



Friends of the Freeland Library

Volume 33 Issue 1

Winter 2021

Friends Hold Annual Meeting Via Zoom

Nine members zoomed to the Friends of the Freeland Library's Annual Membership Meeting on Monday, January 25.

The agenda included election of committee chairs, reports by Sno-Isle Libraries staff, review and approval of Betsy's Wish List and planning for 2021.

What's Betsy's Wish List? The Freeland Library's Managing Librarian, Betsy Arand, always prepares a list of items or programs the Friends of the Freeland Library can help fund, which are above the normal operating expenses provided by Sno-Isle Libraries. Her request was abbreviated, since in-person programming won't be possible until the danger of spreading the Corona virus is under control. The Friends approved her request of \$1,510 for the Books2Movies presenter honorarium; donation to Drewslist for event promotion; the purchase of print, ebooks and audio books for Whidbey Reads 2022; and book prizes for the 2021 Summer Reading Program, *Tails & Tales*, for both Children and Teens. Hopefully she will have an expanded list of programs for the board to approve later in the year.

Betsy gave a PowerPoint month-by-month presentation about activity at the library beginning with the March 13, 2020 closure of all the Sno-Isle Libraries. It was amusing to remember that the plan was to reopen in two weeks on April 1st. Obviously that didn't happen. Staff has been anything but idle all this time. Read more about all the services on page 2. If you squint through the windows into the community room you can see the preparations for limited in-person browsing. A new canopy has been set up outside the door to shelter patrons waiting in line when this opportunity is safe to start. Among the staff activities was to make personal phone calls to every library patron over 60 years old to discern their state of health and offer help using online services.

Among the future improvements to the library, Betsy described the earthquake warning system to be installed at the library through the University of Washington's seismic data system.

She also floated the idea of a Story Trail, similar to the one installed in Oak Harbor's Windjammer Park. Read the story in the *Whidbey News-Times*, June 25, 2019,

Membership Renewals Due

It's now time to renew your 2021 membership. Or join as a new member. Dues are only \$10 per household. See the membership/donation form on the last page of this newsletter.

[Clicking on blue text will take you to the article]. Stay tuned as logistics are developed and consider sponsoring a story stand.

All members of the Board were reelected for a term of one year by majority vote of those members of the Friends present at the annual meeting. The Board of Directors are made up of five Committee Chairs: Records, Financial, Membership, Newsletter and Book Sale. It is the governing body of this nonprofit organization.

The **Records Chair** is Rebecca Rickabaugh, who might also be seen with her sketchbook. She keeps a record of meetings of the organization, including actions and decisions. She also conducts correspondence as required.

Annual Meeting, see [page 6](#)



Else Christensen reports the installation of this new Little Library last fall at the Maple Ridge condos in Freeland. Look for it on the circle of Compass Boulevard and Alliance Avenue.

Library Contact-Free Services

We have now been providing on-site, contact-free services to the community for seven months. Here is a summary of our current services. If you have not already done so, I hope you will make use of these services and share your suggestions for future contact-free services.

Holds pickup: You can place holds on library materials by using the online catalog or calling library staff. When you receive notification that your holds are available, come to the library and call the pickup phone number, 360-651-7182. A staff person will check out your items, put them in a recyclable paper bag and bring the bag out to the pickup table, all in a socially distanced and a contact-free experience. During the cold-weather months the table is just inside the door.

Returning materials: You may now return items through the normal return slot. Materials are quarantined at least four days before they are returned so they will remain on your

library account a few days longer than usual.

Quick Picks and Library Picks: We know you miss being able to come in the library to browse for materials. Staff can do this for you. Use the online order form to request *Library Picks*. Provide some brief information and staff will place holds for you on a great selection of items. Call before you come or if you are already at the library to pick up holds, we will pull items for you that are immediately available. Just let us know if you need a few board books, drama DVDs or cookbooks and we will add them to your bag.

Contact-free printing: You can submit a print request through the online *Remote Printing Portal*. Staff finishes the printing process and makes the finished print available for contact-free pickup.

Free face coverings: Working with the Island County Department of Human Services, Whidbey librarians

have a supply of free cloth face coverings available. If you would like a packet of five face coverings, please call the library or let us know when you are here to pick up your holds or return material

Laptops and Hotspots: There are now some laptops available to check out and use in the library parking lot. Laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots are now available for customers to check out and take home.

