Libraries Director Leaves Rich Legacy

UWM Libraries Director and Associate Provost Ewa Barczyk—who oversaw a major remodeling project, the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons, and led successful efforts for greater cooperation and sharing among UW System libraries—will retire in May after 31 years at UWM.

Barczyk has been director of the Libraries since 2006, having served previously as interim director for three years, and was given the additional title Associate Provost in 2013. Since arriving at the Libraries in 1985, she has held several positions including associate director, assistant director both for collection management and for public services, and head of interlibrary loan. Before that, she worked as adult reference librarian at the Shorewood Public Library (1983-85), and in the libraries of Yale University (1978-83).

During her tenure as director, the Libraries expanded staff development to foster diversity and user-focused provision of services; offered a campus-wide survey, LibQUAL+, in 2004, 2007, and 2014 to measure delivery of library services and resources; and redirected collections and services toward emerging resource areas, such as Freshwater Sciences and Public Health.

She has presided over the rapid digitization of scholarly resources, and the creation of the UWM Digital Humanities Lab, located in the library and headed by library staff.

Recognizing that academic libraries are increasingly distinguished by their rare and unique holdings, Barczyk has given tremendous support and encouragement to the development of the American Geographical Society Library, the Archives, and Special Collections.

Under her leadership, significant funds were raised from both private foundations and federal agencies to acquire, preserve, and extend access to historical sources. She led fundraising efforts to recatalog map collections in AGSL, digitize the Roman Kwasniewski photographs in Archives, and develop the book arts collection in Special Collections. Because of her efforts, the unique holdings of the UWM Libraries have a much larger audience than ever before.

Perhaps her most important achievement was directing the fundraising for, planning, and construction of the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons (2009), which transformed the library into the vibrant, intellectual center of campus, and has served as a model for regional academic libraries creating their own learning spaces.

As a member of the Council of University of Wisconsin Libraries (CUWL), she was an advocate for greater collaboration and sharing of resources among the member libraries. She was Chair of CUWL from 2008-09 as well as serving on numerous committees. She was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Council on Libraries and Network Development.

Barczyk broadened the Libraries’ engagement with the community, and strengthened the Friends of the UWM Golda Meir Library and its Board of Directors, which is now among the largest such groups in the state.

She has fostered community connections, locally and globally, working with the Friends and its Board of Directors; hosting international interns and graduate students, visiting scholars, and foreign dignitaries; and traveling as a representative of the library for conferences, presentations, and goodwill to Georgia, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Egypt, Mexico, Italy and many other countries.

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Fromkin Research Grant to Support Transforming Justice Project

The recipients of the 2016 Fromkin Research Grant and Lectureship are Anne Bonds, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography; Lorraine Halinka Malcoe, Associate Professor, School of Public Health; Jenna Loyd, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health; Jennifer Plevin, Program Director at doc|UWM, Department of Film, Video, Animation, and New Genres; and Robert Smith, Associate Professor, Department of History.

The award winners write in their proposal that their project, “Transforming Justice: Youth-Led Analysis of Mass Criminalization in Milwaukee,” will advance “community-engaged research on community health, incarceration, and social justice” in the city.

The Transforming Justice (TJ) project “centers youth voices and the experiences of those most impacted by imprisonment . . . and is developing a public archive that is designed to demonstrate the uneven, lived geographies of mass incarceration.”

The award recipients will offer a public lecture in the fall that will include film clips from the TJ-established youth video collective and a presentation by the collective’s participants.

This year’s committee members were Ewa Barczyk, Johannes Britz, Michael Doylen, David Fromkin, Shelleen Greene, Cary Miller, Shana Ponelis, and Caroline Seymour-Jorn.

Kudos for Ewa Barczyk

Mark Mone, UWM Chancellor:

“Ewa’s contributions to UWM and the Golda Meir Libraries have positively impacted so many lives. It is rare to find individuals like Ewa who have the combined gifts of leadership, wisdom, strength, mentorship, humor, and vision. She has provided guidance and friendship to many of us on campus and in the community. We are deeply indebted to Ewa for her many years of dedication and leading UWM to become a better university. As difficult as it is to see Ewa retire, I know I speak for the campus community when I express heartfelt congratulations and good wishes.”

