

FOOTNOTES

A newsletter for the Friends of the Multnomah County Library

Whimsical toys, unique bookends, jewelery, cards, and journals—it's all here at the Friends' Library Store.



'Tis the Season

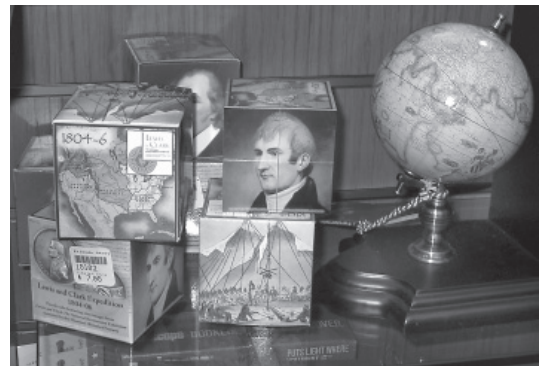
Find the Perfect Holiday Gift at the Friends' Store

by Sherry Alicki, Store Manager

It's later than you think. The ghosts and goblins have come and gone, Thanksgiving dinner is done. Now it's time to get serious about holiday shopping. The Friends' Library Store located in Multnomah County's Central Library can be your "one stop shopping site." Not only will you find holiday greeting cards but perfect gifts for all the folks on your shopping list and even stocking stuffers.

The store carries an assortment of ties, leather journals, calculators and electronic games for the men on your list. For ladies, you will find note cards, bookends, picture frames and unique jewelry. For those who appreciate humor, the store has everything from *New Yorker* humor to Edward Gorey. And for the kids on your list, there are children's books, puzzles and games.

As a Friends of the Library member, you will save 10% off total purchases any time you shop. But members who come in before December 8th save 20% this year—so shop while the shopping's good. (Note: member discounts do



not apply to sale items.) Whether you arrive by bus, train or car, you are assured of finding the perfect gift for everyone as well as supporting the library.

Holiday Store Hours:

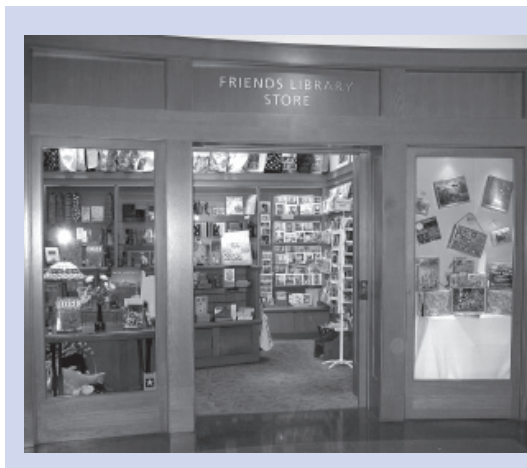
Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, 1p.m. to 5p.m.

801 SW 10th Avenue, inside Central Library



Double Discount Days for FOL members

Through December 8th, Friends of the Library members save 20%—*twice the normal Friends discount*—on any non-sale item in the store.



From the President

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for your amazing support of the fall Book Sale. We raised over \$90,000 and we couldn't have done it without you. This year for the first time we had a venue large enough to put out all the books on the first night, and it was a pretty amazing sight. But the fun part for me was standing at

the front door greeting you as you poured in on Members' Night. The line extended around the block. Friends came equipped with crates, wheeled carts, and giant canvas tote bags to transport the evening's haul. It was so inspiring to see the love of books played out on such a large scale.

I've been lucky enough to be able to work with a terrific team of Friends officers and board members this year, but unfortunately our Treasurer, Karl Souza, recently found that the demands of job and family made it impossible for him to commit the kind of time his position required. I'd like to thank Karl for all of his hard work and dedication, and also express my gratitude to first-year Board member Tami Parr, who has stepped up to become our new Treasurer, and who is being ably coached and assisted by former Treasurer Nancy Lee. And we've been very fortunate in filling two Board vacancies with the estimable Janet Christ and Ginny Benware. You'll read more about our new Board members on page 4. Do you have an interest in becoming more involved with the Friends? We'd love to hear from you! Send an email to foladmin@europa.com.

