



September 2024

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on what an exciting year we've had, I find myself still humming those moving, beautiful tunes sung by Broadway performers at our annual Gala in June. It was a great party, and if you missed it, the good news is we'll have another one next year.

It's a tough time for libraries, as you probably know, but thanks to your generosity and the outstanding team running our library, consider what the Friends have recently been able to accomplish:

- Purchased and installed all-new AV equipment — including speakers, microphones, screens, and projector — for the Orr Room, improving the library's capacity to play and stream movies, interface for all kinds of presentations, and accommodate those who need hearing assistance. The project cost \$37,000, all paid for by the Friends.
- In honor of and in memory of our beloved Ed Young, we are underwriting the creation of a mural to be installed in the dome of the newly named Young Room (aka the "Picture Book Room"). Members of the Library Board and the Friends are working with one of Ed's daughter's and the final artwork is expected to be in place in the fall. Even with much time and material donated, the Friends will spend about \$15,000.
- Inspired by another artist, Youth Services Librarian Allee Manning conceived and ran a Taylor Swift pre-album release party that was attended with the same fervor as the megastar's concerts. The Friends paid for the pizza, the high school photographer who took Polaroids at a pop-up photo booth, and the bracelet-making kits (which if your child is a Tay-Tay fan you know is a big deal).
- We organized the solar eclipse watch, and what a huge deal that was. So many people signed up that we had to move the event to Draper Park. The Friends provided those eyesight-saving glasses.

The Friends have also funded a host of other extras, and while it is this organization's mission, and pleasure, to do so, we depend upon your help. I am happy to report that we have gone from 250 to 380 supporters in one year, but that is still a far cry from the participation that a village of over 8,000 people who value lifelong learning and equal access to resources—not to mention our exceptional building and grounds— should claim.

To those who are already supporters, thank you so much. This is the moment to renew your "Friendship." And please spread the word. We're talking \$30 a family; \$15 for seniors.

Next up is our Back-to Book Sale: paperbacks \$1 and hardcovers \$2. You can't beat that! Supporters get to shop early, on Friday night, Sept. 13; the general public is welcome Saturday, Sept. 14. Hope you can make it, and thank you, again.

Best,

Sharon DeLevie

President, Friends of the Hastings Library

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Hastings Public Library
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2024–2025

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**Friends of the
Hastings Public Library**

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By contributing to the Friends, you help fund the programs, events, projects and materials not included in the Library budget.

Consider these “extras” — how much they add to the Library’s value and fulfill its potential to serve, enrich, and inspire our community.

Art Workshops (preschoolers to senior citizens)
“Fiesta with Flora” (ages 0-5)
“Toddler Time” Story Hour (ages 3+) & Other Infant Programs

Summer Reading Game for school-age children
Adult and Children’s Book Clubs

Game & Movie Nights
Battle of the Books (grades 5-7)
Author Talks

Senior Film & Pizza Series
“The Gamut” Lecture Series
Knitting Groups for Kids and Adults
Barkin Corner Book Shop

Used Book Sales
Mah Jong
Holiday Giftique

“Once Upon a Musical” Annual Gala
Keeping It Real Non-Fiction Book Club
Lunar New Year & Dawali Celebrations
Taylor Swift Album–Drop Party
Music Lessons ((Ukulele)
Kids’ Book Trivia/Fun Events



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Friends of the Hastings Public Library



A nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the Library and its promise of access, service, and opportunity.
Join us today.