

LAKE FOREST LIBRARY CELEBRATES FRIENDS

October, 2014

Friends of Lake Forest Library was organized in 1975 and had its first used book sale in 1976 in the Library courtyard. That sale raised about \$3,000. In 2014, with the sale in its 39th year, the Friends small army of dedicated volunteers again made over \$100,000 at their annual four day fall sale.

What impact has fund raising by the Friends had on Lake Forest Library? Over the years, the Friends have given more than two million dollars to the Library for restoration projects, equipment, programs and services.

41% was used to restore the landscaping, refurbish the Fine Arts Room, the Business Room, the Garden Room, the Reference and Reading Rooms. 27% was used for the Children's Library and programs for children and teens. 15% supported the summer reading programs for children, teens and adults. The Friends funded the purchase of the Library's first computer, a touch screen, in the 1980's; in 2010, the Library purchased e book readers-Kindle, Nook, Sony and iPad- for Staff experimentation and learning.

Art restoration has been possible because of the wisdom and generosity of the Friends. The restoration of the ten Audubons in the Reading Room, the salvaging of one panel and the cleaning of all the Remisoff murals in the Rotunda, the restoration of the charming art deco drinking fountain in the foyer of the Children's Library, restoration work on Sylvia Shaw Judson's *The Apple Tree Children*, and the cleaning and restoration of the needlepoint hanging *Lake Forest Flora and Fauna* in the Business Room, all were possible with Friends funds. The beautiful murals in the stairways, in the foyer and in the Children's Library by Thomas Melvin were a result of gifts from the Friends. The Mark McMahon watercolors in the foyer, one of the building, commissioned to celebrate the Library's centennial in 1998, and the other to celebrate the Friends sale in 1995, as well as the Franklin McMahon, were gifts of the Friends. The wonderful art booklet, *Lake Forest Library Art: An Aesthetic Legacy*, which pulls much information about the fine collection of paintings, prints and sculpture in and around the building, was also possible with the Friends gift.

In 2013, 90% of the cost of the restoration of twenty-six windows in the building was funded by the Friends. And, in 2014, almost half of the cost of the Media Lab was funded by the Friends.

While an impressive list of accomplishments, the best gift of the Friends' efforts is the intangible positive promotion of the importance and value of the Library to the cultural and educational life of the community. That is a priceless gift without measure.

The Lake Forest Library Board of Trustees and Staff have set aside the month of October to celebrate the work of the Friends. Please join us in honoring and discovering the fine work of this wonderful group of Friends.