

Friends of the Moscow Library Fall Newsletter

We have a busy Fall ahead of us. Our Annual Meeting will be held on October 8th at 7:00pm in the Great Room of the 1912 Center.

After a brief business meeting there will be a presentation by Pamela Rogers, the Peace Corps Volunteer who served as our African Library Project liaison for the book drive for St. Theresa's Primary School. Remember all those books we collected last Spring? Well here's your chance to see where they went! Pam has finished her Peace Corps experience in Lesotho and she has amazing photos and stories to tell about the preparation and receiving of our books by teachers and students of St. Theresa's School. She has put together a slide show and presentation.

This will bring the African Library Project full circle with lots of thanks and recognition to all those who supported our book drive. All Friends of the Library members as well as the general public are invited and encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. Don't miss this exciting event!

From the President's Desk

By Sue Benier

My home is full of books - old, new, rare, and even duplicates. I count ten dictionaries and four thesauruses without looking in closets or boxes or bottom shelves. There are American, English, Oxford and Spanish versions in Handy, Desk, Shorter, Concise and Unabridged sizes. It's quite a collection, and all are well used.

Perhaps we are word "junkies". We live for our free daily fix from Wordsmith.com where Anu Garg electronically shares A Word A Day. He got started in 1994 in Ohio as a grad student in computer science. He now reaches 750,000 linguaphiles in at least 200 countries. He is native to India, a Vegan, lives in Seattle and believes in the magic of words.

We do too. We like big ones, new ones and quirky ones. We particularly like ones that stump the dictionaries. Some aren't listed. Some have different meanings like American bonnet (hat) and English bonnet (hood of an engine). Last month my book club read One Hundred Adventures by Polly Hovarth. I loved the reference to Ockham's razor. Paraphrased, it means "assume the simplest explanation available", but in our

house we say, "If you see stripes, think zebra". To find a written definition for the club when all my resources failed, I finally turned to the Internet's Wikipedia with success. What fun!

I discovered just such joy in the Lewiston Tribune's Trivia Bits of August 17 with Jonbar hinge. It's a significant turning point that may change history, coined by science fiction writer Jack Williamson. I searched among Jonathan apples, Jones (a lowlife alley in Manhattan) jolt, Joneses (the neighbors), and jonquils without luck. Please don't quibble over whether these are words or phrases. I did find Scotland Yard, USB flash drive and jet lag. When I hear readers complain about unfamiliar words, I hope they will find a dictionary and use it. Perhaps a few will get hooked too. Our Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale is just around the corner. Take my advice. Clear out a bit of space for a fat supply of winter reading, and dust off your dictionaries and thesauri. May you find old, new, rare or spare books and words to fill your home with joy.

A note from the Library Director

By Anne Cheadle

Things are going well at the Moscow Library. Circulation and use continue to increase and our finances remain relatively stable; all things to appreciate in uncertain times. We are very glad to see the library continues to be a vital part of the Moscow community. Here are some highlights of recent events and activities:

Thanks to the Friends of the Moscow Library for purchasing new shelves for the DVD collection. The first stage of the project is now complete and we should have the rest of the shelving by October. The new shelves offer better visibility and allow DVDs to be returned to the shelves more quickly.

Thanks to the city of Moscow for installing an additional light fixture in the DVD and video area. Patrons and staff are now finding those titles much easier to read. We appreciate the support the city provides the library.

I mentioned that library circulation is increasing. In August 2009, 21,140 items were checked out at the Moscow Public Library as compared to 18,167 in August 2008. That's a difference of nearly 3,000 items or an additional 114 books, movies, audiobooks, and magazines each day the library was open.

Holds being requested for pickup at the Moscow Library are also on the rise. The Latah County Library District joined the VALNet consortium in 2006. In 2007 about 13,500 holds were routed to the Moscow circulation desk. This year we are on track for that total to be between 19,000 and 20,000. This tells us patrons appreciate and use the wide range of materials available to them through the VALNet and WIN consortiums.

Finally, in news from the Latah County Library Foundation, I regret to announce that Tim Hillebrand has resigned as President of the Foundation Board of Directors. John Pool, former library trustee and long time library supporter, has been elected the new President. I wish to thank both Tim and John for their service and commitment to the library.

Everybody Reads

The Other by David Guterson is this year's book. In Seattle, two young men from very different backgrounds meet at a high school track meet: one working-class, the other a trust fund kid. The friends' lives take widely divergent paths as they grow into adulthood. Eventually their loyalty to each other is put to the test. Through the choices made by these two men, The Other explores how we all balance meaning and security in our lives.

