



The Seattle Public Library
2008 Annual Report

*My Year
in Seattle*



Mission Statement

Our mission is to become the best public library in the world by being so tuned into the people we serve and so supportive of each other's efforts that we are able to provide highly responsive service. We strive to inform, enrich and empower every citizen in our community by creating and promoting free and easy access to a vast array of ideas and information and by supporting lifelong learning and love of reading. We acquire, organize and provide relevant library materials; ensure access to other collections and information sources throughout the nation; serve our public with expert and caring assistance and reach out to all members of our community.

A Message from the Mayor

The Seattle Public Library had a lot to celebrate this year – circulation of books and materials were at record levels and the last of 27 “Libraries for All” building projects was completed. The distribution of Library Passports inviting residents to tour all the new buildings continues to be popular among residents and tourists alike.

As a longtime library user, I know how important it is to have libraries that are welcoming, spacious and filled with the resources people need and want. The successful 10-year “Libraries for All” program, which resulted in the world-famous Central Library and many award-winning branches, is a source of pride for our community. Our popular libraries certainly play a role in an annual survey that consistently rates Seattle as one of the nation’s most literate cities.

I was delighted to have attended 17 of the grand openings for the new and renovated buildings. It was exciting to see the hundreds, sometimes thousands of people – families, neighbors, seniors, community leaders and students – who turned out on a Saturday afternoon to participate in these wonderful Library celebrations. It demonstrated just how much Seattle values and appreciates our strong Library system.

I would like to thank former City Librarian Deborah L. Jacobs, who recently joined the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, for her leadership in developing and implementing the most comprehensive library building program of its time. A \$196.4 million voter-approved bond measure, together with an incredible \$83 million raised by the Library Foundation, funded the improvements.

With the support and dedication of our city librarian, staff, Library Board, Friends of the Library and Library Foundation, The Seattle Public Library will continue leading the way in connecting our residents with opportunities for learning and growth. I hope you enjoy all that our Library system has to offer.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Greg Nickels".

Greg Nickels
Mayor of Seattle

Dear Readers,

We invite you to tour 2008 highlights at The Seattle Public Library with this travelogue!

We hope you will discover new services or locations to enjoy – a goal of our popular Library Passport program! Library Passports were distributed systemwide to celebrate the successful completion of the 10-year “Libraries for All” building program. Library users have been getting their Passports “stamped” at each new and renovated building and learning about new resources along the way.

This annual report features patron comments on their journeys to complete their Passports. Their remarks reveal their sense of pride in the community’s investment in our Library and how it is shared and appreciated by all.

As we finished the final chapter of Libraries for All in July, we also said good-bye to longtime City Librarian Deborah L. Jacobs, whose strong leadership through Libraries for All helped transform the Library into a world-class system. Library CFO Marilynne Gardner was appointed interim chief executive while the Library Board conducted a nationwide search for a new city librarian. In November, the Library Board selected Susan Hildreth, state librarian of California, to lead the next generation of Library users. She began her new post Feb. 27, 2009, and hit the ground running.

The Seattle Public Library is thriving on all fronts – the total number of visitors is up 15 percent and circulation of books and materials is up 20 percent over last year. The Library Web site surpassed 6 million visitors this year.

The Library’s growth and success would not be possible without the incredible support of the community, committed staff and Library Board, The Seattle Public Library Foundation, Friends of The Seattle Public Library, hundreds of dedicated volunteers and the mayor and City Council.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marilynne Gardner".

Marilynne Gardner
Interim Chief Executive



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric Liu".

Eric Liu
Library Board President



My Year in Seattle

I've arrived!

I've always wanted to visit Seattle - it has such a great reputation as a city of booklovers. And now I get to work here for a year! Yay for contract jobs! My friends are so jealous. Everyone's heard about The Seattle Public Library and its famous Central Library. My first week in Seattle I toured the Central Library building, got my Library card and now I'm ready to see the rest of the town!

