

## Library Tea Party A "Fun Fundraiser"

by Peggy Mandin



The first annual Book Lover's Tea, sponsored by the Friends of the Kettle Falls Public Library, was held on March 6 to raise money for the library Building Fund. Because of the number and variety of events and classes offered at the library and the increase in patrons using the library, expansion is needed. According to Sue Richardson, the library "Friend" who organized the event, a total of over \$1,600 was raised that day, an amount beyond expectations.

Eight tables were creatively decorated by "table hosts" and guests were invited to partake of tea and goodies while listening to three local authors read from their work.

Gale Palmanteer, a biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and a documented descendent of the Colville Confederated Tribe, and his wife Kandis, a retired singer/songwriter, coauthored a book called Ghost Dance about Native Americans, their life experiences and their encounters with white men. Gale stated that his inspiration for writing the book came from being an only child raised by an Indian grandmother on an Indian allotment, with the "Pasayten Wilderness for a backyard". The husband and wife team "discussed the plot over coffee every morning" during the writing of the book, and from June to December of last year went on book tours. Their efforts were rewarded when, unbeknownst to them; Ghost Dance was awarded best historical fiction for 2009 by the Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Living Magazine. Gale is currently writing a sequel to Ghost Dance and Kandis is working on a book of her own.

Next, guests were treated to a poetry reading by Lynn Schott. Lynn has been writing poetry most of her life, and has taught literature and poetry at Kettle Falls High School "for the last 20 years or so". She has been published in magazines, journals and anthologies. One anthology, Fathers and Daughters and Sports, which will be coming out in May 2010, will include five of her poems. (Lynn revealed that her father was a professional baseball player; playing short-stop for the NY Giants in 1946, and later managing the Giants, the Los Angeles Angels and the Minnesota Twins.) Lynn tries to carve out writing time on Saturday mornings; she stated that rarely do poems come all at once, needing little revision, but that when they do "it is like channeling your best self". Mostly, Lynn records thoughts and "snippets" in her notebooks and returns to revise and polish them. Much of her inspiration comes from the beauty of our local landscape. Lynn's poems are personal and exceptional; always eliciting an emotional response from her audience.

Last, Dave Gordon read from his book Hangin' With Jack, about a man who has a near death experience after a fall on Mt. Everest. This man, Steve, is an Indian who grew up on the Colville Reservation at Inchelium, and has always rejected his Indian heritage because his father was a drunk. His near death experience changes him and causes him to reexamine his roles as husband and father. He sees lots of room for improvement, and Jack helps him understand his "new self" and the confusing changes in perception he experiences. Dave retired in 2001 after forty years as a mountaineer (including high altitude) and a mountaineering instructor. He grew up in Eastern Washington, attended a Jesuit High School and spent six years at a Jesuit University. Dave "left the church in 1968, searching for a spiritual practice to replace Catholicism" according to his book jacket, and now spends half of the year at a Zen monastery at Big Sur in California.

Library Manager, Krista Ohrman, concluded the program by asking people to give as generously as possible to the library Building Fund, stating "A great community deserves a great library". She reported that there are now 50-70 people using the library computers per day. Plus, in order to attract larger funding sources and grants, the library needs to show that there is community support for library services, and the much needed extra space.

For more information about plans for the library or to donate to the Building Fund contact Michelle Brauner, President of the Friends of the Kettle Falls Public Library, at 738-4447.

**Thank you to the Masonic Lodge for supporting the library by donating the use of their facilities for this event.**

## Post Falls to Kettle Falls: 18 Years

by Susan Urhausen

April marks the time for the annual motorcycle ride from Post Falls, Idaho to Kettle Falls, Washington for the Panhandle Riders Motorcycle Club. The long-time supporters of the Kettle Falls Food Bank will be riding into town again on Saturday, April 24 right around noon. The Panhandle Riders first rode into Kettle Falls back in 1992 after seeing a TV interview with Hazel Bruneau, the former director of the food bank.

The Post Falls Motorcycle Club has always supported charitable causes. Supporting the food bank in Kettle Falls was another opportunity to help someone in need and have a nice, long ride to boot. What began as a one-time response to aid this little food bank became an annual trek that would mark the first big ride of the year for the Panhandle Riders.



Each year, on the fourth Saturday of April, the club convenes for their regular meeting in the morning, and then mounts their motorcycles for the long ride to Kettle Falls. The group usually numbers anywhere from 25 to 40 people. They have come on nearly every color, make and configuration of motorcycle and even in passenger vehicles. There are sidecars and trailers and saddlebags. Some years those have been stuffed with food and paper products to donate to the food bank. Some years it is checks and cash handed over. Most years it has been a combination of both food and money.

What has compelled this club to continue this charitable trip for 18 years is tradition according to Joyce Pyatt, longtime member of the Panhandle Riders. The trip that was made up to Kettle Falls was the first year she rode with this group. Another big reason was the relationship that they developed with Bruneau over the years until she passed away in 2005. That relationship has continued with the current staff and Board of Directors.

This year, a new tradition



will be continued with the Board and staff of the Kettle Falls Food Bank hosting a lunch for the riders at the Masonic Lodge in Kettle Falls. The Masonic Lodge has been kind enough to allow the food bank to use their facilities for this occasion each April. The motorcycle club is able to come into the Lodge and warm up (when the weather is less than friendly), visit and eat together before they have to mount up again and head for home. The other tradition that many locals will recognize is the donation of many dozens of cookies from Bev Edwards, an avid supporter of the food bank. Her cookies have made such an impact that one year, they asked ahead of time if "that cookie lady" was going to be supplying her treats again.

The Kettle Falls Food Bank would love to see the town come out for just a few minutes and welcome these wonderful folks to our town. Support of this kind is rare from such a great distance. They generally arrive around midday. It would be great to line Meyers Street with as many people as possible to wave at them as they pass by. They will be coming straight down Meyers Street to the Masonic Lodge (next to the City Pool).

Mark the date on your calendar and give these generous folks a hometown welcome! They should arrive approximately 11:30 AM - 12:00 noon, Saturday, April 24, 2010.



## Kettle Falls Historical Center Sponsors Student Art and Writing Contest

This spring the Kettle Falls Historical Center is sponsoring its 13th annual Art and Writing Contest for students in grades 7 through 12 in Stevens and Ferry Counties.

The deadline for written entries is Saturday, April 17, 2010, and an entry form must accompany each entry. The writing contest theme is "The Lure of Furbearing Animals." Entries can be delivered to the Historical Center, located 3.5 miles west of Kettle Falls, between 1 and 5 p.m. on Friday, April 16, or on Saturday, April 17, between 10 and 2.

In the art contest there can be multiple entries on one entry form. Art works can be brought to the Historical Center on Friday, April 30 from 1 to 5 p.m. or May 1 from 10 to 2. Call 509-738-6601 or 509-738-2827 for other arrangements or for entry forms. No late entries will be accepted.

For high school entrants, prizes and honorable mentions are offered in four art categories: Paintings/Drawings, Photography, Sculpture and Other Handcrafted Art and in three writing categories: Short Stories, Essays and Poetry. First prize is \$50, second prize \$25 and third prize \$15 for each category.

Seventh and eighth grade entrants will vie for \$25 first prize, \$15 second prize and \$10 third prize in each category. Essays will be excluded from this age group.

Entries will be displayed at the Historical Center on the last three weekends in May. A People's Choice award will also be given to the student whose entry has the most votes by visitors to the Center. Exhibits can be picked up on June 4 between 1 and 4 p.m. or on June 5 from 10 to 2. Prizes and award certificates will be given to the winning students at their individual school awards program.