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.

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.
“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!

**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.
THANK YOU TO OUR SUSTAINING DONORS: $50-$99 DONATION

ERICH ALBRIGHT
GLEN & JULIANA ANDERSON
MRS. & MR. KENNETH ANDERSON
MRS. & MRS. OLIVER ANDERSON
KAREN & ROBERT BENSON
JAN & JON BIRD
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM
CAMILLA BRENN
MARCELINE BRIGHT
LINDA G. BUCHANAN
JACK & MARY BURNS
B. KAY CAMPBELL
DOROTHY CONDON
KEELY CRIMIND

EQUIPMENT DONORS

JUDITH ADELMAN
SARAH ALLAHAN
ROSE BOYD
JOHN & SHEILA BRICE
JENNY & FRANK BRZENK
JAMES & HILARY CALLAGHAN
MR. & MRS. GARY CAMERON
JOHN & RYNDEE CARNEY
STEPHEN CHANDLER
SANDRA COLLINS
GARY & LINDA CONDO
ANN & JOE CONIGLIARO
REBEKAH CRAFT

THANK YOU TO OUR GRAND PATRONS: $500 + DONATION

GRETCHEN ANDERSON | JULIA DAWSON | MARJORIE LEONARD | KAREN & ROBERT ROCK

BIG KUDOS TO OUR PATRON DONORS: $100-$499 DONATION

PAM & CARROLL DEWEES
GEORGE DILGARD
ED & KATHLEEN EBERLE
LINDA & CARL ENGLISH
ANNMARIE & PAUL ERICKSON
DAVID & MAUREEN FIELD
Macy & KARSTEN FLEIGNER
JOYCE FOOTS
STEPHEN GALE
KEN & SHARON GORSKI
SARAH GOTTLIEB
CARLA GRAVA
CLARK & INGRID HADDOCK
EYE HADLEY
PAT HARDY
JANIS & JEFF HAUSMAN
CHRIS & MADLYN HOLTZ
ANNE HONHART
STEVEN & CHERRY HOWELL
CONNIE ILMER
PEGGY JOHN
THERESA & DAVID JOSVICK
RAYMOND & FLORENCE KASSAB
ELIZABETH KAUSCH
DONNA KLEIN
KAREN KNOPP
MR. & MRS. DOUGLAS KRIZANIC
JOHN LING
THE LUND FAMILY
MARQUIS D. LYLES
JEANNE MCKINTRY
SUZANNE MACNEIL
MELISSA MARK
JOHN C. MARSH
RICHARD & RUTH MARY MAYS BOB & SUSIE MICHELOTTI
GEORGE & FAYE MILLER
ROBERT & JENNIFER MOLL
NIKKI & ALLAN VOSS-MOTES

JULIA HERSCHELMAN
JULIE & PETER HOLLINSHEAD
JUDITH HULL mENDER
DIANE KETCHEDGE
BOB & PAT KEOGHS KNECK
ALAN & PAMELA LENHOFF
CHARLES & SALLY LILLIE
THE MADDOX FAMILY
SUE MARK
KAINA MIKOLA
DEBORAH S. MOHATAREN
MARNE MORGANSTERN
TRACY MORISI

WALTER & ELIZABETH NEWGOOD
SHARON NIEDERMAIER
PAT OLSON
KIM LAURIE PARKER
BRITANY PARLING
PATRICIA PELLETIER
DAVID & PEGGY PENNOCK
DR. JANE C.S. PERRIN
PEGGY PETERSON
THE PETERSON FAMILY
LINDA RICK
ROSEMARY RICELLY & STEVE SCHEIDT
ROBERT & JACQUELIN RILEY

SUSAN RILEY
JOHN & BARBARA ROHRBRECK
HELEN G. ROSSI
ERIC & ANINETTE SARIGN
VICTORY & MICHELLE SARO/KI
MARY J. SCHLAF
DAK & JOELLEN SCHWARTZ
ANTOINETTE SEGITZ
CHARLES SESTOK III
ROBERT SHAAFF
GENE & BONNIE SIMMs
Tiffany SIMS
BARBARA SPENCER

SHARON E. STEELMAN
JEFF & TOYA STROKE
JUDY VINICI
THE WAMPLER FAMILY
SUSAN ZEMAN WEST
MYRA WETZEL
JENNIFER WHEELER & FAMILY
MICHAEL & GAIL WHITTY
MELISSA WIECINSKI
DION WILKINS
LINDA & SCOTT WILSON
DAHANNA TORBIO & TYSON WRIGT
CAROL YOUNG

