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...
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-Tepper (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

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.

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!
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

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

By Janet Christ

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 shelve 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 History 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 congenial. 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.
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/
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 Osbourne 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

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 10, 2005</td>
<td>North Portland Library</td>
<td>6 – 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 17, 2005</td>
<td>Multnomah County East Building</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 24, 2005</td>
<td>Midland Library</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 31, 2005</td>
<td>Multnomah Building</td>
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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 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
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.

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

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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

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

Card number ________________ Expiration 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
A Successful Annual Meeting, New Board Members and Upcoming Events  By Stephanie Vardavas

Where to begin? So much has happened (and is happening!) since the last time I wrote.

On May 25th we welcomed bestselling author Whitney Otto as our guest speaker at the Annual Meeting. She was delightful, funny, and charming. On a serious note, we also said goodbye to our former President Greg Simon, who was leaving the Friends Board of Directors due to our term limits. Greg has done so much for the Friends over the years and even though he is now off the Board, we are not letting him off the hook that easily! He remains active in library advocacy efforts, which are even more vital during this upcoming year as the next library levy election approaches. Also at the Annual Meeting we elected seven terrific new members to the Friends’ Board. I welcome all the new energy and enthusiasm they offer, and we are already putting them to work! I’d like to extend special thanks and recognition to the Nominating Committee, chaired by Carol Ramsey, who did an amazing job identifying the new board members Hillary Ayliffe.

News from the Friends’ Library Store

The Friends of the Library are pleased to announce that the Friends’ Library Store will be reopening in October of 2005. The store will have a new look with a merchandise mix of used books from the FOL sorting room and moderately-priced gifts, which celebrate reading, writing and creativity that will appeal to book lovers.

The store will serve as another venue (other than the highly successful Spring and Fall Book Sales) for the vast book donations we receive. We are currently looking for volunteers who would like to donate time working in the Friends’ Library Store. Please call Babs at 503.988.6762.

In order to make room for all the used books and new merchandise, we are holding a huge Clearance Sale September 15th through September 17th with most items reduced 50%. **Sale hours:** Thursday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Come early for best selection.
and recruiting these new Board members. You’ll be getting to know the new Board members in the pages of this newsletter and through their efforts in connection with the Book Sale, the Friends’ Store, and our various other projects.

Speaking of the Friends’ Library Store, I am very pleased to announce the hiring of a new Store Manager, Babs Adamski. At this writing Babs has been on duty for less than a week, so it’s a bit premature to try to pin down a date for the store’s grand reopening, but we’ll keep you posted.

I mentioned the L-word (actually the L-phrase, “library levy”) above, and I’m sure that like most of us, your reaction was, “Oh NO! It can’t be time for that already!” The answer is: almost. We anticipate that the next levy will appear on the ballot in November 2006. That sounds like a long time off but it will be here before we know it. The Friends will be taking our customary position of leadership in advocating for continuing strong support for the Library by the taxpayers of Multnomah County. This is our mission, our most important role in the community. Please think about what you individually would like to do to join in, information you would like to have, etc., and call the Friends office or send us an email at foladmin@europa.com to let us know what you’re thinking.

Watch this space for updates ... and thanks again for being such good Friends.

From the President continued from page 1

From the Editor

Greetings all. I want to introduce you to a set of new series that we want to start in Footnotes. First, a series that begins with this issue is the Our Library Does That! series, which features a program or service that our library offers. We begin this series with an article reprinted courtesy of both The Oregonian and the author.

During Whitney Otto’s amusing storytelling at our Annual Meeting this year, she told of how she had visited various Pageturners groups, when one of her books was the selection of the month. A thought occurred to me about how each branch, and each group of Pageturners (the Friends-sponsored reading clubs) has its own character. I got to thinking that this would be a great series of articles.

We also are aware of the wealth of interesting and talented people that chose to join us in supporting the library. So beginning next issue, we’re going to alter our Volunteer Spotlight to a Member Spotlight segment. We might rotate back and forth between these, allowing us to continue highlighting people like you who contribute to the library, or the Friends in some significant way.

I need your help!

Are you a regular at your monthly Pageturners? Do you visit your library so often that the staff know you by name? Have you been helping out at your branch, or with the Friends? If so—what do you think about writing about it or being interviewed? This newsletter, and the organization, is run by volunteers (with a few cherished and dedicated staff), so all the help we can get is appreciated. If you have an interest in contributing to Footnotes, by authoring articles on any of these topics, I’d love to hear from you—just drop me an e-mail if you’d like to test your hand at writing. I’m at barbaloot@comcast.net

— Bryan Aptekar

Footnotes Volume 15, No. 2

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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: Jeannie E. Gallick

Friendly at the Farmers Markets

Starting with the August 7th Hillsdale Farmers Market, the Membership Committee is bringing Friends of the Library membership information to Multnomah County citizens as they shop for seasonal produce and flowers at our county’s wonderful neighborhood markets. In addition to Hillsdale, current plans include summer and fall appearances at Farmers Market booths in Gresham, Hollywood, downtown Portland and Alberta. This outreach goal is to increase membership, advocate in support of our fine library system and to

Continue on page 7
Welcome Babs, the New Friends’ Library Store Manager

Babs Adamski is happy to be the new manager of the Friends’ Library Store.

