

# ShelfLife



Published by the Friends of the Albany Public Library

Winter 2005



## Gift softens blow...



### Director's Message

Thanks so much to the GoAL, Go Albany Library team led by Jack Frost, who moved mountains and signs and flyers up until the final Library Bond Measure vote was cast! We lost the game 10-8\*, and it stings; but many supporters are still mingling on the field, talking about next season.

What is the future of the Albany Public Library? This is a question for the entire community. At the Library, we would like to hear from all corners. Part of the solution will be

wrapped up in the larger context of City strategic planning, and we need to be part of this community discussion. I invite all Library lovers to commit themselves this new year to strategic involvement in the future of your Library system. You can e-mail me, attend Board meetings, join the Friends of the Library, write letters to the editor, volunteer, or make a financial contribution, perhaps via the Oregon Cultural Trust. Speaking of cash, let's not forget an amazing event in the history of Albany and the state.

On September 8, 2004, an anonymous donor blessed the Library's future with a pledge of \$3 million dollars, to be given over the next three years! This

is the largest private gift in the City's history, and the largest to a public library in the state of Oregon. This gift creates a permanent endowment fund to be spent on enhancing current services and providing support for innovation. Once the giving is completed in 2006, it is estimated that yearly

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\*The actual vote tally: 10,371-8,771 (includes North Albany with 2,044 No votes to 1,481 Yes), for a margin of 1,600, with over 19,000 votes cast.

disbursements would be in the \$150,000 range.

We think there are more supporters in the city who can lead us forward in this way, and we encourage all comers to dream a future with a well-supported and thriving Library system. Remember, property taxes have never been spent to build a library in this city. Remember, Albany pays a dime a day per capita for its Libraries, which has to be one of the best deals in the state. The Albany Public Library has never actively encouraged financial giving to its program, but that time is coming to an end. It seems clear that the Library now needs to build upon this amazing Endowment Fund as we seek to answer the question of our future.

# The Kindness of Strangers



You may have noticed some rearrangement within the Library recently. This is the result of the APL's quick response to an offer to all Oregon libraries of free library shelving by Willamette University. Albany was the first to respond and is now the proud owner of some fine (and well-educated) shelving that will allow the collection to grow. This generous and free gift from Willamette has a value of over \$15,000. It cost the Library a little sweat equity to retrieve them, but now they will benefit our community for the foreseeable future.

## Debunking *The DaVinci Code*

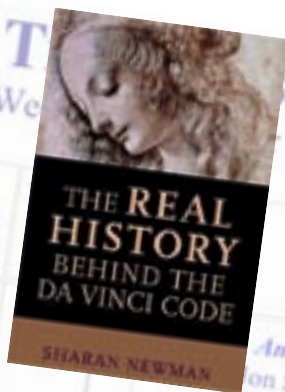
Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code* has been on the *NY Times* Best Seller List for over 90 weeks, pretty good for a thriller based on theological conspiracies and heresies. *The DaVinci Code* has captured the imagination of the reading public and initiated further interest in the history of the theological premises that suggest wide-ranging conspiracies covering up the marriage of Jesus to Mary Magdalene and their child. The book has inspired games, Web sites, tours, and interest in theological history.

Sharan Newman, an accomplished and award-winning author of fantasy fiction, including the Guinevere series and the Catherine LeVendeur mysteries, has called *The DaVinci Code* "totally wacko" and has exorcised the misinformation from that novel in her new

book *The Real History Behind the Da Vinci Code*. A medieval scholar in her own right, Newman finds a flaw with Brown's historic basis.

In a joint venture sponsored by the Albany Public Library, Friends of the APL, Linn Library League, LBCC Library, and the Lebanon Public Library, Sharan Newman will present the real history behind the story. In an illustrated talk with photos taken during her research in Europe, Newman will answer questions from the audience.

Medieval buffs will surely enjoy this free program, as well as Sharan Newman's books available from the Albany Public Library.



Week	Rank	Book Title	Author	Last Week	Weeks on Chart
1	1	The Five People You Meet in Heaven	Mitch Albom	3	
2	2	The Da Vinci Code	Dan Brown	2	90
3	3	When Will Jesus... the Pork Chops	George Carlin	2	

**January 20, 2005**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Main Library**



# Friends of the Library News



## Mildred Warner Blake

Her many friends are mourning the passing of one of Albany's popular children's librarians. Mildred worked at the Downtown Carnegie Library for a number years and helped many children develop a love of books.



Many will always remember seeing Mildred with a small child cuddled in her lap while the mother searched for books. Children of all ages were drawn to her, and they told her many tales of their lives (some that she didn't really want to hear). The Friends have donated a memorial book in her honor.

## Message from the President...

A big Thank You from the Friends of the Library Board to all of you who helped to support the effort to expand our current Library. Whether you had a lawn sign, gave money, got out and delivered flyers, or just talked to

your friends and neighbors about the need for expansion, your efforts are appreciated. It was a lot of work, especially for the GoAL committee, and we especially appreciate their efforts under the leadership of Jackson Frost.

