

# JCPL FRIENDS' FOOTNOTES

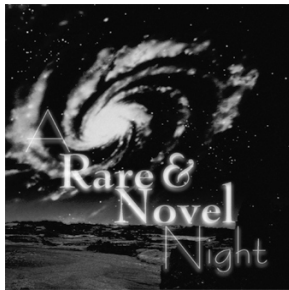
Spring  
2006

Friends of the Jefferson County Public Library  
Jefferson County Library Foundation

Volume 6  
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## A RARE AND NOVEL NIGHT

The Jefferson County Library Foundation is holding its annual "A Rare and Novel Night" fundraiser at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 21, at the Lakewood Country Club. The proceeds from the live auction, featuring celebrity auctioneer Gary Corbett, will benefit the Traveling Children's Library, a service that takes books and materials to children and students who reside in economically disadvantaged areas in Jefferson County. The Traveling Children's Library, inaugurated in October 2002, also provides its young patrons with bilingual books and story times, and it is one of the first of its kind in Colorado. It serves hundreds of children in more than 45 locations.



The evening's festivities will include dinner, music, silent and live auctions, and door prizes. Besides rare books, some items being auctioned off include the use of a sailboat for six for a week in the Caribbean, a hot air balloon flight for two, and a child's slot in the Mutton Bustin' event at the 2007 National Western Stock Show.

One of the most popular auction items is the sale of a name in a work of fiction by a nationally renowned author. The winner of this item will have his or her name appear as the name of a fictional character in a forthcoming novel by Sandra Brown or Michael McGarrity.

Tickets for the event are available for \$65 per person; tables for eight are available for \$480. Please call (303) 275-2240 for reservations.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

John Walsh, formerly of the Denver Justice Information Center, has been named Director of the Jefferson County Library Foundation. On February 11, Foundation Board President, T. J. Carney, formally introduced Walsh and his wife Mary to staff, board and volunteers at the organization's Annual Volunteer Banquet. A longtime development and executive director for numerous non-profit organizations, Walsh replaces Jo Bryant, who retired in December 2005. In his new role, Walsh will be responsible for leading fund-raising efforts, recruiting volunteers, and coordinating fund-raising events for the Foundation.



Before arriving at JCLF, Walsh was the executive director for the Justice Information Center in Denver. As Executive Director of the Justice Information Center, Walsh initiated an innovative program to assist and support non-English speaking women in domestic violent relationships who also had immigration status issues. Additionally, he served as Executive Director of programs whose missions involved abused women and children, community business development, the developmentally disabled and educational opportunities for impoverished youth.

A resident of Jefferson County for 13 years, Walsh received his undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University.



“From the Plains to the Peaks of Jefferson County”

The *Friends of the Jefferson County Public Library* organization operates as a committee of volunteers under the auspices of the Jefferson County Library Foundation which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing the programs and resources of all Jefferson County Public Libraries.

**FRIENDS COUNCIL - 2006**

- Chairperson . . . . . Ben Radecki
- Vice Chairperson - Programs . . . . Terry Whitsel
- Vice Chairperson - Membership . . Bob Lippman
- Secretary . . . . . Dodie Ownes
- JCPL Mgmt. Team Rep . . . . . Elena Rosenfeld
- Member at Large . . . . . Barbara Lippman
- Member at Large . . . . . Vicki Ponce
- Member a Large . . . . . Linda Larson
- Foundation Director . . . . . John Walsh
- Foundation Assistant . . . . . Nancy Gruschow
- Newsletter Editor . . . . . Ben Radecki

**BOOKS AS FRIENDS**

The books I read are the ones I knew and loved when I was a young man and to which I return as you do to friends: the Old Testament, Dickens, Conrad, Cervantes–Don Quixote. I read that every year, as some do the Bible....I’ve read these books so often that I don’t always begin at page one and read on to the end. I just read one scene, or about one character just as you’d meet and talk to a friend for a few minutes.

