Welcome Your *Friends* Board

**David Weaver - President**

“I was introduced to the library by the book mobile in the summer when I was a kid,” he said. David is new to the Friends of the Worthington Public Library (FOL). “I am devoted to the library and comfortable working with/for non-profit organizations.” He was the founder/manager of the Columbus Light Opera for nine years. He will be singing in a production this summer. He was the Development Director for the Central Ohio Breathing Association. Currently, he is a fund raiser for WOSU and a past board member of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives. “The library is a lifelong center for learning,” he said. “The job of the friends is to support the staff and board to ensure that the library is financially healthy enough for its community programs and special events.” “I look forward to my first real involvement - National Library Week.”

**Carol Brieck (past President)**

Carol is a Professional Reference Librarian and has served as President of the FOL for the past three years. “Worthington has a strong friends group and I want to encourage this,” she said. Carol is a new board member for the Ohio Friends of the Library (statewide). “We want to recruit and energize *Friends* efforts across the State,” Carol said. “Our purpose is to make the FOL groups aware of the services and support available.”

**Tanya Goff (Membership Chair)**

Tanya has held this position for three years. “Our membership has grown by 100 members in the past three years,” she said. “I’ve gotten to know a lot of people in the community through this position.” An added bonus is that she can work from home. “We have many long time supporters of the library and what it stands for,” Tanya commented.

**Mary Lee Weneker (Treasurer)**

This is Mary Lee’s first position on the FOL Board. “I’ve been a reader all my life and used the library,” she said. For the past four years she was the President of Church Women United for Columbus and Franklin County. She has lived in Worthington for 28 years and has always been active in the community. She saw the position posted and “I felt it was time to do something again for the community.” Since the time when her children were small she has been active in the community. “I feel I’m a professional volunteer,” she said.

**Emma-Jean Cole (Secretary)**

Emma-Jean, a recently retired registered dietician (The Ohio Department of Health - 10 years) is a first time board member. “I like and use the library and feel I should be giving something back,” she said. She is also involved on a weekly basis with sorting and filling shelves with the discard and donated books. The book sale is a continuous process.

**Kathlyn Heywood (Member-at-Large)**

Kathlyn has been very involved with the Worthington Public Library. Besides being an employee of the library for 7-8 years, she served on the board as VP Membership, Newsletter Editor and Member-at-Large. “I worked in every area of the library except reference,” she said. “I still visit the library at least once a week for enjoyment and to work at the gift counter.”

A big THANK YOU! to all who have volunteered at the Worthington Public Library during the past year. This event will be held at the Northwest Library and allows library staff members to express their heartfelt gratitude for the many hours of unpaid help they receive from the community. In 1997, 7,818 hours, the equivalent of four full-time staff people, was donated to the library. The FOL help in many ways: fund and host library programs; operate library book sales, gift sales, and fund raisers; provide staff support; and, focus public attention on library services, facilities, and needs. If you are one of these local treasures, watch for your invitation to the May 3rd event.

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Along with vacation travel, put the library’s summer reading program on your agenda for the sunny season. The Summer Reading Program (SRP) for Children, Young Adults, and Adults kick offs are on Saturday, June 13.

**Enter the Reading Zone** - the Children’s SRP has been changed this year to track time spent reading rather than points based on the number and type of books read. According to Celia Huffman, Children’s Librarian, the intent of this change is to reward the effort put into reading, which gives all children an equal chance to complete the program. A participant has completed the program if he/she spends at least sixteen hours reading between June 13 and August 8. The child will also receive stickers and trading cards as he/she progresses toward this goal.

**Chill Out at the Library** - the Young Adult SRP runs concurrently with the children’s program. Teens are asked to read at least five books of their choice and receive prizes after completing their first and third books. After a Young Adult has completed five books, any book read after that can be submitted as an entry for a grand prize drawing, to be held at the end of the program.

**So Many Books, So Little Time** - the Adult SRP ends August 29. Prizes, in the form of coupons, will be given for completing a certain number of books. Coupons are good for books at the Ongoing and Market Days book sales.

Plan to spend your vacation reading!

**Volunteers**

The teenage volunteer group known as Volunteers is active and thriving. Teenagers contributed 2,112 of the total volunteer hours in 1997. These hours are spent primarily on the summer reading program for children, but teens have also helped with the FOL book sale and with many library tasks such as shelving videos, preparing labels, and helping with computer data entry.

**Book Buddies**, a new program, will pair teens with young readers. They will get together for an hour a week to read, do a craft and hear a story. The younger readers can be read to or can practice reading to the teens. “Teens love to work with younger kids,” said Linda Roberts (a Young Adult librarian). It’s another way to make reading fun!

