



9. Ongoing Business:

- a. Book Club
- b. Growing Reader Initiative – Meat Raffle, April 24: basket donation, purchase table of tickets?
- 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 DRAFT 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, March 4, 2026 @ 6:00 pm**

**Library Meeting Room**

**Director's Report**

**Minutes**

- 1/14/26 meeting

**Director's Report**

- Reading Garden Dedication: Save the date! Wed. 5/13/26 at 5pm here at the library with reception to follow. See flier for RSVP information.
- Next Library Improvements
  - Study Room Project
  - HVAC work

**New Business**

- Funding ask: summer raffle prizes – budget of \$500 requested
  - Toddler prize
  - Kids bikes or scooters and helmets (2 each)
  - Teen prize: Amazon gift cards - \$25 and \$50
  - Adult prize: Amazon gift cards - \$25 and \$50
- Growing Readers:
  - Meat Raffle – tickets and basket raffle donation
- Annual Meeting – date verification and speaker discussion
- New cash box for book sales?

**Ongoing Business**

- Book Sale Tables – follow up: we now have 20 tables to use for the book sales.
  - Vendor: [www.webstaurantstore.com](http://www.webstaurantstore.com)
  - \$92/table. Total cost with shipping for 12 tables: \$1565.09.
- April Donated Sale: 4/23/26-4/25/26 – final planning discussion (flier/volunteer sign ups/current donation stock)

Respectfully submitted,

Bridgette Heintz

Director

Grand Island Memorial Library

The Friends of the  
Grand Island Memorial Library present a

# DONATED BOOK SALE

**Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:00 pm-8:00 pm**

**Friends of the Library Members Night**

- Individual Friends memberships will be available at the door for \$5.00.
- Current members: bring your card for admittance.

**Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am-5:00 pm**

**General Sale - items priced as marked.**

**Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am-3:00 pm**

**Bag Sale: fill a bag for \$5.00**

**Bags will be provided.**

**All Three Days:**

**Bake Sale**

*While supplies last.*

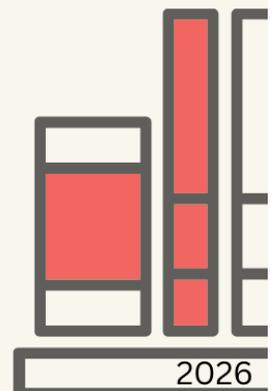
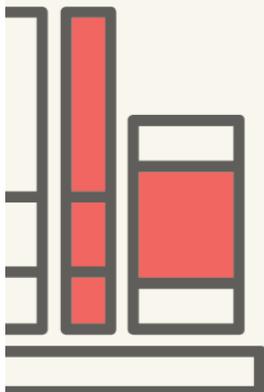
**\*\*Cash or Check only\*\***

**Grand Island Memorial Library**

**1715 Bedell Rd. 716-773-7124**

*All proceeds benefit the*

*Grand Island Memorial Library*



# GROWING READERS MEAT RAFFLE

FRIDAY, APRIL 24,  
2026

## LOCATION

Knights of Columbus - 755 Erie Ave, North  
Tonawanda, NY 14120

Doors open at 6 PM. Fun begins at 7 PM



**\$10 A TICKET OR RESERVE A TABLE OF  
10 FOR \$80**

Admission includes: Beer, Pop, Pizza and Wine

No Outside Alcohol Permitted

Tickets Call 716-773-8801

Email [JudeKuehne@gicsd.org](mailto:JudeKuehne@gicsd.org).

Bring Snacks, a cooler and plenty of \$1 bills.  
Enjoy Theme Baskets 50/50 Drawings and Big  
Prizes

Proceeds to Support Books for Infants/Toddlers  
- City of Tonawanda School District and Grand  
Island School District





*You are invited*

**Dedication of the  
Richard Earne  
Reading Garden**

**Grand Island Memorial Library  
1715 Bedell Rd, Grand Island, NY 14072**

**May 13<sup>th</sup> : 5 PM**

**Reception to follow; please RSVP to  
[smiller04it@yahoo.com](mailto:smiller04it@yahoo.com)**