

the Limited edition

Bismarck Library Foundation • Bismarck, ND



Bismarck Library
Foundation, Inc.

Since 1975

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Longtime Library Volunteer Remembered

As you check out an exciting work of fiction or a children's book, you may have no idea that a man working behind the scenes in the Library had most likely ensured the text in your hands was in proper reading order.

"He truly cared about the Library and books," says Margaret Oberlander, Technical Processing Assistant.

Harold "Hal" Neff volunteered in Technical Processing, where book-mending is done, for more than 18 years. During that time, he repaired thousands of books, both from the Library's collection, and personal collections, such as family bibles that needed re-binding.

"The word of his skill and willingness to tackle Bibles in any condition must have spread among Bismarck's Bible owners because in later years there were always a literal



Harold "Hal" Neff smiling at his work station



Hal's Obituary

stack of Bibles waiting for repair... He took no money for these often lengthy repairs but instead asked the owner to make a contribution to the Library in whatever amount he or she deemed appropriate. This defines Hal's character for me," says Steve Mackintosh, Book Repair Volunteer.

His colleagues say there was rarely a time he looked at a book and said he couldn't fix it. He even helped Ann Mayher out of a pickle when she first started.

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Harold Neff *Cont. from page 1*

“My first month of work in Technical Processing at the Library, there was an incident. Suffice it to say, it involved a cup of coffee and a brand new book that I was processing. I am so grateful that Hal was volunteering that day. The book mending work area is about 15 feet from my desk, so Hal easily heard my yelp and assessed the situation immediately. He took the book from me and returned it a while later unblemished, good as new. I learned then that Hal could work magic,” says Ann Mayher, Technical Processing Assistant.

From coffee stains to missing pages, Hal could fix it all.



June, Margaret, Ann, and Lora:
Technical Services Department

“Truly a craftsman. Hal took such care; he would nurture a book for days. He was truly a book doctor,” says June Preszler, Technical Processing Cataloger.

The 88-year-old retired veteran used his tools to repair books for more than 200 hours every year he volunteered at the Library. But his Library friends miss much more than his work ethic.

“Everything, just coming in the morning, saying hi, his comments, whatever was going on in the world, and sharing stories about his family,” says Margaret Oberlander.

“He loved the place, and he loved the people,” says Hal’s wife Lois.

Hal passed away at his home in August 2019. Instead of flowers, memorial donations were directed toward the Bookmobile Campaign to purchase a new Bookmobile.



Hal, teaching at a Book Repair Workshop

“He knew all the people, and he knew the Bookmobile girls... He felt like they made such a contribution, and the new Bookmobile sounded good to him,” says Lois.

Supporters of Hal ended up providing more than \$3,500 toward the new Bookmobile. More than \$1,400 of those donations qualified as new money that will be matched by the Otto Bremer Trust.

“I think he’d be really pleased that people are supporting the Bookmobile. He loved the Library... I think he’d be proud,” says Lora Rose, Technical Processing.

“I think he would be just thrilled,” says Lois.

We want to thank Hal’s family and friends for contributing to the Bookmobile Campaign in Hal’s memory.

“He thanked us for the privilege of working here; but, we are thankful that he chose to share his time and a part of his life with us.” says Ann Mayher.





New Bookmobile Rendering

Bookmobile Campaign Nears Finish Line

If everything goes according to plan, a new

Bookmobile will be here by spring or summer 2020. Bookmobile Librarian Keli McDonald is excited about what the new vehicle will mean for her routes.

“Simply, just having a new vehicle without mechanical issues and rust. One specific thing is that although we will still have a generator as a back-up power source, we will primarily be operating on a bank of batteries. That will make things a lot quieter, and the diesel fumes will be reduced, making it more environmentally friendly,” says Keli McDonald.

The Bookmobile has been delivering adventures in its books since 1975 and has no plans of slowing down. The popularity of the Bookmobile has only accelerated through the years, and we want that to continue. While the campaign’s focus is to replace the Bookmobile, it’s also to get new technology on board.

“There will be some technological upgrades that patrons are not used to. This includes onboard WiFi and a drop-down TV/Computer monitor that will be used for database demonstrations and tutorials. In addition to the added

technology, patrons can expect safer stairs, upgraded shelving, and more natural lighting.”

Magic School Bus Donors include American Bank Center, the Otto Bremer Trust, and Sanford Community Relations on behalf of Sanford Health. But all donations, big and small, have made this an already successful campaign.

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Keli McDonald, Bookmobile Librarian

Bookmark

Legacy/Memorial Giving

There are many ways you can donate to the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc., to ensure your gifts benefit future generations.

- Memorials**
- Gifts Made By Will**
- Life Insurance**
- Stock**
- Charitable Gift Annuities**
- Remainder Trusts**
- Lead Trusts**

If you'd like more information, contact the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. office at (701) 355-1494 or visit www.bismarcklibrary.org under the Get Involved tab.

Magic School Bus Donors!

- 1. American Bank Center**
- 2. Sanford**
- 3. Otto Bremer Trust**

Women-Power! Little Songbirds Donation

A group of women from the Center for Technology and Business Women's Leadership Program raised \$850 toward a cause of their choice. They chose to pay for a Little Songbirds class through the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc.

The Women's Leadership Program is a six-month program dedicated to expanding the personal, professional, community, and health leadership skills for women of all ages.