January

Comixtravaganza was fabulous! 600 people at 8 comics/manga/graphic novel events at the Central Library and branches all over town - comic-making workshops, a draw-a-thon, a family anime night, a panel of local cartoonists, and a presentation by author artist Ellen Forney. My attempts at drawing were a total bust but I really liked this guy's comic.



ooo



There were also single teacups suspended in resin spread around the branch on shelves.

Had the day off so I hung out in the International District - ate delicious dim sum, went shopping and walked through the ceremonial gateway to the neighborhood. I went to the International District/Chinatown Branch to see the beautiful teacup art exhibit - 120 teacups donated by local residents mounted on a

February

My little souvenir from the event. The word "library" in braille.



6

GOTTA DO
TAXES!

I read about this great deal - the Library, AARP and United Way of King County team up to offer free tax help for people filing personal tax returns. The services available in Seattle really blow me away - tax help is offered at nine libraries and trained volunteers can help people in 17 languages, including Arabic, Tongan and Urdu!! Too bad they don't do out-of-state returns.

March

The Library started a blog for people like me who LOVE to read. It's called Shelf Talk and Library staffers are going to review books, music and movies, and highlight the Library's newest databases. How cool is that?! Shelf Talk says "The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears" by Dinaw Mengestu is going to be this year's Seattle Reads book so I put it on hold. Every year,



the Library picks one book to get everybody in the community reading and discussing the same book. The idea started

in Seattle so it's fun to take part in the very first one -

now there are 500+ similar programs around the world.
shelftalk.spl.org.

Last night I listened to a living legend. Veteran journalist Daniel Schorr delivered the Library's annual A. Scott Bullitt Lecture in American History at Town Hall. It was so fun to hear him in person after listening to him on NPR. He's nearly 92 so he's seen a lot. He used to zip across time zones to cover world events, but when he got older he decided to slow down. Now he writes commentaries on current events. Everybody clapped when he said: "My professional life is now dedicated to meaning. If I can contribute to understanding what otherwise seems to be incomprehensible, then I think I've done my job."

April

Clipped this out of the P-I.
The Library is losing Deborah Jacobs, its rock-star city librarian! CFO Marilynne Gardner is going to be the interim chief executive while the Library looks for a new librarian to lead the system.

////

I went to the Central Library last night to pick up my Seattle Reads book and I could hear screaming kids the second I walked in the door! The auditorium was full of fourth- and fifth-graders

April 10, 2008 Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Librarian takes passion global City's loss is Gates Foundation's gain



When Seattle City Librarian Deborah Jacobs leaves her job in July, touches of her tenure will remain in the 27 neighborhood library branches that have been built or renewed, and in the architecturally acclaimed library building downtown.

Jacobs, 56, has accepted a job as deputy director of Global Libraries for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Her last day with the city will be July 2.

competing in the GLOBAL READING CHALLENGE - every year teams of kids read 10 books and compete against other teams to answer questions about the characters, plot, etc. A librarian told me that thousands of kids in dozens of schools take part and they read something like 250 million words in 6,000 books! That's just WILD.

May

Dinaw



Today I went to the Central Library Seattle Reads program to hear Dinaw Mengestu talk about "The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears." I'm glad I got there early because by the time he started, it was standing-room-only. He spoke about the huge sense of loss and isolation that immigrants feel when they come to the U.S. All their lives they've heard of the "American Dream," and when they get here, they experience racism, discrimination and depression. At the end of his talk, he read a passage from his novel that made me cry. I was embarrassed but I wasn't alone - I saw lots of people fishing for tissues.

Thousands of people (even the mayor!) showed up at the reopening of the Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch. This tiny branch is so cute - it used to be a fire station. A Cajun band played, Lulu the Library book fairy flitted

around and this great African band played. There's a school right across the street and you can tell the branch was redesigned to appeal to children. I loved this ceramic sculpture of a goat done by an artist named Monad Elohim who lives in the neighborhood. People were hauling out as many books and DVDs as they could carry - bet the shelves were bare by the end of the day. I checked out a new copy of 'Bridge of Sighs' that I've been hearing so much about.



