



Friends of the McMinnville Public Library

Bulletin

Fall
2022



Message from the President

By Mark Davis

The Friends of the McMinnville Public Library changed leadership on July 1 as Mike Freeman stepped down as Board President and I replaced him. Jessica Randall took over from me as Treasurer. Quince Mabry remains as Vice-President and Eric Palo is still maintaining the minutes as Secretary.

I'd like to thank Mike for three years at the helm providing wise counsel as we negotiated COVID-19 protocols to keep providing support for the library. Fortunately, Mike is staying on as a key organizer of the book sale, so we will still have him working behind the scenes to help continue the success of those fundraising efforts.

Speaking of fundraising, we appreciate everyone who provides financial membership support to the Friends and all those who support the book sale by donating books or buying those books. The money we raise goes to support both collection enhancement and library programs that benefit the community. Last year we spent over \$40,000 on our mission to support the library.

Remember that all our Friends Board meetings are open to members. We have been meeting via Zoom for the past couple of years but are hoping to have more in-person meetings as conditions allow. Contact us at FriendsMacLibrary@mcminnvilleoregon.gov if you would like to receive Board agendas and meeting information.

Officers

- Mark Davis, President
- Quince Mabry, Vice-President
- Eric Palo, Secretary
- Jessica Randall, Treasurer
- Jenny Berg, Library Director (ex officio)

Members at Large

- Duane Bond
- Judith Folgate
- Mark Gorrie
- Kathy Petersen
- Janis Stoven
- Robert Wolcott

Friends Board Meetings are held the second Thursday of every month (except August) at 12 noon. All members are welcome to attend. If you are interested in attending please email

FriendsMacLibrary@mcminnvilleoregon.gov with the subject line "Friends of the Library".

New Library of Things

By Olivia Allen, Adult Services Librarian

At the upstairs information desk, we get to experience first-hand the thrill patrons get when they discover the Library of Things. Most often they walk by, stop in their tracks, and come to us to ask, “Can I really check these out?!”

The concept of a Library of Things is a relatively new one. While 9 out of the 17 CCRLS libraries have begun a Library of Things, it’s still a surprise to many McMinnville library users when they see ours. Ours currently has 47 items from baking pans to a sewing machine.



Just last week a gentleman approached the desk while holding our loanable public address system to verify that it would check out for 3 weeks like our other items. Assuming he might be hosting an event I mentioned that we might have the bubble machine available as well. He had already checked out the bubble machine a few weeks before, and gladly shared just how much fun he and his kids had with it. The day he picked it up he was able to sneak it into the backyard and start running it. Once the backyard was bursting with bubbles, he called into the house to tell his little ones the cat had gotten out into the backyard, and he needed their help to get her back inside. They came running to help and found no escaped cat, but instead a bubble-filled wonderland.

But that wasn’t the end of his plans to brighten their summer. Using the PA system, he was going to wake the whole house up with breakfast announcements followed by a few rounds of karaoke.

Our library of things offers items that patrons might not ordinarily have access to because of price or inconvenience and which can foster community, make memories, and put smiles on faces!

Who Is Who At The Library

By Eric Palo

An occasional look behind the masks at the people who make the McMinnville Public Library the place we all love.

This time we really ought to title this, “Who Was Who?” because we are talking about Rebecca Noble, who just retired, and we didn’t want to miss the opportunity to celebrate her more than 30 years with the McMinnville Public Library.

Growing up in Sacramento Rebecca certainly used libraries but working in one didn’t look to be in the cards. It seems that an emphatic dispute with a librarian got her totally banned from her school library. Fast forward to 1991 and the McMinnville library was then one of the few places around town that would then hire an immigrant from California.

At first working part-time and then moving to full-time, she has seen four different library directors in just over 30 years. Much of that time has been behind the scenes in technical services getting books and other items cataloged and processed and sent out for library patrons to use. For the past six years she has loved being involved with the bookmobile and working on art and science with kids.