Johannes Britz, UWM Provost:

“Ewa Barczyk exemplifies excellence in higher education administration. When I walk through the Library, her impact is evident: the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons, whose development she spearheaded, is a wonderful nexus of academic activity on campus. Additional accomplishments during her tenure as Associate Provost and Director of UWM Libraries include the launches of the Digital Humanities Lab and the Digital Commons, highly effective cultivation of philanthropic donors to benefit the UWM Libraries, and System-wide leadership on many key library initiatives. She has also been a great advocate for Libraries staff, supporting professional development both within the Libraries and beyond through her leadership of UWM’s chapter of Wisconsin Women in Higher Education Leadership (WWHEL).”

Janet Padway, UWM Libraries Senior Assistant Director, Collections and Resource Management:

“I have worked with, and later for, Ewa throughout her entire tenure here at the UWM Libraries. She has been an inspiring and creative leader who generates the pursuit of excellence throughout all our programs and services, while always striving to make the Libraries a great place to work. In spite of the recent financial challenges facing the Libraries, under her charismatic leadership we continue to maintain the highest standards and meet the needs of our students, faculty, and staff. I will miss my colleague and friend.”

Barczyk has been an active participant in professional associations her entire career. She served as Treasurer of the statewide Wisconsin Women in Higher Education and Leadership from 2003-2008 and led the local chapter of WWHEL for many years. Her professional affiliations include the American Library Association, Association of College and Research Libraries, Wisconsin Library Association, Wisconsin Association of Academic Libraries, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, and Polish Institute of Arts and Science.

Michael Doylen has been named Interim Director of Libraries. Doylen has served as the Assistant Director of Archives, Music, and Special Collections since 2012. He joined UWM Libraries in 2003 as head of Archives. He also served as Interim Assistant Director of User Services from 2010-2012. Doylen is an active member of the archives profession, having served in leadership roles in the Midwest Archives Conference and the Society of American Archivists.
From the Director

It is hard to believe that I began my affiliation with UWM 31 years ago. So much has changed and yet our purpose and focus remains the same. That is the joy of working at UWM: the students change every year (hopefully off to fulfilling careers), faculty change albeit more slowly, staff continue their dedicated work for many years, but the library continues to provide outstanding services in acquiring, organizing, providing access and preserving information.

This mission has not changed in three decades, even though how we achieve these goals has evolved greatly. Our focus has remained on our users and that is why the library is a vibrant hub on campus—literally and virtually at the crossroads of campus activity. I am proud that the library is seen as vital for student and faculty success.

It has been an amazing time which flew by so quickly. I have witnessed the transformation of UWM from a predominately local commuter school to a nationally recognized, top-level research university and the Libraries have been an active partner in that transformation.

Many times I have wanted to shout that “I have the best gig in the world.” So many wonderful opportunities have been provided by the university. Those who know me can attest to the fact that I love to travel. I was fortunate to be able to take the library collections beyond the community and even the country, spread the knowledge of our outstanding collections and be a goodwill ambassador, although it did mean once that we literally outdrove the Russians during a war which broke out during our stay in Georgia. Along the way, I met some amazing scholars and librarians who in turn have visited UWM and marvel at our university.

No single person alone can change a library as complex as ours at a major research university. Over the years and with the partnership of outstanding administrators, dedicated faculty, a highly talented and committed staff, and actively engaged and philanthropically minded Friends and donors, we have reached many milestones and goals. The Libraries are stronger today than we have ever been.

My years at UWM have been a source of great joy, pride and enjoyment and UWM will always be a part of me. I close with an expression of deep and sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to the Libraries’ success and I know you will continue to work hard on behalf of the Libraries and the university.

How lucky I am to have had a profession that makes saying goodbye so hard!!

Ewa Barczyk

Libraries Contribute to Dada Exhibit at Museum of Modern Art

An exhibition that originated at Kunsthaus Zurich and will be opening in New York this summer at the Museum of Modern Art includes six items from the UWM Libraries’ Archives.

