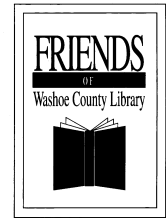




Check it Out



Volume 17, Issue 1

Summer 2009

A New Way of Doing Business...

Read 'From the President' on page 2 and see how the Friends organization has been evolving.

One of the changes is in the Newsletter. We will not be publishing the Membership list. If you have questions on your membership, please call the office.

'Go Green' with us by reading the newsletter on our website to cut down on mailings. Page 6 has all our contact information. Please consider this option.

If you do not want to receive a Booksale Bonanza postcard, add that note to your email.

Thanks

Inside this issue:

Letter from the President	2
Committee Reports	3,4,5
Volunteer Opportunities	5
Upcoming Events	6



THE BIG STORY...

The economic turndown that threatens reduction of services and staff of the **Washoe County Library System** has brought about an appeal by **Friends of Washoe County Library** for public financial support.

"These are extraordinary times that we really have not seen before," said newly-installed Friends President Len Crocker. "For years, the Friends have channeled their fund-raising efforts specifically into programs and library materials not available readily through the normal budget process," he pointed out.

"But now, help is needed to avoid deep cuts in both service and Library staff, and the operation that has been dubbed **Campaign 001** was designed to provide an infusion of cash that may be directed by Library management directly to where it is needed most."

The new campaign, Crocker stressed, will not affect Friends regular activities such as the widely-popular Bonanza Book sale, the Secondhand Prose book store in the Northwest Reno Library, or the long-range Second Century Endowment program. Friends Board members realize that the current economic situation is likely to continue for some time, and has decreed that the new campaign will be continued until the end of this calendar year, to provide as much money as possible.

Friends of Washoe County Library is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization incorporated in 1981 to support the county's public library. Since its inception, **Friends** has been active through service projects to promote additional funding for Library enhancements, cultural programs, and purchase of library materials in all forms. The **Friends'** federal tax ID is 94-2747114. Tax-deductible donations meant to help with this program should be made payable to **FWCL-Campaign 001** and sent to:

Friends of Washoe County Library
P. O. Box 7103
Reno , NV 89510-7103

ALLOCATION NEWS . . . More than \$105,000 was distributed to a variety of projects and branches of the **Washoe County Library System** by **Friends of Washoe County Library** at the close of calendar 2008, under an allocations system established years earlier. Allocation funds are derived from the Friends' twice yearly from **Booksale Bonanza**, monthly book sales at our 125 Gentry Way, and from the **Secondhand Prose** book store in the Northwest Reno Library and other fund raising endeavors.

The most recent allocations "pool" totaled \$115,289.74, from which ten percent was taken off the top by the **Friends** Board of Directors to invest in the organization's **Second Century Endowment Fund**. That's the device created several years ago to guarantee long-range continuation of the Library's vital service to its county-wide community.

The remainder of the 2008 fund was divided as follows:

Duncan Traner Library -- \$1,400. North Valleys Library -- \$3,450.
Northwest Reno Library -- \$4,600 divided between two projects.
Sierra View Library -- \$7,780, also divided into two parts.
South Valleys Library -- \$1,000. Sparks Library -- \$1,275.
System-wide, four projects were approved at a cost of \$85,681



From the President . . .

Changes to the way **Friends of Washoe County Library** functions began late last year, when the announcement was made that the **Washoe County Library** staff support that has been a mainstay of its 28-year existence would disappear with the year 2008.

Since its inception in 1981 as a Nevada non-profit corporation, the **Friends** were considered a part of the Library. That meant free use of meeting rooms, strong moral and actual support by Library personnel, and in effect, a fully-staffed administrative office at the *Downtown Reno Library*. Maintenance of records, including the banking function, was a staff activity.

But increasing economic pressure meant that Library personnel would have to devote full time to Library needs, and the valuable but "outside" **Friends** organization would become a free-standing entity.

The change began with a search for office space, and the **Friends** found a new home in the recently-established **Non-Profit Center** at Vassar Street and Cordone Avenue, just off busy Kietzke Lane in the city's southeast section.

The building meets standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the one room office affords ready access to the nearby Regional Post Office (and the Friends' new mailing address of P. O. Box 7103, Reno, NV 89510-7103), with meeting rooms in-house and plenty of vehicle parking space.

Our new telephone number: 775-324-5522.

"Remember, we raise money for the Library, not ourselves" was the direction given to the fledgling *Facilities Committee*. The result was attractive but pre-owned office furniture and equipment. An exception was the new computer that now houses records and activities of the Friends popular *Booksale Bonanza*, *Secondhand Prose*, *Second Century Endowment Fund*, vital membership files, and allied information.

"We try to have someone in the office for an hour or two every day," said *Facilities Chair Kathy Zeiser*, "but with only 11 Board members at the moment, and some of them still employed full time, we can't always do that.