Online Programs: Sno-Isle Libraries has made the difficult decision *not* to offer in-person library programs or events for the foreseeable future. However, we have been able to move many programs such as Trivia, Craft & Chat, Author Events, and family story times online. Please see our online Events page and other articles in this newsletter for information on some exciting upcoming programs.

— *Betsy Arand, Managing Librarian*

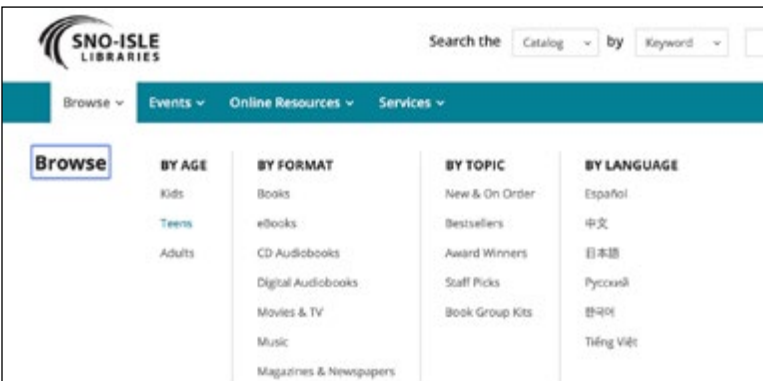
Tour Sno-Isle Libraries' New Website

Books page – Explore new, on order and available titles for your favorite genre or topic on our Books pages, www.sno-isle.org/books.

Kids and Teens pages – Head to our Kids, www.sno-isle.org/kids, or Teen page, www.sno-isle.org/teens, for the latest events, news, fun polls and more for each age group. You

can also visit dedicated book pages for kids and teens from these pages to help your child find their next favorite story.

Business, Career and Community pages – Find the resources you need for your small business or job search. Or, learn more about what's going on in our community and be-



come a global citizen.

Need help finding something on the new site?

Staff is available to help. Chat with us or

give us a call. We look forward to helping you find what you are after.

Friends of the Freeland Library
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Archives:
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The Friends of the Freeland Library Annual Membership meeting is held in January. The Board conducts business on a needs basis and via email. Contact any of the Board members with suggestions and opinions. Your support is important to us as we all work to support our library.

The Library Is *Virtually* Always Open for Everyone

Summer 2020...

It was a strange and educational summer as we moved the Summer Reading Program online. While we certainly missed seeing everyone in person, we gained some new skills and expanded our audience district-wide. We even had Sno-Isle kids, who were vacationing on the other side of the country, attend our online programs. We were able to provide a variety of school-aged programs.

For the weekly "Storytime Shorts," Tracy talked about surrealism, Susan gave us rhythm and Jayanne made pop-up books. Both Tracy and Susan have been hosting regular "Craft



Tracy Miller talking about surrealism for a Storytime Short.

& Chats" and Jayanne did a special Harry Potter-themed craft session on making magical creatures. There were Family Trivia Nights, online Escape Rooms and book



Jayanne Bixby wears a character for Storytime.

groups (with Zoom author visits). For the younger kids, Tracy and Jayanne offered storytime via Facebook Live every week. While most programs were online, there was also a Summer Scavenger Hunt. Sun Posters (with a word) were hidden around Freeland. You had to find them all to figure out the secret phrase. As usual, we saw plenty of books land in the hands of our summer readers. While fiction is always popular, we also had many kids discovering new hobbies, such as botanical drawing) and developing their talents. Each finisher received a book and the grand prize winners were Emma N. (who won the gift certificate for a popsicle party) and Olive S. (who won the gift card to Best Buy). It was wonderful running into people in the community (after they recognized us behind our masks) and they would say that they saw us online or that they were really enjoying the scavenger hunt. Many people were able to participate in programs that they wouldn't have been able to attend live. While we are looking forward to the day when we can once again offer in-person programming, we've

also learned that we need to continue to meet people wherever we can.

A couple of the really nice comments we received:

The summer reading program was a highlight of our season yet again, motivating us to focus our time enjoying some wonderful read-alouds together.