William Faulkner

**Chairperson’s Message**

Despite the occasional snow storm, Spring is here! What better time to do some Spring cleaning, and go through that pile of books you have read and stashed away? Bring your donations to the Library, where they will be given a second chance at life at one of our book sales or at the Friends Gift and Book Shop.

I was just thinking about how easy it has become to buy or obtain books! There are booksellers like the Tattered Cover, Barnes & Noble, and Borders, nearly everywhere. Both physical brick and mortar stores, and internet stores like Amazon.com. And if you don’t want to buy books, you can check out virtually anything in print at one of the Libraries. If they don’t have it handy, they can get it for you from somewhere.

When I was growing up, book stores were a rarity in my neck of the woods. Probably the closest thing to a book store in my home town was the newsstand which stocked a few racks of pulp paperback books next to the magazine rack. I still have the first paperback I bought there! Of course, as a kid, I couldn’t afford to buy many books; that’s why I fell in love with the Library. Libraries have always been a magical place to me. As a Friend, I’m sure they are for you, too! Thanks for electing me to be your Chairperson this year. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Our next Friends Council meeting will be held on April 10, 2006, at 4:30 pm and all are welcome! This meeting will be a Strategic Planning Session with our new Foundation Director, John Walsh.

Ben Radecki, Chairperson

**Please remember that the proceeds from all the Foundation’s book sales held throughout the year are used to support the Library’s Summer Reading Programs.**

## **HONEYMOON WITH MY BROTHER**

by Franz Wisner

St. Martin's Press, New York (2005)  
[www.honeymoonwithmybrother.com](http://www.honeymoonwithmybrother.com)

After getting dumped at the altar a week before the wedding, and having already paid for the honeymoon in Costa Rica, Franz decided to invite his brother, Kurt, to join him. This "honeymoon" turned out to be a two-year around-the-world odyssey that took them to more than 50 countries in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Southeast Asia and Africa. The result, *Honeymoon With My Brother*, is a witty, poignant, and personal account of their adventures.

Sony Pictures purchased the rights to the story and a movie based on the book is in the works. The book is out in paperback and St. Martin's Press has sent them on a two month book-signing tour. They will be in Denver on April 12, 13, and 14. As of this printing, they will be at the Denver Press Club at noon on April 13. Watch for other events.

Jackie Proett

## **TRAVEL THROUGH TIME WITH CONNIE WILLIS**

The Friends of the Jefferson County Public Library is pleased to host Greeley author Connie Willis as the first in a series of Colorado Authors to be featured this year. She will speak on May 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Lakewood Library. Connie Willis has won six Nebula and eight Hugo Awards (more than any other science fiction writer). She has written three novels involving time travel: *Fire Watch* (the Blitz), *Doomsday Book* (the Plague) and *To Say Nothing of the Dog* (Victorian England). In all three, graduate students from the History Department of London's Oxford University go back in time to study history as it is happening.

She is currently working on *All Clear*, a time travel novel to the time of the London Blitz. She has written an entire book's worth of Christmas Science Fiction Stories (*Miracle & Other Stories*). A subsequent Christmas story entitled "Just Like the Ones We Used to Know" was made into a 2005 television movie entitled "Snow Wonder." Books by Connie will be available for purchase at this event and she will autograph. Free tickets are required and will be available at the Lakewood Library beginning two weeks before the appearance. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Jefferson County Public Library and the Jefferson County Library Foundation. For further information, call (303) 275-2216.

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## **JOIN FRIENDS DURING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**

Friends of the Jefferson County Public Library will be sponsoring a membership drive on Saturday, April 8, from 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Friends members will staff an information and sign-up desk at the Arvada, Belmar, Columbine, Evergreen, Golden, Lakewood, and Standley Lake Libraries. The Conifer, Edgewater, and Wheat Ridge Libraries will have un-staffed information tables. This is a great time to join and all new members will receive a coupon for a free "used" book (select from the "Used Books for Sale" shelves at your local library) and a coupon for \$1.00 off any purchase at the Friends Gift and Book Shop at the Belmar Library. In addition, there will be a drawing at each library for a copy of Caroline Kennedy's book *A Family of Poems*. The drawing is open to all library patrons.

