

## Retiring board members thanked, new members step up to serve

Friends of the Library retired board members Dorothy Baldwin, Jean Damm and Lawrence Gramer were thanked for their contributions to the FoL board at the annual meeting on October 14. All three were valued for their contributions to the discussion and deliberation at the regular board meetings, and also for volunteering for various FoL activities, including the annual book sale, grounds clean-up and planting; book discussion planning and support, and special projects. Newly elected members of the board include Dorri Engebretson, Kathy Raimer and Randy 'Van Ness.

## County board vote creates funding shortfall

The Portage Library is among the Columbia County libraries adversely affected by a recent decision by the County Board of Supervisors to reduce its reimbursement for library services for county residents living in villages or townships without a library.

The past few years, that reimbursement has covered 80% of for each circulation. This year, the reimbursement rate is 74%. For the Portage Library, that means an unexpected shortfall of \$12,000.

According to Library Director Jessica Bergin, that money would have been spent to replace a number of aging computers, and to acquire new materials to supplement materials in special collections. She urged concerned patrons to contact their county supervisors regarding the importance of this subsidy. "Show them you value our libraries!" she said.

## All Things Teen & Tech

The Portage Library video game collection now offers over 170 games, and the library continues to purchase some of the biggest games being released each month. According to Teen Services and Technology Coordinator Chris Baker, the games can be put on hold through LINKcat. "Our collection of video games rivals, and in some cases surpasses, that of larger libraries in the system." The collection shows that "we are trying to stay fresh, relevant, and on top of new technology and community interest." Chris is a lifelong gamer who strives to offer a diverse collection of genres, content, age range and more.

Attendance at teen programs at the library this fall has been high, with card and board game nights, movie nights, and crafts like origami. Chris says there will soon be consistent "Anime Nights," including Japanese snacks. Contact him at [cbaker@portagelibrary.us](mailto:cbaker@portagelibrary.us) to learn more

The graphic novel and Manga collection have been updated, with many new series added. Chris suggests that teens who find themselves drawn to a visual style of storytelling should be sure to check out the new additions: Ms. Marvel, Dragonball, One Piece, Black Butler, Tokyo Ghoul, Blue Exorcist, Fairy Tail, Deathnote and more.

Friends of the  
Portage Public Library  
253 W. Edgewater St.  
Portage, WI 53901

December  
2017

## Friends of the Portage Library

### Friends of the Library Board of Directors

Jane Considine, President  
Linda Floeter, V-P  
Sue Martin, Treasurer  
Mary Grimm, Secretary  
Dorrie Engebretson  
Joan Indermark  
Marvin Jensen  
Eileen Marshall  
Kathy Raimer  
MacKenzie Rietmann  
Randy VanNess  
Ed Zydowsky

If you have questions about the Friends of the Library contact any of the above board members, or send email to [portagelibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:portagelibraryfriends@gmail.com)

### Ahead for kids, families

Sat., Jan. 6,: FamilyFunEvent is a family "New Year's Party" @ 10a.m. with games, activities, refreshments, and each family will create a memory jar for the coming year. All supplies provided; free & open to families with children up to age 12

Sat., Feb. 3,: FamilyFunEvent will be "Dads and Donuts" story time for dads, grandpas, uncles and other father figures and their preschoolers. All will enjoy stories, songs, games, and of course, donuts! Program is 10-11 a.m.

There will be no Toddler Thursday in January. Toddler Thursday will resume on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018

Preschool Story Time begins the winter session on Tuesday, Jan. 23, & Wed., Jan. 24, @ 10 a.m. In 2018, the Children's Dept. will continue its after-school programming for grades K-2 and 3-5. Watch for details on the Children's Department Facebook page.

### 'Pizzazz' nets \$2,500 for library programs

The October 14 raffle cosponsored by the Friends of the Portage Library and the Portage Library Foundation produced over \$2,500 profit. This newly acquired amount is now available to be designated by the Board for library programs and purchases. The raffle was the highlight of 'Pizzazz,' the first effort of Friends of the Library to supplement the funds raised by the annual summer book sale.

This event, held in conjunction with the Friends' annual meeting, also featured a performance by the Cheddar Chicks, an array of sweet and savory appetizers and desserts, beverages, and mellow piano music provided by Mary Loomans. Raffle prizes were on display, while patrons took advantage of the opportunity to purchase tickets last minute.

