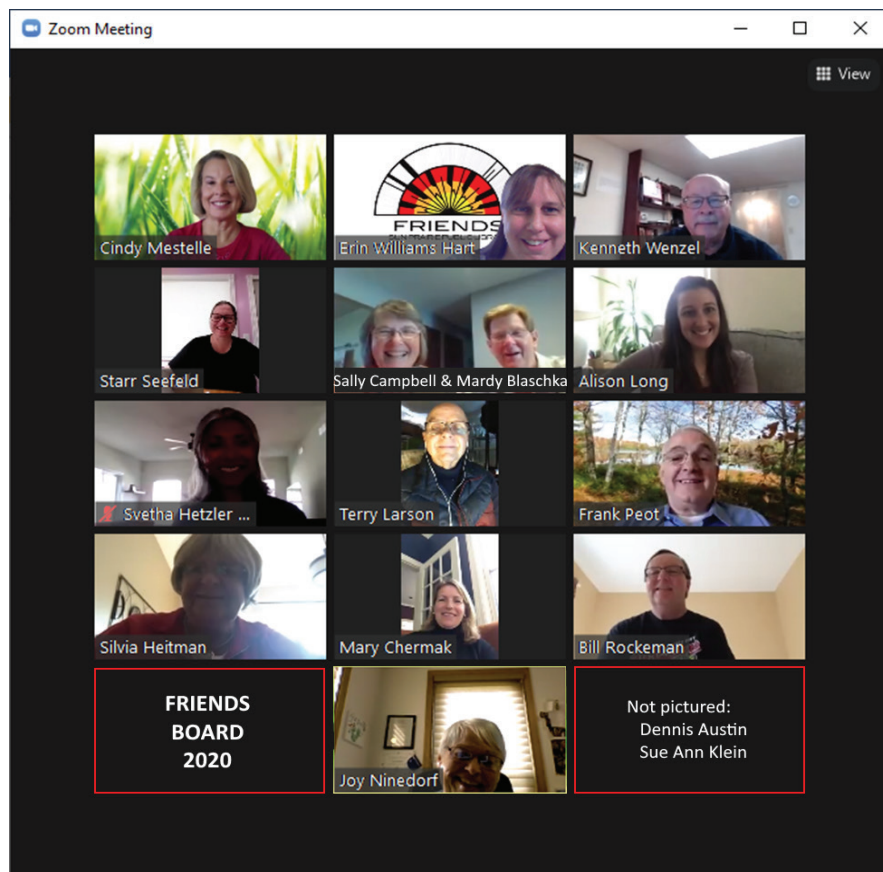




1350 Linnerud Dr.  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### 2020 Friends of the Library Board Members:

Sally Campbell, President  
Frank Peot, Vice President  
Bill Rockeman, Treasurer  
Terry Larson, Assistant Treasurer  
Starr Seefeld, Secretary  
Dennis Austin  
Mardy Blaschka  
Mary Chermak  
Silvia Heitman  
Sue Ann Klein  
Cindy Mestelle  
Joy Ninedorf



# Friends Newsletter

Volume 11, No. 1

of the Sun Prairie Public Library

Fall 2020

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday, November 9th at 6:00pm**. This year, the Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom. All Friends members are encouraged to attend. To attend the meeting using a computer, you can go to the website <https://zoom.us/>, click "Join a Meeting," and enter the Meeting ID: 841 1062 2557 and Passcode: 814252. You can also join the meeting by telephone, by dialing (312) 626-6799 and entering the Meeting ID and Passcode when prompted. A direct link to the Zoom meeting will be emailed out prior to the meeting.

If you will be unable to attend but would still like to participate in the voting process, a proxy form is available on the Friends' webpage: [www.sunlib.org/friends-sun-prairie-public-library](http://www.sunlib.org/friends-sun-prairie-public-library). The proxy form may be printed off, filled out, and mailed to or dropped off at the library. It must be returned by November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## BYLAW CHANGE

This has not been a normal year by any means. As such, your Friends board has had to contemplate how a pandemic affects our in-person annual meeting. The board would like to propose a change in our bylaws so that, going forward, the board can host the annual meeting using virtual technology. When it is possible again, we may still want to offer the ability to attend the annual meeting virtually as well as in-person. The proposed bylaw change is as follows:

*In Article V, after the words "Dane County, Wisconsin"*

**ADD:** *In order to facilitate membership participation for our annual meeting, the meeting may be held in-person, virtually or some combination of both.*

## FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following people, all who are presently serving on the Friends Board of Directors, have consented to have their names placed in nomination for a three year term on the Board:

Bill Rockeman, Frank Peot, Silvia Heitman, and Sue Ann Klein.

