

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Melodee Pedersen

Friends’ annual meeting, book sale dates set

The annual meeting for the Friends of the Columbus Public Library will feature international recording artist and dulcimer player Phyllis Dunne in a concert at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 31st at the Columbus Art Gallery. She will be joined by her husband Bob who plays the didgeridoo, an Australian Aboriginal wind instrument. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Columbus Public Library with additional funding by the Nebraska Humanities Council.

Phyllis Dunne is the 1991 National Traditional Music Performer of the Year for Lap Dulcimer. She has completed three European tours. No matter where she performs, audiences of all ages are delighted with her charm. Peter Ostroushko of Prairie Home Companion fame notes that Dunne has the “ability to share her gifts and talents with her audience. Simply, truthfully and from the heart!” In fact, Dunne likes to get the audience involved in the performance. “After all,” she says, “it is folk music - music ‘of the people, by the people, for the people’. When people have the chance to participate they enjoy the music more.” Dunne likes to use traditional music to trace the history of America. However, her eclectic stylings also include original and classical music.

Dunne was a Schmoeller Music Scholarship recipient at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where she majored in piano and minored in voice. She was featured on the cover of the UNO Alum magazine. As Artist-In-Residence, Dunne worked for many years with youth- at-risk at Uta Halee Girls Village and Cooper Village. In the summer of 2001, she was awarded a Nebraska Federation of Music Clubs scholarship to study at the Dalcroze Institute at Julliard School in New York City.

Husband Bob Dunne discovered the didgeridoo at a folk festival in Kerrville, TX, in 1991. The mesmerizing, rhythmic bass drone of this traditional instrument hollowed out by termites captured his primal spirit. Dunne has since studied the culture of the Australian aborigines, their folk tales and traditions. Dunne demonstrates how to play the didgeridoo and clapsticks. He shares his boomerang collection and explains the fine art of throwing this ancient weapon.

Dunne builds his own didgeridoos in an attempt to make more responsive, tuned instruments. He shows audiences how to make their own inexpensive didgeridoos from pvc pipe.

Bob Dunne is the 1995 Old Time Country Music and Pioneer Exposition Miscellaneous Instrument Champion and member of the Nebraska Humanities Council’s Speakers Bureau. He was a member of Akita Mani Yo, a world music band. Dunne, a frequent performer at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, KS, has been featured on several recordings.

The next Friends Book Sale will be February 4-7th. We accept donations year-round, but especially appreciate them before a sale. Items that sell particularly well are newer hard and soft backed books, DVDs, and VHS movies. Thursday, February 4th will be the preview sale from 6:00-8:45 p.m.. Tickets may be purchased for \$5.00 per family at the door for first shot at all our great bargains. Friday, February 5th and Saturday, February 6th the sale will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sunday, February 7th our hours will be 1:30-4:45 p.m., and all items will be sold for \$1 per bag. Most hardback books are \$1 and fiction paperbacks are 25 cents each.