From the Friends President

The Friends have had another good year! We have increased our membership and continue to make progress toward becoming a more community-oriented organization. You’ll recall that at the 1998 Annual Meeting the membership voted to expand the Friends’ Board. Accordingly, this year we added five members; next year we will add five more. In the next Newsletter, I’ll report on our new World Wide Web site that will provide current information on Library activities.

Friends support of the Golda Meir Library and its programs (noted in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter) continues at a high level. The funds the Friends provide to enhance collections adds significantly to the educational experience of our students and to the availability of resources much used by the community. Now, more than ever, the GML needs Friends support to provide the margin of excellence that State funds cannot cover. As a premier research library serving over forty percent of Wisconsin’s population, the Golda Meir Library relies on community support, such as that provided by each of you as members of the Friends, as well as State funds.

As always, the Friends welcome your input, support, and involvement. I encourage each of you who has suggestions or would like to become more involved with Friends programs and activities to contact me or one of the other Board members. Thank you for your continued support of a wonderful library.

--Norman Lasca

Rare edition of Moby Dick presented for Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher’s Inauguration

By now you should be aware that UWM has a new Chancellor. On March 26, Nancy L. Zimpher was inaugurated as the sixth chancellor of UWM.

In honor of Chancellor Zimpher’s inauguration, the Friends purchased a first edition of Moby Dick; or, The Whale by Herman Melville for the Golda Meir Library. This copy of the rare second printing (1855) of Moby Dick will be housed in the Library’s Special Collections Department to be preserved for use by students, researchers, and the general public, and will add significantly to the Library’s literary holdings and to Special Collections’ concentration in printing and publishing history.

The Friends chose this work due to the fact that early in her academic career, Nancy Zimpher wrote her Master’s thesis on "Animal Imagery in Herman Melville’s Major Works." The white whale Moby Dick is easily the most celebrated of Melville’s animal creations, and the significance of its imagery is among the most widely discussed in American literary scholarship. With the addition of this volume to the Golda Meir Library’s collections, the Friends recognize Chancellor Zimpher’s early research interest in American literary studies, and her continuing dedication to teaching and scholarship.

Representing the Friends, Ed Hinshaw and Stanley Miller (holding the Moby Dick book) were on hand to present the rare volume at Chancellor Zimpher’s inauguration.

The Friends also hosted a special pre-inauguration reception for Chancellor Zimpher the evening of March 25th. Library Director Peter Watson-Boone and Ed Hinshaw spoke with the Chancellor as she looked at the book which the Friends purchased for the Library in her honor.
Annual Meeting Program:

Contemporary Milwaukee-Area Poets: Readings

The annual meeting program this past June 6th featured an afternoon of poetry readings by several contemporary Milwaukee-area poets. Poets participating in the event were: Kim Blaeser, Daisy Cubias, Peggy Hong, and John Koethe. The event was enjoyed by all those present. Thanks to Clayborn Benson for proposing the idea for this event, and thanks to Christel Maass, the Assistant to the Library Director, for handling the arrangements.

Friends-Supported Events, January-June 1999

Friends provided support for the following Library programs in the first half of the year:

* The American Geographical Society Collection’s Academic Adventurers series, featuring the following lectures:


  "Landscapes of Ireland," John Gieson (March 19).

  "China in the Year of Tiananmen Square," Fred Landis (April 23).

  The 10th annual Arthur Holzheimer Maps and America lecture (April 7). Gary North, formerly with the United State Geological Survey, spoke on "The U.S. Geological Survey: Continuing to Take a New Look at an Old Planet."

  The Special Collections Scholar in the Library series, featuring the following lectures:

  "African American Perspectives on Crime and Justice," Lee E. Ross (February 26).

  "Christianity and the Regulation of Sexuality in the Early Modern World," Merry Wiesner-Hanks (March 26).


Continued Library Support Pledged

At the annual meeting on June 6th the Friends voted to continue their support to the Library for:

* Seven receptions for the American Geographical Society Collection’s Academic Adventurers series: $1,000.

* Special Collections’ Book FOR[u]Ms series: $1,300.

* Staff development: $3,000.

* Library Director’s Unrestricted Account: $1,000.

