

Friends Newsletter

Volume 14, No. 1

of the Sun Prairie Public Library

Fall 2023

ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, November 13th at 6:00pm, in person in the library's Community Room. A light meal will be served before the meeting, at 5:30. All Friends members are encouraged to attend!

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by November 8th to Friends staff liaison, Erin Williams Hart, at 608-825-0902 or ewilliamshart@sunlib.org.

If you will be unable to attend but would still like to participate in the voting process, a proxy form will be available on the Friends' webpage at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting: www.sunlib.org/friends. You can print, fill out, and mail or drop off the form at the library. It must be returned by November 8th.

BYLAWS

There are no proposed changes to the Friends bylaws this year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

– Sally Campbell

The Nominating Committee meets as necessary to fill vacant positions on the Friends Board of Directors. The DEI committee is taking an active role in seeking applicants and recommending and forwarding names to us for consideration. This year we have several members who are completing their two 3-year terms and, according to our bylaws, must take a break from serving on the board. We want to take this opportunity to thank Frank Peot, Sue Ann Klein, and Bill Rockeman for their 6 years of service. Shane Heim is also up for reelection if he decides to run again. Elizabeth Kim (Ellie) has already been approved by the Nominating Committee to have her name placed on the November ballot. We are looking for two or three more people who are willing to serve a 3-year term. If you are interested, please send an email to sunlibraryfriends@gmail.com, or leave information with your name and contact information in the Read Before Book Store.



MEMBERSHIP – Bill Rockeman

Have you renewed your membership for 2024 yet? Now is the time to do that. Please use the enclosed envelope to return your membership payment, or you can renew and pay online on the Friends webpage (www.sunlib.org/friends). Our membership levels are as follows: Individual - \$10.00, Family - \$15.00, Sponsor - \$25.00, Patron - \$50.00, Benefactor - \$100.00, and Lifetime - \$500.00. We also have a Junior Membership for teens ages 13-17. The Friends is a (501 © (3) nonprofit organization and your membership is tax deductible. Thank you very much for keeping your membership current and we hope you had a good summer.

The Membership Committee was part of several events this year. We had a membership drive during National Library Week in April and obtained several new members. We also attended the Farmers Markets in downtown Sun Prairie in June and August where we sold books to adults and gave away free books to kids. We also had a presence at the Multicultural Fair in September on Linnerud Drive.

Our annual Membership Drive will be held during National Friends of Libraries Week which is October 15-21. We will have a table across from the Read Before Book Store during that week, so you can stop by and renew your membership at that time if you prefer. We have bookstore coupons to give out for all new and renewed memberships. We will also be looking for Friends members to work the membership drive during that week and an email will be going out to ask for volunteers.

Thank you for supporting the Sun Prairie Public Library!



MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS BOARD PRESIDENT – Cindy Mestelle

It has been another whirlwind year with the Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library. As many of you know, the library is preparing for an expansion project. The Friends board has pledged \$50,000 to this project since we have been putting money aside (with the library's blessing) to be able to help fund this project. We currently have around \$43,000 between what we had in funds already and other Friends' member pledges. We still need around \$7,000 from our membership to reach this goal. You have the option to donate right now or pledge to pay your amount over 5 years. Please consider helping us to reach this goal to build an even better community library. You can fill out a paper pledge form or you can use this link <https://www.sunlibfoundation.org> to pledge or donate now. Click on Donate Now. Then fill in your amount. If you are making a pledge, please check the box for Show my support by making a recurring donation, then fill in the Frequency and Start Date. Whether you are making a pledge over time or a one-time donation, fill in the rest of the form. Make sure you go to the Additional Information section of the form and under Please indicate if you are a Friends member choose "Yes I am" to indicate this goes toward what the Friends' pledged. Thanks in advance for your support.

As I am writing this it is 99 degrees outside with a heat index over 110 degrees. One of the important things the library provides is a cooling shelter for people in our community without air conditioning. It is crucial since heat related deaths happen every year. The library is also a warming shelter when the temperatures outside get unbearably cold. Again, this serves people in our community without the means to stay warm.

The library is so many things to so many people but it is COMMUNITY. The Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library continue to fund library programs and special opportunities which the budget from the city does not cover. Over the years, some of these special opportunities have included Library Champion Signs, Book Club Kits, and funding for Hoopla among many other things.

