

Library Association reflects on history

The Jefferson County Library District reflects on past board projects and looking towards the future



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Jane Ellen Innes

mendable. No town can hope to live up to its greatest possibilities without a public library, and no one with a sincere desire need be denied the blessings which result from such an institution. A public library is a necessity, not a luxury. Every community which realizes this and establishes a library proclaims itself an intelligent, progressive town and one worth living in." — *Chalmers Hadly*

The Jefferson County Library Association was born. The Association's original by-laws identified four committees in addition to the membership committee: (1) the finance committee purchased subscriptions and paid the bills, (2) the publicity committee was responsible for advertising and

"carrying out plans for the extension of the use and advantages of the library," (3) the ways and means committee handled the facilities, and (4) the committee on books and administration purchased materials (approved by the Association). The Association and its hard-working committees managed the library until 2000.

Current District Board president Susan Stovall expresses, "It was an honor to serve on the Association Board between 1995-2000 with such dedicated women who left a tremendous footprint on our library. Their vision and passion for bringing outstanding services to our community with a diligent eye on the budget have guided me to continue as an elected member of the District Board with the same enthusiasm and love for our library they shared with me."

In 2000, the Association Board formed a PAC to create a special district to provide stable funding for the library and recruited Margo Tathwell and Linda Clowers and chairperson Ron Ochs. The "Save Our Library" campaign asked the community to support the library by approving a rate of 43 cents per \$1000 of assessed property value. When passed by the voters, it resulted in about \$348,500 in property tax revenue. The new District elected its first Board — Janice Alexander, Marie Glenn, Stephen Hillis, Susan Stovall, and Leslie Weigand. The Association Board — Sandy Jackson, Laurie Ochs, Rosemary McGreer, Barbara Manning, and Kathie Olson — remained in place and became the non-profit arm of the library. Over the years the Association has provided funds for the film committee equipment, chairs and tables, funds



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2000 Library Board. Back Row: Barbara Manning, Kathie Olson, Sandy Jackson, Laurie Ochs, Janice Alexander, Rosemary McGreer. Front Row: Susan Stovall, Leslie Weigand, Marie Glenn.

for the summer reading program, and other special projects.

The Library Association includes three programs: the Endowment Foundation, the Friends of the Library, and the Community Read. In 2021, the board membership reorganized with Angela Harris as chair with representation from the three programs, plus a treasurer. At its June 1, 2023 meeting, the existing board members elected several new members. The current Jefferson County Library Association Board officers are Davida Plaisted, President; Jan Forrester, Vice-President/Treasurer; and Sandra Hahn, Secretary, plus members Angela Harris, Catherine Hawk, and Holli Papasodora. Angela Harris's history with the Association provides the important historical perspective.

From the funds currently available, during the first meeting of this new Board, members agreed to provide ongoing support for the summer reading program, refreshments at library-sponsored programs, plus one-time support for special projects, including the purchase

of blinds for the west side of the library and a library-wide labeling project, purchase of a storage container, and funds for Association-District marketing. While tax revenue allows the Library District to maintain services, support from the Association provides program enhancement and equipment purchases. Be sure to look for the Association's new logo in the coming months. The Association continues monitoring the Jefferson County Library Endowment Foundation Fund, created by an initial donation from Adele and Sumner Rodriguez and managed by the Oregon Community Foundation. They are collaborating with the Library District and working toward the shared goals of increasing literacy activities, maintaining an active role in the community, and becoming an information hub and place to learn, grow, and explore. The Association and District are equally crucial to the overall success of your Jefferson County Library, and the Association plays a critical role in our expansion plans.

Madras and the surrounding communities have a long history of supporting the public library and understanding its importance in a community. The Jefferson County Library

District is indebted to these volunteers who worked tirelessly to maintain a volunteer library, then grew it into a community library and had the foresight to know how stable funding could expand the reach of library and literacy services throughout the District. The Association's new Board is an enthusiastic group that is excited to carry on the work of its predecessors and continue finding new ways to bring additional services and programs to the District.

In 2008, Kathie Olson wrote and published *Pages of the Past: A History of the Jefferson County Library*, from its beginnings at a town meeting in 1916 to the District it became in 2000. The preface of the book includes the Margaret Mead quote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world — indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Your thriving Jefferson County Library District proves the truth in Mead's statement. Those of us at the library today are so very grateful to all of you who came before us and understood how important having a place where everyone is welcome, and information is free, is an essential part of community well-being.

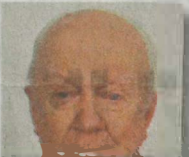


In Loving Memory

James Louis Demers

September 15, 1939 - June 27, 2023

Longtime resident of Madras and Jefferson County, Jim Demers, 83, passed away June 27 at his home.



Jim was born in Illinois to Ace and Dorothy Demers. The family moved to Salem, Oregon, when he was a child. On November 28, 1959, he married Linda Magee in Salem. In 1963, they moved to Madras to operate an Agricultural Crop-Dusting business with his family. He was also a flight instructor and taught many local people how to fly. But, he was probably best known as "The Crop Duster" who flew the yellow and

In Loving Memory

Christopher Jay Neider