



# News and Views

Friends of the Viroqua Library

Fall 2020

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

The McIntosh Memorial Library has been provided with a second round of grant funding from Bader Philanthropies of Milwaukee, Wisconsin to offer memory connection programming and resources. During the first round of funding, the library used the grant dollars to purchase materials for the collection and to pay for onsite programming for residents of the Viroqua area. The additional funds will be used during the month of October for library staff to meet with leaders from local assisted living facilities to converse about how the library can be a better resource for the residents.



## WHAT'S A WISCAT?

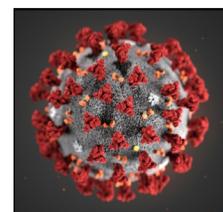


Have you tried WISCAT yet? WISCAT is a resource sharing platform that allows you to order materials from libraries across Wisconsin and Minnesota. This program greatly increases what is available to you. The items will be shipped direct to the McIntosh Memorial Library for you to checkout and enjoy! When finished, you simply return the items to the library for shipment back to the source library. If you need assistance, give us a call at 637-7151 x6.

## A VERY DIFFICULT YEAR

So far, the year 2020 has proven to be a sad experience for the Friends organization. The spread of COVID-19 has all but shut down activity for both the Library and the Friends of the Library for most of the past 8 months.

**BOOKSTORE:** the Friends bookstore has been closed since early March when the pandemic hit our nation. The store will probably remain closed through the rest of the year. We are hopeful to be back up and running in early 2021, but this timeline is dependant on the spread of the disease in our area. In a related problem, at this time all returning items that enter the Library building are being held in quarantine for 4 days. Boxes of donations for the Bookstore would add considerable volume to this process. For this reason we are not accepting donations until conditions improve.



**PROJECTS:** COVID has also resulted in the cancellation of several popular library programs which were to be sponsored by the Friends. Registration was well underway for the adult trip to the SPAM Museum in Austin, Minnesota. Plans for the Children's Library to take kids to the Children's Museum in downtown La Crosse also had to be scrapped.

**FUNDRAISING EVENTS:** several chances for the Friends to raise money have also been lost. The fall Used Book Sale has been postponed, with the hope that it can be offered in the spring. The annual Fiber Faire as well as the Brat Fry at Nelson Agri-Center also fell victim to recent circumstances. Finally, we have lost the steady revenue generated by the Bookstore.

On the bright side, life has a way of evening things out. This too shall pass. We look FORWARD to getting back to normal so we can view these tough times in the rear view mirror.

## THANK YOU, MISS MARY!!



Mary Mulvaney-Kemp has retired as Youth Service Director after 7 years of devoted service to the Library. Mary showed a sincere love of kids and of reading, and every day her creative activities demonstrated a seamless marriage of her two passions. Watching her work with a group, it was often difficult to tell who was having more fun--the kids or Miss Mary. She will be missed!!

**Contact Us:**

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608-637-7059 (President)

**ACROSS GENERATIONS**

Nineteen residents from Fairhaven Assisted Living facility in Viroqua participated in our 2020 Adult Summer Reading Program. One of the highlights was engaging in a "Pen Pal" program with local children. The residents and children wrote letters back and forth to each other during the summer months. Library staff facilitated the letter exchange.



**News and Views** is a quarterly publication by the Friends of the Viroqua Library.

**Editor:** Ken Tucker  
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The Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductable to the extent permitted by law.

**THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR**

March 17, 2020 is a day I will always remember. At 5:00 p.m. on that late winter day, we shut off the lights and locked the library doors due to COVID-19. As staff members, we had no idea when we would see our volunteers, library patrons, or each other again. As I drove away from the library that night, an overwhelming feeling of helplessness engulfed me because COVID-19 had arrived.

As the building remained dark, ideas from staff began to glow as bright as new light bulbs. We met weekly, brainstorming ideas for how the library could reopen again. During the months of March and April, we all worked from home. But at the end of April, we started offering curbside delivery service. Access to our public computers followed in May, and by mid-summer we were letting patrons back inside the library for in-person service. The progress has been slow but steady. Every decision made has been carefully thought through. Our number one priority will always be the safety of our staff, volunteers, and patrons.

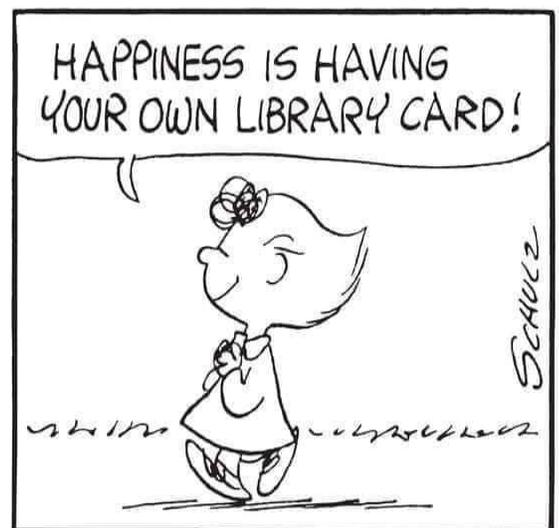


As we enter the fall season and look towards winter, the library lights are on and will remain that way. We invite you inside the library Monday through Friday from 9:00-2:30 for browsing, to get a library card, or for in-person service with a librarian at the circulation desk. If you are hesitant to come inside, we are continuing to offer curbside pickup service three days a week. Your local public library is open and here to help you.

