

SPRING/SUMMER 2020 • A PUBLICATION BY FRIENDS OF THE WHITEFISH BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

President's Message by Ann Lowrey

t's official! The Friends now have a new name. We are now:

"Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library"

We added the word "public" to our name to better reflect our purpose. After all, our Mission Statement is "to support our community's most family-friendly resource, the Whitefish Bay Public Library, by providing financial and volunteer resources in support that will have a positive impact on the Library and its patrons. "Our new name will be introduced over time, as new materials need to be ordered. This way it will be a "no cost" transition.

Our new name now echoes the "Public" in the Library's name. The Friends and the Library strive to benefit you, the public.

Sadly the Friends' May book sale has been canceled. But the Friends have been busy behind the scenes. eBay sales continue strong especially for media sales. Hats off to our volunteers who are keeping the eBay site well stocked. Take a look at our eBay site <u>here.</u>

The Writing Contest winners have been announced and we hope you enjoy reading their work on our website. The two Scholarship winners have also been awarded. Their essays describe how libraries have helped them achieve their academic goals or influenced their personal lives. The winning essays are included in this newsletter.

The friends have proudly awarded \$40,250 to the Library for 2020. These funds will be used for programming and staff support as usual. New this year will be an upgrade to the Community Room including a new projector and a hearing loop.

Get out and enjoy the spring weather! Ann

THE SHY GIRL BY DINA SCHACHTELY 1ST PLACE POETRY CONTEST WINNER

She hid inside her hoodie Eyes glancing about. "Stay silent", her brain told her But her heart wanted to shout:

"Don't you even see me. Don't you even care? I'm so very alone here." But her voice wouldn't dare.

Instead she stayed hidden The quiet girl yet again Lonliness on her shoulders A puppy stuck outside its pen

She was a blue among purples A bike among cars A longer among cliques Black space among the stars

She wished she could change Be free of herself Rather than the mute girl Alone on the shelf

All she really needed To begin with at least Was a simple hello A smile from a tame beast

Gosh forbid she find a friend The word searing through her heart As she let herself imagine The happiness it would impart



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2020 Friends' Writing Contest Winners

SHORT STORY

1st Place Laura Welden

2nd Place Dina Schachtely

3rd Place Justine de Bergerac

MEMOIRS

1st Place William Barnewitz

2nd Place Joan Parsons Karaitis & Patra Athans

> **3rd Place** John Phillips

POETRY

1st Place Dina Schachtely

> **2nd Place** John Kolb

3rd Place Julianna Ksicinski & Mary Jo Balistreri

Adult Services Update

By Scott Lenski, Community and Adult Services Librarian

During these uncertain times, it's important to continue offerings even if it isn't business as usual. The Whitefish Bay Public Library has been hosting a summer reading program for adults since 2009, and no matter what the future holds the library will host adult summer reading in 2020. Throughout the years, the support of Friends have helped to make adult summer reading one of my favorite programs, and I hear year after year how much you enjoy it too. Summer reading is so successful due to the support of Friends, and the amazing prizes we are able to purchase. What will adult summer reading look like for this year? We are still working out the details, so I'm not completely sure. I do know the support of Friends is crucial in allowing this program to continue.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of our digital resources. Most of these resources are available at any time, whether you are quarantined at home or not. If you haven't used these resources before, now is a great time to be get comfortable with ebook downloads and movie streaming. We've got a number of different resources that house different media, depending on what you are looking for. Looking for an e-book or e-audiobook? Libby from Overdrive is available from the app store or at the website: <u>https://wplc. overdrive.com/</u>.

There is a a huge collection of titles to choose from, including a "Lucky day" collection that is first come, first served. Another site that has e-books, e-audiobooks, and movies for streaming is hoopla. Any items in hoopla are available for checkout immediately with no waiting. Download hoopla from your app store or visit https://www.hoopladigital.com/my/hoopla to get started.

If you are looking for movies, Kanopy is the app for you. Get free access to thousands of movies with your library card! Just visit the Kanopy website <u>https://wfblibrary.kanopy.com</u> or download the Kanopy app. Please note that this resource is only available to residents of Whitefish Bay. This is just a taste of the library's digital offerings. We also have apps to learn a new skill with <u>lynda.com https://www.lynda.com/ portal/patron?org=wfblibrary.org</u> or Gale Courses <u>https://</u> <u>education.gale.com/l-whitefishbay/</u>. To see a comprehensive list of resources, visit <u>http://www.mcfls.org/dbs/database.asp#</u>. Have questions or need help with a resource? Reference staff is always available at <u>reference@wfblibrary.org</u>.



