

Report to Our Community  
2024-2025

# The library that Bainbridge built

Thank you for your support of Bainbridge Public Library. You do so in so many ways and we are the beneficiaries of your love of our building and gardens and our partnership with Kitsap Regional Library.



At last year's Donor Party, we introduced the concept of adding solar panels to our roof. It is no longer a concept, but a successfully completed project already producing new energy for our building. To most observers, they are barely visible. We wanted to both move our energy use into the future and lead others in the community toward the use of solar power. Thank you to those who supported this special project.

We are fiscally healthy because of each and every one of you. The gardens reflect the commitment, time and love of the Friday Tidies. The Endowment Fund continues to grow because of the efforts of the Friends of the Library. And the Library Board is an amazing group of leaders who contribute their experience and energy to ensure that we can continue to grow and support the library's needs. It is a "working board" in the truest sense of that phrase.

I am proud of and humbled by your devotion to Bainbridge Public Library. Thank you.

Carol Schuyler, President



## 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

Carol Schuyler  
*President*

Judy Hartstone  
*Vice President*

Jeff Julius  
*Treasurer*

Charles Browne  
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Kip Bankart

Juliette Brown

Tracey Peacoe Denlinger

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Merry Palmer

Kathryn Tibbens

1270 Madison Avenue  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110  
206-451-5050  
[BainbridgePublicLibrary.org](http://BainbridgePublicLibrary.org)

"We know of no other organization, facility or enterprise that provides the level of intentional service and access to the world of words, ideas, history, art, science and so much more. It's a wonderful thing!"

*Diane and Kip Bankart*



# Your donations at work

Support from our donors and partners enabled some substantial improvement projects in 2024 and 2025. We've also kept our promise to the community to provide maintenance and repairs to our facility for the ongoing enjoyment of patrons, Kitsap Regional Library staff, and visitors.

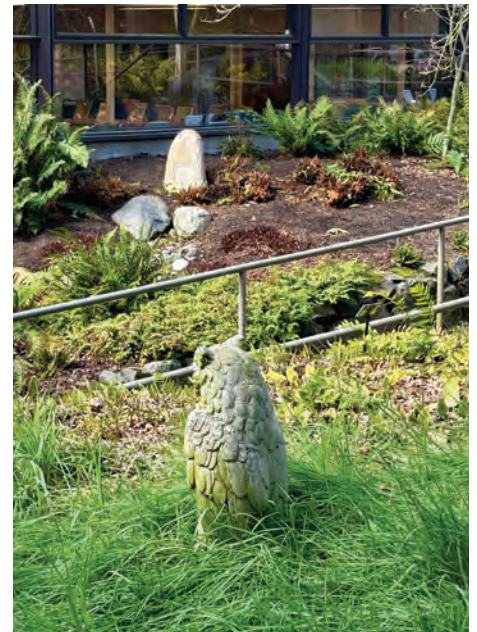
## IMPROVEMENTS

- Extensive work to re-design and implement a new and improved AV system and hearing assist system in the large meeting room, including replacement of the projector and DVD player
- Rebuilt the sliding art wall in the large meeting room
- Replacement interior lighting
- Replacement of front and staff-entry door openers
- New and more extensive lighting in Haiku Garden (*cover*)
- Installation of a new BARN-built bench in the Haiku Garden



- New rain chain and scuppers in the Haiku Garden
- Extensive new plantings and garden management because of the COBI Madison Avenue project
- Replacement of trees in the Haiku Garden
- Renovation of garden area near the garden shed
- Installation of a new and more secure BARN-built sign for Friends of the Library on High School Road
- Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Fern Display Garden and John van den Meerandonk's contributions to that garden

- Installation of new handrails for the steps up from the north parking lot, and down to the Children's Library entrance



# Here comes the sun!

Recognizing an opportunity to use the unique design of the Library building—

with its large roof area—to reduce the carbon footprint of the library and our energy costs, as well as the educational potential of such a project, the BPL Board initiated a project to install solar panels on the Library. After an extensive vetting process, Puget Sound Solar was selected. In late 2025, they installed 153 panels, comprising a 67.32 kW DC system

with a maximum continuous output of 40 kW AC. The project had to be complete by the end of 2025 in order for BPL to qualify for federal Direct Pay reimbursement of 40% of the system cost—a short timeline. The Bainbridge community was wonderfully supportive of the project. PSS is now working on a display monitor in the Library that will show in real time the operation of the system. Our photovoltaic solar system was placed in operation on December 30, and is now helping power the Library!