“Dadaglobe Reconstructed” features over 150 artworks and texts that were sent in 1921 to Tristan Tzara from artists all over the world for his book project Dadaglobe, which remained unpublished at the time.

Subsequently widely dispersed, the works are reunited for the first time, offering a remarkable survey of the impact of the Dada movement.

The show runs through May 1 in Zurich and will be on display in New York from June 12 to September 18, 2016.

Items contributed by the UWM Archives are drawn from The Little Review collection, an extensive archive comprising the records of the important modernist literary and art magazine’s 15-year existence.

The loan includes three vintage photographs documenting artists’ works, Jean Crotti’s “Immense Eclat de Rire,” Francis Picabia’s “Enfant Carbureateur,” and Sophie Taeuber-Arp’s “Monsieur Perlengeweih,” as well as three manuscripts, Jean Cocteau’s “Cocqean Saluant Picabia” and “Cocqean Saluant Tsara” and Baroness Elsa Von Freytag-Loringhoven’s “Teke.”
Q & A With Library Staff: Kristin Woodward

Kristin Woodward joined the UWM Libraries in 2003 as Interim Library Instruction Coordinator and currently serves as Online Programs and Instructional Design Coordinator, User Services Division.

She received a BA in English Literature with a Certificate in Women’s Studies from UW-Madison in 1996 and her Master of Library & Information Science from UWM in 1998. Before being hired at UWM, Kristin worked in the libraries of Cardinal Stritch University and Carroll University.

Q: Your job title suggests you wear several hats at the library.

Kristin: Yes. The Instructional Design piece refers to the hands-on project management that I do with creating learning objects, which are anything from a graphic that explains how to structure a search to a three-minute tutorial on an information literacy concept. I also manage our large-scale tutorials and our library guides. So all the materials that we use to embed information literacy in courses and support student research is encompassed in this role.

As Online Programs coordinator I work with several units on campus, such as the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), and I represent the Libraries at the Online Program Council. I also work with the FLEX option, and chair a group in the library called the Online and Emerging Educational Initiatives Committee to make sure that, as UWM programs develop, whether online or on-site, we are assessing the needs of those programs and determining how the Libraries can align with their academic mission.

Q: How do you then connect with those programs?

Kristin: For some of them what we have done is worked with our library liaisons and had them reach out to faculty they know who are working on the development of the program and have sort of invited/volunteered ourselves to come out to the new site.

Q: What programs have you worked with?

Kristin: The School of Freshwater Sciences has recently changed its profile. It has a new building, it has been revitalized in the way that the campus views that off-site program. Some of their faculty were not taking full advantage of our resources, such as the proxy server to access our journal collections or interlibrary loan materials delivered to their harbor side site. We wanted to make sure they knew about all the services we offer. Our Science Librarian, Svetlana Korolev, has a big role there, as does our Data Services Librarian, Kristin Briney, and Leigh Dorsey, head of Access Services, advised them on onsite delivery methods.

Q: Can we backtrack a little? Could you tell me more about “learning objects”?

Kristin: Learning objects are usually virtual. Certainly they can be downloaded, some of them, like a pdf or something like that. But for the most part you are talking about something that comes in its own little “package” and then could be embedded in a D2L site or in another library guide. We try to make everything really modular and reusable and, in fact, we license most of our learning objects with Creative Commons licenses to encourage other libraries to reuse them.

Q: That’s great. And have other libraries used them?

Kristin: Yes, absolutely. In particular, our information literacy tutorial has been reused at probably close to two dozen campuses.

Q: When did you decide to become a librarian?

Kristin: The horrible, nerdy, geeky truth is that when I was in high school I thought I would go to law school, so I joined the debate team and we would go to the Marquette University library to do research. That is when I figured out what a librarian does and decided that that was something I was really interested in.