The lucky raffle prize winners were: Alex Rietmann, Knuckleheads all day wristband; Stewart Taylor, Jr; tour and hike at Leopold shack; Jessica Bergin, quilt; Michael David, Raggedy Ann doll; Madison Miller, Knuckleheads Trampoline pass; Jo Dodd, family entertainment package; Kelsey Foster, \$50 Amazon gift card; Jean Damm, Samsung Galaxy tablet; Bill Voigt, 4-pheasant hunt; Kate Rietmann, kayak trip; Laura George, felted wool purse, mittens, knit hat and scarf; Judy Eulberg, Kallahari waterpark passes; Pat Halasz, Echo Dot and speaker; Linda Floeter, gift basket for new baby; Hans Jensen, season tickets for Portage Center for the Arts, two tickets for "Spamalot;" Jim Crawford, maple carving board; Judy Eulberg, garden sculpture; Kathy Houzner, 6 ft plush tiger; Terry Floeter, Chula Vista waterpark passes; Tim & Diane Bressers, \$250 cash.

### Introducing new library staff members

On Nov. 13, Leslie Schultz assumed the position of Adult Services Director at the library. Originally from Milwaukee but most recently from South Carolina, she comes to Portage with ten years' experience in Teen and Adult Library Services.

Linda Floeter, a Portage resident and Board member of the Friends of the Portage Library, has begun as a part-time Circulation Clerk.

### Recent memorials given to library

Recent memorials donated to the library include books given by Judy Keppert in honor of Sarah Keppert.; by Portage High School Class of 1953 in honor of Duane A. Catlin; and in honor of Tom Cochran from Portage High School Class of 1948.

# — 2017 Friends of the Portage Library —

## Thanks for your support!

\* indicates membership paid for 2018

### Individual

Pat Atkinson  
Anna Mae Axness  
Lindsey Baldwin  
Patricia Banks  
Edward Baumgartner  
Jane Backer  
Meredythe Bender  
Betty Bowling  
Betty Christianson  
Jane Considine  
Terri Crum  
John Culton  
Kathryn Curtis  
Barb Davis  
Connie Davis & Patrick  
Burgett  
Gregory Delfeld  
John Dunn  
Dorri Engebretson  
Mark Engebretson  
Linda Floeter  
Chris Friday  
Jim Gish  
Mike Greimel  
Mary Ann Grunke  
Jean Hamele  
Carol Heisz  
Ruth Ann Helmann  
Mary Jane Helmann \*  
Jennifer Hepler  
Paul Huebner  
Kim Hutzler  
Kevin Inslett  
Hans Jensen  
Barb Jensen  
Marvin Jensen\*  
Robert John  
Linda Karlen  
Corinne Keith  
Patty King

Mary Loomans  
Lynn McCarthy  
Edith McElroy  
Ashley Miller  
Lu Mitchell  
Marie Moe  
Faye Molitor  
Patti Mootz  
Judy Morrow  
Linda Ornes  
Jean Pionke  
Mary Radford  
Kathy Raimer  
Lois Rethard  
Kate Rietmann  
MacKenzie Rietmann  
Rita Ritacca\*  
Kathy Rowley  
Dorothy Russell  
Gail Schultz  
Vickie Schultz  
Florence Schultz  
Miranda Shanks  
Bill Smiley  
Ethel Smith  
Richard & Diane Solterman  
Don Sutfin\*  
Jeanne Turner\*  
Abram Vaccaro  
Cindy Wilson  
Clementine Zabler

### Family

Steve & Carolyn Aldridge  
Peggy Amend  
Darlene Anderson-Prest  
Reed & Jan Andrew  
Arthur & Kay Aschenbrenner  
Charles & Sue Bradley  
Jeff & Jane Breuer\*  
Dick & Judy Chilson  
Brian & Sue Conner

