



**Friends of the Library**  
*Douglas County Friends & Foundation*  
 720 Fillmore Street  
 Alexandria, MN 56308



**NOVEMBER**  
**2011**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Douglas County Library Friends and Foundation is to support and promote the Douglas County Library.

The Friends of the Library pledge to work toward these goals:

- Maintain an association of persons interested in the library
- Enhance library services through fundraising activities
- Focus public attention on library services, facilities and needs
- Encourage gifts of books, desirable collections and bequests
- Sponsor and organize literary events for our members and the community



**Message from your President Del Mari Runck**

Greetings!

One of my goals as the current President of Douglas County Friends and Foundation is to increase awareness of our organization. While we are 254 members strong, our goal as an organization is to gain membership through greater visibility. How will we accomplish this? Through

speaking about Friends at local organizations, by sharing our story through local media outlets whenever possible, by using Facebook and other mediums and most importantly, by each of you, sharing with others about your involvement in friends. Let them know how we support the library and our community with author events, writing classes, children's reading programs with fundraising efforts through our annual used book sale, our Used Book Store, and our Cookie Walk. All proceeds from our fundraising benefit our library and its patrons directly. It's a great partnership that we hope to continue with your support.

Encourage your friends to become members. The cost of membership is low and the benefits are many. A good combination in these difficult economic times.

Del Mari Runck  
 President

**2011-2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Georgia Wahlberg
- Gloria Deick
- Kelly Hughes
- Tom Johnson
- Del Mari Runck
- Priscilla Reineke
- Karen Simmons
- Bev Dokken
- Joan Larson
- Jan Siffing



**THANK YOU FRIENDS' VOLUNTEERS**

A BIG "Thank you" to all the Friends' volunteers who donated lots of hours to help make the 2011 Used Book Sale another success!

The net income for our organization was around \$11,800.00.

This fundraising project happens because of the many volunteers involved. Our efforts are rewarded by realizing the amount of support we are able to give the Douglas County Library.

## ODDS AND ENDS FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:



I've been sitting at my desk looking at a blank computer screen wondering what I should write for the Friends Newsletter. BettyAnn, our reference librarian, walked by with an armload of books and asked how my day was going. "BettyAnn, I'm having an awful time coming up with items for the newsletter," I said. We chatted for a few minutes and what follows is the result of that short conversation. Thanks, BettyAnn.

### Origin of **FRIEND**

Middle English *friend*, from Old English *frēond*; akin to Old High German *frunt* friend, Old English *frēon* to love, *frēo* free

First Known Use: before 12th century

### Definition of **FRIEND**

a person who gives assistance; patron; supporter:

Friends of the Library, thank you for your support of the library during the recent budget discussions with the county. The County Board reinstated our budget and the library will be funded at the current level for 2012.

Friends of the Library, thank you for another successful book sale and the success of the Friends Book Store. All of your volunteer hours are greatly appreciated. Other libraries are amazed at the teamwork and the amount of money the sale and store bring in.

Friends of the Library, thank you for the new additions to the library that were funded by your organization. This year the children's library added some new furniture and a new rug along with new wall decorations. New task chairs were purchased for the computer lab. Funds were provided to additional children's programming including a family pumpkin carving event. Thank you for funding these additions.

Friends of the Library, thank you for hosting two special programs—Dr. Odell Bjerkness' presentation "History Tells Story, Story Tells History" and mystery writer David Housewright.

Friends of the Library, thank you for the support you have given me during my first year as Library Director of the Douglas County Library. Your assistance and encouragement have made my job rewarding and just plain fun. I get such pleasure in reporting to other librarians what a great organization you are.

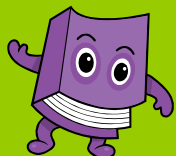
Two short stories to end this thank you note—

The Douglas County Library's services are reaching across the ocean to South Africa. An Alexandria resident currently living in Africa requested a library card and is using the library's newest service, e-books. What an amazing almost magical advancement in the world of books and reading!

You know I love books and my Kindle. I just finished reading a 5 book fantasy series, *Song of Fire and Ice* by George R. R. Martin on my Kindle, a total of 4197 pages. The author plans on writing two more books to complete the series. I've never been a fantasy reader but this series really caught my attention and I'm mourning the end of book five and can't wait to read book six. A Kindle or Nook, or I-Pad, or other e-readers are perfect for reading a book that's 1000 pages long.

Karen Simmons, Library Director

## UPCOMING EVENT



The second annual **COMMUNITY READ**, one community reading one book, will again be held in February 2012. The book chosen is *THE THINGS THEY CARRIED* by Tim O'Brien. Watch for more information in the upcoming months via this Newsletter, the Echo Press and the Community Education catalogue. This is a great read and will offer opportunities for lively discussions

## USED BOOK STORE



The Friends' Bookstore will permanently be located in the Library lobby. The old Carnegie Library shelves are in place and filled with books for sale. This location gives us more visibility with the library patrons. There have been many favorable comments about the accessibility of our store now.

The hours for the bookstore have increased with the addition of being open on Fridays.

Hours are:

Monday – Thursday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Friday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

A very special "thank you" to all our wonderful volunteers who have staffed the store since its opening in March of 2010.

The book donations continue to be fantastic with a wonderful selection of a variety of categories. The community participation of bringing books in has allowed the Friends to continue this fundraising project.

We have "gift certificates" available for purchase as a unique gift for the upcoming holiday season.

