

North Mason *Friends* of the Library

- Promote and support reading programs
- Provide programs of interest to the community
- Continue to enhance the library with art
- Provide general support to the library and staff



**New members
are always
welcome.**

Please join us!

2002 – 2012

Using endowment funds, *Friends* presented the calligraphy and art project decorating the meeting room to the library in 2002. Passages were selected from a poem composed by Dorothy Harper, who housed the first collection in her Belfair pharmacy. Two artists from Oregon were selected for the calligraphy project. The words wrap the walls and are illustrated with wetlands images.

A Library Art Committee was formed in the mid-2000s, and has visited galleries and chosen works of art to display in the library. “Wood Duck Blues” by Janthina DuSavage was purchased with money from the memorial funds for a long-time *Friends* member. “Cedar Wings” by Sue Skelly was purchased with money from the Endowment Fund.

In 2012, the Art Committee purchased a hanging glass globe display for the wall separating the children’s area from the main entry. In addition, *Friends* provided the funds for a remodel of the children’s reading nook and new bookshelves.

Friends have also hosted several local author presentations with readings from their books.

The bi-annual April and October Book Sales continue to be a huge success, offering the community a chance to dive into the huge collection of books donated throughout the year. Book cart sales inside the library have become so successful that *Friends* have purchased a separate cart to hold the free magazine exchange.



North Mason *Friends* of the Library
PO Box 1023
Belfair, WA 98528

NORTH MASON
Friends

of the
Library

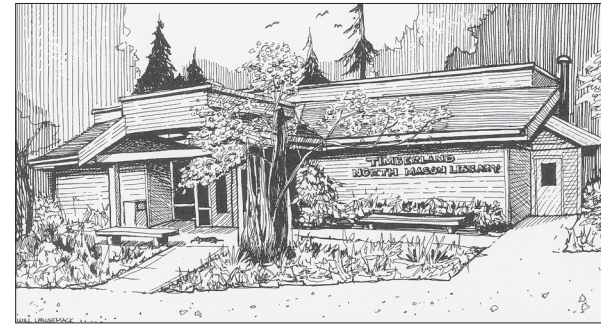


45 YEARS
of Friends
1967 – 2012



Tom Davis and Al Blomlie hang the first library sign in the fall of 1975, when the library was housed at a small building just north of Theler Community Center.

The history of *Friends* is a story of determination and dedication on the part of a small group of local women who wanted a library in the North Mason community. The community was currently being served two days a month by the Timberland Regional Library Bookmobiles. In 1950, a branch of the Mason-Thurston Regional Library was established in Belfair. Local pharmacist Dorothy Harper donated space in her small drug store and became the first librarian. She was paid a small stipend. The first shelves in the library at Belfair Drug were built by members of the VFW. The collection remained there until the store was sold in 1966.



Will Langemack drew this rendering of the Timberland North Mason Library in 1985 for the Booker's Art Calendar. This library building has since been moved to Hoodspport.

from 1966 to the present day ...

- 1966 – 1973

Fifteen charter members organized “*Friends* of the Library.” The bylaws, first passed in 1966, have been updated since then and the group has become an IRS non-profit corporation. Their first commitment was to find space for a library in North Mason and to guarantee six months rent. In June of 1966, the library opened in the back of the McKnight’s TV Repair Shop. In the meantime, *Friends* supported creating the five-county Timberland Regional Library System, which was passed in 1968. The library was moved to a small building close to the Theler Center where it remained until 1979 when the permanent building was opened.

In 1969, *Friends* began fundraising to save money for a permanent library building. *Friends* operated the Booker’s Bazaar from April 1969 – June 1970 selling books, plants and other items. Book sales were also held in front of the Thriftway store at Pope Center in Belfair. In 1971, the first Booker’s Calendar was printed. It featured the work of local artists.



- 1973 – 1977

In March 1973, the TRL Board voted to assume rent and utilities for the branch and officially named it Timberland North Mason Library. In 1973, *Friends* were able to purchase eight acres of Sam Theler Trust land for \$10,300 with a \$2,500 down payment. On November 9, 1976, *Friends* received the deed. In January 1977, two more acres were deeded to the TRL for a library building.

- 1979 – 1994

The Timberland North Mason Library was officially opened December 9, 1979, complete with a Jotul wood stove donated by *Friends*. Over the years, *Friends* purchased thousands of dollars of books, periodicals, paperbacks, bookshelves and extra tables for the meeting room. In 1987, an Endowment Fund was started, investing 10% of all *Friends*’ earnings to provide art and gifts to the permanent library.

- 1994

The library was so successful that within 14 years it had become crowded and too small. By 1994, plans were underway for expansion of the existing building. Before long it was determined that a new building was needed to increase the size from 3,600 to 14,800 sq.ft.. The little library was cut into three sections, trailered to a launching site on Hood Canal, and transported by barge to Hoodspport, where it still serves that grateful community.

- 1998

The new Timberland North Mason Library was dedicated on March 21, 1998 and the bronze sculpture “How I Wonder” by Brenda Maltz, a gift from *Friends*, was unveiled. That year *Friends* also purchased a puppet theater for the library and over the next few years spent nearly \$17,000 for the sprinkler system and landscaping.

SIGN ME UP AS A *Friend*!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Anyone who contributes financially during the calendar year is considered to be a *Friend*.

My contribution this calendar year is

\$ _____

Your membership is tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to North Mason *Friends* of the Library.

MAIL TO:

North Mason *Friends* of the Library
PO Box 1023
Belfair, WA 98528

For more information, please call the library at 360.275.3232.

www.trlib.org