



FRIENDS
OF THE
BROWN COUNTY LIBRARY

The Friends of the Brown County Library value books, reading, education and the continued pursuit of knowledge. They recognize the vital role our Library plays in the Northeast Wisconsin community.

WINTER/SPRING 2020

FRIENDS

OF THE BROWN COUNTY LIBRARY

Reading gives us
someplace to go even
when we have to stay
where we are.

- Mason Cooley

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give
BIG
GREEN BAY

ONE DAY. BIG IMPACT.

Please consider the FRIENDS on February 18-19!
Visit www.GiveBIGGreenBay.org for more information.



Friends of the Brown County Library

This newsletter is published on behalf of the Friends of the Brown County Library. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable and educational organization whose mission is to promote, sustain, and extend the mission of the Brown County Library to help ensure library excellence into the future.

Their goals are:

- to assist in the funding, development and implementation of library programs
- to promote knowledge of the functions, services, resources and needs of the library
- to raise funds for library programs and equipment
- to maintain an endowment fund for library excellence

Through the generosity of members, volunteers, and donors, the Friends help guarantee the continued success of the Brown County Library. For additional information, please visit the Brown County Library website and follow the Friends link. You can also call 920-448-5811 or find us on Facebook by searching @FoBCL.



Thoughts from the Library Director

It is with a grateful, glad heart that I offer my deep thanks for your generosity, advocacy, and support. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Your steadfast and heartfelt friendship makes the Brown County Library (BCL) magic.



Sarah Sugden
Brown County Library Director

As I have gotten to know the BCL and our Brown County communities over the past year, it has been such an honor and a blessing to see what the Friends of the Brown County Library make happen. How impressive and inspiring it is to see the breadth of your efforts, the varied and diverse ways you make the BCL more special, more impactful, more meaningful, and more magical.

Why, in the last year alone, the Friends of the Brown County Library have accomplished the astonishing feat of not one, but TWO monumental book sales! These sales raised important funds to support the Library and helped thousands of local residents find their new favorite read. The Give-A-Kid-A-Book program put books in the hands of thousands of local children. The Friends' ongoing efforts support programs that promote:

- Healthy early childhood development and parent-child engagement through activities, creativity and play
- Library technologies that build important tech literacy skills and reduce the digital divide in our communities
- Increased efficiency and effectiveness for library staff
- A dazzling, vast array of dynamic, diverse cultural and learning experiences for people of all ages in our community
- Much, much more!

There are so many ways the Friends of the Brown County Library support community and human development in our region. The impact of this work is tremendous and benefits Brown County in innumerable ways.

Thank you, Friends, thank you. Thank you for your friendship, your support, and all you do to help people in our communities. As I have said, it is inspiring and impressive – pure magic.



Sherrill Revolinski
Friends President

President's Dedication

The Friends of the Brown County Library recently received an unexpected gift from a very generous donor. In this edition of our newsletter, I would like to dedicate this space to our friend and long-time supporter Tom Bartelt.

In our Fall 2019 issue, we reported that Tom passed away last June at the age of 83. In September, we were overwhelmed to learn that Tom had remembered the Friends with an extremely generous legacy gift of more than \$200,000.



Tom Bartelt, Friends Donor

A Season of Giving



Each year, the Green Bay Retired Men's Club invites The Friends of the Brown County Library to speak about the Give-A-Kid-A-Book (GAKAB) program at their holiday meeting. The attendees generously "pass the hat" to collect cash donations and the club matches what was collected at that meeting.

For the 2019 Holiday Meeting, Communications and Library Program Manager Sue Lagerman was joined by Packers' wives Natalie Montgomery and Megan Pettine. Natalie and Megan are also spokeswomen for the GAKAB program. It was a full house! The musical group Knights on Broadway from St. Norbert College performed and they were terrific – as usual!

After the collection was matched by the GB Retired Men's Club, Sue received a check in the amount of \$2,014.00! Add to this a separate check of \$25.00 that was given and GAKAB received a total of **\$2,039.00!** Their generosity is impressive and so appreciated! Thank you!

Tom was born in Madison in 1935, and his parents soon moved to Green Bay, where his father Fred started Bartelt Business Machines. Tom grew up in Green Bay and graduated from East High School. After he obtained his B.A. degree from Beloit College, he traveled extensively in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand (where he taught high school English at a small town school). He then returned to Madison, and after receiving his M.A. in English Education from the UW, started a career of teaching high school English in Madison and Atlanta.