Flo Perry / BuzzFeed

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thanks for your support

In accordance with our mission, net revenue from Friends' book sales, membership dues and contributions are used to fund programs, equipment, refurbishments and staff education as requested by the library and approved by Friends' board of directors. We were able to contribute \$35,472 dollars to the library in 2019!

Check out our annual report here!

Welcome New Members!

It's a pleasure to welcome the following new members who have joined Friends since the last newsletter was published:

David Janssen Ilana Ruff Jon Bertolas Robert Delamotte Pamela Rasche Corrina Tretin Martin Form Frank Evans Wanda Foy Tiffany Kelly Peter Wolfers Dr. & Mrs. Alan Daniel Daniel Goldin Craig Martin Ryan Grkych Mary & Jim Trainor Sara Bowen Jess, Dan & Sam Dwyer

Thank you for your support. Members are the lifeblood of our organization!



DON'T FORGET ABOUT US! Jan Concannon

Our library may be closed and the Friends' Spring Book Sale in May has been cancelled but there are still ways that you can help us help our fantastic public library.

We're still selling on eBay. Please check us out our online shop. Visit eBay at "<u>Baybooks53217FWFBL</u>" And if there is something that you'd like, remember, we can make arrangements for you to pick the item up if you 'd like to avoid postage charges. Also, please designate Friends of the WFB Library as your charity for the Your AmazonSmile Charitable Organization.

We've noticed that many people have stepped up their shopping and at-home delivery during this crisis. We hope that you're saving your used padded envelopes and small (smaller than a shoe box) boxes. We use those the send out eBay purchases and your donations mean we don't have to buy as many new mailers. And it's better for the environment!

And finally, we also ask that you remember your library as you do your Quarantine Spring Cleaning. When the library re-opens, we'll begin again accepting donations of books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records and other media, and gently-used games, toys and puzzles.

We hope that you're enduring these trying times as well as possible and hope to be seeing you all soon at the Library!

Youth Services Update

By Katie Kiekhaefer

Normally, my PageTurner articles center around all of the wonderful programs and services we are able to make possible in the library thanks to the support given to us by Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library. But in spring of 2020, things are very different in our world, and in our library. Instead of throwing our long anticipated Dog Man party in March, our youth services staff was helping to close the library due to Covid-19 and scrambling to figure out how to still connect with our families and our youngest patrons who were moving to at home learning and staying safer at home (thanks to our governor's orders.)

We weren't alone in this, as youth services librarians from around the country were also doing some similar problem solving. Virtual storytimes (either on Facebook or on YouTube) emerged as a great option, providing some normalcy to our young friends at home and also providing early literacy moments. Thankfully, authors, illustrators, and publishers were on board with this idea, and many publishers relaxed copyright restrictions, allowing youth services to post videos of themselves reading. Youth Services Librarian Valerie Morris and I started our virtual storytimes on our Facebook page, singing songs, doing fingerplays, and (most importantly) reading stories from our respective homes, and although the tech has thrown a few curve balls our way, we've been bolstered by the comments and likes that we've received from families in our community (and outside of our community!)

While storytime has been a natural first step, Valerie and I are also filming other videos to share with our community: crafts, learning activities, and easy-to-make board games for the whole family. We've also tried to make sure we're posting regularly to our library webpage's blog with resource round-ups for families at home. Behind the scenes, we're also working on the logistics of how we plan to offer a summer reading program to our community. It might not look like summer reading programs from years past, but it will happen!

While we're grateful to be able to offer these online programs and resources to our families, we truly can't wait to get back into the library and get back to connecting to our community. We don't know when that will be able to safely happen, but we do know that with the generous assistance of Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library, we'll be able to jump back into offering exciting, enriching programming for kids and teens in our community. Even more exciting: with the generous support of Friends, we were able to send a free book home with nearly 500 children this past summer. Our goal each and every summer is to inspire the children in our community to continue reading, learning, and enjoying their time at the library.

As we approach fall, we'll be working to make sure we keep up that momentum, using Friends funds to create innovative programming like Spooky Cake Pops, Community Art Day, and Epic Art Engineering. Keep an eye out for these new programs and changes to the library. Thank you, Friends!