It is so nice the library can be open in this remote operating form. For sure these are very uncertain times for so many

not just regarding the COVID, worry over personal health and uncertainty over employment and child care. I think the library provides a very essential service ☺ and I really appreciate the materials I have been able to get for home school as well.

Our family also wanted to share that, while disappointed to miss out on the annual Fairy House building event with you all this year due to COVID, we didn't let it stop us from keeping up the tradition. [The writer sent] a photo of the result. Thank you all for inspiring such enriching experiences in our home. We appreciate everything you guys do!

Fall & Winter

We continue with contact-free programming this fall and winter. You can enjoy online *Stay-At-Home Storytimes* nearly every day of the week. Jayanne and Tracy do Thursdays at 10 a.m. After you register for storytime, we will send you a link to the Zoom room. We are excited to see faces and interact. It also allows us to use a greater variety of books, as many publishers prefer that we not use a public platform.

The Children's Center in Langley makes the Zoom storytimes available to their kids so we are looking forward to "live" participation.

Reading with Rover is each Thursday afternoon to encourage children, ages six to 12, to build reading skills and confidence by reading aloud to a certified therapy dog in a live video chat.



Look who found the secret phrase in the Sun Scavenger Hunt.

Book Review: Garden Open Today and Garden Open Tomorrow

I've been visiting Iris Linton frequently and she introduced me to a British writer, Beverley Nichols (1898 to 1983). He was a prolific writer and gardener. He wrote over 60 books including children's stories, mysteries, plays as well as numerous gardening books.

Iris' older sister Evelyn introduced his work to her through a book group long ago. Iris doesn't see very well so I've been reading out loud to her. Last spring we started with the Merry Hall trilogy, novels based on Nichols' acquisition of a Georgian home and grounds in Ashted, Surrey and written in the 1950s when he was in his late 20s and early 30s.

Although the development of his splendid garden is based on reality, the characters in the Merry Hall set are not real, but based on people and experiences he has had. His style is light-hearted yet, acerbic and witty. He was a man of his time and one may wince at some of his prejudices.

Iris and I recently finished a later series, *Garden Open Today* (1963) and *Garden Open Tomorrow* (1968), which are practical guides from his 30 plus years as a gardener and based on another home he purchased, Sudbrook Cottage, a late 18th-century house and grounds adjacent to Ham Common, near Richmond, Surrey. These books are an ideal read this time of year in order to establish perennial trees and shrubs on your property. He includes an appendix in each which may help one find plants he describes. Unfortunately, the prices do not conform with those of today.

Mr. Nichols was not a practical person by nature, but a good journalist and writer who documented his work responsibly. He tends to elaborate as though he was holding a paint brush or a conductor's baton. For example, when referring to the common rhododendron, which "...purples our woods in June. ...for few sights could be lovelier than a drift of *ponticum*s shining through a mist of silver birches...."

With Iris' help I've learned many new English words that the Brits use, such as secateurs to prune and cut vegetation. We would call them pruning shears.

"The Enemy within our Gates" is the eighth chapter in *Garden Open Tomorrow*. Nichols describes his horror

of what rampant use of chemical pesticides can do to poison life on earth. His carefree use of chemicals in his garden was dramatically altered after reading *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, published in 1962. He attended one of her talks while in New York City. He writes, "Imagine a crowd of rich women clothed almost exclusively in mink... And then try to see this little woman, in an ill-fitting woollen dress, facing them and talking to them, in a voice that scarcely rose above a whisper, about 'clouds of death' enveloping us in a curtain more lethal than any that has yet been woven by the atom bomb... She spoke with the authority of a scientist... "

Although many of Nichols' books have been out of print, our Sno-Isle Libraries carry a number of his works. Check them out and be inspired.

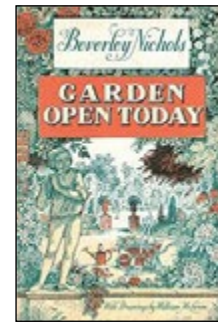
— Prescott, newsletter editor

Note: Iris Linton is a founding member of the Friends of the Freeland Library and served as vice president of the board for many years. She has always loved words and was an avid reader. In her ninth decade of life, she continues to love her garden and books in Greenbank.

More Programs, from page 3

Family Trivia continues weekly from 5 to 6:15 on Friday evenings. (*Pub Trivia* for adults is 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Learn more on page 7.)

