

# PAGE TURNER

SPRING/SUMMER 2025 • A PUBLICATION BY FRIENDS OF THE WHITEFISH BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY LEAH DEAN

**M**ay is fast approaching and that means it is time for the **Friends of the WFB Public Library Spring Book Sale!** Please make plans to stop by and shop. Most books sell for \$1-2 each! Sunday is discount day – fill a brown paper bag for \$7.00!

**Friday, May 2, Friends Members Only** 5:00 to 7:00 pm (join at the door!)

**Saturday, May 3, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm** – Public Sale

**Sunday, May 4, noon to 3:00 pm** – \$7 Bag Sale Day (bags provided)



If you have never been to our sale before, you are in for a treat. Our sales floor is over 4,000 square feet and is full of more than 20,000 used books, CD's, DVDs, Puzzles and Games. We have shelves full of Children's books, Fiction (organized alphabetically) and Non-Fiction (organized by category). We currently have a large inventory of teaching materials and over 5,000 CD/DVD items. We accept cash, checks and credit cards.

Friends Community Book Sales are an important source of funds for special programs at the Whitefish Bay Public Library, and a great, family-friendly event for Whitefish Bay residents. Other ways we raise money for the library include: membership dues, donations, book room purchases, and sales of the most valuable book donations on our extensive eBay Store (over 600 items are currently listed). Check it out at <https://www.ebay.com/str/friendsofwfblibrary>.

### How does Friends manage all of these operations and sales events?

Friends is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization with its own Board of Directors and its own workspaces in the library building. Friends Board Members actively participate in all our operations and programs with Committee Chairs overseeing various teams who work year-round.

Volunteer opportunities include: regularly scheduled work team hours; ad-hoc activities such as staffing book sale events and helping with special projects/programs; and, serving on our Board of Directors.

Members of our work teams generally spend 3-7 hours/week volunteering. We welcome those who want to work year-round, seasonally, or (once trained) whenever your schedule allows. We also have work-from-home options for trained eBay Team volunteers.

For more specific information about volunteer opportunities, scroll down to our "Help Wanted" section of this newsletter. If you are looking to help with the upcoming sale, please follow this link to sign-up for a shift! <https://signup.com/go/SAZPXFK>

Follow us on social!

## Letter from the Director

*By Nyama Reed*

As Library Director, I'm frequently asked about the difference between Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library (Friends) and the Whitefish Bay Public Library Foundation (Foundation).

I often compare them to a school having both an education foundation and a parent-teacher organization. Each group plays a unique role in raising funds to support school district projects. Both are vital to a school's success and help provide resources that go beyond what the regular operating budget can cover. The Whitefish Bay Public Library is fortunate to be supported by two dedicated nonprofit organizations: Friends' Foundation!

Though separate entities, both organizations share the common goal of enhancing the library's services, programming, and resources. They complement each other by focusing on different revenue streams and immediate versus long-term needs.

	Friends	Foundation
501(c)3	Yes	Yes
Established	1982	2021
Board of Directors	Yes	Yes
Members	Yes	No
What do you donate	Used books, movies, etc	Money, Van Gogh painting, etc
Volunteer	Weekly or at book sales	No
Revenues	Books sales and membership dues	Donations; earned interest on endowment
Endowment	No	Yes (at Greater Milwaukee Foundation)
Expenditures	Aim to expend what is earned each year	Aim to expend only interest income, maintain corpus

### Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library

**Friends Mission:** To provide appropriate and sufficient financial and volunteer resources in support of the Whitefish Bay Public Library's mission.

**Library Mission:** The Whitefish Bay Public Library, as a cornerstone of the community, is dedicated to connecting all people, inspiring a love of learning, and providing access to ideas, information, and resources.

The Friends is a long-established, volunteer-driven organization that raises funds primarily through book sales and membership dues. Their hallmark initiatives include:

- **Book Sales:** Hosting two large sales each year, maintaining a well-stocked book sale room that is open year-round, and operating a successful online sales program through eBay.
- **Membership:** Friends is a membership-based organization, offering community members a chance to join and support their mission through dues and volunteer work.
- **Library Support:** Friends directly fund nearly all library-led programming, such as author visits, guest speakers, children's activities, and the Summer Reading Program.
- **Special Projects:** They also support various special needs outside the library's operational budget—examples include furniture purchases, upgrading the teen area, and funding equipment like the new self-checkout machine.

### How to Support Friends

- Donate gently used books and media in the yellow donation bins in the Library's lobby.
- Purchase books at the sales, in the Library's bookroom, and online
  - <https://www.ebay.com/str/friendsofwfblibrary>
- Volunteer! Volunteer! Volunteer!