David Guterson was born in Seattle in 1956. He earned an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Washington, where he developed his ideas about the moral function of literature. Guterson taught English for twelve years in a high school on Bainbridge Island, and has written for Esquire, Sports Illustrated and Harper's. His books include a collection of short stories, The Country Ahead of Us, the Country Behind; Snow Falling on Cedars; East of the Mountains; Our Lady of the Forest; and The Other.

David Guterson will speak on Tuesday, November 10, at 7:00 pm at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre at 508 South Main, Moscow. This presentation is free and open to the public.

They're Here!

Be the first one on your block to get the 2010 Book Lover's Calendar off the presses! We are once again offering them for the unheard of low price of just \$7 each or 3 for \$20 - a substantial savings over what some other venues (dare I say it, the University book store) are charging: the full list price of \$12.99. Your first opportunity to buy them will be this weekend at our table at the Farmers Market. Then they'll be available at the Annual Meeting, October 10th Farmers Market, the Fall Book Sale and the November and December Winter Markets. After the Book Sale they will also be available at the Circulation desk of the Library. We bought fewer of them this year so

don't put off your purchase. These make great gifts for that hard to buy for person, give them a whole year of great reading suggestions. These make great teacher and coworker gifts, too!

Summer Reading Recap

By Cathy Ensley

A heartfelt thank you to the Friends, as always, for their outstanding support of Summer Reading. Our signup number for the reading component of the program was down slightly in the library, but the total, including daycares, was still about 1320 kids. The slight decrease in the library was offset by a signup increase in daycares. We gave out about 900 prize books.

Attendance at the Moscow programs was stellar. In previous years, total attendance at 35 programs in June and July was around 1700. This year, attendance at 42 programs skyrocketed to about 4600. This was our second year of partnering with the Moscow Arts Commission. By combining budgets, we were able to add Thursday evening children's programs in the park, which accounted for the huge increase in attendance. Paid professional performers put on the programs in the park.

Kathleen Burns and I are currently scoping out performers for next year. Local paid professionals, meaning people who live in Eastern Washington or Northern Idaho, are almost nonexistent. We've already booked the few there are several times, and we're well aware that audiences tire of the same-old, same-old. Surprisingly, there aren't many more in Western Washington, and those may prove to be prohibitively expensive. Therefore we've made one decision, which is that it'll be necessary to scale back on the number of evening programs offered in 2010.

But there will be, as always, daytime programs in the library. For those, I rely on local people with special knowledge or talents that fit the year's theme. The theme for 2010 Summer Reading is "Make Waves at Your Library." The program manual isn't available yet, but I think it's safe to say that creative interpretations of "Making Waves" is what it's all about. So if that sparks your imagination, and you'd like to do a program in whatever way you interpret "Making Waves," please contact me, Cathy, at Moscow library. Children always love the programs that local people put on for them.

Adventures In Book Sorting

by Mike Heubner

The Friends of the Library Book Sales take place twice a year, but the behind-the-scenes work goes on year around. As the "designated book sorter" it has fallen to me to say a few words about the "process". The library has graciously provided us space in the basement to receive, sort, and box up donated books. We learned a few years ago that having the bulk of the books already sorted and boxed by categories greatly expedites the process of setting up the book sales. So, a couple times a week I get to go through the boxes, bags, and stacks of donated books. You never know what you are going to find when you open that dusty box. Is there a prized first edition of Hemingway or Steinbeck, or a retired professor's well-annotated copy of the journals of Lewis and Clark? Or is it just more of the latest from John Grisham, Tom Clancy, or Danielle Steele? Not to disparage the popular modern writers, but, as the English essayist John Ruskin said: "All books are divided into two classes: the books of the hour, and the books of all time."

Of course, as a charitable organization dependent on the good will of donors, we are appreciative of all book donations. As this is a college town, we get a lot of textbooks - math and science, business and accounting, education, political science, etc. Experience has shown that, for the most part, textbooks do not sell. We have an arrangement with Beat The Bookstore to send some of them overseas to lesser developed countries, but many end up in the recycling bin or the landfill. Health and self-help books are often reflective of the latest fads or the current medical crisis and, as such, do not generate much interest once that fad or crisis has passed. Computer books and manuals are generally useless and go straight to recycling. Books on religion and philosophy are a mixed bag (no pun intended); some of it sells, much does not.

