



FRIENDS OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



AUGUST 2023 | WWW.BALDWINLIB.ORG/FRIENDS

CHECK OUT OUR NEW DIGS

This is an artist's rendering of the Friends sales area, part of the Library's Phase Three Renovation project currently underway. Our new space will be located in the spot formerly occupied by the main circulation desk. We're looking forward to occupancy this fall. In the meantime, please shop our display in the Grand Hall.



VIEW TOWARDS GRAND HALL



2022-23 FRIENDS OF THE BPL BOARD (LEFT TO RIGHT): JUDY VINDICI; KAY BELL; MARK LYLES; MICHELLE HOLLO; RYNDEE CARNEY; DEB MOHATAREM; DAVID UNDERDOWN. NOT PRESENT: PAM DEWEESE; STEPHANIE BROCHERT.

A BICYCLE BUILT FOR BOOKS



After a lengthy delay due to pandemic-related supply chain issues, the Friends-funded BPL Book Bike finally arrived this spring. Thanks to elbow grease from BPL Director Rebekah Craft, Assistant Director Jaclyn Miller, and

pro bono assistance from local retailer Moosejaw, the bike is assembled and on the road. FOBPL President Ryndee Carney recently accompanied the bike (filled with used books and DVDs for sale) at the Birmingham Farmers Market. *Look for us at parades and other events in our service communities.*

MEET THE BUTTON LADY



Everyone loves buttons—or so it seems.

FOBPL Board member and graphic designer Michelle Hollo started thinking about what the Friends could sell in addition to used books to raise money to benefit our Library after she participated in an online seminar.

Her scathingly brilliant idea: create buttons using images cut from donated books and the button machines the BPL already owned.

To say the items have been a hit is an understatement. The Friends sold about 150 buttons per month when the project launched in July 2022; in June, we notched a record month, selling 432 buttons. In November Michelle also began crafting handmade bookmarks from recycled books, which have also proved popular. We earned \$283.75 from buttons and bookmark sales in June alone.

The hottest-selling buttons feature Disney characters, Snoopy, Pokemon, Pusheen, or any characters from kids' books, according to Michelle.

ANNUAL REPORT

THE BEAT GOES ON

“Libraries are the beating hearts of our communities. What we borrow from them pales in comparison to what we keep. How often we pause to appreciate their bounty is up to us.”— The New York Times, “A Love Letter to Libraries, Long Overdue”, Feb. 14, 2023

Martha Baldwin, Birmingham’s own Andrew Carnegie, would certainly be proud to see what her namesake library has become today: the hearth of our community.

Since 1950, The Friends of the Baldwin Public Library have appreciated—through our words and more importantly, our deeds—this shared cultural jewel.

We had an upbeat year in 2022-23.

As we approach the end of our fiscal year on Aug. 31, here are some highlights:

We successfully tried some new ways to sell and manage our inventory, including one-day pop-up sales and selling books online via a third-party local vendor. The books we have sold online fetched \$100 or more; a significant number sell for \$25-\$50 each. So far, we have netted about \$4,500 from online sales.

We are currently earning about \$1,200 per month from lobby sales, which are sold by suggested donation.

At our May book sale, we began using Venmo as a payment option. A number of shoppers bought many additional items as a result. We have earned roughly \$30,000 this year from the sale of donated books and other media, along with buttons and bookmarks, which is about double last year’s total.

We set a goal of 300 memberships this year, and we are just shy of that number. Our revenue from memberships and gifts is currently about \$21,000, which is on par with last year; we hope to increase these totals next year.

We gifted more than \$50,000 to the Library this year, which is comparable to last year. We helped fund a variety of popular programs for kids, teens, and adults that are listed at right.

Overall, our revenue is nearly back to pre-Covid levels. In fact, membership and gift revenue is higher than it was in 2019 by about \$2,000. Our Assets on Hand currently total \$23,816.85 as of June 30.

Phase Three of the library’s renovation project will impact our activities for the rest of this year and into 2024. We’re working with staff to come up with a strategy to keep the donations and sales coming in while construction is underway.

Baldwin Public Library just keeps getting better and better! *Thanks to all of you who make it possible.*

BPL ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED IN 2022-23

- SUMMER & WINTER READING PROGRAMS
- BATTLE OF THE BOOKS
- BOOK CLUBS
- LEARN CONNECT DISCOVER NEWSLETTERS
- BOOKS UNSHELVED
- BOOKS UNBOXED
- LEARNING IN RETIREMENT
- KIDS LIBRARY SOCIETY
- IDEA LAB SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT
- AND MORE!



WHEN IS THE NEXT BOOK SALE?

We normally schedule our fall used book sale in late October/early November. However, Baldwin’s ongoing construction project is impacting the date of our next “big” sale. In the meantime, watch for surprise pop-up sales by visiting our Facebook page (Friends of Baldwin Public Library), our website (www.baldwinlib.org/friends), or watching your email in-box (if you’re on our email list). Thanks for your patience and support.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Current and past members will receive membership renewal letters via the USPS in September for the 2023-24 fiscal year, which runs from Sept. 1, 2023 to Aug. 31, 2024.

You can also become a Friend at our book sales, or anytime by completing a membership form available at the BPL and online at www.baldwinlib.org/friends.

We are a 501c3 nonprofit organization; memberships and contributions are eligible for a federal tax itemized deduction.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT.



If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about the Friends, please email us at FRIENDS@BALDWINLIB.ORG or visit WWW.BALDWINLIB.ORG/FRIENDS.

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