Babs started her career as a bookseller more than twenty years ago at a chain store in her hometown of Roseburg, Oregon.

After studying early childhood development and elementary education at Umpqua Community College and Oregon State University, Babs realized her heart was really in the book trade. Upon moving to Portland in 1988 she started working at Powell’s City of Books where she continued until August of 2000. After Powell’s, Babs worked at OHSU in a variety of administrative and fiscal positions, most recently in the Center for Ethics in Healthcare. The last year has been spent being an active member of the School and Community Reuse Action Project’s (SCRAP) board in the role of treasurer.

In addition to biking down Alameda Ridge to get to the Albina Branch library, Babs’ favorite pastimes include swimming, cooking and teaching art at her neighborhood elementary school.

Babs’ reading list of late includes *A Walk Towards Oregon* by Alvin Josephy.
Meet Our Seven New Board Members

The Friends are pleased to welcome a host of new Board Members. Those of you who joined us for the Annual Meeting in May were able to meet this new crew, as well as join us in saying Thank You to Greg Simon, whose time on the board was complete. We wish Greg the best, and welcome this new crew of energetic and talented members.

Hillary Ayliffe
Hillary is co-owner of Raincycle, LLC, a Portland based business specializing in design and construction of rain harvesting systems. She grew up in Australia, where water is scarce and rainwater harvesting is common practice, and hopes to promote the ideal that she was brought up with of water as a precious natural resource.

Hillary is a two year resident of Portland, having relocated from Toronto, Canada, where she studied science at University in Waterloo, Ontario, and had a career in commercial real estate.

Hillary loves Portland. Some of her favorite things about Portland are the parks and trails, the farmers markets, the gardens, the rivers, the mountains on the horizon, movie theatres where you can drink beer and eat pizza, and of course, the library. The library is her source of solitude and inspiration, for everything from business resources to recipes. She loves Central for its variety and architecture.

Favorite authors are Margaret Atwood and Carol Shields. Favorite book of all time is Margaret Atwood’s *Alias Grace*. She also enjoys accounts of great adventures as well as bibliographies of great adventurers.

Carly Brown
Carly, a new member of the Friends’ board, recently started the public administration master’s program, concentrating in nonprofit management, at Portland State University. She also works as a conference coordinator with a local nonprofit. Carly has a BA in American Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz. In college, she relied on libraries for the many novels she read for her classes and has continued to use the library for even more resources recently. She is happy that she has found a way to give back to libraries and their users by serving on the Friends of the Library board.

Carly lives with her husband, Albert, and cat in the Brooklyn neighborhood of SE Portland. She enjoys summer barbeques, textile crafts, and reading the assortment of books and watching the movies and documentaries that she borrows from the Sellwood-Moreland library. She is currently reading *Who Cooked the Last Supper? The Women’s History of the World* by Rosalind Miles.

Robin Denburg
Robin Denburg is a political consultant and has been a campaign manager and community organizer for a variety of candidates, ballot measures, and non-profit organizations. His emphasis has been issues pertaining to education and the environment.

Robin has also been very active with a number of neighborhoods of Portland, helping on a number of local public policy issues.

Robin is excited about being on the Friends of the Library Board because he is passionate about having a strong library system for all of Multnomah County. “Libraries are where many in the community can strengthen their education, as well as read books they might otherwise not be able to afford. It is a great community resource.”

He looks forward to leading the advocacy committee and assisting the effort to renew the upcoming library levy. He is also interested in assisting library patrons in having a strong voice in how the library operates and for library decisions to be as transparent as possible.

Recommended authors include Jack Kerouac, John Irving, and Haruki Murakami.

Paul Haulbrook
Paul Haulbrook joined the FOL Board in 2005. Paul has been working with Pendleton Woolen Mills since 2002 where he specializes in product logistics and vendor communications. A veteran of the Air Force, he graduated from the University of Nevada in 1996 (Journalism BA) and taught English in Saitama, Japan for two years.

Since moving to Portland in 1999, he has volunteered with the SMART reading program, taught English at the International Refugee Center of Oregon, built houses with Habitat for Humanity, and interned for the City of Portland’s Office of International Relations. His claim to fame is serving as team liaison for the Japanese team during its stay in Portland for the 1999 Women’s

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Hillary is a two year resident of Portland, having relocated from Toronto, Canada, where she studied science at University in Waterloo, Ontario, and had a career in commercial real estate.

Hillary loves Portland. Some of her favorite things about Portland are the parks and trails, the farmers markets, the gardens, the rivers, the mountains on the horizon, movie theatres where you can drink beer and eat pizza, and of course, the library. The library is her source of solitude and inspiration, for everything from business resources to recipes. She loves Central for its variety and architecture.

Favorite authors are Margaret Atwood and Carol Shields. Favorite book of all time is Margaret Atwood’s *Alias Grace*. She also enjoys accounts of great adventures as well as bibliographies of great adventurers.