"Mail is collected, telephone messages checked, and membership renewals completed with cards in the mail that same day, for the most part.

"It's a new look and more work for us," she pointed out, "but the mission and the work are the same...do all we can to support our vital **Washoe County Library System**."

Len Crocker

Recent grants awarded to Friends or the Library

IGT-\$5,000 for the Summer Reading Program

Redfield: \$100,000 for Library Materials

Wells Fargo: \$10,000 for Library Materials

Received the funds for the Galleries to close out the fiscal year:

City of Reno: \$3,650

John Ben Snow: \$5,000

Nevada Arts Council: \$3,358

Check It Out is published by *Friends of Washoe County Library's* Board of Directors, and is distributed to members and friends of the group. Questions or material should be addressed to P.O. Box 7103, Reno, NV 89510-7103.

Friends of Washoe County

Library Board of Directors:

President.....Len E. Crocker

Vice President.....Lucina Moses

Treasurer.....Phyllis Westfall

Secretary.....Lois Crocker

Directors: Martha Gould, Mary Jones, Vivian "Chickie" Roberts, Bonnie Terry, Dixie Rudebusch, Betty Watts, and Kathy Zeiser.

Washoe County Library
Trustee Liason.....Dianne Drinkwater

Washoe County Library Staff Liason
.....Jennifer Oliver

Newsletter editor:Dixie Rudebusch



Clockwise - Lois Crocker, Lucina Moses, Phyllis Westfall and Len Crocker in the Cordone Office space. June 2009

Mission Statement:

The Friends actively work to strengthen public libraries in Washoe County. Backed by the belief that libraries are uniquely democratic, Friends promote, advocate for and seek funding for libraries. Through our projects, we strive to give children an educational head start, encourage literacy and foster life-long learning and recreation for adults.

BOOKSALE STEERING COMMITTEE

We hope many of you came to our semi-annual BOOKSALE BONANZA. The April event resulted in the sales of \$44,800. However, many probably do not have any idea of the time and work involved in putting on an event of this size that seems to get larger every year.

At our 125 Gentry Book Warehouse, we sort donated books all year long. We also have a monthly sale to defray the expense of rent on Gentry. Any books that do not go on the shelves and tables for the small monthly sale, we pack into boxes. We have the capability to store approximately 500 boxes on site, but then must move these boxes to a storage facility until the next Booksale Bonanza - held in April and October each year.

We begin planning for Booksale Bonanza several months in advance in order to find a location of the necessary size and available for the length of time needed (approximately six weeks), and hopefully at the least expense. If successful in renting a site (or as with the 5205 Mill Street location, gratis through the generosity of Washoe County Flood Authority), we then must make the necessary arrangements for transfer of the hundreds of boxes of books to the sale site, from both the warehouse and the storage site.

The Steering Committee, which oversees all arrangements and supervision of the sale, reserves a County Sheriff Work Crew for the days necessary for transfer. It is then necessary to lay out a plan for positioning of the tables, which varies with the size of the building available and the amount of boxes of books in each category. Actual work starts with the Sheriff's work crew transferring the boxes to the site, then delivering each box of books to the tables set aside for that category.

After all this is accomplished, we then ask our many dedicated volunteers (who also sort books all year) to come in, open each box, take the books out and place them on the tables, being careful all the books are neatly arranged.

THEN the booksale begins and those same volunteers sign up to take shifts. During any of the semi-annual sales, approximately 60 volunteers work as many as 1500 hours at setting up the booksale and then working shifts during the sale itself. We are proud of our dedicated friends who volunteer all year long to assist us in this endeavor.



A queue of shoppers waiting for the doors to open at a 'Second Weekend of the Month' sale — June 2009.

Location of the 125 Gentry Book Warehouse ▶



The Friends volunteers setting up a booksale at the 125 Gentry Book Warehouse. June 2009



Enjoy a Summer Event with the Friends

ART IN THE GARDEN

A part of ARTOWN 2009, will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at 1280 Monroe Street @ Sharon Way .

Enjoy a unique garden setting while meeting local artists, illustrators and authors. Exhibiting this year are: Dayna Galletti, Kathleen Hallamore, Frances Cascarano, Charlotte Voitoff, Shirie Wallace, Amina Harris, Vada Mason, Sharri Lou Casey, Lyndi Cooper-Schroeder, Diana Willis, Carol deHaan, Nancy Nelson/ArtisTree, Renee Whitney, Marilyn McKeegan and jewelry from Silpada Designs.

Author and illustrator Teddy Swecker will be signing her new book.

For more information call (775) 323-6773.