If you have been to one of the book sales, you know which tables attract the largest crowds. Fiction of all types - hard cover or paperback - is our largest volume: general fiction, mysteries, thrillers, science fiction, westerns, or even the ubiquitous romance novels. Classics, surprisingly, do not always sell that well. The other categories - history, biography, general nonfiction, science, nature, humor, sports, geography and travel, arts and crafts, home and garden, and cooking - have their own demand, dependent, of course, on the subject and quality of the specific book. Finally, we can never get enough books for children and young adults.

We ask that donors use a little discretion. Boxes of books that have been sitting on the back porch or in a damp basement for several years are probably not going to be in the best condition. Books with missing or torn cover, those with missing pages, those mildewed or water stained, are *not* likely to sell. Ask yourself: "Would I spend a dollar or two, or even fifty cents, for this book in this condition?"

There are few things more enjoyable though than picking up a good used book, running your fingers over the worn cover, turning the crisp pages, skimming a few choice passages, inhaling the aroma that only a aged, quality book has. Francis Bacon wrote:

"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some to be chewed and digested..." Samuel Johnson probably said it best: "Books that you may carry to the fire, and hold readily in your hand, are the most useful of all." We trust that you will find a few books like that at the next sale.

Friends of the Library 5th Annual Fall Book Sale

The falling leaves remind us that it's time to stock up on reading material for the long cold Winter here on the Palouse. Our Fall Book Sale will be on October 23 and 24th, a little earlier this year, at the American Legion Log Cabin at 317 S. Howard St. We will have our traditional "Friends Only" presale on the evening of Friday, October 23 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. If your membership has lapsed or you'd like to become a member, you may sign up at the door. Dues start at \$15 for an individual membership, \$25 for family membership, and on up for patrons, saints etc.

We will open our doors to the general public at 8:00am on Saturday, October 24th. The book sale will close at Noon and reopen at 12:15pm for sheer pandemonium, our famous, colossal "Bag of Books for a Buck" sale. All the books you can fit into a grocery bag for \$1. That's a heck of a deal! The book sale will then close for good at 1:30pm.

An event like this requires lots of work to run smoothly so please come on out and volunteer. As anyone who's worked the book sale will tell you, it really is fun! We'll need people on Friday to help sort and display the books. We'll start that day at 9:00am and undoubtedly finish by 2:00pm. Then on Saturday we'll need people again to tally sales, answer questions, and help with check out and clean up. It's never too early to volunteer! To lend your time and talents please contact Mary Hughes at 882-9198 or at yousehughes@verizon.net or just show up, the more the merrier.

If you have books to donate you may bring them directly to the Log Cabin on Friday, no later than noon, the earlier the better. Or you may drop them off at the library anytime prior to the book sale during normal business hours. If you have more than just 2 or 3 boxes or bags of books, please call and let me know so I can meet you there to accept them so as not to take the library staff away from their duties. Donations of clean, good condition grocery bags will also be gratefully accepted at the Log Cabin before and during the sale. Shoppers are welcome and encouraged to bring their own reusable grocery bags for the regular sale and the Buck a Bag event.

As usual there will be no sales until the Friday evening "Friends Only" presale so be sure to attend and join in the fun while supporting your library. Hope to see you there!

Feed Your Head: A Literature Discussion Series

Want to read some good literature seriously? Do you crave more depth than a book club can provide? Here's an opportunity to delve into the works of writers such as Joseph Conrad, Jane Austen, John Steinbeck, Flannery O'Connor, Kurt Vonnegut, Virginia Woolf, Dylan Thomas, and others. Bill Bonney, emeritus professor of English, will lead readers in a free series of discussions of works of literature, running from October to May.

Anyone interested in devoting the time, effort, and expectation of fulfillment that good literature deserves is welcome to attend!

Interested? Come to the introductory meeting: Monday, Sept. 28, 7:00 p.m. at the Moscow Library.

For more information contact: chriss@latahlibrary.org

Treasurer's Report

By Mary Hughes

The Spring 2009 book sale was a big success, grossing \$6,492.90 in book sales, memberships, book bag sales and donations. We had expenses of just \$341.49 and will lose another \$320.00 to sales tax. (It really irks me that charities have to pay sales tax in Idaho.) A very warm note of appreciation goes out to all who helped at this sale and participated to make it such a success. These sales run like a well oiled machine and it's all thanks to you, our dedicated volunteers who just show up and get right to work. We were a bit worried about sales at this event due to the tough economy. But sales such as these are the best bargain in any fiscal climate. Our customers seemed to know that and we had no appreciable drop off in revenue.