## Letter from the Director, Continued

By Nyama Reed

### Whitefish Bay Public Library Foundation

**Foundation Purpose:** To strengthen and sustain the library as a vital community resource through fundraising and growth the endowment - ensuring the Whitefish Bay Public Library continues to thrive as a cornerstone of learning, connection, and community life.

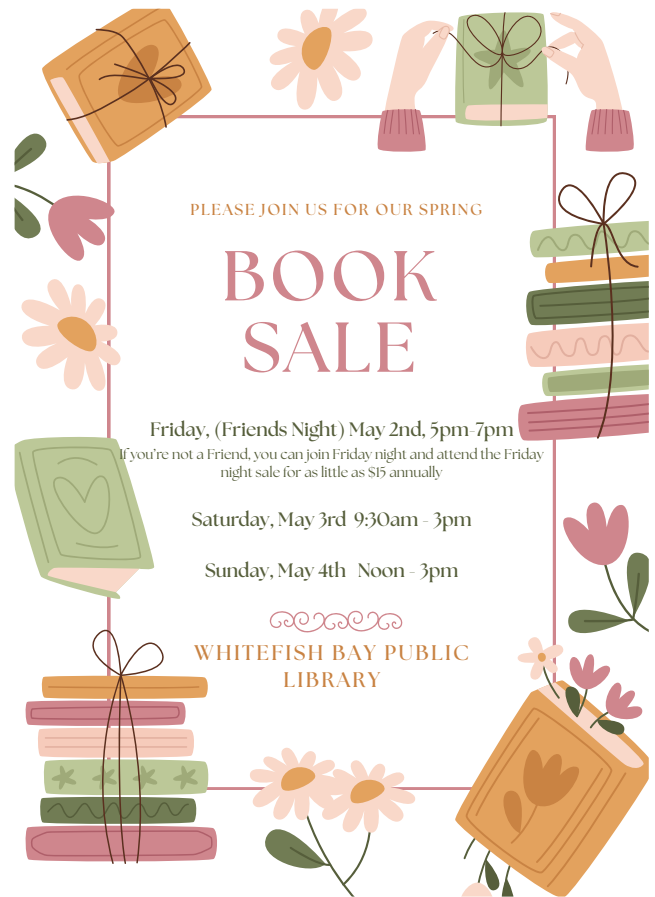
The Foundation is building an endowment that will provide a lasting source of financial support. In the years ahead, income generated from this endowment will allow the Foundation to fund expanded programming, new technology, and enhanced collections that reflect the diverse interests and needs of our community.

### How to Support Friends

- Donation options are available at <https://www.wfblibrary.org/donate/foundation.php>

### A Strong Partnership for a Stronger Library

Together, the Friends and the Foundation offer invaluable, well-rounded support to the Whitefish Bay Public Library. I'm truly grateful to both organizations—as well as their boards, donors, and members—for their ongoing commitment to our library. Their dedication, alongside public funding, helps ensure that the Whitefish Bay Public Library continues to thrive as a vibrant, dynamic, and cherished community hub.



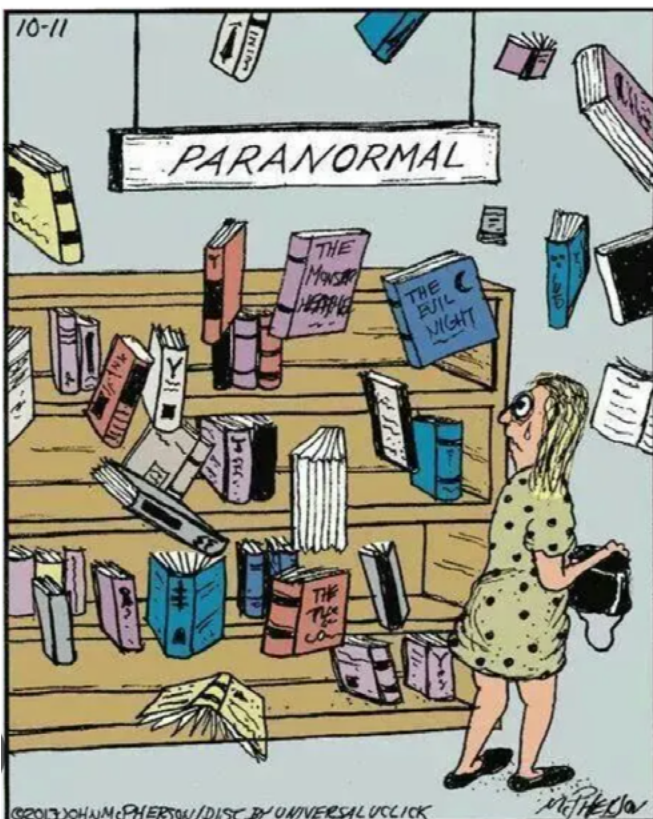
## Welcome New Members!

