

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Jill Owens

National Friends of Libraries Week

The Columbus Public Library is proud to highlight National Friends of Libraries Week October 17-23, 2010. Our local “Friends of the Columbus Public Library” group was incorporated in January of 2006 after a lot of work the previous year by a dedicated steering committee.

Since that time these hard-working volunteers have raised over \$35,000 for the library. Currently over 143 families are on the membership roster and nearly 30 of these contributors actively volunteer their time, including helping with the book sales held twice a year.

The Friends also contribute to the library by hosting 4-6 programs each year, and they help when extra hands are needed for events hosted by library staff. The local Friends group has purchased book carts, electronic signs, shelving, as well as fulfilling other staff requests.

The wonderful thing about being a library volunteer is that each person can help with what works for his or her own schedule, interests, and talents. The Friends of the Library can use shelf readers, outreach helpers, after school helpers, writers, landscape weeders, board members, program hosts/hostesses, readers to seniors, disc buffers, book repairers, bookmobile volunteers, and more.

The assistance given to the library’s patrons and staff is immeasurable. Staff simply does not have time to spend preparing for and conducting the book sales nor searching out and acquiring the quality of programming offered by the Friends.

The Friends Board of Directors will meet at 6:15 Tuesday, the 19th in the Constitution Room of the library. They welcome anyone who would like to drop in and see what it’s all about. Current board members are President Marilyn Zehring, Vice President Carol Goering, Secretary Judy Marshall, Treasurer Rita Samuelson, Melodee Pedersen, Diane Klug, Gayleen Hingst, and Wanda Scharff.

Some board members will rotate off the board soon and new members will be elected at the membership’s annual meeting in January. If you are interested in serving as a board member or in another volunteer capacity, please contact any of these board members, leave a message at the library, come to a board meeting, or fill out a brochure indicating your interest.

Brochures that offer information about joining and contributing to the Friends are available in the library. Some patrons and supporters who want to help, but are unable to be involved as a volunteer will contribute financially to the Friends. Contributions to the Friends, a 501(c)(3) organization, are tax deductible. Please consider offering your time, talents, and treasure to further enrich your library.

The Library staff and patrons are very grateful for our Friends’ help. We couldn’t offer many of the things we have without them.

Recent memorials to the Library Foundation are recorded as follows: Mr. & Mrs. John McPhail

donated in memory of Gerald Spelts; Roberta Buresch memorialized Janet Cumming; Leon & Phyllis Wragge gave in memory of Gary Busteed; and Jim & Colleen Gerhold donated in memory of both Julian Meyer and Gerald Spelts. A gift to the Library Foundation was also received from the Tau Columbus chapter of the Alpha Delta Kappa sorority of educators.