

## Annual Report FY 2023-2024

### Friends of the Wilmette Public Library (FOL) in 2023-2024:

- FOL supports library special events/programs for the Wilmette and Kenilworth communities. The funds that support this programming are generated from monetary donations, and sales of gently used donated books, and more, at our store, Books Down Under, which is staffed by dedicated volunteers. In 2024, Books Down Under (BDU) is open seven days a week. We held 2 successful Pop Up Shops on the plaza in front of the library.
- In 2024, with FOL support, the library inaugurated a new adult winter reading club, *Wilmette Reads*, which replaced *One Book Everyone Reads*. Kicking off on New Year's Eve 2023, this new program sponsored numerous workshops and book discussions where residents could explore the featured book, *The Sentence*, by Louise Erdrich, or other books of their choice.
- FOL provides a bookshelf of free books at Central Tea and Coffee, the Metra train station, and the Community Recreation Center. These shelves are regularly restocked by volunteers.
- FOL has donated books to the Mather Public High School library, Our Place, the Evanston Women's Club (for its children's gift bags), Humble Designs, Bernie's Book Bank, A Just Harvest, and Kids Korner at the Lake County Courthouse.

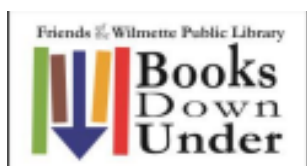
**Thank You to Our Friends:** Friends' Board, BDU Volunteers, Donors, Library Staff, Library Trustees, BDU Customers, and Mid-Central Printing & Mailing in Wilmette.

### Friends of the Wilmette Public Library Funded Programs:

- Adult/Teen/Youth Reading Clubs
- Wilmette Reads
- The Chicago Shakespeare Project
- Books for Babies

### Thank you to our Books Down Under Booksellers, Sorters, and Shelves:

Books Down Under is open every day the library is open. Successful outdoor Pop-Up events were held in front of the Library in May and September.



**Books Down Under is Wilmette's only bookstore. Located in the Library's lower level, sales of gently used books help fund Library programs and events.**



**Friends by the numbers in 2023 - 2024:**

- **Bookstore sales: \$32,960**
- **Donations: \$11,213**
- **Donors: 105**
- **Volunteers: 50+**

FOL accepts donations of gently used books, CDs, DVDs, LPs and sheet music which are resold at Books Down Under. During regular Library hours, donations can be left inside the library's staff entrance, located at the east end of the parking lot. Donation receipts are available.

Learn more about Friends at [www.wilmettelibraryinfo/friends-of-the-library](http://www.wilmettelibraryinfo/friends-of-the-library)



Follow *Friends of Wilmette Library* on Facebook!