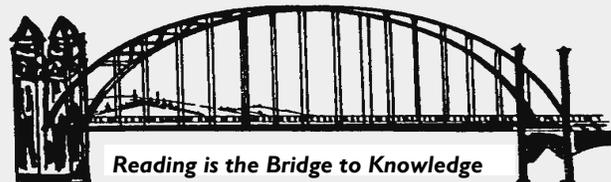


# The Bookmark

The Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library



Volume 31

December 2019

## That's What Friends are For

In 2019, the Friends were able to contribute \$18,500 directly to the library and \$4,000 to the Book Endowment fund because of earnings from public through these avenues:

• Book Store	\$12,781
• Conscience Jar	628
• Greeting Cards	633.
• Book Sales	4,831.
• Book Bags	860.
• Dues	2,700.
• Donations, Book Endowment	1,120.
• Donations, General	1,101.
• Fred Meyer	352.
• Amazon Smile	63.
• Special Donation	400.

### 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President  
Linda Weight

Vice President  
Sharon Hobart

Secretary  
Cathy Lang

Treasurer  
Simone Moore

Past President  
Linda Stent

Members-at-Large  
Jeanne Kimball  
Annie Schmidt  
Maire Testa

Incorporated  
1978

### -PURPOSE-

To maintain an association of persons interested in books and libraries; to focus public attention on library services, facilities and needs; to strengthen and expand library services and to stimulate the use of the library facilities as a community resource center; and to assist the board and staff with suggestions deemed to be helpful.

[Visit our webpages](#)

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Friends staffed the book-giveaway tables for the end of Summer Reading Program for children. We supported the adult Summer Reading program Moon Landing event (with Moon Pies), and the Woody Guthrie birthday program, with a birthday cake. We set up tables in the lobby for cookies and punch for National Library Week and of course, did all the various jobs involved in putting on three big, two-day book sales, as well as two "pop-up" book sales.

A group of "crafty" Friends also get together as needed to create custom greeting cards, using art from recycled books. The cards are sold on the rack inside the library. Some of the card-making Friends also staffed a hands-on, card-making table at the last two demArts events, to the delight of both children and adults.

# The Prez Sez ... by Linda Weight

## Friends...looking back, looking forward

The Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library was incorporated in May, 1978. Of course, at that time, our group was simply called the Friends of the Library, as the library was a City of Florence library. The Friends were an active group, supporting the library with book sales and assistance with library programs, even though the space at the old City Hall was limited and Friends often found themselves working in the hot, stuffy attic above the library as they sorted and boxed donated books.

When the Siuslaw Public Library District was formed in 1985, the Friends were right there, helping with and supporting the formation of the District and changing their name to its current one, The Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library District, Inc. When I joined the library staff in April of 1986, I found a vibrant group of Friends, many of whom were also working as volunteers in the library, helping with the conversion from the old card catalog system to the online system. Friends helped with Summer Reading programs, helped with displays in the one tiny display cabinet in the library, and put on a big holiday party in December.

Members of the Friends played a big part in helping with the fundraising efforts for the new library building, and when the time came to move from the old City Hall library to the new building, Friends were right there, helping box, move, unbox and shelve all the books and other library materials. The Friends also sold t-shirts that showed a drawing of the new library building, with the caption, "Built with a little help from our Friends!" The Friends made a pledge of \$10,000.00 towards the new library and paid off the pledge within 3 years.

Over the years, the Friends have helped the library in many ways, both big and small, including funds towards the expansion of the building, the new roof replacement, on-going funds for the Summer Reading program book giveaways, two power chairs for disabled patron use, a ductless heat pump for the Mapleton branch, library furniture, annual donations to the Western Lane Foundation library endowment fund, continuing education for staff ,and so much more.

And the Friends don't just give money. Many are regular volunteers, both for the Library and for the Friends. A dedicated group of Friends work every week in the Friends workroom, sorting and boxing donated books for our book sales.

Looking forward, the Friends will be helping with the funding of the new ductless heat pumps in the Florence branch that will help make the building more comfortable. The Friends also hope to help with funding for new shelving for the DVD collection, as well as ongoing funds for Summer Reading books for the giveaway program, and funds for continuing staff education events.

Our Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library District have a great legacy of support for the Library District because of all the hard work and involvement of so many of you. Thank you for all that you do.

***Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one's ideals, work with people, solve problems, see benefits, and know one had a hand in them.***

*~Harriet Naylor*

## 2020 Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

### Officers and Board Members:

President: Linda Weight  
Vice President: Cathy Lang  
Secretary: Maire Testa  
Treasurer: Simone Moore

### Members-at-Large:

- Sharon Hobart
- Jeanne Kimball
- Geraldine McMahan
- Annie Schmidt
- Frank Williams

### Committee Chairs:

- Membership: Merilee Mulvey
- Book Sales: Cathy Lang
- Card Workshop: Geraldine McMahan
- Book Sorting: Duane Fowler
- Publicity: Linda Weight
- Web/Social Media/  
Newsletter (print): Maire Testa

# The Director's Corner..

by Meg Spencer



It is almost 2020, a year that seems like part of a science fiction title and not something we will be living through in less than a month. Right now, I am answering lots of questions about what books will make the best presents and which movies are good for entertaining a group that ranges in age from 5 to 90. Like every other workplace, we are also all trying to avoid the staff room on breaks, since it is generally also hosting a cake, cookies, or some other equally delicious nibble. In other words, it is the perfect time to reflect on 2019 and look forward to 2020 through the lens of the library, and all that you and your time, dollars, and support have helped us to achieve.

Thanks in no small part to Youth Service Library and Assistant Library Director Miss Gayle Vinchesi, we had more participants in our Summer Reading Program this year than ever before – 1,112. While people of all ages participated, about 80% of those readers were under the age of 18. That means a whole new generation of library users is cropping up right here in the Siuslaw Public Library District. The Friends of the Library are also fundamental to this effort – providing annual funding to make the big book giveaway (with one personal book given to each young reader) a highlight at the annual grand finales in Mapleton and Florence.

I am proud that in 2019, librarians Erin Gordenier and Kevin Mittge introduced our first year-long reading challenge. Each month, participants have been invited to try a different kind of book genre or category ranging from a young adult series to books published prior to 1919. The Friends supported this effort with monthly coupons for drawing winners to spend at the book sale area. Best of all, many Friends read a qualifying book every month this year! A second annual challenge will kick off in 2020, with another chance for readers to explore new reading frontiers. Erin was also the mastermind behind the recent addition of our new circulating board game collection, another project supported by the Friends. Meanwhile, Kevin shepherded two of his colleagues through the annual Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Tradeshow - another opportunity funded with your donations. This was the source of the hundreds of Advanced Readers Copy books you may have enjoyed over the past weeks, and the book recommendations you might hear over the coming year.

If you aren't sure how to operate that new iPhone or PC you are expecting this holiday season, you might want to stop by one of the bi-monthly tech labs hosted by IT Librarian Lynda Green. She also recently took on the role as our Circulation Lead, and she led the way in developing the schedule and focus of the staff retreat and training day your funds made possible. With sessions focusing on de-escalation, customer service, active shooters, library policies, and circulation and reference training, it was a remarkable way for all of us to come together and talk about what we do at this library.

Bonnie Schwertfeger and Trudy Kelly are the regular faces at the Mapleton branch of our library – now much more comfortable thanks to the ductless heat pump now in place courtesy of the Friends of the Library. With reliable heating and cooling, new programs like a book/film club and backgammon club are now available even when the weather outside isn't ideal.

Here in Florence, you are no doubt familiar with Lisa Owens and Yvonne Pappagallo, our two permanent Circulation employees. They are the folks most likely to know your name, grab your holds, and check in whatever you return. It means they are busy, always on their feet, and also great at keeping everything moving. Yvonne is also the person who keeps me on the straight-and-narrow as the District's Administrative Assistant.

Do you wonder who has the nice, strong voice and can connect your call when you dial the Library? That is most likely April Neely. She is also often in charge of getting out the daily newspapers and sorting mail. Jeanne Smalldon is our permanent Sunday reference librarian. You may also know our many, wonderful, committed substitute employees: Pat Allen, Bill Benson, Mae Fleischer, Barb Grano, Beth Hammond, Lauren Hesse, Rosie Hill, Andrea Scott, Carole Tripp, and Susie Voth all make it possible for regular staff to do vital things: take vacation, get sick, attend training, and so much more.

So much of what we have done as staff in 2019, and so much of we will do in 2020, is only possible because we have a little (make that a lot) support from our Friends. From each of us who work here at the Siuslaw Public Library District: thank you. We hope to see you soon.



**"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island." Walt Disney**

## Tidings from Mapleton

Kevin Mittge



The Mapleton Branch continues to be a vibrant part of the upper Siuslaw region. Staff Bonnie Schwertfeger and Trudy Kelley have made the small library overlooking the Siuslaw River a warm, inviting place to pick up books and DVDs, read the newspaper, go online, and more.

