



FRIENDS *of the*
Plymouth Library
HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY

Check It Out

Book Sale Coming February 10



Books range in price from 50¢ to just \$2. From 2-3 PM, you can fill entire bags with books for \$5 per bag! Proceeds benefit the Plymouth Library and Friends programs and events.

Another big Plymouth Library book sale is coming up! On Saturday, February 10, the Friends of the Plymouth Library will be selling hundreds and hundreds of adult and kid's books, puzzles, DVDs, CDs.

Sale Hours:

- 9-10 AM - Exclusive early access for Friends members (join at the door for just \$10 for an annual membership)
- 10 AM-2 PM - Open to the general public
- 2-3 PM - Fill entire shopping bags with books for just \$5 per bag!

Sale takes place at the Plymouth Library, located at 15700 36th Ave N, Plymouth, MN 55446.

Interested in volunteering for the sale or donating gently used books, DVDs, CDs, and puzzles? More details on page 2.

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Prologue

Book Sale Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to...

- Move books from storage to the library on Thursday, February 8
- Receive donated books and help set up the book sale on Friday, February 9
- Help run the sale on Saturday, February 10

Please visit the link below to view the online sign up sheet: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EA8A623A4F58-47264699-february>

Donations Accepted

We gladly accept gently used adult and children's books, DVDs, CDs, and jigsaw puzzles. We will be accepting donations in the meeting room at the Plymouth Library on the following days:

- Saturday, February 3, from 10:30 AM–12 PM
- Friday, February 9, from 9 AM–3 PM

Unfortunately, we cannot accept textbooks, encyclopedias, video tapes, or audio tapes. Please read your shelves and bring us some goodies! Thank you for your contributions.

Seeking Gorgeous Gardens

The Gorgeous Garden Tour has become something of a tradition for the Friends. There are so many beautiful gardens and creative gardeners in Plymouth! And we are looking for gardens for our 2024 garden tour, so if you know someone who has a gorgeous garden (or if you do), please let us know and send us contact information at plymouth@supporthclub.org.



Plymouth Library 2023 Statistics

The Friends of the Plymouth Library are so proud of what the Plymouth Library staff accomplished in 2023. Look at these numbers! Plymouth was #1 in the system for checkouts, with 91,566 more items checked out than the #2 library in the system.

Thanks to Erin Weber, Plymouth Library Statistics Mathmagician, for these stats.

Plymouth Library Total Checkouts	
2021	397,175
2022	461,962
2023	515,750

Plymouth Library Library Card Sign-ups	
2021	1,796
2022	2,815
2023	3,396

FOPL Board News

New FOPL Officers Elected in October

All four Board Officer positions — President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary — came up for election in October, and all four Directors holding those positions had hit their term limits. Four Directors stepped up to run for these positions and were elected unanimously by the Board.



Josh Velasquez
President
On the Board since 2020



Carrie Almaer
Vice-President
On the Board since 2023



Bernadeen Brutlag
Treasurer
On the Board since 2022



Cathy Fischer
Secretary
On the Board since 2006



Outgoing president Cathy Fischer passes the gavel to incoming president Josh Velasquez at the November Board meeting

Recognizing Board Member Transitions

Seven Board members were recognized in October for their service to the Friends as they transitioned out of their roles. We're all so grateful for their years of service! Pictured from left to right:

- **LuAnn Svendsen** completed her service as Book Sale co-chair, but continues as Plymouth READS Chair
- **Linda Arendt** completed her service to the Board in 2021 – she had most recently served as Book Sale co-chair
- **Charlie Knuth** completed his service as as Book Sale co-chair and newsletter editor, as well as previous serving as President
- **Katherine Jaeger** completed her term as Treasurer, and has become Book Sale chair
- **Josh Velasquez** completed his term as VP and was elected President
- **Barb Wills** completed her term as Secretary
- **Cathy Fischer** completed her term as President and was elected Secretary and External Relations chair
- **Kristin Blomquist** (not pictured) recently completed her service to the Board



Reflecting on 2023



*Cathy Fischer,
Outgoing President*

As I finish two terms as President of the Friends of the Plymouth Library and we move into the year 2024, it's worth recognizing that the Friends are beginning our 30th year of existence. When we first organized as a group in 1995, the library was in the process of being built, and the Friends held a book sale before it even opened!

The Friends can be quite proud of what we accomplished in 2023.