Once again, we will hold our annual membership meeting in person. It will be at the library on November 13, 2023 at 5:30 pm with a light supper followed by the annual meeting beginning at 6 pm. Membership will work to approve the 2024 budget, elect new board members and hear about the library expansion project. Discussion about the library expansion will provide information on opportunities for our membership to get involved.

Once again, thank you to our dedicated membership. Renewing your membership helps provide funds to the library for programming.

DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity) COMMITTEE – Teresa Kim

DEI has added some goals this year, while we continue to work toward existing goals set during previous years and celebrate our accomplishments. The committee meets monthly, and we would love to encourage new members to join us, as we strive to make the Read Before Bookstore and the Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library Organization a welcoming place for all members of our community.

We continue to work towards pertinent revisions to store policies & procedures, board bylaws, and public signage. We are also working towards having public literature translated into Spanish and Hmong, to allow greater accessibility to our diverse community.

DEI posted the Friends' Inclusivity statement in 2023, approved by the Friends Board, in the bookstore, to illustrate our commitment to respect and serve the needs of all our patrons and volunteers.

We are making it a priority to attract Junior board members and those from marginalized communities. To accomplish this, we continue to canvass our community, passing out our bookmarks, flyers, and having meaningful conversations. You will also see us at the Sun Prairie Multicultural Fair and the Sun Prairie Farmers Market.

We recognize we are at the beginning of this journey, with much work ahead of us. But, it is a rewarding and necessary journey, and we hope you will join us. If you are interested in participating in our DEI committee or becoming a board member, please let us know via our Friends page of the library website or in person at the info desk at the library.



Please share in our goal to respect and embrace all members of our community regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, sexual identity, education, national origin, or any other distinguishing characteristic or trait.

We are open to different perspectives, experiences and points of view because we understand this will help us grow as individuals as well as improve the effectiveness and relevance of the Friends of the Sun Prairie Library Organization and help us to serve the needs of our growing community.

Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library
Board of Directors

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

2023 has been a year of progress and continued growth and community engagement. We reached record high participation in our Summer Reading Program for youth and adult. The number of languages represented on our Library Champion signs has grown from three to seven! Throughout the community, "Library Champion" can be found in English, Spanish, French, Hindi, Tamil, Telegu, and Hmong! We anticipate more languages in the years to come!

We hit record numbers for Dream Bus Mobile Library visits at both weekly regular stops and at special events, such as Juneteenth and Pridefest. It was also the first year that the Sun Prairie Public Library was a site for the Summer Lunch Program. The Summer Lunch Program is in partnership with Sunshine Place, Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry, Community Schools, and the Neighborhood Navigators. This summer 1,028 lunches were distributed at the library! Our Adult Services librarians regularly visit three Senior Apartments with a rotating monthly collection of Large Print books. The visits also include technology assistance, readers advisory services, reference assistance, and programming information.

With funding and support from the Friends, we offered our first local singer/songwriter series this spring, culinary programs with local chefs, youth summer library kickoff, art displays, and additional book club kits.

This year, we implemented our 12 month work plan as part of our three year strategic plan. The strategic plan identifies four specific areas:

- 1) A More Fully Aware and Engaged Community with Greater Funding Support
- 2) Facilities Upgraded to Meet Growing and Evolving Needs of Community
- 3) Increased Investments and Diversification of Staffing and Resources
- 4) Enhanced and Expanded Programming and Services.

Below are some of the activities and projects related to the focus areas that are in process or have been completed. Some are brand new and some are enhancements from previous years:

- Multilingual Library Champion Signs
- Welcome booklet in three languages (NEW!)
- Full design for library expansion (NEW!)
- After hours lockers for holds (NEW!)
- Bilingual SRP Badge Books
- Library Card applications in Hmong (NEW!)
- Translation widget for website (NEW!)
- Establishment of volunteer greeter position (New!)
- Displays to reflect and represent various cultural celebrations and identities
- Digital collections
- Book Club Kits
- World Languages Collection
- Sensory Kits (NEW!)
- Hmong Community Programming (NEW!)
- English Language Learners (ELL) Conversation Classes (NEW!)
- Madison Audubon Society Bird Collision Study (NEW!)
- Energy Savings Kits (NEW!)
- Local Singer/Songwriter Series (NEW!)
- Adult Gaming: "Magic: the Gathering" (NEW!)
- Dream Bus Mobile Library Services
- Summer Lunch Program (NEW!)
- Community Events & Engagement



