

Friends Newsletter

Volume 15, No. 1

of the Sun Prairie Public Library

Fall 2024

ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, November 11th 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 6th 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 6th.

BYLAWS

The Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library recommend the following changes to the bylaws. The board is recommending lowering the age of our junior (non-adult) directors to at least 13 yrs old. The board is also recommending a change to the years a board member could serve as the same officer from 3 consecutive years to 5 consecutive years.

The proposed changes (in red) are as follows:

ARTICLE VII: DIRECTORS

Section 7.1 General Powers. *Business and property of the Corporation shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Directors.*

Section 7.2 Number of Directors, Automatic Appointment, Elections, Term of Office. *The number of directors constituting the entire Board of Directors shall be at least nine (9) but not more than thirteen (13) voting and one (1) ex-officio, with a representative of the Sun Prairie Public Library as an ex-officio representative, and up to two (2) student junior directors as appointed by the board, non-voting members. Directors (except the ex-officio representative and the appointed, non-voting members) will be elected at the annual meeting. Each director shall be elected for three years or until said director is replaced, removed or resigns. If a vacancy on the Board occurs prior to the annual meeting, the remaining directors may select a replacement director, who shall serve until the next annual meeting at which time a replacement*

shall be elected to serve for the remainder of the term. Directors may be re-elected for an additional three (3) year term. For example, a director appointed to fill a term may then be elected to serve up to two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms. The student junior directors will be at least thirteen (13) years old for a one (1) year term renewable up to a total of three (3) years. one high school sophomore and one high school junior. The board will appoint one sophomore to serve a two year term on the board. The former sophomore will continue on the board as a junior the second year of their term. These student junior directors shall further be subject to Section 7.3 and 7.4 of these Bylaws.

Section 8.4 Terms. *Following each annual meeting, the officers of the Corporation shall be elected, to serve one-year terms. No person shall hold the same office more than five (5) three consecutive terms.*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Peter Smith

The Nominating Committee is responsible for recruiting and evaluating candidates for Board membership, forwarding our recommendations on the candidates to the full Board. Dennis Austin recently resigned from the Board in the middle of his term, and Bharati "Maya" Holtzman was elected to fill that open seat until the Annual Meeting. Four members of the Board will be completing their terms of office in November. We are grateful for the years of service Dennis Austin, Cindy Mestelle, Terry Larson, Sally Campbell, and Donna Mackey have dedicated to serving the Friends as members of our Board. We are already scheduled to interview two applicants for these four openings and encourage you to apply or pass along this information to any other people you think would be good candidates. In addition, we have openings for two junior members of the Board. There is a link on the Friends' website where you can apply, you can send an email to sunlibraryfriends@gmail.com, or leave your contact information and interest at the Read Before Book Store. We will be presenting a ballot with all the candidates at the Annual Meeting in November.



MEMBERSHIP – Sally Campbell

As I am writing the report, we have 294 members on our roster. This consists of 19 Lifetime, 195 paid for 2024, and 80 unpaid from 2022/23. While our membership has grown, and is something to be proud of, we still have unexpired members from 2022/23. If you have not renewed for 2024 we hope that you will decide to rejoin us during our 2024 Fall Membership Drive October 21st – 26th. Any new or renewed memberships during that week will be for the 2025 membership year.

We will be offering free coffee in the Read Before Book Store during the membership drive. Any new or renewing memberships will receive EITHER a free Friends logo bookbag OR a \$3 coupon for the purchase of any donated item from the bookstore. A volunteer sign up to help with our membership drive will be emailed to our membership roster on or about October 1st. Please consider helping us by taking a couple of hours to talk to library patrons about the Friends and what we do to help improve the library experience for everyone.

The Read Before Book Store will be closed during the library renovation of our existing space, so it will be even more important to promote the importance of a Friends membership.

During 2024 we participated with a presence at the Saturday Farmers Market, National Night Out, the Multicultural Fair and held a membership Drive at the library during National Library Week in April. We thank all of those who helped with these community opportunities.

MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS BOARD PRESIDENT – Teresa Kim

The ability for an organization to accept and embrace change illustrates its resiliency. It is also an indicator for future success. The Friends of the Sun Prairie Library is saying goodbye to several long-term Board Members, as their terms are coming to an end. We will still see most of these valued Friends at the library continuing their volunteer activities as they will remain a part of the Friends organization. We hope these dedicated individuals understand how very grateful we are for their past, present and future service.



Architect's rendering of library exterior with new atrium

In the upcoming year, the library will continue to undergo expansion. The Read Before Book Store will be expanding right along with the library. It's a very exciting time in which we will see the wonderful changes unfolding before us. We may not always be able to serve the public in the same capacity during the construction, but we want to assure you that we will continue to fund programming, activities, and events provided by the Sun Prairie Public Library throughout this process.

In the year to come, the Friends have so much to look forward to. We are welcoming several new board members, with new and unique skills and perspectives. With improved facilities, including an expanded café, we hope to welcome even more visitors to the bookstore, and enhance our ability to support the library. It is truly a period of eager anticipation and excitement.

Members, please join us for the annual membership meeting. It will be held at the library on Monday, November 11th at 6pm (light dinner 5:30pm).

As always, the Friends Board wants to thank our committed membership. Please consider renewing, if your membership has lapsed – or join us as a new member! All are welcome.

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

A few years ago when the Friends of the Sun Prairie Library DEI Committee was formed, our intention was to ensure that our organization was promoting a diverse and inclusive environment for our existing and potential members, as well as those we come into contact with during our volunteer activities. We looked to the Library, Library Board and City of Sun Prairie as examples of how to put ourselves on the path to achieve these goals. We structured a timeline to help us work towards achieving objectives. We went out into the community to actively speak to our fellow Sun Prairie residents. We reviewed materials and documents created by the Friends to assess sensitivity and inclusivity.

Through this process, the DEI committee has helped to change the lens through which the entire Friends organization sees our objectives. It has been a proactive filter to work towards removing systemic inequalities. DEI's guiding principles are now the responsibility of all members of the Friends of the Sun Prairie Library. We will all share goals of continuing to work towards a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive future.

For her many contributions to the formation and work of DEI, we would like to say a special thank you to Cindy Mestelle. Also thanks to Donna Mackey, Sally Campbell, and many others.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

2024 is a milestone year for the Sun Prairie Public Library. It was 25 years ago when we opened the doors to our current library, and this summer we broke ground for our much anticipated expansion and renovation. The long-anticipated project represents our community's commitment to lifelong learning, literacy, and access to information for all. Over the next 18 months construction will cause some disruption with reduced hours and noise. Library staff is working diligently to balance a successful and smooth construction project along with maintaining an excellent level of public library service. Many patrons are interested in the progress of the expansion and can find information, including videos and photos on the SPPL website:

https://www.sunprairiepubliclibrary.org/library_expansion.

SPPL continues to make significant investments in multilingual and multicultural resources, services, and programs. This year, patrons have attended and accessed the following multilingual and multicultural events and services:

- Welcome Booklets in English, Hmong, and Spanish
- Multilingual Library Champion Signs include nine languages (Arabic, English, French, German, Hindi, Hmong, Russian, Spanish, and Telegu)
- Madison College Spanish Language Intern
- Adult Spanish Language Collection
- Youth and Young Adult World Languages Collection
- Transparent Language Database (100+ languages, including English immersion and skill building)
- LOTE4Kids (New! Picture Books in over 60 languages)
- Spanish Storytime
- English and Spanish Conversation Classes
- Cultural Celebrations with Bilingual Programming

Library staff is looking to ensure our entire community not only has access to public library services but also is aware of all the free services and resources available to them. SPPL's Marketing & Communication Team has expanded marketing and communication efforts to:

- Create social media reels for a higher level of connection
- Increase engagement with activities such as "Name the Crane"
- Work and collaborate with city-wide communication channels
- Increase reach with new digital platform for readers' advisory
- Include updated architectural renderings to use with expansion communication
- Regular updates to the library's expansion page

Outreach and community engagement efforts continue with the Dream Bus Mobile Library, which includes regular weekly stops and special events. This summer, the Dream Bus began two new stops at Wildwood Apartments and Uplands Park. Stops at Wildwood Apartments will continue into the school year.