June

I went to Town Hall today to hear this really cool kid's band, Recess Monkey, kick off the Library's 2008 Summer Reading Program. The three band members are Seattle school teachers and the band is managed by a hand puppet named Mayor Monkey! Too funny.

The kids were having a blast - dancing in the aisles and running all around. Something like 14,000 kids sign up for the Summer Reading Program every year.



So I didn't get picked to take part in Task, an improvisational art performance at the Central Library, but it sounded so weird I had to go watch. A New York artist named Oliver Herring has done this at a couple of other places - he drafts volunteers of all ages to act out "tasks" using props like cardboard, bubble wrap, toilet paper, tarps, balloons and beach balls. After they finish acting out the tasks, the volunteers make up their own tasks, so the scene is always changing. I think I'm glad I wasn't picked! How do you act out "pollinate a tomato plant using an electronic toothbrush." ?? <http://taskseattle.wordpress.com/>



July

Sigh. Time to start looking for the next job. I've been in Seattle seven months and my contract expires Dec. 31. I got on a computer at the Capitol Hill Branch and the librarian showed me a great new feature called "federated search" on the Library's Web site - it searches the collection, databases and Web site. I'm going to use it to research a few companies that I'm interested in.

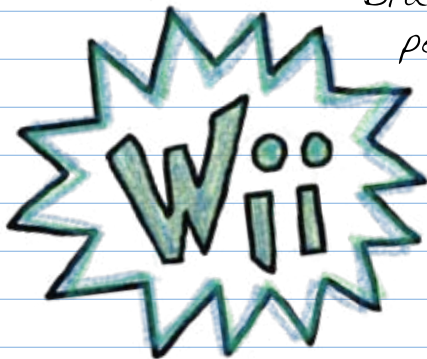
Probably a hundred people lined up outside the Magnolia Branch, waiting for the doors to open at noon. This is the very LAST of 27 building projects completed as part of the \$290 million Libraries for All building program. Seattle Kokon Taiko, a Japanese-



American drum performance group, set up their drums in the parking lot and were they great! The branch has beautiful wooden furniture - tables and chairs designed in the '60s by master craftsman George Nakashima. A local furniture maker called Meyer Wells salvaged a 40-year-old walnut tree that blew down in a big storm in 2006 and made a table and bench for the branch. Seattle is so green!

August

That Wii thing is a blast. I've heard the buzz but hadn't played until I went to Family Game Night at the Delridge Branch. I thought I might be the oldest



person there but I was surprised to see folks of all ages playing all kinds of games. Families played Scrabble, adults taught kids to play chess. I even saw a teen and a toddler playing Candyland - very sweet!

September

Wow! I just got back from the Friends of The Seattle Public Library Fall Book Sale and I cannot believe how much stuff they had for sale! The sale is at an old Naval base and it literally fills an entire airplane hangar. It was incredible - tons of books, huge crowds - much larger than I expected. I snagged a box and filled it to the brim but I wish I'd brought a wagon, like the veterans do. What a great way to recycle the community's books and make money for the Library. Wish I was going to be here for the next sale in the spring!



I was listening to KUOW and I heard about the citywide party to celebrate the end of the Libraries for All building program. All the libraries had open houses and were giving out FREE Library Passports so I hustled off to the Central Library to pick one up and listen to a lecture by the architect who helped design the building - Joshua Prince-Ramus. Love the passports. Every library has a unique stamp and if you visit all 27 locations to get your passport stamped before Jan. 2 you can be entered into a prize drawing. I've seen a lot of Seattle but this is a great excuse to get around the rest of town before my contract is up.

October



They even stamped my journal!!