Summer Lunch Program partners

And of course, the library staff and board continues to work behind the scenes as we advance the much anticipated library expansion and renovation project. We are currently in the full design phase and below is the anticipated timeline of milestones:

- August 2023: Board approval of schematic design
- September 2023: Presentation to Committee of the Whole
- November 2023: Board approval of final design
- February 2024: Contract documents complete and issue drawings to bid
- April 2024: Construction contract award
- May 2024: Ground Breaking
- June 2025: Ribbon Cutting

In addition to the financial support for programs and resources, our Friends provide hundreds of hours every year in volunteer support and advocacy which ranges in activities from working at the Read Before Bookstore, to promoting Friends memberships, to speaking to elected officials on behalf of the library, to serving sno-cones, to participating in community-wide celebrations – our Friends do it all!

The Friends generosity is a huge gift to the entire community as we continue to strive for excellence in public library services for today and for future generations. On behalf of the entire SPPL staff and board, we are deeply grateful for your continuous support.

With gratitude,
Svetha Hetzler
Sun Prairie Public Library Director

NEWS FROM THE SUN PRAIRIE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

SPPL Foundation has achieved the first major milestone of the capital campaign in surpassing the halfway mark! Volunteers and the board continue to work on fundraising events such as the Party in the Prairie on September 30th from 4-7:30pm with three live bands, food trucks and beverages, yard games and face painting on the library grounds, as well as a South Asian Celebration on October 14th from 5:30-7pm with guest speaker Kashmira Sheth, dancers, and food in the Community Room.

Amphitheater seats are available for \$1,000, with names engraved on the stone seats. These can be pledged over 5 years, if desired, with pledge forms available online or the donate now button on the sunlibfoundation.org website.

We are grateful to the Friends who have already participated in 100 Extraordinary Women, are working to find ways to support the campaign and expansion project, and who help share updates as we have them.

READ BEFORE BOOK STORE

– Etta Heizman

In March of this year, the long-time manager of the Read Before Book Store, Ann Semmann, passed away unexpectedly. Ann's years of devoted service and love for the library and the bookstore were indisputable and continue to be demonstrated



by her family's donation of many books from her personal collection. Sue Ann Klein and I have assumed the duties of co-managers of the bookstore, and, although Ann can never be replaced, we strive to honor her legacy by continuing her work.

The bookstore has had a very successful year thus far, with excellent sales in July. Several large, quality donations as well as many smaller ones, have helped with our sales. Success depends as always upon our many dedicated Friends volunteers. Brooke Diercks does the scheduling, making sure all bookstore shifts are covered. Dennis Austin is in charge of purchasing soda, water and snacks, as well as handling audio visual donations. In addition, Dennis helps manage bookstore inventory and coordination of special sales. Friend's Treasurer Peter Smith handles all the financial aspects of the RBBS and is an important resource. Long-time volunteer Val Hanson continues to organize our children's section and is invaluable. Barb Brueckner coordinates our candy and cookie supplies, and Dee Stopfer makes sure we have plenty of coffee and office supplies. New volunteer Erin Joyce-Miller helps sort and shelve donations. We'd also like to recognize Paul Mestelle and Bernadette Morrow, faithful volunteers who have retired this year. They will be greatly missed. Finally, we could not be successful without the many volunteers who take shifts in the bookstore and perform a myriad of tasks. A special thank you to each and every one of them.

As we move forward with the library expansion and remodeling of the RBBS, we know that none of this would be possible without our wonderful library staff and volunteers and the support of our patrons and the Sun Prairie community.

JUNIOR BOARD MEMBERS – Ellie Kim

As voted into the bylaws at last year's Annual Meeting, we now have two spaces on the board for high school students serving as Junior Board Members. This year the Friends board welcomed our first two Junior Board Members onto the board—Ellie Kim and Jimmiyah Duncan. We asked Ellie to share with us her experience as a Junior Board Member.

Q: How did you hear about the Junior Board Member for the Sun Prairie Friends of the Library?

Ellie: I learned about this position through my grandma and dad who were board members of the Friends of the Library.

Q: Why did you join the Sun Prairie Friends of the Library Board?

Ellie: I thought it would be a good way to be more involved in my community and learn more about the behind the scenes of Sun Prairie's public library.

