



2022 Report and 2023 Request to
the Friends of Orcas Island Library

From Ingrid Mattson, Library Director

A Little History

Historically, Friends of Orcas Island Library (FOIL) has invested financially in the library each year in three specific areas: books, children's programs, and adult programs. Since 2017, this support has ranged between \$15,000 and \$21,750. The number fluctuated during that timeframe for at least two reasons. First, we had turnover with programming staff, which impacted the number of programs offered and the consistency of outreach spending. Second, COVID-19 reduced travel, so spending on speakers was reduced. Conversely, book costs, subscriptions, and program material like t-shirts and other craft supplies tend to increase annually. We also had turnover with our adult-services position, which may account for variability in book spending in the last five years.

Given these variables, the library's projected need for FOIL funding for 2023 is calculated in this report based on expense trends in the last five years, which should (i) enable us to plan for a slight return to pre-COVID style programming and (ii) reflect our Adult Services Librarian's increased experience with our collection and community.

FOIL'S IMPACT in 2022: BOOKS AND RELATED MATERIAL

Annually the library has allocated \$5,000 from FOIL towards books and related material. This includes DVDs and our subscription to the New York Times (~\$900–\$1000/year). Since 2017, we've added between 150 and 250 books a year with FOIL funds. We tend to spend 50% on adult material, 30% on children's material, and 20% on young adult material.



Friends' book money enables us to say yes more often to a wider range of books than we might otherwise collect.



The library is fortunate it has a range of funds for book purchases, but at times these are earmarked for specific topics, like gardening or poetry. According to Adult Services Librarian Rhett Ariston, Friends' book money enables us to say yes more often to a wider range of books than we might otherwise collect. And we love getting book requests from Friends because we know the books will be checked out often by the Orcas Island community. All in all, the Friends' annual book grant gives us more elbow room to add to our collection in creative ways that will benefit our patrons.

The Orcas Island librarians have added over 4,300 items to the collection since January 1, 2022.

FOIL'S IMPACT IN 2022: PROGRAMMING

The library held a wide range of online and in-person programming in 2022, and FOIL funds supported ten speakers and musicians, regular chess club meetings, attendance to Seattle Arts & Lectures online events, our volunteer appreciation events, the library director candidates' reception, and essential promotional supplies for all of our events, including Banned Book Week.

Total attendance at events with FOIL-funded speakers was around 450.

[First Friday Book Group](#), our adult book group, has 38 patrons signed up, and their reading list includes *The Woman Behind the New Deal*, *The Body: A Guide for Occupants*, *Rules of Civility*, *Never Let Me Go*, *The Night Watchman*, *The Other Side of the Bridge*, *How Iceland Changed the World*, *The Sweetness of Water*, and *A Constellation of Viral Phenomena*, among others.

We also have an active roster of around 40 volunteers who make our library remarkable. \$400 of the Friends' gift so far this year has gone toward events and recognition for our incredible volunteers. Our volunteers shelve books, help patrons at the desk, repair books, prepare books for circulation, retrieve books from our off-site book drops at the ferry landing and in Deer Harbor, catalog, water plants, and generally spread good cheer. Karen Meng, our staff member leading volunteer coordination, has a knack for coordinating schedules and skills, and we are grateful we're able to show our volunteers how much their time and work means to us.



Encouraging Young Library Patrons

Through exceptional programming and engagement by our Children's Librarian Jenny DeGroot and our Public Services Librarian Holly King, we've used FOIL funding to connect over 500 times with young patrons since January 2022. (This number doesn't reflect 500 separate young patrons who have participated---it's the total number of participants per activity, and there is of course some overlap in the participants. But we've also engaged in additional programming and outreach that is not specifically funded by FOIL.) The programs below were made possible through FOIL funding.

- ▶ The [Table of Contents Middle Grade Reading Group](#) (comprised of 6–10 participants each month) has enjoyed a range of books including *The Call of the Wild*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Golden Compass*, *When You Trap a Tiger*, *As Brave as You*, *A Whale of the Wild*, *The Bridge to Terabithia*, and *How to Steal a Dog*. They are looking forward to finishing out the year together.
- ▶ [Repurposed Quilt Camp](#) was held in partnership with Asifa Pasin from the Exchange's Sew 4 Zero Waste Program and Jannice Rose. Four children attended the camp and finished their first quilt on Earth Day with upcycled cloth treasures (discarded t-shirts, bed sheets, table clothes, donated fabrics, etc.) which just goes to show how beautiful being green can be!
- ▶ [StoryWalk®](#) was set up, enabling patrons to explore a story page-by-page along a path, encouraging kids to read and burn a little energy at the same time.
- ▶ At the [Kindergarten Roundup](#), Jenny handed out books and metal water bottles to 17 rising kindergarteners. Many children also signed up for their first library card, giving her a chance to hear what they were most excited to do as kindergarteners.

The Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading Program (SRP) served 165 children this year solely for the books portion. That is, 165 children signed up to commit to reading books all summer long, and in return they got the chance to earn weekly prizes and Library Bucks to redeem for books, all of which were purchased with a generous grant from FOIL.

I love my hometown library; it had a major impact on my life.
But it didn't engage with the community the way the Orcas Island Library does.

If my little library made an impact without much programming, I can only imagine the impact Orcas Island Library has on kids' lives.

Ingrid Mattson



SRP Programs

Separately, the library hosts craft programs throughout the summer to encourage kids and other patrons to stop by and read all summer.

Activities this year included button-making (51 attendees), a Sasquatch Haiku Contest (19 entries), a Sasquatch Calling Contest (20 participants), Felted Badge Making (18 attendees), Nature Wand Crafting (17 attendees), a tie-dye event during the Library Fair (60 attendees), and a paracord bracelet craft kids took home to work on.



And the Year Isn't Over Yet

Orcas Island Library staff close out the year with a range of activities benefiting our patrons including Trick-or-Treating for Books at the end of October.



We rely on the Friends of Orcas Island Library grant to make so much of our collection and wonderful programming possible. **Thank you.**

For 2023, based on spending in prior years and our plans for the upcoming year, we are requesting funding for the following, in the following amounts:

- ▶ \$5,000 for book purchases.
- ▶ \$3,500 for guest speakers.
- ▶ \$2,500 for the Summer Reading Program.
- ▶ \$1,000 for Trick-or-Treating for Books.
- ▶ \$5,000 for other programming needs (e.g., promotional supplies, volunteer appreciation material).
- ▶ \$2,500 for membership in the Library Speakers Consortium, enabling us to host several live-streamed, nationally-recognized author events each month.
- ▶ \$2,250 to replace our dilapidated Deer Harbor book drop (which is regularly used though it's possible to simply pry the door open to get books out).

TOTAL REQUEST FOR 2023: \$21,750



Thank you for all you do for the library.

Ingrid Mattson
Library Director

Holly King
Public Services Librarian

Rhett Ariston
Adult Services Librarian

Raymond Kingsley
Library Associate

Jenny De Groot
Children's Librarian

Janet Marlow
Administrative Services Coordinator

Tony Ghazel
Network Administrator

Karen Meng
Library Associate

Lynn Johnson
Library Associate

Marisa Hendron
Seed Librarian



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