- We set fundraising goals of \$5,000 for each of four initiatives: Library Collection, Outreach and Innovation, Youth Programming and the Friends Fund. By year's end, we had forwarded \$20,000 to the Friends of the Hennepin County Library to support those four goals, thanks to our members and to everyone who supported our book sales.
- Our membership grew to 561 households, one of the largest, if not THE largest local Friends group in the county.
- A full house enjoyed hearing author Matt Goldman speak at our annual Plymouth READS event. Thanks go to the Plymouth READS committee members who spent countless hours planning this event.
- Our annual garden tour attracted a large crowd of visitors on one of the nicest days of the summer.
- A couple of our book sales broke records for income, at least for the last 10 years.
- We installed new Board officers in November. Ours is an active, working Board, and we are always pleased to welcome new members.

For the second year in a row we participated in the Discover Plymouth event sponsored by the City of Plymouth. This was a great way to connect with members of the community who might not have been aware of our existence. A library staff member joined us at our table and we decided to sponsor a separate table for the library in 2024.

Any organization can only be as successful as the individuals who are part of it and who work hard to make it vital and relevant. Thanks go out to all of you — let's celebrate *us!*

Cathy Fischer

Outgoing President

Treasurer's 2023 Year In Review

The Friends of the Plymouth Library had another financially successful year.

Our book sales in September and November had the highest gross receipts (\$5,800 and \$5,500, respectively) in the past ten years. The five book sales brought in over \$22,000 after expenses. Once again, we considered the Garden Tour a great success, earning over \$1,700 after small expenses.

The Ready Reads cart in the entryway to the library continued to receive strong donations throughout the year. We were able to acquire a larger cart from another Friends group so we can display more books. The cart holds a wide variety of books for adults and children. The books, for a small suggested donation, are available to all who enter the library. The cart brought in more than \$4,400 in 2023, which is nearly equal to an average book sale.

Membership income increased slightly from the 2022 level. It had dropped by more than half due to the pandemic. We're encouraged to see it creep toward pre-pandemic level. 2019: \$3,193 / 2020: \$1,295 / 2021: \$2,109 / 2022: \$2,193 / 2023: \$2,313.

The largest expenditure for the year was our support of library initiatives through our grants to the Friends of the Hennepin County Library totaling \$20,000. Our largest operating expense in the amount of \$1,584 was for the storage locker rental for books awaiting sales. If you know of an easily accessible spot in the city of Plymouth that would be willing to share their space with boxes of books awaiting our sales, at little or no cost to the Friends, please email us at Plymouth@SupportHCLIB.org.

Our fiscal year 2023 produced a net income of slightly over \$10,000.

Thank you to the many members of the Friends of the Plymouth Library for generous additions to your membership checks. And thank you to all members for renewing your membership and continuing to support the Plymouth Library!

