



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.

SUMMER 2018

FRIENDS

OF THE BROWN COUNTY LIBRARY

Call for Artists

Summer Reading Adventure
Kickoff is June 9!

Membership News

*Opportunities
to Volunteer*



Changes, Transitions & Loss

The past few months have seen quite a few changes as the Friends organization strives to enhance the experience of being a Friends' member.

Last year, we introduced a new Friends' logo that better reflects our broader and multifaceted outreach to both our members and the general public. Once the logo was ready, we incorporated it into a new and updated membership brochure.

If you've noticed you haven't received a Friends' newsletter since last fall, it's because we have been working to totally revamp the publication from the former black and white copy, to the beautiful full-color, 8-page newsletter you now hold in your hands. We hope the additional pages allow us to bring you more Friends' news and the color photographs and interesting content better conveys the enthusiasm our members bring to the library and the Friends.

In the near future, we hope to better connect with our members on a regular basis using social media in conjunction with a new enhanced website. If there's anything we can do to improve the value of your Friends' membership, please let us know.

You likely have heard that Library Director Brian Simons has resigned and accepted an opportunity with a private sector business (please see his column on page 4). Brian has brought much vision and leadership to the library, and encouraged the Friends to join him as he grew the library system and outreach in the community. We wish him comparable success on his new journey and look forward to working with the new director once the right candidate is selected.

We also learned library staff member Mary Kaye Martzke recently decided to retire. The Friends board leaned heavily on Mary Kaye, who recorded and published our meeting minutes, processed donations and membership applications, maintained our membership database, and performed many other administrative tasks in support of the Friends. We wish Mary Kaye a happy retirement, during which she promises to remain an active Friends member.



Finally, we recently experienced the passing of two of our leaders and longtime volunteers, Steve Sinclair and Harry Maier (please see the remembrances to the right). They both passed suddenly and leave all who knew them with a profound sense of loss. They will be missed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Kraft".

- Don Kraft, President

Saying Good-Bye to Friends

We were very sad to learn of the recent passing of two leaders and longtime volunteers of the Friends of the Brown County Library (FBCL), Steve Sinclair and Harry Maier.

Steve passed away unexpectedly on April 9, 2018, at the age of 53. Steve had served on the FBCL board since 2013. Steve and his wife Laura were frequent volunteers of Friends programs, particularly the Big Book Sale. Steve was always happy to help with set up and take down; hanging signs, serving as bulk room cashier, transporter, and team leader. He had a commanding



voice and presence that made you aware he was in the room. As a board member, he was very detailed and rule oriented. He was our "bylaws police;" making sure we either acted according to the bylaws, or had the bylaws changed to reflect how we typically acted.

Harry passed away on April 25, 2018, at the age of 90. Harry was a past FBCL board member. He sat on the board for 16 years and served as the Board's President in 2005-06. Through his many roles and activities, Harry developed many connections in the Green Bay City Government, the Green Bay Press Gazette, and local civic groups. He often leveraged those connections in his long-standing advocacy for the library and the Friends. He wrote editorial letters to the newspaper, proposed grants to support the library, participated in, and supported numerous library programs, delivered bulk mailings to the post office, and was heavily involved in the book sale, helping with take down, securing bags for bag day, and finding buyers for leftover books.



Both Harry and Steve held the library and the Friends close to their hearts. They will be sorely missed.



UntitledTown



Alex Galt, President of the UntitledTown Board of Directors and board member of the Friends of the Brown County Library, is one of the driving forces behind The UntitledTown Book and Author Festival. Friends of the Brown County Library is a major sponsor of this event. Alex answers 5 questions about this year's festival. The festival ran from April 19th through the 22nd and was hosted in several places primarily in the downtown Green Bay area. In its second year, there were approximately 180 sessions for "readers, writers, kids, writers interested in publishing their work, and interactive or performance based events."

Q: How did this year's festival compare to last year's?

AG: The 2018 festival was much larger. In four days, there were 180 events with 120 authors. For our keynotes, our focus was on contemporary conversations; more so than 2017's, where our goal was to bring authors who will one day be on postage stamps.

