



# 2023 Report and 2024 Requests to the Friends of Orcas Island Library



# Thank you and Looking Ahead

In 2023, Friends of Orcas Island Library provided \$26,950 to accomplish the following:

- \$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.
- \$5,000 to defray the cost of a high-quality scanner for digitizing fragile books and journals, which are the subject of a digitization grant from the state and federal governments
- \$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).

We were able to accomplish so much in 2023 with these funds, and most notably, we added to our staff and consequently provided abundant programming (at least three events per month plus a game night several times a month) throughout the year. The book drop ultimately cost \$545.67, and we opted to move the remaining money for the book drop to our programs budget---specifically an increased allocation for guest speakers.

We also requested a mid-year grant to offset the expense of a scanner for a Digital Humanities Grant we acquired through a partnership with the Orcas Island Historical Museums.

Based on our 2023 work and goals for 2024, we are requesting \$30,000 for the coming year.

# **FOIL'S IMPACT IN 2024:**

## **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.

There are, however, four collection developments that have led us to seek more FOIL funding for 2024.

First, we've hired a new Young Adult Librarian, Angie Reed, who is doing much-needed updates in our YA collection. Our nonfiction in particular is out of date. Our books on social media, navigating mental health, and career exploration were often 10 years old or more, and that was true of a lot of the collection. Updating this collection is a priority for increasing YA (6th-12th grade) engagement). Historically we set the YA budget at a level that matched the previous year's spend. Because there wasn't much acquisition in this space over the prior years, the amount allocated to that collection has proven insufficient for the initial wave of updating Angie will be doing. Consequently, we plan to direct more FOIL grant money toward our YA collection this year.

Second, we also hired a staff member, Woody Ciskowski, who has focused on graphic novel and manga collections. These collections circulate heavily. We've never had a staff member with knowledge and experience in this area, so our collection of these items has been relatively sparse. Woody's active engagement with the collection and our patrons reading this material has been a boon for the library, and we'd like to continue funding in this area.

Third, we started a romance collection. Romance is the most-read genre at many libraries and in e-books, and sales of romance novels is incredibly high. Given that, it seemed like a significant gap in our collection we needed to fill. That said, we'd like to continue acquiring books for our adult collection at levels we have previously without a reduction to divert funds to our romance collection.

Fourth, books simply cost more.

Given these library changes, we are requesting more FOIL funding for books in 2024.

## **FOIL'S IMPACT IN 2024: PROGRAMMING**

The library held a wide range of programming in 2023, and FOIL funds supported our speakers, the new weekly game nights, membership in the Library Speakers Consortium (which provides at least three live-streaming author events each month), our volunteer appreciation events, and essential promotional supplies for all of our events, including Banned Book Week.

First Friday/Second Saturday Book Group, our adult book group, has over 35 patrons signed up, and FOIL funds supply the books to this group of highly-engaged, enthusiastic library patrons.

We also have an active roster of around 40 volunteers who make our library remarkable. We allocate FOIL funds each year 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.

# PROGRAMMING



**We had a banner year for programming, led by new staff member Sam Gailey. FOIL's generous gift supported a number of the events, through honoraria, promotion, and outreach:**

- The House of Tears Carvers totem blessing
- Margo Kahn author talk
- Hear Me Roar: Lucy Ferris & Jill McCabe Johnson author talk
- Food in Movies
- Game Night
- Johnny Moses
- Mother's Day Floral Arranging
- Dolly Parton album launch party and promotion of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- National Poetry Month
- All-Island Reads: *Lessons in Chemistry*
- *Living High: An Unconventional Autobiography* – Book event with Skye Burn
- Leonid Hurwicz: Intelligent Designer: How War and the Great Depression Inspired a Nobel Economist
- Evolution of Crime Fiction with Matthew Sullivan
- Lit Fest author Ibi Zoboi
- Robin Carlson: Natural Science Writer and Illustrator
- John Wineglass - partnership with OI Chamber Festival
- Local Voices - OI authors sharing their work
- Carroll Simpson: *Alone in the Great Unknown: One Woman's Remarkable Adventures in the Northwestern Wilderness*
- Steve Edmiston: Whiskey and Wiretaps: The Northwest's Rumrunning King
- The Spelling Bee
- Shawn Behling, a biologist with the WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife presents her lecture "Leave it to Beavers: The Science of Making a Wetland"
- Frank Loudin - *Yarns: Stories From the Way We Were, Based on a Few Actual Facts*
- John Irving Live-Stream event
- Khentrul Lodrö T'hayé Rinpoche - *The Power of Mind: A Tibetan Monk's Guide to Finding Freedom in Every Challenge*
- NaNoWriMo - 50 islanders joining to kick off national novel writing month
- *Friday Night Writes*

# **ENCOURAGING YOUNG LIBRARY PATRONS**

**The programs below were made possible  
because of FOIL:**

**The Table of Contents Middle Grade Reading Group**

**Between the Lines Reading Group for Young Adults**

**Tie Dye Party at the Library Fair**

**Terrarium Workshop**

**Library Fair Poster Contest**

**Russel Barsh Local Bats Event**

**Sasquatch Calling Contest**

**Captain Underpants Party**

**Rubber Duck Hunt and Science Event**

**Dolly Parton Imagination Library**

**Kindergarten Roundup (for 35 kids this year!)**

**Trick-Or-Treat for Books (over 700 through the library doors)**

**Summer Reading Program**

**Summer Craft Projects**



# OUR 2024 REQUEST

Based on last year's activities and positive change (new hires, new collections, new opportunities) and some long-deferred maintenance, we request \$30,000 for 2024 for the following:

**\$7,500 for books**  
**\$5,500 for speakers**  
**\$3,000 for the Summer Reading Program**  
**\$1,500 for Trick-or-Treating for Books**  
**\$5,000 for Program-related Expenses**  
**\$2,500 for the Library Speakers Consortium**  
**\$5,000 for Facilities Expenses**



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OUTH SCIENCE EXHIBITION  
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**Thank you for all you do for the library.**

**Ingrid Mattson**  
Library Director

**Angie Reed**  
Young Adult Librarian

**Rhett Ariston**  
Adult Services Librarian

**Woody Ciskowski**  
Systems Librarian

**Nita Couchman**  
Circulation Sub

**Jenny De Groot**  
Children's Librarian

**Samuel Gailey**  
Programs Librarian

**Janet Marlow**  
Administrative Services Coordinator

**Karen Meng**  
Library Associate

**Lynn Johnson**  
Library Associate

**Andrea Reback**  
Library Associate

**Marisa Hendron**  
Seed Librarian

