



Notes Between Friends

**Friends of the Olympia Library
Eighth and Franklin, Olympia WA**

March 2010 olympiafriends.com

Our 2009 Accomplishments; Big Plans

**By Mary Belz
Friends President**

I want to thank all of you for your support of the Friends of the Olympia Library and to let you know that we have been working hard on your behalf to add to the life and vibrancy of our outstanding community resource. To keep you as informed as possible about the work of the Friends, I've made a list of our Accomplishments in 2009 and our Plans for 2010. Your continued support is so important during this critical time of ongoing budget cuts. Thank you again, Friends!

2009 Accomplishments:

- Added two new Board Members and one Communications Committee Member
- Added a Library Historian position to the Board
- Added a Volunteer Coordinator position to the Board
- Held 3 very successful Giant Book Sales
- Set up very profitable In-Library Book Sale shelves
- Held our first-ever, and very successful, Art Shows and Sales over five days in December
- Used Mimi Williams' print to make note cards to sell
- Created a FOL logo from Mimi Williams' print
- Collected and organized the historical Library archives

- Continued to redesign and update our "Notes Between Friends" Newsletter
- Designed, set up and managed a FOL website
- Created an efficient way to distribute the "Meeting Packet" to Board Members
- Kept our Board Meetings to one hour – noon to 1p.m., 2nd Tues. of each month
- Increased our FOL Membership to 360 – largest in the district
- Produced and mailed 4 "Notes Between Friends" Newsletters
- Sold FOL memberships and note cards at adult Library events
- Earned and spent more than \$20,000 in support of the Library
- Ended the year in the black
- Funded events and programs – see Nov. 2009 Supplemental Newsletter
- Gave meaningful support to Library Manager and Staff.

2010 Plans:

- Vote on revised FOL By-laws
- Complete the Committee Procedures Manual
- Select a Search Committee for new Board Members and interview candidates
- Install new members at our May meeting
- Inventory what FOL owns: cards, banners and ties, boxes, tables, etc.

2010, cont. page 2

*The mission of the Friends is "To support, promote and augment the operations of the Olympia Library."
www.olympiafriends.com*

The Library in People's Lives: **Olybabies at the Olympia Library**

Olybabies promotes Book Babies program at your Olympia Library!

We have a large and dedicated group attending our Book Babies program at Olympia. Little did we know that some of these parents were using technology to network and support each other as parents of young babies!

We were surprised that on their own they were advertising our Book Babies program on their site. The site is called Olybabies: a gathering space for mamas and papas of OlyBabies.

Parents of young children can often feel isolated, but new social networking software can ease those transitions.

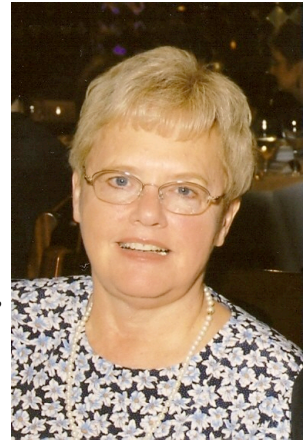
Check out Olybabies: a gathering space for mamas and papas of OlyBabies:
<http://olybabies.ning.com/>.

2010 PLAN, cont. from page 1

- Make permanent name tags for Board Members to wear at public events
- Set up a table in the Library for FOL information
- Update: Brochure, Newsletter and all forms and announcement formats
- Create a list of FOL members' email addresses to be used for special mailings
- Support any proposal for a larger Olympia Library or levy lid lift
- Support adult programs that bring in an increasingly diverse audience
- Hold the annual meeting of the FOL membership in May
- Establish an online method to join and renew FOL membership

Lila, our new Volunteer Coordinator and Historian

Lila Sjodin joined the Olympia Friends Board last August, recruited by President Mary Belz from the Olympia Page Turners book discussion group. Lila is the new volunteer coordinator for the Friends, keeping track of members who are interested in helping at Friends functions. Since joining the Board, she has made an enormous contribution by creating a Job Description and Procedures Manual for the Board!



For many years, Winnie Olsen was the historian of the Olympia Library, saving news articles, board minutes, and anything pertaining to the library. Winnie researched Olympia' libraries from the earliest reading room in 1869 up to the present time. Winnie' collection is an amazing and invaluable resource. Lila worked with Winnie on the Thurston County Historic Commission for ten years, and now Lila will carry on Winnie' work in maintaining the history of the Olympia Library. A million thanks to both Winnie and Lila for their terrific work!

Lila was born in Olympia. Her love of reading was nourished in the Olympia Carnegie Library, where she spent many hours of her childhood. Because of her love of literature, she studied English at the University of Washington. After having her family, she got additional degrees in math and computer science and worked in the Flight Simulation Lab at Boeing. When she and her husband George retired from Boeing, they moved to Olympia in 1999. For the past few years, Lila has been researching and writing a family history. She enjoys traveling and visiting her four grandchildren. And we love having her with us!!!!

Huge Success: Inaugural Art Shows and Sales

The first Friends of the Olympia Library **Art Shows and Sales** took place on 5 days, over 3 weekends in early December 2009. They were all terrific fun and a wonderful success thanks to the 36 local artists and 24 FOL volunteers who participated.

Many of the artists rarely present their work at shows, but were eager to join in an event that raised funds for the Library. Total sales amounted to over \$10,000 and the artists donated more than \$3,000 to the Friends for our continuing commitment to provide all the support we can to our outstanding Olympia Library.

In addition to being a financial success, the shows provided a unique opportunity for the community to show its enthusiasm for both the Library and our amazing local artists. It was a perfect collaboration and a win for everyone involved.

We want to thank a few special folks for their work above and beyond the call of duty: Irene Osborn who initiated the idea for the shows and sales, gathered the artists and then pulled the whole thing off without a hitch; Douglas Smith who played his guitar and harmonica and inspired Toni Lawrence to keep us spellbound with her songs; artist Nikki McClure who donated one of her fabulous paper cuts (it sold immediately); artist Margit Brennan who donated 2 marvelous African statues for future sale; and sculptor Simon Kogan who lent one of his beautiful works for us to display and for future sale. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

In December 2010, the Friends will sponsor another series of Art Shows and Sales. Many of the artists who participated in 2009 will be showing their work again, but we also welcome additional artists to join us this year. Applications will be available in the Library in June.



Above: Douglas Smith who works in oils and acrylics. More information at douglasosmith.com.

Right: Michael Eberhardt of Olympia displays some of his watercolors during the December Art Show and Sale.



*Check your mailing label;
there's a reminder of when
your membership is due*

On the mailing label of your newsletter under your name, you'll find a reference to a month and a year (ie. 5-2010).

This note is to remind you of when your membership in the Friends is due.

If you're downloading this newsletter from our website and aren't yet a member, please consider joining us!

A membership for an individual starts at just \$5 a year and \$10 for the whole family. With a membership you will receive this newsletter in the mail, special notices and early entrance into our book sales.

A membership form can be found at our website: olympiafriends.com

In memoriam: Mary Campbell

It is with profound sadness that we mourn the death of our fellow Friends of the Olympia Library Board Member, Mary Campbell.

It is hard to imagine our meetings without her elegance, humor and willingness to lend a hand whenever we needed help for an event or project. She was a longtime and dedicated member of our group and we will miss her.

Friends of the Olympia Library
313 8th Ave SE
Olympia, WA 98501

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