

PAGE TURNER

FALL/WINTER 2025 • A PUBLICATION BY FRIENDS OF THE WHITEFISH BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY LEAH DEAN

Dear Friends Members,

First of all, I am happy to report that the May 2025 Booksale set a new record with net sales of just over \$8,000. Thank you to our year-round volunteers and all the others who helped to set up and run the sale – we couldn't do it without you!

In September, the Friends Board of Directors approved an additional \$20,000 for the Library to fund the purchase of new furniture in the Children's Area. This purchase will allow greater table space for users, with bright, kid-friendly, durable, easy-to-clean furnishings, and a livelier look for the space. We anticipate having the furniture for our littlest patrons in place by December or January.

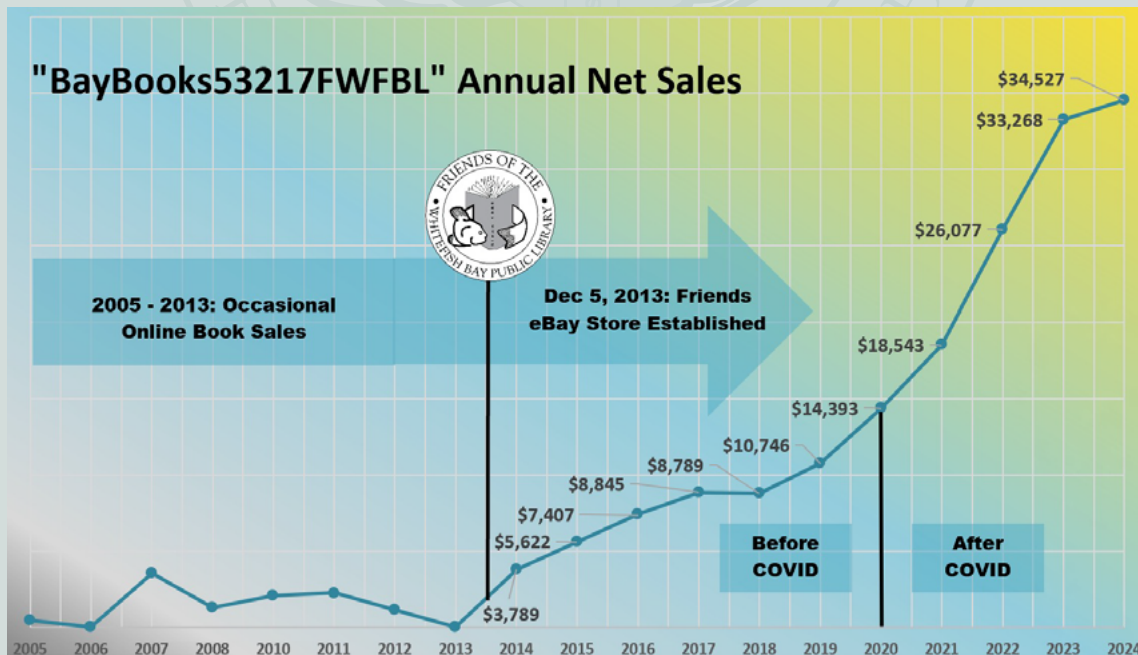
In addition, the main floor Book Room sales continue to exceed our expectations, averaging \$1,170 each month! Thank you to Maureen and Alice who manage the selection, display and restocking of the Friends Book Room inventory.

Did you know that Friends also raises money by selling donated books on eBay?

The adventure began around 2006, by selling a small number of valuable books online. By 2013, "Electronic Book Sales" became its own Friends committee with a volunteer team dedicated to scouting, researching and listing the most valuable donations on eBay. The graph below shows how this operation has grown, especially during the COVID years when the library was closed to in-person use, and Friends had to cancel two of our community book sales. "[BayBooks53217FWFBL](#)" often qualifies as a 'Top Rated' seller, currently boasting 6,100 positive reviews, over 16,000 items sold, 489 followers and a 99.7% customer satisfaction rating!

We are always looking for volunteers to join both our eBay Team and our Sales Floor Team. Contact us at friendswfblibrary@gmail.com for more information.

Leah Dean, President



Follow us on social!

Letter from the Director

By Nyama Reed

One of my favorite fall traditions at the library is our annual Whitefish Bay Public Library Photo Contest. Since 2016, this event has brought together photographers of all ages and skill levels—from curious kids with their first cameras to seasoned photographers in their 80s. Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Library, this year's contest drew nearly 200 entries!