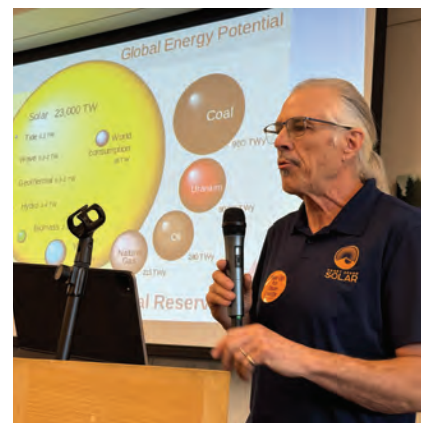


## Communications & Fundraising

The CoFun Committee is responsible for fundraising, stewardship, and community events.



The committee of volunteers works to raise awareness about the KRL and BPL partnership, spearheads BPL fundraising campaigns and acknowledges BPL's beloved donors. CoFun also creates events that bring people who love the library together to celebrate our fantastic community space and the many ways it brings joy to those who come through the doors. Annual events include Book Lover's Day Out and the Spring Donor Party and special events such as the 25th Anniversary of the Fern Garden in November of 2024 and the Sun Day Event in September 2025 with guest speaker experts on solar power. The CoFun Committee also produces the biennial Report to the Community, which you are reading now!





“We find it especially meaningful that the BPL, one of Bainbridge’s most visible and beloved institutions, has installed solar energy panels and on its roof and a monitoring display inside, providing education and inspiration to the public on the value of this energy that comes directly from the sun.”

*David and Fran Korten*

## Friends of the Library



Bainbridge Island Friends of the Library is an entirely volunteer run nonprofit.

Beginning in 1971, the organizers of the first group of Friends was Dr. Harold Kelley, Mrs. Walt Woodward and Librarian, Mrs. Virginia Mudge. A joint effort to support the library that remains today.

Our community generously donates books, CDs and DVDs which are then sold at book sales that take place two or three times a month.

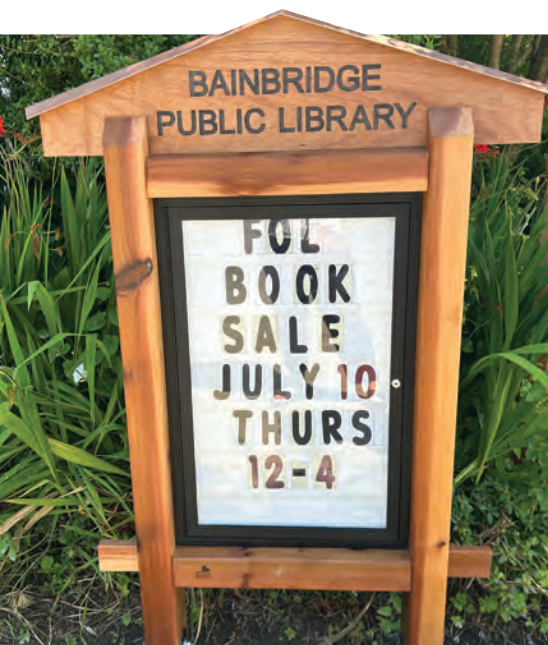
Donated books are first checked to be sure they are in saleable condition, then sorted by genre to carts that are managed by a section leader. They are then priced and shelved. Some books are scanned to check if they

might be of higher value and if so, and are sold online.

The proceeds from book sales, in addition to donations, made 2024 and 2025 record setting years! FOL was able to continue to pay for maintenance of the aquarium in the Children’s library, the flagpole, support programs including the summer reading program and supply librarians with needed items among other things. And in 2025 helping to pay for the new solar panels!

In 2008, the FOL board set up an endowment with money saved from years of book sales. The purpose of the endowment is to provide funding for current and future library needs. Every month during 2024 and 2025 contributions were added.

*Betsy Bidinger, President, FOL*



## Art in the library

The Art Committee has had a successful couple of years ensuring that all art owned by the library is exhibited and identified with a plaque.

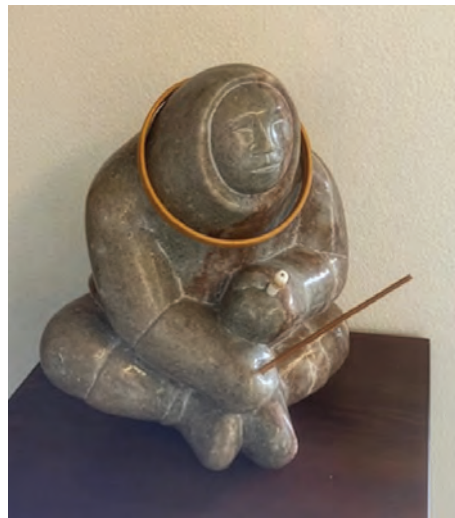
Some 20 pieces of art that had been in storage following the 2017 Library Refresh project were returned to the artist, the family of artist or donor, or sold for a donation to BPL.