When asked what she thought the public would find most surprising about her work, she said that many people wrongly assumed her job involved a lot of sitting and reading books, which no library job does! She does not have fond memories of multiple roof leaks and plastic tarps channeling water into buckets around the building, but she said it is hard to leave such a good place. If she didn’t have an elderly mother in need of more attention, she would probably still be working today. She is looking forward to a few years from now when her husband retires from Gormley, and they may be able to travel more. Perhaps even revisit Las Vegas, where an Elvis married them 12 years ago.



Wild Books I Have Known

By Duane Bond

Once again it is time to delve into the wonderous miscellany of books, CD's, videos and pamphlets that cross my desk as book sale Poohbah. (Warning! Terrible puns lie ahead.)

Starting in date order, we have the 16th edition (published in 1957) of a two-part pamphlet *Coachella Valley Desert Trails* and *The Romance and Sex Life of the Date*. Quoting from the introduction "The Romance and Sex Life of the Date...as shown in color and sound continuously from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. in the Romance of the Date Theater."

Moving right along, we can relax a bit with an old actuarial favorite (other than me as I am an old retired actuary). The *Universal Interest Tables* (Guaranteed Correct by Prof. George William Jones of Cornell University). Published in 1882, it is 120 pages of the results of applying interest rates (to the nearest cent) on loans ranging from \$1 to \$3,000 and guaranteed useful for banks and other financial institutions.



If the above was perhaps a bit too relaxing, we have a 1919 pamphlet by the Cable Company (manufacturers of the Cable Midget Upright Piano), *The One Hundred and One Best Songs* (revised edition). Inside you can find all four verses (including the Yale Athletic Version) of "Adelina, the Yale Boola Girl". If you are not a Yale alumnus, you can turn to page 73 and re-visit the playing fields of Eton with the 4 verses of "The Eton Boat Song." Finally, if you wish to stay in the States, you can turn to page 10 and play "Illinois", the official recruiting song of the state guard for the Spanish American War.



If this is still too taxing, you can take a look at the self-published (1936 second edition) of Ruth Webb Lee's *Handbook of Early American Pressed Glass Patterns* in the handy pocket size. It includes examples of sprig, hobnail and thumbnail patterns among others.

I love running across small obscure publishers and the PIG IRON PRESS of Youngstown Pennsylvania certainly fits the bill. The *Epistolary Form & The Letter as Artifact* is a collection of fiction ("Letters from Achilles to His Mother"), poetry ("Open Letter to Friedrich Engels") and art ("Dead Letter Sweater") using or about letters.

Friends Book Sales

- The Friends hold used book sales on the second Saturday of January, March, May, July, September, and November from 10am to 2pm.
- Proceeds from the sales go towards the purchase of new materials for the library. Donations are accepted year-round and are tax deductible.

Published in 1937 by the INFANTRY JOURNAL, we have a reprint of a series of articles from 1924 on “WARFARE: A history of warfare from the Trojan War through the eighteenth century”. Its stated purpose was to “avoid all tabloid descriptions” and “provide a serious background for all students and military personnel by the process of inductive reasoning based upon the principles presented here.”

To try to end on a high note we have another self-published pamphlet Learn to Play the Penny Whistle [for fun and profit] (actually I added the last bit as it sums up the attitude of the author).

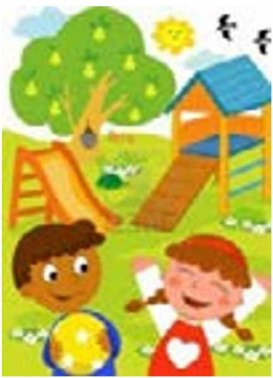
While not all of these are still available (I of course snapped up the Universal Interest Tables) this is just a small sampling of the treasures and oddities that you might find at a book sale.



Making Memories with Summer Fun

By Samantha Geary

Hello from Children’s Librarian Samantha! This is the second summer that our library collaborated with McMinnville Parks and Recreation for Summer Fun – free and fun activities for all ages offered around town.



