

**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      October 15, 2025**

**Present:** Mary Cooke, Nancy Vizzi, Russell Person, Jan Yardley, Jill Banaszak, Richard Smythe, Bobby Withrow, Marie Volpe, Charlotte Senulis, Bridgette Heintz

**Excused:** Joyce Thornton, Phyllis Galie

**Guests:** none

**Call to Order:** 6:00 PM by Mary Cooke. Jill and Bobby were thanked for the 26 baskets that they prepared for the upcoming basket sale. Included were gift cards from Andersons, Soma Cura, Tops and Orange Poppy. Joyce Thornton wrote thank you notes to them all.

**Approval of Minutes:** There were no comments or corrections to the minutes from the September 3, 2025 meeting, which were accepted as distributed.

**Correspondence:** none

## Reports:

- a. **Treasurer:** Nancy Vizzi reported that our account has remained the same since her last report. Profits from the discard book sale were \$730.75, which goes to the Buffalo and Erie County Library. Profits from the bake sale were \$284, which will go to the Reading Garden.
- b. **Membership:** Jan Yardley reported that the membership list has been completely updated. It was suggested that the membership form be revised to emphasize e-mail addresses. Other suggestions were made. Jan will revise the form accordingly and e-mail it to the Board for review.
- c. **Book Sorting:** Russ Person reported that the art instruction books we received as donations have been offered to area art teachers. One will stop by on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> to see if they can be used.
- d. **Book Sale Room:** The Book Sale Room will be open during Trunk or Treat.
- e. **Library Trustee Report:** The basket raffle will be run from Tuesday, October 14 through Saturday, November 8. Bobby Withrow volunteered to sit at the basket table during Trunk or Treat to sell raffle tickets. All volunteers for Trunk or Treat are asked to park in the narrow lot across Veterans Park Drive so that the library parking lot is available for the library activities. Jill will represent the Friends of the Library at the event and requested \$69.98 as reimbursement for candy she purchased. A motion was made by Russ and seconded by Nancy to do so and all were in favor.

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**f. Library Director Report:**

- Bridgette requested \$800 for Fall/Winter Youth Services. A handout of programs and supplies was distributed. A motion was made by Bobby, seconded by Marie, to approve this funding. All were in approval. A request was made for \$600 for Fall/Winter adult programming, which will include an adult craft night for Fall DIY doormats and booking the Bead Gallery. Jill made a motion to fund the request, seconded by Jan. All were in approval.
- We will be soliciting donations for teen game nights in the new year.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The Donated Book Sale is scheduled for November 6-8. We have a large number of books for the sale. Set-up will be Wednesday, November 5th. Russ and Bobby will chair. Nancy and Jan will coordinate the Bake Sale. Baked goods should be delivered by NOON on Thursday, November 6th. Jill will chair on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm to 8 pm. Mary will chair on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1:30pm. Charlotte will chair on Friday from 1:30 pm to 5 pm and on Saturday, November 8 from 10 am to 12:30 pm. Marie will chair from 12:30 pm to 3 pm. Russ will chair clean-up. Sustainable Books will pick up all the boxed leftovers. The family of Dr. Bommaraju has again generously offered to provide food for set up. Bridgette will provide food during the sale for the volunteers.
2. The need for more table space at our book sales was discussed. One suggestion is to have pop-up book sales periodically. This will be discussed further after the donated book sale.
3. Our supply of canvas bags is gone. Everyone agreed that we would like to continue selling them at a cost of \$10-15. Cost to us will be \$8.58. 72 navy bags have been ordered and will be available by the book sale dates. Thanks to Mary for coordinating the project.

**ONGOING BUSINESS:**

1. The Book Club committee is currently selecting next year's books
2. Growing Readers Initiative. – no report
3. B&EC Public Library Friends Council - no report.
4. Social media continues through Bridgette.
5. We continue to use the paper retriever.

**Next Meeting: The Next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 6PM.**

**Roundtable:** The popularity of our speakers' programs was discussed. These programs are usually provided by the speakers for no charge.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, a motion was made by Marie and seconded by Jill, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. All were in approval.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Charlotte Senulis**

## **Friends of the Grand Island Memorial Library Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 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