Until days before I left, I was still trolling through the photo guides determining where I wanted to venture out on my own.

Do I sound like a flip-flopping travel flake? It's true — I am. But thanks to the library, I was able to think through all the possibilities, travel vicariously by voracious reading and browsing of various travel guides and books on history, culture and language. It made purchasing just the right book easy, once I'd landed on the right destination.

The trip, by the way, was great.