Carly Brown
Carly, a new member of the Friends’ board, recently started the public administration master’s program, concentrating in nonprofit management, at Portland State University. She also works as a conference coordinator with a local nonprofit. Carly has a BA in American Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz. In college, she relied on libraries for the many novels she read for her classes and has continued to use the library for even more resources recently. She is happy that she has found a way to give back to libraries and their users by serving on the Friends of the Library board.

Carly lives with her husband, Albert, and cat in the Brooklyn neighborhood of SE Portland. She enjoys summer barbeques, textile crafts, and reading the assortment of books and watching the movies and documentaries that she borrows from the Sellwood-Moreland library. She is currently reading *Who Cooked the Last Supper? The Women’s History of the World* by Rosalind Miles.

Robin Denburg
Robin Denburg is a political consultant and has been a campaign manager and community organizer for a variety of candidates, ballot measures, and non-profit organizations. His emphasis has been issues pertaining to education and the environment.

Robin has also been very active with a number of neighborhoods of Portland, helping on a number of local public policy issues.

Robin is excited about being on the Friends of the Library Board because he is passionate about having a strong library system for all of Multnomah County. “Libraries are where many in the community can strengthen their education, as well as read books they might otherwise not be able to afford. It is a great community resource.”

He looks forward to leading the advocacy committee and assisting the effort to renew the upcoming library levy. He is also interested in assisting library patrons in having a strong voice in how the library operates and for library decisions to be as transparent as possible.

Recommended authors include Jack Kerouac, John Irving, and Haruki Murakami.

Paul Haulbrook
Paul Haulbrook joined the FOL Board in 2005. Paul has been working with Pendleton Woolen Mills since 2002 where he specializes in product logistics and vendor communications. A veteran of the Air Force, he graduated from the University of Nevada in 1996 (Journalism BA) and taught English in Saitama, Japan for two years.

Since moving to Portland in 1999, he has volunteered with the SMART reading program, taught English at the International Refugee Center of Oregon, built houses with Habitat for Humanity, and interned for the City of Portland’s Office of International Relations. His claim to fame is serving as team liaison for the Japanese team during its stay in Portland for the 1999 Women’s
World Cup. He lives in Southeast Portland with his wife, Jennell, and their two cats, Pepper and Bella.

Paul loves sports books, especially with an international flavor such as: *The Meaning of Ichiro* by Robert Whitinger; *The Ghost of Manila* by Mark Kram; and *Pitching Around Fidel* by S.L. Price. He also enjoys non-fiction books such as *Hokkaido Highway Blues* by Will Ferguson or anything by David Halberstam or Bob Woodward. Dabbling in fiction, he is still trying to start *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd.

Kate McDonald

Kate McDonald joined the FOL Board in 2005. She works for the American Cancer Society as their Metro Market Relationship Manager, planning and implementing Relay for Life events.

Kate lives in Northwest and most often uses the Northwest branch. Favorite authors include Henry Miller, Ivan Turgenev, Jack Kerouac, Mark Strand and Gabriel Garcia Mquez.

In her spare time, Kate enjoys reading, traveling, and knitting.

Mei-Ling Shiroishi

Mei-Ling is retired. She was an elementary school principal in Beaverton School District for 15 years. Before that she was a teacher and school librarian in Oregon, California and upstate New York. She is currently volunteering for the Portland Public Schools in its Clothing Center, training senior volunteers for Metropolitan Family Services, and will teach a class for beginning school counselors at Lewis and Clark in the fall.

Mei-Ling believes that libraries should be the center of a learning community, be it a city, neighborhood or school. She is delighted to have the time to reread old favorites, including the *Earthsea Trilogy* by Ursula LeGuin and *Yellow* by Frank Wu, as well as explore new genres.

LisaMary Wichowski-Hill

LisaMary is a new member of the Board and a newish resident of Portland. In 2004 she followed the Oregon Trail with her husband Kevin and cat Iggy for her husband’s job at Portland State University.

Lisa Mary (mostly) retired from retail in 2001 for graduate work in American History. While completing her coursework she served as Editorial Coordinator for Labor History and as a Docent/Public Historian for the Jane Addams Hull House Museum. Her current projects are centered on cemeteries as indices of cultural change and stability. She also is a photographer working exclusively in black and white.

Although she doesn’t have time for much fiction, she found *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova a fun read. In her serious reading she focuses on ethnic and class history as well as aesthetics.

You can often find LisaMary up the block from her home at the Hillsdale branch, working where there is some human noise.

**FOUND**

After the FOL Annual Meeting in May, a pair of Prada sunglasses. If these glasses belong to you, please call or leave a message for Sara at 503.224.9176.
National Library Worker’s Day 2005  
By Connie Christopher  
Multnomah County Library  
Staff & Program Support Manager

On Tuesday, April 12, as part of National Library Week, Multnomah County Library staff celebrated the second annual National Library Worker’s Day in recognition of the hard work, dedication and expertise of library staff.

