

# Friends of the Watertown Regional Library

PO Box 792  
Watertown, SD 57201  
Email: friendswat@yahoo.com

**September 2015**

## **President's Message, by Jean Tangren**

The Friends of the Watertown Regional Library had another successful year with the help of its wonderful, dedicated members. We greatly appreciated all the volunteer hours that were freely given to support all the FOL programs.

On June 27, 2015, the Friends dedicated a Terry Redlin framed print in memory of Linda Bauman for her many years of services as the children's librarian. Linda's family and friends attended the unveiling. Special thanks to the committee of Lory Retzer, Dee Dee Whitman, Julie Moes, Colleen Lindberg, and Jean Tangren.

I want to personally thank the following members for chairing our committees:

- Myron and Lory Retzer for chairing the successful used book sale, as well as all the volunteers' hard work;
- Jane Miner and the program committee for the "feel good" movies;
- Penny and Doug Mack and crew for the Summer Outreach Reading Program;

I strongly encourage FOL members to seek out friends and acquaintances who share our goals and invite them to become members! New members are the life blood of any organization and that is what enables our group to grow and continue meeting our mission: to enhance the Watertown Regional Library's ability to provide exceptional service to the community.

I am looking forward to another good year!

### 2014-2015 FOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Jean Tangren  
Vice President: Becky Lubbers  
Secretary: Bev Moore  
Treasurer: Shelly Alvine

Board Members:  
Jim Morgans  
Carolyn Hoffman  
Deb Shephard  
Colleen Lindberg  
Julie Moes

FOL Purchases for Library:  
Wireless microphones  
\$5000 towards purchase of  
microfilm machine  
Carts  
Pull up banner

### Annual Meeting & Program: The Writing Process

October 25, 2015 2 PM

**Annual Meeting followed by a panel of local writers who will discuss what lured them into writing, writing routines, personal experiences regarding publication, paper vs blog, and many other issues. The panel includes Gary Westgard, Donus Roberts, and Coleen Ehresmann. The moderator will be Cathy Zubke. Questions from the audience are encouraged. Join us for an enlightening and informative discussion!**

## 2015 FOL Used Book Sale Reaches New High

by Myron and Lory Retzer

The 2015 Used Book Sale was held April 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> at the Watertown Mall. Over 16,000 books were generously donated by area residents. Forty-five Friends gave 638 selfless hours to make this the best sale ever. Gross receipts were \$8,008 (\$6,208 from book sales and supplemental funds of \$1,500 from Modern Woodmen of America and \$300 from Thrivent

Financial). Expenses were \$587, leaving us with \$7,421 to supplement our library. This is the first time we have broken \$8,000 in gross receipts and the most books ever donated. Over the past nine years, (2007-2015) the FOL Used Book Sale has raised over \$49,200 in support of the Watertown Regional Library. Thank You FOL members for your continued support to make this happen. The 2016 Book Sale will be April 15<sup>th</sup>-April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016, mark the dates on your calendar. Look for some changes to the 2016 Book Sale format.



*FOL volunteers on the last day of the 2015 Used Book Sale*

## Friends Hosted "Feel Good" Film Festival Programs

The criteria for the Friends of the Library Film Festival held in February was that each of the three films should introduce us to a different culture and each should lift our spirits in the portrayal of this culture. Approximately 25 - 30 movie lovers attended each of the three Sunday afternoon showings. *The Hundred Foot Journey*, starring Helen Mirren, showed what happens when immigrants from India open a loud family restaurant across the street from a fancy, upscale French dining establishment. The culture in *Crossing Delancey* involved a traditional Jewish grandmother on New York City's lower east side who tries to play matchmaker for her modern, independent

granddaughter. And *Smoke Signals*, the first movie produced and directed by Native Americans, portrayed how community, friendship and humor can help heal hurts from the past. Audience members agreed that watching a "feel good" movie with Friends is a good way to spend a winter's afternoon.