DARLENE ABRAHAM
DIANE & RICHARD AGINAN
CAROL BOREN & DR. DON HAFFNER
EDWARD J. BISKUP
BILL, KIM & ERIN BLACKWELL
COLEEN BOOTH
PATRICIA & STUART BORDMAN
CAROLYN BORMAN
CALVIN BOVLSTON
JACK BOZING & RAVEN CANTRELL
STEPHANIE BROCHERT
LEN BUCZKOWSKI
BRAD BURNS
PHYLLIS BYERLEIN
CHARLES & MARCY CALLAM
DAVID & JUDY CALTON
BOB & CINDY CLEMENT

NANCY LAUTER & MICHAEL CLIFT
JENNIFER COWLEY
CAMERON CRAWFORD
ELLEN CROWLEY
MARIA CULLY
CATHERINE DEVOR
NEIL DONOHUE
CAROLINE DREER
LYNN DUNCAN
THE DUKE FAMILY
GEORGE ELSON
BEVERLY ERICKSON
JENNIFER FAHERTY
LINDA & ARNOLD FORRESTER
GILBERT FRIMET
LAWRENCE GARDNER ASSOCIATES
MARC GARRISON
LISA GAULZETTI
BRIDGETTE B. GEIGER
JOANNE GEITKA
MARIA GISTINGER

MATT GRIFFIN
JODY & DENNIS HARRINGTON
ANDREW HARRIS
JEFF & DEBBIE HASENAU
RACHEL HERST
RACKELINE HOFF
KARIN HOFFFECKER
MICHELLE HOLLO
JANIS & JASON HORTON
MIRANDA & MIRA JANKOVIC
STUART JEFFARES & KIM COLEMAN
WESLEYANN JOHNSON
CAROL JOHNSTON
ROXANNE JONES
HARLEEN KANG
STEPHEN & MICHELE KELLY
JENN & PETE KLAHN
ROBERT & LOUISE KLEIN
SUE & BILL KONDACK
DOUG KOSCHIK
DANIEL KOSMOWSKI
THE KREIT FAMILY

DR. MYRON LABAN
SUZANNE & MICHAEL LAFAYE
YVES & LUCIANA LALLAIZON
DAWNE LAMB
JUDITH LANDAU
MICHAEL LANGWALD
JONATHAN LANIVICH
THOMAS & YVONNE LARABELL
TOM LEONARD
CHARLES LILLIE
RAQUEL MARASIGAN
THE MENES FAMILY
VARIOUS B. MENZEL
JEROME MILLER
PETER MILLER
SHARON MORAN
JANICE & ALEXANDER MORGAN
CHARLES A. MULLER
BRANDON NARVA
DR. CATHERINE NICHOLS
ROBERT E. NICHOLSON
KARL E. NILSON
DONNA HARRISON & ANDRA DOSKA
DEBRA O'HARA

T. OPPENHEIM
CARLOS OSORIO & JENNIFER ODON
DAVID OVEYER
JOE PARRINO
ALAN PAULSON
THE Pohl FAMILY
MORRIS & REESE POTASH
DELPHINE PUSCAS
JUDITH RAEZT
HELEN E. RIEILY
MARTIN & JULIA REISIG
ED & BARI RISDON
JOANNE ROCHOW
KRISTEN ROLF
MADDIE ROURKE
THOMAS RUS
SANFORD SADOW
MARY JANE SCHWEIZER
BAILEY & JACQUELYN SCIERSZKA
SHIRLEY SHEVIN
CONNIE EUGENE SIECKMILLER
BOB SILVERMAN
BRAD SIMMONS
SHIRLEY SINELLI

LARRY & HELEN SMITH
JOYCE SOFY
THOMAS STATHOPOULOS
JIM STIMAC
LEE & ELAINE STOTTELMER
MARGARET SUTER
DONNA TAFELSKI
VICKIE TALMERS
BOB TERA
MARTIANNE TORNER
THERESA VALASCO
SARAHAN HOOF
MARY & GERALD VAN WYKE
CRIGE WARTERIAN
ROBERT & NANCY WEED
MICHELLE WELLs
CAROLYN WHEELER
MICHELLE WIECINSKI
ANDREA WILKINS
DION WILKINS
ELF WISECUP
JOE & SALLY WOLF
CHRYSAL WRIGHT
THOMAS & CYNTHIA YATES
LITA ZEMMOL

*NOTE: WE TREAT 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.