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

Katherine Kannenberg	Kathy Sicula
Daniel Buvid	Jane Jaeger
Meagan Pearson	Abby Jakowski
Karen and Paul McKinney	Paula Hogan
Elisabeth Bradshaw	Gwendolene Chea
Joe Steinbring	Brian Wolf
Vidra Otovic	Deanna Breitbarth
Elizabeth Jaros	Brynn Geraghty
Jackie & Way Thompson	Liang Liang
Mary Roets	Kent Regis
Mohamed Bousaida	Glenda Laws
Selcuk Alcan	Amber Hearing
Ana Feenstra	Julia Mueller
Jill Kossoris	Beck Borkovec
Deidre Beadle	

Thank you for your support.

Members are the lifeblood of our organization!





## Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library Writing Contest Winners 2025

The winners of the 2025 writing contest were announced, and a reception was held, on Tuesday, March 18th at the library. The winners, three in each category of short story, memoir, and poetry, read their pieces at the reception. This was the 12th anniversary of the contest. You can read all of the pieces on the Whitefish Bay Library website [HERE](#).

### Short Story

1st Place- Gary Armstrong  
2nd Place- Kat Gal  
3rd Place- Gabriella Echimof

### Memoir

1st Place- Jon Kolb  
2nd Place- Isaac Kang  
3rd Place- Kat Gal

### Poetry

1st Place- Jon Kolb  
2nd Place- John Phillips  
3rd Place- Thomas Murphy

### MUSINGS

By Jon Kolb

One by one everything he once did well,  
seeing, hearing, taste and smell,  
fell away, like a Jonathan apple  
dropping to its waiting worm  
to be consumed in the dewy morn.

So what, he thought,  
it's a common fate,  
it binds us all,  
chin up, old boy,  
it's not December, it's only Fall.  
Kick up your heels,  
reframe your spiel,  
shout, shout  
against time's rack and wheel.  
(Kick carefully, brittle bones will break,  
not mend, as the years eat their welcome cake).

Suffer osteoporosis, bid farewell to friends who got to know us,  
how dare they desert the world that we formed,  
leaving shadows and echos in which to mourn.

It is lucky to be born  
and just as lucky to die,  
young Walt Whitman promised.  
Celebrate, cherish, cradle what you can,  
sons of woman, daughters of man.



### New Collection for Kids Coming Soon!

*By Katie Kiekhaefer*

There's a new audio collection for kids coming soon, and we have Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library to thank for it. They're called Tonies, and you play them using Tonieboxes. Tonieboxes are screen-free audioplayers and Tonies are little characters (either based on books/movies/tv or original content) that you can put on the Toniebox to play stories and songs. They're advertised for 3yo and up, but they can be used by younger children with adult supervision. The box itself is simple and sturdy and very child-friendly.



A variety of libraries have started adding Tonies to their collections for families to borrow, so we'll be in good company. They are very popular, and in the past year, we have more and more patrons asking if we carry them. Additionally, this fits within our department goal of adding more formats to our offerings in our collection and supporting the literacy needs of our diverse community of readers.

Over the years, the support and funding from Friends have allowed us the opportunity to add new and exciting (and expensive) collections, and we're grateful. We're hoping our Tonies will hit shelves in time for summer, and I invite you to stop by the Youth Services to learn more about this exciting product.

Thank you, Friends!

### Whitefish Bay Friends' Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library book sale returns in May at the Whitefish Bay Public Library!

On Friday, May 2nd, our Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library night will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. If you're not a Friend, you can join Friday night and attend the sale for as little as \$15 annually. On Saturday, May 4th our hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. And on Sunday, May 5th, 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.

## Great Whitefish Bay Puzzle Race

By Scott Lenski

In February we hosted the second ever Great Whitefish Bay Puzzle Race. This year we had 18 teams compete, all trying to put the same 500-piece puzzle together in the fastest time. Teams can be made up of anywhere between 2-4 people. Teams are given a total of 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete their puzzle. Let me tell you the competition was fierce! Of the 18 teams, 13 completed their puzzle in the allotted time frame, including a team made of up Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library volunteers.

