



# FRIENDS

## OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



AUGUST 2021 | [WWW.BALDWINLIB.ORG/FRIENDS](http://WWW.BALDWINLIB.ORG/FRIENDS)

## MEET THE FRIENDS BOARD

The Friends of the Baldwin Public Library (FOTBPL) is a group of volunteers who love, support, and advocate for the Baldwin Public Library. The group was founded in 1950 and celebrated 70 years of service to the library last year.

Two people left the Board this year: long-time member (and former president and secretary) Candee Repa, and Barb Aylesworth. Thanks to Candee and Barb for their contributions; we miss them.

Current Board members are: Ryndee Carney, president; Deb Mohatarem, vice president and book sale chair; Jennifer Peterson and David Underdown, treasurers; Toya Stroker, secretary; Judy Vindici, membership; Mark Lyles, mailing and hospitality; Jerry Dreer, programs and community outreach; Justen Lewis, and Pam DeWeese.

Board members serve three-year terms. In addition to the current Friends Board, several people have been recently recruited as potential Board members. If you are interested in learning about joining the FOTBPL Board or volunteering to help with future events, please visit <https://www.baldwinlib.org/friends> or send a message via Facebook @friendsofbaldwinpubliclibrary.



FRIENDS OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD: LEFT TO RIGHT: JERRY DREER; MARK LYLES; RYNDEE CARNEY; PAM DEWEESE; TOYA STROKER; JENNIFER PETERSON; JUSTEN LEWIS; DAVID UNDERDOWN. (NOT PICTURED: DEB MOHATAREM, JUDY VINDICI)

## FRIENDS GET CREATIVE; BOOK SALES RESUME

In her essay "How a Year Without My Library Has Changed Me," Lauren Du Graf describes how the library experience is something physical and material, in addition to being intellectual and emotional.

For the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library not being able to accept book donations and hold our bi-annual fundraisers in May and November due to COVID-19 brought this point home big-time.

So we put our heads together (via Zoom, of course) with the BPL staff and came up with some creative ways to sell materials that were already housed in our inventory room, including:

- Mystery Grab Bag Sales — five books or DVDs for \$5; purchased online; picked up curbside
- Pop-Up Sales in October, June and July—

held outdoors in front of the BPL or in the Rotary Room

- Always Open Sales in the BPL Lobby and/or Grand Hall
- Thirty-One Party — sale of bags and totes; sales commission donated to the Friends

Although our revenues in 2020-21 were down drastically compared to "normal" years, the Friends were proud to continue to raise money to supplement taxpayer dollars and support popular library programs.

Equally important: we reconnected with our members and other regular patrons in person. And we cleared out thousands of donated books, DVDs, CDs, and audiobooks.

We look forward to being able to accept your donations again and future sales events later this year. Stay tuned.





# ANNUAL REPORT



## 2020-2021 BY THE NUMBERS

The FOTBPL fiscal year runs from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31, which mirrors the local public school calendar and has been in place since the group was formed in 1950.

Annual memberships are valid for this same period. Although the number of members dropped last year from 375 to 220, revenue from donors remained robust at \$18,328.37 (vs. \$20,354.27 in 2019-20).

Revenue from used book and media material sales totaled \$7,302.47 compared to \$17,308.85 in 2019-20, and \$31,607.87 in our last “normal” fiscal year (2018-19).

Still, the FOTBPL donated \$23,375.00 to the Library this year to support programs such as Battle of the Books, the Summer Reading Program, the Beverly Park Story Book Trail, and take-home craft kits. The Friends also donated children’s books and other items to local nonprofit groups such as Brilliant Detroit and the Crossroads Soup Kitchen.

The FOTBPL ended this fiscal year with \$35,777.18 in assets on hand. It is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Dues and contributions are eligible for a federal tax itemized deduction.

## KEEPING UP WITH FOTBPL

Love it, hate it, or just “meh” about it, social media is here to stay.

The FOTBPL maintains a Facebook page (@friendsofbaldwinpubliclibrary) where news, events, and interesting tidbits are posted daily. It’s the best way to stay connected to us and learn about upcoming activities. You can also ask questions via Messenger.

An increasing number of you use our Facebook page to engage with us. We reached an average of more than 1,100 people each month in 2020-21, and although that was less than half of what we averaged in a “normal” year, the number of people who follow our page is up 28%.

Additionally, the Friends has an email account: [friends@baldwinlib.org](mailto:friends@baldwinlib.org)

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE MAILED IN SEPTEMBER FOR THE 2021-22 FRIENDS FISCAL YEAR.

WE HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE YOUR GENEROSITY AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING OUR GROOVE BACK.

STAY SAFE AND BE WELL.  
WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!



# MANY THANKS TO OUR GRAND PATRONS: \$500 + DONATION

GRETCHEN ANDERSON | RICHARD MAY | KAREN & ROBERT ROCK | BARBARA VANDUSEN

## MANY THANKS TO OUR PATRON DONORS: \$100-\$499 DONATION

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\*NOTE: WE TREASURE EVERY DONOR AND WE TRY HARD TO LIST EVERYONE ACCURATELY. IF YOU SEE AN ERROR, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO FRIENDS@BALDWINLIB.ORG.



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OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

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