More than just a Friend, Past President Pat Van Alyea has been an inspiring and effective ambassador for the Golda Meir Library. For more than a decade, she has focused her boundless energy on numerous Library-related causes, initiatives, and programs.

Perhaps the most important Library project she has been involved with, and the one closest to her heart, was the substantial remodeling of the first floor west wing into the Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons, which was completed in 2009.

In her position as President and as a member of the Board’s Renovation Task Force, Pat spearheaded efforts to raise funding for the Learning Commons, and was instrumental in gaining campus support in the form of a matching grant, as well as the support of the entire Friends Board. She and her husband Tom personally contributed generously to the transformative project.

“I just love the Learning Commons,” Pat says. “It’s so wonderful to see the students and faculty working together in that beautiful space.”

Pat has spent much of her life associated in various ways with books. She owned Book Bay Children’s Books, located first in Milwaukee and then in Whitefish Bay, from 1986 until it closed in 2002.

She joined the Friends of the Golda Meir Library Board in 1999, becoming Vice President in 2003 and then serving as President 2005-09.

During her tenure as President, Pat energetically recruited members through the Library’s Tea & Tour program. She initiated a popular series of Friends programs pairing author presentations with related cuisines, and worked tirelessly to promote Friends events, such as last year’s highly successful Sheldon Lubar lecture.

She championed significant Board support for key Library projects: the WTMJ News Film Collection Preservation Project, the LGBT Collection, and multi-year major support for much-needed online resources.

She has a strong interest in art, exhibited in gifts she has donated to the Library, including original drawings for a children’s book, installed in the Curriculum Collection; an artist’s book held by Special Collections; and an original cartoon drawn by award-winning editorial cartoonist Stuart Carlson.

Pat remains actively involved with the Friends, helping the organization plan its future and continuing to volunteer at events like the Friends Used Book Sale, where she has cheerfully sold paperbacks, promoted the Library, and made new Friends for many years.
Summer arrived late this year and so the beginning of the university’s fall term seems especially early, but with the new semester comes exciting events and opportunities, especially at the Library.

Before I talk about the future, though, let me briefly outline what a great year the Friends of the Golda Meir Library just had.

We began with a redesign of our web site. If you have not done so already, please check out its new and improved look at libraryfriends.uwm.edu

The Friends organized an important panel discussion in February, “Riding the Freedom Road: Are We There Yet?” about the civil rights movement in Milwaukee, and we sponsored a second community-focused lecture—our annual program—on Milwaukee development and planning issues.

In the fall and spring, we held successful used book sales. And we renewed our pledge of $90,000 over three years to the UWM Libraries to underwrite critically needed online resources for students and faculty.

The Friends also co-sponsored many UWM Libraries events and helped support staff development.

Looking ahead, we have scheduled the Fall 2011 Used Book Sale. It is open to UWM students, faculty, and staff only on October 3, and to the public on October 4 and 5.

Planning has also begun for a special cultural event this winter, and next spring’s annual program.

One important initiative we are actively supporting this year is the Milwaukee Photographic Memory campaign to save the historic Roman Kwasniewski Photograph Collection held in the UWM Archives. We recently contributed a $10,000 matching grant for its preservation. You can read more about the campaign below.

I want to mention a positive benefit change with Friends membership. Privileges to borrow DVDs and CDs are now available at the $150 Sponsorship Level, a bargain beyond that of supporting our wonderful Library.

The Board welcomes your participation in the organization, as well as your support. We have a new Volunteer Liaison at the Library, Michael Tyree, who will facilitate your involvement.

I invite you to join me and become involved with the Friends. If you are interested, please contact me or the Libraries Development Director, Susan Modder (414-229-2811). Thank you.

Sarah Wright Kimball
kimballsarah@sbcglobal.net

FROM THE PRESIDENT

CAMPAIGN TO SAVE PHOTOS DOCUMENTING MILWAUKEE’S POLONIA

Studio photographer Roman Kwasniewski (1886-1980), the son of Polish immigrants, created a rich visual record of his community from the 1910s to the 1940s. In his studio on Lincoln Avenue, Kwasniewski captured important events in the lives of thousands of Polish-Americans: First Communions, Confirmations, graduations, weddings, and anniversaries.

He was widely regarded as his community’s premiere photographer. He also took pictures of street scenes, local businesses, buildings, sports teams, Polish fraternal societies, South Side business associations, and church and social groups.

His photos show an ethnic community during its most cohesive period. It is the most extensive photographic documentation of a Polish community in the United States.

The result is an astonishingly detailed portrait of a community, comprising over 35,000 images, that unfortunately is endangered. Images on glass-plate negatives have faded, and images on cellulose nitrate and acetate film bases are at risk of deterioration.

A project to digitize and preserve this important national treasure has been established. Once preserved, the photographs will be made more widely available as selections will be posted on the Web.

Private support from individuals, foundations, corporations, and other funding sources is necessary to meet these goals. The Friends of the Library have helped launch the fundraising campaign by offering a $10,000 Challenge Grant. The total fundraising goal is $120,000.

We invite you, as a Friends member, to consider supporting this innovative project to preserve an important part of our collective history with a gift or pledge. Support may be pledged over a three-year time period.

If you have any questions about giving to the project or would like to see the Kwasniewski collection first-hand, please contact Ewa Barczyk, Director of Libraries, at 414-229-6202 or ewa@uwm.edu, or Susan Modder, Development Director, at (414) 229-2811 or semodder@uwm.edu

Volunteering Opportunities

The Friends offer a number of opportunities to volunteer, and the Library has appointed Michael Tyree to a newly created position, Volunteer Liaison, to assist with Friends membership and volunteer involvement.