At Madison, I worked in the library of the Wisconsin Historical Society, which is located on campus. UW-Madison is so a large; having that job for four years, it was sort of my home base. When I left UW-Madison I wasn’t quite sure what I wanted to do. I thought about going to graduate school for English, I thought about teaching, and I thought about going to library school.

The one thing I knew was that I wanted to go to library school in Milwaukee even though I had done my undergraduate in Madison. So many people whom I worked with in Madison were adamant that Milwaukee’s program had a better focus on technology than Madison’s program, and that really resonated with me, that that would be important for employment.

Q: Do you have an affinity for technology? You really have embraced it here.

Kristin: I think it was more the puzzle, using the technology to solve a problem, rather than technology itself. I’m not someone who grew up with the Commodore 64 or a heavy background in technology.
Q: What current project are you most excited about?

Kristin: I have been working with Open Textbooks, which are part of the larger Open Educational Resource (OER) or Open Education movement. Open Educational Resources are materials that can be used without any kind of copyright limitation. If I create a learning object at UWM and then give it an open license, then our colleagues at another school may use it or part of it — attributing us of course — perhaps enhancing it, and becoming a part of an ever improving cycle. My interest in OER grew out of my work with Instructional Design and wanting to do things efficiently. Between the Libraries and CETL, we’ve been working to build awareness among the faculty about how Open Textbooks are published, how they can be adapted, and how they can be changed under Creative Commons licenses, if that’s desirable.

Q: So you are very interested in supporting student success through free online or low-cost paper books for students.

Kristin: Yes. Some good early outcomes of the Open Textbook project are that we have adoptions in four different courses: Psychology 101, Info Studies 120 and 210 and Biomedical Sciences 240. Between the 2016 Winterim and Spring semesters, 262 students had free access to their textbooks, saving them a total of $24,682. We project that the total student savings for the full year 2016 will be $95,774.

Q: You were involved recently in two large grants that were awarded to the Libraries. One was for instructional design related to Flex, which ends this year?

Kristin: We are working on another year.

Q: And one granted by the Student Educational Technology board, for Open Textbooks. Where does this grant money go?

Kristin: It goes towards a membership for the UWM Libraries to the Open Textbook Network, which is run out of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Open Education. It is bringing us training which we did with the faculty and it is allowing us to participate in a professional network that is developing around open textbooks at UM through their library. The other portion was to provide stipends to faculty to reward them for reviewing books from the open textbook library.

Q: You have published and presented a great deal over the last two years. Which was the most interesting?

Kristin: I think an article I published on the Flex option in College and Research News was probably the most gratifying of all of those, because we have been using the same design and delivery model for online information literacy since 2007 and talking about librarians developing into more instructional consultants, but we had trouble getting that model published until we put it in the context of Flex. And then all of a sudden we were “leaders” in online education and getting cited on the ACRL update on competency-based education and the Horizon Report for Libraries!

Q: Congratulations! You have also recently taken over the Libraries’ effort with open scholarship.

Kristin: The issue with open access publishing is very similar to the issue of open access in education itself. I am hoping that we can start to look more at undergraduate research as a key practice on campus, opening the door for students to use resources more freely, to incorporate them into new types of scholarship like digital projects, posters, digital storytelling. And hopefully having them publish more in the Digital Commons and building the conversation around open access and open scholarship through the lens of what undergraduate students are doing as well as our graduate students and scholars.

Barbara Zakrzewska Borowiecki Was Instrumental in AGSL Move to UWM

Barbara Zakrzewska Borowiecki, professor emerita and former chair of the UWM Department of Geography, and an integral participant in the acquisition and transfer of the internationally renowned American Geographical Society Library from New York to UWM’s Golda Meir Library, died on March 18 in Springfield, Illinois at the age of 91.

In 1976, along with UWM Libraries Director William Roselle and UWM Chancellor Werner Baum, Borowiecki entered a proposal to the American Geographical Society for the acquisition of their library. The proposal was ultimately successful and the AGS Library came to UWM in 1978.

She received the Distinguished Samuel Finley Breese Morse Medal in 2009 for “the encouragement of geographical research,” for being instrumental in securing and preserving the AGS Library.