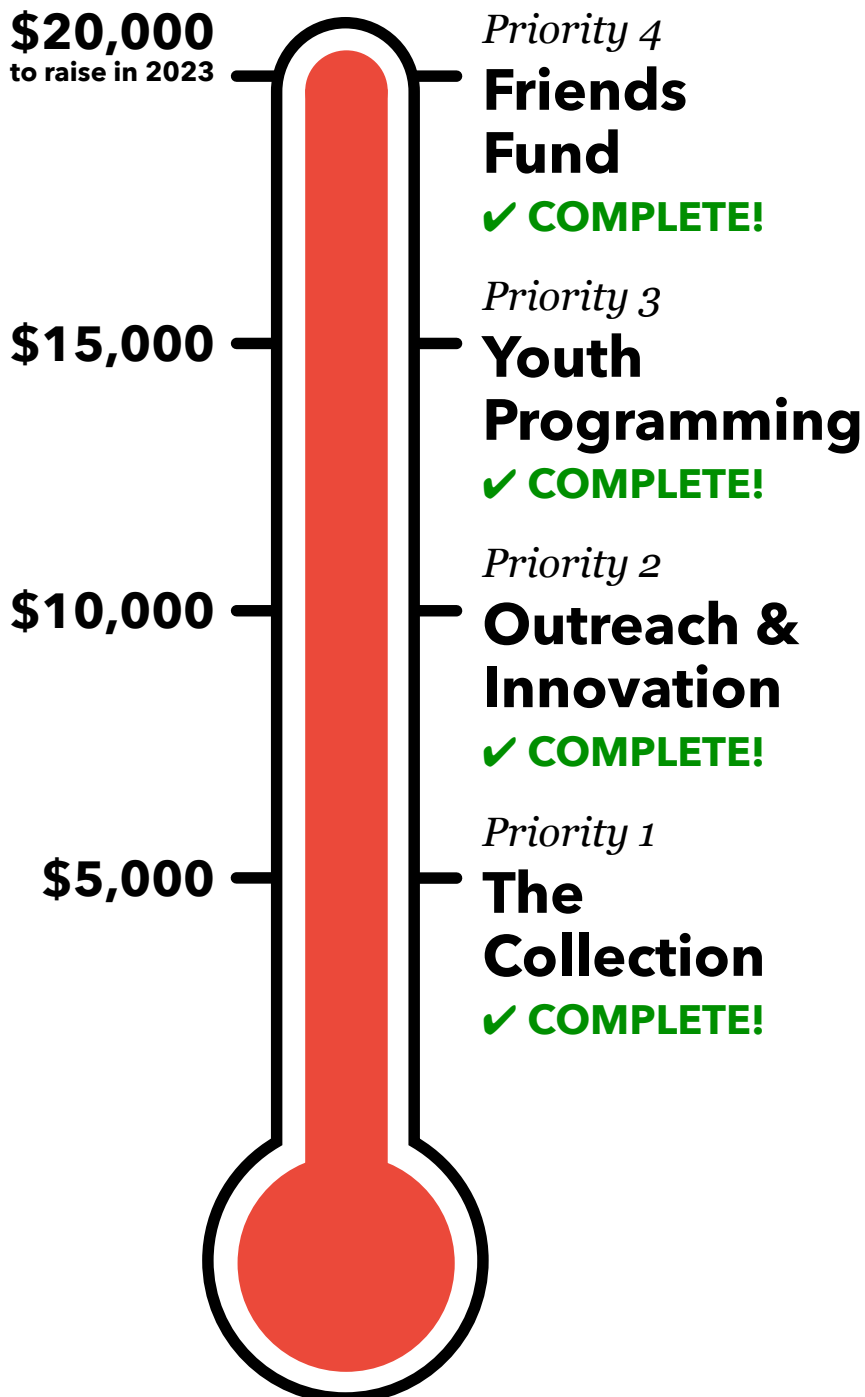


*Bernadeen Brutlag,
Treasurer*

Bernadeen Brutlag

Treasurer

2023 Fundraising Goals Final Report



The Friends of the Plymouth Library successfully achieved (and exceeded!) our 2023 fundraising goal of \$20,000 in support of the Hennepin County Library.

The \$20,000 in funding was provided as four grants to the Friends of the Hennepin County Library over the course of the year. Each grant aligned to one of the four fundraising priorities established by FHCL at the beginning of 2023.

These grants were made possible by your membership and generosity at the Ready Reads book cart, at our five book sales in 2023, and at the Garden Tour. We look forward to your support at our events in 2024.

Thank you!

Meet Brian Wilkerson, Friends Board Member

Since joining the Board in 2022, Brian has put his literary and literal muscles to work in support of the Plymouth Friends

What is your hometown?

Lawrence, Kansas. We moved to MN because of my step-dad. He used to work at the University of Kansas but then switched to working at the University of Minnesota.

What is your current place of residence?

Plymouth, Minnesota

What hobbies do you have?

Writing and reading novels, practicing martial arts, tabletop roleplay gaming (first D&D but now exploring Pathfinder and GURPS)

What are your favorite genres to read?

Fantasy, science-fiction and historical fiction

What book has made the most impact on your life?

Trickster's Queen by Tamora Pierce was my introduction to Tamora Pierce's Tortall universe, and it was that series of books that inspired me to become a novelist myself. It was a gestalt package that showed me the way.

What is your favorite book?

Too difficult to say.

What was the last great book you have read?

Sword Art Online Alicization Uniting by Reki Kawahara is the climax of the first part of the Underworld arc, and it does a great job of closing the arc while setting up for the next one. There is one thing in particular that I don't like about it, but it otherwise really delivers as a sword-and-sorcerer fantasy while continuing to develop the general SAO themes of identity and reality between physical and virtual worlds.



“Sometimes I wonder, do I have enough bookcases? If not, where would I put another one?”

What are you really good at?

Writing novels.

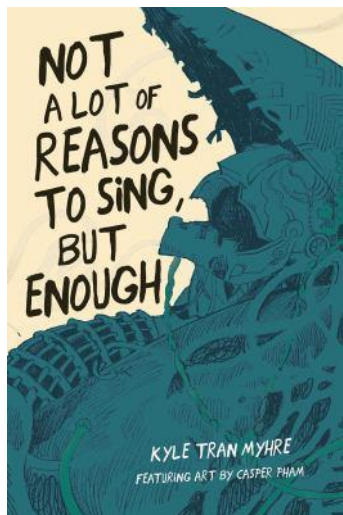
What do most people not know about you that you are willing to share?