Some of the programs that are ongoing at the branch library include a weekly Book Club for adults every Thursday after hours, a Community Social for children of any grade level and their parents the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, and Lego Club, which takes place the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. A few programs that ran last year but are currently on hold include a Teen Night and a Cribbage Club. Some of the programs have small numbers of attendees but great enthusiasm! The adult Book Club has been reading through the novels of Jane Austen and is currently reading *Sometimes a Great Notion* by Ken Kesey. They are also watching movies related to their selected book.

Meanwhile, the Upper Siuslaw Library Committee, an advisory committee of upriver residents, gives input to the activities of the library and provides volunteers when they are needed. Current committee members include: Phyllis Wilkinson (chair), Beth Hammond, Rebecca Edgar, Constance Castaneda, and Kathleen Donaghy. I greatly encourage all the Friends of the Library to visit the Mapleton branch library. The hours are Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 pm and they would love to introduce their small branch to the greater community!



## Library Research Databases

In addition to the wealth of information available inside our library, your library account allows you to access many online research databases. You can access these databases from home, as well as at the library. If you don't have a library account already set up, which requires your library card number and a personal PIN number, check with the Reference or Circulation desk. Also, pick up the library's brochure on the Research Database program.

The 14 databases currently available cover such topics as ancestry records, automotive repair, food cultures, online practice tests, hobbies, home improvement, book lists, and language instruction.

Let's wander through the **AtoZ World Food** database.



The home page of **AtoZ World Food** is a geography lesson! On the left is displayed a world map, on the right is a list of the countries of the world. Hold the cursor over a place on the map and the country name pops up. Hold the cursor over a country on the list and the country is highlighted on the map. You can wander all over the world!

Select a country from either the map or the list to learn about that country's food culture. Recipes are listed, with ingredients, directions, and wonderful color pictures of the finished dish...so you can check your culinary skills! Ok, let's try it.

Click on the country of Comoros. You will learn that it is an independent state comprising three of the four volcanic Comoros Islands, situated in the Mozambique Channel in the Western Indian Ocean, halfway between the east coast of Africa and the northern end of Madagascar. The 4th island in the archipelago is claimed by Comoros but is administered by France.

The local cuisine reflects African, Indonesian, Indian, Arabic and Portuguese influences. Meat and fish stews are typical meals, using bell peppers, corn, chilies, tomatoes and an abundance of spices, coriander, cloves, saffron, nutmeg, cinnamon and cardamom, which is grown locally. Try your hand at Ladu, a 'rice-ball' dessert made from raw rice cooked in ghee and flavored with cardamom and black pepper.

Ask your favorite search engine 'what is raw rice?' and you're off on a culinary adventure! Look up the country of Comoros and learn about another part of the world!

## Book Reviews

**Code Name: Lise** The True Story of the Woman Who Became WW II'S Most Highly Decorated Spy  
By Larry Loftis reviewed, by Frank Williams

Odette Sansom was born in France in 1912. Odette had numerous health issues as she grew up but after moving to the Normandy coast her health improved. When she was 18 she married an Englishman. After a daughter was born they moved to London, where they had two more girls. When WWII broke out, her husband enlisted in the British army. When it became known that Odette was familiar with the French coast and could speak French without an accent, the Special Operations Executive (SOE), a sabotage outfit charged with the task of fighting a guerrilla war in France, became very interested in her. She was persuaded to join the SOE. She took her three children to a convent to be raised. She started training to become a courier. She had to pass tests in physical development, weapons and field craft. She learned how to fall, subdue a sentry, be proficient in many different weapons, use explosives and be able to parachute from an aircraft. Odette was given the code name Lise.



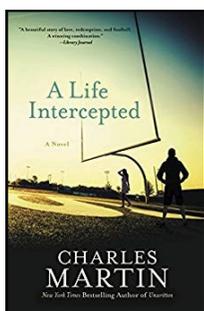
After completing training she was sent to occupied France and began her missions. There she met her commanding officer, Captain Peter Churchill, (not related to Sir Winston). As the two continued to work together and complete mission after mission, they began to fall in love. Both were captured. The Gestapo tortured Odette to determine the whereabouts of a wireless operator and a British officer, but she refused to speak, thus enabling the two officers to carry out their mission.

When the war was finally nearing its end, she was turned over to Americans and was sent to England where she underwent numerous operations to recover. In November 1946, she was awarded the George Cross, Britain's second highest honor. The King of England pinned the medal on her at a ceremony. She was also awarded many other metals. Later, Odette testified at the war crimes in Hamburg against a concentration camp commander. She married Peter Churchill and later divorced him. She died in 1995 at the age of 82.