From his early years through his retirement in Madison, his love of libraries and the love for his home town Green Bay had persisted throughout his life. According to Mr. John Fritsch, trustee for Mr. Bartelt's trust, "Tom's life passion, next to his teaching of English grammar and literature, was his love of books. He was a voracious reader and a life-long promoter of reading to his students and everyone around him. During his last 10 years he lived a block away from the downtown Madison Public Library, and that block was a regular beaten path for him."

The Friends of the Brown County Library was one of six Green Bay organizations to receive bequests from the Mr. Tom Bartelt N.E.W. Charitable Trust. The Friends' Board of Directors is currently evaluating options for use of the funds, including existing programs, possible new programs, and endowments, all with an eye towards the Library's strategic plan.

Each year the Friends contribute over \$50,000 to the Brown County Libraries, and are extremely pleased that Mr. Bartelt recognized the Friends' support of the Library in this way. The Friends are determined to use this gift to enhance our commitment to support the Library's continuing needs. If you would like to build upon Tom's generous contribution, or for more information about becoming a member of the Friends of the Brown County Library or about supporting the Friends, please contact info@browncountylibraryfriends.org.

Give-A-Kid-A-Book Program Turns 31



Now in its 31st year, the Give-A-Kid-A-Book initiative promotes literacy amongst disadvantaged children in the Brown County Area. Donated books are gathered throughout the year and distributed to low-income families with children 18 and under. The Give-A-Kid-A-Book Kick-Off was held at the Brown County Central Library in Downtown Green Bay on Wednesday, November 6, 2019. Seven Green Bay Packers wives served as spokespersons for the program: Molly (Mason) Crosby, Natalie (Jerry) Montgomery, Megan (Mike) Pettine, Tonya (Maurice) Drayton, Ariel (Za'Darius Smith) Grayson, Laurie (Grey) Ruegamer, and Tiffany (Jason) Simmons. Fort Howard Elementary School 4th and 5th graders (pictured below) also shared their personal essays about the benefits and joys of owning their own books.

Over the years, the community has joined together to share over 330,000 books with area children. Our sponsors, Nicolet National Bank, the Green Bay Packers Give Back, and the Brown County Community Women's Club, have made the program a continuing success for many years. This year almost 12,000 books were donated and gifted to over 1,650 families to help brighten the holidays for more than 4,500 kids. The distribution of these books took place on December 17-19, in partnership with The Salvation Army's holiday assistance programs which includes the Toys for Tots program. This was possible through the assistance of over 80 volunteers that spent nearly 500 hours to keep the Give-A-Kid-A-Book program positively impacting our community.

New unwrapped books can be donated at any Brown County Library branch throughout the year. Monetary donations are also accepted by sending them to the Central Library at 515 Pine Street, Green Bay, WI 54301.



Tales From The SORTING ROOM

The Friends estimate approximately 100,000 items go up for sale at each of the semi-annual Big Book Sales. Each of these items is handled at least once by a dedicated group of volunteers who put in hundreds of hours sorting donated items into the many categories you see at the sale. After a while, the sorting becomes fairly routine; Grafton to Mystery, Twilight series to Young Adult, Julia Child to Cooking, etc. It usually only takes a few seconds to sort books into their ideal category.

Donors' identities are not usually known. A few books have bookplates inside, but that is rare. Most boxes of donated books are pretty routine but sometimes the books provide interesting insights of their previous owners. Some are voracious readers of mysteries. Some read every title by certain authors. Some are serious cooks or gardeners. Some are armchair travelers. Every so often, however, a donated item falls into the hands of one of the sorters and stops them in their tracks. Here are two examples.

With this first book, obviously, someone had a bold plan for their life other than learning about Field Geology.



With the second book, this reader was apparently having troubles staying on the South Beach Diet.



Neither of these books made it to the sale floor because of their condition, but they did break up the routine of sorting and provided a peek into the lives of some of our donors.

Transitions



Monica Moreau

New Friends Board Member

We've had some changes on the Friends' Board of Directors. Due to the need to devote more time to other commitments, Alex Galt and Nicole Virant chose to resign. Both helped the Friends get started toward better outreach by starting work on our upcoming new website and social media channels. Alex brought his business owner experience and community ties, and Nicole contributed her job skills and marketing research on Friends membership. Good luck to both Alex and Nicole!

New to the Board are Monica Moreau and Maggie Lamal. Monica has been employed in the health care field and helps with partner families for Habitat for Humanity. Maggie, while working towards her MBA at Marquette University, works in the marketing department for the Milwaukee Brewers and volunteers/interns for numerous Milwaukee and Green Bay activities. Welcome Monica and Maggie!



