

PAGE TURNER

SPRING/SUMMER 2024 • A PUBLICATION BY FRIENDS OF THE WHITEFISH BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY LEAH DEAN

Let me introduce myself...my name is Leah Dean and I am the new President of the Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library. Over the years, I have served in various roles with all-volunteer non-profits from at-large board member to executive director. I began volunteering for Friends two mornings a week in 2022. I have always loved libraries and the feeling of being surrounded by books full of knowledge, novels and images of art, architecture and far away places. In college, I worked behind the scenes in some university libraries and knew this kind of volunteer work would be a good fit for me.

I had never been to a Friends' Booksale before and was amazed when I first walked onto the basement sales floor, as I had no idea what a large operation was going on right in our own community. I met a group of energetic, hard-working, dedicated people that day and began to learn more about the Friends organization and the work they do. Friends is growing! We recently expanded our Board of Directors and we have a steady stream of book/media donations for our re-sale operations. One of my goals as President is to help manage that growth by evaluating and focusing on our own needs so we can continue to effectively serve our mission.

Here are a few things that I have learned about Friends:

1. Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with its own Board of Directors independent of the WFB Public Library and the WFB Public Library Foundation.
2. Friends has been funding all sorts of expenses that are not included in the Library's annual operating budget. This includes much of the programming that we all know and love, such as the summer reading program, the take and tinker collection, the annual writing and photo contests, and various events featuring interesting speaker and entertainers.
3. Friends has paid for new furniture and renovation work, special book collections, TV monitors, self-checkout stations, a private 'study pod', library signage, activity supplies, museum and park passes, landscaping, and the list goes on.
4. Friends sponsors two \$1,000 scholarships for graduating high school seniors each year.
5. Friends manages and stocks the Friends Book Room near the checkout desk; and two Little Free Libraries at the Klode and Cahill park playgrounds.
6. Friends runs a thriving eBay Store with an ever-changing inventory of CDs, DVDs, puzzles, magazines, and books, from newly published bestsellers to rare vintage titles and everything in between.
7. Friends donates unsold and overflow books to prisons, jails, child literacy organizations, community service organizations, and other worthy causes or projects.

How do we do all this?

Friends raises funds from Membership Dues, Donations, and re-selling donated books/media at twice a year community Book Sales, our 1st Floor Book Room, and our eBay Store. We are incredibly fortunate to have regular volunteers who work 2-6 hours a week all year and/or seasonally (snowbirds and educators), volunteers who help staff our book sales, and individuals who simply drop in when they can on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Friends spends very little on operating expenses and is entirely run by hard-working, dedicated Volunteers who put in hours of work every week to keep our operations running smoothly.

In addition, we have a 'working' Board of Directors whose members and officers have ongoing responsibilities including: financial management; eBay inventory, sales, and shipping; organizing our sales floor categories and departments; coordinating volunteer sorting, shelving, and re-homing of unsold inventory; publicity year round and for sale events; seeking and acquiring book collections of value for research and re-sale through eBay; managing the Friends Book Room near the checkout desk; publishing the Pageturner Newsletter, and recruiting and training volunteers to assist with all of these ongoing tasks.

Are you interested in learning more about Friends? Feel free to contact us at friendswfblibrary@gmail.com, or come to the May book sale and say hello!

Leah

Follow us on social!

Letter from the Director

By Nyama Reed

Thanks to the fantastic support from Friends, Whitefish Bay Public Library accomplished some remarkable projects last year!

We were very excited to renovate our Teen area with vibrant new paint, study tables and chairs, and a stylish rug with cozy seating. New cushions for the benches in the nook enhance the space, providing comfort for studying, reading, or simply relaxing. Since these enhancements, the area has been bustling with teens every day after school.

Another great addition to the Library, thanks to Friends, is a new self-check machine. An interesting tidbit: 45% of library circulation occurs at the self-check. The majority of that is children's materials. Kids LOVE LOVE LOVE to use the scanner to check out their books. We even offer a little stool to help them reach things; though some prefer to use their tippy toes.

Every membership and donated book supports Friends of Whitefish Bay Public Library and in turn helps make the Library the awesome place it is for our community.

Sincerely,
Nyama
Your Whitefish Bay Public Library Director

Welcome New Members!

It's a pleasure to welcome the following new members who have joined Friends since the last newsletter was published:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Kevin Gibson | Katie Stensberg |
| Sandy Honecker | P. Eversfield |
| Diane Shumaker | Blake Bauer |
| Suzanne LeFleur | Terri Crum |
| Gary Martin | Kathy Casey |
| Judy Reese | Jenna Drek |
| Anne E. Gleischman | Kate Valerius |
| William & Susan Swedler | Janice Van Male |
| Jean Goldberg | Stephanie Eyer |

Thank you for your support.