Participants can showcase their talents in a wide variety of categories, including Travel, Portraits, Architecture, Nature, Still Life, Black & White, Close-up, and Photo Manipulation. Young photographers under 17 can compete alongside adults or in a kids-only division designed just for them.

The contest is guided by three expert judges whose backgrounds in photography and media give them both insight and passion for celebrating great images. In fact, during the first year they couldn't decide between two excellent photos for Best in Show so they created an extra award, the Judges' Big Wow! which now joins Best in Show as one of the highest honors.

We'd love for you to be part of the celebration. Please join us on Friday, November 21, from 6–7 p.m. for a reception honoring this year's winners. The winning photos will be on display at the reception and featured in our Adult Services wing throughout the coming year.

At its heart, the photo contest reflects what libraries are all about: celebrating creativity, inspiring discovery, and strengthening community connections.



The Friends of the WFB Public Library Community Book Sale returns!

On Friday, October 31st, our Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library member night will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Bonus - If you're not a member of Friends, you can join Friday night for as little as \$15 annually! On Saturday, November 1st our hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. And on Sunday, November 2nd, join us from noon to 3 p.m. for our popular bag sale. Fill a bag for \$7. We supply the bags.

Our semi-annual sales help raise money to supplement the wide range of activities at the Library including reading programs, computer equipment purchases, guest speakers, sponsorships, furniture and much more. Thanks to the generosity of the community, we have a tremendous selection of gently-used books, DVDs and CDs. Books are sorted fiction versus non-fiction. Most fiction offerings are alphabetized by author. Non-fiction books are for sale by category. So if you have a favorite author, or are looking for just the right book, you'll find it all at the Book Sale.

Reminder: We accept all major credit cards, checks and cash.
Join us for a spooktacular time - nothing beats a gourd book!

Adult Services Update

By Scott Lenski

This was the summer of self-care at the library, thanks to Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library. I've been focusing on self-care in my own life and I thought it would be fun to bring that to our library programs. We had a plethora of programs, all graciously funded by Friends throughout the summer. Program offerings ranged from meditation and breath work to yoga and drawing. I saw a number of Friends members at our programs so I appreciate the financial support as well as taking the time to attend these programs.

Some of our most popular programs were our bi-weekly yoga sessions led by yoga and fitness instructor Michelle Streng. We got a lot of positive comments about this program and I'm hoping to bring Michelle back for some more sessions this winter. We also had Practical Meditation Practices for Everyday Life with Jillian Holy-Skaja. These sessions focused on some simple and practical meditation practices to bring greater ease, balance and wellness into everyday life. We also had some fun discovering the calming and creative world of Zentangle. We learned how to create beautiful, structured patterns using simple strokes, all while experiencing the calming benefits of mindful drawing.

We also had 2 sound baths from Adagio Sound Healing. A sound bath is a therapeutic and immersive meditative practice where participants lie down and listen to sounds and vibrations from instruments like singing bowls, gongs, and chimes to promote relaxation, stress reduction, and emotional well-being. This program was very popular and filled up both times we offered it.

And summer wouldn't be complete without our summer reading program for adults. Reading is good for your mind no matter your age and we love encouraging adults to read in summer too. We are able to offer \$1,000 in prizes for adults all thanks to Friends support! This year we had nearly 200 adults participate in our regular summer reading program and we had 150 people participate in our bonus bingo challenge. The support of Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library make our summer reading and program offerings really stand out. Thank you Friends for all that you do to support your library!



Welcome New Members!

It's a pleasure to welcome the following new members who have joined Friends since the last newsletter was published:

Anne Burroughs

Kailyn Gee

Paula Hogan

John Teggatz

Jenny Sturino

Alyssa Tessmer

Hannah Alley

Geneveve Vermeulen

Lynn Lange

Christina Campbell

Cleo & Emily Tomchek

Kent Regis

Jennifer Phillips

Carrie Neumann

Lisa Pettay

Jeanette Shea

Elizabeth Perry

Margaret Kurlinski

Doug & Lynn Raines

Jennifer Konieczka

Margaret Collins

Craig Johnson

David Dries

Judy Bittner

Roger Eckes

J. Maverick

Lisa Kropp

Katherine Walsh

Jennifer Haas

Axel Shum

Jenna Renno

Cecilia Heffernan

Thank you for your support.

Members are the lifeblood of our organization!

New Collection for Kids Coming Soon!

