



FRIENDS

OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

SEPTEMBER 2024 | WWW.BALDWINLIB.ORG/FRIENDS

WE'RE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Pop the champagne corks: Baldwin's Phase 3 renovation project is a wrap!

I hope many of you have visited the new Friends' BookShop at the top of the Merrill Street Entrance stairs. We've received rave reviews from patrons who say it's like shopping in a "real" book store (except a lot cheaper).

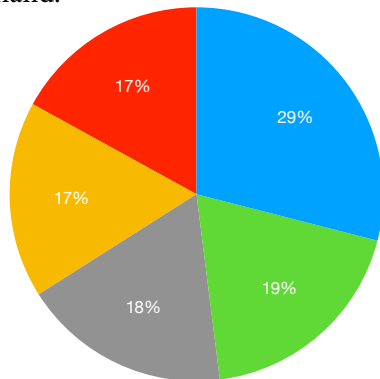
While it was supremely worth waiting and working for, the construction took its toll on our ability to raise funds through book sales and memberships during our 2023-24 fiscal year.

Memberships were down 20 per cent year-over-year (236 vs. 295), although the revenue we realized from this income stream actually rose \$400, to \$18,649.88, thanks to our donors' generosity. We are exploring ways to persuade more people in our community to support Baldwin by becoming Friends members.

Revenue from book sales dropped 15 per cent, from \$48,668.34 to \$41,356.19. We tried some new ideas, such as monthly Fourth Saturday Sales, which produced mixed results. On a positive note, our Friends' BookShop traffic increased when

the Merrill Street Entrance reopened; we saw more than \$1,300 in sales in the month of August. The Friends Board is donning our collective thinking cap to come up with plans to juice book sales in the coming year.

We gifted the BPL \$41,280 this fiscal year, compared to \$50,110 last year. Reduced revenue hampers our ability to supplement taxpayer funding of the library to boost the programming and services that make Baldwin so special. Our disbursements totaled \$43,588.67. The Friends ended the fiscal year with \$23,780.81 assets on hand.



● Adult Services ● Idea Lab ● Youth Services
● Teen Services ● Misc.

On a more personal note, our long-time Board Member Pam DeWeese decided to hang up her Friends' apron when her term ended this year. While we miss her wise counsel, we're happy Pam still volunteers her time working in the Friends' sorting room and at book sales.

We have six new Board members who joined us this summer: Margaret Peterson, Sue Ochalek, Elizabeth Adderley, Javier Alvarez-Isasi, Elaine Carey, and José Talavera. They join me and Board Members Deb Mohatarem, Kay Bell, Judy Vindici, Mark Lyles, David Underdown, and Michelle Hollo (on leave)

The Friends of the BPL has supported our library since 1950. Next year will mark our 75th anniversary. Let's make it a reason to celebrate!

Ryndee Carney
President, Friends of the BPL

WHEN IS THE NEXT BOOK SALE?

FALL BOOK SALE:
SATURDAY, OCT. 26:

10 - 11 a.m. : Exclusive Friends Members-Only Shopping

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open to General Public

SUNDAY, OCT. 27: 12:30-4 p.m.
\$5 Bag Day

4TH SATURDAY SALE:
SATURDAY, NOV. 23
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

THE FRIENDS SUPPORT:

- Summer and Winter Reading Programs
- Battle of the Books
- Books Unshelved
- Books Unboxed
- Book Clubs
- Seed Library
- Kids Library Society
- Program Speaker Fees
- Learn/Connect/Discover Newsletter
- Idea Lab
- And More!



MAJOR THANKS TO OUR GRAND PATRONS: \$500 + DONATION

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THOMAS & ROSE-MARIE VENIER | NIKKI & ALLAN VOSS-MOTES | THE WATCHOWSKI FAMILY

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