During 2020 Bill is serving as the Friends Treasurer, Frank as the Friends Vice President and Facebook editor, Silvia is on the Membership Committee, and Sue Ann is Programs and

Publicity Chair. Each has been contributing their talents to the success of the Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library and we want to thank them for using their time and talents to work on the board during 2020.

While we have enough people to fill our board vacancies for 2021-2023, any Friends member can volunteer to have their name placed in nomination for the Board of Directors. Please contact Sally Campbell at [scampbell53590@gmail.com](mailto:scampbell53590@gmail.com) or 608-837-3737 if you are interested in having your name placed on the ballot at our November Friends Annual Meeting.

## MEMBERSHIP – Mardy Blaschka

It's that time of year to renew your Membership with the Friends for 2021. ARE WE STILL FRIENDS? Because of the COVID-19 virus we have added an option for you to be able to renew and pay your Membership online via PayPal.



Please be advised that memberships run from January to the end of December. Please use the enclosed envelope to return your membership payment, or you can pay online on the Friends webpage. Our membership levels are as follows: Individual - \$10.00, Family - \$15.00, Sponsor \$25.00, Patron \$50.00, Benefactor \$100, and Lifetime \$500.00. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your membership is tax deductible. We encourage you to invite a friend to join us, or to gift a friend with a membership. Thank you very much for keeping your membership current and we hope to see you all in the near future.

**Become a Friend Today!**

Online Friends membership form

Print and mail a paper form

**Look for this box on our webpage,  
and click for the online form.**

## MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS BOARD PRESIDENT – Sally Campbell

As all of us know, 2020 will be remembered for several generations as a year of struggles and opportunities as the Covid-19 Virus has changed our lives in many ways. Your Friends Board of Directors has met regularly to do the work of our organization, along with separate committees who have been tasked with responsibilities to accomplish our goals.

Many years ago (early 2000's), the Friends sold older, more valuable books on the internet. Even though that program ended for us about 10 years ago, other Friends groups have been successful selling their donated items through eBay. This was brought to our attention by library staffer, Cindy Stankey. Her sister is active with their local library in Tennessee and they have been very successful in raising funds for their library through sales on eBay, so we decided to try it again. Bill Rockeman, our Treasurer, and Terry Larson, our Assistant Treasurer, volunteered to get our eBay and PayPal accounts set up, with Terry volunteering to chair the eBay Task Force Committee. (See Terry's article in this newsletter for more information). Once the library is open, we believe that the Read Before Book Store will continue to be an important source of funding for our amazing library. Perhaps the way of doing business will change in the store but each of our valued volunteers will be needed again and we look forward to that day.

We are busy working on our 2021 budget and membership drive (see separate article) and will be discussing the logistics for our November Annual Meeting, to be held on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to attend, we welcome your presence and input. Instructions on how to join the meeting will be sent out to members when available.

## TREASURER'S REPORT – Bill Rockeman

As you are probably all aware, the Read Before Book Store has not been open since early March because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. It is not anticipated that the bookstore will be open until sometime in 2021.

Total revenue for the eight months ending August 31 is at \$6,130. This consists of bookstore sales of \$4,761, membership dues of \$1,260 and donations of \$60. We also started selling books on eBay in August and revenue for those sales was \$50.

Expenses are also down due to the pandemic but we have funded dollars for programming and other items that the Friends support. Expenses will continue to be lower as long as the store remains closed.

The balance in checking at the end of August was \$20,635.43 and we do have two CDs invested at a local bank. The Art Fund CD has a balance of \$15,254.38 and the savings CD has a balance of \$11,077.27. Total funds at the end of August was \$47,086.30.

## READ BEFORE BOOK STORE

– Ann Semmann, RBBS Manager

Six months ago the Read Before Book Store was closed at the outbreak of the Corona virus. That was in mid March, and we never dreamed we would still be locked down over six months later, with no end of the pandemic in sight. Fortunately, the RBBS is serving as a staging area for the library to provide library patrons with the materials they request to pick up curbside. Unfortunately, the Friends, due to the closure, are not able to provide all the funds to the library they previously did.

