



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2071
www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Phyllis Hegner
Assistant PR Manager
Phone (513) 369-4571
Phyllis.Hegner@CincinnatiLibrary.org

Emily Mueller
Media Communications Specialist
Phone (513) 369-6959
Emily.Mueller@CincinnatiLibrary.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

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50 Years of Giving to Be Celebrated

Since its founding in 1957, The Friends of the Public Library has raised over \$4 million to help strengthen the Library's resources. The Friends, a nonprofit organization comprised of dedicated volunteers and over 2,100 members, has purchased valuable materials for the Library's collection, underwritten thousands of programs for adults, teens, and children, enthusiastically advocated for strong library support, and stepped up to meet every new challenge when the Library has asked for assistance.

A Golden Anniversary Party saluting the Friends of the Public Library will be held on Saturday, October 13 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Reading Garden Lounge at the Main Library in downtown Cincinnati. The public is invited to this free celebration featuring classical music performed by a trio from the College Conservatory of Music, refreshments, plus memory sharing with a display showcasing the Friends' history. A brief program at 2:30 p.m. will include the premier of a video, featuring interviews with past presidents and directors, and the unveiling of a published history penned by Robert Vitz, son of former Library director Carl Vitz.



The Friends of the Public Library will host a 50th Anniversary Party on Saturday, October 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Main Library. Pictured are three Friends Directors who have been planning the celebratory public event are, from left to right, Friends Vice President Jay DeWitt (Madeira), Friends Director Cathy Huenefeld (Hyde Park), and Friends President Jeff Waltz (Mt. Lookout).

To showcase the breadth and depth of their achievements as fabulous Friends for fifty years, a banner exhibit is on view at the Main Library showcasing a sample of 50 outstanding ways the Friends have given to the Greater Cincinnati community over the past five decades through their support of the Public Library. Gifts from the Friends range from purchasing a saltwater aquarium for the Children's Learning Center and paying for the duplication of radio programs, "Jazz with O.T.," onto cassettes and CDs, to sponsoring 34 years of the children and teens summer reading program and restoring three historic stained glass windows.

"It is not often that an individual or organization can make a substantial, meaningful contribution to a community, but that's exactly what The Friends of the Public Library has done over the last 50 years," said Friends President Jeff Waltz. "Much has changed over the last 50 years, but one thing has remained constant – the steadfast resolution of The Friends to the well

being of the Public Library and the citizens of southwestern Ohio and surrounding areas. We hope many people will join us to celebrate the group's rich legacy."

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50 YEARS OF GIVING

An Exhibit of 50 Banners on View at the Main Library in October 2007

Since its founding in 1957, The Friends of the Public Library has raised over \$4 million to help strengthen the Library's resources by purchasing valuable materials for the collection, underwriting thousands of programs for adults, teens, and children, enthusiastically advocating for strong library support, and stepping up to meet every new challenge when asked. To illustrate the breadth and depth of their achievements as fabulous Friends for 50 years, banners will be on view throughout the Main Library showcasing 50 outstanding ways the Friends have given over the past five decades.

1. Paid for the duplication of the Oscar Treadwell Jazz Collection on cassette and CD
2. Sponsored "Library Pig" for the Big Pig Gig
3. Funded costs for Children's Learning Center murals
4. Purchased facsimile of the *Book of Kells*
5. Underwrote publication of *Ye Giglampz* facsimile
6. Supported restoration of three historic Library windows
7. Underwrote *Free & Public* book for Library's 150th Anniversary
8. Supported 34 Years of Summer Reading Programs
9. Purchased 1685 Shakespeare Folio
10. Purchased first American edition of *Huckleberry Finn*, 1885
11. Purchased *Napoleon*, an artist's book by Alice Balterman
12. Purchased *A Christmas Carol*, limited edition illustrated by Ida Applebroog
13. Gave \$100,000 to Library Foundation as its first gift
14. Underwrote concert honoring retired director James R. Hunt
15. Purchased saltwater aquarium for the Children's Learning Center, 1997
16. Supported teen creative writing for over 40 years through the Seven Hills Review
17. Sponsored lecture by author Alex Haley
18. Supported Robert Sabuda's visit & Pop Up Palooza
19. Purchased 1880 *Police Gazette Slang Dictionary*
20. Purchased Galileo's treatise on astronomy, 1655
21. Paid moving costs for the sculpture by Louise Nevelson
22. Supported El Dia, a children's bilingual book celebration
23. Sponsored hundreds of teen programs
24. Bought tent canopies for outdoor programs
25. Sponsored Black History Month Programs
26. Underwrote Main Library's annual Veterans Day Programs
27. Purchased large globe for Main Library
28. Sponsored On the Same Page, community reading program
29. Purchased Journal of John James Audubon
30. Purchased 1848 *Guide to America for German Immigrants*

31. Purchased George Catlin's *Study of North American Indians*, 1841
32. Purchased Lafcadio Hearn's *Japanese Fairy Tales*, ca. 1898
33. Supported Library funding efforts
34. Purchased William Morris' *The Wood Beyond the World*, 1894
35. Purchased historic map of Cincinnati, 1884
36. Annually sponsor hundreds of programs
37. Support children's storytimes
38. Funded restoration of Library's baby grand piano
39. Sponsored very popular "InventorFest"
40. Purchased William Butler Yeats' *The Cat and the Moon*, 1924
41. Purchased video projection equipment for the branch libraries
42. Purchased copier for large fragile materials
43. Sponsored award-winning Library Card Challenge Campaign
44. Support annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration
45. Purchased National Archives Passenger Lists for the Genealogical Collection
46. Supported purchase of the 1920 Census for the genealogy collection
47. Sponsored 15 annual Bookfests for children
48. Purchased first known printed view of Cincinnati, *Topographical Description of the State of Ohio*, by Jervis Cutler-1809
49. Purchased *The American Drawings of John White* by P.H. Hulton
50. Supported purchase of twentieth century inland river photos & diaries