I went to the Lake City Branch to get my passport stamped and spotted these bright green tote bags that The Friends of The Seattle Public Library just started selling. They used to give out free plastic bags so you didn't get your books wet, but hey, this is Seattle, so they switched to reusable bags. They were only \$1. That's a bargain, so I bought one and took it to the Farmers Market. Came in handy to carry my fresh fruit and veggies!



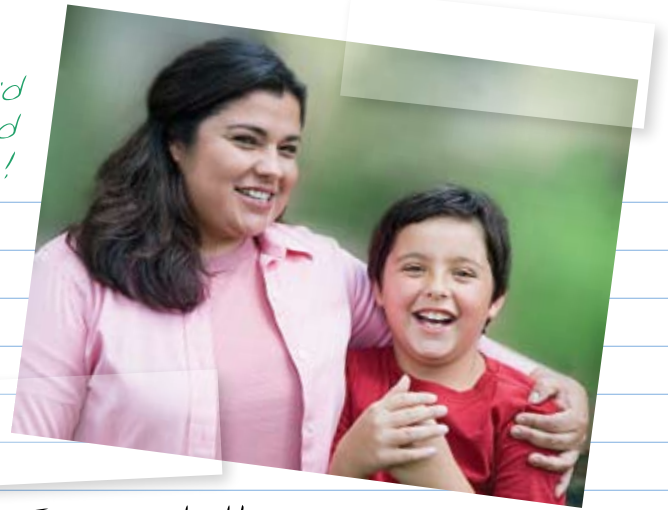
I was checking out MSN City Guides online looking for more interesting places to see in Seattle and saw a HUGE photo and story on the Central Library! MSN City Guides featured it as one of America's "10 Coolest Libraries." <http://cityguides.msn.com/citylife/cityarticle.aspx?cp-documentid=10444020>



My stupid computer's acting up - I so need a new laptop - so I went to the Library, of course. They've got 1,100 computers you can use for free! I needed a Library Passport stamp from the Rainier Beach Branch so I took the bus south, where I learned the Library just boosted the amount of time people can use the Library's computers. Used to be 60 minutes a day and now it's 90 minutes. Good move!



The kid
I tutored
and his mom!



November

Had a great time volunteering at Douglass-Truth today. I was helping a boy with his math when his mom came up and started talking in Spanish. Turns out they moved here from Mexico and while the kids have learned English pretty quickly, mom is more comfortable speaking her native language. I know that the Library is making a special push to help immigrants and refugees - especially people who speak Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Russian. I remembered enough of my high school Spanish to point her to the new Spanish section on the Library's Web site - lots of info about programs like citizenship classes, health care and tax help - and I also showed her how to sign up for a computer class in Spanish. I love helping people!

Still need a new job, and man, what a tough time to be looking. I need to be as competitive as possible since so many people are applying for work right now so I used the Library's great new online program, *Résumé Builder*. It walked me through everything I needed to do to polish my *résumé*. I'm sure I'll find something - it just might take a while!



This is Kathy - our leader -
she organized everything!



Took this pic of our group at
the Beacon Hill Branch

Hiking is big here in
the great Northwest
so I shouldn't have
been surprised when I
heard about a group
of Mountaineers
walking to all the
libraries to get their
Passports stamped.
It sounded like fun,
so I joined them for
one of their hikes.

We covered about 10 miles
and visited 5 branches -
and I picked up 4 more

stamps! It was my first "Urban hike" but it was really fun.
The librarians gave us a tour at every stop and somebody
took our picture in front of each branch. This was the
Mountaineers' third library hike. They've got two more to go
and then they'll have visited all 27 libraries.



BIG NEWS at the Library today
- the Library Board announced the
new city librarian - Susan Hildreth,
the state librarian of California!
She sounds like a great choice -
very experienced. Hope she brings
her raincoat!