Each of the 18 library locations sponsored a staff get-together made possible by a generous contribution from The Friends of the Library. Staff at Central Library also recognized Beverly Cleary’s birthday at their celebration.

In addition, staff had the opportunity to nominate colleagues for special recognition in the following areas:

• Customer service
• Leadership
• Teamwork
• Attitude
• Effectiveness
• Dependability
• Creativity
• Inspirational
• Positive role model

In total, about 100 special recognition nominations were received and shared with all employees on the library intranet.

4th Annual Spring Used Book Sale a Big Success
By Anne Pearson, Book Sale Committee Chair

This year, the Friends decided to reach out to more of our East County library patrons by expanding the Gresham Spring Used Book Sale. After three successful sales inside the Gresham Regional Library, a larger retail space was found at the Gresham Village Shopping Center near the intersection of SE Burnside and Powell Blvd. The March 30-April 1 sale was a winner, with sales of $20,000 - up from the $6000 the Friends made last year during our one-day Gresham Spring Sale. Thanks to the hard work of Membership Committee Chair Carla Rathbun, our volunteers were able to hand out FOL membership information packets and talk about our support of the library.

Over 1000 people came through the door during the two-day sale to browse, shop and find bargains from among the many categories of books. We were able to bring over 20,000 books to this sale due to the larger venue, and we were able to sell a lot more of our donated books than in previous years. The volunteers were ably led by our hard-working Book Sale Committee—thank you!

And a special thank you to all of you who volunteered your time to make the sale so profitable- we couldn’t have done it without your help. We hope to see all of you again next spring in Gresham!

Among the many people who contributed to the success of the Spring Used Book Sale in Gresham were enthusiastic volunteers, board members, staff and many, many book lovers.
Coming This Fall to the Library:
A New Catalog

By Penny Hummel, Multnomah County Library

Did you know that Multnomah County Library has the highest circulation of any library in the United States? In 2003–04, library customers checked out 18.7 million items—that's 27.7 books for every man, woman and child in Multnomah County!

With that kind of action happening each day for 16 years, it's understandable that your library's catalog needs to be replaced. As the last project to be funded by the 1996 bond measure to support library renovations and new technology, the new catalog will go online September 15.

The new catalog will offer many dynamic features, including:
• Simpler and easier ways to find what you need—whether it's books on a favorite topic, information about changing careers or the latest bestsellers.
• Detailed information about books in the library's collection. You'll find cover images, tables of contents, book reviews and more!
• E-mail alerts to remind you ahead of time when your items are due.

Temporary Service Interruptions
To ensure a smooth transition to the new catalog, all Multnomah County libraries will be closed from Monday, September 12 through Wednesday, September 14. All book drops will also be closed and the Web site, which is undergoing its own upgrade to accommodate the features of the new catalog, will be unavailable.

During these three days, library staff will be busy bringing the new catalog online and making sure things will be back to normal when the library is open again for business on Thursday, September 15.

Due dates will be adjusted so that no fines accrue during the closure.
Holds will also be affected in the next few weeks, and storytimes, book groups and most other library programs will be on hiatus in September to ensure that staff members are trained and available to assist library customers in becoming familiar with the new technology. To learn more about what's happening, and how you can help your library transition to the new catalog, visit www.multcolib.org/newcatalog

“The new catalog will greatly expand the possibilities library customers find at the library each day,” says Director of Libraries, Molly Raphael. “Although the data migration will cause some temporary inconveniences, I’m confident that library users of all ages will appreciate the improved access to the library’s collection and resources that it offers.”

Farmers Markets continued

make Friends with people who don't know about us. According to Carla Rathbun, chairwoman of the committee, “We know many in our community love the library for a variety of reasons; join us to find out how you can help the Friends keep a vibrant library system for our community.”

The Multnomah County Library answers the needs of the greater metropolitan Portland community through its 17 library sites. By “hitting the markets,” the FOL Membership Committee wants to learn what makes the Library special to each of you. What is important in a Library? We know that as growth occurs, the dynamic that makes one library site reflect the unique needs of its micro-community should flex to serve those evolving needs. How can we, as Friends members, help the Library successfully continue to meet those needs of serving a diverse, changing community? Let's talk! Join us at a Farmer's Market for that discussion.

If you are interested in volunteering, call Sara at 503-224-9176.

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:

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522 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1103
Portland, OR 97204

Thank you for your generous support
Babs Adamski continued

and Boards That Love Fundraising by Robert M. Zimmerman. Interesting as these non-fiction pieces may be, Babs always enjoys her all time favorite novels: Winter Wheat by Mildred Walker and The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B. White.

With the reopening of the store in early October, Babs is looking forward to working with current and new FOL members and store volunteers. “I’m excited for the opportunity to make use of my experience as a library patron and bookstore veteran in the non-profit setting of the Friends’ Library Store. I look forward to working in the beautiful store in this amazing library. I think FOL members and the public will be responsive to the new mix of merchandise which will include used books.”