I taught myself how to play the ocarina. The ocarina is a key feature in one of my favorite games from my teenage years, Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time. The player can use the ocarina to create in-game effects using real ocarina songs. I've learned to play a few of them. Last year, I felt an urge to give it a try, and found a place that sells them. I'm glad I followed that urge, because it is really something special to create your own music.

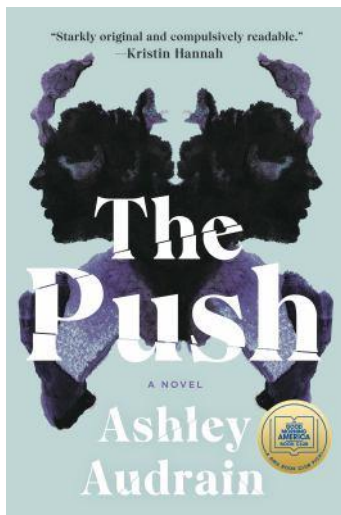
Why are you on the Board for the Friends of the Plymouth Library?

I want to support the library and encourage people to expand their world through books.

Plymouth Library Community Favorites



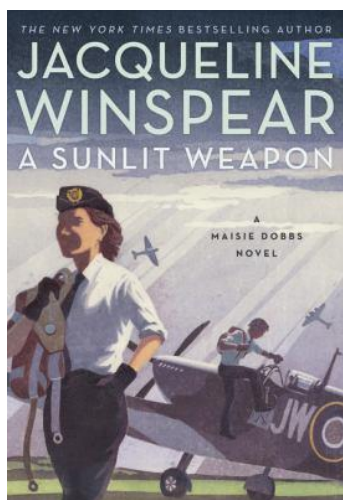
Not A Lot of Reasons to Sing, but Enough by Kyle Tran Myhre, featuring art by Casper Pham



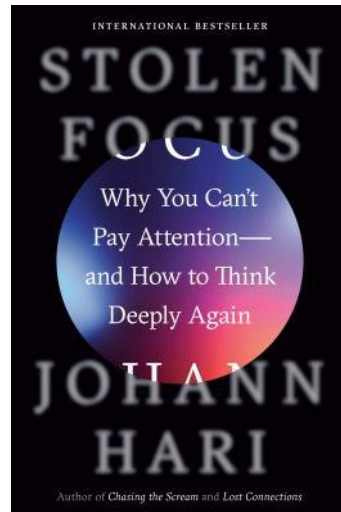
The Push by Ashley Audrain



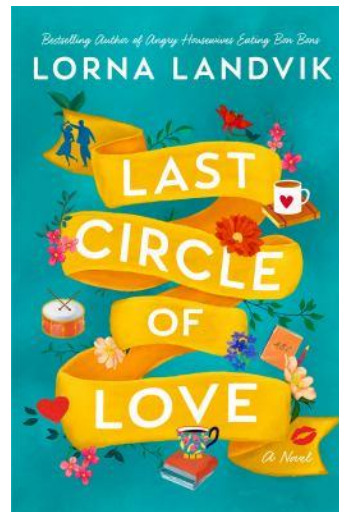
The Bandit Queens by Parini Shroff



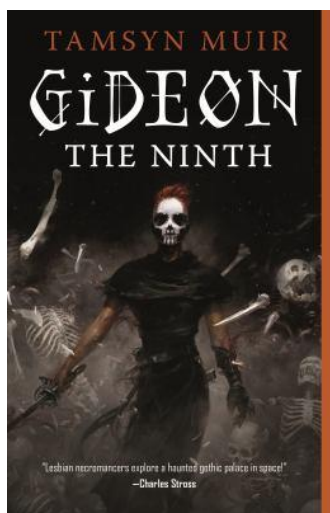
A Sunlit Weapon: A Maisie Dobbs Novel by Jacqueline Winspear



