



FRIENDS OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

SEPTEMBER 2025 | WWW.BALDWINLIB.ORG/FRIENDS

FRIENDS CELEBRATE 75TH YEAR WITH A BANG

The Friends of the Baldwin Public Library marked our diamond anniversary with improved financial results. This enabled us to increase our gift to the Baldwin Public Library Trust by 16 percent, to \$48,000, in the 2024-25 fiscal year that ended Aug. 31.

Income was up 22 percent year-over-year:

- **Memberships & Gifts:** \$23,314.03 (vs. \$18,989.88)
- **Friends' BookShop Sales:** \$17,999.12 (vs. \$15,272.20)
- **Online Book Sales:** \$5,290.59 (vs. \$3,520.21)
- **Book Sales:** \$6,924.25 (vs. \$7,291.75)

While revenue from Book Sales was down slightly, we more than made up for the drop from "Other Sales," including buttons, bookmarks, and "surprise" gift-wrapped books (see story on Page 2). Additionally, there were only two large book sales last year, versus the numerous "pop-up" book sales we ran in 2023-24. The net result was more revenue with less work.

Expenses remained comparatively steady year-over-year. We ended 2024-25 with a balance of \$30,441.40 Assets on Hand (vs. \$26,618.24).

Memberships

We have 258 current paid members as of July 31, an increase of 22. In honor of our 75th anniversary, we have set a goal of 75 new or former members renewing for the coming year. We're looking at various ways to reach out to the community, such as including a link to the Friends donation page in emails the BPL sends to new library cardholders.

Volunteers

Happily, we have several new people who have been trained to help us sort incoming donations, a job I compare to the episode of "I Love Lucy" where Lucy and Ethel struggle to keep pace with a fast-moving conveyor belt in a chocolate factory. We also have a new Board of Directors member, Nancy Burmeister, who is chairman of the "Book Cellar" (formerly the Sorting Room).

We amended our By-Laws last year, with one goal being to ease Board Member "burn-out." After two consecutive three-year terms, Directors have to leave the Board for one year (they can still volunteer in other ways, however).

Due to this change, one of our most dedicated and longest-serving Directors, Deb Mohatarem, stepped down this year. Deb served as Book Sale Chairman for more than 15 years, as well as Vice President. This position has been now split into three roles, so it literally will take three people to replace Deb.

Currently, we have three open positions on the Friends Board of Directors: Vice President, Book Sale Chairman, and Friends' BookShop Chairman. If you are interested and want more information, please email us at friends@baldwinlib.org.

Ryndee Carney
President, Friends of the BPL

FRIENDS OF THE BPL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



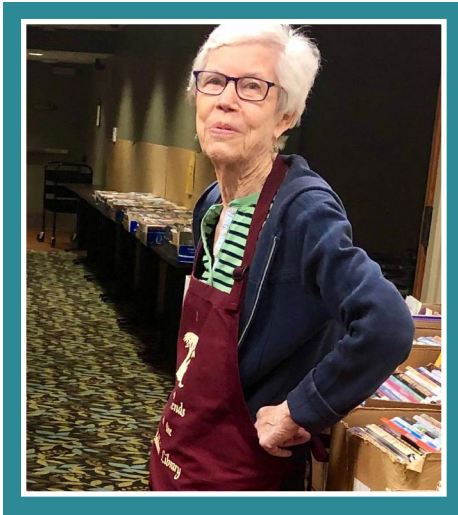
FRONT ROW: SUE OCHALEK; KAY BELL; RYNDEE CARNEY; NANCY BURMEISTER **BACK ROW:** MARK LYLES; ELIZABETH ADDERLEY; MICHELLE HOLLO; PEGGY PETERSON; DEB MOHATAREM (EMERITUS); JOSÉ TALavera **NOT PRESENT:** JAVIER ALVAREZ-ISASI; ELAINE CAREY; DAVID UNDERDOWN; JUDY VINDICI

THE FRIENDS SUPPORT:

- SUMMER AND WINTER READING PROGRAMS
- IDEA LAB
- BOOK CLUBS
- PROGRAM SPEAKER FEES
- BATTLE OF THE BOOKS
- BOOKS UNSHELVED/BOOKS UNBOXED
- KIDS LIBRARY SOCIETY
- LEARN/CONNECT/DISCOVER NEWSLETTER
- PROGRAM REFRESHMENTS
- AND MORE!



FRIENDS HONOR FRAN STERN



Frances “Fran” Stern, a former Friends of the BPL Board of Directors member, passed away on July 30.

Fran’s petite body housed a huge heart, unlimited energy, and deep dedication to public libraries. We miss her grace, kindness, warm smile, and send our condolences to her husband and family.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
FALL BOOK SALE
BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL
Saturday, November 15
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday, November 16
12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. \$5 BAG DAY
ALSO FEATURING GIFTABLE SURPRISE WRAPPED BOOKS
FRIENDS OF THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

‘SURPRISE’ GIFT BOOKS CHARM SHOPPERS

Looking for the perfect gift for your favorite book lover? The Friends have you covered!

Board Members Peggy Peterson and Michelle Hollo launched a new item, Surprise Wrapped Books, at the Friends Spring Book Sale, just in time for Mother’s Day. The books are beautifully gift-wrapped, complete with fun, themed accessories. Buyers know the genre (e.g., romance; mystery; science fiction), but not the title.

This idea proved to be a hit with shoppers, so the Friends set up a table in The Friends’ BookShop during Birmingham’s “Day on the Town” in July. Surprise Wrapped Books will also be available at the Fall Book Sale in November, just in time for the holiday season. All proceeds benefit the BPL.



VISIT OUR FRIENDS' BOOKSHOP!

COME IN AND SHOP OUR GREAT SELECTION OF GENTLY USED BOOKS AND MEDIA AND HELP SUPPORT BPL.

\$3 adult
HARDCOVER books

\$2 kids
HARDCOVER books

\$1 all
PAPERBACK books
CDs & DVDs

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

GRETCHEN ANDERSON | THERESE & PAT COSTELLO | ED & KATHIE EBERLE | DONNA & SHELDON KLEIN | KAREN & ROBERT ROCK
ANN M. STEGLICH | DAVID & LINDA UNDERDOWN | THOMAS & ROSE-MARIE VENIER | THE WATCHOWSKI FAMILY

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

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