Friends of MCL Annual Meeting Held

The Friends of Minneapolis Central Library held their annual meeting February 11th in the RKMC room at the library. Attending were eight Board members, eight other Friends of MCL members, our library staff liaison Dillon Young and the Minneapolis Central Library manager Amy McNally.

After the call to order and introductions, Friends’ president Carol Jordan recognized and thanked Marcy Rinek for serving on our Board for a two-year term. Marcy diligently wrote thank you cards, as the Recognition Coordinator, to all new Friends of MCL members as they joined on a monthly basis.

Board elections were held, with four current Board members being presented and re-elected for another two-year term. These four members were Chuck Griep, Susan Hanna-Bibus, Bob Callahan and Carol Jordan. Elections were then held for five new Board members. The following were newly elected for two-year terms: Angela Anderson, Sonny Graves, Cathy Hogan, Jackie Taylor and Sarah Tittle. We were pleased to welcome our newest members and we all look forward to working with them.

Carol’s annual report briefly covered our previous year’s annual meeting and then our many accomplishments of 2018 which reflected our efforts to move toward increased outreach to our community as well as increased advocacy for the Minneapolis Central Library. Additionally, we created four new volunteer coordinator positions to develop efforts with social media, improve outreach to the community, increase volunteer involvement and recognize donors. Carol noted that with the move toward outreach and advocacy we’ll also be discontinuing dedicated fund-raising efforts.

Next, Amy McNally explained how we’ll be able to work collaboratively with MCL staff toward these goals, suggested options and answered questions about our role as we move forward. Her input and suggestions were much appreciated.

Linda Brehmer’s treasurer’s report showed that $13,395 was granted to MCL during 2018 for requests from staff for events, programs and other needs. $8515 remained in our account at the end of 2018.

Dillon Young, our staff liaison, reported that an advance screening of the film, The Public, filmed at the Cincinnati Public Library, would be held at MCL on March 17th, with director/actor Emilio Estevez being present to discuss the importance of this film.

Carol noted that the next month’s Board meeting would include election of officers as well as an opportunity for everyone to review key organization documents and discuss ideas on moving forward in 2019. -Carol Jordan

Board of the Friends of MCL- Front row from left: Susan Hanna-Bibus, Sarah Tittle, Angela Anderson, Carol Jordan, Jackie Taylor, former library liaison Dillon Young. Back row: Valerie Griep, Sonny Graves, Chuck Griep, Linda Brehmer, Jennifer Samaha, Bob Callahan and Cathy Hogan. Not pictured: Carol Siegel
The Vinyl Sessions
Listening in on the Library’s Music Collection

Generally speaking, the higher the floor at the Central Library the quieter it gets. That’s not necessarily the case, however. For example, if you are jamming out to Marc Bolan and T. Rex’s “Bang a Gong” it can sound pretty loud. Fortunately for the rest of the floor’s patrons, this can be done in the solitude of the third floor’s Listening Room, with headphones on. The Listening Room is the brainchild of a group of staff who wanted to revisit and rebuild the library’s considerable collection of vinyl. Known as “Vinyl Revival,” this program gives patrons access to a revolving selection of the vinyl archives—a number of staff picks as well as a selection chosen by a guest curator. The current selection is courtesy of Lori Barbero, drummer for the Minneapolis all-female punk band Babes in Toyland. Barbero’s picks for the Listening Room include items from the rock canon such as Nirvana’s Never Mind, Sonic Youth’s Dirty and Prince’s Sign O’ the Times. But she has also dropped in some surprising works, such as a collection of songs from American Indians of the Plains recorded in the 1950s by ethnomusicologist Willard Rhodes. There is also a collection of songs from the American South [beautiful recordings of African American instruments and voices from the 1930s] and the sublime Billie Holiday at Jazz at the Philharmonic, which includes an exquisite, tearful rendition of Strange Fruit.

On June 8th, from 1-3pm, Lori Barbero will be talking at the library about the music she selected and the music she has made, part of the MCL “Vinyl Vox” series.