The program committee will offer several more programs this fall, including a second film festival. See page 4 of this newsletter for more information. Anyone interested in serving on the program committee for next year should give your name to Bev Moore in the library or sign up at the annual meeting in October.

## Summer Outreach Program, *by Penny Mack*

The Friends of the Watertown Regional Library Outreach Reading Program met with 36 first through sixth graders from KidScope on August 6, 2015. KidScope is a division of the Boys and Girls Club and meets at Roosevelt Elementary School for daycare. We explained to the children that we are a group of people who really enjoy the Watertown Regional Library because it provides so many interesting things to do.

The children separated into groups to enjoy a story read by a FOL member. They were engaged in the reading and attentive as it was explained that these books and thousands more could be found at the library. We then met as a large group and shared fun things that the library offers—I-Pads, computers, magazines and interactive fun areas with toys, a puppet stage, and a doll house.

Visiting with the children reaffirmed the importance of FOL's summer outreach program's primary goals—to reach children who may not have opportunities to visit the

library. Some children said they had never been to the library.

Ice cream treats were served. The children picked out a bookmark and two free books that were labeled "A gift for you from the Friends of the Watertown Regional Library."

The committee members who assisted with the Summer Outreach program included: Carolyn Hoffman, Jo Elkins, Sharon Rishoi, Joan Hohnstadt, Jean Tangren, Jane Miner, Penny Mack and Doug Mack.



## From the Director's Desk, *Mike Mullin*

I have been thinking of all the changes that have happened in the last 24 years. The library went from using a paper catalog to using the PALS software in 1995. From PALS we switched to Aleph and now to Library Solution. Along the way the Friends organization started and we saw a new building constructed to house the library. Access to multiple online databases, ebooks and downloadable audio books were added. Just this year we have changed to the new software which opens up a number of great things that can be done. A few of those include: email or text message checkout receipts, friendly reminders that things are due, notification that a book on hold is here for you to pick up. This year the library added streaming movies, and music that can be downloaded and kept.

Quite the changes over time. Of all those changes the one that I think is the most important is the Friends of the Library. Friends have shown up to be counted at City Council meetings. That was a factor in getting the new building. Friends have shown up recently to share their thoughts about the library when visitors from the federal level came to Watertown. Friends have donated many things to the library with the funds raised from the book sale. Friends have helped with special programs for children and have sponsored programs for adults and for children. Friends volunteer at the library on a regular basis. But most importantly, Friends talk about the library and how important it is to them when they meet City Council members or other people who don't know the value of the library to the city. Thank you for being a Friend!

### ANNUAL MEETING 2015

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Library will be held on October 25, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. Coffee and cookies will be served. See page 1 for information about the Writing Process Program that will follow the annual meeting.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY 2015

Join us for food and fun at the Friends of the Library Christmas party on December 6, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Library. More information will follow.

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### Friends Will Host Second Film Festival of the Year This Fall

The Friends of the Library will bring out the popcorn popper this fall to host the second film festival of the year. Movie lovers who can give up Sunday afternoon football games should mark their calendars for these good movies:

**September 13, 2015 2:00 pm     *The Straight Story***

Based on a true story, an elderly man seeks to reconcile with his brother before its too late. With little money, no car, and no driver's license, the man decides to drive his riding mower from Iowa to Wisconsin. Rated G, 112 minutes, 1999

**October 18, 2015     2:00 pm     *5 Flights Up***

An older married couple Ruth (Diane Keaton) and Alex (Morgan Freeman) make plans to sell their Brooklyn property in order to move to Manhattan. They discover that relocating is never simple. (PG13) 92 minutes 2014

**November 15, 2015 2:00 pm *The Mighty***

This is a story about two adolescent school boys who have been labeled as misfits in their school. Max is learning disabled; Kevin is crippled by a birth defect. When Kevin becomes Max's reading tutor, an inspiring friendship is born. (PG13)105 minutes 1998

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**Please return the enclosed envelope with your renewal to keep us up to date. Thanks for your continued support!**