



Waukesha Public Library's Best Kept Secret

Presented by
The Friends of Waukesha Public Library
Spring 2015

Our History

- In Fall of 1961, a committee of citizens was established to support library operations, later becoming the *Friends of Waukesha Public Library*.
- On April 12, 1964, the Friends planned and hosted the very first open-house for the newly renovated Library.

Did You Know?

- The *Friends* planted and set the first grass sod in Waukesha’s Cutler Park right outside of the Library!

Page 10 — Waukesha Freeman — Thursday, September 24, 1987

LIFE

Library's friends help it expand, improve



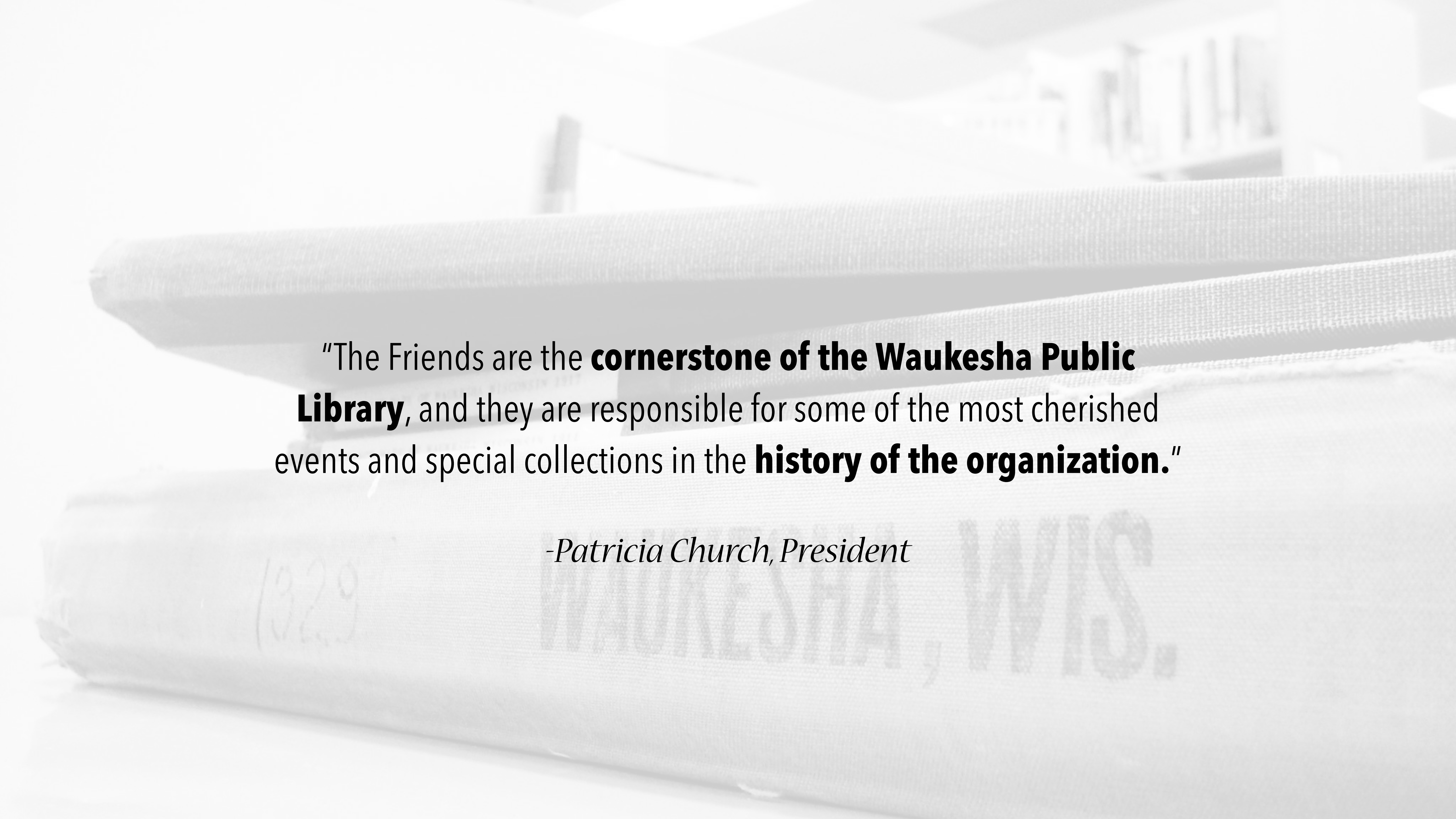
Lorayne Ritt

For many of us, the Waukesha Public Library has been so much a part of our lives, it would be hard to imagine this city without it. Although some girls would say that the day they first wore lipstick or nylons was the day they felt grown up, my friends and I felt we had arrived when we got our "adult room" library cards and could go upstairs to check out books. That was our rite of passage. Loyalty to the library was the reason that many local people joined the Friends of the Library when it was organized in 1962. **John C. Love**, a local attorney, was instrumental in organizing that group which elected **Jessie Joe Ann Blackstone** to serve as its first president. **John R. Melster** served as treasurer and has remained as a mainstay of the group until this day. At that time a referendum was facing the city regarding an addition to the library. Among the things that would be changed was the children's room. Many people remember going down the steps to that area. Along the walls outside the entrance were museum cases containing stuffed birds, Indian artifacts, and dolls from many countries. Underneath the display cases were drawers of slide-out displays containing mounted butterflies. Among other fascinating things in the children's library was an old stereopticon with many boxes of cards which could be placed in the brackets and held to the eyes for viewing. I remember that one of the favorites among the boys was a picture of the original White Rock Springs nymph. For many students who stayed at school for lunch during their high school years, the walk from the present site of Central Middle School to the library was a short one. Looking through magazines or sitting at a corner table whispering was a pastime that never



From left: Gertrude Van Tuinen, John Melster, Dorothy Smith Harwood, Helen Gasper Gunther and J. Howard Chapman.

Sydna Roberts in the children's room and **Mary Frances Sawyer** among others in the adult room did their best to maintain order and encourage appreciation of books. "The rule was 'Silence is golden' in those days," said **Dorothy Smith Harwood**, who served as librarian from 1932 until her marriage in 1939. She returned as a reference librarian in 1960 and remained until 1972. After that she did some part time work there. During those years she saw increased use of the library by students, particularly