



Friends

of the Wichita Public Library

Among Friends

Winter 2015

Book Sale has served Wichita since 1974

In September, 1974, at the request of the Library, the Friends sponsored the Library Book Sale, a two-day sale of duplicate and discarded books in the patio room at the library. The Friends provided cashiers and library staff priced the books, set up the tables and moved the books.

"Looking for a 1964 directory for the city of Memphis? How about a little history, say Rebellion in Missouri, 1861? What about The Pink Hotel, that 1957 best-seller by Dorothy Erskine?" This teaser brought bargain hunters who waited in line for the 1979 "annual buyer's scramble." Jack Whitesell, owner of the Pied Piper Used Book Store, found The Adventures of the Stainless Steel Rat, "one of the few good humorous science fiction books."

Each year the number of books sold and the money received increased. The 1975 sale, which also included "recordings," gift books and magazines, netted \$4,368. The Friends gave the money to the library for special projects, a practice that continues today. In 1979 the funds were used to replace four monaural record players with

stereo units for the Art & Music Listening Stations. A Wish List submitted by the librarian in 1988 asked for \$31,913.50 to purchase several items, including an IBM Compatible PC with Monitor, Printer, and Emulator Software; CD Player; and a Microfilm Reader Printer.

In the 1980s the sale was the kick-off event for the Wichita Arts Festival. The sale was held at Century II. In 1983 a special preview night was added. A Members Only preview night was tried in 1984 but received criticism because members had to pay \$2.00.

Sales increased each year, \$5,135 in 1985 and \$6,700 in 1986. In 1987, the Friends, aware of the work of moving 30,000 books to Century II and disappointed in the returns, worked to increase sales. Board members worked evenings and weekend with volunteers to sort the books into categories. As a result, "Book Sale 88" was our "GREATEST!" realizing \$11,527. This record was followed in '90 with \$15,741 and '91 with \$16,462.

In 1990 the Recycling Board agreed to let

the Friends accept books and magazines at three recycling sites. A Sorting Truck purchased by the Friends was used to sort books as they were donated. All work, except the transportation of the books, was done by the Friends. A pre-sale for dealers was discussed but voted down. Instead the

Connoisseur Corner was introduced; books were priced according to quality, content and availability.

Donations were brought to the main library and the branches. In 1994 books came in at an "alarming rate" prompting, in 1996,

quarterly sales on the library's main floor. That year 116 volunteer hours per month were spent sorting books. The DAV picked up unsold books and the library selected books, valued at \$2,400, for the collection.

The book sale is held at the library twice a year. With record donations and record sales, the "something for everyone" book sale continues to support the library and special projects.



Boxes and boxes of books await the Spring 2015 sale.

Friends 41st Annual

Book Sale

Central Library
223 S. Main • Third Floor Auditorium

PREVIEW NIGHT FOR FRIENDS OF LIBRARY

Wednesday, March 25
5:00-7:00 pm

(members only, membership available at door)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Thurs. & Fri.
March 26 & 27
10:30 am-7:00 pm

Bag Day – Sat., March 28
10:30 am-3:00 pm

Note extended hours Thursday and Friday
Bring your own bag (any size) for Bag Day

We are getting ready for the Spring Sale!

From the President of the Friends of the Library

Thanks to the 2014 officers Judith Simon, Kristian Strom, Sharon Leimkuhl, Larry Romine and Gail Fisher for their work and leadership.

BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

Forty different categories of books in over 400 boxes are ready for the 2015 Spring Book Sale.

The bookstore manager and volunteers update the selection in the bookstore, weekly and, on occasion, daily.

The Friends of the Library with the Wichita Public Library provide books to over twenty

non-profits for use in waiting rooms, client programs and living spaces.

The Friends send discards, duplicates and overstock to Better World Books, a book dealer that supports literacy initiatives worldwide.

Thanks to the bookstore workers, book sorters, bookstore stockers and book sale volunteers.

Volunteers are needed and welcomed for one-time events or bookstore shifts. For information contact Mike Barushok, mike.barushok@gmail.com or 633-6256.

