



# FRIENDS OF THE ANACORTES LIBRARY

1220 10th Street • Anacortes, WA 98221 • 360-293-1910

**FEBRUARY 2016**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY'S DIRECTOR

As I foreshadowed in the last newsletter, the library is beginning a strategic planning process that we aim to have completed by mid-summer. So, just what are strategic plans, why are they important to libraries, and how do they relate to our Friends?

An easy way to think of a strategic plan is that it is a vision of, and a road map to the future of an organization. The focus of a strategic plan is on the community that the organization serves and the ways to assess, identify, and address community needs.

The Business Dictionary defines strategic planning as – “a systemic process of envisioning a desired future, and translating this vision into broadly defined goals or objectives and a sequence of steps to achieve them. In contrast to long-term planning (which begins with the current status and lays down a path to meet estimated future needs), strategic planning begins with the desired-end and works backward to the current status.”

The consultants from Primary Source that were engaged to guide us through this important process all come from library backgrounds so they are extremely knowledgeable about the unique roles that libraries play in their community. Kate, Lin, and Emily (the consultant team members) visited our great library and are excited to start working with library staff and getting input from stakeholders on the vision of where our library should be in the next few years. You, Friends, are an essential stakeholder. Please 'keep an eye out' for ways to participate or contact me directly (360-293-1926 or [miklaski@cityofanacortes.org](mailto:miklaski@cityofanacortes.org)) if you have any questions and want to be sure to be included in the process.

Finally, I wanted to share an amusing story with all of you. While enjoying lunch at the Anacortes Rotary noon meeting last week, a fellow Rotarian was recounting his latest travels to La Manzanilla, Mexico. He said he came across a little free library of sorts and the first book he picked up happened to have marked on the inside “Return to Anacortes Public Library – Not for resale” and “Mini Library” stamped on the book edges. He then handed this much loved and worn paperback to me. I am certain that this book was originally picked up at a Mini Library (who remembers those!) or purchased in our great FriendShop and made its way down to Mexico in the luggage of a fellow Anacortes resident. What a charming reminder to pick up a paperback or two from the FriendShop for your next vacation! They are priced so affordably that you don't have to bring them back – just leave them behind for the next traveler to enjoy. Perhaps this traveler will Google or look on a map to discover where Anacortes is and choose us for their next destination. Maybe they will stop in the FriendShop of our great library and share a story of how they came to be in our lovely community.

Thank you all, once again, for making our Anacortes community the unique place it is and for supporting our wonderful library through your Friends of the Library membership and your patronage of the FriendShop! Our library is the jewel it is because of all of you.

FRIENDSHOP BOOKSTORE:

From the beginning of this new library in 2003 through 2015, the shop raised a total of \$294,877.95 in book sales alone for the Anacortes Library. You, the patrons, and the people who have generously donated books have made these funds possible. THANK YOU!

When you need books, please check our shop first. The proceeds of sale go to the library for goods and/or services that are directly beneficial to the library patrons. Except for special books and collectibles, you will find most of the books are priced under \$3.00.

Speaking of "collectibles"....We are continuing to add these books to our inventory. In fact, we have run out of room in the collectible book section, but some can still be viewed with Beverly's assistance in the storage area. These books are carefully researched by Andrew Griffin and Brian Tibbetts. One very exciting new addition is a beautiful 1868 volume (570 pages) entitled:

"MEN OF OUR TIMES; Leading Patriots of the Day"  
by  
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE  
(Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin")

The book is beautifully illustrated with  
EIGHTEEN STEEL PORTRAITS

"Published by subscription only. Hartford  
Publishing Co., Hartford, Conn."

Again, we add new gently used books to our shelves every day. Come in to buy, browse, or just talk books.

Beverly Reed, Manager

A Delicious mystery



Bruno, Chief of Police (2008) by Martin Walker is the first in a series of wonderful mysteries set in the small village of St. Denis in the Perigord region of southwest France. A former soldier, Bruno has settled into small town life in his restored cottage. He has a gun but usually leaves it in his car. Bruno hunts, grows his own food and is a gourmet cook. The books do not contain exact recipes but do go into great descriptions of his preparation of some remarkable meals.

The cast of characters grows with each book and the reader is drawn into the life of St. Denis. This is not a "cozy" mystery series. The crimes can be violent and the mysteries complex. The stories are full of elements to please a wide range of readers. I found myself compelled to keep reading until I had finished all eight books written so far. I now have to wait until this summer for the next one. I recommend reading them in order as new characters are added and remain in subsequent books.

"To tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of this world"

Robert Kennedy chose these words from an ancient Greek tragedy to explain his life's goal. Like his brother, Bobby lost his life unexpectedly at the hands of a social outcast hand didn't live to realize his full ambition and potential. Aside from his family Bobby felt his greatest achievement was the successful prosecution of Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa during his term as U.S. Attorney General.

The book is a masterful piece of research by a Seattle based highly regarded investigative reporter with access to documents sealed until fifty years beyond Bobby Kennedy's death.

For me the book, **Vendetta, by James Neff 973.922** was a cogent lesson in the basics of racketeering which I experienced first at sixteen as a meat wrapper in my hometown supermarket 100 miles east of New York City. I was hired, it seemed at first, to scrape the mold off of hams but in time I was promoted to wrapping fresh meat. "Why is the hamburger always pink?" I asked in my innocence. Because the store didn't pay the Teamster truck driver to bring fresh, lean meat, I was told. Meanwhile the shop steward was trying to pressure me to pay union dues while I was a student.