A virtual *Third Grade Reading Challenge* is underway. The five books to read in this competition are listed. The online STARS classes for early childhood educators are also happening. One Sno-Isle team has been working on ways to provide non-digital activities for families, while another is working on ways to support schools and educators. We are continuing to add services, programs and content, so keep checking the *Kids* and *Teens* pages for useful resources. [The blue text is hyperlinked to the page, just click the blue.]



Author Beverley Nichols originally published *Garden Open Today* in 1963, New York : Dutton. *Garden Open Tomorrow* was originally published in 1968, London : Heinemann. They were revived and and republished in 2002, Portland, Oregon by Timber Press.

Visit Our Friends' Scrapbook Online!

friendsofthefreelandlibrary.shutterfly.com

Events Calendar • Archived News Articles • Video Interviews
• Fun Photos • Current Officers • Friends of the Freeland
Library Newsletter & Brochure • Bookmark us!

Issues That Matter 2021: Pandemic Pressures: Supporting Community and Family Mental Health

Recognizing Anxiety and Depression in Kids

Children of all ages have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Remote schooling, isolation from friends and relatives, and fears that they or someone they know may fall ill can cause anxiety. Even the youngest children can sense the pandemic stresses their parents and caregivers feel, resulting in anxiety and depression.

Learn how to tell the difference between normal child behavior and changes that indicate it's time to seek help. Learn about help that's available for kids and their families. Panelists will share tips and offer resources to help kids of all ages cope with pandemic pressures. Panel-



ists Amy Garrett, MD Pediatric Associates of Whidbey Island Emily Forman, Ed.S., NCSP School Psychologist Meadowdale Middle School.

This event is 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 30. Please register on Sno-Isle Libraries Events page to ensure you receive a reminder the day before the event, and to help us get a head count. On the day of the event, a Zoom link will be sent to you to access the program. We recommend signing in a few minutes early to give yourself time to settle in and make sure everything is working.

Upcoming *Issues That Matter: Coping with Grief*, Thursday, February 18, 6:30 to 8 p.m. *Surviving Online Schooling*, Thursday, February 25, 6:30 to 8 p.m.



Tax season will look a bit different this year. Check the Sno-Isle Libraries web page, www.sno-isle.org/blogs/post/tax-time-2021, often for updates. Please check back for new developments or [contact a librarian](#).

Due to the pandemic, Tax Aide appointments will not be offered in libraries. However, Tax Aide appointments are still available in Island County, please call 360-678-3000 for updates about Tax Aide appointments.

Genealogy Resources

Discover their stories in the world's largest online family history resource, home to billions of historical records, millions of family trees and lots of helpful, timesaving tools.

Access to this resource has been temporarily expanded to Sno-Isle customers working from home, courtesy of ProQuest and its partner Ancestry, through March 31, 2021.

Sign on using your library card identification: www.ancestrylibrary.com

Trudy Sundberg Lecture Series

On October 16 astronomer and lecturer Dr. Robert Williams presented *Probing the Universe With the Hubble Space Telescope*. Dr. Williams is Astronomer Emeritus at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland, where he served as Director from 1993 to 1998. Dr. Williams devoted much of his Director's Discretionary time on the Hubble Space Telescope to the landmark Hubble Deep Field project, which revealed in remarkable detail the structure of galaxies in the early universe.

If you missed it, find the video of the presentation on the [Sno-Isle Foundation website](#). A transcript of the



event is also available for download.

Save the dates May 7 and 8, 2021 for the rescheduled program about the water crisis in the city of Flint, Michigan with Pediatrician Dr. Hanna-Attisha, moderated by Enrique Cerna.

Annual Meeting, from page 1

The **Financial Chair** is Candy Charlwood who might also be watching birds and planting flowers. She is responsible for maintaining an accurate record of all funds received and disbursed. She prepares the tax returns as required for the Friends' fiscal year ending December 31. At the meeting Candy presented the annual report comparing 2019 to 2020. Despite the lack of book sales, donations were strong at \$5,770, \$1,941 greater than 2019. Membership dues came to \$1,350. There were three book sales in 2020 which earned \$1,886, more than the \$7,777 earned in 2019. Expenses were only \$4,688 for 2020. During the course of the year Library Manager Betsy contacted the board on a number of occasions to redirect designated funds toward a pandemic-appropriate use. Expenses in 2019 were unusually great at \$32,808. Much of the expense was for the installation of the state-of-the-art audio visual system costing over \$22,000.