Current opportunities include:
• Volunteering to help out at the Fall Used Book Sale, October 3-5, 2011.
• Service on one of the Friends committees: Programs, Development, or Membership.

If you are interested, please contact Michael Tyree at 414-229-6813 or tyrees@uwm.edu.
Robert Greenstreet, Dean of UWM School of Architecture and Urban Planning, and Rocky Marcoux, Commissioner of Milwaukee’s Department of City Development, spoke optimistically about current and upcoming development to an animated audience of 125 at the Friends Annual Program, May 5, 2011.

Both speakers cited a steady number of well-designed downtown and neighborhood projects that have recently been finished or are near completion, including the Marquette Law School, Zilber Park, Iron Horse Hotel, Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital, and St. Johns, and projects that are planned to begin soon, such as UWM’s School of Freshwater Science and School of Public Health buildings, a MIAD dorm, and the extension of the Milwaukee RiverWalk.

At the Friends Annual Business Meeting, which preceded the lecture, the Friends re-elected Sarah Wright Kimball as President and Jill G. Pelisek as Treasurer, and appointed Lynne Perlson as Vice President to fill out a term.

Elected to the Board of Directors were Daniel Fetterley, Tom Neubauer, Joseph Sectzer and Nick Wilson; and Judith Steininger was appointed to fill out a term. Jill Pelisek and Beverly Perlson were re-elected to the Board.

- Daniel Fetterly is Attorney, Of Counsel, to the law firm of Andrus, Sceales, Starke & Sawall, in intellectual property law. He is an Emeritus Member and Past President of the UWM Board of Visitors and graduate of Marquette University’s Future Milwaukee Leadership Program.
- Tom Neubauer works for Ogden Development Group. He has served on the board of directors of the Milwaukee Rotary Club, is actively engaged with the YMCA Sponsor-A-Scholar mentoring program, and is a member of Wisconsin Alumni Association Diversity and Inclusion Committee.
- Joseph Sectzer is a Financial Advisor of the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. He is a member of Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee, Latino Entrepreneurial Network of Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Area Jewish Committee. He chairs the Jewish Latin America Collection Associates Group (UWM Libraries Special Collections).
- Judith Steininger is Professor Emeritus at Milwaukee School of Engineering, where she continues to teach Great Books. She also consults for Project Lead The Way, a nationwide Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program for middle and high school students.
- Nick Wilson is Vice Chairman, Director, and member of the Investment Committee at Jacobus Wealth Management. He currently serves on the Boards of Penfield Children’s Center, Public Policy Forum, and H. H. Camp Foundation. He is a founding member of the Map Society of Wisconsin.

Outgoing Board members Betty Bostrom, Denise Elfe and Robert Meldman were honored with certificates of appreciation and received emeritus status.

When our Daniel M. Soref Learning Commons opened in 2009, the number of visitors passing through our doors increased dramatically. I am happy to report another increase for the year 2010-11, as we have truly become the intellectual crossroads of campus, and an important information center for the entire community. And we have the Friends to thank, for their key support and generous contributions.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Friends for their renewed $30,000 grant for online resources and their recent Kwasniewski Collection challenge grant.

The Friends helped underwrite staff development and recognition, and supported many Library events. I join with the entire staff in thanking the Friends President Sarah Wright Kimball, the Board, and the entire organization for their many generous contributions to the UWM Libraries.

This is an opportunity, too, to congratulate two Board members who were recently honored in the community. Suzy Ettinger is the first recipient of the Spirit of Community Award, given by the Jewish Museum Milwaukee, to honor outstanding contributions to the community through support for cultural heritage, education or the arts. And Jill Pelisek has been named a 2011 Woman of Influence by the Business Journal of Milwaukee.

It is wonderful to have such supportive Friends who truly make a difference. We look forward to another busy and exciting year working with them all.

Ewa Barczyk
Director of Libraries

A THANK YOU FROM THE LIBRARIES DIRECTOR

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE GOLDA MEIR LIBRARY

Sept. 23, 2011, 3 p.m.
UWM’s Academic Adventurers Larry Kuiper, Associate Professor, UWM Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature, “The Southern Cantal: Exploring a Rural Crossroads in France.” Held in the American Geographical Society Library, 3rd floor, east wing.

Oct. 3-5, 2011
Friends Fall Used Book Sale Open to UWM students, faculty and staff only, with valid ID, Oct. 3, noon-6 p.m. Open to the public, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Held in Conference Center, 4th floor.

Oct. 11, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 20, 2011, 4:00 p.m.
42nd Annual Fromkin Lecture Robert Smith, Associate Professor, UWM Dept. of History, “To Mitigate the Harshness: Transnational Legal Efforts in the Fight Against Apartheid” Held in Conference Center, 4th floor.

Oct. 25, 2011, 7 p.m.
Ettinger Book Artist Lecture Fred Hagstrom, printmaker, book artist and professor of art at Carleton College, will discuss his work. Held in Special Collections, 4th floor.

Steven Burnham sburnham@uwm.edu
Fred Hagstrom, a book artist, printmaker, and professor of art at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, will present the 2011 Ettinger Book Artist Lecture on Tuesday, October 25 at 7 p.m. in Special Collections.

Hagstrom’s work focuses primarily on social, political, and literary issues, and will be featured prominently in an exhibition this fall in the 4th Floor Gallery on the artist’s book as socio-political commentary.

**From So many many many, 2005, etching by Fred Hagstrom.**