Are you ready for the holidays? Neither am I. So let's get over to the Friends' Library Store. You'll read more about the store's holiday plans on page one. But whatever you do, don't miss the Double Discount Days, November 27 through December 8. During those days all Friends members and Library staff will receive a 20% discount on store merchandise, instead of the usual 10%. It's a great deal on equally great items your friends and family will love (and we won't tell a soul if you pick up a thing or two for yourself).

Have a wonderful holiday season, and thanks again for being a Friend.

—Stephanie Vardavas, President



Friends' Grant Supports Teens

By Alison Kastner, Youth Librarian

Teens who have plunged back into the school year have been pleased to find that libraries around the county are now offering Teen Homework Lounges. For two-and-a-half hours once a week, libraries offer their computer labs up for the sole use of teens - with the exception of a couple of volunteers. Our volunteers are trained Homework Helpers and Technohosts who can help the teens negotiate the library's website and many print resources. While teens are in the Lounge, they can chat with friends, listen to music, work on group projects on tables large enough to accommodate their sprawl, eat a snack, and log onto Live Homework Help on the Library's website. There are now Teen Lounges available in just about every part of the city, and attendance is booming in all of them.

Teen Lounge coordinators were very pleased to be awarded grant money from the Friends of the Library. We'll use the funds to enhance our lounges with more school supplies, extra bean bag chairs, mobile bulletin boards, magazines and a couple of game systems that can be used by up to four players at once.

When we ask teens what they want from the library and they say "a place to hang out," we can now tell them we've got just what they're looking for.

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, Darren Beatty, Ginny Benware, Janet Christ, Patrick Forster, Diane Gutman, Nancy Lee, Tami Parr, Ann Pearson, Carol Ramsay, Carla Rathbun, Ron Savitt, Greg Simon, Karl Souza, Kevin Thomas

Staff: Sherry Alicki, Sara Lindgren, Anne McFall

Library Liaison: Penny Hummel

Footnotes Volume 14, No. 3

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

Printed on recycled paper

The Book Sale Grows Again

by Greg Simon

Try to imagine what you might do if, after years of existing in a space that was too small, your organization was suddenly given as much room as it could want. That was the problem, if you can call it that, facing this year's Friends Book Sale Committee when, after a few intense months of searching, it was determined that the old Lyman Slack Chevrolet car dealership at 16th and NE Sandy Boulevard, all 50,000 square feet of it, would be available for the 31st annual sale.

The building, although ideal in terms of space, needed considerable work before it was safe for the sale. (A room was even discovered that could only be described as a dungeon!) Praise must be given to the dedicated volunteers who spent a Sunday afternoon in October just before the sale cleaning the rooms and creating all the necessary signage. (A special word of thanks should go to Mark Lindgren, who gave so freely of his electrical expertise and skill at performing various thankless tasks at the top of a forty-foot extension ladder!)

Thanks to steady donations



Friends staff and volunteers getting ready for the big day. Clockwise from back left: Mark Lindgren, Nancy Lee, Amy Fuller, Janet Christ (new board member), Greg Simon, Anne McFall, Sara Lindgren and Jackie Olson

4374 attendees
180 volunteers
\$13,000 sales on
discount day after 75% off
1320 boxes of materials sold

throughout the year from the general public, and despite the fact that the Friends put on a very successful spring sale in Gresham, sorting room manager Anne McFall and committee chair Amy Fuller quickly determined that they could take an unprecedented number (1600 boxes) of books to this year's site. And they would be assured, nonetheless, that

every book would be out on a table for perusal on opening night. The results were spectacular: we sold 1320 boxes of books, CDs and CD-ROMs, DVDs, video tapes, audio tapes, maps, pamphlets and sheet music to 4400 customers during the 26 hours of the sale, with proceeds surpassing \$90,000 (or about \$3500 per hour).

But just as satisfying as the bottom line were all the compliments that poured in from sale attendees about this year's organization and flow. Countless people had to be assured

that the first large room of the sale was only 1/3 of what was on offer; another 15,000 square feet remained to be looked at. Volunteers had their own comfortable, well-lit room to work from, and the expanded Book Depot and checkout area processed customers and their purchases at an unprecedented pace. "It was undoubtedly the smoothest sale we've put on in recent years," Anne McFall said recently. "Everyone seemed to benefit from and appreciate having so much space. People were not bumping into each other as in other years." Except, perhaps, on their way out, clutching the books they had found.

