

the Limited edition

Bismarck Library Foundation • Bismarck, ND



Bismarck Library
Foundation, Inc.

Since 1975

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Art of Books

Library lovers once again enjoyed a night of art, trivia, snacks, and good laughs at The Art of Books. The event was held in the Library on April 27 with a large crowd attending.

Twenty local artists produced works of art that were inspired by books and literature – including some classics like 1984, Slaughterhouse Five, Black Beauty, and The Old Man and the Sea. Art ranged from paintings and ink drawing to photographic light art and sculptures made from pieces of books. Guests at the event snacked on pizza, chocolates, nuts, and popcorn, sampled several different wines, savored coffee from the Gifted Bean Coffee House, and enjoyed locally-brewed Buffalo Commons beer.

The book-related art was admired by the event attendees and many of those who bid were fortunate enough to take home the one-of-a-kind art pieces.

Several lucky folks were the winners of door prizes donated by supporters of the



Foundation –
from gift baskets to photo prints.

A new part of the event was the Art Walk – guests were able to take a stroll around the Library and view art by several North Dakota artists that is on permanent display.

Laura Rysavy entertained the crowd with a mind-stretching round of trivia. Teams were again encouraged to buy “Lifesaver” cards. The cards were used to ask the team of Librarians for their answers. The power

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Art of Books *Cont. from page 1*

of the Librarians ruled the day again as the winning team did use two Lifesaver cards, which helped them claim victory.

Thank you to all who attended and to all our volunteers who helped make the evening a success.



Thank you, Greg Ellwein

Greg Ellwein has stepped down from the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors after serving since 2013. During his time on the board, Greg served as Secretary. Thank you so much to Greg for his years of service to the Foundation. As his last official act, Greg even recruited a new board member to fill his spot!

Welcome New Board Members

Hello and welcome to our two new board members, Peter Smith and Nancy Spilde.

Peter was born and raised in Bismarck, is married and has three wonderful kids. Peter works for Gate City Bank. He says, "We homeschool our children, and so naturally we find ourselves at the library quite frequently. It's one of the few errands that the kids all enjoy!"

Nancy has lived in Bismarck with her husband, Steve, since 1978. They have two adult children; Tony and Katherine. Tony and his wife, Rachel, have two children, William and Genevieve. Nancy worked in nursing for 40 years, retiring in 2013. She started the Continence Management Program at

MidDakota Clinic. Nancy says, "I love reading, always have, and the library has been a source of reading and audio materials for me, as well as providing hours of enjoyment for my children and now grandchildren."

Thank you to the Fredrikson & Byron Foundation

The Fredrikson & Byron Foundation continued their support of the Library Foundation with a \$1,000 sponsorship of the Pearce Award and a \$2,000 unrestricted grant. Thank you!

Thank you to the Leach Foundation

The Leach Foundation has provided a \$3,000 grant to support the Children's Summer Reading Program and the Teen Summer Reading Program. Making sure kids and teens continue reading over the summer is very important to their continued success in school.

Thank you, MDU

Thank you to MDU for the donation of gift items that we shared with Library staff members during our annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon.

Wezelman Family honored with the Pearce Award

The Bismarck Library Foundation Pearce Award recognizes and honors a community member who has made significant contributions to achieve the mission of The Library Foundation. This award is open to any past or present Bismarck native, resident or business, who has made significant financial, volunteer and/or inspirational contributions to the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library or the Foundation. It is the Foundation's highest award.

The Wezelman Family includes Sol and Sybil Wezelman, their son, Ira, and their daughter, Joy. All the family members have been avid users of the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library, and supporters of the Bismarck Library Foundation and the Friends of the Bismarck Library.

Sol grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, as the eighth of nine children. He attended Creighton University and then the University of Missouri. With his first wife, Natalie, Joy's mother, he moved to Bismarck in 1947 intending to work for only one year at the North Dakota Insurance Department as an assistant actuary. He was offered a job with Basin Electric and worked in the Provident Life building for 30 years until his retirement when he turned 65. Intending to stay in Bismarck for only one year, he has actually stayed for 71+ years. As he says, "I was the longest temporary resident to Bismarck but don't regret it a bit."

Sybil Sloven grew up in Bismarck and used the Carnegie Library quite a bit as a young girl. She attended UCLA and studied to become a dietitian. She moved around a bit and was living in Minneapolis when she came home on vacation and she and Sol decided to marry in 1966 when Joy was a senior in high school. She has volunteered for the Friends of the Library, working the book sales many times. Together, Sol and Sybil had a son in 1969 named Ira. Ira came to the Library a lot when he was young and learned to read a bit. He still loves to pick out and buy books at the Library book sales. Sybil has been a very strong advocate for the developmentally disabled. The whole family had been instrumental in the ARC lawsuit years ago.

Joy Wezelman remembers being an avid user of the old Carnegie Library and because her mother Natalie read a lot, so did Joy. Joy has many connections to the Library – she was on the Library Board of Trustees, and has been involved with the Foundation and the Friends of the Library through the years. Joy made a special donation to the Library of the Encyclopedia Judea, after the old copies became worn.



Joy Wezelman receives the 2017 Pearce Award from Dick Weber, immediate past president of the Bismarck Library Foundation.

She says her family has used all parts of the Library – from her studying here for her law exams to her father coming in every day after he retired to read the Wall Street Journal.