This year's Summer Reading Program was a big hit with the children (see Cathy's report elsewhere in this issue) and we paid \$3,640. for the books, promo materials and entertainers. I hope you were all able to catch some of the great shows put on in the park this summer; you don't have to be a child to attend! My favorite was once again Dizzy Hips. If you've never seen a person hula hoop a tractor tire you don't know what you're missing!

Have you seen the nifty new shelves in the Library? They are currently housing music CD's and nonfiction videos. But soon they will be home to the DVD collection. The DVD's will have more room, better lighting and will be easier to view on these sturdy new

metal shelves. The bottom row is tilted up for easier viewing. The Friends picked up the entire tab for this item: \$1838. We also provided \$117. for 2 new step stools in the Adult section of the Library.

We have once again paid the \$600. fee for the Everybody Reads Program. This fee pays for our participation in the program, a visit by the author, David Guterson, as well as 10 copies of his book *The Other*, promotional materials etc.

Earlier this year we paid \$121. to host the Dave Boling Guernica event at the 1912 Center. This was a very popular, well attended event. The money was for the rental of the Center and some of the refreshments. Mr. Boling graciously refused an honorarium since he was in town visiting his son who is at the U of I and wanted the funds to remain with the library. When Meghan Nuttall Sayers gave a presentation at the library recently on her visits to Iran and Turkey, we provided an honorarium of \$50. We donated \$75. to the African Library Project to help defray the cost of shipping the books to Africa. Approximately \$200 has gone to various other Youth Programs such as supplies for Story Time, Family Reading Week activities etc. As you can see your membership dollars go right back out the door in community benefits! So if you get one of those pesky membership renewal reminder cards in the mail, be sure to re-up for another year.

The Friends have been at the Farmers Market twice so far this year spreading the good word about the Friends, The Summer Reading Program and selling some of our inventory of used books, music and movies. So far we have raised \$186.54. Look for us out there again this Fall promoting the book sale. We will once again be participating in some of the Winter Markets at the 1912 Center. The Winter Market Schedule this year is: November 21st, December 5th, January 9th and February 13th.

As of this writing we have 216 current member households who can all be very proud of the support they give to our Library. Thanks to all of you for your generosity and support, both monetary and as volunteers.

Volunteer Opportunities

The library is looking for a few good patrons. Access Services Manager George Williams has composed job descriptions for a few volunteer positions that need filling at the library. Most require a minimal time commitment. These job descriptions will be available at the Annual Meeting so you can see if your dream job awaits. You may also contact George at 882-3925 ext.12 or at georgew@latahlibrary.org

Also needed is someone who knows the U of I campus well and where on campus posters may be displayed. If you have that knowledge and the time to put up posters for our upcoming book sale, please contact Mary Hughes at 882-9198 or at yousehughes@verizon.net . Here's your chance to get more involved!

Donations Needed

We'd like to make some book worms to sell at the Fall Book Sale and the Winter Markets. You may remember these from our booth at the Fair a couple of years ago. They hold your book open for you so you can cook, eat or do other things with your hands while you read. These require sturdy fabric, thread, time, energy and BB's or small size shot. We have plenty of all of the above except for BB's or shot. Do you have a half empty container of either that you're not using? Something the kids left behind when they went off to college? Something you have left over since you became a vegan and gave up hunting? Please bring them in a spill proof container to the library and we'll make good use of them. Just tell them it's for the Friends.

GoodSearch

Here's a new way to donate to the Friends. Use GoodSearch for all your internet searches. Go to www.GoodSearch.com and under the heading "who do you GoodSearch for?" type in Friends of the Moscow Library, then press verify. Now proceed with your searches. The Friends will receive a small fee for each individual search. All those pennies add up. If this sounds way too complicated to use each time you do a search, just download the GoodSearch toolbar or make GoodSearch your home page. Then it's automatic without adding any keystrokes. The more you search, the more we make!

Comedian Paula Poundstone for Friends of the Library

Paula has been a spokesperson for Friends of the Libraries USA for the past few years. Now she takes her message to YouTube. You can see it here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYYrFSpbBbA>

I love her tag line: "If you haven't been to the library lately, you're overdue." You could send it to folks you think might be interested in joining the Friends.

Friends of the Library Membership

Individual \$15

Family \$25

Patron \$50

Carol Rynie Brink Club \$100

Carnegie Club \$500

Dues may be dropped off at the Library anytime during regular business hours, paid at one of our book sales or mailed to:

Friends of the Moscow Library 110 South Jefferson Moscow, ID 83843

If you're wondering when your membership is due for renewal, you may send an e-mail requesting the information. I will continue to send out reminder postcards when your membership is due.

Anyone may join the Friends, everyone should!