32nd Annual Fall Used Book Sale October 21–24

Members-Only Night
Friday, October 21

Monday, October 24 Discount Day

1635 N.E. Sandy Blvd.
Portland
(TriMet #12)

For more information or if you would like to volunteer:
503-224-9176
www.friends-library.org
The Friends: 1972 to the Present
By June Mikkelsen, Executive Assistant to the Director, Multnomah County Library

“This year will be remembered as the year of the budget cut.”

So begins the 1972–1973 “Report of the President” in the Annual Report of the Library Association of Portland (LAP), the governing body of Multnomah County Library from 1864 to 1990. LAP President Warren W. Braley was referring to a threatened $800,000 cut to the library’s operating budget, which would have forced 12 neighborhood libraries to close.

Citizens strongly protested. They formed two organizations to work for improved support for the library...Keep Our Books Open (KOBO) and Friends of the Library.

That budget cut was averted after the Federal Revenue Sharing Act was implemented in October 1972, and KOBO and the Friends successfully lobbied the county commission to use the funds for library support. Since then, the Friends has lobbied for support for the library countless other times, and particularly during the eight subsequent levy campaigns. The next levy renewal election, tentatively scheduled for

Continued on page 5

Friends’ Library Store to Reopen
by Babs Adamski, Manager

A mix of the new and the used...that’s how I’d describe the inventory of the soon-to-reopen Friends’ Library Store in Central Library. With an abundance of new, carefully selected literary gifts and quality used books, the store will reopen on Tuesday, October 11th. The store will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Used books in good condition at attractive prices will now fill the shelves of the store. The Literature section contains popular fiction and classics; trade paperbacks and hard-bound volumes as well as Folio Society and leather-bound editions of classics. The non-fiction section includes gardening, cooking, art, history, biography, travel and current events.

Mixed in with the used books are literary gifts such as bookends, calendars and journals. We’ll continue to carry Paul Strauch’s sculpted bookends, Ramona and Henry t-shirts and those lovely Exaclair Notebooks. Please come visit us starting October 11th, I would like to meet you and show you the store—and remember, FOL members receive a 10% discount on all purchases!
From the President

Dear Friends,

As I mentioned in my last message, we are in the early stages of preparing for the next library levy election, which we expect to come in November 2006. That may seem awfully early to some of you, and in fact it is a little bit early, although not premature. Here’s the situation: in order for a levy to pass, two criteria must be met: (a) it must receive a majority of the votes cast, and (b) those voting must also represent a majority of all registered voters for that election. This is called a “double majority” requirement. It is designed to protect taxpayers from having their taxes raised when most of them are not paying attention. In practice, what this means is that the library levy needs to appear on the ballot during a general election. And November 2006 is the only general election between now and the expiration of the current levy. So there you have it! That’s why we’re getting ready now.

I am pleased to be able to say that we’ll be coordinating this work with a number of other community leaders who support the Library, so we’re far from alone. But we do need you to get involved. If you are interested in participating on the Friends’ Advocacy Committee, please send an email to foladmin@europa.com or call the office at 503-224-9176 and let us know who you are. In upcoming months we’ll be updating and upgrading the Friends’ website with information about the Library budget and the great value the Library delivers to the taxpayers of Multnomah County. If you have a personal anecdote or story about the Library in your own life, please send it in via email or postal mail, with information about how to contact you.

We’re also looking for members who are interested in volunteering for most of our other committees — Book Sale, Membership/Newsletter, Retail, Website/Technology, and Budget/Finance. And we are always interested in identifying members who are willing to make the commitment of time and energy to serve on the Friends’ board of directors.

If you’d like to talk with me personally about any of these volunteer opportunities, or about anything at all relating to the Friends, drop us an email or call the office and I’ll be pleased to set something up. I’ll even buy the coffee!

Now more than ever, thanks for being our Friends.

Stephanie Vardavas, President

Volunteer Spotlight

Bob Patton
Interviewed by Carly Brown

Bob Patton and his wife Nancy have been Friends of the Multnomah County Library for several years, and in the past couple of years Bob has increased his involvement with the Friends by volunteering. He currently serves on the membership committee and part of his volunteer efforts take him to the St. John’s Library to talk with their staff and patrons about the Friends and share his appreciation for the library. Bob enjoys the St. John’s library because of its history as a Carnegie library and its good facilities.

Bob has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from West Texas A & M and a master’s degree in educational psychology from UCLA. He subsequently worked for 31 years as an elementary teacher, research specialist and psychologist in the Los Angeles City Schools. Amarillo, Texas has also been a home for Bob before moving to Portland 11 years ago. Both Bob and his wife Nancy are now retired and are making Portland their permanent home.

For a hobby Bob is a quilter. In 1996...
It’s the time of year for all book fans to gather those roomy bags and boxes.

The Friends’ 32nd fall book sale will be held Oct. 21-24 in the same location as last year, a big former car dealership building at 1635 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

The huge fall sale of an estimated 100,000 donated books, tapes and compact discs is the main way that the nonprofit group raises money to support programs and buy materials for the Multnomah County library system.