Trina Erickson  
Library Director

**RECOMMENDED BY LUCY**

Your library card allows you to take full advantage of all the resources available through your local public libraries. All the items of McIntosh Memorial Library are immediately available. In addition, interlibrary loan makes items available within a few days from libraries throughout Wisconsin and beyond. And--you can use your McIntosh Memorial card at any library in the Winding Rivers System.



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## FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Friends of the Viroqua Library will be held on Thursday, October 22 at 4:30 p.m. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the meeting will be held via ZOOM, and will last about 45 minutes.

The agenda for the meeting is below. Members wishing to preview the 2019 minutes, the 2019-2020 Treasurer's Report, or the proposed bylaws may request copies by contacting Library Director Trina Erickson at: t.erickson@wrlsweb.org or 637-7151, Ext. 3. Also, the ZOOM address is lengthy. If you contact Trina, she will email the link to you, and you can just "click" to make access.

To join the meeting via ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84041552608?pwd=TWk0ZnFSY2luV3F5a3pPYVBMYWtHQT09>  
 Passcode: ANS5Aj

To join the meeting via telephone:

Dial: 1-312-626-6799 (Chicago)  
 Meeting ID: 840 4155 2608  
 Passcode: 365964



All members of the Friends are invited to attend this informative meeting.

*Friends of the Viroqua Public Library*  
*Annual Meeting*

Thursday, October 22, 2020

**AGENDA FOR THE MEETING**

1. **Call to Order**—Luella Oliver, President
2. **Annual Reports**
  - A. "A Difficult Year"—Luella Oliver, President
  - B. "One Step at a Time"—Trina Erickson, Library Director
  - C. "The No Bookstore Year"—Ken Tucker, Bookstore Manager
  - D. "Financial Report"—Mary Wagner, Treasurer
3. **Old Business**
  - A. Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
  - B. Other
4. **New Business**
  - A. Approval of Bylaws: "Friends of the McIntosh Memorial Library"
  - B. Election to Board of Directors
  - C. Other
5. **Adjournment**

**Your Board of Directors**

Luella Oliver.....President  
 Angie Cina.....V. President  
 Mary Wagner.....Treasurer  
 Ken Tucker.....Secretary  
 Fran Dieter.....Member  
 JoAnn Groves.....Member

**MS. MARISSA ARRIVES**



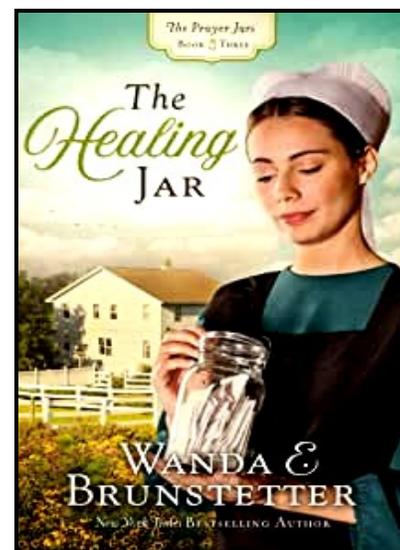
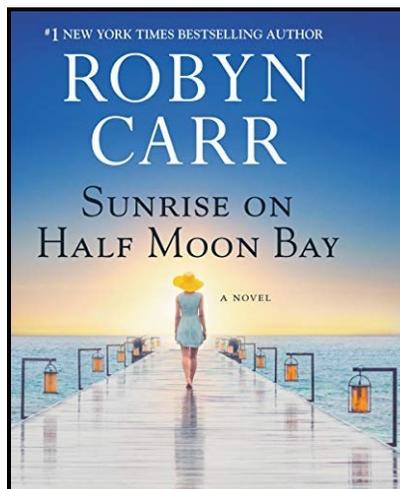
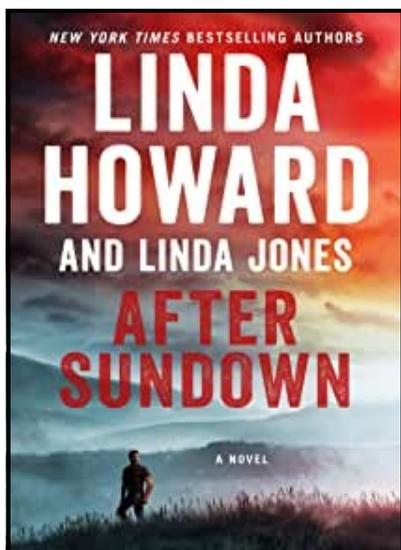
Marissa Bazan is the new Youth Service Director at McIntosh Memorial Library. Marissa brings over 10 years of experience working in a public library. Most recently, Marissa was the Adult Services Director at the Sparta Free Library.

Miss Marissa reads extensively, and enjoys passing her passion on to other people. She believes that reading is a lot like traveling, in that you get to learn about different places and meet new people.

**Welcome, Miss Marissa!!**



**NEW! NEW! NEW!**



The "New Arrivals" area inside the library is bursting with brand new items for you to enjoy! Stop by and check out a new book, movie on DVD, music CD, or magazine. We're confident we have something for you!

Some of the many new fiction books for adults include: "The Healing Jar" by Wanda E. Brunstetter, "Sunrise on Half Moon Bay" by Robyn Carr, "After Sundown" by Linda Howard, "The Stolen Gold Affair" by Bill Pronzine, and "Once Dishonored" by Mary Jo Putney.

