



## Annual Report FY 2024-2025

- Friends of the Library (FOL) supports library special events/programs for the Wilmette and Kenilworth communities. Funds to support this programming come from monetary donations, and sales of gently used donated books, and more, at our store, **Books Down Under**, which is staffed by dedicated volunteers. Books Down Under is open seven days a week.
- In 2025, with FOL support, the Library continued its winter reading club, Wilmette Reads. Kicking off in mid-December 2024, Wilmette Reads participants explored the connections and meaning in this year's two featured books, the nonfiction *Entangled Life*, by Merlin Sheldrake and the novel, *Ghost Music* by An Yu.
- FOL sponsors Adult, Teen, and Youth summer and winter reading clubs, including incentives.
- The Shakespeare Project of Chicago presents several events at the Library, free of charge, supported by FOL.
- The popular Books for Babies program welcomes parents/caregivers with an "Our Family Loves the Library" tote bag including a board book, rhyme book, and pamphlet explaining the benefits of reading to your baby.
- FOL maintains bookshelves of free books at Central Tea and Coffee, the Metra train station and the Community Recreation Center. These shelves are restocked regularly by volunteers.
- Last fiscal year, FOL donated books to the Mather Public High School library, Humble Design, A Just Harvest, Kids Korner at the Lake County Courthouse, the Dirksen Federal Building for its American Dream Playroom, Northwestern University's Speech and Language Clinic, Little Free Libraries, and the Friends of the Lake Geneva Public Library.
- FOL held two successful "pop up" book sales; a children's book fair on April 19 and an outdoor shop on June 28.
- FOL donated \$550 dollars to the Los Angeles Library Foundation's LAPL Palisades Branch Recovery Fund. These funds were raised through donations from visitors to Books Down Under and a portion of the proceeds from the April children's book sale.
- FOL Board Members and Volunteers are assisting the Library in removing inactive books, CDs and DVDs from its collection. More than 156 hours were logged on this process during the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- **2024-2025 By The Numbers:**
  - Bookstore sales: \$33,765.59
  - Donations: \$8,176.23
  - Donors: 86
  - Volunteers: 50+

### Thank You to Our Friends!

The Friends' Board; Books Down Under volunteers, customers, and donors; WPL Staff, Library Trustees, Mid-Central Printing & Mailing in Wilmette, and of course, our generous supporters.