The author did a good job of providing background of her early life that was essential to the story. I recommend the book for anyone who enjoys history especially about WW II

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**A Life Intercepted** by Charles Martin, reviewed by Lloyd Little



Matthew Rising returns to his hometown of Gardi, Georgia, a town formerly filled with statues and welcoming signs for the winningest quarterback in college football. The memorabilia is gone and long forgotten. Even Audrey, his wife and childhood sweetheart, has disappeared. The day after the NFL draft Matthew was arrested, tried, and convicted of a crime he did not commit. He has spent the last twelve years in prison. He must wear an ankle monitor and stay clear of any minor under 18. In spite of the risk, Matthew is willing to risk incarceration when his Audrey appears and asks for his help. After taking refuge in a Catholic school, Audrey recognizes the NFL potential in a 16 year old football player she has looked after for the past 12 years. Only Matthew can give this young man the coaching he needs to be great. If it means getting back to Audrey he is ready to coach.

You do not need to know football to enjoy this book. The characters are well-defined and represented in a well-developed story line. I found myself trying to predict an ending when the author changed it up on me for a surprising ending. I recommend this as a lesson in forgiveness.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

*Margaret Mead*

## Speaker's Corner

In 2019, the Friends invited various speakers to make brief presentations at the monthly board meetings (which are open to all members, hint, hint). Speakers included Library Director Meg Spencer, who told us about her trip to Israel and the different libraries she saw there. Library Board President Jane Yecny described the role of the elected board of directors of the Library District. Art Committee members Julie Peake and Cathy Lang talked about the work of the Art Committee. Volunteer Repair Team Jon Peak and Jennifer White told the Friends about all the work they do to keep the collection in good repair. Head of Circulation Lynda Green explained to the Friends the day-to-day work of the circulation team. Kevin Mittge, the Adult Services Librarian, spoke twice; once about the Mapleton Branch and in November about the various databases the Library District makes available to patrons. The information he provided about the new database, AtoZ World Food, inspired one of our members to investigate. She even wrote an article on it, which is included in this newsletter. At our December meeting, Laurel Ferguson, President of the newly formed Siuslaw Library Foundation, helped us understand the complementary roles of the Friends and the Foundation.

We hope to continue to have speakers at the meetings in 2020. All members are welcome to the monthly meetings. We encourage you to come, be involved, and enjoy these informative presentations.

## The Friends Love Books and Words

The Friends have added two new features to our bulletin board.

**MAY WE HAVE A WORD** - This highlights an unusual word found in a book read by a Friend of the Library. The word is defined, the book title and author is identified, and the sentence(s) using the word are printed. The word and its definition are printed on a small strip of paper that you can take with you.

**BOOK LIST**- If you're looking for a book to read, we have posted a list of books being read by some of our local book groups. Please take a copy. Book groups are not identified, just the book title and author.

If you have an interesting word to share, or a list of books your book group is reading, send them to the Friends at [siuslawlibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:siuslawlibraryfriends@gmail.com). If you are suggesting a word, please include the word, the book title and author, and the sentence(s) containing that word; include chapter, page number, paragraph number, if possible.

The bulletin board is located on the wall next to the public copier machine. Be sure to look at it next time you're in the library.

## Heads Down, Scissors Up — Card Workshops



Card rack

When you need a one-of-a-kind, 'not your average' greeting card to send to someone, be sure to shop at the Friends' book store. The Friends make these cards from materials removed from the Library's collection; books that are damaged or just worn out, books that are no longer being checked out, or books that have been replaced with newer copies. And if the books contain interesting pictures or text, "We tear out pages, we cut out pictures," says Geraldine McMahan. "We give recycled library books a new life!"

The Friends have been making these greeting cards since March 2007! The last workshop, held this November, was workshop #62...that's a lot of creative volunteer hours in support of the library. Small cards sell for \$2, large cards for \$3. Since 2014, Friends have had a special workshop in November, to make holiday greeting cards. They're available for sale during the month of December. These cards also are made with recycled library materials as well as used holiday cards donated by members of the community.

The Friends' card makers set up a 'make and take' table during the library's demARTS events. Patrons, especially youth patrons, can make their own cards, using materials supplied by the Friends. Over 60 cards were made during demARTS this year.

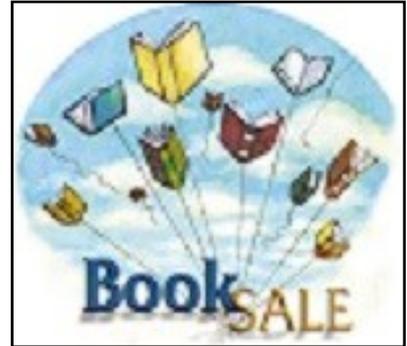


Friends of the Library's card workshop members are create one-of-a-kind greeting cards.

