



1350 Linnerud Dr.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WRITING CONTEST cont.

Writing Contest Anthology is available on the Friends page of the Library's website: www.sunprairiepubliclibrary.org/friends-sun-prairie-public-library

The writing contest was named for Dick Wanless, a longtime member and former president of the Friends, and was funded by a generous donation in his memory. We are looking forward to holding the 2nd annual Writing Contest in Spring 2020!



The winners of the first Friends Writing Contest. From left to right: Katie TerBeek, Tanish

STAYING IN CONTACT

We have an active FRIENDS Facebook page, with more than 100 followers, to let you know what is going on at the Sun Prairie Public Library and how the Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library support your library. You can a link to our Facebook page from the Friends page on the Library's website. Or, search Facebook for "Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library."



We also send out a short quarterly e-newsletter by email to all members who have given us their email addresses. If you are not receiving the e-newsletter and would like to, please email us at sunlibraryfriends@gmail.com to have your email address added or updated.

2019 Friends of the Library Board Members

Sally Campbell, President
Cliff Haas, Vice President
Cindy Mestelle, Treasurer
Bill Rockeman, Assistant Treasurer
Starr Seefeld, Secretary
Mardy Blaschka, Board Member
Joy Clark, Board Member
Sue Ann Klein, Board Member
Frank Peot, Board Member
Svetha Hetzler, Library Director
Kenneth Wenzel, Library Board Liaison
Erin Williams Hart, Staff Liaison

Friends Newsletter

Volume 10, No. 1

of the Sun Prairie Public Library

Fall 2019

ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday November 11, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Library's Community Room. In early 2019, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that had been in place since 2002 between the Library Board, Library Foundation, Friends of the Library, and the City of Sun Prairie, was dissolved by mutual agreement of all four parties. This prompted a major revision to the Friends bylaws, which we will put forth for approval by the Friends membership at the Annual Meeting. One of the major changes in the bylaws calls to increase the size of the Friends Board from nine (9) to "not more than thirteen (13)" board members. If the proposed bylaw revisions pass, then the board will put forth six names for consideration to fill board positions, including two current board members whose terms are up for re-election.

At least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, the agenda for the Annual Meeting, the proposed bylaw changes, and a proxy form, for anyone who wishes to vote but cannot attend the meeting, will be available to view at www.sunprairiepubliclibrary.org/friends-sun-prairie-public-library. Print copies of these documents will also be available at the Library's Information Desk at this time. Please join us for this important meeting, as your input is greatly appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP – Mardy Blaschka

Are we still Friends? It's time to renew your membership for 2020. Please be advised that memberships run from January to the end of December. Please use the enclosed envelope to return your membership payment. Our membership levels are as follows: Individual - \$10, Family - \$15, Sponsor - \$25, Patron - \$50, Benefactor - \$100, and Lifetime - \$500. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your membership is tax deductible. To date, we have 34 new Friends members in 2019, and we hope to get more in our Fall membership drive in October. We now have 274 members, of which 107 are Individuals, 82 are Families, 39 are Sponsors, 17 are Patrons, 21 are Benefactors, and 8 are Lifetime Members. Thank you very much for keeping your membership current. We hope that more of you will invite your friends and neighbors to become a member of the Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library. Hope to see you all at the annual meeting.



MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS BOARD PRESIDENT – Sally Campbell

2019 What an eventful year!

We began our year planning for the Dick Wanless Writing Contest. 47 Adults, teens, and elementary age children wrote about "Why I Love My Library" and submitted their original musings by March 31st. Winners were announced at the 20th Anniversary Celebration, which was held the weekend of May 18-19 at the Library. This very meaningful event will continue as one of our main events in the future.

The next wonderful event that we funded during the summer was the library's "Summer Reading Program". The Friends provided t-shirts and Library Champion yard signs to those who earned them by reaching reading goals set for them by the librarians. The program began in June with our Friends Ice Cream Social, followed by the Kick-off Party held the following day, and ending with the Pool Party in August. The weather challenged us for each event, but those that attended enjoyed the entertainment.