By Katie Kiekhaefer

The biggest event in the Youth Services department is always the summer reading program, which is generously made possible by Friends of the Whitefish Bay Library. We had a wonderful turnout in 2025, both for kids and teens signing up for summer reading and general program attendance. In fact, it's been the highest attendance since the pandemic. 1,318 kids and teens (birth-age 18) signed up to track their reading over the summer! Even more exciting: with the generous support of Friends, kids and teens who finish half of the program get to choose a free book. This summer, more than 800 kids and teens took home a free book.

During summer, we also offer individual programs for patrons, like storytime, art programs, and more, which are also funded by Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library. Some of these are entertainers who we hire to perform at the library, and many are programs that we create within the department. This summer, the youth services department offered 45 programs that more than 1,300 kids, teens, and caregivers attended.

As we approach fall, we want to keep the momentum going, with exciting craft programs and all ages STEAM programs.

Thank you, Friends, for all of your support and generosity over the years.



A Message from the Friends Volunteer Coordinator

According to the Oxford dictionary a volunteer “is a person who does a job without being paid for it” and who “does things to help other people”. That definition describes our Friends of the Whitefish Bay Library volunteers perfectly!

This past year Friends volunteers helped us:

- Put up yard signs promoting our book sale,
 - Deliver or pick up book sale yard signs,
 - Staff our May booksale,
 - Staff our booth at Recycle in the Bay Day,
 - Unload our yellow donation bins,
 - Research books to see if they could be posted on eBay
 - Sort and shelve books
 - Deliver books to the prison and non-profit organizations
 - Take unsaleable books to the recycling center
 - Pick up larger donated acquisitions
- and more!

In addition to our ongoing volunteer activities, we are currently looking for two individuals to take on the following roles:

May 2026 Book Sale Planning Coordinator

Time Frame: March 16 to May 3, 2026. Sale Dates: May1-3, 2026.

Time Commitment: 1-2 hours/week initially; then, 4-6 hours/week during the 2 weeks leading up to the sale.

Responsibilities: We work off a six-week long checklist that spells out what needs to be done when and which board members, committee chairs, and volunteer teams are responsible for the work.

Tasks: Your role will be to oversee the timeline by communicating with all the parties involved, attending and taking notes at planning meetings, and supporting our work teams as needed. This may involve ordering supplies, assisting with odd jobs, troubleshooting, and working at least two shifts during the sale.

May 2026 Book Sale Publicity Coordinator

Time Frame: March 1 to May 3, 2026. Sale Dates: May1-3, 2026.

Time Commitment: 1-2 hours/week initially; then, 2-4 hours/week during the 4 weeks leading up to the sale.

Responsibilities: Coordinate the advertising for our May 2026 book sale over an eight-week schedule, working directly with the Friends president and Vice-president.

Tasks: Your role will include placing ads in local publications and online calendars, creating content for our pre-sale newsletter and facebook page, printing flyers and other signage, and communicating with the sale coordinator, volunteer, membership and newsletter directors.

For more information about either of those opportunities, please contact our President, Leah Dean at leah@friendswfblibrary.org.

Friends continually adds volunteers to our roster and has many opportunities to help out throughout the year. If any of the activities or positions I've listed sound interesting to you, if you love being around books and working alongside other book lovers, please come check us out. We would love to share with you what we do and to add you to our cadre of devoted volunteers.

Lastly, it is not too late to volunteer at our Fall book sale. Slots are available from Friday, October 31 through Tuesday October 4th. Follow this link to sign up: <http://signup.com/go/mzjqmPz>

Thank you!

Reesa Gottschalk, Volunteer Coordinator

FriendsWFBLibrary@gmail.com

FALL BOOK SALE

**** Friday, October 31, 5:00 – 7:00 PM, MEMBERS ONLY****

Saturday, November 1, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Sunday, November 2, 12 – 3 pm – Bag Sale Day



**NO BONES
ABOUT IT**



**BOOKS ARE
EXSKULLENT!**

Alexandria

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CARVE
SOME
TIME
FOR
READING



Alexandria



Whitefish Bay Public Library
5420 N. Marlborough Drive
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

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Christine Perez, Secretary
Vicky Dargis, Treasurer

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Book Room, Maureen Hart-Donahue
eBay Sales and Research, OPEN (Acting Chair, Leah Dean)
Publicity, OPEN (Acting Co-Chairs, Jennifer West and Leah Dean)
Volunteers, Reesa Gottschalk

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Alice Rozek
Mary Trainor

Honorary Board Member

Helen Dooley

Library Representative

Nyama Reed

Board Meetings are held at the Library at 6:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August). Friends members are welcome to attend to get an idea of our work in progress, ask questions, or contribute ideas.