## Book Sales: Making Money, Having Fun

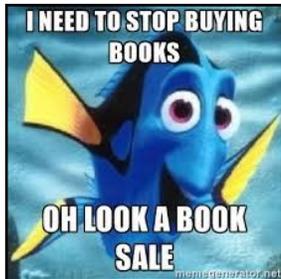
The Friends of the Library holds three successful book sales a year. They are a great opportunity to pick out some great and unusual books and help the library at the same time. The book sales offer a mix of newer and good quality fiction, nonfiction, children's books, magazines, audio books, CDs, and DVDs. All items for sale have been donated by the community or are Library books that have been withdrawn from the collection.

We generally plan our book sales to be in February, June, and September. However, it is usually dependent on how many boxes of donated books we have accumulated and when we are able to use the Bromley room. We try to have a minimum of 100 boxes for a sale.



We have several different groups of volunteers that work the sales. There is a small group that puts the tables and signs up. Another group puts out the books out on the tables. This may sound like an easy endeavor but it is one of the most challenging. Although the books are faithfully separated and organized in boxes that have categories written on them, the process of alphabetizing the fiction books and putting them out in an organized fashion takes some patience. However, most volunteers enjoy making sense out of chaos and there is a great satisfaction in seeing all these books set up for people to purchase.

The sales take place on Saturday and Sunday. There are volunteers who help people find their selections and cashiers who help count up the books and collect the money. On Sunday afternoon there is a special sale where there is a flat fee for all the books you can fit in a bag. We try to encourage people to take as many as they can.



At the end of the sale there is another faithful group who box all the sad, leftover books that weren't purchased as well as the tables and supplies and all are stored until the next sale.

This year we added two "pop-up" book sales. These fun, one-day sales took place in the library's lobby and featured fiction books only, including pocket books, trade paperbacks and hardbacks.

These sales are a lot of work but they also are a lot of fun and it is rewarding to see so many people find new treasures and reminisce with others about their favorites. This year the Book sales brought in almost \$5000 and this money in turn was given to the library director to use as she needs for extra expenses not included in her regular budget.

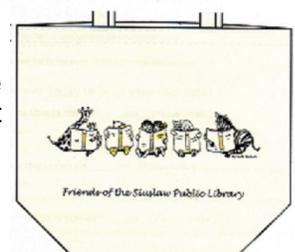
So whether you have helped by donating your used books, helped out with the sale or helped by buying some of the great used books available, we really do appreciate all your support to make our library such a great place.

## If Not Plastic...What?

The ban on plastic bags at the supermarket goes into effect January 1.

You can solve your 'bag' problem and support our library by purchasing a Friends of the Library tote bag. They are reusable, made from sturdy canvas, washable, and only \$10. Get them at the circulation desk and look good in the checkout line!

Be sure to bring them to the Friends' book sales, too.



## We're online!

Email us at [siuslawlibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:siuslawlibraryfriends@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Siuslaw-Public-Library-135950443158301/>

Visit our webpages at <https://www.siuslawlibrary.info/friends>

Friends of The Siuslaw Public Library  
P.O. Box 2465  
Florence, OR 97439

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library**

- |                                             |                                      |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member         | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (< 18) \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$10    | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$50 |

*I'm also including a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Book Endowment fund.*

The Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donation and dues may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

You may drop off your application and payment at the library's circulation desk or mail them to:

Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library  
P.O. Box 2465  
Florence, OR 97439

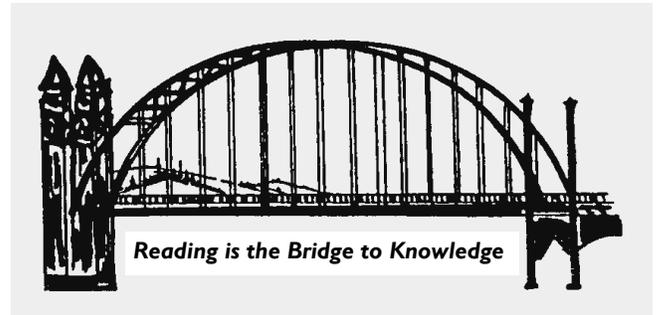
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



**How nice of you to join us!** We encourage you to attend the monthly Friends of the Library board meetings and get more involved.

Please check here if you would like to find out more about volunteer activities.

Please check here if you would like to receive The Bookmark via email.