

President's Message ~ Susan Fraser

We held our Annual General Meeting on April 13, 2011. Thanks to all who attended and to Rick Walker for his excellent presentation. We had a great 2010 and are on-track this year. Our Board is full of energy and ideas. Stay tuned.

At a recent meeting, the suggestion was made that we raise our annual membership fees. Fees are currently very affordable: \$20 for a single and \$25 for a family. After discussing the pros and cons, the Board decided that we would keep the fee the same but encourage our members to add a donation when they make their payment. Donations over \$10 are eligible for a tax receipt.

Friends' income is generated from membership fees, donations and our fundraising efforts. Increasing your donation would assist our project sponsorships and allow us to help the library in new ways.

What have we done lately? From 2000 to 2011 we contributed \$15,250 to the Writer-in-Residence program. In 2006 we began to sponsor the Spring Break Program; total to date is \$15,000. We supplied furnishings for the West End library tutorial room (\$3,500), Book Baskets to all branches (\$3,200), materials for the Summer Reading Program (\$1,000) and our latest Ottoman project will total about \$6,500. This would not be possible without the generous support of our members. Thanks for past donations, and please do consider adding a bit more to the next. We would love to write up a whole lot of tax receipts this year!

Writer in Residence ~ Melissa Steele

My privileged job as Writer-in-Residence for the Winnipeg Public Library (2010-2011) was to read fiction, poetry and non-fiction by Manitoba writers and in conjunction with the authors, to dream out loud or in the margins of their Word documents about what the story or poem is capable of becoming. During my tenure I consulted with over 120 writers, and gave numerous group workshops. Thank you to the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library for your ongoing support of the Writer-in-Residence program.



*Author of **Donut Shop Lover** and **Beautiful Girl Thumb**, Melissa is the 21st Writer-in-Residence at the Winnipeg Public Library. Winner of the John Hirsch Award for the Most Promising Writer in 1999, Melissa also won the Margaret Laurence Award in 2006. The Friends are honoured to sponsor such talented Winnipeg writers. Be sure to "check out" Melissa's books!!*

The Woman Behind the Scenes

Marlene Milne



Marlene Milne knows how to get your attention.

The woman behind the display cases at the Millennium Library is The Best of Friends Gift Shop's new Display Manager.

Twice a month Marlene creates unique scenarios in four windows throughout the library to promote the gift shop and increase awareness of the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library. "Nothing is going to happen unless they stop and look says Marlene" so I strive for colour, composition and humour in my work."

Born in Portage la Prairie, Marlene loves living in vibrant downtown Winnipeg with her husband of forty years. This mother of two and grandmother of two brings a wealth of expertise to Friends as a former art gallery owner and drama, art and English teacher.

Marlene believes "the medium is the message," and her message to all who enter the main library is "embrace change and come see all the new things at the Best of Friends."

Spring Break with Friends ~ Karin Borland

For the seventh year running, the Friends of the Winnipeg Public Library sponsored an exciting and fun-filled week for families during spring break (March 26 – April 2, 2011). Across the Library's 20 branches, children and adults enjoyed entertaining performances by Mr. Mark the One-Man-Band, Mago the Magician, and storyteller T'ai Pu. School-aged children also participated in origami workshops presented by Bob Frayer, and creative writing workshops with local author Karin Adams. Branches were bustling with activity throughout the week as staff welcomed a total of 751 participants!

The continued financial support provided by the Friends is greatly appreciated. Special events and performances provide a unique opportunity to present the library as a destination of choice where everyone can find unique resources to enrich their lives and pursue lifelong learning. Many thanks to the Friends for this ongoing support!

The Big Book Sale will be at Grant Park High School again in October:

Saturday, Oct. 22: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 23: Noon - 3:00 p.m.

You can drop donations at any Winnipeg Library Branch, or if that's not practical for you, phone 488-3217 to arrange for pickup. Tell your friends and neighbours !!

At newsletter deadline, tickets for **Books & Brunch** are ahead of last year! To reserve your spot for **Books I Have Known and Loved** and for a fabulous rainbow auction call 947-0110. Event Sponsor: **TD Canada Trust.**