Born in Warsaw, Poland in 1927, Borowiecki and her family emigrated to the United States in 1947. She attended George Washington University, transferring to Indiana University where she earned her BA and MA. She received her PhD in Geography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

“Ampersand” Exhibit Reveals Process Behind Extraordinary Project

Beginning September 12, 2013, UW-Stevens Point graphic design professor Jillian Noble challenged herself to design a different ampersand everyday for over 100 days.

Later, she transformed her completed designs into original prints. Not being a print maker, however, she had to teach herself wood block and silk-screen printing techniques.

The results are exceptional, and this exhibition brings together thirty of those prints.

The exhibition is as much about Noble’s process as it is about her prints, so also on display are some of her original drawings, wood blocks, silkscreens, and her own text about the process.

Noble received her MFA in Graphic Design from Iowa State University, and has taught at UW-Stevens Point since 2007.

She teaches at all levels of the graphic design curriculum and specializes in web design, print production, and has also offered classes in environmental design topics such as wayfinding design.

In addition to her teaching, she is the co-founder of Elbongurk, a small graphic and web design firm located in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

“Ampersand” is on display through May 13, 2016 in the Fourth Floor Exhibition Gallery of the UWM Golda Meir Library. Gallery hours are 8 am – 5 pm, Monday – Friday.

The exhibit is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Special Collections at 414.229.4345 or libspecial@uwm.edu.

Max Yela

Design by Jillian Noble.

Civil Rights Digital Collection Gets New Look, More Content

The UWM Libraries’ Archives has relaunched the award-winning March on Milwaukee Civil Rights History Project.

The updated digital collection, which provides online access to primary sources telling the story of the Milwaukee civil rights movement, has been entirely redesigned.

New content includes over 500 pages from the papers of Vel Phillips, the first woman and first African-American to serve on the Common Council, who fought actively for open housing during the late 1960s. Papers shed light on Phillips’ political career, her role in the open housing campaigns, and Common Council debates.

The digital collection also includes nearly two hours of WTMJ-TV news footage; twenty-eight hours of oral history interviews, providing eyewitness recollections of the movement; and over 2,000 documents and photographs.

As context for the primary sources, the digital collection includes a full-length essay by Margaret Rozga, a participant in the 1960s civil rights movement and professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha; a list of over 60 key terms providing detailed information about significant people, places, and events; an illustrated timeline; and an interactive map showing important sites and march routes.

The digital collection supports historical understanding of civil rights movements in the North and beyond the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March and passage of the Voting Rights Bill.

In the late 1960s, Milwaukee was known as the “Selma of the North” due to its hyper-segregation by race and violent attacks by counterdemonstrators against individuals fighting for social justice in employment, housing, and education.

The March on Milwaukee digital collection has received awards from the American Association of State and Local History, the Society of American Archivists, the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

The March on Milwaukee digital collection is a collaborative effort of the Archives, Digital Collections & Initiatives, and the Wisconsin Historical Society, which owns many of the physical collections related to the civil rights movement.

Michael Doylen
Staff Recognized for Excellence

The recipients of 2015 UWM Libraries Outstanding Achievement Awards were Mary Boulanger (Academic Staff), Emily Li (University Staff), and Maxwell Cozzi (Student Employee).

A senior academic librarian in User Services, Boulanger was honored for her dedicated support of students, faculty, staff and colleagues, and in particular, for her outreach to the Zilber School of Public Health, the College of Nursing, and the College of Health Sciences. She retired in January 2016.

Li, a financial specialist in the Business Office, was recognized for her exceptional work overseeing the library’s acquisitions budget, among many important duties, and the assistance she provided the library’s interim UBR/PREP during 2015.

Cozzi, a senior in the Peck School of the Arts, has worked in Digital Collections & Initiatives since 2014. Among his contributions were the editing of digitized videos in the WTMJ-TV News Film collection and the creation of access files for the “UWM Conversation” digital collection.

The library staff awards were established in 1992 and are underwritten by the Janet and Carl Moebius Endowment and the Friends of the Golda Meir Library.

