



FRIENDS
SUN PRAIRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY
1350 Linnerud Dr.
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2021 Friends of the Library Board Members:

Cindy Mestelle, President
Frank Peot, Vice President
Bill Rockeman, Treasurer
Terry Larson, Assistant Treasurer
Sally Campbell, Secretary
Dennis Austin
Mardy Blaschka
Mary Chermak
Kenny Kim
Sue Ann Klein
Ann Semmann



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. And... look for us on Facebook!



Friends Newsletter

Volume 12, No. 1

of the Sun Prairie Public Library

Fall 2021

ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday, November 8th 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 the "Join a Meeting" link at the top of the page, and enter the **Meeting ID: 879 1471 4118** and **Passcode: m8y88NSH**. If preferred, you can join the meeting by telephone instead. Dial (312) 626-6799 and enter 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 will be available on the Friends' webpage at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting: www.sunlib.org/friends. The proxy form may be printed off, filled out, and mailed to or dropped off at the library. It must be returned by November 4th.

BYLAW CHANGE

Once again, we have had an unusual year. We have, however, made some progress. One of the items our board has worked on is to have student directors of high school age on our board. The board would like to propose a change to our bylaws to be able to add two student directors (ages 16 to 18 years old).

The proposed bylaw change is as follows (additions are in blue and italicized):

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 student junior directors as appointed, 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 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.*

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:

Cindy Mestelle, Terry Larson, Ann Semmann, and Sally Campbell.

Donna Mackey has also consented to having her name placed on the ballot for a three year term. While Donna would be new to the board, she has much to offer in terms of her knowledge of diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

During 2021 Cindy has been serving as the Friends Board President; Terry has been serving as Assistant Treasurer and overseeing the eBay selling project; Ann continues her work as Read Before Book Store Manager; and Sally Campbell has been serving as the Friends Board Secretary.

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 2021.

We have one board position yet to fill for a two year term. Any Friends' member can volunteer to have their name placed in nomination for the Board of Directors. Please contact Cindy Mestelle at sunlibraryfriends@gmail.com 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 2022. ARE WE STILL FRIENDS? Please use the enclosed envelope to return your membership payment, or you can renew and pay online on the Friends webpage (www.sunlib.org/friends). 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. In 2021, we had 8 new members and 2 new Lifetime members. Thank you very much for keeping your membership current and we hope to see you all in the near future.

MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS BOARD PRESIDENT – Cindy Mestelle

Again, we will remember 2021 as we struggled with a global pandemic for the second year.

Our Friends board, membership, volunteers and library staff helped to open the Read Before Book Store. This was crucial since revenues from the bookstore help to fund library programs and wish list items for the library. One of the big challenges for the book store volunteers was learning a new cash register and a few policy changes due to the pandemic. Our volunteers took on these new tasks cheerfully and all but a few came back to work in the bookstore once we reopened.

I can't thank the library staff, volunteers, members and the Friends board enough for an incredible job this past year. As we worked through how to be open during a global pandemic, I was impressed with the ingenuity and determination from so many to do business a little differently but still try to meet our community's needs.

As for our annual meeting, we will once again be holding the meeting via Zoom. I hope to see you there.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bill Rockeman

As you are probably all aware, the Read Before Book Store did reopen in early June. I would like to thank all the volunteers who came back to help us in that reopening and continue to volunteer their time to keep the store open.

Total revenue for the eight months ended August 31 is \$7,303. This consists of bookstore sales of \$2,658, membership dues of \$3,590 and donations of \$372. E-Bay revenue from online books sales totaled \$683 through August also.

Expenses are down this year due to the late opening of the store but we have funded dollars for programming and other items that the Friends support. However, expenses have in-

creased since the store opening with the purchase of snacks and beverages. We have given the library \$4,500 from our programming budget to assist them in programs for our library patrons.

The balance in checking at the end of August was \$18,177.26 and we do have two CDs invested at a local bank. The Art Fund CD has a balance of \$17,368.79 and the savings CD has a balance of \$11,160.35. Total funds at the end of August was \$46,894.46.

Read Before Book Store – Ann Semmann

Due to the Covid 19 virus the Read Before Book Store was closed for over a year. The space was used as a staging area by the library staff for their curbside pickup operations. Late this past spring, after several months of preparation, notifying volunteers, and setting up a new cash register system, the RBBS was reopened. Limited hours, no snacks, masks, and plexiglass barriers were the new norm. Eventually, snacks, beverages and longer hours have returned.

Sales still are only at about half of the pre-pandemic level, perhaps due to cautionary library patrons. Hopefully, the upcoming holidays will improve library traffic. Our large inventory of books has been reduced somewhat by Ebay sales. Lack of space continues to be problematic.