adult students. Also, businessmen and professionals used the library for investment information. As an active member of Friends of the Library, she has seen the growth of a reading discussion group, the planning of special public events at the library, and the adopt-a-shelf program where volunteers will come in to straighten books which have been placed out of order on the shelves. **Jo Czeskleba**, president of the Friends, came here to teach English in the early 1950's. She remembers the library here being much more active than the one in Ripon from where she came. Now retired, her interest in the library has led her to remain active in its concerns. **J. Howard Chapman**, a longtime member of the Friends recalls going to the library as early as 1936, and "walking home with books under both of my arms and a kid on each hand." He figures he averaged about 10 books a week. Another member of the Friends, **Helen Gasper Gunther**, has used the library since the 1920s. Among the things she recalled was the addition of the Magazine Room below the adult section in about 1937 or 1938. Another outstanding feature of the adult room was a gigantic picture of the city of Waukesha taken in pre-1900 times. She remembers it being on the right-hand side of the room as you entered. Although **Gertrude Van Tuinen** believes that the librarians remember her as the lady who came to check out books with her market basket, she thinks that they probably even more clearly remember her husband **Jacob Van Tuinen**, a philosophy professor at Carroll, as the man who built his house after reading instruction books from the library. He and fellow professor **Willis Guthrie** built their homes near each other on Milky Way Road, doing everything including the plumbing and wiring by reading library books and learning how. **Ann Ulett** joined the Friends in 1962. As a member of Jaycettes she wished to help in the campaign to help pass the referendum. Late she and **Valerie Brown** ran the children's summer reading program. Today Ann is the liaison between the library board and the Friends of the Library. **Eloise Morris** also joined the Friends when it was formed in 1962, serving as the secretary. A former librarian, she realized the importance of the addition. In 1985 at the time of the last referendum, **Gerry Wuorila** became active in the Friends serving as president. "The library has always been one of the most important community buildings in my life," she said. "It really is the center of the community." Although the Friends were somewhat inactive prior to the last referendum, they plan to remain involved in assisting where needed in the new library. According to John Melster, they will be providing potted plants and other things that the director, **Jar Amool**, might suggest. In the past they have provided such things as a globe for the children's room and a stove and refrigerator for the librarians' staff lounge. Their next meeting will be October 26th at 7 p.m. at the Library, and prospective members are invited.