Jim & Kathy Crawford  
William & Jean Damm  
Laurie Deakins  
Carrie Dimock  
Harry & Suzie Erdman  
Kevin Galley & Teresa  
Lutey- Galley  
Dan & Laura George  
Lawrence & Rebecca  
Gramer  
Peter & Mary Grimm  
Michael Hamm  
Elizabeth Hansen  
Patrick & Michele Hartley  
Mary Jane Helmann\*  
Mary & Kevin Henrikson  
Jennifer Hepler  
Joe & Kathy Houzner  
Jerry & Joan Indermark\*  
Clarence & Jean Jacobi  
David & Judith Keppert  
Kerry & Deb Lechner  
Robin & Susan MacLeish  
Ken & Beth Manthey \*  
Jim & Eileen Marshall  
Chris & Sue Martin\*  
Fran and Jean Mattke  
Bill & Sarah Mautz  
Doug & Ellie McLeish  
Sally Moe  
Tom & Sandy Moore\*  
Marianne Mueller  
Jeanne Mundt  
Gail & Linda Otto  
Jack and Dorene Pease  
David & Debby Perrodin  
Toby & Kathy Potter  
Tori Vesely & Robert Prew  
Ray & Hazel Rogers  
Nancy Schaper & Jim Jordan  
Florence Schultz  
Schultz Small Engine

Chris Sechtig & Peggy Alf  
Sechtig  
Stewart Taylor Jr & Mel  
ody Brooks Taylor  
Jerry & Arlene & Keegan  
Tollison  
Mike & Kay Vaccaro  
Abram Vaccaro  
Delores Wade  
John & Lila Waldman  
Joe and Carolyn Weber  
Cory & Janet Wiegel  
Ronald & Linda Wendt  
Laura Wentz  
Cindy Wilson  
Mike Young  
Angela Ziehmke  
Ed & Anne Zydowsky

### Business/Patron

Bob & Bobbie Goodman\*  
Pat Halasz\*  
Kathy & Joe Houzner  
Dennis & Elizabeth Mahy  
Pflanz Mantey Mendrala  
Funeral Home  
Schultz Small Engine  
Jean Smith  
Bill Tierney & Val Nehls  
Bill & Eleanor Voigt\*

Remember to register *The Friends of the Portage Free Library Inc.* as your choice for charitable organization to receive a portion of the purchase price for items purchased at smile.amazon.com. Once you have registered, just remember to return to Amazon Smile.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

## ‘No Fines’ for overdue materials for children starts in January

Beginning in January, the Portage Library will no longer charge children (from birth through 5th grade) with fines for overdue materials from Portage collections. This Fine Free for the Future program is a national initiative designed to encourage literacy.

The new policy recognizes the need of children regardless of socio-economic background to have access to early literacy materials. Rather than levying fines that might create a barrier for access, the library wants to encourage patrons to use collections and services. Library Director Jessica Bergin notes that the budgetary impact on the library will be minimal. Studies show that the new policy will likely result in an increase in circulation.

Even at a nickel/day for each book, DVD, etc., fines can become prohibitive for low-income families. In just a week, such a family with eight children's movies, 10 picture books, and three audiobooks overdue would accrue a debt of \$7. The new policy removes such short-term charges.

Overdue notices will still be sent on children's items. Once an item becomes 29 days overdue, it is marked lost and the patron is billed. When more than \$19.99 in overdue or lost charges accumulates, the patron cannot check out materials until the debt is resolved. This aligns with charges by vendors as Netflix, when service resumes once an item is returned.

The Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries promotes the Fine Free for the Future program because it minimizes negative, punitive experiences and encourages children to use library materials.

### New resources help those with memory issues

BiFOLK kits to help facilitate group discussion on participants' past experiences are now available at the library.. The CDs and print materials help individuals generate memories on a specific theme, such as "Remembering:" "Remembering the Fifties," "Remembering Pets," and "Remembering Spring

These resources are particularly effective tools to reach people with memory issues. Portage is now the holding site for the South Central Library System's collection of several dozen BiFOLK kits. Each binder may be checked out for a month at a time.

## Time to renew your support of Friends of the Library

Annual Membership (Jan. 1—Dec. 31)

Membership renewal  New Membership

Please check the desired category

- Individual \$10  
  Family \$20  
  Business/Patron \$50

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I would like to receive information & newsletters by email to reduce mailing & copying costs.

Please indicate your areas of interest:

### Children's Department

Baking

### Teen Department

Baking

### Library Book Sale

- Pre-sale sorting  
 Staffing the sale  
 Set-up or clean up

### Friend's board member

- Participate in book discussion  
 Grounds beautification  
 Provide refreshments

Please detach & return this section to:

Friends of the Portage Library

c/o Portage Public Library  
253 W Edgewater St.  
Portage, WI 53901

You will also find  
membership forms  
at the library.

