



Check it Out!

In This Issue:

*Books Recommended by
Friends of the Library*

*Volunteering at the Library:
Volunteer Spotlight*

*Statistics: Volunteers Make a
Big Impact*

*How Reading to Children is
Changing Their Lives,
and Ours*

Amazon Sales: On the Web

*Spring Used Book Sale by
Friends of the City Library*

NOW READ THIS!

Friends of the Library (FOTL) Board Members suggest:

- Rylee Williams recommends:
Circe by Madeline Miller
A Gift From Darkness
by Patience Ibrahim and
Andrea C. Hoffmann
- Anneliese Bennion recommends:
Pimpernel by Sheralyn Pratt
Bloodleaf by Crystal Smith
From Ash and Stone
by Julie Daines
- Lara Meziani recommends:
My Own Words
by Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Becoming by Michelle Obama
*When They Call You a Terrorist:
A Black Lives Matter Memoir*
by Patrisse Khan-Cullors
and Asha Bandele

Meet Jeff Mower



Jeff Mower, Executive Director of the Friends

In December 2018, The Friends board unanimously voted in favor of implementing the position of Executive Director. Jeff Mower is the first ever Executive Director of the Friends of the Salt Lake City Library. Jeff took over this position on January 1, 2019. The board is excited for Jeff and what he brings to the table to move The Friends forward.

Jeff describes himself as exceedingly passionate about his interests (which include films, board games, comics, food, art, music, and the outdoors), but he's especially passionate about libraries; not just for what libraries are but what they can be!

Jeff says he loves the Salt Lake City Library and he is beyond excited to work as the Executive Director for The Friends to help in any and every way possible.

WHAT'S THAT NUMBER?

Volunteer hours
donated in the first
quarter:

1,400

Number of books
sold at the February
sale:

6,014

The Buddies Program



The Buddies Program provides volunteers who read to children on an "as-requested" basis. Every effort is made to extend these services to all students who are going into the first grade in the Title One schools. This is done in conjunction with the children's librarians when they give tours of their respective libraries. This gives the children an introduction to the facilities they can use.

FOTL volunteers, in concert with the children's teachers, also encourage each student to get their own library card.

This year we have welcomed all special education teachers in the Salt Lake District to participate in a reading program. We target elementary special education. We read Mo Willems' Elephant and Piggie books. Volunteers come equipped with elephant and piggy noses, noisemakers, and most importantly, a book that we can give to each student.

If you'd like to participate in this program, just contact Sonja Errick.

Liesl Jacobson, at the main library, conducts a very informative and worthwhile training program, and I encourage anyone who wants to read to children to take her course. At the present time, there are six members who actively read.

--submitted by Sonja Errick, Board Member and Program Chair (contact Sonja at: smwbike65@gmail.com)
Contact Liesl Jacobson, Assistant Director of Community Engagement, at 801-524-8202 or at ljacobson@slcpl.org

Volunteer Spotlight:

Anneliese Bennion, Board Member and Chair Amazon Sales

How Did You Become a Friends Volunteer?

How did you become a Friends Volunteer? I began volunteering for the library when the new Main Library building opened in 2003. I was just out of college and looking for a place in the community to volunteer. I started out as a docent at the Welcome Desk. For the first few years I gave tours of the building to walk-ins and scheduled tour groups. As tours of the building phased out I continued to volunteer at the Welcome Desk, directing people and answering their questions when they first came in—what an adventure that was! About 4 or 5 years ago the library decided to get rid of the Welcome Desk and one of the employees introduced me to Elaine and Steve down in the Friends. And the rest is history...

How long have you been a Member and Volunteer? I have been a member for at least 3 years and a volunteer with the Friends for 4-5 years. I volunteered at the library for 11 years before that. All total I've been volunteering for 16 years. I have been Director of Amazon for almost 3 years and Co-Chair of the Sales Committee for almost 1 year.

What is your favorite part about the Friends? I love how we are able to support the library, but more than that I love how the Friends brings people who love libraries and books together. It's like an instant connection you have before you even know the people. I love working with people who share similar passions. It's what I love about training new volunteers.

As a Board Member, what is one thing you would like to see happen for the benefit of the Friends? I would love to see our membership grow. I think the more people who know about us and join our cause the better we can support the library and the various programs they provide.

What's a fun fact about you that you can share? Or, a guilty pleasure? I have illustrated several children's books, a couple of which have been published. Given the choice I prefer to sit in my favorite chair and read (probably a romance novel) than go to a party. (Maybe that's the guilty pleasure?)