2016 Holzheimer Lecture Examines Jesuit Mapmaking

Mirela Altić, Institute of Social Sciences, Zagreb, Croatia presented the 2016 Holzheimer “Maps and America” Lecture on Thursday, April 28 in the American Geographical Society Library, located on the third floor east wing of the UWM Golda Meir Library.

The title of her presentation was “Encounters in the New World: Jesuit Cartography in the Americas.”

Altić is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences, Zagreb (Croatia) and Professor in the Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences University of Zagreb.

A former AGSL McColl Fellow (2014), she is the author of 12 books including Historical Cartography: Cartographic Sources in Historical Sciences (2004)—which won the annual prize as the best scientific book of the year in Croatia—and numerous scholarly papers, and is a contributor to The History of Cartography Project.

For the academic year 2013-14, Altić was David Woodward Fellow in the History of Cartography (UW-Madison).

Currently Head of the research project The Historical Towns Atlas – Historical Identity and Modern Development of Towns in the Republic of Croatia, she is also a member of the Commission on the History of Cartography of the International Cartographic Association and Croatian representative in the International Working Group Historic Towns Atlases.

This was the 27th “Maps and America” lecture, supported by an endowment created by Arthur and Janet Holzheimer.
Focus on a Friend: George Mosher

George Mosher joined the Friends of the Golda Meir Library Board in 2006, but the Harvard graduate and founder and former owner of Milwaukee-based National Business Furniture, Inc., says he had long been interested in UWM, particularly its critical role as an urban university.

His interest was initially sparked by Jane Jacob’s influential book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, and the author’s idea, he says, that successful development in a given state is more likely to happen when the state’s major city hosts the major college, “so that the community can absorb the output and the research dollars effectively.”

In Wisconsin, the city of Madison—with its major university—cannot keep all its graduates and many wind up in Chicago, Minneapolis or outside the Midwest, he says, whereas in Milwaukee with its greater number of opportunities, UWM graduates are more apt to become part of the community, get jobs and stay here, supporting the region.

Crucial to a great university, Mosher believes, is a great library.

“I have been very impressed with the UWM Libraries,” he says, “especially under the direction of Ewa Barczyk who has shown what can happen when a library works to become the center of the educational process.”

Backing up his belief, Mosher made a significant contribution toward the creation of the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons. About the success of the 2009 project, he says, “It’s been interesting to me to see how the renovation of the library, making it a combination of a gathering place on the first floor with lots of quiet study space on the upper floors, has made the library the center of the university.”

He recently gave a second substantial donation to assist with the preservation of the American Geographical Society Library’s (AGSL) international nautical charts from the 19th and 20th century, an important research collection for a university so strongly contributing to Milwaukee’s goal of becoming a global water resources leader.

AGSL also happens to be his favorite area in the library. He joined the AGSL-affiliated Map Society of Wisconsin after attending a talk about the 1978 relocation of AGSL from New York City to UWM.

In addition to being a perfect space for scholars and students to research a world-class collection of maps, it is also, he says, a place for anyone “to just go and pick up maps and read them.” Citing a realization he had while perusing historical maps of Springfield, Massachusetts, where he had relatives, he says, “one can use maps to trace the progress of when and why things happened.”

As an undergraduate, Mosher quickly learned the value of a library. “I was commuting for the first two years and I basically set up a place in the library which was my daytime home,” he says. “Even when I had moved into the college I still found the library was the place to go, sort of like the office. If you go to the office you are going to work, if you stay at home you may work or you may not work.”

As well as providing this “mental frame of reference” to succeed within, an amply supported library most importantly, he says, “makes it possible for everyone to get the access to the information they need and to learn how to use that information.”

Friends invited to special welcome sessions at the library

Friends members are invited to special welcome sessions to explore the benefits of being a Friend and view the most exciting destination on campus for students – the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons!

This is an opportunity for new as well as current members to familiarize themselves with how to:

• acquire a borrowing card
• find and check out books
• navigate the Libraries’ website to find information online
• and much more!