Six or eight years later after college I was temp-ing in New York City offices and assigned to the Teamsters headquarters as a secretary. The staff were mute and there was no socializing. A pall hung over the place. I had to read **Vendetta** in 2015 to appreciate what happened when a cripple came into the office one day in the Sixties. "Get outta here, ya bum! I'll tro' ya down da stairs," the boss shouted from the top of the staircase. The cripple was asking for a disability payment, a provision that Hoffa ignored when he drew up a huge pension package for the Teamsters. The pensions he negotiated buoyed his popularity with the members and sustained him until the Kennedy administration set out to prosecute organized crime and crooked unions.

Eventually Hoffa was convicted of jury tampering payoffs and served a prison term until then President Nixon negotiated his release on condition he stay out of union business. His rendezvous with two Mafia members in July 1975 resulted in Hoffa's disappearance, a mystery that has never been solved.

**FRIENDS OF THE ANACORTES LIBRARY**

MEMBERSHIP – DONATION

Friends of the Library membership is \$10 a year and monetary donations are always welcome. We publish a quarterly newsletter and invite you to a monthly meeting in the Library Meeting Room September- June at 2:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.

- If you would like to make the donation in memory or honor of someone, please complete the bottom of this form.
- If you want to donate materials, please bring them inside the library. The library evaluates the donations to see what can be added to the library collections.

Make checks payable to "Friends of the Anacortes Public Library". Our federal Tax ID is #91-1223940. **Please deliver or mail form to 1220 10<sup>th</sup> St., Anacortes, WA 98221.**

**\*\*\*Yes, I want to be a Friend of the Anacortes Public Library\*\*\***

PLEASE CHECK ONE: NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send an acknowledgement of my memorial

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY**

## REPORT FROM THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY - Doug Woods

Things have been going very well in the Children's Library! We've been busy with storytimes, various special programs, and our Teen Club. We've also been busy planning for a very active Summer Reading Program beginning in June. This year's theme is "On Your Mark, Get Set...Read!" and we are focusing on exercising our bodies as well as our minds. For our professional performers we have booked steel drummer Ian Dobson, Charles the Clown, musicians and puppeteers Cowboy Buck & Elizabeth, Alex Zerbe the "Zaniac," and inspirational juggler Jason Quick. We are also planning many other fun programs for the children, plus there will be offerings for families and adults.

One of the most exciting things that has happened recently in the Children's Library is the news that we received a grant from our local Noon Rotary Club to fund three state-of-the-art computers for the Children's Library. These computers are pre-loaded with about 70 different educational programs, covering subject areas such as reading, writing, math, science, history, geography, and much more. These computers will not be connected to the internet, so the children can explore with our quality educational offerings. Two computers will have preschool-level software installed, and one will have software intended for elementary-age children. The Friends of Anacortes Library are involved in this exciting endeavor, as the library itself cannot directly accept the funding. Instead, the Friends group holds the funds for us and pays the invoice for us.

We're so pleased the Friends of Anacortes Library supports the library! All proceeds from the Friendshop come to us in the library so we can purchase books and fund programs. Please think of the Children's Library when you visit the Friendshop!

Ann Patchett:

So know this—if you love your library, use your library. Support libraries in your words and deeds. If you are fortunate enough to be able to buy your books, and you have your own computer with which to conduct research, and you're not in search of a storytime for your children, then don't forget about the members of your community who are like you but perhaps lack your resources—the ones who love to read, who long to learn, who need a place to go and sit and think. Make sure that in your good fortune you remember to support their quest for a better life. That's what a library promises us, after all: a better life. And that's what libraries have delivered.

## WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

At my house this query, What's for dinner? is the first thing voiced after breakfast and sometimes it guides the day's activities: trip to the grocery store? Which one? Reshape the leftovers? Look for an inspiring recipe?

This kind of problem solving is the spirit in which I agreed to be President of the Friends of the Library. The Friends group is like a household: it must be fully functional and satisfying to its members, prepared to reconsider priorities, administered by thoughtful individuals. Each day is an adventure and the outcome is never completely predetermined. The Friends of the Library support the library materially and notionally to make it the best it can possibly be for the residents of Anacortes.

What's on the dinner menu for 2016? Revenue from the FriendShop continues to enrich the library's materials budget and funding from the Friends brings superior performers to Summer Reading for children and teens, plus added budget awarded to Adult Programming this year pays the travel expenses of presenters from Seattle and the surrounding area.

Your membership dues and generous donations of money and books and media go a long way toward sustaining the library's services. The volunteers who staff the Friendshop, read the library's shelves, contribute programs and help out in myriad ways make the Anacortes Library and its services the envy of like sized communities.

I know how far the library has come since I moved here in 1979. At the time I was teaching high school in Concrete and to make up the deficit of materials there I borrowed books from APL and the Burlington library to share with students. Now Burlington and Concrete have modern libraries as does LaConner while Mount Vernon lays plans. But Anacortes stands head and shoulders above other libraries in Skagit County and its foremost strength is community support and participation.

Thanks to you! Now, what's for dinner?

Kay O'Connell, President and Newsletter Editor

Oprah Winfrey on the importance of libraries:

As a young girl in Mississippi, I had big dreams at a time when being a Negro child you weren't supposed to dream big. I dreamed anyway. Books did that for me. For me, those dreams started when I heard the stories of my rich heritage. When I read about Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman and Mary McLeod Bethune and Frederick Douglass, I knew that there was possibility for me.