A stack of old, worn books with a library stamp. The books are stacked horizontally, and the top book has a faint library stamp that reads "WAUKESHA, WIS." and the number "1329" is visible on the spine of the book below it. The background is a blurred image of a library interior with bookshelves.

"The Friends are the **cornerstone of the Waukesha Public Library**, and they are responsible for some of the most cherished events and special collections in the **history of the organization.**"

-Patricia Church, President

Community Enrichment Programs

The Friends of Waukesha Public Library support and fund a wide variety of programs, events and services that enrich literacy and education in the local and regional community of Library patrons.

Much of this support has been consistent for over 50 years and includes:

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|--|----------------|
| • Children’s Reading Programs | 1964 - present |
| • Bright Beginnings Workshops | 2000 - present |
| • Waukesha Janboree | 2000 - present |
| • <i>Waukesha Reads</i> / The Big Read | 2008 - present |
| • 1000 Books Before Kindergarten | 2013 - present |

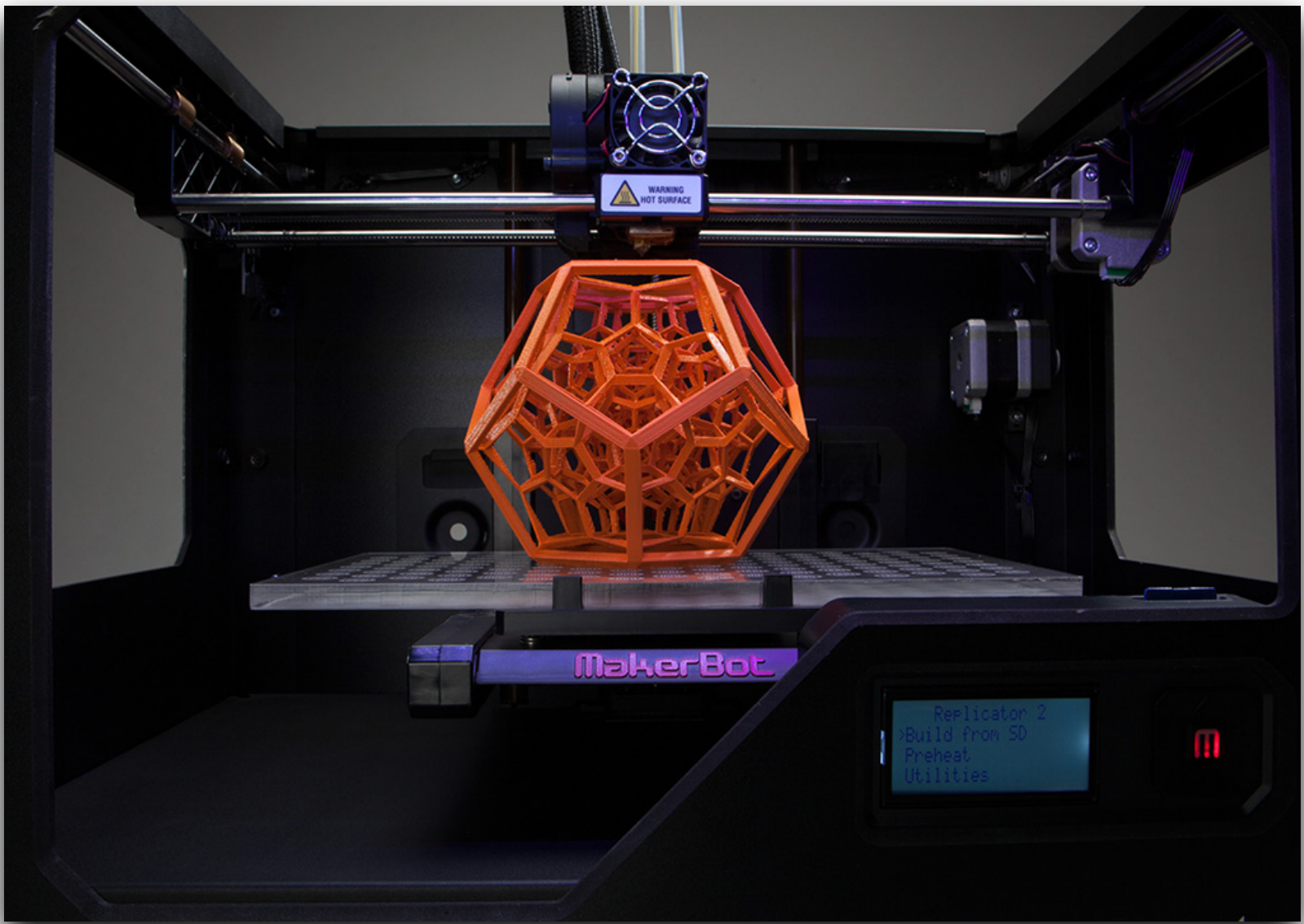


Technology & Associated Media

The Friends also play a major role in funding new or supplemental technological initiatives that complement Library programs, collections and equal access efforts.

Much of this support consists of vital startup funding and includes:

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| • Children’s Video collection | Started in 1974 |
| • Collection Development | |
| • CD collection | Started in 1994 |
| • Audio Book collection | Started in 1999 |
| • DVD collection | Started in 2000 |
| • Wireless Laptop Program | Started in 2013 |
| • 3-D Printer & Scanner | Started in 2014 |



Furniture & Space Additions

Some of the Friends’ support is provided behind-the-scenes at the Library, funding special measures that are not typically sponsored by traditional sources. In this unique role, the Friends are responsible for the details that are often overlooked in other organizations.

A few examples of Friends’ support in this key area include:

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| • Chandelier Installation | 1988 |
| • Patron Push Carts | 1995 |
| • Children’s Area Laminator | 1996 |
| • Teen Zone Furniture | 2005 |
| • 321 Alphabet Square | 2010 |



Fundraising

The Friends play an instrumental role in facilitating outside fundraising efforts, including:

- Book Sales: 1974 to present
- Book Totes: 1992 to present



"The Friends of Waukesha Public Library are an instrumental component of what we do, and **who we are as a library community**. Without their continued support, we simply are not able to produce the **quality programming, technology initiatives and furnishings** our patrons have come to expect."