December

I was at the FriendShop in the Central Library doing some make-a-difference holiday shopping and I noticed the Library had installed huge bright yellow-green directional signs near the elevators. As much as I love the Central Library, I did have to ask the staff for directions until I got to know the place. These new signs are a great improvement!

ooo

The Mountaineers weren't the only ones who tried to get to all the Library locations on foot - today a guy named Sam Thompson tried to run to all the branches in one day! 60 miles! That's intense even for Seattle. He calls himself an 'ultrarunner' so I guess it's not really that far for him - except it snowed like crazy today and several branches closed early! I felt so sorry for the poor guy - I was checking his progress on Twitter and he made it to 19 of the 27 libraries by the end of the day. It was so cold his water bottle froze on his run home. He said he'd try again next year.



I was at the Ballard Branch a couple days ago and saw a bunch of teenagers crowded around a librarian. Turns out the Library and Ballard High School have teamed up to get every kid at the school signed up for a Library card. That's more than 1,000 people! Library staffers are even going to hang out at the high school for a day to make it easy for the kids to sign up. I hope all the students find out how great the Library is.



I can't believe that My Year in Seattle is over. I don't want to leave. I had a great time as a Library volunteer and I learned so much about libraries - and about myself. I'm starting to seriously think about becoming a librarian. Maybe I could get into the University of

Washington's program. Application deadline is Feb. / so I'd better get busy. I think I'll go to The Seattle Public Library to do some research!



My well-used library card!

Our journal keeper is not a real Library customer, although someone like her could very well have spent a year in Seattle and chronicled the experiences highlighted in this report, which are based on actual Library activities and facts from 2008.

Library Use in 2008

Statistical, Financial and Program Summaries

Facilities

- Central Library, 26 neighborhood branches and Mobile Services

Staffing

- 711 (564.05 full-time equivalents)

Circulation

196,038 new books and 106,651 new music CDs, video recordings and recorded books were added to the collection. Approximately 14,000 new titles were added to the digital collection, including audiobooks in MP3 format, compatible with the iPod. In addition, the Library completed its first digital project: The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. Six new databases – America's Genealogy Bank, Access Science, Valueline, Mango Languages Online, Chilton Library.com and Resume Builder – were added to the collection, making 75 the total number of premium databases offered.

- Adult books: 3,955,651
- Children's books: 2,268,865
- Media: 4,971,822
- **Total: 11,196,338**

Collection Size

- Central Library: 1,133,898
- Branches: 1,312,457
- **Total collection size: 2,446,355**

Patron Visits

- Central Library (door count): 2,048,138
- Branches (door count): 4,998,169
- Virtual visits (internal and external Web site visits): 6,060,520
- TeleCirc: 48,054
- **Total patron visits: 13,154,881**

Library Use in 2008

Service Levels and Programs

Seattle children read 111,890 books and 631 teens wrote reviews for 1,532 books as part of the Summer Reading Program. Nearly 11,000 children and families attended more than 150 Summer Reading Program events. The 2,000 fourth- and fifth-graders participating in the annual Global Reading Challenge read about 6,000 books.

- 128,058 people attended 2,710 children's programs at the Central Library, neighborhood branches and Mobile Services.
- 70,625 people attended 3,369 adult and young adult programs at the Central Library and neighborhood branches.
- 53,315 podcast downloads of Library programs.
- 1,156,754 reference questions answered (in person, mail, e-mail, telephone, Live Chat help, Online Homework Help).

Operating Budget

- Personnel: \$37,051,627
- Books and materials: \$6,309,139
- Equipment: \$1,091,661
- Maintenance, security and utilities: \$2,211,776
- Supplies: \$700,842
- Other: \$2,826,700
 - **Total: \$50,191,745**

Mobile Services

Mobile Services regularly visits 196 facilities and provides service to 120 patrons in their homes, or through the mail. Mobile Services operates with one 25-foot bookmobile and four vans. Mobile Services participated in the Old-Timers Picnic, Fiestas Patrias and four neighborhood Seafair parades.