Any teenager interested in becoming a Volunteer should contact the Young Adult Librarians - Linda Roberts at 645-2627 (Old Worthington) or Mitzi Segall at 645-2656 (Northwest).

**A Special Thank You**

Last November Anne McCorum and Ginny Ronning co-chaired the fall Wine and Chocolate Celebration at the Old Worthington Library. Eighty plus guests, including: Friends, library trustees and invited city officials, celebrated. Guests enjoyed delicious refreshments and the harp music. Some received their first official tour. Thank you Ginny and Anne, for making a difference to the library community of Worthington.

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**Celebrate National Library Week April 19 - 25**

It’s that splendid season of the year again - when robins return, tulips and daffodils bloom, and we gather to honor one of the oldest and most cherished institutions in our community and in our country - the library. It will be celebrated with many events at both the Old Worthington Library and the Northwest Library.

In 1958, when surveys first disclosed that Americans spent less time and money on books than on other leisure pursuits, such as radio, television and music, the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers launched National Library Week. The first theme was, *Wake Up and Read*, devoted to the celebration of books.

*Connections*, this year’s theme, focuses on the library’s expanded role in connecting people to people and resources wherever they live, learn and work in our global society.

The Friends are needed for the FOL Membership tables that will be staffed at the main events at both libraries. If you can help with membership, call Tanya Goff at 847-0748.

FOL members are also needed to help sell books for children’s author Johanna Hurwitz appearances at both libraries. To assist with library functions, call Carol Ottolenghi-Barga at 645-2620.

**National Library Week Happenings**

- **Sunday, April 19** - *Debbies Ditties for Kiddies*  
  OWL / 2 p.m.
- **Monday, April 20** - *Meet Johanna Hurwitz!*  
  OWL / 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday, April 21** - *Community Breakfast*  
  OWL / 7:30 a.m.
- **Wednesday, April 22** - *Meet Johanna Hurwitz!*  
  NWL / 7 p.m.
- **Thursday, April 23** - *Adult Book Discussion*  
  OWL /10:30 a.m.
- **Thursday, April 23** - *Young Adult Writing and Visual Contest Reception*  
  "Worlds of Expression"  
  NWL / 7 p.m.
- **Friday, April 24** - *American Girl Tea Party*  
  NWL / 4 p.m.
New Friends, Old Friends

The FOL exists to support the programs, staff, and resources of the Worthington Public Library and to generate community awareness of their facilities and needs. A strong FOL organization, therefore, is one of the building blocks of a strong public library. Fortunately, Worthington’s Friends are multiplying! Our current membership is 430. We especially welcome the following new Friends:

George & Shannon Baughman
Dr. Chuck Claibourne & family
Ron & Kay Coss
Narinder Gupta
Kathryn Haller and Jeffrey, David, & Lewis Johnson
Harold & Carol Heckendorn
Steve Herminghausen & Georgia Blum
Miyoko Kanazawa
Jack & Kelly Kerstetter
Debra Knapke and Tony, Sarah, John and Robert
Mary Gene Maher

Rita Rindfleisch
John & Ellen Stukenberg
David & Aina Weaver
Frank & June White

And give a special thank you to our Super Friends, members who have given $100 or more:

The Brashares
Emma-Jean & Charles Cole
Mrs Richard C Deeg
Douglas C. Smith Co
Thomas Dowling
Kenneth D Meeks
Gretchen & Jeffrey Myers
Tom & Sara Ogg
Robert & Ann Reves
Holland Shepherd
Donn Vickers

Watch for your annual membership renewal notice and don’t hesitate to renew your friendship with the Worthington Public Library!

Many Thanks

June Distel, former Worthington public library employee and longtime Friend and volunteer, died March 3. June was an avid library user, former editor of the FOL newsletter and homebound coordinator. She and her family donated the library’s large blue spruce tree at Hartford and Stafford streets.

June’s efforts touched many lives. To date, more than $500 has been donated to the Friends in her memory, including gifts from Marecella B. Lampe, David Kennedy, Dean and Nelda Wright (Kansas), the Anderson Family (Findlay), Don and Karen Rush Jones, Don and Virginia Comer, Beverly and Saul Seigel, the Neighborhood Euchre Club, the Yuskewich CPA Group and the Unibrand Tire and Product Company.

These donations will purchase a plaque in June’s memory to be placed at the tree and an appropriate gift for the library’s collection.

The library and the Friends lost a giving friend, but we have gained those that her generosity inspired.