

the Limited edition

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library • Bismarck, ND



**Bismarck Library
Foundation
1975-2011**

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Love of Books Compels Library Service



Bill Pearce

The Library Foundation has announced the first recipient of the Pearce Award for Library Service. Bill Pearce was unanimously selected as the first honoree. The award is named for the Pearce Family, who have long served the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library.

“Bill Pearce, and the Pearce Family, hold a special place in Bismarck Public Library’s history. For the past 60 years, their generosity and quiet leadership have been foundational to Library services in Bismarck,” said Ed Klecker, president of the Foundation.

Bill and his brother, Murray Pearce, started the Foundation in 1975. Bill applied for nonprofit 501 (c)(3) status, which was received in February 1976. Gerald Ford was the U.S. president.

Art Link was North Dakota’s governor. Tom Jones was the new Library Director. The Library occupied a 17,500 sq. ft. area, compared to today’s 70,000.

Bill was president of the Foundation for many years between 1976 and 1998. He has been treasurer since 1998, carrying full responsibility for the Foundation’s accounting, audit preparation and monthly reporting until 2010, when office staff assumed daily duties.

Bill and his wife, Ann, were among the first and most generous private donors when the Endowment Campaign began in 2001. He is also a charter member of the Foundation’s Gold Card Club.

Library service is a legacy of the Pearce Family. Bill’s father, William R. Pearce, and his uncle, William Murray, both served on the Library Board of Trustees beginning in the 1950s. Later Bill and Murray were trustees. His mother, Jean, introduced her sons to the Library at an early age.

“Bill Pearce, and the Pearce Family hold a special place in Bismarck Public Library’s history...”

Through the thoughtfulness of the Pearce family, the Foundation has also received thousands of dollars in memorial donations. The first was in memory of

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My First Library Memory

The Library Was in an Old House



Sue Bickel working at the Fall Used Book Sale

The Library Foundation welcomed Sue Bickel to the Board of Directors last spring. She is also president of the Friends of the Library and serves as liaison between the Foundation and the Friends. She also serves on the Foundation's Finance Committee.

As a girl growing up in a small town in Ohio, Sue remembers walking to the public library. "It was in an old house. They had a collection of Indian arrowheads and other artifacts that impressed me."

She met her husband, Dave, while attending Ohio State University, where she worked as the circulation supervisor at the college library. They moved to Minot in 1970 and Dave taught at Minot State University. She notes that Minot had floods three of the five years that the couple

lived there, so she sympathized with those affected in the 2011 flood.

Later the Bickels moved to Bismarck. In 1979, Sue began working for Disability Determination Services agency, which is part of the state Department of Human Services. She moved through the ranks and became the director in 1999, overseeing a staff of about 25 and a \$2.5 million budget. She retired in August 2010.

This fall, Sue was in charge of the Friends, Used Book Sale. They estimated over 50,000 books were donated to the sale. "We brought in almost \$23,000 and the sale next spring will be just as large," She said. All of the funds will be used for Library enhancements, such as new oak bookshelves.

Target Helps Children

A \$2,000 grant from Target helped make a success of the 2011 Summer Reading Program at Bismarck Public Library. Dozens of programs are held, including regular Story Hours, puppet shows, a read-a-thon, book clubs, and young author clubs. Children who log the books they read are eligible for prizes. An Ice Cream Social concludes the program in mid-August. Almost 200 children completed the program; over 400 participated at some level.

Gerdau Donations Unique

In July, 33,357 pounds of aluminum cans were purchased by local recycling company, Gerdau. The company donated 5 cents for every pound to the Library Foundation. At 60 cents per pound, the donation came to \$1,689.83. Gerdau customers can also donate their payment to the Foundation when they sell cans or batteries.

Gerdau operates recycling and manufacturing centers in 14 countries. The Bismarck plant, located on Airport Road, sees a steady stream of pickups and trucks delivering metals, batteries and other items for recycling. Loads are dumped on a scale, weighed, run through a machine that crushes and bales them into 20 pounds bales, shipped to Minot for recycling.

Since 2005, Gerdau has donated over \$10,000 to the Library Foundation, proof that annual donations add up. Gerdau is among the top donors of cumulative gifts.

New Director Praises Her Job and Library

By Jan Schultz



Kristi Harms

“Even on a bad day, it’s the best job in Bismarck,” states Kristi Harms, new director of Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library. Harms, who took over the reins June 1, recently shared some of the reasons why she feels this way.

“When I arrived in Bismarck I was amazed at the size of the library when compared to the size of the city. And I was surprised at the number of resources, programs and services available. The city of Bismarck is aware of this need and supports it.” She added that when she gets to work each morning people are lined up waiting to get into the library. “We serve over 1,000 people every day! Over 500 children attend Story Hour each week and pack the Children’s Library before and after each event,” Kristi said.

Electronic books are among the newer Library services. Kristi said patrons can now download books from home to most electronic readers. E-books can be kept two weeks; then the book disappears unless it is renewed. Does Kristi think the future of libraries is threatened by these new technologies? “I don’t see libraries becoming obsolete in my lifetime because there are too many services that people can’t access from their homes,” she said.

