



The Library Foundation recognizes outgoing Library Director Karen Keller for her great service to the Library. Karen finished her work on October 21 with a final 'State of the Library' address to the Anchorage Assembly with Library Advisory Board Chair Gretchen Fauske. We thank her for her hard work and dedication to the Anchorage Public Library and wish her the best of luck as she returns to her home state of Michigan to be closer to family.

A Great City Deserves a Great Library Is APL a true reflection of our community?

By Mary Rasmussen, Trustee

Anchorage is a dynamic, exciting city and deserves a dynamic, exciting library. However, our library is now at a critical crossroads and three straight years of budget reductions have had a serious, negative impact on library services and our community. We cannot continue to chip away at the Library's budget and expect to have a system that is worthy of this great city, and that donors will continue to support with the same vigor.

Despite the Mayor's claims that the 2012 budget will result in few cuts to city services, the Library is slated to lose two positions, valued at over \$120,000. The proposed cuts are only the latest in a series of big hits to our Library. Last year's budget forced the closure of the Samson-Diamond Branch library, a successful part of our community for 33 years. In 2010, 14 positions were lost and staffing has been cut on an almost yearly basis.

The Mayor's proposed budget ignores the wishes of our community as expressed in the recommendations from the 2010 community budget dialogue, in which the majority spoke out in favor of maintaining current service levels and sparing departments with small budgets from further cuts. While the Municipal budget has nearly doubled over the past ten years, the Library's portion has decreased from a high of 4% of the MOA budget in 1985 to today's low of 1.75%. Our library's ability to deliver the services that library users from preschoolers to retirees are demanding of it,



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Thank you to the many donors who shared your PFD with the Library Foundation this year. You helped us raise \$6775 to support the long-term vitality of our Anchorage Public Library!

To participate in 2012, select "The Gift of Giving" option and search for "Anchorage Library Foundation" when you file for your PFD beginning Jan. 1.

A Lasting Gift for the Library

The Anchorage Library Foundation and Anchorage Public Library were humbled to receive two large legacy gifts this year from very remarkable Anchorage residents. Al Hanisch and John and Janet Goetz will be missed greatly by those whose lives they touched, and now their legacy will touch many more lives in our community for years to come. Their generous gifts are an inspiration to us all that with hard work and savings, we too can leave a legacy to support the causes that are important to us.

John and Janet Goetz left the majority of their estate to the Library Foundation upon Janet's passing on December 17, 2010. The estate will be held in a trust, with annual income to be used for the sole purpose of operating a downtown library. When settled, the estate will total over \$5M.

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is being hollowed out from the inside. Our library is an institution in distress, but the Mayor has turned a deaf ear on the library once again.

The Anchorage Public Library is a beloved institution: 60% of residents have library cards, over 1.6 million items are checked out annually and with over 870,000 visits a year, library attendance tops attendance at the Sullivan Arena by 74%.

Additionally, the Anchorage Library Renewal Initiative, begun in 2006, has generated considerable community investment in the Library. Over \$14M has been contributed since 2006 to renovate neighborhood libraries, and the recent Loussac Library 25th Anniversary celebrations have drawn volunteers and donors from across the city.

The Municipality has a responsibility to honor this private investment with adequate public support to operate the great library that this community deserves. Despite record-high usage and community support, staffing levels and funding lag far behind peer libraries across the country and the Library struggles to maintain adequate levels of service on a steadily decreasing budget.

The Library Foundation and Friends of the Library insist that the Mayor and Assembly follow the wishes of the community, and not only maintain, but increase the Library's current level of service to the community.



Speak Up for Your Library!

Assembly contact info and talking points can be found at: <http://www.anchoragelibraryfoundation.org/speakup.html>

Public Hearing on Budget: Tuesday, November 22, 6-10 p.m. Assembly Chambers, Loussac Library.