Sol said, "I've seen the Library grow through the years and it has changed greatly from its early years. I would stop by on my walk to and from work almost every day to read the financial newspapers and magazines. The Library is a wonderful asset to the city and sadly so many others don't realize it or make use of it. Compared to so many other libraries, ours is a "gem!"

Library Director Christine Kujawa has fond memories of Sol bringing treats to the Library staff every week. She said, "For several years Mr. Wezelman brought in cookies for the staff to have for their morning break. He'd stop over at the Information Desk every Tuesday morning, which happened to be my shift, hand the cookies to me and say, 'You know what to do...' and then wink at me. Then he'd head over to the newspapers to catch up on news. It's really a testament to his character, that his family would not only make very generous major donations, but that he would also do something so kind for us on a 'smaller level.' It really meant a lot to all of us, especially the staff who worked on Tuesday mornings because they got to eat the cookies!"

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Library uses Foundation grant for many new items

The Library Foundation once again granted money to the Library for 2018. The Library was able to use the granted dollars for several items that wouldn't normally be covered in the Library's budget.

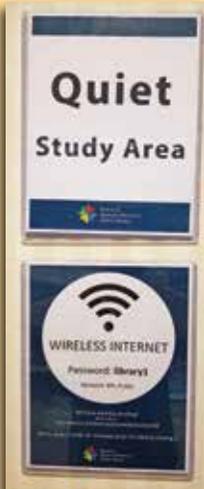
Included in the items purchased were:

- A board games collection – available for checkout. Lora Rose, Head of Technical Services, noticed that there seemed to be an unmet community need for people who enjoy board games. Wow – was she correct! With nearly 100 games purchased, the shelf is almost always close to empty. This collection is extremely popular and a great addition to our Library.
- Additional Digital Audio Books – these can be checked out online through the Library's website.
- An annual subscription to the BookPage publication.
- New square wooden study tables.
- Updated signage throughout the Library – The new signs are eye-catching and colorful and work well with the Library's new logo. Take a look around at the new signs next time you stop by the Library.
- Kid-friendly Binge Boxes – Binge Boxes are another new and very popular addition to the Library's collection – they contain several DVDs of movies or shows – all from a related subject. For example, several



movies all starring Clint Eastwood, or several movies all about dogs. The Foundation was able to sponsor several of the boxes that are specifically for children.

The Foundation is so proud and happy to be able to support the Library and its patrons. Working together, we are able to provide needed resources for our community.



Wezelman Family honored *Cont. from page 3*

Indeed, Sol remembers his kind gesture as well. He said, "When I could no longer walk to the Library, I had a special parking place and the ladies, seeing me come in, would have my papers ready for me to read. Of course, I'd be bringing the cookies to them every Tuesday. Now, however, I rarely leave my home at Touchmark. As I age, my mind is willing to travel but my body isn't. And, of course, I miss my visits to the Library."

Sol will be celebrating his 100th birthday in about three months!

Thank you to the Wezelman Family for their many years of service, dedication, and generosity to the Bismarck Public Library.

(Thank you to Joy Wezelman, Mary Jane Schmaltz and Christine Kujawa for providing information for this article.)

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Sign up to have your newsletter emailed!

If you would prefer to have your newsletter emailed to you, please send your email address to ksimenson@bismarcklibrary.org

Support your community by supporting the Library!

The Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc., offers several different ways to support the Library. All memberships are tax deductible. Use the membership envelope inserted in this newsletter and start your legacy of Library support. To

view our membership perks, visit bismarcklibrary.org, click on Support the Library, then Library Foundation. Help the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library remain an amazing place to read, study, learn, and grow!

LIKE Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library on Facebook



Find out what's happening at the Library and the Library Foundation. Like us on Facebook at the following pages:

- Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library
- Teen Center at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library
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Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If you find an error in our list, please bring it to our attention.

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BISMARCK - CAPITAL CITY MEMORIES

Now Online!

Check out the new addition to
the Digital Horizons Database.

Bismarck - Capital City Memories

is a collection of about 2,000 scanned
photos, postcards and slides with
images of historic Bismarck. You can
access the database through the
Library's website by going to
Research, Databases, Local History,
Bismarck - Capital City Memories.

*The collection was organized and
curated by the Library's Head of
Reference, Kate Waldera. Kate is
also president of the Bismarck
Historical Society.*

**THANK YOU, KATE, AND THE BISMARCK PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOR PUTTING TOGETHER THIS AMAZING RESOURCE AND
PROVIDING A TRIP TO THE PAST FOR BISMARCK'S CITIZENS.**



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Teen HQ is a busy joint

Teen HQ continues to be a busy place, with many teens and pre-teens using the space on a nearly daily basis. Some exciting information was recently presented in regard to the use of Teen HQ. Attendance at teen events increased by 445 percent in 2017, which coincides with the opening of HQ. In 2017, 1,630 teens attended 96 events. In 2016, there were 40 events with only 299 attending.

Another update to be noted: With the increased traffic in Teen HQ, a new restroom was desperately needed in the Children's/Teen Library area. We were able to use some of the funding raised for the Teen Center to add this additional restroom. It can be used only by children and teens and they must request a key from the Librarian.

Check out these photos to see what was going on during one particular day this spring. Every area of the space was being used and teens were socializing, learning and having fun. Win, win, win!!