The MCL’s vinyl collection is vast, and it is not possible to browse it in its entirety. The curator’s selections, including new music that they are able to purchase thanks to a grant from the Minnesota Legacy Fund, are an ideal way to sample the library’s holdings, and to get to know some music you might not normally hear. Albums are available at the third floor Information desk. The Listening Room has one stereo turntable, one 4-channel stereo headphone amplifier and two pairs of studio headphones as well as two lounge chairs and a low coffee table, with one desk chair and desk. You can reserve the Listening Room for two-hour blocks by going to the MCL’s website. It is a fine way to spend an afternoon—and to make some real noise without bothering anybody else. -Sarah Tittle

Meet a new Board member: Sarah Tittle

Sarah Tittle owns up to quite possibly having the library system’s longest hold list, which, if you are a frequent user, you know often results in multiple “must-read” titles becoming available at the same time. It is happy accidents like these that make Sarah an unapologetic super-patron of the lending system (who currently owes only $1.15 in overdues.) Sarah cut her teeth in the publishing industry in New York City, where she held various marketing positions at Viking Penguin When she moved with her husband to Minneapolis, she continued working for various publishers writing promotional materials. “It was important to keep my toe in the publishing water,” she says. Twenty-five years later she’s still writing catalog copy, reading group guides, and advertising pieces, but supplements her income working as an administrator at a neighborhood church. After a number of volunteering stints at her kids’ school, the Girl Scouts, the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood association and newspaper, and Southeast Seniors, she was ready to give her time to a book-related organization: The Friends of MCL. Sarah is surprised at the variety of ways the library serves the public. “It’s clearly a holistic community gathering space,” she muses. “I would say the book part is merely a fraction of what the library represents to its patrons.” Nevertheless the “book part” remains her favorite aspect of the library. She’s looking forward to volunteering at Talk of the Stacks events, especially after hearing Anna Quindlen speak in May. “Anna really lauded Minneapolis for having such a book-friendly culture and gave a solid shout out to the Central Library. It was great to hear her be so complimentary about the library,” says Sarah. Sarah is also excited to discover the library’s other offerings, including the rare books room (Special Collections), the piano practice space (Heilmaier Piano Room), and the Listening Room. You can often find her working up on the third-floor balcony, typing away, but also appreciating the building’s variety of activity and patrons.

Board Officers Elected

The Friends of the MCL Board elected the following officers at their March 18th meeting: President, Susan Hanna-Bibus; Secretary, Sarah Tittle and Treasurer, Linda Brehmer. Carol Jordan was thanked for her service since 2011 as part of the organizing committee to form the new Friends of the MCL. She served as Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and President and continues to serve on Board committees. Carol hosted a strategic planning session at this meeting to discuss changes in emphasis for the Friends group. A lively and productive discussion centered on determining priorities for community outreach as well as strategies described by Susan Hanna-Bibus in this issue of the LINK. They will be pursued through the committee structure which includes Volunteer Recruitment/Engagement, Advocacy/Outreach, and Governance. Outreach includes the LINK, social media and collateral materials as well as events and partnerships.
President’s Column

I am excited and honored to be named president of Friends of the Minneapolis Central Library. I would like to thank Carol Jordan, who has led the organization for several years, creating a sound foundation from which to move forward.

The Friends of the Minneapolis Central Library has a renewed and expanded focus on community outreach on behalf of our great library. Toward this end we are developing new relationships in the community as well as cementing ones that are already in place. Our goal is to reach as many people as we can in our diverse and energetic downtown neighborhood, increasing awareness of the wide range of programs and services offered at the Minneapolis Central Library.

Look for us and for information materials around town this summer. Please visit our booth at the following events. Play our trivia wheel game, win a free book, talk with librarians and volunteers and sign up for a library card if you do not have one.

- Saturday, June 1, 8am-1pm Mill City Farmers’ Market, 704 South 2nd St. (next to the Guthrie Theater)
- Thursday, July 18, 3-6pm Franklin Steele Park, 1600 Portland Ave. S.
- Saturday, August 3, 8am-1pm Mill City Farmers’ Market

If you would be interested in volunteering for any of our efforts, we welcome your involvement and, of course, hope to see you at the library! -Susan Hanna-Bibus, President

New Focus
Renewed Commitment

In an effort to streamline processes and clarify roles, the Friends of the Hennepin County Library (system-wide group) has assumed all responsibility for fundraising and the disbursement of funds. Local Friends groups, including Friends of the Minneapolis Central Library, now will be concentrating on two areas: community outreach and volunteerism. Please continue to check the “Minneapolis Central Library” box on the membership form (or note on your check) so that you remain a joint member of Friends of the Minneapolis Central Library and Friends of the Hennepin County Library. This ensures that a portion of your gift will go directly to support programs and services at the Minneapolis Central Library.

Our expanded board of directors is embracing this change by determining new ways to effectively advocate on behalf of the Library and engage people in its programs. We are starting with five priorities this summer: (1) ensuring information is posted on community bulletin boards, (2) exploring a partnership with People Serving People, (3) participating in the Minneapolis Pride Parade, (4) investigating how to work with brew pubs, and (5) exploring working with assisted living facilities. In addition, we hope to expand our reach beyond the North Loop and Mill District, where we are already active, to other parts of our downtown neighborhood such as Elliot Park.