Kristi’s personal reading choices are many and varied. “I’m a book junkie and never

read one book at a time.” She is currently reading *Anna Karenina* on her Kobo, *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, and is a fan of Larry McMurtry, having visited his block-long bookstore in Archer City, Texas.

As a book club member in her former home in Madison, Ind., she hosted her group reading *Giants in the Earth*. Later she served traditional Norwegian cuisine. “We did book themes and my Norwegian lineage was perfect for both the book and the food.”

A Minnesota native, Kristi has 15 years of library experience. She served as director of the Jefferson County Public Library in Indiana and, prior to that, as director of Switzerland County Public Library in Vevay, Ind. Harms graduated from the University of Maine and received a master’s degree in library science from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Her husband, Dan, a former Naval officer, is currently a commuter pilot for Delta Airlines. They have a daughter, Cody, and a son, Zach.

Kristi made quite a splash in the community in the first few months. During the Summer Reading Ice Cream Social she braved the dunk tank, armed with a rubber ducky. This fall, she starred in a play “Dixie Swim Club” at Dakota Stage Theater.

Bill Pearce

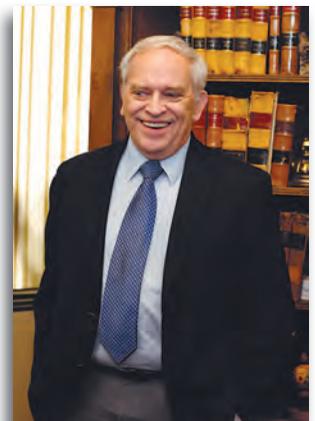
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Jean Pearce, who passed away in 1998. More than \$18,000 was donated in her name. Memorials were again directed to the Library Foundation when Murray died in 2010.

When asked why he has contributed so much time, talent and treasure to the Library, Bill has a ready answer. “It’s just the love of books. It’s tragic to hear someone say they don’t read. It’s the love of learning and the

excitement of learning new things.”

A prime rib dinner honoring Bill Pearce is set for 6:30 p.m., November 18, at the Municipal Country Club. The social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. Tom Jones will be the emcee. Bill’s brother, Harry Pearce, will speak. Sister Thomas Welder will give the invocation. For more information, call 355-1494.



Tax News You Can Use

Charitable IRA Giving

Recent tax law permits an IRA distribution up to \$100,000 issued directly by your IRA custodian to The Library Foundation, Inc. for individuals age 70 ½ or older. Realize a tax exempt benefit for 2011 even if you don't itemize deductions. The gift counts toward your annual Minimum Required Distribution if not already taken.

Donations will be placed into the Foundation's Endowment Fund to provide a steady source of private funds for the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library. For more information, call the Library Foundation at 701-355-1494.

2011 North Dakota Tax Credit for Charitable Giving

The 2011 North Dakota Legislature approved SB 2160, a bill that expands the state's charitable income tax credits to include gifts from banks and cash gifts from individuals to qualified endowments, such as The Library Foundation, Inc. Tax credits for planned gifts are fairly unique and give North Dakotans an opportunity to make meaningful gifts to charities and reduce income tax bills.

Businesses and Financial Institutions

Under the updated law, business and financial institutions (C corporations, S corporations, partnerships, estates, limited liability companies and trusts) that make gifts to qualified endowments may qualify for a state income tax credit, which equals 40 percent of the value of the gift, up to a maximum credit of \$10,000 per year.

Individuals

Individuals may qualify for an income tax credit of 40 percent for gifts up to \$10,000 per person, or \$20,000 for a married couple; any excess unused credit can be carried forward for three years. Beginning in 2011, individuals may receive a 40 percent tax credit for gifts of \$5,000 or more to qualified endowments.

If a donor is in a 28 percent federal tax bracket, the tax benefit may look like this:

Gift Amount:	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Federal Tax deduction	- 1,400	- 7,000	- 14,000
N.D. state income tax credit	- 2,000	- 10,000	- 20,000
Net Cost of Gift	\$1,600	\$8,000	\$16,000

*For more specific detailed legal information about charitable tax credits, contact the N.D. Tax Department at 701-328-7088 or at www.nd.gov/tax.

JOIN THE BEN FRANKLIN 100 CLUB

Membership benefits:

- Support the Library Foundation
- Receive a Ben Franklin magnet
- Receive a personal thank you
- Tax deductible

Membership dues: \$100 annual donation

To become a member, send in the form on Page 7 with your donation.

"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." Benjamin Franklin





Jennifer Jones works with some of the thousands of new titles are processed by Support Services each year.



Mary Jane Schmaltz has many years' experience at the Reference Desk.



Julie Tello finds the coffee shop a handy place to do computer work.



Sol Wezelman enjoys reading at the Library.

It's Not Your Mother's Library

Dusty books and reigning silence defined libraries of the past, but Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is not your mother's library. Just stop by at 9 a.m. next Tuesday.