SECONDHAND PROSE News

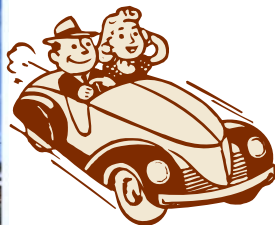
June 16, 2009, marks the 10th anniversary of the opening of Secondhand Prose at the Northwest Library! Come and visit us in our sunny space at the end of the Gallery and see how much we have grown. We continue to be the recipients of wonderful donations and we offer a wide selection of practically new books for sale in all categories at very reasonable prices, as well a good selection of vintage and collectible titles. We added a classic fiction section and an assortment of classic movies, both of which have proved popular.



Experience in merchandising has moved us beyond the small, inexpensive toys and narrow range of items for the book lover that we carried in our early years. We now offer a wide assortment of educational kits and games for children of all ages and abilities. We stock a range of book-related items such as book plates, magnifiers, bookmarks, book lights, pens and a line of museum-quality boxed note cards. And yes, we still carry a selection of little toys children can purchase with their own money following story time at the library.

The Friends Board meets at a different library each month!

This is a great way to visit with Library staff and learn how these dedicated people are making a difference in their communities.



These photos were taken at a 2008 board meeting at the Gerlach Library.

Members enjoyed the drive and stopping for lunch!

SECOND CENTURY ENDOWMENT FUND

The Second Century Endowment Fund of the Friends of Washoe County Library was created to provide supplemental funds to the Washoe County Library System. Income from the Second Century Endowment provides support for projects and programs which enrich the Library system's quality of service. The Second Century Endowment has reached its five year goal in four years, and now stands at \$517,739.00.

Gifts to the Endowment are tax deductible. Gifts to the Endowment will ensure the ability of the Friends of Washoe County to continue building a funding reserve that will be used to strengthen the resources available to the Library System. They will enable the Library System to continue to provide enviable standards of excellence in service to the citizens of Washoe County. The Endowment has made its first disbursements in support of the Library's collections and programs.

Library supporters interested in the helping provide for the future of the Library System can make their gift to the Endowment by pledge, donation, or bequest. Donations to the Endowment can be designated as a special fund or for general support of Library programs. For information about the Second Century Endowment please contact Martha Gould at 775-747-0777 or marthagould@att.net.



A gift to the endowment is a gift that will go on giving for the future of the Library System.



Itching to help?



The word "Friend" is defined: "one who favors or promotes something (such as a charity)" or as "a supporter or sympathizer."

"Friendship," is "cooperative and supportive behavior between (among) two or more people."

The **Friends of Washoe County Library** could use some of the above...actually, a **lot** of the above.

Volunteers always are needed, in a variety of duties involving preparation and/or participation in the organization's well-regarded and profitable (for the Library) book sales; in staffing the charming Secondhand Prose book store in the Northwest Library; and in service on a variety of committees that keep the organization going.

Do you have just a little more time, and would like to "learn the ropes" and perhaps down the road work into a leadership role?

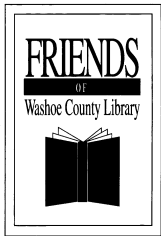
Consider taking a look at the *Friends Board of Directors*. Regular meetings involve a couple of hours or less, currently beginning at 4:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Of course, we'd like you to select one of the committees, as well, and put your individual skills to work in a great cause.

We have room for all sorts of contributions, and age is not a factor. What makes the difference is an earnest desire to become part of a 28-year old, non-profit organization whose members do their best to help our **Washoe County Library System** continue and expand its vital service to the community.

.....

One of our goals is to do a better job of keeping members and other friends informed about what's going on in and around the **Washoe County Library System**, and what we're doing to help.

But to do that, we're going to need some professional or high-grade enthusiasm help in the form of an editor. If you're the person we're looking for, please contact **Friends** President *Len Crocker* at telephone 775-747-2774 or by e-mail at lencrocker@sbcglobal.net



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Reno, NV
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P.O. Box 7103
Reno, Nevada 89510-7103

Phone: 775-324-5522

Email: FRIENDS1208@ATT.NET

Trying to get in touch with the Friends?

Here are our numbers:

Second Century Endowment Fund – 747-0777

Booksale Bonanza – 324-5522

Secondhand Prose – 787-4125

Membership Committee — 827-1211

Finance Committee — 356-5323

Hospitality / Community Events — 324-5522

General Questions - Friends Office 324-5522

E-mail — friends1208@att.net



Mark your Calendars for These Upcoming Literary Events

July 11 -- Art in the Garden 1280 Monroe St .

July 11-12 -- Monthly book sale 125 Gentry St .

July 16 -- Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market

August 8-9 -- Monthly book sale 125 Gentry St .

August 20 -- Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market

September 12-13 -- Monthly book sale 125 Gentry St .

September 16 -- Adopt-A-Book

October 22-25 -- Barnes & Noble Book fair

October TBA -- Friends Booksale Bonanza

December 5 -- Secondhand Prose Open House

Being GREEN

If you are willing to read the Friends Newsletter on our website **OR** would like to have it emailed to you,

DROP us an email at Friends1208@ATT.net

Save some postage and some paper!

