

FRIENDS OF THE GRAND ISLAND MEMORIAL LIBRARY
MEETING AGENDA - January 14, 2026, 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome Guests; Recognition/Thanks

3. Approve Minutes: October 15, 2025
4. Correspondence

5. Reports
 - a. Treasurer - Nancy Vizzi
 - b. Membership - Jan Yardley
 - c. Book Sorting - Russ Person
 - d. Book Sale Room - Charlotte Senulis

6. Library Trustee Report - Jill Banaszak

7. Library Director Report - Bridgette Heintz

8. New Business
 - a. Book Sale Follow-up
 - Boxes
 - Tables
 - b. Set Book Sale Dates: Donated Spring Sale
Donated Fall Sale
Discard Sale?

9. Ongoing Business:
 - a. Book Club
 - b. Growing Reader Initiative
 - c. B&EC Public Library Friends Council
 - d. Social Media
 - e. Paper Retriever

10. Next meeting date
11. Roundtable
12. Adjourn

**FRIENDS OF THE GRAND ISLAND MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 14, 2026**

Present: Mary Cooke, Nancy Vizzi, Russell Person, Jan Yardley, Jill Banaszak, Bobby Withrow, Marie Volpe, Joyce Thornton, Phyllis Gallie, Charlotte Senulis, Bridgette Heintz

Excused: Richard Smythe

Guests: none

Call to Order: 6:00 PM by Mary Cooke. Thanks to all for their contributions to our recent activities.

Approval of Minutes: There were no comments or corrections to the minutes from the October 15, 2025 meeting, which were accepted as distributed.

Correspondence: We received a guest book from the library dedication on 11/19/89. It will be added to the library's historical area. We also received a \$10,000 donation from Island Presbyterian Church, which is closing. Bridgette has the donation earmarked for programming.

Reports:

- a. **Treasurer:** Nancy Vizzi reported that we have \$10,341 in our checking account, \$2,730 in our money market account, \$10,416 in our CD, for a total of \$23, 487.
- b. **Membership:** Jan Yardley reported that the membership list is completely updated.
- c. **Book Sorting:** Russ Person reported that we have a lot of CD's remaining after the last sale. Thoughts on how to sell them are being considered.
- d. **Book Sale Room:** The Book Sale Room continues to do well.
- e. **Library Trustee Report:** Jill reported that officers elected for 2026 are Dick Crawford - President, Russ Person – Vice President, Pat Rizzuto - Treasurer, Agnes Becker – Secretary and Jill Banaszak – Board Member.

Library Director Report:

- Stefanie Anawald started at the library on 1/10/26 as our new Youth Services Librarian. Members are encouraged to introduce themselves when we meet her, come in to sort and/or work the bookstore.
- The library's hours have returned to the regular hours as of 1/10/26. We are open again at 9:30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- The Events Calendar for January thru April 2026 was distributed. More will be added to it as new programs are scheduled.

New Business:

1. All proceeds from the Donated Book Sale in November went to the Friends: book sale: \$1782.75, bake sale \$305, book bags \$20, membership \$50, donated comic books \$75, basket raffle \$604. The remaining 128 boxes were taken by Sustainable Books. For consideration: we lost \$200 of possible revenue from the basket raffle through the 6 tickets for \$5 deal. We will discuss this further before doing it again.
2. We are looking to use smaller boxes to make it easier on the volunteers and caretaker to move the stock. Marie volunteered to visit the 2 liquor stores on the Island periodically to get boxes. This may change the established packing procedure, but Russ thinks it can be done without much difficulty.
3. On Take Down day, volunteers should make sure not to use crushed boxes or ones that are taped on the bottom as they are not sturdy enough to be packed again and have been falling apart when moved.
4. The new white tables were unable to sustain the weight of books for the sale. Jill made a motion, seconded by Jan, to budget up to \$2000 to purchase 12 non-folding tables. All were in favor. The white tables are available for donation to anyone who may want them.
5. The April Donated Book Sale will be Wednesday 4/22/26 (Setup 4 pm until done), Friends night Thursday 4/23 (5-8pm), General Sale Friday, 4/24 (10 – 5pm), Bag Sale Saturday 4/25, (10 – 3pm), take down, 3pm until done.
6. The September Discard Sale will be set up Thursday, 9/24/26 (4pm until done), general sale Friday 9/25 (3-7 pm) and bag sale Saturday 9/26 (10am – 3pm). Take down will be Saturday, until done.
7. The November Donated Sale will be set up Wednesday, 11/4/26 (4pm until done), Friends night Thursday 11/5 (5 – 8 pm), general sale Friday, 11/6 (10 – 5pm), bag sale Saturday, 11/7 (10 – 3pm), take down 3pm until done.
8. Bridgette has 3 big projects planned for 2026:
 - Adding 2 more study rooms
 - Evaluation and possible replacement of the HVAC system and the roof. Grant money will be sought to pay for these projects.
 - Digitization continuance for Island publications. Grant money will also be sought for this project.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. The GI Library Book Club continues to meet monthly on Tuesdays at 6PM. The GI Book Club (formerly GI Women's Book Club) now is meeting monthly at the Library on Wednesdays at 1 pm. Books planned for January through April are included in Bridgette's report.
2. Growing Readers Initiative. – Bridgette attended a meeting on 12/9/25 where they discussed the next meat raffle, scheduled for 3/21/26, and purchase of more books for the program. They are now working with Tonawanda Pediatrics and are looking for a representative from the program to attend an upcoming press conference for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Bridgette also attended the Imagination Library press conference with Assemblyman Jon Rivera at the Williamsville Library on 12/16/25 as the committee representative. The next Growing Readers Meeting is scheduled for 1/22/26.
3. B&EC Public Library Friends Council - no report.
4. Social media continues through Bridgette. The improved coverage of GI Library activities in the Sentinel/Dispatch was commented on.
5. We continue to use the paper retriever.

Next Meeting: The Next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 6PM.

Roundtable: No reports.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion was made by Nancy and seconded by Bobby , to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM. All were in approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Senulis

Friends of the Grand Island Memorial Library Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 @ 6:00 pm

Library Meeting Room

Director's Report

Minutes

- 10/15/25 meeting

Director's Report

- Staffing Update: Stefanie Anawald started at the library on 1/10/26 as our new Youth Services Librarian. Please introduce yourselves when you meet her, come in to sort and/or work the book store.
- The library's hours returned to the regular hours on 1/10/26, meaning we are open again at 9:30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Library Event Calendar: January thru April 2026

New Business

- November Donated Book Sale Follow-up
 - Proceeds (all went to the Friends). Remainder (128 boxes) were taken by Sustainable Books:
 - Book Sale: \$1782.75
 - Bake Sale: \$305
 - Book Bags: \$20
 - Memberships: \$50
 - Donated Comic Book Sales: \$75.00
 - Basket Raffle 10/14/25-11/8/25: \$604.00
 - For consideration: just making the tickets \$1/ticket? We lost \$200 of possible revenue through the 6 for \$5 deal.
 - Boxes:
 - Looking to move to using smaller boxes to make it easier on the volunteers and caretaker to move the stock. Would anyone be willing to visit the liquor stores periodically to grab boxes? That size is perfect for this purpose. Unfortunately, this change would hamper the established packing procedure. Discuss?
 - On Take Down day: volunteers should make sure to not use crushed boxes or ones that are taped on the bottom as they are not sturdy enough to be packed again and have been falling apart when moved.
 - Tables: Discussion regarding the new white tables and whether to replace them as they don't seem to be working out as well as we'd hoped.
- Book Sale Dates for 2026:
 - April Donated Sale
 - Set up: Wed. 4/22/26 4pm-done (Start time discussion?)
 - Friends Night: Thurs. 4/23/26 5-8pm
 - General Sale: Fri. 4/24/26 10am-5pm
 - Bag Sale: Sat. 4/25/26 10am-3pm
 - Take Down: 3pm-done
 - September Discard Sale
 - Set up: Thurs. 9/24/26 4pm-done

- General Sale: Fri. 9/25/26 3-7pm
- Bag Sale: Sat. 10am-3pm
 - Take Down: 3pm-done
- November Donated Sale
 - Set up: Wed. 11/4/26 4pm-done
 - Friends Night: Thurs. 11/5/26 5pm-8pm
 - General Sale: Fri. 10am-5pm
 - Bag Sale: Sat. 10am-3pm
 - Take Down: 3pm-done

Ongoing Business

- Growing Readers:
 - attended a meeting on 12/9/25 where they discussed the next meat raffle, purchasing more books for the program (they are working with Tonawanda Pediatrics now) and finding a rep to attend an upcoming press conference for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
 - attended the Imagination Library press conference with Assemblyman Jon Rivera at the Williamsville Library on 12/16/25 as the committee representative
 - the next Growing Readers meeting is scheduled for 1/22/26

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgette Heintz

Director

Grand Island Memorial Library

GRI Events January-April 2026

TBD = to be determined. Either a change to the program is in the works, or a funding request is pending.