Judy Burgess

The Bookstore - Turning donations into library funds

In 1988 the new book area in the lobby of the main library was given to the Friends for a gift shop. Partially funded by the "Library Quilt," the **Discovershop** opened September 24. Local quilters made the quilt which featured 100 authors and books; raffle tickets were sold. Displayed in the shop, the quilt was displayed throughout the state. The shop sold local history books, including the Wichita history series by Bill Ellington, city historian; vintage books and gift items, including a calendar of historical photos of Wichita and a Friends apron.

The shop closed October 1, 1991 and the Friends Used Book Store opened it that location on October 5.

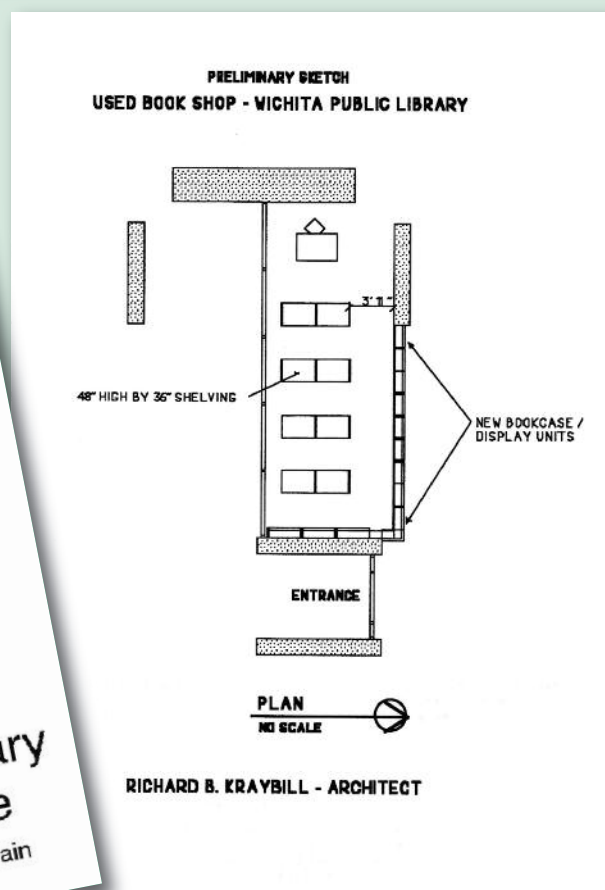
The Friends purchased bookcases, the modular unit forming the current wall, and two book carts; the library donated other needed items. All board members volunteered either in the book store or

sorting books. The manager, also a board member and a volunteer, worked 50-60 hours a week while the bookstore volunteers worked four hour shifts, Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm.

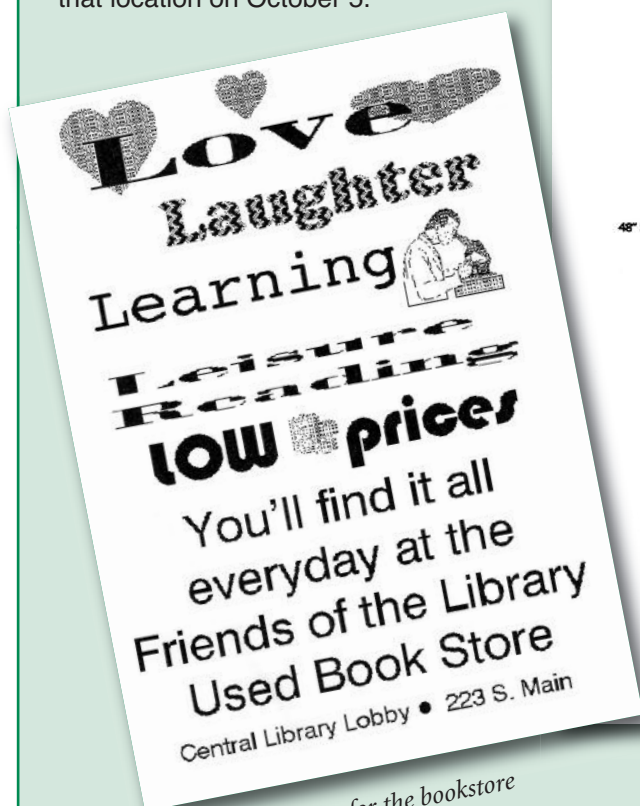
For 24 years the bookstore has turned donations into money to help support library programs. Since 2006 over \$300,000 has been donated to the Library to enhance collections and to support programs, The Big Read, Summer Reading Program and others. In 2014 donated books valued over \$97,000 were added to the Library collection.