Maggie Lamal

New Friends Board Member

Farewell to Gerri Gribi

We are saddened to inform that former Friends board member and book sale chair **Gerri Gribi** passed away on Thanksgiving Day, 2019.

Many knew her as a friend and professional musician, but long-time volunteers to the Book Sale know, and new volunteers should appreciate, how much organization she brought to how we now sort the books and set up and run the sale (you get an idea from the photographs on the left). She wrote the first procedure manuals, instituted the ubiquitous blue and red volunteer aprons, did the first online posting that gained the attention of bulk buyers, came up with the attention grabbing BigBookSale.org website name, and developed the sorting categories by cruising around Barnes and Noble to see how they did it. She planned from the perspective of the buyer, instructing sorters to save books that might have marks or highlighting but discard books that left a tattered impression.

Gerri would be the first to admit she was not the social butterfly, so she really enjoyed having the sorting room to herself sometimes so she could think strategically. With the help of others, her efforts significantly increased our yearly book sale income. In so many ways, she will be missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held this Spring at the Green Bay Botanical Garden, please watch the Friends Facebook page for date and time.



A unique musician, historian and storyteller, Gerri Gribi toured North America for nearly 20 years. Accompanying her rich, clear voice with autoharp, mountain dulcimer and guitar, she brought history to life in a way which was lively, fun, and even educational. She toured as a one-woman show called "A Musical Romp Through Women's History."

Gerri made her first television appearance at the age of 13, and at 15, sang as one of the youngest members of the renowned Cincinnati May Festival Chorus. In addition to her professional work, she enjoyed singing as a member of the Green Bay African American Community Chorus. She was a frequent guest on TV and radio, and her music has been featured in a variety of media outlets, including ABC Prime Time Live. She was ranked among the Top Ten Artists by the National Women's Radio Play List.



Gerri Gribi

Friends Volunteer



Sorting Room - before Gerri



Sorting Room - after Gerri



BIG Book Sale

Highlighting the Children's Area

By Fran Graves

We're "Spicing" it Up!

Mark your calendars ~ Saturday, April 4th, 2020 is the date for the **Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Brown County Library**. The meeting will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the lower level of the Central Library. Light refreshments prepared by Preble High School's culinary class will be served.

This year we are excited to present the first annual **Cookbook Sale** to coincide with the Annual Meeting. Friends who attend the meeting will receive a coupon for two free cookbooks. We're always looking for new members to join the Friends of the Brown County Library, so bring a friend to the Annual Meeting and they'll receive a "Friend of a Friend" coupon for one free cookbook.

The Cookbook Sale will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will also feature cooking demonstrations!

Questions? Please contact Monica Moreau (monicamoreau@yahoo.com) or Barbara Kane (bakane@sbcglobal.net).

Bring a friend and they get a **FREE** cookbook too!

Come to our Meeting and get **2 FREE** Cookbooks!

Get Cookin'!
BOOK

The semi-annual Library book sale has always been a highlight. In 2007, after retiring from teaching and working part time at Barnes & Noble, I recruited Sue Pavich, a fellow retired teacher and Barnes & Noble employee, to partner as sorters.

When we started in the previous sorting room, the adult and children's books were sorted together. Children's had 2 categories: fiction and nonfiction. As retired teachers, we thought it could be better. We made the suggestion and the reply was, "Go for it."

We formed a children's sorting team which has changed over the years. Presently the team is made up of Sue and Michael Pavich, Kathie Rasman, Marti Hale, and Ed and Fran Graves. We also recruit family and friends when it is time to set up for the book sales. All of us appreciate the joy of reading and promoting it for children.

As of now, we have 20 categories. We feel that, just like adults, children have special interests. The children and their parents find it much easier to encourage reading when the children are excited about what they read.

We started tallying our boxes of books in the spring of 2008. To date, the children's area has sorted, boxed, moved, set up, and sold 5,475 boxes of books.

There are so many wonderful children's authors. Patricia Polacco and Shel Silverstein are just a few of our favorites as well as the classics. Be sure to check out the children's area at the next book sale, May 4-9!

FRIENDS Membership Form

Fill out this form to become a new member or renew your existing membership in the Friends of the Brown County Library.

Membership Type (please check one): New Member ___ Renewal ___

Accept my contribution for: \$20 one-year OR \$85 five-year membership (valid for all members of household)

Please send this form with a check to: **Friends of the Brown County Library** 515 Pine Street, Green Bay, WI 54301-5194

I'm interested in volunteer opportunities!