Friends are concerned people in the community who cherish their local libraries and want to lend their support. A single membership is \$15 and seniors can join for \$10. For more information on the Friends of the Library, please call (303) 275-2216 or visit our website, [www.friendsofjcpl.org](http://www.friendsofjcpl.org).

## A YEARNING FOR LEARNING

by Ruth Seeber  
November 2005

This is an open letter to everyone who loves books; addressed to the publication issued by the Library Association for members, library staff and executives, and for all the people who use the library. And I use the word "use" in its very best sense.

The public library is one of the most rewarding gifts that is ours for taking. For those of us who love learning, who yearn for learning, there is no adequate way to describe the joys of the public library. Help is always there, encouragement is always there, and there is so much to learn on the shelves. You can learn about people, about places, about inventions, about discoveries. Any subject that you can think of, for that matter. *Any subject....you're going to find it in the library.*

What I have learned about the world around me, things I never knew, people I would never know, is enormous. This is not from the standpoint of wanting to be a know-it-all, it is about the pleasure that is to be derived from learning: being entertained, finding out about the people of the world who have made things click. And, reading about people who have done wonderful things, and even sometimes about people who have done not-so-wonderful things. And, learning about countries that we would never know until we read about them in the books from the library shelf. What we learn in school is only the beginning.

Blessed are those children who are introduced to the wonders of the public library at an early age. It will be a love affair that will never end. Reading is a joy. It is more than that; it is a lifeline. I am in the beginning of my eighties now and if I didn't realize that before, I certainly do now. What an incredibly important part of my life books are. At this point in my life, with my vision severely impaired, I rely on books on tape. I am thankful for the help that is available to me from the public library in terms of finding books from other libraries in the system where books that I might want to read are available on tape. Books on library loan, "Interlibrary loan". I've probably read more books that have that little sticker on them over the past five years than I ever would have dreamed.

I miss the trip the library; I loved it when I could go and peruse the shelves myself. I found treasures all the time. Things that I had never thought about that ended up being a joy. Not every book was a success, of course; and, there have been times when I have gotten one tenth of the way through a book and have known that it really wasn't for me. That's ok, we're not all the same, but to realize the variety and the depth...the extent of knowledge and entertainment and education that's out there on those library shelves is enormous.

The powers that be, most of them long gone, who devised the concept of the public library, created a treasure that we very often neglect to honor, I think. People who work in libraries are all little minor saints, and I don't mean to wax poetic, they just are such splendid salespeople of the word. I have found much help in looking for things that I can't look for myself. I realize that not everybody has visual problems of course, but for the large numbers who do, the help that's available in your public library is phenomenal.

So, I just felt the need to raise the banner and I ask for permission to place this letter in this publication just as a reminder to the rest of the world that the library system is a treasure, and that we should never forget how lucky we are that we live in a country where all this learning, entertainment and education is free. *Free.* Yes I know we pay taxes, but the fact that you can walk into your public library and pick up a book on just about any subject is a wonder. And I hope that more and more people realize the worth and have their children come to know the library at an early age. It's a habit that may never go away. Once in love with books, you don't fall out. Ever.

This is Ruth Seeber, Denver Colorado.

*[Ruth Seeber has been a professional performer, stage director, singer, actress, acting coach, and administrator, and has participated, exhibited, and taught her many-faceted skills for more than 50 years. She is co-founder of the Garrison Depot Theatre (NY), Evergreen Chorale, and the Evergreen Center for the Arts. She has directed two collaborative performance pieces that have appeared at the Jefferson County Public Libraries: "Four Ladies of Royalty in Conversation," and "Women in the Arts."]*

## IT'S COMING! THE BABY WHALE OF A BOOK SALE

Mark your calendar! The "Baby Whale of a Book Sale" will be held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds June 2-4. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. You're sure to find that gem of a book among the 35,000 books, CD's, DVD's, videos, and tapes that will be for sale. Book donations may be dropped off at any Jefferson County Public Library. For large donations, a convenient drop-off is the Lakewood Library at 10200 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the back loading area. For more information or to volunteer, call (303) 275-2240.