Q: Were there any big surprises?

AG: When planning a festival as large and complicated at UntitledTown, the last thing you want are big surprises! Thankfully, everything went fairly smoothly and according to plan.

Q: What would you consider the highlights of this year's festival?

AG: For me, personally, my favorite event was the RL Stine presentation that we organized at the Weidner Center. Nearly 2000 fourth and fifth graders from school districts all over the region were able to be bused in to see one of their favorite authors. Today, I received a batch of thank you letters from a classroom at Lincoln Elementary in Green Bay and it really made the six months of work I put into this festival feel worthwhile.

Q: Based on this year's festival, are there any new plans for next year?

AG: We haven't begun planning the 2019 festival, but we're already beginning to think of it as a different kind of festival.

Q: Do you have a final attendee number for the festival?

AG: By design, UntitledTown is something of a porous festival. You can't put a gate around Downtown Green Bay, and we are very happy that it's possible for people to accidentally become attendees without realizing it. So, it's difficult to have a precise number. However, we know that a minimum of 4300 people attended at least one event.



Black & white photos courtesy of Mark Hawkins Photography



A Fond Farewell



In the little over 3 years I have been with the Brown County Library, we have accomplished a lot: established a better trajectory for programming; balanced the digital and print collections; renovated areas of the Central Library; replaced furniture at the branches; built new study room space and changed our policy to reflect public need (and experienced exponential growth in meeting and study room use); added new technology; welcomed new partners and tenants for Central Library 3rd floor; and completed a *Facilities Master Plan* used for decisions like hours standardization. We've reinvigorated the relevance of the library within the community by establishing a successful book and author festival, a comic-con, a music series, and other programming. So much has happened during my time with the Library.

Yet, while there is still plenty to do, a new opportunity has come my way in the private sector that I cannot turn down. After roughly 19 years in the library industry, it's time for a new challenge and career path.

Having grown up in Green Bay, it was good to come home and to make a difference. The Green Bay area (Brown County) is at a very interesting place in its evolution. It's changing. Some may say it's changing too fast, while others may feel it's not changing fast enough. My hope for my time here is that I was able to demonstrate that Green Bay is capable of great change in a short amount of time. In fact, people are hoping for it. People want the amenities they've seen in other parts of the country, in their own community.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a difference in the community I will always call home.

Sincerely,

– Brian Simons, Library Director

The BIG Book Sale



The Friends of the Brown County Library hosted their semi-annual BIG Book Sale, April 10th through the 14th at the Brown County Central Library, downtown Green Bay. There were over 100,000 gently used books, CDs, audiobooks, DVDs and other treasures available for purchase. This is the primary fundraiser for the Friends of the Brown County Library. Proceeds from the BIG Book Sale are used to fund equipment, programs and materials for the Brown County Library.

We are so grateful to all the volunteers and helpers we have for this event. We would like to acknowledge the following people and organizations who went above and beyond to help:

Thanks to our book sale volunteer coordinator Laurel Marquardt. We had approximately 130 volunteers, filling over 200 spots during the sale. This is in addition to the countless volunteers who sorted books.

Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 1201. They provided over 20 helpers on Saturday morning to bring out the boxes to the sales floor. Many of these young men have volunteered for multiple sales.

Thanks to the Mayor's office for sponsoring \$250.00 towards parking for our volunteers. Each volunteer received a parking voucher for the ramp.

A special thank you to the Library maintenance crew who were incredibly helpful during the rather chaotic take down that was delayed by the blizzard from Saturday until the following Tuesday.

Mark your calendars for the fall BIG Book Sale, November 6 – 10, 2018. Suitable donations for the next BIG Book Sale can be dropped off at any Brown County Library location.