And this sale, like others, promises to offer surprises and surprisingly good and best quality books at low prices. Most of the adult volumes, hardcover as well as paper, are $1.50 each. Children’s books start at 50 cents.

“There are great bargains and gems,” notes Angelita Surmon, the Friends’ book room manager. Surmon oversees the year-round sorting of donations and maintains a devoted group of volunteers that categorize and box up the items for storage until the sale date.

Attendees will find the usual categories including art and music, literature and classics, history, science, crafts, cooking, gardening, travel, sports, popular fiction, fantasy and mystery. And, of course, there will be tables full of Children’s books separated for infants and beginning readers and for older readers. Most of the Children’s foreign language books also will be separated this year for easier selection.

New this year is a section we’re calling “gift books.” They’re often softly attractive, thoughtful or amusing volumes that haven’t fit well among standard classifications. Some can be slipped into an envelope to send to that friend or family member with a birthday.

The Friday night opening, Oct. 21 from 6 to 9 PM, is for Friends of the Library members only. But people may buy memberships that night and be admitted to the sale. The other times are 9 AM to 6 PM Saturday, 11 AM to 5 PM Sunday, and 9 AM to 3 PM Monday, discount day.

The sale building is near the intersection of Sandy and East Burnside Street. On-street parking is available, and TriMet’s No.12 Sandy Boulevard bus serves the site. The No. 19 and 20 buses also run on Burnside nearby.

Volunteers are still needed for this fun event. Please call 503-224-9176 to sign up.
Member Spotlight: Betty Frye
Legendary Supporter of Children’s Literature Holds FOL Card #1

Betty and Wayne Fry were the first official members of the Friends of Multnomah County Library. It happened because they were visiting their friend Katherine McCanna, the first treasurer of FOL. She offered to take their money for membership and they have been loyal members ever since. They are both readers and long-time library users. Betty has a newspaper clipping showing her at the Hollywood branch with their two daughters, Susan and Beth, when they were very young. They used to walk to the library pulling a wagon for the books they would take home. Betty and Wayne are now grandparents and continue to enjoy children’s books. In fact, they have an entire upstairs room dedicated to children’s literature. It is called simply “the book room.”

Betty has many other newspaper clippings and photographs of events celebrating children’s literature in Portland, events that would not have happened without her leadership and enthusiasm. She says she could not have done those things without the support of Wayne whom she met when they were both working at J.K. Gills, then an important Portland book and stationary store. She was selling books and he was in the photography department.

In the late 1960’s Betty became an elementary school librarian. Her first position ended when the school closed and she moved to Sabin Elementary. It was there that her love of children’s books and their authors and illustrators led her to some exciting adventures. Residents of the neighborhoods surrounding Sabin and Alemeda schools might remember the parades featuring Ezra Jack Keats (1979), Beverly Cleary (1981), and Tomi DePaola (1982). Certainly the participating children do, as well as those adults who shared her love of books. The three celebrated authors and author/illustrators loved these events, which demonstrated Portland’s appreciation of their work in a unique way.

She even has a note from Jim Trelease, well-known author of books that encourage reading to children, calling her his “first fan.” She never missed an opportunity to communicate with anyone who could enrich the lives of children in Portland through children’s literature, so she called the Boston Globe where Mr. Trelease worked when she first heard of his book, The Read-Aloud Handbook. Later he visited Portland on a book tour partly because of Betty’s enthusiasm. All of his books that are autographed for Betty refer to her as his first fan.

Another example of Betty and Wayne “pushing” children’s literature was a campaign during National Children’s Book Week in 1978 in which Fred Meyer stores featured “Albert Alligator” asking “Have You Read to a Child Today?” At the time Betty had just started working at Sabin and Wayne was in the advertising department at Fred Meyer. It is one of the first examples of a supermarket printing non-profit messages on grocery bags. This effort had the support of the mayor and others in the community.

When asked which library branch they now visit, they replied that Hollywood is still the usual first choice with occasional stops at Albina Branch and lots of time on the website.

Betty belongs to more than one book group and she and Wayne belong to one together. It is an early morning informal group featuring a gourmet breakfast at members’ homes. Recently, Betty enjoyed reading Mao’s Last Dancer by Li Cunxin, a biography of a Chinese ballet dancer currently with the Houston Ballet. Wayne liked reading Rounding the Horn by Dallas Murphy and Over the Edge of the World by Laurence Bergreen.

Betty and Wayne enjoy gardening and music and Wayne is a weaver, but Betty’s interest in children’s literature and the joy of bringing the power of books and reading to children will always be a force in her life. What a great couple to hold this place in the history of our Friend’s organization!

Interviewed by Diane Gutman
The Friends: 1972 to the Present continued

November 2006, will be the 10th public vote for library support since Friends of the Library was formed.

The support from the Friends has played a vital role in the library’s wellbeing. The Friends’ first book sale, held at Central Library on Aug. 3, 1974, raised $1,500, part of which was donated to help fund the May 1976 three-year serial levy. That levy passed by 69.76 percent.