The **Membership Chair** is Michael Moch, famous as the son of the coxswain whose rowing team won the gold in the 1936 Olympics. As membership chair, Michael maintains a list of the members, records annual dues payments and contributions, notes volunteers and prepares the mailing lists and labels as needed. He welcomes a volunteer to his committee to recruit and

retain members of the Friends.

The **Newsletter Chair** is Susan Prescott of Greenbank, informally known as "Prescott." She is responsible for publishing and mailing the membership newsletter. She develops a schedule of publication of several issues each year and reaches out to other members and library staff for content. She welcomes book or DVD reviews, commentaries and stories about your library experience. She plans for the next issue to come out in early April 2021.

The **Book Sale Chair** is Candy Charlwood, assisted by Rebecca. They organize the Friends' monthly and special book sales, which have not been possible during the pandemic. A large part of their work includes managing storage of existing donated books and other materials. They welcome helpers. PLEASE DO NOT DONATE ANY ITEMS at this time. Library staff contacted Candy recently to report the book storage shed was overflowing. She and her husband, Robin, came down and sorted them out; donating some to various groups.

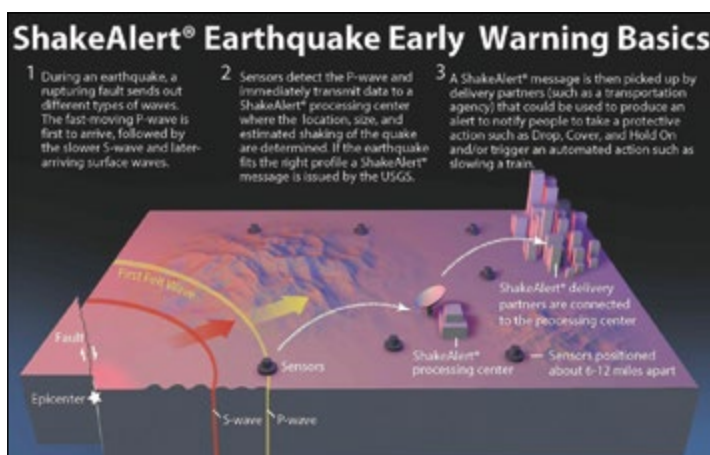
If you have ideas or just want to learn more about what the Friends do, contact anyone on the board. See page 2 for phone numbers. Consider joining one of our committees and learn the fascinating workings of our library and the fun opportunities for volunteers.

Library to Have an Earthquake Sensor

Managing Librarian Betsy Arand met exactly a year ago with Graylan Vincent from the University of Washington *Pacific Northwest Seismic Network* (PNSN) to consider installing an earthquake sensor at the library.

This is part of the *ShakeAlert* earthquake early warning system that the University of Washington and other institutions are currently building. The idea is that when a large earthquake is just beginning, the closest sensors are able to immediately determine the location and size of the earthquake, and within four seconds send out a public alert to everyone who will be affected by strong shaking. This will give people precious seconds to exit buildings, duck and cover or anything else to be in a better situation by the time the strong shaking reaches them. This will be one of five sensors on Whidbey Island that will be part of this early warning network. As of March 2020 the ShakeAlert sensor network was about 63 percent complete.

Once installed, the sensor just sits here waiting to feel strong shaking and send out an alert. It does not need any regular maintenance. The power consumption is less than a small light bulb (less than 10 watts), the band-



width is less than a 56K modem, and there's no cost or liability to the library. PNSN is liable for any damage to the property during installation and the technicians are professionals who work on this project full-time. PNSN's network engineers worked with Sno-Isle Libraries Information Technology staff to ensure that both networks will remain secure.

The Freeland library is station BOOK and click this link to for the [seismogram viewer page](#).

Weekly Trivia Is for Both Families and Adults

Online Trivia is a fun, weekly virtual event hosted by Sno-Isle Libraries staff via Zoom where we quiz you on all sorts of topics from candy to history to music to sci-fi movies! We host Pub Trivia for adults and Family Trivia for everyone from kids to grandparents to enjoy. Trivia lasts one to two hours and generally consists of three or four rounds of questions.