Attend one of the hour-long sessions and enjoy a free cup of coffee courtesy of the Libraries’ Grind café and UWM Union Restaurant Operations.

The sessions will be led by Tiffany Thornton, User Services Librarian. Susan Modder, Director of Development, will offer a brief tour.

Session dates are: Saturday, May 14, at 2:00 pm and Thursday, June 30, at 4:00 pm. Join us at the Welcome Desk in the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons, located on the first floor west wing of the UWM Golda Meir Library.

Choose which session you would like to attend and RSVP at semodder@uwm.edu or 414-229-2811.
Greetings

Spring is here, and I have some exciting news: John Gurda will be the guest speaker on Thursday, May 19 at the Friends Annual Program. A wonderful historian, storyteller, and writer, John will speak about his award-winning book Milwaukee: City of Neighborhoods. Please save the date; more information can be found below.

Many of our Friends know our amazing Libraries Director, Ewa Barczyk. Ewa will retire in May after a career here that has spanned decades. Her work is internationally known and respected. It has been my honor to work with Ewa and we all look forward to her future involvement as a member of the Friends.

I am happy to announce that Michael Doylen, currently Assistant Director of Libraries: Archives, Music, and Special Collections, will assume the role of Interim Director of Libraries. Michael earned an MLIS from UWM and a PhD from the University of California-Santa Cruz and brings many years of university library experience.

Please join us for our annual program! In addition to a great program, you’ll have an opportunity to wish Ewa Barczyk well and welcome Michael Doylen.

The Library needs your support more than ever, so join, rejoin, or honor a friend of yours with Friends membership. Go to http://uwm.edu/libraries/friends for more information.

All the best and hope to see you soon,

Lynne Pearson

John Gurda to speak on Milwaukee Neighborhoods at Friends Annual Program

The Friends of the Golda Meir Library are excited to feature historian and author John Gurda for their Annual Program on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 5 p.m. in the fourth floor Conference Center of the Golda Meir Library.

The title of his presentation is “Milwaukee: City of Neighborhoods.”

Geography matters in Milwaukee. From the very beginning, rivers and railroads divided the city into distinct “Sides” – North, South, East, and West – with dramatically different characters. Within those districts dozens of smaller communities developed – places like Bay View, Layton Park, Pigs ville, Washington Heights, Rufus King, Riverwest, and North Point.

The result is a mosaic of small-scale hometowns that make the city both intelligible and approachable. Join John Gurda for a lively, illustrated look at the patterns that have made Milwaukee pre-eminently a city of neighborhoods.

John Gurda is a Milwaukee-born writer and historian who has been studying his hometown since 1972. He is the author of twenty-one books, including histories of Milwaukee-area neighborhoods, industries, and places of worship.

Gurda’s most ambitious efforts are The Making of Milwaukee, the first full-length history of the community published since 1948, and Milwaukee: City of Neighborhoods, a geographic companion that has quickly become the standard work on grassroots Milwaukee.

Together the books total more than 900 pages and feature 2,000 illustrations. The Making of Milwaukee was the basis for an Emmy Award-winning documentary series that premiered on Milwaukee Public Television in 2006.

In addition to his work as an author, Gurda is a lecturer, tour guide, and local history columnist for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

His undergraduate degree is a B.A. in English from Boston College, and he holds an M.A. in Cultural Geography and an honorary Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The common thread in all of Gurda’s work is an understanding of history as “why things are the way they are.”

A book sale and signing will follow the program. The Friends of the Golda Meir Library business meeting will take place prior to the lecture, at 4:15 in Special Collections, on the fourth floor of the library.

For more information or special needs, please call 414-229-6202.

John Gurda
Recent Donations

Thank you to the following donors who gave significant monetary gifts to the Libraries from January 1 to December 31, 2015. We are grateful for your support!

Barbara & Ronald Abler
Kathleen & Anthony Asmuth
Nancy Backes
Bernadine Balicki
Ewa Barczyk & Neal Pease
Susan Barnett
Mary Batzner
Polly & Robert Beal
Laura & Jeffrey Berin
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Duane Bogenschneider
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