Staff Groundbreaking



Kids Groundbreaking Crowd



over

History Walk Panel

This year, all SPASD 5th grade classes made field trips to SPPL which is very important in maintaining access to library resources as students move from elementary to middle school. Library staff also participated in several community-wide events including: Juneteenth, Pridefest, Sunshine Place Infopalooza, the Historical Museum's 100th Birthday Celebration, Outdoor Farmer's Market, and the Multicultural Fair. The SPPL History Walk was featured at the Museum event.

With funding and support from our Friends, we were able to offer:

- All Day National Puzzle Day event. The initial success has led to a regular monthly puzzle club
- Live music concerts
- Youth Summer Library Program Finale
- Bags for Book Club Kits
- Memory Kits to support those living with memory loss and their caregivers



Looking ahead into 2025, we anticipate the following:

- Addition complete by the end of June
- Amphitheater and outdoor programming space open for use late summer or early fall
- More virtual and off-site programs, including homebound delivery services
- Temporary movement of staff spaces and collections

The effort of the SPPL staff is tremendous and is recognized well beyond Sun Prairie. SPPL was the featured library in ReThinking Library's blog this August. ReThinking Libraries is a national library consulting firm and their blog is an opportunity to share inspiration and ideas with the library community at large. You can find the article here: <https://www.rethinkinglibraries.org/blog>.

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 Book Store, to promoting Friends memberships, to speaking to elected officials and community members on behalf of the library, to boxing up books and Barbie dolls for eBay sales, to participating in community-wide celebrations, to recognizing staff during National Library Worker's Day – 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

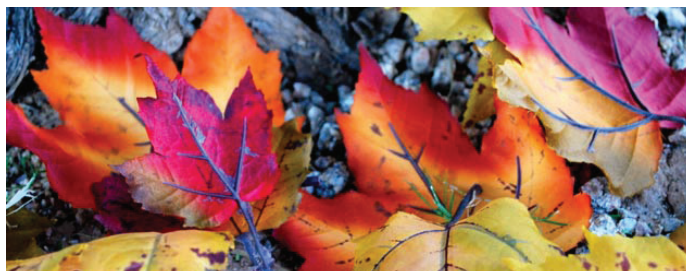
NEWS FROM THE SUN PRAIRIE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

– Theresa Stevens

SPPL Foundation continues to work towards meeting its \$3.5M fundraising goal. The groundbreaking ceremony was a wonderful event to celebrate the fundraising achievements as well as all of the hard work that has gone into planning for this project. This year the Foundation brought the spring gala back to the Library for the first time in 6 years. Due to construction it will be offsite in 2025 at The Oaks Golf Club on April 25th.

All pledges for amphitheater seats must be made by December 31st 2024 to allow time for the engraving and installation of the stone seats. 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 been making phone calls, sending letters and encouraging the Friends membership to give to this remarkable project that will allow the library to continue offering great services and expand programming for future generations to enjoy.



TREASURER'S REPORT – Peter Smith

Total revenue through July of this year is \$20,767, which exceeds by ~\$5,900 our budgeted income estimated for this point in the year. This consisted of \$13,023 in sales from the Read Before Book Store (RBBS), membership dues of \$2,715, donations of \$1,492, and \$3,537 in online sales from E-Bay.

Total expenses through July are \$6,616, which is ~\$8,100 less than our budget's estimate for this point in the year. Please note that the lower-than-expected current spending is partially due to having not yet made our contributions to the Library Programs, Art Fund, and Expansion Project Donation that were planned for the full calendar year. Major expenses included \$2,079 to support the library's programs and wish list, \$1,727 in RBBS supplies (that include the food and drink sold in the store), and \$1,536 in printing, mailing, and office supplies.

The Friend's current assets consist of \$31,062 cash in our checking account, a \$31,929 CD for general savings, and a \$21,441 CD specifically ear-marked to support library art acquisitions. Total Assets at the end of August were \$86,421.