We hosted nearly 150 programs, visited 21 different sites, and interacted with over 6,000 people! As you might expect, we saw some of those people several times, but it was over those multiple interactions that we became familiar with new and old acquaintances. It’s important for librarians to interact with our community outside of the library. We seem more approachable, more human, when we’re fanning ourselves in the heat, and we’re. We’re just as mesmerized by the cowboy on a unicycle doing rope tricks as other citizens are. During these 45-minute performances at Wortman Park (most of which were funded by the Friends), we were all united in our undivided attention.

What draws me back to any business are the relationships. While you might (as a Friend) assume that the library is innately amazing and good, we still need to market our services and build relationships with our patrons. Like any other business, we try to get customers in the door and entice them to return again and again. Having library staff at children’s events, at summer concerts, and at apartment complexes builds a sense of friendship and trust required to garner new patrons.

Friends of the Library funded seven Summer Fun programs, averaging 78 attendees. On behalf of the Summer Fun team, we are grateful to YOU for helping us make memories within our community!

Letter From Jenny:

Dear Friends of the McMinnville Public Library,

At a recent library staff meeting, the remarkable longevity of our staff was brought to light. We truly enjoy a wonderful working environment and great staff morale. This in turn leads to great customer service. In the background, contributing to this high staff morale, we have you, the Friends of the Library to thank for your tireless contributions. You -- each of you -- helps to create this excellent working environment.

I'd like to share with you some bullet points on staff morale from an article published by Assembled, a company "in service of people helping people." These are the very qualities that exemplify how the Friends make the McMinnville Public Library a great place to work.

- **Show appreciation for the work**

Your presence makes our work easier and more satisfying. From instituting a specific time for book donations, to purchasing new chairs for the public, to providing support and advocacy at City Council and community events, you contribute to our peace of mind.

- **Ask team members for input**

Recently library staff put forth a proposal to the Friends for a room divider for the Carnegie Room. When the Board expressed some concerns, we considered further options and revised our original plan. This led to the purchase of a better and less costly product that will serve everyone well.

- **Offer professional development opportunities**

In April the Friends of the Library sent eight staff members to attend the Public Library Association's national conference in Portland. I invite you to hear more about this educational experience at the Staff Development Day on Monday, October 10.

- **Take on a coaching mentality**

I have appreciated the benefit of one-on-one conversations with many of you about City budgets, library space issues, community support, literacy and other library related topics. I continually learn from your extensive and varied experiences in business, education, public service, the medical field and more. You are a wealth of information and useful knowledge.

- **Prioritize work-life balance**

It is such a pleasure to work with you that our work doesn't really feel like work. Previous Friends Board President, Duane Bond, said it best, "The Friends of the Library Board is an oasis of intelligence and amusement!" This quality of intelligence and amusement is reflected regularly in the Friends' library book sales. I have heard from many in our community, and have experienced myself, the joie de vivre of these book sales, which shows in both number of customers and number of sales!

- **Provide the tools for success**

A primary tool for success provided by the Friends this year was the hiring of a consultant for library strategic planning. Work with the consultant will be discussed and moved forward at the staff development day on Monday, October 10 at Hotel Oregon. I am excited to share the goals for the upcoming year, and closer to the date will send an invitation for that afternoon.

Thank you for the amazing effort that so many of you put towards making the McMinnville Public Library the special place that it is!

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

Jenny

New Mural Brightens Mac Library Entrance

By Kathy Petersen

Have you noticed the bright burst of color on the east side of the library building? Hot air balloons, sailing ships, books and more appear above the plaza entrance in the new mural sponsored by the library and the literacy nonprofit Start Making A Reader Today (SMART). The vibrant painting covers the library’s exterior wall on Northwest Adams Street, and celebrates SMART’s 30th anniversary of connecting volunteers in elementary schools with young readers to help them develop a love of books and reading.