Library Use in 2008

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

- The operation of the WTBBL transferred to the Office of Secretary of State/Washington State Library on July 1. The transfer involved five years of planning and keeps WTBBL at its current location, 2021 Ninth Ave., for a minimum of five years. Mobile Services will continue to operate out of the building.

Library Equal Access Program (LEAP)

- Hosted a Low Vision Book Group, which included a 104-year-old reader.
- Sponsored the Annual Braille Challenge, an all-day event for blind children and teens that focused on improving Braille reading skills.
- Welcomed two blind high school interns to help them improve job/independent living skills.

Outreach Activities

- The Literacy/ESL/World Languages Department of the Central Library held 543 programs for 5,618 participants. Programs ranged from computer classes in different languages to cultural activities. Thirty-five volunteers and two Americorps staff members contributed to the delivery of programs.
- Telephone-based interpretation services were successfully piloted. Working with a commercial vendor (Language Line), staff members were able to complete reference and circulation transactions with Library patrons in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and other languages.
- Citizenship/Naturalization Toolkits were created and distributed to all Library locations, as well as to many community-based organizations serving immigrants and refugees.
- Online access to interactive ESL instruction for Spanish speakers was offered.
- Three early learning projects were launched: Raising a Reader, Seattle Early Reading First Family Nights, and branch-based Play & Learn groups.

Library Use in 2008

Volunteers

- 513 individuals contributed 19,226 volunteer service hours to The Seattle Public Library. According to Independent Sector, the estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$19.51. Based on this hourly rate, volunteers contributed \$375,099 to the Library in 2008.

Highlight:

- Homework Help Centers expanded to 11 sites this year to meet the increasing demands from middle school, high school and community college students in search of homework assistance. More than 134 volunteers contributed 4,214 hours tutoring students.

Event Services

Managing Central Library meeting facilities and building tours

- 430 private groups rented space (a total of 21,118 people).
- Meeting room revenue: \$192,000; a 17 percent increase from 2007.
- Supported 300 Library-sponsored meetings and events.
- 2,727 people took docent-led tours of the Central Library; 210 were visitors from countries outside the United States.

Highlights:

- Global Organization for Earth System Science Portals (GOESSP) held a three-day workshop with scientists from around the world to understand climate change through weather research.
- The Federal Communications Commission hosted an informational town hall meeting to discuss the upcoming Digital Transition (DTV).
- In August, the Loan Shark Games group held a reception in the Level 3 Living Room in conjunction with a gaming conference held at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center. More than 200 gamers from as far as Australia and Japan attended.
- Special Central Library tours were given to a delegation from Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya, a group of Japanese university librarians and a British design consultancy specializing in workplace strategy attending a forum titled “Livable Workspaces, Livable Cities.”

Library Use in 2008

Libraries for All Branch Reopenings

- **Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch, May 10**
Architect: Heliotrope Architects
Contractor: Cope Construction Co.
Artists: Mary Iverson, Monad Elohim
Project type: \$893,000 renovation
- **Magnolia Branch, July 12**
Architect: Snyder Hartung Kane Strauss Architects
Contractor: Graham Contracting Ltd.
Artist: Kristin Tollefson
Project type: \$4.3 million expansion and renovation

Awards and Recognition

Ballard Branch

- Excellence in Environmental Design Award, Environmental Design and Research Association (EDRA)/Places Journal/Metropolis Magazine

Montlake Branch

- Merit Award in Civic Design, AIA Washington Council Civic Design Awards

Northgate Branch and Community Center

- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold rating

Library Passport

- “Best of” Seattle Award by Seattle Magazine

Cooldest Library in the World

- MSN City Guides featured the Central Library as one of America’s “10 Coolest Libraries.”

Library Passport Program

Library Passports were distributed as part of a citywide celebration marking the successful completion of the 10-year, \$290 million “Libraries for All” building program. Libraries for All resulted in the spectacular Central Library and 26 new, expanded or remodeled branches. Library Passports featured pictures and information on all the buildings. Unique Passport stamps were created for each location. Residents were encouraged to tour all the libraries with their Passports, getting them stamped at every location. The more than 350 individuals who completed their Passport tour by Jan. 2 were entered into a prize drawing on Jan. 7. Residents had a great time participating in the program and shared their comments with staff.