Suitable donations include the following:

- Paperback & hardcover books (in good condition)
- Books on CD
- DVDs and CDs
- Cookbooks
- Sheet music
- Jigsaw puzzles (with no missing pieces)
- Video games
- Rare and valuable items



Summer Reading Adventure *Kicks Off this June!*

The Brown County Library is once again hosting the great Summer Reading Adventure starting June 9th at a library near you! There are three categories in this program: children, teens and adults. Each participant keeps track of their reading on their designated Reading Record. Children and teens can turn in their record each week to claim a prize and to be entered into the grand prize drawing. There is a new prize rolled out each week. Some examples of weekly prizes are: day passes to Joannes/Resch Aquatic Center or Ashwaubomay Lake; discount coupons to The Reader's Loft; food coupons; sports passes; tickets to Comedy City, the Neville Public Museum and more.

Adults receive an entry into their grand prize drawing by turning in Reading Records signifying 5 hours of reading. Each 5 hours of reading earns one entry. Adult winners will choose from a variety of themed baskets. All winners for the grand prize drawings will be selected on August 22nd.

The Summer Reading Adventure encourages kids of all ages to read this summer. Visit any Brown County Library location to sign up and learn about all the details and great prizes.

Step 1.
Sign up for the Summer
Reading Adventure
at any Brown County
Library Branch

Step 2.
Keep track of
your reading on
your Reading Record

Step 3.
Turn in your
Reading Records

Step 4.
Claim your bounty!

Born to Read



The Born to Read initiative distributes reading kits each year to parents of babies born at our area's four hospitals during the National Library Week. This year the Born to Read kits were distributed during the week of April 8th through the 14th. The staff at the hospitals are always excited to participate in this program and they have received many letters of thanks from new parents who have benefited from this program. This year, 150 kits were distributed in the maternity wards at Bellin Health, Aurora, HSHS St. Mary's and HSHS St. Vincent Hospitals. The Born to Read kits contain colorful bookmarks, information on the library and early literacy, library card applications, and two board books with simple words and colorful pictures to read and share with the new baby.

This program has been supported by the Friends of Brown County Library since 1996. It was created to encourage parents to read to their babies, giving them a head start on language development and comprehension. Pediatric research clearly shows the importance of reading, singing, and talking with children, starting at birth. The first three years of brain development are critical, and there are visible differences in brain development between children who are read to and those who are not. Not only does storytelling boosts brain development and strengthens a child's vocabulary, it also helps to strengthen the bond between the parent and child and reinforces the parent's role as the child's first teacher.

Call for Artists

Attention all artists! This is a great opportunity to have your work viewed by lots of people! The Brown County Library invites artists to display their work on the second floor of the Central Library. Exhibits run for 8 weeks and artists can choose to host a reception and sell their artwork. All proceeds go directly to the artist; neither the Library nor the Friends of the Brown County Library receive commission on any of the artwork sold. The Library will assist artist with scheduling receptions and creating signage for the exhibit, along with issuing press releases to local newspapers for the exhibit.

For full details or to exhibit, please contact Sue Lagerman, Brown County Library Communications and Library Program Manager, at Lagerman_SM@co.brown.wi.us or call (920) 448-5806.

Who are the Friends of the Brown County Library?

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Friends of the Brown County Library was started back in 1963 by a group of visionaries who recognized the importance of providing access to informational and educational resources for all in the community. Originally known as the Friends of the Kellogg Public Library, they changed their name to their current moniker in 1975, a few years after the Kellogg Public Library, its three Green Bay branches and the De Pere Public Library consolidated into the Brown County Library System.

Today, the Friends primary function is supporting the Brown County Library System with financial backing and campaigns to create awareness of this outstanding community resource. Their mission:

- 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 in support of special library programs and equipment
- To maintain an endowment fund to help ensure library excellence into the future

The Friends support the entire Brown County Library System, which is comprised of the Central Library (located in Green Bay, Wisconsin), eight branches, and a bookmobile. This system serves over 80% of the households in Brown County, circulates over 2.3 million materials annually, and supports lifelong education, cultural enrichment, leisure activities, and economic development by providing access to informational and educational resources.

The Friends of the Brown County Library is a non-profit, non-partisan organization. Through the generosity of members, volunteers and donors, the Friends help guarantee the continued success of the Brown County Library.