During this period, new documents were created to clarify BPL's Exhibiting Artists Policy and Agreement, and systems were streamlined.

The Art Committee presented 24 exhibitions of art at BPL, and hosted, along with the artist, the monthly First Friday Art Walk event to celebrate local artists. We welcomed approximately 750 guests over this period. Artists donated a percentage of the proceeds from sales that occur during the exhibits.



Martha Makosky



Larry Avakana, Inuit



Susan Wiersema



## The Garden Fund

A longstanding way to pay tribute to special people has been to make a gift to BPL in their honor or memory.

The BPL Garden Fund was created as a visible tribute to these community members, and their names appear on a beautiful custom art piece on the library grounds.



For more information, donor cards are available at the library and online at [bainbridgepubliclibrary.org](http://bainbridgepubliclibrary.org)

"Our library is a vital community resource. I am so happy to be among its supporters!"

Susan Braun

# A Lasting Legacy

We are very grateful to the following donors who included Bainbridge Public Library in their estate planning. Their names are inscribed on “leaves” hanging on our BPL Legacy Tree in the library gardens.

## LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

Dan and Harriet Alexander  
 Helen Monnette Amestoy  
 Dorothy and Paul Amis  
 Bill and Claudia Anderson  
 Margot Amestoy Antinoja  
 Gary Bonzon  
 Mike Baggett and Christy Givens  
 Dick Baker and Jeannette Franks  
 Charles Barton  
 Susan and M. Kim Bottles  
 Karen and George Edensword-Breck  
 Sylvia Broady

*If you are interested in more information on making a legacy gift, please leave us a message at 206-866-1250 or email us at [legacy@bainbridgepubliclibrary.org](mailto:legacy@bainbridgepubliclibrary.org). Thank you!*

Barbara and Charles Browne  
 Regina F. Burleson  
 Monte and Darnella Calvin  
 Cynthia R. Carter  
 Deborah and Ralph Cheadle  
 Robert and Elizabeth Cromwell  
 Edward B. Doremus  
 David Grant  
 Carol Grosch  
 Susan Guffey  
 Mary Hall and Ken Schuricht  
 Cynthia and David Harrison  
 Charles Hawk  
 Charles and Barbara Henderson  
 Vern and Janet Herren  
 Hilary Hilscher and Neil Johannsen  
 James and Frances S. Hodges  
 Phyllis D. Hohmann  
 Wyman and Karoline Johnson



Victoria Josslin  
 Kami Amestoy Lee  
 Geneva Lowe  
 Ann Lovejoy, Alexis Lovejoy West,  
 and Andrew and Kate Lovejoy  
 Linda Meier  
 Marjorie and Loyal Moore  
 Malcolm Moran  
 Wayne Y. and Judy C. Nakata  
 Kay Sakai Nakao  
 Arnold and Carolyn Peterson  
 Lois Reitz and Richard Storch  
 Carol and Michael Schuyler  
 George W. B. Shannon  
 Julie Shryock  
 Virginia Stave  
 Roger Stouder  
 Karen Teal  
 Nikki Vick and Ray Styles  
 Janet West  
 Trese and Frank Williamson  
 Delight Willing  
 Barbara and Grant Winther

# Finances

The maintenance, improvement, operation and financial management of BPL has always been led by an all-volunteer board, who work hard to ensure the effective stewardship of your investment. Thanks to donors like you and the visionary leaders who built the Library decades ago, BPL remains a fiscally strong and beloved institution in our community.

EXPENSE, 2025		INCOME, 2025	
Contract Services, Admin & Finance	\$17,000	Contributions from Individuals	\$247,000
Postage, Supplies, Phone	\$6,000	Grants	\$132,000
Events	\$5,000	Legacies & Bequests	\$138,000
Website & Database	\$4,000	Friends of the Library	\$102,000
Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance	\$46,000	<b>Total Contributed Income</b>	<b>\$619,000</b>
Utilities	\$55,000	Investment and Other Earnings	\$195,000
Maintenance & Repair	\$47,000	Island Way Rental Income	\$124,000
Cynthia Harrison Scholarship Distribution	\$2,000	<b>Total Earned Income</b>	<b>\$319,000</b>
Ihland Way Expense*	\$86,000	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$938,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$268,000</b>		

\*BPL owns additional property adjacent to the library and parking lot. "Ihland Way" refers to related income and expenditures.

"We donate to  
BPL to support  
equitable access,  
lifelong learning,  
and a brighter  
future for our  
community."

*Kathryn Tibbens,  
John Michael Najarian,  
and Charlotte*