Friends' organizations are of great significance to the libraries they serve. At Western Michigan University, the University Libraries are at the heart of the University's mission of teaching, research, and scholarship. Our many fine library faculty, staff, and student assistants are doing an excellent job of providing service to all of the communities they serve, beginning with the students, faculty, and staff of WMU. As Friends we can ensure the continued success of these critically important institutions, the University Libraries and Western Michigan University.

Our Friends' organization is closely tied to the dedication of the strikingly "new" Waldo Library that reopened in 1991 with a formal dedication in April 1992—the same month that marked the official incorporation of the Friends of the University Libraries, Western Michigan University. The purposes of the organization are aligned to the objectives of the University Libraries:

—To strengthen and support the activities of the University Libraries,
—To offer a community for interested individuals to come together with a common interest in the literary and cultural activities of the University Libraries.
—To encourage gifts and bequests,
—To assist in special projects, and
—To aid in the development of special collections.

The 1996-97 officers and members of the Friends' Board of Directors are:
Dr. Mary Ann Bowman, President
Dr. Robert Hahn, Vice President
Ms. Kristin Tyrrell, Secretary
Ms. Bettina Meyer, Treasurer
Dr. Lynne McCauley, Board Member
Dr. William Combs, Board Member
Dr. Richard Brewer, Board Member
Dr. Diether Haenicke, Ex Officio
Dr. Lance Query, Ex Officio

Each year has seen a growing membership and support for the Friends of the University Libraries. In the past year, the generosity of those who have already become Friends, and the proceeds from Friends' book sales have funded the purchase of several important items for the Libraries' collections. As we continue to increase our membership and contributions, there will be even greater opportunities to support significantly the vital work of the Libraries. Please take this opportunity to complete the form below, to renew your membership, and to encourage your friends and colleagues to join as well.

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Western Michigan University
Annual Membership Application

I/we wish to become members of the Friends

Name(s) ____________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

City ______________________ State _______ Zip ______

Telephone ______________________

Please make check payable to:
WMU—Friends of the University Libraries

Return To:
Waldo Library
Attn. Bettina Meyer
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5080

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIPS

____ Student $5.00
____ Associate $10.00
____ Contributing $25.00-$99.00
____ Donor $100.00-$499.00
____ Patron $500.00-$999.00
____ Benefactor $1,000.00 or more

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS

____ Donor $100.00-$499.00
____ Patron $500.00-$999.00
____ Benefactor $1,000.00 or more

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

It's a strange thing about books. You'd think the written word, printed and bound, would remain inviolable, untouched by the years. And yet...and yet...

I have baskets of letters from readers who tell of returning to books the same way they revisit friends and uncover the warmth of remembered pleasures. But with books, the second time around can be more meaningful as characters improve with age; there are new shadows and planes; hollow passages fill with fresh insights.

In a world of
Sometime friends
And part-time loves
The truest nurturing comes from
Books
Books and books...
The sweet companions that fill
The hours,
The head, and
The heart.

FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
Western Michigan University

One Friend to Another

By Mary Ann Bowman, President
Friends of the University Libraries

"Sweet Companions"

By Lois Wyse
(Excerpted from "The Way We Are," Good Housekeeping, September 1994)

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