Our first place team was Puzzle Lovers and they completed their puzzle in 54 minutes and 25 seconds. They also came in first place last year, and missed their previous time by only 10 seconds (even though this year's puzzle was more difficult.) For their achievement Puzzle Lovers won a 5,000 piece Ravensburger Puzzle of the Solar System, thanks to Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library!

Puzz Lightyear finished in second place in 54 minutes and 45 seconds, only 20 seconds behind first.

Flying Purple Puzzle Eaters finished in third place in 60 minutes and 25 seconds.

Piecemakers finished in fourth place in 61 minutes and 8 seconds

Winners were given gift cards to Board Game Barrister so that they could buy some more puzzles. Also, each team got to take home their puzzle they put together during the competition. All puzzles and prizes are thanks to Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library. This is such a fun and exciting event that we're sure to host again soon!





### Help Wanted

Do you love books? Do you love finding hidden treasures? Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that offers flexibility, good community and benefits your community? Do you have a child in school who likes books? If you answered yes to any of those questions then I invite you to explore volunteer opportunities with the Friends of the Whitefish Bay Library.

Volunteers work with us in a number of ways: staffing book sales, picking up large donations of books and media, stocking our Free Libraries in the WFB Community. We have two ongoing opportunities that are the bread and butter of our support for the Library:

- Work with our eBay Team to evaluate/research/list donated books for sale on eBay.
- Work with our sales Floor Team to sort and shelve donated books for sale at our May and November book sales and in the Friends Book Room on the first floor of the Library.

In general, we work 2-hour shifts on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 10 until noon. We are very flexible about how many hours you work. We don't require a commitment that you work every shift or every week. And once you are trained, some opportunities can be completed from home. **We also welcome student volunteers during school breaks and summer vacation.**

Please look over the job descriptions below. If any of these interest you, please contact me, Reesa Gottschalk at [Friendswfblibrary@gmail.com](mailto:Friendswfblibrary@gmail.com).

- **Book sorting and shelving:** Book sorters unload donated books from our yellow donation bins, sort books into categories, shelve and organize books for our book sales. This position works Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 10 until Noon.
- **eBay Online Sales:** eBay Team Members work to research the value of donated books and then list the most valuable items for sale on the Friends extensive eBay store. Some computer skills are required, but we provide training, support and Chromebooks for use on-site. Other eBay tasks include on-site inventory management, packaging sold items for shipping via USPS; and, online inventory management, communications with buyers, and processing of returns and refunds. We also offer some work-from-home options for trained eBay volunteers.
- **Book Sale Coordinator:** Friends is looking for a volunteer to oversee/coordinate the work leading up to our semi-annual book sales that take place in May and November. We work off a six-week long checklist that spells out who is responsible for what tasks up until the end of the sale. We are looking for a dependable person who is organized, patient, can stick to a schedule and is a good communicator. The Sale coordinator will work primarily with the Volunteer chair, the Publicity chair, and the Book sorting chair; and, will also be present at the sales to help out as needed.
- **Ad-hoc Opportunities:** These are short-term/one-time tasks that pop up such as: work a shift at a book sale, help with an off-site book donation pick-up, put together/take apart bookcases, shift/move books for sales floor reorganization, put together book club bundles or special sale displays, update and laminate signage, make name tags, clean donation bins, price books/media, take photographs at Friends events, and other miscellaneous opportunities.

If you want to receive volunteer request notifications, email us at [friendswfblibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendswfblibrary@gmail.com) with your name, email address and phone number and ask to be added to our volunteer list.

#### Book sale Volunteer Sign-up link

It is time to sign up to help at the May Book sale. Follow the link and sign up for a shift (or two) at our upcoming sale. Slots are available during the sale, and (new this year) throughout April to help with sale set-up!

<https://signup.com/go/SAZPXFK>

**Good News!** You can now follow us on Instagram [\*\*@WhitefishBayLibrary\\_Friends\*\*](#)



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

## **FRIENDS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Officers**

Leah Dean, President  
Linda Timm, Vice President  
Maureen Hart-Donahue, Secretary  
Vicky Dargis, Treasurer

### **Committee Chairs**

Vice President, Jennifer West  
Secretary, Christine Perez  
Acquisitions, OPEN (Acting Chair, Jennifer West)  
Book Sorting & Donations, Francine Curtis  
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

### **Members at Large**

Joanne Johnson  
Dianne Messar  
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.



## **In Memoriam**

The Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library wish to express our deep condolences for the loss of Nancy Pekarek. Nancy was a valued volunteer in our Book Sorting Department. She had a multifaceted history and many interests, as well as a wry sense of humor which endeared her to many of us. She is missed.