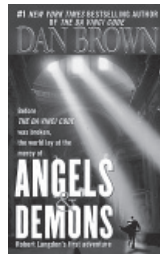


Meet Our New Board Members

The Friends are pleased to welcome two new members to the Board. As you can see by their brief biographies, they both bring a wealth of skills and energy to us, filling vacancies we had on the Board. Glad to have you both joining us! —Bryan Aptekar (Editor)

Janet Christ

I retired a little over a year ago from being a reporter for *The Oregonian* and former *Oregon Journal* for more than 30 years. I've been a FOL member for several years, but I didn't feel I could be actively involved until leaving the newspaper. I volunteered for the book sale for the first time in 2003, and I joined Anne McFall's book sorting crew this spring. I hope I also can help



with book sale issues as a board member.

I volunteer at the Hillsdale Branch Library and visit that branch and the Central Library often for my own interests. I live in Southwest Portland and have a 22-year-old daughter who lives and works in Southeast Portland. She had taught herself to read before starting school, helped by lots of library books in our home.

Other interests include cooking, natural health, food safety and the environment, and I'm always checking for new cookbooks at Hillsdale. I'm vegan and am a member of Northwest VEG, a Portland-based vegetarian education and outreach group. I love to travel, but neglected house and yard projects that grew along with my daughter demand much of my time lately. I still try to keep up with newspapers and several magazines and I fantasize working my way through a reading list started in college. The most recent books I've read include *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown, *Seeds of Deception* by Jeffrey Smith, and *Crimes Against Nature* by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Ginny Benware

I moved to Portland in 1990 having most recently lived in eastern Pennsylvania, the Boston area and Iowa. In my early career I did community organizing as a VISTA Volunteer in northern New York. After receiving an MSW from the University of Iowa I began working in political organizing and public policy. I have managed campaigns at the mayoral, gubernatorial, congressional and US

Senate level. My congressional work included legislative and administrative work for US Senator Tom Harkin. In 1987 I left his office to return to school and received a Masters in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. I dabbled a bit in international work as the development educator for Rodale International in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. After arriving in Portland I pursued work as a financial advisor with American Express Financial Services and most recently I have completed six years as the technology specialist at St. Ignatius School in SE Portland. I am currently managing an acoustic trio—Sneakin' Out.

I reside in SE Portland's Hawthorne neighborhood with my husband, Michael, a high school English teacher and my son, Nathan, a student at Lincoln and an avid soccer player. My older son, Chris, is a junior at Southern Oregon University.



I enjoy many types of books. I lean toward history and historic fiction having recently read: *No Ordinary Time* by Doris Kearns Goodwin and *The Coffee Trader* by

David Liss. A current political book I am working my way through is Krugman's *The Great Unraveling* and recently completed *Under the Banner of Heaven* by Jon Krakauer. I am subject to picking up any number of titles recommended to me in a variety of genres such as: *The Secret Life of Bees*, *Seabiscuit*, *Horse Heaven*, and

Continue on page 5

Thank you for your generous donations!

Lou Burton
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John Hudson
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Ric Harris

In Memory of Sandi Hansen
Evelyn Burket
Justin and Meisha Hansen
Travis Hansen

In Memory of Edward Schwartz
Barbara and Arthur Pomerantz

Volunteer Spotlight

Mr. Wright Does Right by the Friends

Ralph Wright was serving on the Friends' Board at the time the Friends' Library Store opened in April of 1997. He became a Store volunteer when it opened and still works one shift a week. He finds every day different and most to be a joy. "I've been lucky in having such good people to work with," he says. "I seldom leave the Store without being uplifted by my associates and the customers."

There certainly are some stories to share. Ralph tells of one person who tried to get him to declare his faith in Jesus so that he would be saved. Another sat on the floor perusing the contents of her purse. One day he made a single sale of \$468, while on another day a man snatched a couple of cards from his hand and raced out the door. Ralph says that if he hadn't been recovering from eye surgery at the time, he'd have chased the guy "and caught him."

Volunteering in the Store has not been his only service to the Library. Ralph used to monitor the Old Town Reading Room, which he also found quite rewarding. The Reading Room provided services for transients and the homeless, who he notes favored westerns and true-crime books. One client, who was 97 years old, read with a magnifying glass and pointed out grammatical errors in what he read. Another would pull up a chair and stare at him for half an hour or more, occasionally smiling.

