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FLATHEAD COUNTY LIBRARY

News

Newsletter of the Flathead County Library Foundation

Winter/Spring 2008

Director's Corner

We are thrilled to have Stewart Harvey, newly hired foundation director, as part of our library team. Stewart has been busy meeting people all over the Flathead, attending meetings, and crafting the good stories that help us highlight the wonderful services our libraries provide. If you haven't yet met him, stop by the Main Library or give him a call to set up an appointment.

One of the committees that Stewart participates in is the newly formed citizen's advisory board for library buildings. We've been talking about a new site for a Main Library for several years and have investigated such locations as Tidyman's, Linderman, and Flathead Valley Community College.

Recently, the Library Board rejected the Tidyman's site because of hazardous materials mitigation and potential risk with the site. To gain a more informed and thorough perspective, the board formed a citizen's advisory committee to look at potential sites for a new Main Library as well as prospects in Bigfork and Columbia Falls.

The first monthly meeting of the Citizen's Building Advisory Committee took place in early January. As a matter of approach, the committee will reassess all possible sites in and around Kalispell for a new Main Library. The committee is also seeking education points on the issues surrounding contaminated materials mitigation in the greater Kalispell area.

Taking a methodical approach to this responsibility will foster confidence in the final recommendations.

Kim Crowley
kcrowley@co.flathead.mt.us



Dorothy Laird, former library director who served several years on the Library Foundation Board, chats with Board Chairman Roy Beekman during a social event at the Museum at Central School. Laird was honored for her service to the library.

Library Foundation looks to future

A dedicated core group got together in 1989 and formed the Flathead County Library Foundation – a 501 c(3) non-profit – to support programming and services of the library not covered by the regular county budget.

Working closely with the Library Board (a separate body appointed by the county commissioners) and the library director, the 11 volunteer foundation directors work to identify opportunities to gift funds to the library system. In the past, technology and public education were project areas where the Foundation has been able to support the library's programming and services.

Over the years, the foundation has grown the gifts it has received to a portfolio value of just under \$350,000. With the prospect of new construction or renovation of facilities in Bigfork,

Columbia Falls, and the Main Library in Kalispell, existing funds will not be enough to support these large projects. To that end, the foundation board began searching for a foundation director to pursue its fund-raising goals, manage day-to-day activities and take the Foundation to the next level.

With a new director, the foundation now has an increased capacity to tell the wonderful stories of the library, and to shepherd donor development. The foundation board is looking down the road to future successes such as endowment programs that allow visionary donors to perpetually provide support through leadership gifts for buildings, rooms and furnishings.

Framing the end goal is driving what the Foundation accomplishes today.



Stewart Harvey, the new director of the Flathead County Library Foundation, will replace Mary Pat Murphy as editor of the library newsletter.

Harvey is first Foundation Director

When Stewart Harvey and his wife, Katherine, were looking for a place to live, they wanted to find a spot that would make them feel like they were on vacation all year around.

They found that spot in the Flathead Valley, when Stewart was hired as the first full-time staff person for the Flathead County Library Foundation.

“We wanted to get to a place where we absolutely love it—and we do,” said Stewart, who started his new job in December.

As foundation director, he will lead day-to-day operations, increase development programming and serve as the spokesperson for the foundation.

“I’m proud to be a part of such a worthwhile effort, excited to play a key role in the future of the foundation as well as help craft those special gifts which can touch lives and benefit our friends and neighbors for years — even generations — to come,” he said.

Stewart grew up in Wichita Falls, Texas, where he graduated from Midwestern State University. His background since college includes consulting, fund-raising strategy development and management experience in the non-profit field.

As part of his work with the foundation, Stewart will be assisting with publicity for the Flathead

County Library and will produce the foundation’s newsletter, which has been published three times a year since 1999. He will replace Mary Pat Murphy, who has worked with the foundation as a part-time private contractor producing the newsletter and promotional materials for the library system for the past nine years.

“It is a privilege to continue Mary Pat’s legacy,” Stewart said. “Over the past nine years she has told the good stories, highlighted the library’s progressive programming and showcased those folks who have tirelessly worked and volunteered for the library. I can’t fill her shoes . . . but what I can do is work hard to continue her tradition of excellence.”

Stewart and Katherine are looking forward to enjoying the outdoor activities Montana has to offer and to becoming part of their new community.