The shared vision of artists Alison McClay of Portland and Elide Rivera Sánchez of McMinnville depicts a mother and son sitting on a stack of books while images swirl above them. They wanted to capture the idea that books can stimulate your imagination and take you anywhere you want to go.

The mural was dedicated on August 14, 2022, in conjunction with the reopening of the library on Sundays. The purpose of the mural is to raise visibility of the value of early literacy. The mural even contains a QR code that is a computer link to free literacy resources. At kids’ eye level are quotes in English and Spanish by Maurice Sendak and Cynthia Leonor Garza about maintaining hope and overcoming fear. Tucked away in the mural is a tribute to Rose Marie Caughran, former McMinnville library director and long-time supporter of the SMART program, who died this past year.



Take time to stop and see this delightful depiction of some of the places a book and your imagination can take you. Each time you see it, you will notice something else in the complex and charming picture.

A Poohbah's History of the Book Sale

By Duane Bond, a.k.a "Book Sale Poohbah"

I thought about titling this essay "Changes to the Friends Book Sale" in order to get click bait but rare sanity intervened.



I have been involved in helping run the Friends Book Sale since 2004, shortly after we came to McMinnville. I thought that I would mention some of the changes that have occurred in the past 18 years.

The Wild West and the Book Nazi: When my late wife and I first got involved with the book sale, it was like the Wild West or, more aptly, the Oklahoma Land Rush. When the doors to the Carnegie room opened, people would dash in and literally scrape books off the

tables into boxes and put the boxes at the edge of the sale. After they had accumulated several boxes in this manner, they would go through them and either leave the rejects there on the floor or put them randomly on a table (see the Dewey Decimal System below).

We crafted a set of rules to be handed out at the next sale. The first rule was "PLAY NICE!" As you can well imagine this was not universally greeted with great enthusiasm. I hovered around helping people while my wife enforced the rules. This resulted in the following conversation I had with one of the dealers as I was helping carry her purchases to her car:

She: "Can you believe that woman?"

Duane: "What woman?"

She: "The woman in there with all the rules. The Book Nazi! Can you imagine being married to her?"

Duane: "Yes I can and it's been 10 wonderful years."

She: Silence.

And we never saw her again.

The Dewey Decimal System: It used to take around 3+ hours to set up the book sale because we would arrange non-fiction books by topic in a quasi-Dewey Decimal system manner. After several years of this one of the new workers suggested that we just lump all of the non-fiction together as we do the fiction. I was skeptical saying that this would impact the sales. We tried it and I was right; it did impact the sales.....they went up 15%. Now our set up time is around a half hour.

The CURSE of the IPAD: When I first started working the sale, cookbooks were a premium purchase, but now most of them end up being given away. The most common reason given: "I can just look up any recipe I want on my iPad."

Inflation and the Book Sale: When I started working the sale everything was a dollar except for kid's books (25 cents), paperbacks (50 cents) and some specially priced items. Today... the prices are the same.

Product Moved: In 2002 a good sale sold roughly 750 books. Now a typical sale will have us move around 2500 books. (That's approximately 1.4 tons of books per sale).

Trash vs Recycling vs Re-gifting: As recently as 10 years ago, each month we were taking about 10 boxes of books that didn't sell down to Salem for recycling. Around 5 or so years ago one of our new members suggested that we put out a free cart of these books and see if some of them could find new homes. Our recycling numbers dropped to maybe one box per month that we could take to Greenlands here in McMinnville. (Unfortunately, they recently have stopped accepting books for recycling so they now go to the landfill).

Heartbreaking Donations: I call the following heartbreaking donations because they are items that I have treasured in the past (and in some cases still treasure). Unfortunately, no one will spend a buck to buy VHS tapes, cassette tapes, encyclopedias, text books, coffee table atlases, and last but not least vinyl records (I will leave it to the discerning reader which of the above I still have in my den).

Final Words: One thing that hasn't changed over the years is how cheerful and friendly our patrons are. At the July sale 193 people purchased books. To those folks and their families, I say thank you.