April 2nd Storytime with Miss Valerie

Scholarship News

By Marta Magnuson

Friends recently awarded two \$500 Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library Scholarships. This is the second year we have given awards to high school seniors who are residents of or attend school in Whitefish Bay and will be attending college in the fall. The main consideration for the scholarship is each applicant's 400-word original essay describing how libraries have helped them achieve their academic goals or influenced their personal life. The two winners this year are both students from Divine Savior Holy Angels. Eileen DeGuire plans to attend Loyola Chicago and will be majoring in International Studies and Political Science. Cate Reilly will be attending UW-Madison and is pursuing majors in biology and global health. They both graciously allowed us to reprint their essays.

Find them on the following pages.

2020 Winners



Cate Reilly



Eileen Deguire



Friends' Scholarship 2020 Essay

By Eileen Deguire

The library has always been my safe and happy place, whether it is in Whitefish Bay, my school, or hopefully college this fall. When I was little, we were frequently at the library, filling up our bag. When I was four, I was convinced that I was going to become an egyptologist-ballerina-mom when I grew up, so I learned more the only way I knew how. I regularly went to the librarian Mrs. Piehl, explaining my interests and aspirations. She always took my requests seriously; I'm sure it was challenging balancing all of my needs. My mom remembers Mrs. Piehl asking her if she had any concerns with me reading about embalming or mummies. Luckily, my mom urged her to give me everything I requested. I then filled up the library bag with DK Eyewitness books, expanding to history and historical fiction, including the Dear America and American Girl series, and then even more. I was able to carry my love of reading into competing in Battle of the Books, constantly scouring the dedicated shelf for my assigned titles (and looking through the ones I wasn't).

Now my love of the library has changed. As a high school student, I don't find quite as much time to read for pleasure, but libraries have become arguably more important to me. They are my go-to places to study and get things done. I have spent more class periods in the library at school than I can count. I still check out historical fiction, mysteries, and some old favorites when I find time to read for fun. As part of my college search, the quality of the libraries on campus has been a high priority, as I know they will be a significant part of the next chapter of my life. They are often my favorite places when I visit a campus. I plan to study political science and international relations, and spend time in Washington, DC, and overseas studying Spanish.

Libraries have meant everything to me since the beginning. I practiced writing my full name so I could get that yellow library card. While I've since received my driver's license, a passport, and will soon be able to vote, that library card felt like a ticket, giving me access to mummies, presidents, strong women, and my favorite, safe, and happy study spaces.

Friends' Scholarship 2020 Essay

By Cate Reilly

I can't remember a time when going to the Whitefish Bay Library was not a regular occurrence in my life. My earliest memories of the library are from the summer reading program, and the many books I read while participating. I would patiently await the summer reading program, devouring books while sitting by the pool, then excitedly turn in my finished reading checklist to be awarded the prize that would make my day: a new book. I would spend a long time, probably too long, in retrospect, sitting at the children's librarian's desk, combing through all the shiny new books until I found exactly the right one.

While I still love the summer reading program and have yet to miss a summer, I now think of the library as the place I have spent countless hours studying for finals with friends and completing hours of homework with more focus than I thought myself capable of. The quiet atmosphere at the Whitefish Bay library never fails to fill me with peace and motivation, and I have found myself able to work productively for hours on end; I owe many A's on math tests to that time spent in the Whitefish Bay Library. As I've gotten older, I've had less and less time to sit in the library and browse for fun, as I did when I was younger. Even so, I've managed to find many books now on my list of favorites while looking through the shelves. The atmosphere of the library, the programs, and, of course, the endless supply of books prompted me to seek employment at the library. Now, as part of the library's workforce, I have not only been able to interact with a diverse group of people on a more regular basis, but I also have learned responsibility, far surpassing the responsibility I once felt from owning a library card.

The library has helped me develop a love of reading and provided me with a never-ending stream of creative entertainment when it is so easy to reach for a device to play on or television to watch. The library has given me a place to train myself on how to focus and be productive. The library has given me my first sense of responsibility, my first favorite books, and my first real job. I owe the library quite a lot, and I am extremely grateful for it.



Whitefish Bay Public Library 5420 N. Marlborough Drive Whitefish Bay, WI 53217 414-964-4380 • www.wfblibrary.org

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Board Meetings are held at the Library at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August). Friends members are welcome to attend to get an idea of our work in progress, ask questions, or contribute ideas.