Ralph grew up in Ohio in a house essentially without books or magazines. He developed his passion for the library after returning from the Second World War, where he served in a tank outfit. Following the army, he went to the University of Notre Dame, where he majored in journalism. He later got a master's degree in English from DePaul University.

Putting his degrees to work, Ralph



Ralph Wright working with Sherry Alicki in the Friends' Store

spent years in advertising, writing ad copy for such big clients as Johnson Wax. He has published a novel, numerous articles and short fiction stories. He has served as a columnist for Salem's *Statesman Journal*, and taught Imaginative Writing courses at Chemeketa Community College.

Both Ralph and his wife Millie (a graduate of the University of Maryland) take their education and reading seriously. They fostered a love of reading in their family, which led to all of their eight children getting college degrees, including several Mas-

ters, a PhD and a law degree. They've even got one of their grandchildren hooked on books early. When asked recently how his day at school was, his seven-year-old grandson responded by quoting Dickens, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

If you'd like to join Ralph and the other volunteers who work in the Friends' Library Store, whether for a regular shift, or just to fill in when needed, contact Sherry Alicki, the Store Manager, at (503) 988-6762.

New Board Members *continued*

Alexander McCall Smith's *No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* series. In the last several years I was pleased to make it through each book of the *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy prior to the release of the movie.

I enjoy backpacking, hiking, gardening and occasionally weaving. I'm thrilled to be joining the Friends of the Library Board because I simply love the library. Central Library is my favorite but I also make trips to my local branch—Belmont and the not too distant Hollywood library.

✓ Check this out...

Local Artist Featured in Friends' Store

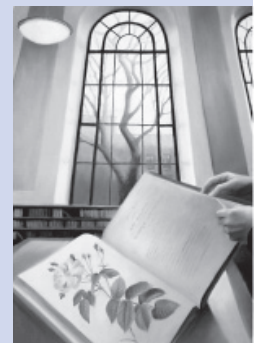
Deborah Dewit Marchant Book and Artwork Signing

Saturday, December 11th, Noon – 3:00 pm
Friends' Library Store, Central Library, 810 SW 10th Avenue



Deborah DeWit Marchant, local artist, author and photographer, will be holding a signing of her book, artwork and cards on Saturday, Dec. 11 in the Friends' store located in the

Central Library. The Friends' Library Store is one of the few retailers in Portland featuring her artwork.





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Tax Talk by Darren Beatty

Your Friends Membership Can Go Further Than You Think

As a member of the Friends of the Library, you are eligible for a unique tax credit by supporting the Oregon Cultural Trust. The Oregon Cultural Trust was created to preserve and strengthen the arts, heritage, and humanities in Oregon. Each year, the Cultural Trust gives grants to support innovative cultural programs and institutions in our state and builds an endowment to protect our cultural environment for years to come. For more information visit their website at www.culturaltrust.org.

Here's how you can receive a 100 percent tax credit for your gift to the Trust:

Make a donation to an Oregon cultural organization (by joining the Friends, you've already done this!). Then make a gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust. You will receive a 100 percent tax credit for your gift to the

Trust equal to the lesser amount of your gift to either the Trust or the cultural nonprofit. For example:

Make a \$100 gift to the Friends, then make a \$100 gift to the Cultural Trust, then the amount of state tax you owe at the end of the year is reduced by \$100.

Make a \$50 gift to the Friends, then make a \$100 gift to the Cultural Trust, then the amount of state tax you owe at the end of the year is reduced by \$50.

Make a \$100 gift to the Friends, then make a \$50 gift to the Cultural Trust, then the amount of state tax you owe at the end of the year is reduced by \$50.

The annual limit of the tax credit is \$500 per individual or \$1,000 for married couples filing jointly, and \$2,500 for corporate donors. See the Cultural Trust website for the details,

including more information about the Cultural Trust's activities. You can send your gift to the Cultural Trust to: The Oregon Cultural Trust, 775 Summer Street, Suite 200, Salem, OR 97031.

Over 4000 people came. Nearly 100,000 items were sold and over \$90,000 was raised to support Friends' programs. It was the annual FOL Used Book Sale! Story on p 3.