“We’ve decided that this is where we’d like to live and start a family,” he said.

Stewart is available to make presentations to community groups about the libraries and the role of the foundation in helping improve our library system. For more information, call Stewart at 758-2469.

Flathead County Library System

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Library System

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Mary Pat Murphy/Stewart Harvey

Library sponsors teen essay contest

As part of the "Pursuit of Happiness" *We the People Bookshelf Grant* that the Flathead County Library has received, the library is sponsoring a teen essay contest in March 2008.

The essay topic is "My Happiness: Now and in the Future."

The winner of the contest will receive a \$100 savings bond, compliments of the Friends of the Flathead County Library, and publication on the Flathead County Library website.

Submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and a maximum of 1,000 words.

All submissions should include the entrant's name, phone number, and age. Teens between the ages of 12 and 18 are eligible to enter the contest.

Entries will be accepted from March 1 to March 31 at any branch of the Flathead County Library system.

The winner will be announced as part of the 50th celebration of National Library Week, April 13-19. National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April.

For more information on the essay contest, contact Martha Furman, teen services librarian, at 758-5713 or e-mail mfurman@flathead.mt.gov.

Library card is key to world of on-line information from home

Where can you figure out how to repair your snowmobile engine, research how to expand your business, or help your child develop a science project on gravity that wins top prize? Amazingly, you can now do this all in one place – through your local Flathead County Library.

All Montana libraries now offer their customers unlimited access to hundreds of magazines, academic journals, and reference materials – all online and accessible from home.

"By working together, with support from the governor's office and the legislature, we are able to provide Montanans with unprecedented access



Babies and their parents participate in Babies Bounce into Books program at the Main Library in Kalispell.

Babies introduced to the joys of reading

Babies Bounce Into Books is a new program in Kalispell and Whitefish for children from 6 months to 2 years old, accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

This one-on-one interactive program is designed to show our youngest customers how much fun books can be. The program also includes action rhymes, knee bounces, and songs.

Babies Bounce into Books engages parents and babies in finger plays, movement activities and bouncy times, as well as bright board books that enhance the child's pre-literacy skills.

After each session there is time for the adults and children to socialize and maybe make a new friend!

This pilot program is led by Rebecca Johnson, children's library assistant, at the Main Library and the Whitefish Branch.

The pilot program will conclude on March 26. To assure the integrity and primary focus of the program, registered participants are limited to 14 pairs per session.

For more information, call the Whitefish Branch at 862-6657 or the Main Branch at 758-5822.

to information," said Darlene Staffeldt, Montana state librarian. "We recognize that in today's world, people want and need good information to move forward with their lives."

All that's needed to get started is a library card and a password, which is available by calling or visiting your local library. Some of the resources patrons can search include:

- Research materials designed specifically for elementary, middle, and high school students
- Hundreds of magazines and journals devoted to a wide range of topics, including health, travel, business, biography, and literature

- Step-by-step instructions on how to repair cars, boat engines, lawn mowers, tractors, and more

- Reference materials pertaining to renewable resources, environmental law, public policy, and urban planning

- Reference resources for nurses, which are used by nursing programs around the country.

For more information on library resources throughout Montana, call Sara Groves at the Montana State Library at (406) 444-5357.

For more information on the Flathead County Libraries, visit us at our website: www.flatheadcountylibrary.org or contact your local library.



Flathead County Library
247 First Avenue East
Kalispell, MT 59901-4598
(406) 758-5820

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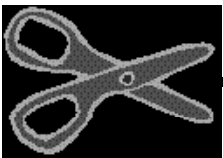
OF THE FLATHEAD COUNTY LIBRARY
SHARING THE LOVE OF READING

We're Gathering Friends

The Friends of the Library is looking for new members. The Friends participate in library promotional events, support children's programs, work on library fund-raising and have some just plain fun activities. The Friends of the Library is dedicated to making the Flathead County Library System the best library system possible. Join in celebrating the library today and be part of its future.

Friends of the Library meet at 12 noon every third Thursday of each month in the conference room of Flathead County Library in Kalispell.

To join, use the membership form below.



**Friends of the Library
 Membership form**

**Please fill in the following
 information, attach a check and
 mail or bring to:**

**Friends of the
 Flathead County Library
 247 First Ave. E.
 Kalispell, MT 59901**

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

_____ **\$10 annual individual membership**