See the people waiting to get in the building? They are students preparing for CPA, medical, or other exams. They are youngsters going to Story Hour. They are the older couple down the street, who enjoy reading newspapers or magazines in the sunny bay window area. They are friends and book clubs meeting in the coffee shop. They are attending meetings or classes in the lower level. Yes, and some of those waiting to get in are from halfway houses, working toward a better life.

Look up at the outside of the building. The new blue signage matches our roof. Once inside, take a moment to examine the display area that features new art, antiques or other items every few months. As you enter, veer off to the right for a cup of Dakota Chokecherry coffee in the coffee shop; veer off to the left to gaze at the saltwater aquarium in the Children's Library. Of course you may want to go straight for the large selection of new books, hundreds of magazines and newspapers, or down stairs to the Fiction section.

Don't be surprised if you run into a dog somewhere along the way. Children in grades 1-6 can participate in the B.A.R.K. program, where children improve their reading skills by reading to therapy dogs.

Over 60 public computers, plus Wifi, are available to the public, along with electronic newspapers, and an informative website (www.bismarcklibrary.org). The newest reading resources are the e-books, which are available to download.

Some things remain the same as a generation ago. The Library still evokes information from the past, resources for today, and visions for the future.

Join the Gold Card Club today!

www.bismarcklibrary.org and click on "Support the Library" icon.

Membership in the Gold Card Club provides a unique gold library card and invitations to Library Foundation events. Membership is \$250 per year, with a 3-year membership requirement. When applying for membership, please include your date of birth for verification to produce your card. Only one person's name may be included on the card.

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library



Library Foundation Gold Card Club

515 North 5th Street ~ Bismarck, ND 58501
701-355-1480 ~ www.bismarcklibrary.org

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The Limited Edition is published twice annually by the Library Foundation, Inc. This newsletter is mailed

to all donors and others concerned about the continued growth and enhancement of Library services. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please call Gayle Schuck at (701) 355-1494.



Located in Bismarck Public Library

- Spicy ham & cheese sandwich
- N.Y. style bagels w/cream cheese
- Old-fashioned ice cream
- 100% crushed fruit smoothies
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- Delicious soups
- Signature Dakota Chokecherry Coffee

Relaxed atmosphere. Stop in and ask for info about holding your book club here.

Bismarck Library Foundation Donors

The Bismarck Library Foundation Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges gifts from the following supporters. May 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011

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Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. However, if you find an error in our list, please bring it to our attention.

The Road Less Traveled



Gayle Schuck

“Two roads diverged in a wood. And I took the one less traveled by. And that made all the difference.” Robert Frost

The Library Foundation office has a photo of a person sitting on a rock formation overlooking the Badlands in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Robert Frost’s famous quote is incorporated into the photo. The road past the formation surely qualifies as less traveled. The formation itself is near the far end of the South Unit. Hiking from the road to the peak requires vision, courage and effort.

When the Pearce family moved to Bismarck in the 1940s they immediately began building a strong relationship with the Library. Through the years, four family members had served on the Library Board of Trustees and continually saw the need for more funding. In 1975, brothers Bill and Murray decided to take the road less traveled and set up a nonprofit organization for Library support.

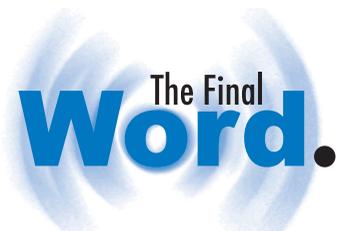
Giving private funds for public libraries was not new. Benjamin Franklin began two libraries in the 1700s with private donations. Andrew Carnegie donated funds

for 1,689 libraries in the United States, including Bismarck’s first public library.

Still, the vision for setting up a nonprofit for Library support was a fairly novel idea. Many library foundations in larger cities didn’t begin until the 1980s. There are still only a couple of others in North Dakota. Breaking a new path took courage.

Today, Bill Pearce is still an officer of the Foundation. His efforts have been successful. Over \$1.3 million has been raised for immediate Library needs and the Endowment Fund provides annual gifts and a promise of future source of private revenue for the Library.

On November 18, the Library Foundation will honor Bill Pearce for his vision, courage and effort. Thank you Bill for taking the road less traveled. It has made all the difference to Library patrons in Bismarck.



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Gifts to the The Library Foundation, Inc. can be designated for specific purposes. All gifts are tax deductible and deeply appreciated. Designate my gift for:

- Ben Franklin 100 Club
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Happy Holidays

from the
Board of Directors and Staff
of The Library Foundation, Inc.

More Coffee & Chocolate



Save the date! April 13, 2012, is the tentative date for The Library Foundation's spring event—Coffee, Chocolate & Collectibles.

Spinning off the annual theme of Coffee & Chocolate & More, next year's event will feature a live auction of 25 juried collectible items. The auction will include rare books, art and unique historic items. And of course, there will be plenty of coffee, chocolate and other refreshments. Several auction items have been secured, including an original Gary Miller painting and North Dakota pottery.

The items will be on display in the Library's lobby for a month prior to the event.