



## ***FRIENDS of FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER***

9151 West Loomis Road, Franklin, WI 53132 (414) 425-8214

Email: [Franklin.Friends@mcfls.org](mailto:Franklin.Friends@mcfls.org) Website: <http://terrenceberres.com/ffpl.html>

See Franklin Public Library and Friends' links at <http://www.libdex.com>

An insert to Franklin Public Library's "Check It Out" **Sept-Oct. 2005**

---



### ***Pumpkin Party for Preschoolers***

Friends of the Franklin Public Library are sponsoring a program targeted to three and four year olds. Friday, September 23, and, repeating on Friday, September 30, both dates at 10:15 a.m. Judy Roberts, Friends President (and former Kindergarten teacher), will read Pumpkin Stories and decorate pumpkins. Signup will begin the first week of September for this free program. Friends members interested in helping are encouraged to call Judy Roberts at 421-8983.

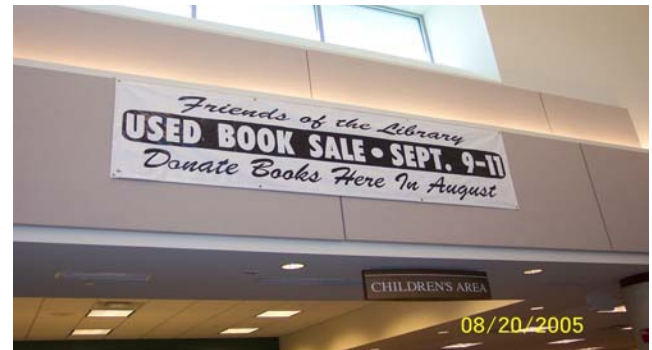
### ***"Books for Soldiers" Events***

Karen Grochowski, our recent July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade Marshal, and leader of all things Soldiers [www.booksforsoldiers.com](http://www.booksforsoldiers.com), announces the following: **Verlo Mattress Co.** and its customers have come through for the troops in a big way. They reached their goal of donating 1,000 pillows for Books for Soldiers. Verlo's truck brought the first installment of pillows to the library on Monday, August 29. Karen and many of her corps of volunteers were able to receive the donation and thank them properly. A portion of the grant money from the Northwestern Mutual Foundation will be used to send some of the pillows to the Middle East. The Racine Lighthouse Quilters are also putting forth a tremendous effort to assist with raising money for postage. These ladies have [continued on page 2]

### **Friends' Annual Book Sale Begins**

Thurs., Sept. 8, 6:00 to 8:30 pm

**Friends' preview sale.** You, too, can join **FRIENDS** on Thurs. and attend the preview sale.



Sales to the Public begin:

10:00-5:00 on Friday, Sept. 9

10:00-5:00 on Saturday, Sept. 10

1:00-4:00 on Sunday, Sept. 11 Bargain Day!

[www.booksalefinder.com/TX.html](http://www.booksalefinder.com/TX.html)

A big THANK YOU to **GRUNDL'S SENTRY** where a collection/donation box was filled regularly.

If you have not yet signed up for your stint at sales duty, be sure to check the 3-ring binder behind the Check-Out Desk. There may be times over the 3 sales days where you can donate a couples hours' time. All Friends, and even those not yet Friends, are welcome to help out!



## ***Books for Soldiers*** – continued from page 1:

sewn a FEW HUNDRED pillowcases over the summer. Some are on display in the library now, so that Friends and library patrons can purchase a pillowcase for a soldier. That \$5.00 donation helps defray the cost of shipping.

The “Support Our Troops” display will move to St. Martin’s Fair for Labor Day Weekend giving the broader community an opportunity to participate. Karen is looking for volunteers to help staff the booth! The display will move again for the 2-day Quilt Show hosted by the Lighthouse Quilters October 1 and 2. Anyone up for a little road trip to Racine? Contact Karen at 414.529.3149 or [kgrochow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgrochow@sbcglobal.net) More opportunities to volunteer at Franklin Public Library are Thursday, Sept. 22, and Tuesday, Oct 11, Both dates from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## ***Read Any Good Books Lately?***

By Marjorie Pagel

I'm always on the lookout for good books to read — “good” for me meaning: a book that holds my interest, one that offers something worthwhile (I hate to waste my time) and one that I'll freely recommend to those who ask the question, “Have you read any good books lately?”

Every once in awhile, I meet an author who writes so well I want to read everything he or she has written. And every once in a while, I meet a character from a book of fiction that becomes a treasured friend. So imagine how I feel when I find that special author and that treasured fictional friend in one book! And imagine how I feel when I discover that author has created another book featuring the same beloved character!

This is my feeling about British author Alexander McCall Smith and his delightful “lady detective” — a heavysset, middle-aged woman from Botswana, Africa, who establishes “The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency.” That,

by the way, is the title of Smith's first book in his popular award-winning series about Precious Ramotswe; her fiancé, Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni; her capable assistant, Mma Makutsi; and a rich supporting cast of characters — some who appear in only one book with a problem for Mma Ramotswe to investigate, and others who crop up again and again. The two adolescent apprentices who work for Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni in his garage, for instance, have a lot to learn, not just about car repair but about work ethics and respect for their elders. Like most of his characters, these apprentices are presented in Smith's lyrical, people-loving style that endears them to readers worldwide.