Our Annual Friends Social was held on August 26th with everyone bringing something wonderful to eat. For our entertainment, Tracy Herold, Director of the Dane County Library System, told us about the Dream Bus and how it was used by our library over the summer; Svetha Hetzler, our Library Director, gave us an update on the library and the renovation project and how it is progressing; and Erin Williams Hart, our Library Liaison to the Friends, told us how our funds are used for library programs, events, and requested "Wish List" items. Thank you to everyone who participated to make this an amazing event.



The Friends Summer Social/Potluck. So much amazing food!

During the year, the Board of Directors chose to participate in creating more awareness about the Friends in our community. We attended the Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce's "Taste of the Arts" in June and several of the Farmer's Markets held at City Hall on Saturday mornings. The Multicultural Fair was held for the first time in Sheehan Park in September and we

MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT cont.

chose to participate by handing out our Friends Member ship Brochure and selling books from the Read Before Book Store. We also attended several Community of the Whole (COW) meetings during July, making a presentation on behalf of the Library Renovation, and had two editorials published in The Star during the same time. We Love Our Library and want to see it remain one of the reasons why people decide to live here.

Our Fall Membership Drive will be held during National Friends of Libraries Week, October 20-27. We will have a table set up in the lobby/reception area of the library from Monday the 21st through Friday the 25th and would appreciate your help in getting the word out about the Friends and what we do for the library and the community. The hours of the event will be from 10 am-4 pm each of those days, with two-hour work shifts. Training will be provided to those who need it. This is a fun event for those who have worked it in the past. An electronic sign up will be used to expedite the volunteer process, but you can also sign up by stopping by the Information Desk in the library.

Please attend our Friends Annual Meeting which will be held in the Community Room at the library on **Monday, November 11th at 6:00 pm**. The Board of Directors has revised our Bylaws this year and has several changes to propose (see the separate article in this newsletter for more information).

It has been my pleasure to serve as your President this past year. With your help we will continue to make our library a learning experience for all who use it.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Cindy Mestelle

When comparing the first eight months of the current year with the first eight months of the previous year, member dues are up 4% and store sales are up 6.8%. Current year expenses paid through August are 70% of the expenses budgeted for the full year. The Friends balance at the end of August, 2019 exceeds \$40,000. This is made up of: \$14,376.33 in checking, \$14,932.45 in an art fund 12-month CD, and \$10,843.50 in a 12-month CD.

READ BEFORE BOOK STORE

– Ann Semmann

Operating the Read Before Book Store requires numerous tasks from purchasing snacks and beverages, making sure the store is staffed during most library hours, sorting and shelving books, CDs, DVDs, etc., and managing the financial aspects. The dedicated team that runs the RBBS produces revenue for some amazing programs held in the library’s Community Room, for providing rewards to hundreds of children who

complete the Summer Reading Program, and other library needs. The Sun Prairie community and library are very fortunate to have such a devoted team of volunteers. S.P. residents who donate books, audio-visual items, etc., are also appreciated. Their contributions make these items affordable to many, and we are recycling! Thanks to all.



The Friends sold books from the Read Before Book Store at the Sun Prairie Multicultural Fair in September.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

– Svetha Hetzler

2019 has been a busy year as we build on the work and accomplishments from the previous years. Undoubtedly, our facilities have received a lot of attention. From leaky roofs to non-ADA compliant restrooms, the library has been addressing immediate needs. By the end of 2019, critical roof repairs and public restroom renovations will be complete. The leaky roof situation necessitated the need to shift collections so staff took this as an opportunity to create a new teen space in the east tower. The photo below shows a group of Sun Prairie High School students working collaboratively in this newly created space. The Sun Prairie Public Library Foundation will provide funds towards more furniture and technology to help meet the needs of our teen patrons.



Teen Space

The biggest question on everyone’s minds is “what about the expansion?”

Below is the library’s 2018-2024 timeline.

A ✓ indicates the activity is complete.

2019 activities are in progress.

2020-2024 activities are contingent upon public funding decisions.