- A family came in to the Children’s Center on Sept. 14. The family members got their passports and seemed very enthusiastic. The mother said to her son “Well...you wanted to take a bus every Sunday. Now we have some destinations. We could see a new Library every week.” He looked amazed at the pictures in his passport and said “Are these libraries in different countries?”
- I arrived in Seattle for a 3-month period, just as you launched the Passport challenge. I found it to be an excellent quest to see many neighborhoods in Seattle; to navigate the excellent public transportation system and to celebrate, with Seattle public libraries, the accomplishment of providing libraries for all. I found each of the libraries to be welcoming and inspiring places for the “wayfaring stranger” and, more importantly, for the residents of so many communities. Job well done! I had a delightful time!
- A Beacon Hill Branch patron called to say she was very excited about the Library Passport. She loved the little map and the list of bus routes that go to each branch, because she rides the bus everywhere. She said that there is no excuse not to get to know your community, and that the Passport was a great motivator to get out and do that.
- A longtime Seattle resident coming into a branch in the Northeast sector shared her delight not only in the passports and the libraries, but recounted that in getting out to all the libraries she discovered changes in neighborhoods she hadn’t visited in a long time. Her example was Holly Park and she was very impressed with the NewHolly Branch and community. I think this is happening to other patrons as well since we all have our well-beaten paths about town and rarely deviate from them enough to reach everywhere in our large city. One patron told me he had not even known there was a South Park.

Library Passport Program



- Today a gentleman arrived at the Children's Reference Desk, dressed in biking attire, wind-blown and drenched in rain. He quietly but proudly presented his completed passport and announced he was ready to have the librarian approve his prize entry. He told me that he had biked to each of the libraries. He had intended to finish them all the first weekend, but he had been photographing the libraries and had fallen off the bike and broken his camera while on his mission. He is a school librarian and his weeks are full, so he had to wait for another weekend to finish getting his passport stamped. He decided to turn in his passport here at the Central Library, where he had begun his quest, getting his first stamp on Sept. 13 and turning his passport in on Oct. 4, for the perfect ending to his biking-bibliophile journey.
- A man came in to the University Branch today to get his Passport stamped and told us it was his last library. He said that he always knew we had a good Library system, but after visiting all of the branches he realized what a truly wonderful system we really have. He noted that the buildings are beautiful, well-stocked, and the staff members are all friendly and helpful.
- Dozens of passports were handed out and stamped at West Seattle Branch's story times. One preschooler, standing in our children's wing, looked at the photo of our children's area, then at the room, then at the photo again, and pointed excitedly to his passport, yelling: "That's my library!"
- I had a mother and young daughter here at the Delridge Branch for my story time today. I introduced myself after story time, since I didn't know them. It turns out they are getting their passport stamped while visiting story times throughout the system!
- On Thursday morning an older couple came into NewHolly. They were so excited about the passport! They said they didn't even know the NewHolly neighborhood existed and were really happy that this passport program gave them the impetus to go out and see all of the branches as they may never have seen all of them otherwise. Not to mention getting to see parts of Seattle they'd never seen before. They asked a lot of questions about the branch and The Seattle Public Library and also said over and over how lucky we are to have such a great library. The gentleman said he was going to take a few extra passports to send to his friends in the Midwest so that they could be jealous of our wonderful Library system.

The Seattle Public Library Foundation

The Seattle Public Library Foundation helps the Library build its collection and resources, offer programs for patrons of all ages, and better serve the needs of our community. We do this by securing and managing donations from individuals, businesses and foundations to support the Library above and beyond what public funding provides.