READ BEFORE BOOK STORE

– Etta Heizman

The Read Before Book Store has had a very successful year so far. This wouldn't be possible without the many generous donations received from the community. Thanks in particular to Barb Brueckner for her donation of plush animal/book bundles. The bookstore also benefitted from sales of some of the Barbie dolls remaining from the Foundation's fundraiser earlier this year as well as several Barbies donated by Cindy Mestelle.

Success depends as always upon our many dedicated volunteers. Although Sue Ann Klein elected to step back from management of the bookstore earlier this year, she remains a valuable resource, especially with our upcoming expansion. Special mention goes to Brooke Diercks who handles scheduling, making sure all bookstore shifts are covered. Erin Joyce-Miller helps sort, organize and shelve donations and assists with special sales. Dennis Austin continues to handle audio visual donations, helps manage bookstore inventory and assists in coordination of special sales. Friend's Treasurer Peter Smith handles all the financial aspects of the bookstore as well as assisting with sorting and shelving donations. Long-time



volunteer Val Hanson sorts, prices and organizes our children's section. Barb Brueckner coordinates our candy, cookie and snack supplies, and Terry Larson makes sure we have plenty of coffee. Finally, we could not be successful without the many volunteers who take shifts in the bookstore and perform a variety of tasks. We are grateful for their dedication and service.

"We'd also like to recognize Barb Fett and Dee Stopfer, who both recently retired from the bookstore after 13 and 23 years of volunteering, respectively. They will be missed!"

As the library expansion and remodeling of the bookstore progresses, we know that none of this would be possible without our wonderful library staff, our patrons and the Sun Prairie community. We anticipate that the Read Before Book Store renovation will begin late spring/early summer of 2025; this will be a period of change and transition, and our dedicated volunteers will provide much-needed support and continuity as we move forward.

eBay – Terry Larson

eBay sales have been doing remarkably well so far in 2024. We've had almost \$4,100 in sales so far in 2024. That's three times higher than we were last year at this time.

There are a couple of factors impacting our sales. We had a terrific donation of Barbie Dolls from the Library Foundation. Pat Wende has been listing them using the eBay bidding system. We've had some remarkable sales of these high value Barbies with many of them selling for almost \$100. The highest amount we've received for a Barbie or any item we've ever sold on eBay is \$291.00 we received for the Black Barbie in a Red Disco Dress w/ Natural Afro Doll. Thanks to Pat for all the work of listing and mailing these dolls!!

With more invigorated sales, our eBay team enjoys choosing listing, selling, and mailing books. We currently have about 277 books listed. The challenge has been finding room for our books. Etta Heizman has been outstanding in providing extra shelves, finding high-value donations, and helping us search for the books we've sold. Our team includes Mary Chermak, Pat Wende, 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.

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 sunlibrary-friends@gmail.com. And... find us on Facebook!



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PROGRAMS – Erin Williams Hart

One of the major ways the Friends support the library is by providing funds for many of our wonderful events and programs, including the Summer Library Program and live music events. This year, thanks to the Friends, we once again held a Singer/Songwriter program series in the spring, which in turn supports local musicians. We also brought back popular music duo Cherry & Jerry who performed hits of the Ragtime era, as well as Chilean guitarist Ricardo Parra, who performed live via Zoom.



Friends volunteers scooping sno-cones. You never know who you'll meet while volunteering!

The Friends have a long history of supporting our youth Summer Library Program, not just financially but in other ways as well! Besides funding the Summer Kick-off and Finale programs and the perennial favorite Zozort Mini Zoo event, Friends members once again volunteered their time scooping sno-cones at the kick-off program.

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

2024 Friends of the Library Board Members:

Teresa Kim, President
Aaron Oppenheimer, Vice President
Peter Smith, Treasurer
Etta Heizman, Assistant Treasurer
Pat Lund, Secretary
Dick Ammann
Sally Campbell
Bharati Holtzman
Elizabeth Kim
Terry Larson
Donna Mackey
Cindy Mestelle
Ragini Prasad