Smith, a Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh, has published in his field of expertise in addition to numerous books for children. He originally went to Botswana to set up a law school; while living there he grew to know and love the country and its people. Mma Ramotswe reflects this love as well: “They are my people, my brothers and sisters,” she says. “It is my duty to help them to solve the mysteries of their lives. That is what I am called to do.” When a lawyer advises her she may lose money in this new business and questions whether women can be detectives, she answers, “Women are the ones who know what's going on. They are the ones with eyes. Have you not read Agatha Christie?”

Although the New York Times reviewer called Precious Ramotswe the “Miss Marple of Botswana,” The Ladies' Detective Agency series cannot be compared to standard detective stories. [ReadingGroupGuides.com](http://ReadingGroupGuides.com) is careful to distinguish the two: “These mysteries aren't the standard stuff of detective novels. There are no bludgeoned millionaires or murdered sexpots in The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency.” Another reviewer describes Smith's style: “The author's prose has the merits of simplicity, euphony and precision. His descriptions leave one as if standing in the Botswana landscape. This is art that conceals art.” (Anthony Daniels in The Sunday Telegraph.)

[Marjorie Pagel's article continued:

The first book, published in 1999, was so popular, Smith obliged his readers with a sequel, "Tears of the Giraffe" (2000), "Morality for Beautiful Girls" (2001), and "The Kalahari Typing School for Men" (2002). I have read all four of these, but a visit to the Internet showed me that there are two more awaiting me: "The Full Cupboard of Life," published last year, and "In the Company of Cheerful Ladies," recently released.

Now I know how those Harry Potter fans feel whenever a new book comes out!



\*\*\*

*Do you have any books you'd like to recommend to other Franklin readers? If so, please send your comments to [mepagel@execpc.com](mailto:mepagel@execpc.com). Look for future recommendations in this column, "Read Any Good Books Lately?"*



**NEWS ITEM** "Libraries have always been the best centers for computer technology and access to good software." #49 on the annual Mindset List from Beloit College. Humanities Professor Tom McBride has compiled the mindset list for seven years. It gives educators at Beloit College a glimpse into the lives of their young students, and "It reminds them that if they are going to teach Watergate, they have to explain what it is first."

***What's in your wallet?*** To borrow from a popular TV ad -- **September is Library Card Sign-Up Month** - Make your library card the most valued and used card in your wallet.  
.....

## THE GREAT GOURD GIVEAWAY

Sunday, November 6, 2005 at  
1:00 p.m. and repeating at 2:30 p.m.

Free program for ages 5 to 7

Participants will have fun playing with gourds, singing gourd songs, and will decorate a container for gourds. Participants will choose a cluster of gourds to take home to decorate their family's fall or Thanksgiving table. Signup will begin at the Franklin Public Library in October for this Friends-sponsored program. Friends members interested in assisting Judy Roberts, please call her at 421-8983.

## FRIENDS NEED MORE FRIENDS:

- \$10.00 Individual
- \$15.00 Family
- \$5.00 Senior 62+
- \$25.00 Business Sponsor
- \$50.00 (or more) Benefactor

Dues are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Bring or mail your dues with your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number to FPL, Friends of Franklin Library, 9151 West Loomis Road, Franklin, WI 53132. And, if you would like to volunteer, let us know that too!

**Editor's note** -- Readers, if you have any comments, trivia, events, criticisms or news items to add to the **FRIENDS'** NEWSLETTER, please communicate them to anyone on FPL's staff or to your editor, Judy Beine, 414 421-3490 OR Email [jbeine@wi.rr.com](mailto:jbeine@wi.rr.com) We will consider all submissions.

Thank you Karen Grochowski, Judy Roberts and Marjorie Pagel for your information and submissions this issue.



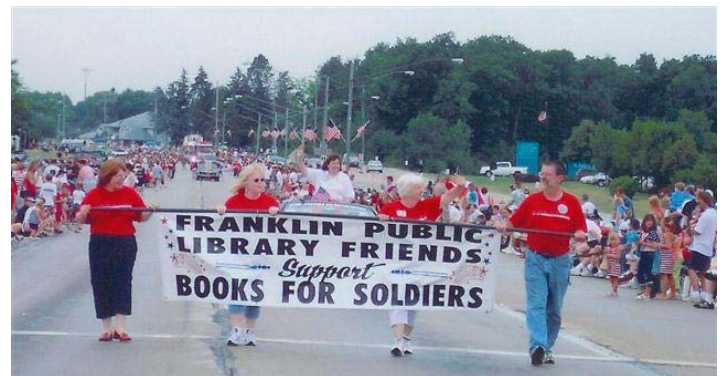
Ben Franklin and Librarian Barb Fogec



Carole Donovan, Foundation President, and the mural in the children's area, which she and her husband, Tom, donated to FPL. Carole also served as a Board member for 7 years.



Board Member Karen Wesener



Barb Spitzer, Judy Beine, Karen Grochowski (July 4 Parade Marshal in white), Judy Roberts and Karen's husband, Ken, a plumber by trade, who fashioned the lightweight PVC pipe, which made the banner carriers' job much easier! \$1300 was collected from sales of pillows, pillow cases and care packages!