* Holzheimer Maps and America lecture series: $500.

Library Director Peter Watson-Boone expressed pleasure and gratitude to the Friends for their valuable support of programs and activities.
Support for UW System Libraries

On behalf of the Friends, President Norman Lasca sent letters to UWM Chancellor Zimpher and Governor Thompson asking for their support to keep the Board of Regents’ $12 million request for UW library collections in the State’s 1999-2001 budget. The Friends strongly endorsed the Regents’ request for additional library funds.

It has been ten years since the last State increase in funds for the UW libraries. During that time, the price of scholarly journals necessary for quality instruction and research has increased more than any segment of the economy, except perhaps health care. In the last ten years, the Golda Meir Library has canceled 900 journals, many of them no longer available in the Milwaukee metropolitan area.

Unavailable and declining resources severely impact the quality of not only UWM’s instruction and research, but also affect the Milwaukee community and the people of Wisconsin. Schools, businesses, and state agencies frequently rely on UW System library resources. Funding for State libraries is necessary in order to provide current research resources for a diversified population of library users.

Membership Survey

Current Friends members should have received a survey form with their membership renewal forms. This survey will help the Friends plan future activities. If you did not receive a survey form, or if you are interested in volunteering to help plan Friends activities, please call Linda Kopp, Library Administrative Office Manager, at 229-6202.

Book Sales

The Friends had another successful used book sale this past March 29-31. The sale raised $2,761.30. Proceeds were donated to the Golda Meir Library for special acquisitions. Thanks to Bob Seay for organizing the book sale.

Plans for a fall book sale are in the works. Volunteers are needed to help set up for the sale the day before; to staff the sales point, including straightening and arranging the items on the sales tables; and to clear up after the sale is over. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the book sale should contact Bob Seay at 251-6705.

Donations are also welcome. Anyone interested in donating books, music recordings, and videos either for possible addition to the Library’s holdings or for the book sale should contact Jim Tobin, the Library’s Collection Manager, at 229-6814 or e-mail rjt@gml.lib.uwm.edu.

New Library Automation System

The Golda Meir Library has implemented a new library computer system. This is the biggest automation change for the Library in 25 years, says Peter Watson-Boone.

The new system, called Voyager, is designed specifically for academic and research libraries. Over 350 libraries, including the Library of Congress, have already chosen Voyager. With the installation of Voyager, all 26 UW System campuses will use the same library automation system for the first time.

Until now, the Golda Meir Library shared its old computer system, known as NLS, with UW-Madison, while all other UW campuses had a separate system.

The new system will have many new features, including the ability to seamlessly search other UW System library catalogs, as well as full multi-media support and linking to the World Wide Web. Users will also be able to renew books and place holds and recalls on books directly through the catalog, as well as view items that they have checked out.

The Library will be offering an extensive array of workshops on the use of the new system. For more information on training sessions, please contact the Reference Services Department at 229-4659.

Upcoming Events at the Golda Meir Library

September 17, 3 p.m.: Academic Adventurers program: Alexandra Dimitroff, UWM School of Library & Information Science, “Living and Teaching in Moscow.”

October 3-9: Archives Week. This year’s theme is “The Media in History.” An exhibit of materials from the
Milwaukee Press Club records will be on display in the library. An event is being planned which will include the formal opening of the Milwaukee Press Club records.

October 8, 3 p.m.: Academic Adventurers program: Portia Cobb, UWM Dept. of Film, "Places Left Behind: Blue Africa."

October 14, 3:30 p.m.: Fromkin Lecture. Dr. Detine Bowers, UWM Dept. of Communication will focus on Dr. James Farmer, a civil rights movement pioneer, and a 1998 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

November 12, 3 p.m.: Academic Adventurers program: Mick Day, UWM Dept. of Geography, "Signs of Belize."

December 10, 3 p.m.: Academic Adventurers program: Larry Hoev, UWM Dept. of Art History, "Culture and Creativity in the Parish Churches of Medieval England."

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Leigh Sherman
Sally Tolan
Pat Van Alvea

Peter Watson-Boone (ex officio)

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**Friends of the Golda Meir Library**

**Newsletter, Summer 1999**