Members are the lifeblood of our organization!



Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library Writing Contest Winners 2024

The winners of the 2024 writing contest were announced, and a reception was held, on Tuesday, March 19th at the library. The winners, three in each category of short story, memoir, and poetry, read their pieces at the reception. This was the 11th anniversary of the contest.

[The winning submissions can be read on the website here.](#)

Short Story

1st Place- Lucy Bashara: A Widow's Letter to Her Love
 2nd Place- Janet Arnold-Grych: The Belief of Feeling
 3rd Place- Margo Renner: Turning a New Leaf

Memoir

1st Place- Jon Kolb: Change
 2nd Place- Kathleen H. Quirk: Bill's Letters
 3rd Place- Janet Arnold-Grych: A Gift to a Princess

Poetry

1st Place - Dina Schachtely: The Hardest Love
 2nd Place - Victoria Keenan: Dinner with Morse
 3rd Place - Jon Kolb: Late Life Ruminations



The Hardest Love

Dina Schachtely

I held her tiny hand
 Tightly in my own.
 Walking step by step in unison
 Seeming together, but really alone.

Inside I held the secret
 I dared not tell her yet.
 Instead giving her hand a squeeze
 Knowing soon she'd be upset.

I was doing what she needed,
 I tried repeating in my head.
 That does not make it easier,
 Is what I thought instead.

Sometimes when you love someone...
 I started to explain.
 But my speech didn't matter,
 I still would take the blame

I love you so much,
 I tried once more,
I know you won't understand.
Today we have to do something we've never done before.

I wish I was enough for you,
I wish I could help you mend.
Yet there is no more I alone can do, I said
As words and tears began to blend.

Here you'll get the help you need.
Here you'll find your health.
Because being deep down happy
Is the most important kind of wealth.

I love you, little child of mine.
I love you to your core.

Youth Services Update

The Youth Services department, specifically Valerie Morris, is launching a new collection development project that has been in the works for years. We are re-cataloging all of the youth non-fiction books, which will move us away from the Dewey Decimal System to more of a subject-based system. (This matches the system we use for our picture book organization, which was done six years ago.) Both the picture book reorganization and the non-fiction reorganization were funded completely by Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library, and we're so grateful for the support.

Our goal in collection development is always to make the library the most user-friendly it can be, especially for our young users. And the Dewey Decimal System isn't the easiest for kids to use. Books are organized by lengthy numbers that are often impossible to remember. Looking for a book on the Milwaukee Bucks? That would be under 796.332364. With our new system, finding books on the Milwaukee Bucks is as easy as going to the sports section, finding the basketball subsection, and looking under Bucks.(the call number is N BASK BUCKS). So much easier!

This re-cataloging project also helps us fix some issues and biases that are an implicit part of the Dewey Decimal System. It is a very old system, and librarians have been moving away from it for years, especially in children's collections. It is also seen as racist, sexist, and homophobic. As an example, in the Dewey Decimal System, Black history, including the Civil Rights Movement, is separate from American history. Women's history is in a similar section. Religions other than Christianity are classified almost as an afterthought, with Christianity taking up most of the 200s. Until 1932, LGBTQ+ people were classified as "abnormal psychology"; in 1989, they were classified as "modern problems." The Whitefish Bay community (and greater Milwaukee community) is diverse and deserves a more modern system.

As I mentioned, this huge undertaking of a project is being led by Valerie Morris, and I'm so grateful for all of her hard work. And it also couldn't be done without our Friends group. Friends have given us the funds to purchase new labels, including the expensive labels needed to reprint call numbers. We'll also be able to create some fun new signage to help our patrons transition to this new system. I invite you all to stop by the Youth Services area and get a tour!

Thanks Friends!

Katie Kiekhaefer, Head of Youth Services



Adult Services Update

On Friday, March 22, the library hosted our first ever after-hours concert in the adult wing of the library. Usually library programs happen in the upstairs program room, but I thought it would be a fun change of pace to host the program downstairs. Concert goers celebrated post St. Patrick's Day with the musical renderings of Ceol Cairde (literally "music of friends" in Irish/Gaelic). It was a magical evening filled with traditional Irish and Celtic tunes that included jigs, polkas, silly songs, and so much more! It was an amazing performance, and the musicians not only shared their musical talents but also spoke about the histories and background of their instruments. We also had the opportunity to learn a little bit of Gaelic too. Over 100 folks were in attendance, making this one of our largest programs ever!