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## TRISTRAM SHANDY: A COCK AND BULL STORY

Those of you who have worked your way through Lawrence Sterne's great classic *Tristram Shandy* will be pleased to know that you can now see the movie! Your Bibliophile Friend has not seen it yet, but the reviews sound promising. For those of you unfamiliar with this deliberately rambling, whimsical novel, its actual title is *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*, originally published in nine small volumes by Sterne between 1759 and 1767. The form of this bawdy novel is ostensibly a chaotic account by Tristram of his life from the time of his conception, but because he keeps digressing with long-winded opinions and philosophical reflections on everything under the sun, he never, except for a few brief incidents, gets beyond the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of his life. Indeed, the nominal hero of this novel is not even born until Book IV! The movie apparently provides for this complexity by presenting itself as a movie about a British film crew trying to make a movie about the book. By the end of the movie, you are watching the star watching the premiere of the movie about the making of a movie about the book. Sound intriguing?

You might be interested to know that *Tristram Shandy*, along with Sterne's *A Sentimental Journey*, were among Thomas Jefferson's

favorite books. There is also the story that tells of his wife, Martha, who, as she lay dying in September 1782, wrote out some sentimental words to express her sense of her current situation in life:

"Time wastes too fast: every letter I trace tells me with what rapidity life follows my pen, the days and hours of it are flying over our heads like clouds of a windy day never to return more --  
-- Everything presses on ....."

The copying continues in Jefferson's own hand:


".....and every time I kiss thy hand to bid adieu, every absence which follows it, are preludes to that eternal separation which we are shortly to make!"

Jefferson kept that scrap of paper, wrapped around a lock of Martha's hair till the end of his life. It was found, after Jefferson's death, in a secret compartment of his private desk. It was only some time later that it was discovered that these lines were copied (with minor changes) from Book IX, Chapter 8 of *Tristram Shandy*.

Your Bibliophile Friend

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## NEW LIBRARY LOGO

Join us as we celebrate the rollout of the Library's new logo and theme: Saturday,  JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISCOVER THE POSSIBILITIES  
April 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Belmar Library in Lakewood City Commons.

Trade in your old library card and select a new one from five new designs! The first 300 people who sign up for a card or trade in their old one will receive a special "goody" bag. Celebrate Children's story times by former Denver Nugget Mark Randall! Meet Curious George in person! There will be clowns, balloon magic, face painting live music, and free refreshments.

### Great Gifts for all Occasions!

Whether you're looking for a gift for that special person (Mother, Father, Graduate, Teacher or Friend) or a treat for yourself, be sure to check out the wonderful selection at the Friends Gift and Book Shop located at the Belmar Library, 555 S. Allison Pkwy., Lakewood, CO. Recent arrivals include: collectible Country Artists cats, oriental and southwest mouse rugs and coasters, Folkman finger puppets (you'll adore the little hedgehog and baby penguin), new "reading" sunglasses, jeweled boxes and business card holders, literary mugs (great poets, women writers, great composers, William Shakespeare), boxed note cards, aromatic soaps, stones with inspirational messages (great inexpensive gift for a friend or child), an international collection of hand carved animals, and more!

April brings a new Jefferson County Public Library logo to the community and your Gift Shop will carry the new logo on Coffee Mugs, Note Paper Cubes and Leather Coasters. Support your Library and the Library Foundation by purchasing a new logo item soon.

The Friends Gift and Book Shop is located in the Belmar Library and is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. For more information call (303) 275-2216.



"From the Plains to the Peaks of Jefferson County"

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