In addition to providing funding for levy campaigns, Friends of the Library has consistently supported the library in other ways. In 1979, the Friends, together with the Library Advisory Board and county commissioners Gladys McCoy and Earl Blumenauer, successfully lobbied the state legislature to pass Senate Bill 31, which provided—for the first time in state history—direct per capita support for libraries through the state’s general fund. This was probably the most important library legislation approved since 1901, when the first library law was enacted to authorize the establishment and maintenance of public libraries, and to provide for their control and protection. Multnomah County Library currently gets about $90,000 each year from state per capita funding.

Friends of the Library has also long been involved in supporting special programs and events that publicize library services. The Friends provided funding and/or volunteer help during the 1974 Chautauqua system wide celebration, the 1980 Library Week Check Out program, many Check It Out celebrations in the early 1990s, and many new and renovated library opening celebrations from 1996 through 2004. These events have helped keep the library in the public eye.

Friends’ support has also helped the library begin a number of new services. Money from the Friends funded records for the first children’s record collection (1978), film projectors for branch programs (1978), and the first collection of videos for circulation to the public (1985). That same year, the Friends provided funding for the purchase of equipment for the Dialog online information system—the library’s first electronic reference service. The library’s first DVD collections debuted in all library agencies in 2000, another Friends’ gift. More recently, Friends of the Library has sponsored Pageturners, providing funds for multiple copies of the books featured in library book discussion groups.

Throughout its 33-year history, Friends of the Library has played a vital role in the well being of Multnomah County Library: It has funded enhanced services, helped spread the message that libraries are important, and provided financial and volunteer support during nine levy elections. The most recent gift from the Friends—a promise to write the first check to the new levy renewal PAC, as soon as it is formed—is just the latest of many, many Friends’ contributions toward ensuring the continuation and improvement of Multnomah County Library.

Bob Patton continued

the wall hanging he entered in the Hoffman Challenge was chosen to travel for a year internationally. He has also entered his work in the Oregon State Fair several times. True Story by Michael Finkel is Bob’s most recent read. Bob was especially interested in this story about the former New York Times Magazine reporter and Christian Longo because of his past work with Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty organization. Bob’s other interests include learning about art and minority movements. He has donated a large portion of their book collection on these subjects to the Multnomah County libraries and other organizations in the community. The Friends are especially grateful to have such a valuable and knowledgeable volunteer contribute his time to us and to our great libraries!

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:

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Thank you for your generous support

Fall 2005 5
I was waiting in line at the Woodstock Safeway when I noticed the little preschooler ahead of me—in a grandma’s arms—proudly wearing this season’s Summer Reading tee-shirt. While groceries were being rung up on the cash register, the clerk and the grandma were talking enthusiastically about storytime at the library—my library, Woodstock Branch.

In a way, this was no surprise. Our youth librarian, Joan Smith, has been reading to children since 1976. In fact, Portland Monthly magazine has acclaimed “The Book Lady” as one of the best things about Portland. As I write this, Joan is strumming on her guitar, preparing to perform with other local talents at the annual Woodstock Neighborhood Picnic in the park. Living in the community she serves, Joan touches her neighbors’ lives in significant ways.

Though I live outside the immediate Woodstock area, as a library staffer I feel that I, too, am part of the community. The other day, on a lunchtime walk through the neighborhood, I was admiring a flower garden when a car pulled up beside me. The driver and her children seemed vaguely familiar. In moments one of the little girls was taking my hand to show me her special reading corner in the garden.

Woodstock Library is deeply rooted. We go back more than a century to a modest collection of children’s books housed in a public school in 1903. By 1914, at the start of the Great War, we moved into a neighborhood storefront. In 1959, two years into the Space Age, “old Woodstock Branch” opened its doors. In March of 2000 we welcomed the children of another millennium to our new, award-winning facility. So, you may ask, who are these children? The Chinese Presbyterian Church with its Loaves and Fishes program stands across the street from us; we’re uphill from Reed College and Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. We serve a first-generation community of Asian, Russian and Mexican immigrants as well as the established householders of old Eastmoreland and other neighborhood folks.

**Editor’s Note:** We hope Woodstock and all our libraries continue to inspire and open doors. If your branch has opened a door for you—let us know! E-mail the editor, Bryan Aptekar at barbaloot@comcast.net.

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**Open This Door of All Doors**

This is the mansion of many rooms, and it sleeps. This is the grove of many precious lives, and it waits for your hand on the door, your wish opening a book. This is the place to remember what happened before you were born. Unfold the bud—your lightest touch at the lit screen. Unfurl the leaf—an idea waking. Uncover the flower—this dream with helpers at every turn, where your reading measures all: art and alphabet, fact and photograph, number symbol, story, tune. Our treasures. Down the aisle you softly tread, where a brook will beckon, You open, and in your hand trembles all you want to be, Remember? The small thing gives meaning to the great. You have the power to open centuries that trees hold silent in their rings. This palace of the possible needs you, your hand on the door. Enchant this place awake.