Year	Activities
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Architectural Analysis. ✓ Focus Groups & ATF Meetings. ✓ Library Board accepts report. ✓ Title search and review.
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communication to elected officials & public. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding development & fundraising feasibility study. • Address immediate facility projects and interim solutions.
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firm selection for design service. • Contract with fundraiser. • Identify and meet with potential large donors.
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Campaign-quiet phase • Design workshops, presentations, and final full design
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Campaign-public phase • Begin Construction – main library expansion
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue construction & capital campaign – main library expansion
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25th Anniversary • Ribbon cutting for expanded main library

Elected officials endorsed the Library Board’s recommendation in May and the five-year CIP Plan is under consideration. Currently, the CIP Plan includes funds for a \$990,000 design in 2020 and \$10M in construction costs in 2022. A successful public/private partnership will bring our city a 21st century public library filled with resources, services, collections, programming, technology and spaces to help enrich the lives of our current and future residents.

Library staff continues to work on the day-to-day services our patrons have come to appreciate and count on as we plan for our future. Our Youth Services department continues to break records. 3,064 children and teens registered for the summer reading program, a 2% increase over last year. 2,203 registrants checked in at least once to become “readers”, which represents a 5% growth from last year. Our “finishers” increased to 1,879, a 9% increase over last year. Finishers proudly displayed Library Champion Signs throughout the city.

Outreach and our commitment to access continues to grow. Dream Bus Bookmobile stops were new to Sun Prairie this year. On Saturdays, the Dream Bus brought library services to the YMCA, Vandenburg Heights Park and CH Bird Elementary School. Over the summer, the Dream Bus stopped at the library on Sunday afternoons when the library was closed. Pop-Up Library visits now include the Downtown Farmer’s Market, Holiday & Winter Market, Colonial View Apartments, Sunshine Supper and Community Schools. The library is also a place where you can access other city services including metro bus passes, taxi rides, recycling stickers, city surveys, regular voting, voter registration and early voting.

The Sun Prairie Public Library is a hub of activity for the community. In 2018, we welcomed 232,931 visitors, circulated 635,368 physical items, provided 283,397 Wi-Fi sessions, and hosted 676 programs! Our robust usage is a testament to the exemplary work of our library staff.

The library staff is motivated by and thankful for the support we receive from our Friends. The largest percentage of financial support we receive from the Friends allows us to bring unique program experiences free of charge to our community. Over the past 10 years, program attendance has increased

by 54%. We went from 19,292 in attendance in 2008 to 29,634 in attendance in 2018.

This year, funds from the Friends included local artists’ exhibits and programs as well as a “Why I Love My Library” writing contest. The writing submissions from children and adults are wonderful testimonials demonstrating how the Sun Prairie Public Library is the heart, mind and soul of our community. The dedication and hard work of our Friends throughout the year makes our library such a gem, a destination, and place for all. On behalf of the Library Staff and Library Board, thank you for all your support!

PROGRAMS – Erin Williams Hart

The Friends of the Library have funded many programs this year. Some of the highlights have included the Summer Reading Program Kickoff, Pool Party and other children’s events; cooking classes with Chef Jason Dunn; a live Music series, with concerts ranging from folk music to jazz and classical; and our annual Ice Cream social featuring music from John Duggeby.

We still have a number of great Friends-funded programs coming up this fall, including:

- Wisconsin author Jerry Apps, October 22
- Birds of Prey, October 23 (open to adults and children ages 5+)
- Chef Jason Dunn, November 5 (**registration required**)
- The Great Lakes Ramblers, November 20
- Origami Workshop, December 11 (open to adults and children ages 8+)
- Gift wrapping event with live music, December 21 (Gaelic harpist) on 12-5-18

WRITING CONTEST

This year, we held the first ever Dick Wanless Memorial Writing Contest in the spring. We received 47 entries from adults, teens and children on the theme of “Why I Love My Library.” On May 19th, in conjunction with the Library’s 20th Anniversary celebration, we held a Recognition Celebration to honor everyone who submitted their writings, and to hear the three winning essayists (one from each age category) read their essays aloud. All of the essays submitted were wonderful tributes to the Library, and we so enjoyed reading them. If you would like to read them, a PDF version of the