Private dollars make an enormous difference in the breadth and depth of what the Library is able to offer its patrons. Important services such as reading enrichment programs for children and teens, new technologies that provide the public with free and equal access to electronic information resources, and services for refugees and immigrants are just some of the areas funded by the Foundation.

During 2008, The Seattle Public Library Foundation welcomed a new president, Susan Adkins, and a new executive director, Jonna Ward. It hosted celebrations throughout the city to commemorate the completion of the “Libraries for All” building program and helped sponsor the Library Passport program, which encouraged everyone to visit all the new and improved libraries.

The Seattle Public Library Foundation Statement of Activities for 2008

Grants to the Library

Library Resources and Materials	\$ 2,287,129
Public Programs for People of All Ages	\$ 1,632,314
Capital Projects and Enhancements.....	\$ 570,952
Total	\$ 4,490,395

The Seattle Public Library Foundation

Directors

Susan Adkins

President

David McShea

Vice President

Robert P. Carlile

Treasurer

Anne Repass

Secretary

David C. Williams

Immediate Past President

Patricia R. Akiyama

Ross Baker

John Calhoun

Ron Chew

Sue Coliton

Ted Collins

Jack Faris

Anne V. Farrell

Liffy Franklin

Jodi Green

Ed Heffernan

Suzanne Hittman

Mimi Howard

Gretchen Jacobsen

Kelley A. Kurtzman

Linda Larson

Carla Lewis

Thomas F. O'Connell

Glenna Olson

Deborah Rosen

Ira Rubinstein

Ryan Sawyer

Annie Searle

Jim Stearns

Ina Tateuchi

Sandra Taylor

Ruth True

Catherine S. Wilson

Jane Zalutsky

Emeritus

Faye G. Allen

Gilbert W. Anderson

Ruthanna Bayless

Marcella W. Benditt

David R. Davis

Peter F. Donnelly

Maria L. Koh

Matthew G. Medlin

Charles E. Riley

Caryl K. Roman

Lalie Scandiuzzi

Steve C. Wolf

Ex-Officio

Deborah L. Jacobs

City Librarian

Mimi Winslow

President, Friends of

The Seattle Public Library

Friends of The Seattle Public Library

The Friends had a busy and successful year in 2008.

- Successful spring and fall Book Sales at Magnuson Park contributed to another fantastic fundraising year for the Friends. These Book Sales would not be possible without the generous donations of books and other materials from the community.
- 2008 was another great year at the FriendShop, thanks in part to a new e-commerce site on the Friends' new user-friendly Web site at www.friendsofspl.org.
- The Friends worked to raise awareness of Library service needs through meetings with elected officials, testimony at city budget hearings and other efforts. The City Council approved an additional \$300,000 to the collections budget. The Friends also broadened its grassroots efforts to reconnect with neighborhoods through visits to District Councils.
- The Friends provided \$110,000 in grants to the Library, including \$20,000 to the Library's Passport program to celebrate the completion of Libraries for All.
- The Friends hosted staff parties and public celebrations for the Libraries for All branch openings in 2008 and distributed snack bags to staff in each branch as a thank you for all their hard work.
- Mayor Greg Nickels once again proclaimed Friends of the Library Week from Oct. 19 - 25, 2008.
- The Friends created a Friends of The Seattle Public Library blog at <http://friendsofspl.wordpress.com/>. The blog highlights advocacy efforts, FriendShop specials, Book Sale successes, as well as other information about Friends activities.

Trustee Officers

Mimi Winslow

President

Gary Frisch

Vice President

Phil Gorsuch

Secretary

Minda Hevly

Treasurer

Trustees

Stephanie Andersen

Susan Baker

Jean Berry

Ashlie Bornzin

George Counts

Christine Haskell

Ronda Haun

Jennifer Johnson-Fong

Ed Marquez

Elizabeth Maziarz

Deborah Prince

Sarel Rowe

Linda Ruiz

Thomas Seery

Claudia Skelton

Mary Summers

Connie Templeton