Many Friends remember when this was the look of the bookstore.



Original drawing for the bookstore space



An early flyer for the bookstore

Special categories TO LOOK FOR AT THE BOOK SALE

DICTIONARIES-collegiate, unabridged, desk, illustrated, encyclopedic, beginning, Thesaurus

SPECIALIZED DICTIONARIES-medical, world geography, secretarial, mythology

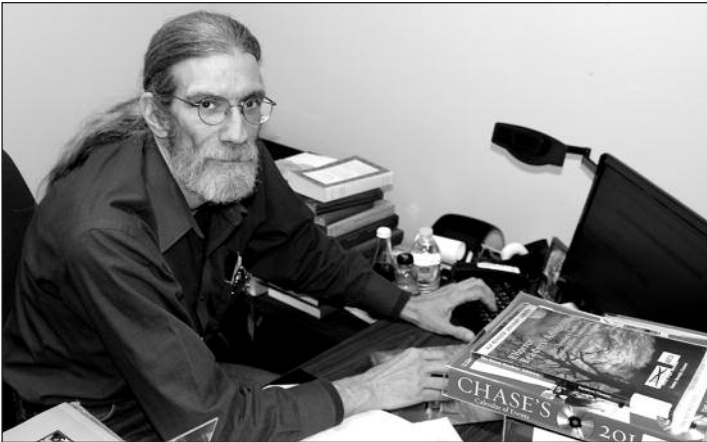
HARVARD CLASSICS

SETS-Childcraft, American History, L Ron Hubbard, Successful Gardening, Home Maintenance

and more....

Mike Barushok - books and brains at work for the bookstore

To know Mike Barushok, bookstore manager, one needs to know two things. First, if you talk to Mike, do not have bookshelves around. His eyes are on the books and his fingers are itching to pull a book, to reshelv a misplaced book or to simply neaten the shelf. Secondly, when Mike Barushok was nine years old, his father told him he should not take things apart that he could not put back together. Then he had taken apart a typewriter and a camera. Now, as manager of the Friends' bookstore, he is taking apart the process of donating, sorting, stocking and selling books.



Mike Barushok, bookstore manager.

One part of Mike's brain favors lists, diagrams, flow charts, outlines, arrows and question marks. These tools help him see what works and does not work. Another part of his brain takes the lists, diagrams and flow charts and, with deliberate thought and care, joins them with people and books.

The book process, to Mike, begins with people. People of Wichita generously donate books and magazines; the Friends and volunteers prepare the donations for the bookstore and book sales; general and specific interest books sell at the lowest prices in the city; people buy books that otherwise they could not have in their personal collection and, finally, the proceeds benefit the Friends and, in extension, the library, its programs and the people.

Mike considers the limited space available, the wonderful uncertainty of donations, interests of patrons, book prices and shelf-life cycle. Next, he thinks of the customers ranging from long-time regulars, library patrons and staff to downtown workers, browsers, the curious and people from out of town. Because donations determine bookstore selection, holdings change every week, sometimes daily.

A voracious reader, Mike serves on the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) Move 2040 Project Advisory Committee and is active in the Uptown Neighborhood Association, Bike-Walk Wichita and Wichita Coin Collectors.

The love of books unites our volunteers

MEET ELLEN BUNDY, OUR MAGAZINE LADY



Ellen Bundy

Ellen Bundy, library patron for fifty years, used bookstore customer since 1991 and Friends' volunteer since 2012, is "the magazine lady." Working in the basement, she sorts magazine donations and stocks the magazine rack in the bookstore. Few people venture into Ellen's area, unnerved by the volume of magazines. Undaunted, Ellen has made order out of chaos in her area, two long sections of bookshelves, a sorting table, the space below plus boxes and bags of magazines.

She spends two days a week and more than forty hours a month, sorting, shelving and, then, stocking the magazine rack in the bookstore. Issues of over 120 different magazines fill the large rack. Sorted by date, popular weekly and monthly magazines like Time, New Yorker, Good Housekeeping, and Consumer Report, are kept for two years. Magazines of special interest- astronomy, art, cars, motorcycles, woodworking, photography, quilting, beading, travel, trains- are kept longer. Others, like National Geographic and Architectural Digest, are kept indefinitely.