Do I need a team to participate in Online Trivia? You may play alone or with a team. The size of your team is up to you!

Do I have to use my camera to participate in online trivia? While it is great to see your faces, your camera is not required to play. You can see and hear the trivia presenters whether or not you choose to share your own video.

How do I talk to my teammates if they are not with me? You will need to coordinate with them in advance. We recommend a phone call, texting or another online chat service.

How does online trivia work? How do I submit answers? Sign up for the trivia you want through Sno-Isle's events Registration typically closes an hour before the game starts, if the available spots do not fill up before that.

On the day of the event our staff will email you with the Zoom link. If you don't see the link in your email, please

check your spam folder.

At game time click or copy and paste that link into your web browser to get into our Zoom room. If you arrive early, you may start in a waiting room. Please be patient and we will let you in shortly.

Our host and cohosts will explain the rules and the game. Typically there are 3 or 4 rounds of 10 questions each. Trivia hosts will explain their methods of scorekeeping — it may change for each event, but we will clearly state the rules and behavior expectations.

At the end of all the rounds, we will give you a link to a form where you will input your scores for each round. Our scorekeeper will round up everyone's scores and announce the winner!

What is the difference between family trivia and pub trivia? Family trivia is meant for intergenerational cooperation, so having both children and adults on your team will probably be helpful. Pub trivia is designed just for adult players.

Can I share the Zoom link for online trivia with my team members? Please encourage your team members to register for Online Trivia through Sno-Isle's events Due to limited space in each Online Trivia event, we ask that you do not share the Zoom link with team members who are not registered for the event.

What platform do you use for online trivia? We use Zoom. You can access Zoom in your computer's web browser, or download the app for free on an Apple or Android device. You do not need to have your own Zoom account in order to participate.

Who Was Chief Seattle?

Last October in celebration of National Friends of the Library Week, the Humanities Washington speaker David M. Buerge presented *Who Was Chief Seattle?* His talk was based on his book, *Chief Seattle and the Town That Took His Name*.

Chief Seattle was a warrior, an orator, a benefactor, and a visionary who helped found the city that bears his name, Seattle, the largest city in the world named after a Native American. He wrote nothing down during his life, yet his words — both real and imagined — are known throughout the world. The result is a man made up of both historical and fictional aspects, from which conflicting messages can be gleaned.

Buerge is a biographer and a historian to the Duwamish Tribe. His talk explored this complex figure to uncover how one man's story still shapes the identity of the city.

Chief Seattle and the Town That Took His Name, is available from Sno-Isle Libraries in print and eBook format, [click the blue text to find it](#).



David M. Buerge

Register by February 12 for IT Career Training

For all those interested in potential careers in the information technology (IT) field, Sno-Isle Libraries is offering a second round of CompTIA A+ certification for many entry-level jobs.

The certificate demonstrates an individual's knowledge of IT and commitment to it as a career. Sno-Isle Libraries piloted the online CompTIA A+ certification program this past year to help 20 people prepare for new careers in information technology.

For this new class, Sno-Isle Libraries program coordinators want to enroll as many as 50 people this time.

Online applications, www.paycomonline.net/v4/ats/web.php/jobs?clientkey=7DCA7393E0FCBDDDD24786E D549B71F9E, for Sno-Isle Libraries' CompTIA A+ training program are open now through Feb. 12.

Friends of the Freeland Library

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Your Donations Help the Freeland Library

Each time a newsletter is published, individuals, families and businesses join the Friends of the Freeland Library by making a donation, either with annual membership donation or by making several annual donations. **Your membership renewal payment for 2021 is due now.** Your dues and donations help provide extras for the library, such as event supplies and prizes for the summer reading program. Your library benefits in countless ways from your support. Please join us. *Thank you!*

Join Friends of the Freeland Library with a donation. Donors receive a quarterly newsletter, program invitations, participation in meetings and early notice of events.

Contact your current or former employer about matching your donation.

Please make checks payable to **Friends of the Freeland Library**. Clip out and fill in this form and mail it to: **P.O. Box 336, Freeland, WA 98249**. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law, EIN #91-1340777.

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Suggest someone you think would enjoy receiving news about the Friends:

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