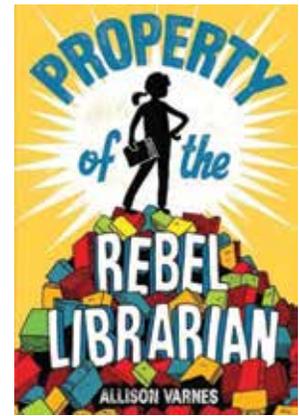
What do you do when you are not working with the Friends? I am a freelance Graphic Designer and have my own business, DesignAbility. I work with several local businesses to help them with pretty much any technological and print media needs that they might have. I also host several websites for businesses across the US.

What was the book you read as a child that influenced you? I really liked the book *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. I think it helped me realize that smart girls rule! I was also a fan of beautifully illustrated children's books. I think they helped inspire some of the creativity in me.

If you were a book what would you be? I would want to be a romance novel (since those are my favorite!), but in reality I would probably be a 'How-to' book since I'm constantly learning new things and teaching/sharing what I know with others.

What was your first Library experience? I'm not sure what the first experience was, but when I was little my mom used to take my siblings and me to the main branch (now the Leonardo) once a month or so and let us wander the children's department and check out books. The best trips are when we'd get to ride the bus to and from the library!

You have a lot of drive and passion for the Friends, what word sums that spirit up? Organized/Organization (I don't know if that's the right word, but it's what I feel like I bring to the Friends).



Property of the Rebel Librarian
by Allison Varnes
Random House Books for Young Readers
Sept. 18, 2018 (275 pages)

A Fahrenheit 451 for kids, *The Property of the Rebel Librarian* is a must-read for anyone who loves books, libraries, and the freedom to choose what you will read.

June Harper is a rule-follower until the rules don't make sense anymore. Her very strict parents get upset about a book she is reading that they decide is "too scary" for her. June doesn't agree. As active members of the PTSA, her parents get the librarian who recommended the book suspended from her job. They also confiscate "objectionable" books in the school's library as well as June's personal stash. Objections include anything that might inspire children to rebel as well as Captain Underpants because the word "underpants" is in the title.

June knows what they are doing is wrong, but doesn't know what to do about it. That is, until she comes across A Little Free Library and borrows a book from it.

As someone who loves libraries for the autonomy they promote and the expansion of knowledge about the world and people both similar and different from yourself, I cannot promote this book enough. I also loved how significant the contribution of the Little Free Library was as someone who has one on her front porch. The thought of being able to find a way to liberate a community within a repressive majority was inspiring. June wasn't rebelling for the sake of rebelling. She was rebelling because she was right. And while her actions were very divisive, many people rallied behind her cause. I was ugly-crying by the end of it.

--submitted by: Doni Ricci, Board Member

Friends of the City Library

Amazon Sales

submitted by Anneliese Bennion, Chair Amazon Sales, Committee Member

The Friends of the City Library have been selling used books on Amazon since 2011. Almost every book, audio book, music CD and DVD donated to the Friends is scanned for Amazon listing eligibility. Most of the scanned books go straight to the Book Sale Room, but the books we sell on Amazon range from \$10 to \$800.

We have 10+ volunteers who list items on Amazon and we mail book orders five days a week. There are five regular volunteers who mail, and two substitutes.

On average we sell 180 books a month. In 2018 our Amazon sales brought in over \$53,000—which is about \$4,400 a month

Our shop link is:
<http://www.amazon.com/shops/thelibrarystore>

CHECK THIS OUT: Pottery Display

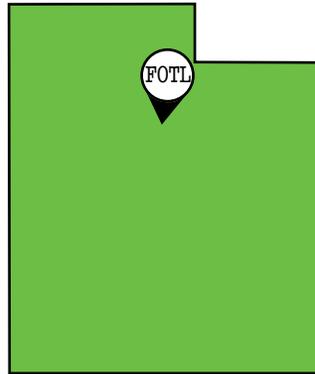
Nancy Starks (a FOTL volunteer) was selected to display the pottery she has made in the library's 4th floor gallery from March 9th to April 26th. Hope everyone has an opportunity to see this exhibit and celebrate her art and hard work!



Books give a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.

-Plato

Looking for a home away from home?



Become a member of the Friends of the Library!

Membership information available at:

www.slclpl.org/friends

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities with the Friends as a volunteer.

You can shelve books, scan books and price them, you can unpack donations. You also can participate on a committee. You can help shape the newsletter, or come up with ideas for fundraising and oversee volunteer get-togethers. Possibilities abound for all sorts of volunteer participation.

Contact Luana at luanachilelli@comcast.net to sign up for whatever activity fulfills your passion.

Additional membership information is available at:
www.slclpl.org/friends.



