

FRIENDS

of the LEDDING LIBRARY

Autumn 2018

NEWS

Powered by Love

As we move from autumn to winter we are reminded of the constancy of change. The year steadily walks through the seasons. Change has figured much more prominently in the life of our library these last months. Nancy Wittig, staff employee of 42 years, retired. We said goodbye to our beloved old building.

The *Friends*, too, experienced many changes: the Pond House Bookstore closed and this Sunday Market season was the last for the *Friends'* Book Booth in the Fire Bay at City Hall.

And now - the library has a new dedicated Circulation Supervisor in Kim Olson. The library has moved to its temporary location so the new building can be developed. A young patron leaving after his first visit commented: "It's comfy. I like it!"

The *Friends*, too, are thinking about our transitions. What's next? We have deep roots in our community and a long and storied history. We have weathered change in the past. We have the habit of being successful and the habit of resiliency through creative solutions to new challenges.

And . . . As do the library staff and the patrons -- "We love our library!"

And with Love, we can do anything . . .

To a successful next phase for the *Friends*!

It Is An Exciting Time

It has been a stellar year for the *Friends* - our efforts exceeded all previous years. This is all the more astounding when we remember how bleak the year ahead looked in January - still no Plant Sale Co-ordinator, the Pond House Bookstore was about to close and it seemed unlikely the Book Booth would be in the Fire Bay after June.

The year has revealed just how many friends the *Friends* have - those who donate books and plants, those who volunteer hours sorting books over the course of the year, those who set up book booths and book sales, those who sell raffle tickets, those who dig and transplant plants from home gardens, those who anonymously water and care for plants, those who transport books and plants, the City of Milwaukie that made spaces available for activities . . . We are a community supporting our library. Thank you each for being a *Friend*. We appreciate your contributions to our mission of supporting the library as it serves our larger community.

"Dear Friends, Thank you all for such a generous donation to help with the new library, to keep our programs going, and to keep our collections strong!"
—Ledding Staff Member

"Did you know? In the past year, the amazing Friends of Ledding Library gave us 4 Oregon Symphony story times, 6 Spanish story times, 10 LEGO Clubs, 8 fantastic summer performers, 2 baby sing & sign classes, 2 toddler stretch & dance & play classes, 1 preschool yoga class, and 1 Spring Break puppet show. On top of that, you paid for 2,654 free books for every kid and teen who signed up for summer reading. Wow! That's an incredible gift to all the kids and caregivers in Milwaukie. We can't thank you enough for your ongoing support!"

— Ledding Staff Member

A Look at the *Friends* Gifts & Plans . . .

The *Friends of Ledding Library's* Executive Committee met twice in November to take a look back and a look forward. Our hearts warmed and we were amazed to realize that over the past five years the *Friends* raised close to \$200,000 and donated more than \$160,000 to the library. Over those years, the donations have supported the library in its commitment to provide a wide variety of programs for our community as well as collection enhancement. Even your membership dues are a part of that well of generosity.

Others in our community also recognize the *Friends'* efforts as worthy. Over the last four years, we received three bequests. How to best honor and fulfill the kindness of the intention of the givers? It was felt a pledge toward the building fund was appropriate. Initially, a pledge for \$100,000 was made in March; with the subsequent receipt of the third bequest, we were able to increase this gift to \$150,000.

The *Friends* Executive Committee also received a 2019 *Wish*

List from the library. This enumerated the library's request for the Friends' support of events and materials in the coming year. After considering the whole financial picture of the Friends, we were able to pledge support for all the requested items and an additional 7% of funds for unforeseen needs that may arise over the course of the year.

The Executive Committee also took time to envision the coming year without the use of the Fire Bay and the Pond House. These spaces had been generously provided by the City of Milwaukie to the Friends; evolution within the City's needs prevent them from continuing to do so. The smaller size of

the temporary library has meant adjustments in how donated materials are handled. Being mindful of the many changes, we made more conservative fundraising goals for 2019 than in previous years. We are still able to include two projects; the first is the building of a website to increase our community's awareness of the Friends activities. (If you, or someone you know, might be able to help in any way with this website project, please contact the editor.) The second is a very modest investment for an online bookstore; this will only proceed if a trial experiment shows potential for this venture.

"Your gifts supporting the Adult Book Collection are instrumental in making Ledding Library an essential community resource. Funds for additional Multicultural Books allow the library to provide a wider assortment of books by racially and ethnically diverse authors; funds for Classic Book Replacement keep our heavily-used collection of world literary classics in good condition. Thanks, Friends of the Ledding Library, for your continued and strong support of our adult book collection."

— Ledding Staff Member

Planning Ahead ... And for Now, too

One of our members reminds us that the IRS allows for many different ways donations can be made to the Friends. Our member points out that one possibility is a *qualified charitable distribution (QCD)*. This is a nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax deductible contributions. Both *Friends of Ledding Library* and the *Ledding Library of Milwaukie Foundation*

are such eligible organizations. Speak with your tax advisor for details.

Other possibilities for supporting the Friends ... Any gift you give to the Friends is tax-deductible. And, because of our relationship with the *Oregon Cultural Trust*, Oregon residents can optimize the tax benefit by matching a donation to the Friends with a gift to the Trust. Donations to the Friends are deductible on state and federal tax returns and what you match is not only a federal deduction but is also a state tax **credit** that

"Thank you, Friends. Your generosity makes it possible for the Ledding Library to give back to the community over and over again with programs, books, the amazing Lucky Day collection, summer reading incentives, specialty collections, Kindles, and more. Thank you for all you do."

— Ledding Staff Member

comes right off any state taxes you owe for 2018 (up to \$500 for an individual and \$1000 for a couple filing jointly). Just donate to the Friends, and then log on to <http://culturaltrust.org/get-involved/donate/> to donate a like amount to the Trust. It is a great way to mandate more government support for libraries.

A Last Reminder

Please be sure to fill out and mail/deliver your enclosed membership form; include your check for annual dues, made out to *Friends of Ledding Library*. Mark any changes in your contact information so we can update our files. Be sure to let us know if you want to receive the Newsletter by email to save on Friends expenses.

If you are able to help with any activities or fundraisers we could really use your help. We also need more members, so if you know someone that might be interested, let us know. The Friends have donated \$150,000 to the building fund for the Ledding Library, and we will need to do more fundraisers for future needs. Thank you,

Cynthia Nagy, Membership Coordinator

Watch your mail for announcement of the Friends Annual Meeting early in 2019.

Board Members

- President Sandy Armstrong
- Vice-President Nikki Hoff
- Secretary Salli Slaughter
- Co-Treasurers Joe Sandfort
Nancy Wittig
- Library Liaison Kim Olson

Coordinators

- Plant Sale Kathleen Kramer
- Book Sale Elaine Blauvelt,
Anne Carrol, Cheryl Fisher
- Raffle open
- Publicity open
- Volunteer Nikki Hoff
- Membership Cynthia Nagy
- Music Programs Ed Zumwalt
- October Sale Susan Leopard
- Newsletter

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