It was a pleasure to have Ceol Cairde in the beautiful north wing of the library and the acoustics were amazing. This program could not have happened without the support of Friends. Friends funding paid for the performers, but also Friends assistance was invaluable in setting up and taking down chairs and moving furniture for the performance. We had to clear the main tower of all tables and moved many chairs from throughout the library. I want to give a big shout out and thank you to volunteers who helped including John and Mary P., Linda G., Linda V., and Emily and James H. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped out, and as we look to summer stay tuned for more magical evenings happening at the library.

I also wanted to mention our seed library, now available all thanks to Friends! Seeds are available while supplies last and include organic vegetables, herbs and flowers. Check them out located near the adult services desk.



Whitefish Bay Friends' Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library book sale returns in May at the Whitefish Bay Public Library!

On Friday, May 3rd, our Friends of the Whitefish Bay Public Library night will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. If you're not a Friend, you can join Friday night and attend the sale for as little as \$15 annually. On Saturday, May 4th our hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. And on Sunday, May 5th, join us from noon to 3 p.m. for our popular bag sale. Fill a bag for \$7. We supply the bags!

Our semi-annual sales help raise money to supplement the wide range of activities at the Library including reading programs, computer equipment purchases, guest speakers, sponsorships, furniture and much more.

Thanks to the generosity of the community, we have a tremendous selection of gently-used books, DVDs and CDs. Books are sorted fiction versus non-fiction. Most fiction offerings are alphabetized by author. Non-fiction books are for sale by category. So if you have a favorite author, or are looking for just the right book, you'll find it all at the Book Sale.

Reminder: We accept all major credit cards, checks and cash.

eBay Volunteers Needed!

If you enjoy a fun, creative environment, the Friends of the WFB Public Library's eBay Sales Team could be a great fit for you. And we need your help!

Your work will be creating eBay draft listings of books that have already been researched and assigned a price for sale. You'll examine the book's condition, take photos with your smart phone, and enter this information, plus a brief description of the book, onto eBay's platform. We also list CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, games and puzzles.

Prior experience listing or shopping on eBay is a plus but not mandatory. Our team will be happy to train you. We provide chromebooks for use at the library, or you can use your own device. You'd work between 2-4 hours each week (or more if you'd like) and we are very flexible around vacations, school & work schedules, and even "snowbird" migratory patterns!

At first, you'd work in person, at the library, on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings between 9:30am and Noon (or possibly by appointment), so we can provide hands-on training and supervision. Once you're trained, you can either continue working Tuesday/Thursdays at the library, or work independently from home on your own schedule.

If you're interested, please email us at friendswfblibrary@gmail.com. Thanks!

P.S. Check out our store on eBay: <https://www.ebay.com/str/friendsofwfblibrary>

BOOK SALE

FRIENDS OF WHITEFISH BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friday, May 3, is Friends Night from 5 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 4, 9:30AM-3:30PM
Sunday, May 5, 12-3PM

**Books
 CDs
 DVDs
 Vinyl
 Puzzles
 and More!**

We take cash , check and credit cards

**FRIENDS OF THE
 WHITEFISH BAY
 LIBRARY**

**USED
 BOOKS
 FOR SALE**

DO YOU ENJOY BROWSING THE
FRIENDS' BOOK SHOP NEAR THE
 LIBRARY'S FRONT DESK? PLEASE HELP
 US ATTRACT NEW PATRONS BY RATING
 AND REVIEWING US ON GOOGLE MAPS

Good News! You can now follow us on Instagram [@WhitefishBayLibrary_Friends](https://www.instagram.com/WhitefishBayLibrary_Friends)



Whitefish Bay Public Library
 5420 N. Marlborough Drive
 Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

FRIENDS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Leah Dean, President
- Linda Timm, Vice President
- Maureen Hart-Donahue, Secretary
- Vicky Dargis, Treasurer

Committee Chairs

- Jennifer West, Acquisitions
- Ellen Mei, Membership
- Steph Salvia, Newsletter Editor
- Jan Concannon, eBay Research and Sales
- Reesa Gottschalk, Volunteers
- Francine Curtis, Book Sorting and Donations
- Emily Burkholder, Book Room
- Emily Hartmann, Publicity

Members at Large

- Dianne Messar
- Christine Perez
- Alice Rozek
- Joanne Johnson
- Mary Trainor

Honorary Board Member

- Helen Dooley

Library Representative

- Nyama Reed

Board Meetings are held at the Library at 6:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August). Friends members are welcome to attend to get an idea of our work in progress, ask questions, or contribute ideas.