



Friends
of the L.E. Phillips Memorial
Public Library

News from the Friends of the
L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library

Volume 38, Issue 1

Fall 2025

Library Links

Note from Friends Executive Board President Deb Mathson

Hello Friends Members, I am Deb Mathson the current President. Like all of you I am passionate about our Library. This year my focus along with the Board will be to increase membership and participation, explore additional activities/support the Friends may provide the Library, and raise Community awareness of the many opportunities to volunteer with the Friends.

Here is a little bit about me. I am retired and enjoy having time to volunteer. The last part of my career I was a teacher. The last years I taught 2nd grade. As you know, this is a time when children are learning how to read. It is a critical time in the development of these skills. I enjoyed teaching all subjects but especially reading because it is a skill that will be used throughout one's life for work, daily living, and pleasure. I enjoyed the challenge of teaching all ability levels. I found working with struggling readers particularly rewarding.



In retirement I have been able to pursue a variety of volunteer opportunities. Besides being President, I also do shelf reading, laundromat libraries and help with special events throughout the year. Another opportunity is that I am a member on the Non-fiction Committee of the Chippewa Valley Book Fest. Non-fiction books are what you will usually find me reading and working with this Committee has been an excellent experience. I have also served as the Publicity Chair for the AAUW Used Book Sale for the past two years.

Volunteering at Beaver Creek Reserve has been a great experience as I prefer to be outside. In 2022, I completed my Master Naturalist certification. This started my involvement at BCR. During the months of July and August, you will find me on a regular basis as a Guide in the Butterfly House. This allows me to teach but also learn from others. What more can you ask for. Throughout the year I help will other special events.

Your membership in the Friends is very important. Each of you makes a positive difference in what our Friends group accomplishes each year. Thank you for your membership.

Deb Mathson

Friends of the L.E. Phillips
Memorial Public Library
2025 - 2026

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Deb Mathson
Vice President - Sara McIlquham
Past President - Esther Moen
Secretary - Mary Jo Mayer
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At-Large member - Michael Kersting
At-Large member - Anna Zook
Library Board Liaison - Gary Pesicka
Library Liaison (non-voting) - Kim Hennings
Program & Development Coordinator (non-voting) - Stacy Yearous
stacy@eauclaire.lib.wi.us
Administrative assistant (non-voting) - Astrid Hayden
friendsofthelibrary@eauclaire.lib.wi.us

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Books for Babies — Stacy Yearous
Book Sale — Stacy Yearous
Finance — Jeremy Gragert
Give a Kid a Book — Nancy Sowls
Programming, Development and Library Links Editor — Stacy Yearous
stacy@eauclaire.lib.wi.us

Give a Kid a Book Distributes Books at the We Care Eau Claire Backpack Give Away

by Nancy Sowls - GAKAB Committee Chair



Once again this year we took books to the Backpacks in the Park that is sponsored by We Care for EC. Backpacks filled with school supplies were handed out to kids at Phoenix Park. In addition to the backpacks, there were various agencies that were there to help kids and families with a variety of offerings. There were the serious booths like Feed My People and the fun booths like painting kids faces and letting them beep the horn on a school bus.

Cindy Schlosser, Sara McIlquham, and I had fun helping kids find a book that they would like to read. We gave out 475 books this year. We had several requests for Spanish/English books.

Thanks to everyone who supports Give a Kid a Book. We appreciate everyone who helps us put books in the hands of kids.



Thank you to our Community Business Partners

In 2024 the Friends launched a new partnership program to encourage local businesses to partner with the Friends of the Library to help support our mission and the library. In 2025 we have three wonderful local businesses who have become Community Business Partners. We are very thankful for their willingness to help support our mission of encouraging literacy, expression, and discovery in the Chippewa Valley through support to the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library and the surrounding community.

If you are aware of any local area businesses that might be interested in learning more about our Community Business Partners program please reach out to Stacy Yearous, Program and Development Coordinator, stacyy@eauclaire.lib.wi.us or 715.831.5301.



Give a Kid a Book Program



Thank you to our local supporters:



ROYAL
CREDIT
UNION



“A Book is a Device to Ignite the Imagination.” ~Alan Bennett

For over 30 years the Friends of the Library have ignited the imagination of the children in our community by placing books into their hands through partnerships with several local agencies. Each year we hope to inspire the future leaders of our community to dream a little bigger by reading a great story or exploring the world through the gift of a new book.

This year the Friends will be donating extra books to support classroom libraries. Teachers often have to purchase books for classroom libraries out of their own pocket. By supporting our educators we can ensure that all children have access to books.

Additionally, the Friends have continued their annual support of local literacy programs. In August, we distributed over 400 books at the We Care Eau Claire Backpack Giveaway. We are proud to play a part in keeping our community reading!

We are especially grateful for our local business partners, BAM and RCU. Collaborating with local businesses allows us to expand our reach and impact.

Supporting the 2025 Give A Kid a Book Program is easy. You can

1. **Contribute monetarily.**
2. **Participate in Books-A-Million's (BAM) Holiday Book Drive now - December 7.**
3. **Donate NEW, unwrapped children's books.**

Book needs:

- Fiction & non-fiction books for ages 6-18
- Picture books for ages 2-5
- Board or cloth books for babies

Donations can be dropped off at the Friends of the Library Bookstore (Level 0 of the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, November 1 - December 15) or find the Seasonal Bear display in the library (December 2 - December 15).

Questions? Please call 715.831.5301 or email friendsofthelibrary@eauclaire.lib.wi.us

For large donations please contact the Friends directly by calling 715.831.5301 and we will make arrangements to accept the donation.



400 Eau Claire St
Eau Claire, WI 54701

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Give a Kid a Book Program



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local supporters:



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NEW Book needs:

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- Picture books for ages 2-5
- Board or cloth books for babies

Please complete and return this form with your
donation. Monetary donations can be sent to:
Friends of the Library, 400 Eau Claire St., Eau
Claire WI 54701 no later than December 15, 2025.
Checks can be made payable to Friends of the
LEPMPL - GAKAB. Thank you for your gift.

Donor's Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Questions? Please call 715.831.5301 or email friendsofthelibrary@eauclaire.lib.wi.us