Working document. More to be added.

Ongoing

GI Library Book Club: meets monthly - Tuesdays at 6:00 pm

1/13/26 - Horse by Geraldine Brooks

2/10/26 - James by Percival Everett

3/10/26 - The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

4/14/26 - Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Grand Island Book Club (formerly GI Womens' Book Club): meets monthly - Wednesdays 1-3pm

1/28/26 - Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon

2/25/26 - Colored Television by Danzy Senna

3/25/26 - Everything is Tuberculosis by John Green

4/29/26 - There are Rivers in the Sky by Elif Shafak

Read to a Dog: monthly 1:00-3:00 pm

1/10/26, 2/14/26, 3/14/26, 4/11/26

Lego Club: once monthly 1:00-2:00 pm

1/3/26, 2/7/26, 3/7/26, 4/4/26

Preschool Story Time (ages 3-5 years): Tuesdays 10:00-10:45 am

1/27/26, 2/10/26, 2/17/26

3/17/26, 3/24/26, 3/31/26, 4/7/26

Itty Bitty Story Time (ages 0-2 years): Thursdays 10:00-10:30 am

1/29/26, 2/5/26, 2/12/26, 2/19/26

3/19/26, 3/26/26, 4/2/26, 4/9/26

Outreach

Bridgette: Golden Age Center – one Friday/month 11-12:30 pm

2/6/26, 3/6/26, 4/10/26

January

1/7/26

Theresa Wiater: Pulitzer Prize Winning Photos #2 (Wed. 6:30pm)

1/16/26

HEAP Outreach (Fri. 10am-3pm)

1/17/26

Book a Technology Trainer (Sat. 11am-5pm)

- 1/20/26 Sprouts with Miss Melissa (Tues. 11:30am)
- 1/24/26 Local Author Storytime: Family of Secrets (Sat. 1pm)
- 1/27/26 Nintendo Switch open play (tween/teen program) (Tues. 6-7pm)
- 1/29/26 Adult Craft Night: Gnome Painting (Thurs. 6:30pm)

February

- 2/3/26 Polling location for special election (all day)
- 2/7/26 Bring Your Child to the Library Day (activities **TBD**)
- 2/21/26 Storybook Cook: Gabby's Dollhouse themed kids cooking program (Sat. 1pm)
- 2/24/26 Nintendo Switch open play (tween/teen program) (Tues. 6-7pm)
- 2/25/26 Adult Craft Night: Bookish Roses (Wed. 6:30 pm)
- 2/28/26 Book a Technology Trainer (Sat. 11am-5pm) **TBD**

March

- 3/10/26 Sprouts with Miss Melissa (Tues. 10am)
- 3/11/26 Grand Island Co-op Nursery School class visit (Wed. 9:30am)
- 3/21/26 Storybook Cook: Will it Waffle? Tween/teen program (Sat. 1pm)
- 3/24/26 Nintendo Switch open play (tween/teen program) (Tues. 6-7pm)
- 3/25/26 M&T: Considering Homeownership (Wed. 3:15-4:15)
- 3/27/26 Book a Technology Trainer (Sat. 11am-5pm) **TBD**

April

- 4/3/26 Easter Program with GI Rec. Dept. **TBD**
- 4/7/26 Explore Buffalo: Buffalo First Ladies (Tues. 6pm)
- 4/21/26 Book a Technology Trainer (Tues. 11am-5pm) **TBD**
- 4/23/26-4/25/26 Donated Book Sale **TBD**

In the works:

- More programming overall

Holidays:

- 1/1/26 New Year's Day
- 1/19/26 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 2/16/25 President's Day
- 4/3/26 Good Friday, but open regular hours for Easter event