—A poem written by Kim Stafford for the Woodstock Branch Library

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Carly Brown and Bryan Aptekar bringing FOL membership information to the Hillsdale Farmers Market in August. Along with membership information, the Friends filled the booth with high quality used books for sale, a sampling of the many thousands of items for sale at our annual used book sales. The farmers market activities included shoppers of all ages writing on our display board as to why they love the library—we hope to share these with you in the future.

More FOL farmers market appearances, staffed by enthusiastic board members and volunteers, are scheduled in the Hollywood (10/15) and Gresham (10/8 & 15) neighborhoods during weekends in October. Stop by to say hello!
Here’s a fun little quiz to see how much you know about Multnomah County Library’s budget. Learn these basic budget facts and you can impress your friends with your knowledge of the Library’s budget situation!

1. How much is the Library’s current annual budget?
   a. $15 million
   b. $32 million
   c. $48 million
   d. $66 million
   The answer is c: $48 million.

2. Where does the money come from?
   a. Library Levy
   b. County’s General Fund
   c. Fines, fees, grants
   d. All of the above
   The answer is d: All of the above.

   Here’s how it breaks out: the number one source of money for the Library is the library levy. The current five-year levy supplies just over half of the Library’s operating budget—about $25 million dollars. Residents of Multnomah County pay the levy when they pay their property taxes. As this is a voter-approved levy, all of the money collected goes to the Library.

   The second largest source of revenue—about 35%—is the County’s General Fund. The portion of the General Fund that supports the Library also comes from property taxes, and is under the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners for allocation.

   These two sources—the library levy and the County’s General Fund—are both based on property taxes and together make up about 90% of the Library’s revenues.

   The last pieces of Library revenue fall into the “Other” and the “BWB” (beginning working balance) categories. These two sources typically fund about 5-10% of the Library’s budget.

   The “Other” category is for all monies that are either library-generated and/or non-tax dollars (Note the chart). You’ll notice that the largest amount in this category is $1.95 million in grants received from the Friends of the Library, The Library Foundation, and the Oregon Community Foundation. This money is used to enhance and expand programs and collections in ways that the operating budget alone cannot support. The Beginning Working Balance is unspent money that carries over into the next budget year.

3. What is compression?
   a. A way to store data so it requires less space.
   b. The density rating of a golf ball.
   c. The effect of Measures 5 and 50 on property taxes.
   d. In biology, the increase of physical pressure on a vital structure.
   All of these answers are correct; however, the one that applies to the Library’s budget is c: the effect of Measures 5 and 50 on property taxes. Measures 5 and 50 are both property tax limitation measures passed by Oregon voters during the 1990’s. Measure 5 limits taxes for local government to $10 per thousand of real market value. Measure 50 cut the property tax rate based on a set formula and capped it at 3% growth each year, based on assessed value. Compression occurs when the Measure 5 limit is lower than the Measure 50 limit. This causes an individual property tax bill to be lower than what the local governments levied. Why does this matter? The Library levy (and other local option levies such as Parks and the recent Children’s Fund Levy) are the first taxes not collected if compression occurs. The Library levy typically loses anywhere from 23-28% a year due to compression.

   To recap, here are the three key points about the Library’s budget:
   • About 90-95% of the Library’s revenues come from property taxes.
   • The Library levy provides just over half of the Library’s revenues.
   • Property tax compression affects what the Library levy can collect.

   Now go out and impress your friends and neighbors!
Annual Used Book Sale
October 21–24, 2005!

Please help by posting the enclosed flyer!

Thank you, donors!
Phillip Austin
Daniel Blaufus
Geoffrey Davis
Geoffrey Gass
Lynn Salter
Joanna Stuart
Mary Tooze
Stephanie Vardavas
Donna & Larry Ward
Gloria & Tom Weitzel
Marjorie White
Douglas Yocom

In Memory of Erik G. Sten
Cindy Gaulke
Dean and Susan Gisvold
Dean, Debrah & Andrew Marriott
Doris Parson
Portland Association of Teachers
Portland Business Alliance
Dan Saltzman
Howard & Manya Shapiro
Tom Soma & Donna Schultz
David Sprando
Shirley Vanelli

Matching Funds from NIKE for:
David Pearson, Stephanie Vardavas

Members-Only
Friday, October 21
6 – 9 pm
(you can become a member at the door)

Saturday, October 22
9 am – 6 pm

Sunday, October 23
11 am – 5 pm

Monday, October 24
75% off Discount Day
9 am – 3 pm

1635 NE Sandy Blvd.
Portland
(TriMet #12)

For more information or to volunteer:
503-224-9176
www.friends-library.org
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 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 bags, and much more.

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

The Friends’ Store is brimming with terrific gifts plus a strong selection of quality used books. Take this opportunity to join the Friends and do your holiday shopping!! Memberships available at the Store.
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

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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 Chanukah, 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 bookend 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.

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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 Lisa Mary 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
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 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

**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!

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*WHAT A BOOK SALE!*  
By Janet Christ

![Image of sale leaders](image_url)

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).

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

Continue on page 8
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 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-
Secretary 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 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 organizations 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. 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!
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 even if everyone is talking at a reasonable volume, there’s always a hubbub 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 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.
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...
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.

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.