Membership

As you renew your membership for this year, you'll notice a modest rate increase. After careful consideration, the Friends have decided to raise the household membership rate from \$15 to \$20 for a one-year membership, and from \$65 to \$85 for a five-year membership. This is the first membership rate increase for the Friends in more than 25 years, during which, as you can imagine, the expenses of the Friends and the Library programs we support have grown steadily. The new membership rate is effective as of April 15, 2018. As always, you can be assured that every dollar of your membership fee is used efficiently and put to good use.



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Become a Friend

Become a Friend of the Brown County Library

Membership is only \$20 a year or \$85 for a five-year membership.
Contributions are tax deductible.



Benefits of Being a Friend:

Not only will you be supporting our nationally acclaimed library and its important community programming, you will also:

- Save 10% on new books at local bookstores like The Reader's Loft, Powers Comics, and The Attic.
- Receive newsletters and updates from the Friends on the latest library happenings.
- Receive invitations to meet touring authors and to attend exclusive Friends' member events.
- Get a first chance at great bargains during the exclusive Friends' Preview of our legendary, semi-annual BIG Book Sale.
- Know that you are making a difference by helping to advance the mission of the Brown County Library.

The Brown County Library has been twice selected as the Wisconsin Library of the Year, has been recognized by the American Association for State and Local History, and received the 1994 National Library of the Year award. The Friends invite you to join in supporting the library's continued success and the invaluable resources it offers your community. *You could be the best friend the library ever had!*

Volunteers Needed!

The Friends of the Brown County Library cannot raise funds without the generous donations of time by our many dedicated volunteers. We are always looking for new volunteers to help us fulfill and expand our mission to help the Library. All volunteer efforts, large or small, support literacy and learning in the area for all ages, infants to seniors, and all walks of life. Many of our Friends happily volunteer their time on a regular basis for the social fellowship and the satisfaction of contributing to the greater cause of literacy and education for all.

We invite you to review the volunteer options listed here, and feel free to email volunteer@browncountylibraryfriends.com to request more information or to sign up. If you have a particular event of interest, please add it in the email's subject line.

Big Book Sale Event, which is the Friends' primary fundraiser, is held twice per year; in spring and fall. The next sale is scheduled for the second week in November. Friends receive a letter 6-7 weeks prior to the sale outlining the volunteer opportunities and how to sign up. If you are not already a Friends' member, we encourage you to join to be among the first to learn of the opportunities available. Or visit www.bigbooksale.org.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Organizer - Tidy books; move stock to open spots; answer questions
 - Cashier - Tally purchases; take money and make change; assist customers in bagging purchases (Must be a Friends member)
 - Transporter - Assist customers in bringing their purchases to their vehicle. Should be able to lift 20 pounds
 - Take down - Help box up leftover books at the end of the sale
- We are most in need of cashiers, transporters and take down helpers

Give-A-Kid-A-Book is an annual campaign to collect new books and distribute them to low-income children in December. The campaign is coordinated by the Friends of the Brown County Library, and distribution is handled in partnership with the Salvation Army and the Marine's Toys for Tots Christmas programs.

Volunteer Opportunities:

We are in need of volunteers to assist parents in selecting books for their children during distribution days, right before Christmas. We also welcome volunteers who want to host and promote a book collection box in their business, church, or club.

Mini-Golf Event is a miniature golf course that is set up to run through the library. The course, in which each hole has a theme related to a book section of the Central Library, was designed and built as an Eagle Scout project. The event is a great way to bring entire families into the library and has been a source of much fun, laughter and exploration of seldom visited corners of the library. The next event is tentatively scheduled for a Saturday afternoon in winter 2019.

Since there is a limited window during which the Central Library can be taken over by the course, volunteers are needed to quickly set up the pre-designed course, manage the event, and quickly take it back down and return it to storage.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Event coordinator
- Crews for set up and take down
- Course marshals to hand out clubs and maintain respectful play throughout the library
- Concession table and check-in table

Friends Leadership Team

Don Kraft, President
KaraLynne Moore, Secretary
Matt Kolpien, Treasurer
Sue Lagerman, Library Liaison



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FRIENDS
OF THE
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What's Inside

FBCL Activities:
Born to Read
Big Book Sale

FBCL Sponsored Events:
UntitledTown
Summer Reading Adventure