CTB Women's Leadership program presents check for Little Songbirds

Little Songbirds is an interactive program for babies and toddlers and focuses on singing, movement, instrument play, and dance to achieve early developmental milestones such as playing, learning,

moving, and speaking. It promotes bonding between child and caregiver and a love of music. Bismarck's only music therapist, Bobbi Jo Vandal, with Sanford Hospital, leads the Little Songbirds class. The program takes place on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Little Songbirds has been off this summer and fall but will start back up, thanks in part to this donation, in January.



Healthy Reading: Lion's Club Donation

Margaret Oberlander, Technical Services, showcases the newly cataloged books on juvenile diabetes and childhood cancers, thanks to a donation from the Bismarck Capital City Lion's Club.

Bookmobile Campaign *Cont. from page 3*



Old Bookmobile

"Amazing, inspiring, and humbling are just a few words that come to mind." says McDonald. "I am blown away at how quickly the fundraising campaign has been able to reach our goal! The generous offers of support and encouragement from both individuals and organizations are truly a testament to the level of commitment we have from the Bismarck Library Foundation, patrons, and community as a whole. Their belief in the importance of having a Bookmobile for our community is priceless."

Who's Who

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Thank you, Sheri Coleman.**

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Bismarck Library
Foundation, Inc.

The Limited Edition is published twice per year by the Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. This

newsletter is mailed or emailed to all donors and others interested in the continued growth and enhancement of Library services. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please email the Foundation at libraryfoundation@bismarcklibrary.org or call 355-1494.

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:

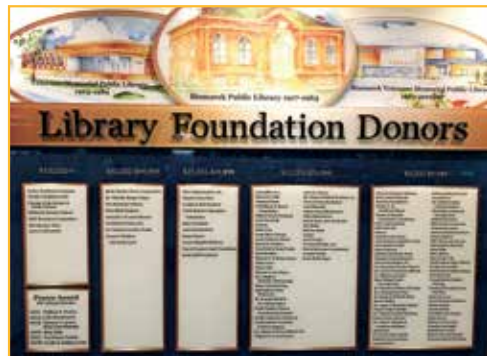
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The Bismarck Library Foundation, Inc. Donors

The Bismarck Library Foundation Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges current members of giving clubs, along with all gifts received from April 12, 2019 through November 15, 2019



Donors for a New Burleigh County Bookmobile

Magic School Bus (\$25,000 and above)

American Bank Center
Otto Bremer Trust
Sally Oremland Estate
Sanford Community
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Sanford Health
Midco - *In-Kind Gift of Ads*

Oh, The Places You'll Go! (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

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*Net proceeds from **The Art of Books** Event were designated toward the Bookmobile Campaign.*

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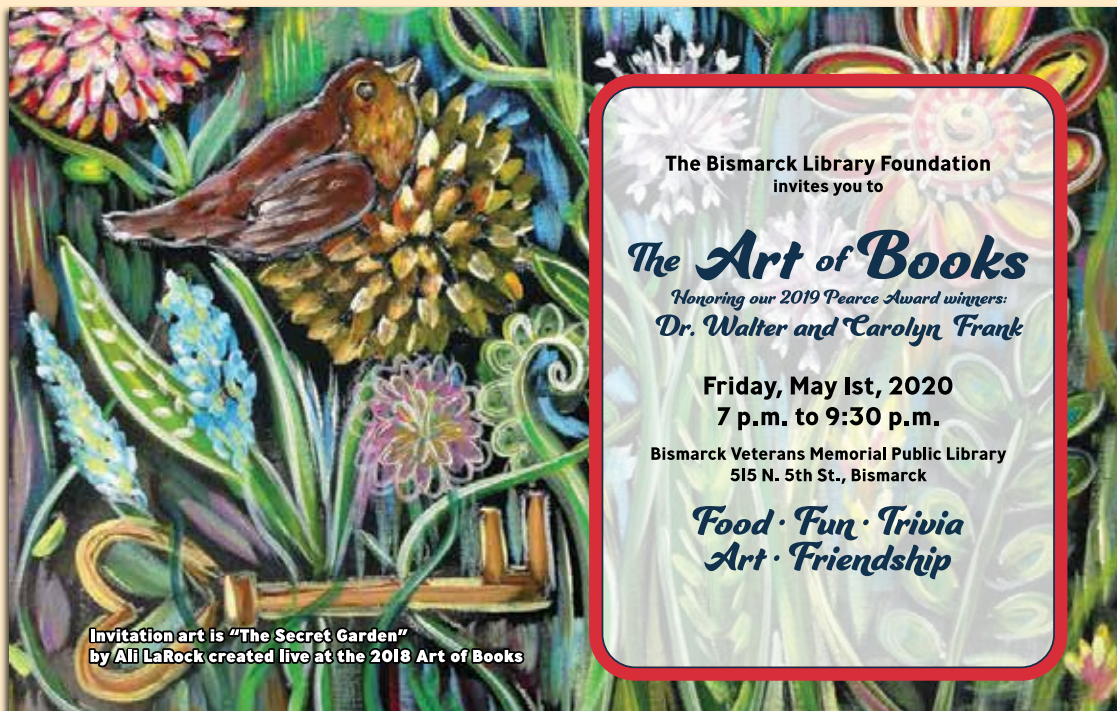
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Think Spring and **SAVE THE MAY-DATE!**

*The Art of Books is scheduled for May 1st at the
Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library.*



THANK YOU
Mike LaLonde,
Kevin Tengesdal,
and Vern Mastel
for contributing
photos to this
issue!