Providing inexpensive, and on occasion free, books to our community continues to be a goal of our volunteers, as well as providing funds for the library's Wish List. Furthermore, the recycling of books, magazines, DVDs and CDs benefits the environment. On a more humorous note, jigsaw puzzles are one of our top selling items--donated puzzles are sold almost immediately.

A few of the significant RBBS volunteers we will miss in the RBBS going forward are: Ken and Martha Stofflet, Pat Kippert, Penny DeMott, and Joy Ninedorf.

eBay – Terry Larson

In August of 2020 we began our eBay book sales adventure expecting to make thousands of dollars on the rich store of high-value books donated by generous friends to the RBBS. It hasn't quite turned out the way we had hoped but it's a work in progress. In fourteen months we've sold 100+ books for a return of about \$1700. We had anticipated a full year would bring in about \$3500. We were overly optimistic.



That being said, it is a worthwhile effort where we are continuing to learn about on-line book sales. One significant learning has been to correctly note any wear, damage, stains, underlining, dog-eared pages, cracked bindings, or scuffing. Many/most of the book buyers purchase our books to flip for a profit. They want copies of books that have been gently read and lovingly stored in a cool, dry, dark place. When there is damage, including pictures is important as well as never indicating the book is 'like-new' or in excellent condition even if there is no apparent damage. If there is damage, we list our books much lower than other sellers who are listing the exact same book. For all of our books, we attempt to list our books at a lower price than other sellers in order to make sales.

Sincere thanks to Mary Chermak and Ann Semmann for finding the high-value books to list. Also, thanks to Mary for packaging and mailing the books that have been sold. Recently, Pat Wende has joined us in listing our books on eBay. With the additional help from Pat the number of books we have listed will surpass 100. If you'd like to see the books we have listed, you can click on this link: <https://www.charity.ebay.com/charity/Friends-of-the-Sun-Prairie-Library-Inc/1610988>

We look forward to good eBay book sales in the months ahead. We appreciate the good support of the Friends Board, the library staff, and all the volunteers of the RBBS. If you'd like to join our eBay book sales team, please let me know. Thank you!

DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity) COMMITTEE – Cindy Mestelle

In 2021 the Friends board formed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity committee. We currently have 4 members but are always looking for fresh perspectives. This committee meets every two weeks currently to review and propose changes to policies, procedures and bylaws to make our board welcoming to many different perspectives. The DEI committee also reviews the procedures for the Read Before Book Store to help the bookstore be a safe and welcoming place not only for our volunteers but also our customers.

We have worked on the following:

1. We hosted an Anti-bias training session this July for our board members and book store managers.
2. We have recommended changing our Friends board meeting time and day to the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. to allow for individuals who may not be able to attend an afternoon meeting to participate. We are going to continue offering the option of Zoom as well, particularly during the winter months.

3. We are proposing a bylaw change to allow two student directors to participate on our board.

4. We have worked with Neighborhood Navigators and Community Schools to find a way to get out in the community more often.

5. We have reviewed book store policies, board bylaws and procedures, and asked for revisions where necessary. One of the book store policies requiring revision is to allow volunteers to be 16 years of age and up instead of 18 years of age and up.

6. We are in the process of creating bookmarks to advertise the Friends and particularly our board of directors openings. We plan to place them in strategic locations in the library, in the book store and in the community. We also plan to advertise on our Chamber of Commerce page.

7. We plan to work with the Sun Prairie schools not only in finding student directors but also to work with student and parent groups to tell about the Friends, how we work in the community, and opportunities within the Friends.

8. We had a booth at the Sun Prairie Multicultural Fair in September. We also had a table at the downtown Sun Prairie farmers market monthly this summer. We provided books at both these events.

Realizing this committee was formed less than ten months ago, we still have a significant amount of work to do and know that this is an ongoing process.

PROGRAMS – Erin Williams Hart

As the pandemic dragged on into 2021, the library has continued to hold programs for adults and children remotely. While the library did re-open for public services in May, we have not yet felt it safe enough to resume offering programs in person in the library, so most of our programming has continued to be held via Zoom or Facebook Live, and the overall amount of programming offered has been lower than in typical years. Per recent tradition, the Friends did fund a couple of (virtual) Live Music events, including duo Cherry & Jerry performing



great music by African American composers of the late 19th & early 20th centuries, and a concert of beautiful Chilean guitar music performed by Ricardo Parra. Videos of both concerts can be viewed on the library's Facebook page. The Friends also generously provided funding for a 2-day visit in July from the BUS-eum, a travelling exhibit on a retro-fitted school bus.