

Librarian's Shelf by Jill Owens

Celebrating Service @ Your Library

April is certainly a month with a lot of celebrating and gratitude. In addition to Easter and other notables, April applauds three very special weeks. The 6th – 12th is National Volunteer Week, the 13th – 19th is National Library Week, and “VoluNteer! ServeNebraskaWeek” is the 20th - 26th.

The library is fortunate to have so many dedicated and skilled volunteers sharing their time and talents. First of all we have our hard-working Friends of the Library board members who plan and execute some great programming. The Friends of the Library membership, as well as the board lend their hands to events throughout the year, including (but not limited to) organizing and conducting the biannual book sale, shelf-reading, and helping with summer reading program events.

Our governing body, the Library Board, is a group of very dedicated members, among whom there are now 10 active committees.

The Columbus Library Foundation Board has some overlap in membership with the Library Board, and is presently working hard to update its controlling documents and reposition itself as a more active body. Both the Library Board and Foundation Board have geared up the last few years to help staff meet the goals of our strategic plan.

We value our ad hoc and single-mission volunteers as well. Volunteers are guest-readers, they clean out animal cages, straighten shelves, serve on committees, deliver to the homebound, help at bookmobile stops, advocate for library services, clean discs, and other tasks for which staff would struggle to find time, or can use supplementing.

Volunteers do not have to be teens or adults; each summer many kids volunteer to help with the summer reading program.

People who want to volunteer have a few options to start the process. They may pick up information about the Friends of the Library displayed throughout the library, they may pick up volunteer paperwork at the Customer Service Desk, or they may download applications from our website <http://www.columbusne.us/library> for Library Board and Foundation Board membership.

Any potential volunteers under the age of 19 must have a parent or guardian signature on their forms. Because there is a process involved, we are unable to accommodate volunteers who walk in and wish to work immediately.

Our financial donors are just as valuable as those who contribute time and talent. Some of our volunteers cross-over to share in time, talent, and treasure. The categories are not mutually exclusive, And we couldn't serve the public nearly so well without all types of contributions.

Memorials to the Columbus Public Library and Columbus Library Foundation in memory of Margaret Petsch were given by Ronald and Dianne Brown; Larry and Pamela Karel; Lloyd and Margaret Stevenson; Kenneth and Kathleen Smith; Doug and Ramona Kluth; Rodger Hanak; Florence Stevenson; Julie Maaske;

Kenny and Jane Kesik; Lee and Lavern Torczon; Fred and Myra Kluck; Christopher and Julie Anderson; Susan Schatz; and George Bock.

Other recent memorials to the Columbus Public Library include the following: in memory Alice Phillips from Mary T. Norton; in memory of Tom Kumpf from Ray and Nancy Welker; in memory of Wilma Haferland from Jon and Bonney Root, Adair, Jeremy, Presley, and Hadley Miller, Helena, Mason, Max, and Morgan Mortimer; and in memory of Elna Janssen from Larry and Barbara Thompson, Harold and Mardell Wittler, Lester and Pam Janssen, John and Sylvia Coffey, and Herman Janssen.

Recent donations include books from the Woodcarvers Club, and Teen Summer Reading Program donations from Great Western Bank, Ernst Auto Center, and First National Bank.