-Grant C. Lynch, Executive Director

By The Numbers

FY2013 Budgetary Supplement: \$40,000

\$3,700 for the Summer Reading Club

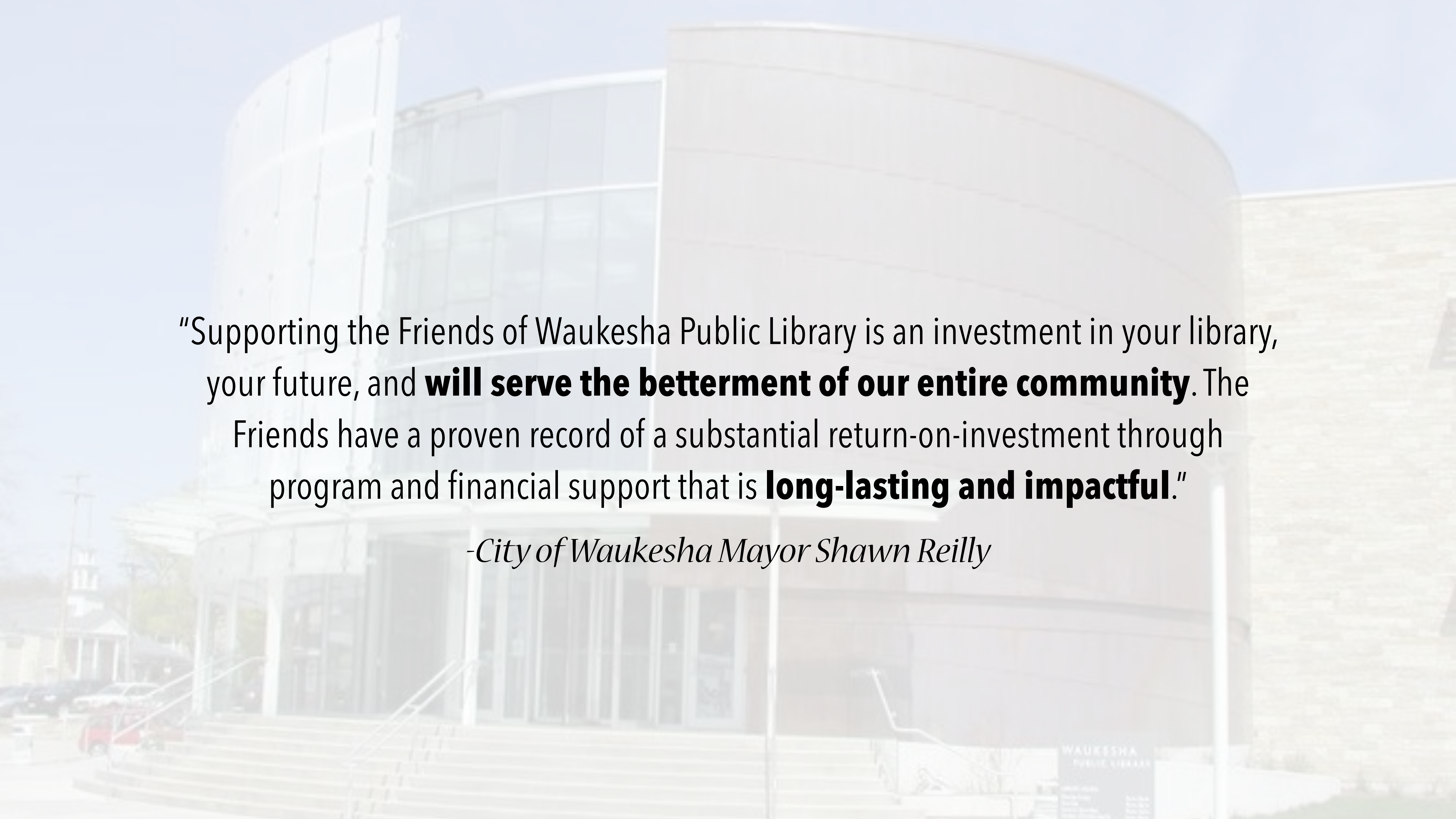
\$1,300 for Waukesha Janboree

\$6,000 for All-Ages Programming

\$5,000 for *Waukesha Reads 2013*

\$6,250 for Promotional Material



A photograph of the Waukesha Public Library building, featuring a large curved glass facade and a brick section. The image is faded to serve as a background for the text.

"Supporting the Friends of Waukesha Public Library is an investment in your library, your future, and **will serve the betterment of our entire community**. The Friends have a proven record of a substantial return-on-investment through program and financial support that is **long-lasting and impactful**."

-City of Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly

Future Projects

1. Continued support of adult, teen and children's programming, with emphasis on partnerships with community groups and private enterprise.