Regular patrons leave their name and interests with Ellen; she calls when she has magazines for them. Recently the Architectural Digest shelf in the basement was emptied; within a week, more were donated. Four boxes of National Geographic Travel from the 1980s and 90s are ready for a world traveler. A downtown business might buy magazines for their waiting area; a parent who homeschools her children or a person who takes magazines to retirement homes are other customers. Magazines are best sellers in the bookstore.

When Ellen, indispensable as a volunteer, sees the sorting table stacked full of magazines and full boxes on the floor, she sees adventure. She does not subscribe to any magazines; she would rather read books, fiction, mystery, and biography. Reading well over 150 books a year, she has kept a books-read list for fifteen years.

JULIE CORNETT, STOCKER EXTRAORDINAIRE

When Julie Cornett retired several years ago, she became a Friends' volunteer, working in the bookstore. While she liked talking with and helping customers, she didn't like being tied to a chair. She would neaten the book shelves, placing misplaced books in the correct place and noting what areas were popular. She also volunteered for the annual book sale and loved it, setting up, emptying the boxes to fill the tables. But she wanted to be a stocker.

Last fall she started stocking the bookstore after a long-time volunteer retired. Her first sight of the Friends' area of the basement was overwhelming, the overcrowded bookshelves and the carts of books ready for processing. She volunteers 20-25 hours a month, coming in once a week, usually on Mondays. During the week as needed, Bobby, a part-time employee, does the stocking.

When she travels between the basement and bookstore, she travels with her ruler and a pad of paper. She measures the empty inches in each category starting with the new arrivals. For her there is no typical customer. Her bookstore years taught her the wide variety of customers and their choices. She uses that knowledge as she restocks. She spends four to five hours restocking, choosing the books, loading carts and shelving the books in the store.

Julie and her family are a reading family. Four rooms in their home are filled with books, all catalogued according to the Dewey Decimal system. While Julie has varied interests and reads in many areas, her husband concentrates on theology. When they travel, they travel with a five page list of books they want for their collection.

KRISTIAN STROM, FINDING NEW WAYS TO SELL BOOKS



Kristian Strom

During a Friends' Used Book Sale in 2005, Larry Romine, board member and treasurer, noticed a customer filling several boxes with books. Curious, he asked the customer what he was going to do with all those books. The answer "sell them on-line" led to the Friends asking that customer, Kristian

Strom, to sell selected books on-line for the Friends.

Kristian, with the help of volunteers, selects books from the donations. He notes the condition, contents and availability, choosing unique, rare and collectible books to list. The first three or four years, his extensive holdings of books about books, his growing knowledge, the bookseller

world and the ISBN number helped with research. Now research is easier and faster with the use of a scanner.

After selection, he catalogs the book using a photograph, a description, pertinent information and price and then lists it. The book is listed until it sells or removed by Kristian. A book can sell in two minutes, several hours or weeks. Since 2005 approximately ten thousand books have been listed on Amazon.com, E-Bay and, Kristian's site, Lowestcostbooks.com. Ninety-five percent have been purchased.

Customers vary; some collect books in a specific area, railroads; transportation; big game hunting; and maps are examples. Others look for their holy grail, a book at the top of their list for years and the one they dream of finding tomorrow. Others are gadflies, with broad interests and whimsical choices, as they collect purchase books.

Kristian's family is a family of readers. A military family, they moved often; as soon as they arrived at their new home, Kristian jumped on his bike and found the library. Family gatherings are reading events, wandering off to read and rejoining the group to talk about books.

Can you help?

In the researching and writing of the articles about the book sale and the book store, I used meeting minutes, reports, brochures and the history of the Friends written by Carol Nazar in 1992. We have no records from the early years of the Friends, 1968-1985. I found mention of a 1976 history by Carol Robinson and heard of one by Jim Erickson. If you know about these or any material, including photographs, about the Friends, please contact Judy Burgess -jlb6468@sbcglobal.net or 785-263-3160.

OFFICERS FOR 2015

President – Judy Burgess
 1st Vice President-Janet Fowler
 2nd Vice President-Vikki Jo Stewart
 Secretary- Sharon Leimkuhl
 Treasurer-Larry Romine

Exciting things are happening at your Library

On January 13, the City Council authorized completion of a building design and construction documents for a proposed new Central Library. This new facility will transform our library into an advanced learning center. Books, music, movies and all of the other parts of our library collections will still be an important part of this

learning center but

they will be balanced by expanded technology services, a wide variety of reading and study spaces, a new teen space, flexible meeting rooms that can be used before or after library hours and much more. Look for updates on the progress of the project throughout 2015.

