



A chapter of the Friends of the Seattle Public Library

October, 2006

Annual Meeting: Y'all come!

Get the latest news on the branch expansion project! Please join us for our annual meeting on Saturday, October 28 from 3 to 5 PM (immediately following the Artists Showcase reception. There might even be some goodies left over!) *We need your input on where we should put our efforts in the coming year! What should we be working on when our branch reopens?* We'll review our accomplishments for the year, set our goals for next year, and elect officers. If you are interested in an officer position, please call Sarel Rowe, 937-3499 or email sarel@speakeasy.org, for more information. We welcome young and old; our youngest officer was 12 years old, and our eldest, an octogenarian.

Artists Showcase

We are grateful to the High Point branch library for hosting the 16th Annual Southwest Artists Showcase during our branch closure.

The Artists Showcase is a non-juried, nonprofit exhibit. The exhibit will be on display at the branch Monday, October 23 through Saturday, November 10. This popular event gives members of the community a chance to showcase their work, as well as see the creative talents of friends and neighbors.

Everyone is invited to a special reception hosted by the Friends of Southwest Library from 1 to 2 PM Saturday, October 28 at the High Point branch.

Library Budget

There's still time to give your opinion on funding the Seattle Public Library; the city council will hold one more hearing on the city budget for 2007-2008 on Monday, October 30 starting at 5:30 pm (if you want to speak at the hearing, you should get there early to sign up). The Friends of Seattle Public Library are soliciting stories from patrons to help the city council understand how people depend on their libraries. For more information, see splfriends.org.

Building Update

The concrete operating engineers strike in August affected construction on the Southwest branch. No official date has been set for the branch opening, but it may be delayed until early 2007.

Friends of SPL Annual Meeting

All Southwest Friends' members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting of our parent organization, the Friends of Seattle Public Library, Sunday, October 29th from 2–4 PM at the new Northgate Community Center, adjacent to the Northgate Branch of The Seattle Public Library, 10510 Fifth Avenue N.E. The guest speakers are John Marzluff and Tony Angell, authors of *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*, winners of the 2006 Washington State Book Award for general nonfiction. Light refreshments will be served. Please call (206) 386-4098 or email friends@spl.org if you will be attending.

Magazine Articles On Line

Did you know you don't have to actually go to the library to read magazine and newspaper articles? With your library card number and PIN, you have online access to a huge number of resources for which you'd otherwise have to take a trip to the library or pay to subscribe.

For example, I recently wanted Consumer Reports information on cars. I don't subscribe to the magazine, and the library wasn't open. Consumer Reports makes some information available free at their website, but the detailed articles require payment. But because I am a card-carrying patron of the Seattle Public Library, I can read Consumer Reports articles for free by accessing them through the Library's online InfoTrac database!

Magazines and newspapers often charge or require registration to read their articles online, but many are available through one or more of the Library's periodicals databases. (Some magazines are not available until a couple of months after the publication date, and some will allow you to read an abstract but not the full text of the article.)

To use the online periodicals, click the "Databases and Websites" link on spl.org, then on "Magazines and Newspapers" to see the list of periodicals indexes. eLibrary, InfoTrac, and Proquest are good general indexes; each has different features, but their lists of periodicals overlap quite a bit. Some databases focus on specialized resources, for example, art, academic, and legal databases. For all these subscription databases, you'll need your library card number and PIN. If you need help with the databases, ask a librarian when the library is open.

This resource is far more powerful than the simple example I gave here. I recommend exploring it to become familiar with how to use it and what's available—but beware! Just as you can lose yourself for hours browsing the library, you can look up from the periodicals databases and find it's dark outside, you haven't started dinner yet, and your family is getting hungry....



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FRIENDS
of
THE SEATTLE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

splfriends.org
Get involved!

Friends of Southwest Branch Library 2006 Event Calendar

Oct 23–Nov 10			High Point Branch	Community Artists' Showcase
October 28	Sat	1–2 pm	High Point Branch	Community Artists' Showcase Reception
October 28	Sat	3–5 pm	High Point Branch	Annual Meeting
October 29	Sun	2–4 pm	Northgate Community Center	Friends of SPL Annual Meeting
November 27	Mon	6:30–7:45 pm	High Point Branch	Monthly Meeting

Membership in Friends of Southwest Branch Library is free and open to anyone: email j.enevoldsen@wlonk.com, or call Julie at 206-932-3741. We will not share any of your information without your permission.

See swfriends.wlonk.com for calendar updates, construction photos, and newsletter archives.

Gathering of Neighbors

Stop by the Friends of Southwest Branch Library table at the third annual Megawatt Gathering of Neighbors on Saturday, November 4, from 12–3 PM, at Chief Sealth High School. It's a great way to find out what West Seattle organizations and businesses are up to, and enjoy food, music, dance and other performances, craft activities for kids, and a raffle. More information at www.megawattjunction.org.

Friends Recommend...

Digging to America: a Novel by Anne Tyler (from Christy Tyson, Branch Manager):

Two families are brought together by their chance meeting in a Baltimore airport when they go to pick up their newly adopted Korean babies. The Donaldson clan is a vintage American family whose well-meaning attempts at keeping the two families connected through

annual celebrations of Arrival Day seem a bit off-putting to the Yazdans, recently emigrated from Iran. However, through the next seven years, both families learn that what it means to be "family" is much more complex than they'd thought, as is being an American. Still has a long waiting list but well-worth the wait, if only for the chapter describing the arrival of the "binkie fairy."

Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon by Daniel C. Dennett (from Julie Enevoldsen, newsletter editor):

"Religion plays such a powerful role in the world that we should try to understand it in all its complexities, but most adherents bristle at anyone who wants to investigate their practices and beliefs in a scientific manner." Dennett argues that, given the powerful effects of religion, we need a scientific study of it. Slow to get started, but provocative and thoughtful.