Best Beginnings for Babies

submitted by Chris Riggle, Board Member, Best Beginnings Chair

Best Beginnings for Babies is a program that was begun in 2009 by three of the Friends of the Library board to get literacy information into the hands of first-time moms in the three Salt Lake City hospitals—University of Utah Medical Center, Salt Lake Regional Hospital, and LDS Hospital. It was, and still is, funded by the money brought in by the book sales.

Packets are put together by FOTL volunteers when the call goes out. In each packet is a colorful board book for the baby and literacy information regarding the importance of reading to newborns (and on up!), tips on how to do it, and recommendations of appropriate books to be purchased or checked out at the library. There is also a bookmark and 'star' with reading tips that can be slipped in the diaper bag to help parents be aware of the importance of reading to the baby's development.

2000 packets are ordered and put together on a random basis. In January, 16 volunteers and 2 girls (who had received books when they were newborns!) came to put together the remaining 640 books into 16 boxes. They have been delivered to the hospitals and we are now awaiting the arrival of print material to start it all over again. So if you see a request come through to help make the packets, you now know what it is all about and you can come see where some of the book sale money goes.

Our Mission Statement

The mission of The Friends of the Salt Lake City Public Library is to support and advocate for The City Library system and its mission through fundraising efforts, library promotion, and membership drives. Friends value public libraries as cultural, educational, and social centers, and contribute their time, efforts, and resources to promote literacy and to further develop the Salt Lake City Public Library system as a dynamic force in our community.

The FOTL at Work



Friends Board Member Chris Riggle working to ready the Children's books section for the upcoming book sale.



Debbie Downs, FOTL President, taking a short break during a book sale to check out one of the great books available for sale.

Marilyn Felkner, Newsletter Designer

Friends, Check it Out at the Branches:

Sprague Branch Library

Debbie Downs, President of the Friends of the Library, reported on a set of siblings who decided they wanted to do something for Sprague Library as explained in this letter the library received:

Hello! My name is Sophia Bernard. My brother Zach Bernard and I are middle schoolers at West High School. Last fall, we were assigned a Bettering Utah project, and we decided to raise some money for the Sprague Library, to help them replace their children's literature section. On November 11, we hosted a dinner at Stoneground Kitchen and raised over 200 hundred dollars. We received this money by check and some extra cash donations. We would like to know whom we write the check out to, and also where we can drop of the donations. Thank you so much for your time!

Sincerely,

Sophia Bernard

Debbie thanked Sophia and invited her and her brother, along with the owner of Stoneground, to the FOTL store to present the donation. It was such a pleasure meeting Sophia and Zach, who, it turns out, are twins! They are truly outstanding young folks! Their mother also came. The total donation was a check for \$420.

Sprague is their branch. They said that their favorite thing about libraries were the resources available. As a thank you, they were presented a Sprague T-shirt and a library store gift card. They were so grateful. Jeri Gravlin (Marketing and Communications Specialist for the Library) was wonderful when interviewing and taking photos of them. It was great having Deputy Director Debbie Erhman, Heather Hart (the Sprague Branch Manager), and Meredith Zobell (the Sprague Children's librarian) there to meet with them. Also fun having our Friends Executive Director there to accept the donation and make it all official. Thanks to Earleen Richardson (FOTL Board) for coming as well!



We're renovating!

The Sprague Branch will close April 1 for a full remodel. The Branch will reopen in late 2020. The City Library will continue to serve the Sugar House community at the Sprague Firehouse Express, opening April 28. Check it out at:

1085 E Simpson Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106

Holds will be unavailable for pick up at the Sprague Branch from March 28–April 28. The Sprague Firehouse Express will offer four public computers, a small collection, and hold pick-ups.

For more information, visit: slcpl.org/new-sprague

BIG APRIL EVENT FOR ALL OUR FRIENDS AND TO SHARE WITH ALL YOUR FRIENDS

Become a *Member of the Friends and venture in first to find your deals before the sale goes public.

You can sign up online, at the Library Store, or on Members Only Day.

For more information "Check It Out" at <https://www.slcp.org>

SPRING USED BOOK SALE BY THE FRIENDS OF THE CITY LIBRARY

*April 17th (Members only) - April 20th, 2019
at the Main Library for all ages.
Find great deals on books, music, movies,
and more!

*Members-Only Sale
Wednesday, April 17: 3:00pm - 9:00pm
Main Library - Friends Used Book Sale Area

Spring Used Book Sale
Thursday, April 18: 9:00am - 9:00pm
Main Library - Friends Used Book Sale Area

Spring Used Book Sale - Half-Price Day
Friday, April 19: 9:00am - 6:00pm
Main Library - Friends Used Book Sale Area

Spring Used Book Sale - \$6 Bag Day
Saturday, April 20: 9:00am - 6:00pm
Main Library - Friends Used Book Sale Area