Please list all names that apply to this membership:

Name(s) - Adults _____

Name(s) - Children _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____



2019 Fall
BIG Book Sale
Nearly \$30,000 was raised

Stacks & Steeples

Stacks & Steeples: An Original Music Series

Live performances by local and regional bands will take place this winter in the Library's auditorium.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Brown County Library

Sundays, February 9 – March 1, 2020

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

Musical Lineup:



February 9th: Keith Kaleidoscope

A singer-songwriting one-man band from Green Bay, WI, who describes his sound as Leonard Cohen meets Tom Waits.

February 16th: Pegasus

Three sisters perform world music with layered 3-part harmony vocals. Upbeat, uplifting and relatable lyrics for the modern and vintage listener.

February 23rd: Tom Sharpe

An award-winning composer, performer and member of Mannheim Steamroller, Tom blends rock and world music in solo symphony with a wide variety of instrumentation and percussive rhythms.

March 1st: Jeanne Kuhns and George Sawyn

Folk songs performed by Jeanne Kuhns and her vibrant vocals, accompanied by master guitarist George Sawyn.

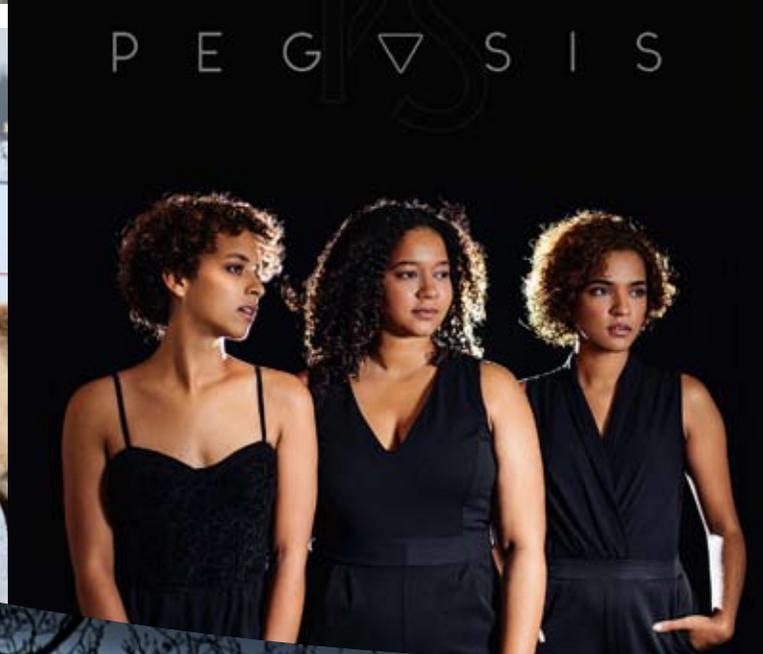


2019

Comic-Con®



2019 Reindeer Cheer



Upcoming Events

Stacks & Steeples February 9 - March 1
Born to Read April 8 - 13
UntitledTown, Book & Author Festival April 23 - 26
Spring BIG Book Sale May 4 - 9

GIVE TO LOCAL NONPROFITS ON



GIVE TO A LOCAL NONPROFIT TODAY!

**12PM FEBRUARY 18 TO
12PM FEBRUARY 19, 2020**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
GIVEBIGGREENBAY.ORG



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Friends Leadership Team

Sherrill Revolinski, President
Don Kraft, Secretary
Matt Kolpien, Treasurer
Sue Lagerman, Library Liaison

Managing Edits by Don Kraft



Printing by



Upcoming Events



Please consider the FRIENDS
on **February 18-19!**
Visit www.GiveBIGGreenBay.org
for more information.

Stacks & Steeples (A Friends sponsored event)
Sundays, February 9th – March 1st, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Central Library: 515 Pine Street, Downtown Green Bay
LIVE! performances by local and regional bands take place in the Library's auditorium. For a talent line-up, visit <https://www.browncountylibrary.org/stacks-steeple/>

Born to Read (A Friends program)
April 8 – 13
This important initiative distributes over 150 reading kits to parents of babies born during National Library Week at our area's hospitals.

UntitledTown, Book & Author Festival (A Friends sponsored event)
Friday – Sunday, April 23 – 26
Central Library: 515 Pine Street, Downtown Green Bay
Experience this third annual celebration with unique sessions for readers, authors, kids and aspiring writers.

Spring BIG Book Sale (A Friends fundraiser)
May 4 – 9
Central Library: 515 Pine Street, Downtown Green Bay
Discover books, CDs, DVDs and more at unbelievable prices! Donated items and volunteer applications and are now being accepted. For more info, visit www.BigBookSale.org.