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Foundation Trustee Jerry Pollock was fortunate enough to get to know Janet over the years as she made plans for the estate after John passed in 2000. "Janet was an avid reader, and she loved the old downtown Loussac Library with its convenient location near her home. She was grievously saddened when the downtown site was closed after Loussac moved into its new location. Her bequest to the Library Foundation is a measure of the deep personal attachment she held for "her" Library."

John was born in 1903 in Germany and Janet in 1911, in Scotland. They met in the U.S. and were married in 1934. In 1943, they moved to Anchorage and fell right into the pioneer life as the city grew up and expanded around them. John was an electrical engineer and Janet worked as a sales clerk at the old Northern Commercial Co., Federal Electric and RCA. John and Janet lived downtown near the inlet in a house that survived the 1964 earthquake and is still standing today. In addition to supporting the Library, Janet and John were also enthusiastic skiers and helped start the Anchorage Ski Club at Arctic Valley.

Anchorage lost another great community member last year with the passing of library supporter Alfred Hanisch, on Dec. 4, 2010, at age 87. He left a generous estate gift to the Anchorage Public Library that will go toward collection enhancement and the creation of the Library's new informational film (which can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZVx1eGDeRs>).

A World War II veteran, Hanisch served in the 651st Field Artillery Battalion in Germany. In 1946, Hanisch moved to Alaska and was among the first to drive the new Alaska Highway. He worked for the Alaska Railroad and Standard Oil of California. He retired from Chevron USA in 1986. He is remembered by friends as a modest, but generous and engaged man, who volunteered regularly and loved to hear about the lives of others in the community. One friend remembered him as 'the king of the small, but gracious gesture,' which included voluntarily shoveling the snow at his church each winter.

We thank Al, John and Janet for their foresight and dedication to our community.

From the President


It was 25 years ago that the new Z.J. Loussac Library opened to great fanfare. The event drew author John Barth, poet John Haines, and even Mr. McFeeley from Mister Rogers Neighborhood. The celebration continued with a visit from Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor for the first anniversary.

This historic milestone was the product of a long tradition of community support for the Anchorage Public Library, which continues today. Public monies are and will continue to be essential, but they can reach only so far. Investment from businesses and private foundations, as well as donations of time and money by families and individuals, are critical to the long-term survival of the Anchorage Public Library.

Since 2006, our community has raised over \$14 million to renovate four libraries, open Teen Underground, and create the Library Community Plan. Your support has been a tremendous gift to our library and our community. But we are not done: the once-in-a-generation Loussac Renewal will begin soon with a facility master plan to gather community input and set the scope of the renovation.

The future looks bright. But at the moment your library is living through some trying times. The library's budget has been reduced for three straight years and is at risk of shrinking even more. Meanwhile, the demands upon your library are increasing.

Your donation to the Anchorage Library Foundation this winter will help us give to your library, advocate for your library, and make your voice heard so that your Library receives the investment that it needs for the future. The Library is only as strong as the people who support it. You can make a real difference.



—Joseph J. Perkins, Jr.

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Enclosed is my contribution of: \$_____. A Check to Anchorage Library Foundation (ALF) is enclosed

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The Anchorage Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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I love my Anchorage Public Library!

“I love this library! My two daughters and I come every week. I am so thankful for such a resource for my family. I lived five years in an African country that had one library for the whole country! Sometimes we don't know what we have until we go without. When people ask me what I like about Eagle River, the library is one item I always mention. Again, thank you for providing such a resource for our community!”

—Roy Buyse, Chugiak-Eagle River Patron



“*Teen Underground* has a way of lifting the spirits of youth across Anchorage as we explore the possibilities our community holds and look forward to a place of our own to read, connect, learn, and enjoy. I cannot be more thrilled to see this collective dream come to life.”

—Lauren Heyano, Library Advisory Board,
Teen Representative

Do you love *your* library? Has the library transformed *your* life?

Share your story and read more at www.AnchorageLibraryFoundation.org/librarylove.html