Q: Would you recommend joining the Sun Prairie Friends of the Library Board as a junior member?

Ellie: Yes. It's a good experience for high-schoolers to experience how boards work and the process they go through to better understand how a community works. It is also a good addition to any college application.

PROGRAMS – Erin Williams Hart

Library programming is one of the major things the Friends of the Library support. Every year the Friends provide funding for youth programming, including the Summer Library Program; adult programs, and live music events. This year, a large focus of Friends-funded programming was on live music. In the spring, we launched a Singer/Songwriter series featuring local musicians, including the library's own Steev Baker. We also hosted local jazz/blues band Chaos in the Kitchen in August.



Youth Summer Library Program kickoff, with Miller & Mike

Friends funding also made possible several events during the youth Summer Library Program, which saw record-breaking numbers this year. Friends provided funding for the kickoff event

with juggling comedians Miller & Mike, a program with world champion yo-yoer Mark Hayward, the annual end of season pool party for kids who completed the reading program, and the finale event.

We have a couple of Friends-funded programs coming up yet this year, and we hope you will be able to attend!

- October 25: Discussion with Ashley Valentine, founder of Rooted MKE, a bookstore and tutoring center that focuses on the needs of Black, Indigenous, and people of color in Milwaukee.
- November 8: Virtual performance by Chilean guitarist, Ricardo Parra.
- December (date TBD): Annual Harry Potter-themed Yule Ball, an all ages event!

We are ever grateful to the Friends for supporting many wonderful and diverse programs for our community!

eBay – Terry Larson

eBay sales have been rather slow so far this year. We've had about \$1,400 in sales so far in 2023. That's about half of what we had projected.

There are a couple of factors impacting our sales. First, COVID brought many more sellers into the market. We have a lot of competition with many more listings of the same book. We try to list our books for a few dollars less than other sellers. Second, we had some non-profit certification issues in May & June. Our account was suspended for about 5 weeks so there were no sales during that period. We've solved that issue. Non-profit status is important because eBay not only charges less of a fee but each book we have listed is identified as 'profits charity.' That identifier may prompt a buyer to choose us over a for-profit seller.

Despite slow sales our eBay team enjoys choosing, listing, selling, and mailing books. We currently have about 200 books listed. Our team includes Mary Chermak, Pat Wende, Emma O'Shea and myself. We look forward to ever-better RBBS on-line sales in the months and years ahead!

Want to shop our eBay store? Go to www.charity.ebay.com, and type "Friends of the Sun Prairie Library" in the Find a Charity search box.





1350 Linnerud Dr.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TREASURER'S REPORT – Peter Smith

Total revenue for the first 8 months of this year is \$20,239, which exceeds by ~\$2,800 our budgeted income estimated for this point in the year. This consisted of \$12,246 in sales from the Read Before Book Store (RBBS), membership dues of \$3,560, donations of \$3,019, and \$1,413 in online sales from E-Bay.

Expenses for the first 8 months are \$15,837, which exceeds by ~\$2,300 our budget's estimate for this point in the year. Please note that the greater-than-expected current spending is primarily due to having already made our contributions to the Library Programs and Expansion Project Donation that were planned for the full calendar year. Major expenses included \$6,500 to support the library's programs, \$1,921 in RBBS supplies (that include the food and drink sold in the store), \$1,433 in printing, mailing, and office supplies, and a \$5,000 contribution to the Foundation's Library Expansion Campaign.

The Friend's current assets consist of \$16,502 cash in our checking account, a \$31,274 CD for general savings, and a \$18,552 CD specifically ear-marked to support library art acquisitions. Total Assets at the end of August were \$49,826.

STAYING IN CONTACT

We send out periodic e-newsletters via email to keep our FRIENDS in the loop. If you are not receiving the e-newsletter and would like to, please send us an email at sunlibraryfriends@gmail.com. And... look for us on Facebook!

2023 Friends of the Library Board Members:

Cindy Mestelle, President
Frank Peot, Vice President
Peter Smith, Treasurer
Teresa Kim, Assistant Treasurer
Sally Campbell, Secretary

Dennis Austin

Shane Heim

Etta Heizman

Sue Ann Klein

Pat Lund

Donna Mackey

Terry Larson

Bill Rockeman

Junior Board Members (2022-23 school year):

Elizabeth Kim

Jimmiyah Duncan