If you have not yet received a copy of the Library's March through May program calendar, be certain to pick one up during your next library visit – or check it out on

“This new facility will transform our library into an advanced learning center.”

the Library website. The spring schedule is packed full of interesting activities. Check out our Aviation Adventure Saturdays, sponsored by the Kansas Pilots Association and offered in cooperation with the Kansas Aviation

Museum. Looking for activities for your children or grandchildren during their school spring breaks? Our libraries have special events planned throughout the week! Get

ready for spring planting as a Sedgwick County Master Gardener will offer guidance on growing vegetables suited for the Kansas climate. Take in one or more of a new film documentary program series. Celebrate the Week of the Young Child by visiting one or more of our 7th Annual Young Artists' Exhibits featuring literature-based art by children. And don't forget our technology training classes including “Gizmos & Gadgets for Seniors”

and “Tablets and Smart Phones.”

Many of the services of the library are enhanced by the work of volunteers. During 2014, 342 volunteers contributed more 22,300 hours of service to our Library. If you are one of these individuals – THANK YOU! Many volunteer opportunities remain available. For more information, look for the volunteer opportunities link on the Library website, or call us at 261-8500.

- Cynthia Berner

Follow Up

In an article in the Summer 2014 newsletter, page 3, I wrote about genres and subgenres, mentioning slipstream fiction. Deanna Zitterkopf, a Friends member who reads voraciously, recommends a February 6, 2015, Wall Street Journal article entitled *Fiction Gets Weird Genre-Blending Tales That Combine Fantasy and Reality Are Becoming Best Sellers.*

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH THE WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Wichita Public Library has all kinds of special programs coming up, in addition to the weekly story times for children. The latest calendar of activities, March, April & May @ your library, is 12 pages long and includes events for children and families, events for teens, events for adults, technology training workshops and monthly book club discussions. For a complete listing of library programs, pick up a calendar at any Wichita Public Library or go online to www.wichita.lib.ks.us.

There are all kinds of special occasions coming up in the next three months. At the Wichita Public Library, you can find books and/or other resources related to all of them. You can look up subjects that interest you (i.e. women's history, poetry) in the online catalog and easily find what you want. Below are some of the holidays and events coming up in the next three months:

MARCH

Women's History Month

Irish-American Heritage Month

National Craft Month

Spring Break – March 16-20 – Check the library's calendar for a wide variety of spring break activities for kids and teens

St. Patrick's Day – March 17

Start of Spring – March 20

Book Sale

Friends of the Wichita Public Library Used Book Sale in the third floor auditorium at the Central Library
Preview for members of the Friends - Wednesday, March 25, 5-7 p.m.

Open to the Public – Thurs. and Fri., March 26 and 27, 10:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sat., March 28, 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

APRIL

Autism Awareness Month

National Poetry Month

National Garden Month

Passover - April 3 (sunset) - April 11

Easter – April 5

National Library Week – April 12-18 – If you're not already a member, celebrate National Library Week by joining the Friends of the Wichita Public Library; membership brochures are available at all Wichita public libraries.

MAY

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Latino Books Month

National Egg Month

National Bike Month

Mother's Day – May 10

National Transportation Week – May 10-16

Memorial Day – May 25



Friends of the Wichita Public Library
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Wichita, KS 67202

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**FRIENDS OF THE WICHITA
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Mission Statement

Friends of the Wichita Public Library, a
volunteer non-profit organization,
provides support, service and advocacy
for the
Library. These goals are achieved
through:

- Fundraising for essential Library materials, programs, and services not supplied by normal budget resources,
- Underwriting of costs incurred by the Library for volunteer recognition and management,
- Promotion of public support for the use of the Library and,
- Education of members, elected officials, and the general public on library issues.

If you are not already a member of the
Friends of the Wichita Public Library,
we hope you'll join!

Pick up a Friends brochure at any Wichita library or go to
WICHITALIBRARYFRIENDS.ORG
and click on
BECOME A FRIEND

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of the Friends of the Wichita Public Library**

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Bookstore Hours

Monday 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. • Tuesday-Saturday 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.