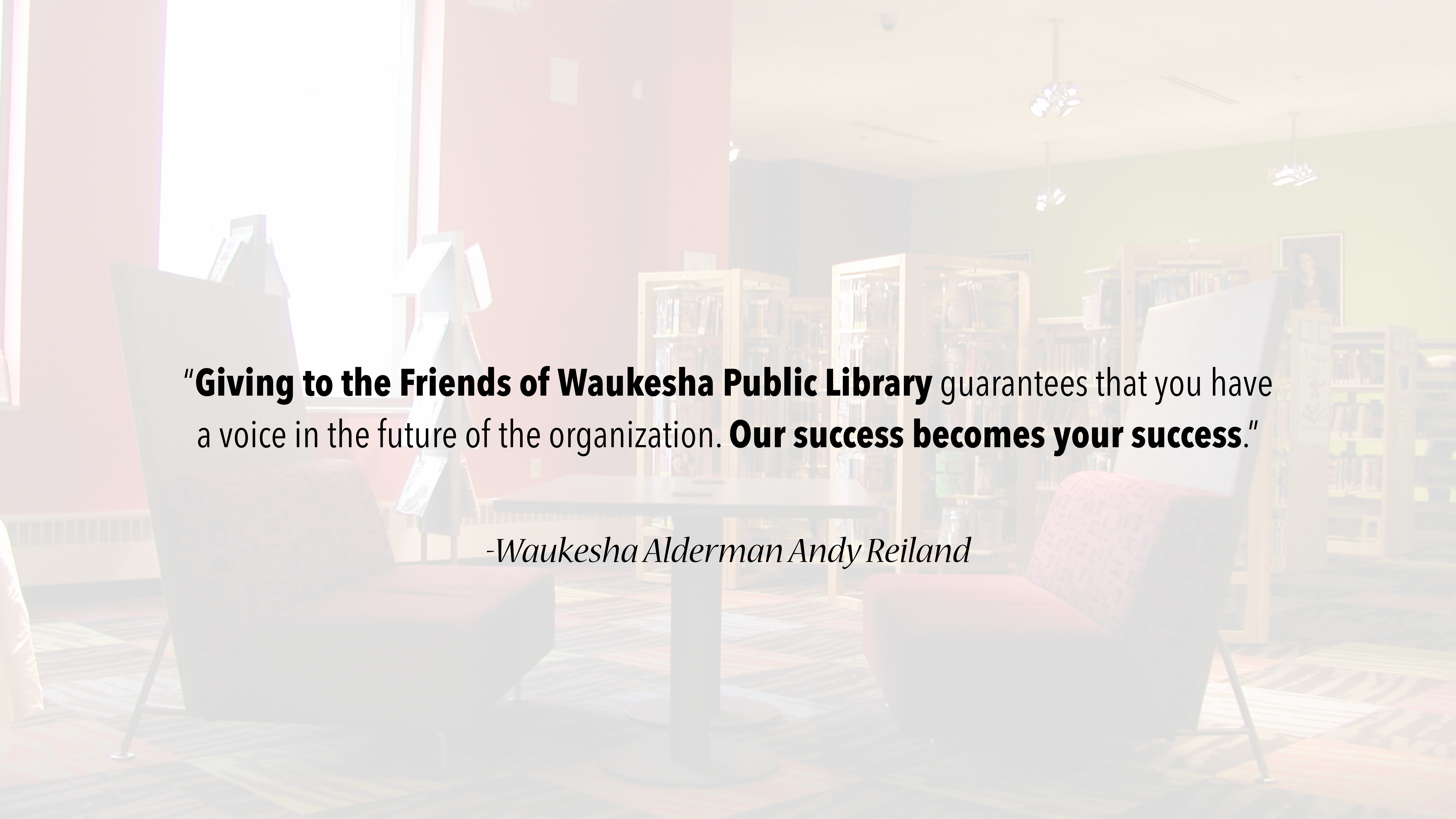
2. Increase membership with particular focus on membership retention, member involvement and member rewards.



Future Projects

3. Expand volunteer base and facilitate new and exciting opportunities for volunteers to make a positive contribution in a variety of areas.
4. Play a major role in the future of the Waukesha Public Library by being actively involved in ongoing development and new technological initiatives.





"Giving to the Friends of Waukesha Public Library guarantees that you have a voice in the future of the organization. **Our success becomes your success."**

-Waukesha Alderman Andy Reiland

Give to the Friends

Sponsorship Levels

Nobel	\$25,000 +
Newberry	\$5,000 - \$24,999
Pulitzer	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Peabody	\$500 - \$999
Classic	\$250 - \$499
Best Seller	\$10 - \$249



Contact Us

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