Stop by and check out our bookstore inventory so you can tell your friends and family about it.



### **FRIENDS BOOK CLUB**

Join our Friends of the Library Book Club in upcoming months as we read the selections listed below. Our group meets at 6:30 on the 4th Monday of each month in the Meeting Room at the library.

Cost of membership is \$5 for non-members and \$4 for members of Friends, fees are quarterly. Everyone is welcome!"

Nov 28 – *Traveling with Pomegranates* by Sue Kidd

Dec 26 – *Half Broke Horses* by Jeanette Walls

Jan 23 – *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* by Steig Larson

Feb 27 – *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien

Mar 26 – *Last Letter Home* by Vilhelm Moberg

Apr 23 – *The Master Butcher's Singing Club* by Louise Erdrich

May 28 – *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* by Amy Chua

June 25 – *Main Street* by Sinclair Lewis

July 23 – *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield

Aug 27 – *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali

Sept 24 – *Innocent* by Scott Turow

Oct 22 – *Winter Garden* by Kristen Hannah

### **UPDATE ON NEW MEMBERS**

Jeff and Kim Sjostrand

Amber Salmons

Angie Martin

Brandi Chanay

Mary Pietrini

Vance Howe

Bob and Leslie Mohs

Kayla Andrist

Jodi Johnson

Jill Wetzel

Amy Borass

Matthew Larson

Melissa Olson

Mary Robinson

Paulette Friday

Rita Smith



### **FRIENDS' DAY HELD IN DULUTH**

The Minnesota Association of Library Friends (MALF) exists to support the work of Friends throughout the state. The 2011 "Friends' Day" was held in Duluth in October during the MLA annual conference. Attending from the Douglas County Friends were Jan Siffing, Del Mari Runck and Joan Larson.

A number of sessions were sponsored by MALF. One, "Positively Friends" was co-presented by Del Mari and Joe Owens from Ely. They demonstrated presentations that could be given to community groups as a way of energizing community support for the library and at the same time gaining new members for the Friends of the Library.

The Evy Nordley Award for the Best Project was won by the Friends of the St. Michael-Albertville-Hanover Library for "Building it. Together," a fundraising project that raised close to \$80,000 to furnish their new library. Award finalists were Friends of the St. Paul Public Library (Book It: The Party!) and Friends of the Red Wing Public Library (Hot Reads for Cold Nights 2011 at the Red Wing Library).

It was a day of networking, good food, excellent exhibits and much, much more. We came away tired, but with a renewed enthusiasm about the importance of libraries and the work that Friends do to support them.

## ANNUAL COOKIE WALK



The 9th annual Friends of the Library Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 3rd in the Meeting Room at the Douglas County Library from 8AM until Noon or until all the cookies are sold.

We are doing something different this year!! We are going to expand our Walk to include cookies that men prefer. The past few years we have had several men request "men cookies" which they described as anything CHOCOLATE. So, Bakers, please consider adding a dozen of your favorite chocolate goodies to your regular donation of Christmas Cookies this year. Remember, only homemade cookies may be donated and the recommended donation is five dozen. Please bring your cookies, in a throw away container, to the Library on Friday, December 2nd between the hours of 10AM and 5PM.

The Used Bookstore will also be open that day and will feature cookbooks and Christmas books.

If you would like to help with this fundraiser, either Friday or Saturday, please contact Bev Dokken at 762-1932. If you have any questions, please call Rebecca at 846-9400 or Bev at 762-1932.



### UPDATE FROM OUR NEW YOUTH LIBRARIAN: Sarah Wethern

I am incredibly happy and excited to be the new youth librarian for the Douglas County Library. I received my MLIS in 2008 from St. Catherine University (then the College of St. Catherine) in St. Paul. I was then hired by the Pueblo City-County Library District in Pueblo, Colorado, where I spent two and a half years working as the teen services librarian along with doing biweekly preschool story time.

However, much as I loved Colorado and my library there, I wanted to get back to Minnesota. I feel very fortunate to have been hired here at DCL.

Not only does Douglas County Library have a growing collection of both physical print materials but also electronic materials, it has the support of a very active Friends group. I immensely appreciate the support the Friends of the Library the youth area yet, please materials, and wall decorations a nice change. Patrons full walls and in particular shelves.



While story time is currently programs for kids and teens

on a hiatus, there are several different programs for kids and teens coming up in the rest of the year. In November, teens have the chance to create gingerbread houses on Wednesday, November 16 at 3:30. Then on Tuesday, November 22 at 6:30, there will be a special Thanksgiving story time session.

**Regular story time for preschoolers** resume on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30, Wednesdays at 10:30, and Thursdays at 10:30. This story time session will run until Friday, December 16. And of course, do not forget **Mother Goose**, the story time created for the littlest library patrons. Songs, finger plays, rhymes, and movement make this story time for babies from birth through 24 months lots of fun for both caregivers and babies.

December brings the end of the year but there is still plenty of fun to be had at the library. Teens can create ornaments on Wednesday, December 14 at 3:30. Then, on Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30, a special holiday story time will be held. The next week brings more fun to the library with a Lego program at 1:00 on Tuesday, December 27, and on Wednesday, December 28 at 2:00, Word Weavers Storytellers will be at the library. Puppets, stories, snow, and laughter are sure to make an appearance at this program for all ages.

Things are hopping in the youth department, and I know I couldn't be happier. Next time you're in the library, stop on by and say hi! And if you have questions about any of the programs, please call at 320-762-3013.