Certainly our many devoted volunteers are eager to return to the RBBS. Hopefully, that will be sooner rather than later, and at present they are faring well. The Friends lost several wonderful volunteers this past year. Avatar Sandhu and Gerry Nelson both passed away in February. We lost our two Bettys also. Betty Gene Diener, who with her husband Tom was instrumental in bringing the RBBS to fruition, left us in February as well. Betty Neff died in early September.

## Read Before Book Store Books Now on eBay! – Terry Larson

As most of us Friends of the Sun Prairie Library know, we have a lot of good books in the RBBS. With the bookstore being closed, we can't offer them to our Sun Prairie-area community.

But in July, prior to our Friend's Board Meeting, Cindy Stankey, library Circulation Manager, noted that her sister's library friend's group in Maryville, Tennessee sells books on eBay. They have been doing that for several years and have been very successful (i.e. made a lot of money). She suggested that we consider on-line eBay sales.

At our July Board meeting, we agreed to try a pilot program for eBay book sales. Treasurer Bill Rockeman set-up a designated savings account for eBay/PayPal funds; Cindy Stankey, Erin Williams Hart, and Ann Semmann selected a group of potentially high-value (\$10-\$30) books; and I set-up the eBay & PayPal accounts for Friends of the Sun Prairie Library.

We began on-line eBay sales in early August with an offering of five books. Within a couple of days, we had our first sale... 'Conquering Diabetes' for \$19.99! Of course, we have some expenses to factor in (eBay fee{12%}, PayPal fee{2.2%+.30/transaction}, and media mail{\$2.80 1st #+.53 each additional #}). So on that \$19.99 book we made approximately \$14.00.

As of early September, we've sold 7 individual books and one set of 6 books which have grossed about \$140.00. There are currently about 30 books listed on eBay by our Friends group. In these days of heightened Covid concern limiting volunteer exposure at the library, I have been listing the

books, and Mary Hansen has been identifying high-value books as well as mailing the books which have been sold. In the future post-Covid time, more volunteers will be welcome and needed to help with this effort.

We're glad to be able to offer many of our good books to an expanded clientele through eBay. And we look forward to the day when we can once again offer books (and cookies & snacks!) at the RBBS.

## LIBRARIES NEED FRIENDS..... WILL YOU BE OURS?

We love our Sun Prairie Public Library and are inviting you to be a participant with us as we assist our library with wonderful programming for all ages. All membership dollars go back into the library for use on non-budgeted items. For the past few years, the Friends have been sponsoring a Fall Membership Drive during National Friends of Libraries Week held in October. We all know how wonderful our public library is and how much it benefits Sun Prairie and the surrounding communities. This year we are asking you to help with the Membership Drive by either asking someone to join our organization or by giving a gift membership to someone who enjoys our library as much as you do! The membership form can be found on the Friends page of the Library's website ([www.sunlib.org/friends-sun-prairie-public-library](http://www.sunlib.org/friends-sun-prairie-public-library)). Payment can be made online via PayPal or by sending a check to the Friends of the Sun Prairie Public Library at 1350 Linnerud Dr., Sun Prairie WI 53590. We need your help this year as the library is closed except for minimal technology services and curbside pickup of materials.

THANK YOU from the FRIENDS BOARD

## PROGRAMS – Erin Williams Hart

Typically, library programs are one of the biggest things the Friends help to fund, programs for adult and children alike. But as we all know, this year has been anything but typical. Friends funding did support a couple of wonderful programs early in the year, including a concert by the Brewhaus Polka Kings. But with the closure of the library due to the pandemic, our programming efforts came to a screeching halt in early March. The Library has since found creative ways to hold virtual programs, usually via the Zoom meeting platform or live-streamed on Facebook, but these programs have been fewer in number and largely conducted by library staff. Friends' funding did support our biggest program of the year: the children's Summer Reading Program. Following a long tradition, the Friends provided funding for the summer kickoff event with Miller & Mike, as well as an amazing program with storyteller Oba William King, both live-streamed to hundreds of families via Facebook. Additionally, the Friends generously funded the purchase of "swag bags" for summer reading participants, in lieu of the t-shirts normally provided. Sadly, the Friends made the difficult decision to suspend their 2nd Annual Writing Contest as a result of the effects of the pandemic. We hope to bring the Writing Contest back in 2021.



## 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](mailto:sunlibraryfriends@gmail.com). And... find us on Facebook!