Of course the need for more room has not disappeared, but will keep growing, so stay strong!

—Kathy Butler, President

## November Book Sale

The Friends held their annual book sale on November 4, 5, and 6, 2004, and it was very successful. After expenses, the total was \$6,083. The Friends plan to help the Library purchase some furniture this coming year, as well as pay for the Online Book Club. Participation by the public in the book sale was very steady all three days, and all children who attended were given one free book. Thanks to everyone who worked on the sale and, especially, Joan Dennis and Lois Olsen who organized the effort.

## PROGRAMS FOR JANUARY THROUGH MAY 2005

### January 14, 2005

LEWIS & CLARK BOOKS in the ALBANY LIBRARY  
Several speakers will discuss their favorite books on The Great Expedition

### January 20, 2005

Sharan Newman tells *The Real History Behind The DaVinci Code* at 7:00 p.m. at the Main Library.

### February 11, 2005

Genealogy program

### March 11, 2005

Book Review of *The #1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall. The book is set in Botswana.

### April 8, 2005

#### AUTHOR'S DAY

Jan Eliot will join us at 1:00 p.m. at the Main Library. Jan is the author of the comic strip *STONE SOUP*. She will be selling some of her books at the meeting.

### May 13, 2005

QUILTS AND THE STORIES THEY TELL, a talk by Karen Roberts, owner of The Quilt Loft.

The Friends' programs are held at noon (except where noted) in the meeting room of the Main Library, 1390 Waverly Drive SE.



## Friends of the Library Membership Form

Please check your selections. All dues are yearly fees.

\$5 Senior, 65 years old and over    \$10 Individual    \$15 Family    \$25 Sustaining    \$50 Sponsor

Please Print:

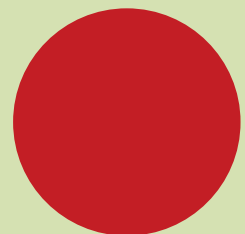
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

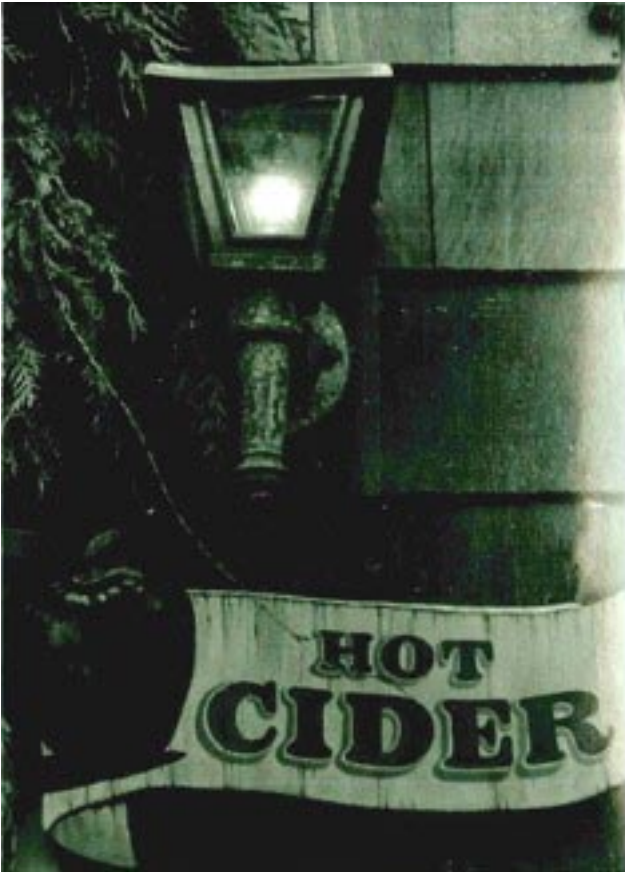
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: Friends of the Albany Public Library, 1390 Waverly Drive SE, Albany, OR 97322-6945



**The FOL depend on your membership!**  
**If your address label has a red dot, your dues are due.**

## Art on Display at the Main Library



*"Hot Cider"*  
Pavla Zakova-Laney

### **Please come and support your local artists!**

Art can be viewed during the open hours of the Library and is available for purchase.

Friends of the Albany Public Library  
1390 Waverly Drive SE  
Albany, OR 97322-6945

### **The Albany Public Library**

Edward J. Gallagher  
Library Director

Visit us on the Web at:

<http://library.cityofalbany.net>

We offer two full-service Libraries to meet your needs:

#### **Main Library**

1390 Waverly Drive SE

Phone: (541) 917-7580

Monday to Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### **Downtown Carnegie Library**

302 Ferry Street SW

Phone: 917-7585

Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

#### **Editor:**

Kathy Grosso

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