Friends of MCL will also continue to provide volunteer support within the library (for example the Entrepreneur Expo and the Family History Fair) as well as for its own initiatives. If you are interested in volunteering at an event this summer, please contact us at:

minneapoliscentral@supporthclib.org

We extend a big thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts in the past and encourage all to continue to support the library through donations and volunteering. -President, Susan Hanna-Bibus

Friends of MCL Liaison Change

The Friends of MCL recognize the dedicated service of our staff liaison Dillon Young who has taken a new position as the Service Manager for Outreach Services at Ridgedale Library. He is leaving his position as Service Manager of Community Connections for Central, Sumner and Golden Valley libraries. Dillon’s energy and desire to connect MCL with a broad group of the public by building relationships with community groups enriched our experience. He provided communication between library staff and the Friends on ways to work together and to provide support. We will miss his participation in planning for the Friends of MCL. The Friends look forward to a productive relationship with the new liaison Stephanie Steinwedel, Service Manager for Information Services at MCL. In this position, she will help library staff connect informational resources to the community.

Did You Know???

- If you are traveling this summer, you can keep the kids busy checking out the history of your travel area with the online World Book and reading from the Tumblebook Library for K through Grade 5. You may want to brush up on a language using Transparent Language provided by MELSA (The Metropolitan Library Service is an alliance of 100+ public libraries in the seven county Twin Cities area. This regional library system allows patrons to return materials at any library in the MELS system), which allows you to practice while hearing native speakers. These may be found among the many fascinating selections of Online Resources on the hclib.org website.
- Trying to avoid paying for movies at home? Try out HCL’s OverDrive online from your computer or other device. A limited selection of the library’s movies, documentaries and children’s videos can be found under the Browse section. Select Online Resources, scroll to OverDrive Digital Library, click Help and choose Getting Started. Depending on your device, videos will play in the OverDrive app (android, IOS and Fire devices) or on your web browser (like Chrome or Safari). For both you need to download the OverDrive app and you need an internet connection. To avoid pauses, use a Wi-Fi connection. For computers and Windows 8 and 10 devices you need Adobe Flash Player and an up-to-date web browser. There is a sample video to check out your device’s compatibility. Another source of free movies is to check out one of HCL’s 25,000 movie and DVD titles.
Traveling This Summer?

**Boston Public Library**

Second in our series of *Libraries to Visit* is the Central branch of the Boston Public Library located in historic Copley Square. Established in 1848, it was the first large free municipal library in the United States. The current Central Library has been in the present location since 1895. The architect, Charles McKim, called it his “palace for the people.” It has been designated a National Historic Landmark as “the first outstanding example of Renaissance Beaux Arts Classicism in America.” There are daily Art & Architecture tours where you can see murals by John Singer Sargent and other artists, as well as works by famous sculptors. The beautiful Bates Hall reading room, inner courtyard and Johnson Building expansion are all part of the hour-long tour. The Johnson Building was added in 1972 and extensively remodeled in 2016. It houses a lecture hall, business library and innovation center, a new Children’s Library and Teen Central, a WGBH public radio satellite news bureau and studio, a café, a high-tech community learning center, and more.

There are two cafes and a restaurant located in the library. The Courtyard Tea Room overlooking the Italianate courtyard and fountain is famous for serving an elegant afternoon tea. But be forewarned; you need to reserve well in advance or there will be no Boston Tea Party for you! - *Linda Brehmer*

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“*A library is a good place to soften solitude; a place where you feel part of a conversation that has gone on for hundreds and hundreds of years even when you’re all alone… You don’t need to take a book off a shelf to know there is a voice inside that is waiting to speak to you, and behind that was someone who truly believed that if he or she spoke someone would listen. It was this affirmation that always amazed me. Even the oddest, most particular book was written with that kind of crazy courage- the writer’s belief that someone would find his or her book important to read. I was struck by how precious and foolish and brave that belief is, and how necessary, and how full of hope it is to collect these books and manuscripts and preserve them. It declares that all these stories matter, and so does every effort to create something that connects us to one another, and to our past and to what is still to come.*”  

**Susan Orlean** will speak at the Friends of Hennepin County Library’s Pen Pals author series on October 10th at 7:30pm and October 11th at 11:00am at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Get more information on tickets at: 
[https://www.supportchlib.org/susan-orlean](https://www.supportchlib.org/susan-orlean)

Her latest book describes the unsolved mystery of how a devastating fire nearly destroyed the Los Angeles Public Library in 1986. The account of this fire which consumed 400,000 items and damaged another 700,000 shocked the library’s community. Her research on this loss is enriched by a description of the history of American libraries and their impact on the community.