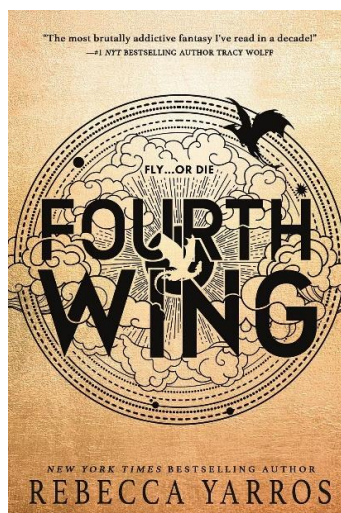
Stolen Focus: Why You Can't Pay Attention—and How to Think Deeply Again by Johann Hari



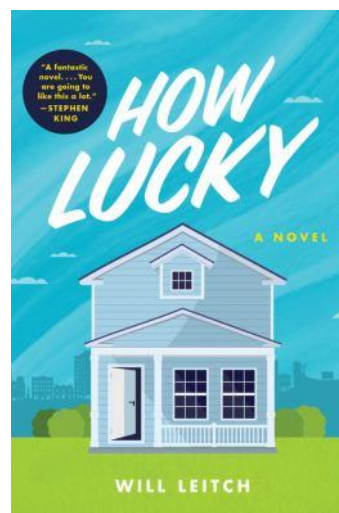
Last Circle of Love: A Novel by Lorna Landvik



Gideon the Ninth by Tamsyn Muir



Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros



How Lucky: A Novel by Will Leitch

Plymouth Library

Adult Events

Medicare Counseling

Wednesday, Feb 7, 9am-1pm

Come get help with Medicare. Registration required at <https://trellisconnects.org/get-help/medicare/>. Choose to make an in-person appointment, select Plymouth Library and a date/time.

Wednesday Afternoon Book Club

Wednesdays, Feb 7, Mar 6, Apr 3, May 1, 2-3pm

Join our discussion of new and interesting titles. Hosted by Antonio from Plymouth Library. Some lending copies will be available at the Plymouth Library service desk.

- February 7: *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* by Lori Gottlieb
- March 6: *The Christie Affair* by Nina de Gramont
- April 3: *One, Two, Three* by Laurie Frankel
- May 1: *When Women Were Dragons* by Kelly Barnhill

Monday Night Book Club

Mondays, Feb 12, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13, 6-7pm

Join our discussion of new and interesting titles. Hosted by Antonio from Plymouth Library. Some lending copies will be available at the Plymouth Library service desk. Registration is required.

- February 12: *Black Leopard, Red Wolf* by Marlon James
- March 11: *We Ride Upon Sticks* by Quan Barry
- April 8: *The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens
- May 13: *One Italian Summer* by Rebecca Serle

Knitting Club

First and Third Saturday of month, 2-4pm

Saturdays, February 3 & 17

The Knitting Club is open to adults with all skill levels. It will serve as a place to build community, spread cultural art, and connect peers who share similar interests. Registration is required due to limited space and materials available.

Spanish Club

Thursdays, starting February 1, 1-2:30pm

Meet with other adults for friendly conversation, games and activities while speaking in Spanish. For native speakers or anyone interested in learning, speaking, or practicing their Spanish skills.

Plymouth Library Language Clubs

More information about the following language clubs is on the library website.

- **English Conversation Circle**
First and Third Mondays of the month, 1-2pm
- **French Club**
First and Third Mondays of the month, 1-2pm
- **German Club**
First and Third Mondays of the month, 1-2pm
- **Evening Spanish Club**
First, Third and Fifth Mondays of the month, 5-6pm

Career Counseling and Job Search Assistance

Second and Fourth Thursdays of month, 1:30-4pm

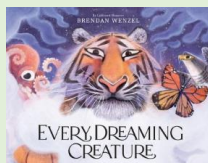
Drop in and meet with an employment counselor from CareerForce for career counseling and job search assistance. Résumé critique, job interview coaching, and effective job search strategies offered.

Awesome Books for Kids & Teens

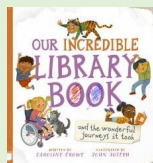
Picture Books



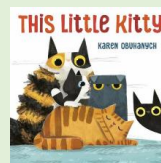
Can You Hug a Forest?, by Frances Gilbert



Every Dreaming Creature by Brendan Wenzel



*Our Incredible Library Book by Caroline Crowe



*This Little Kitty, by Karen Obuhanych



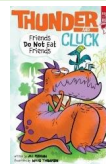
@ * Bhai for Now, by Maleeha Siddiqui (gr 3-7)



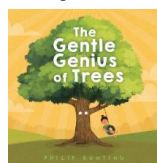
@ * Children of Stardust, by Edudzi Adodo (gr 4-7)



@ * Dogtown, by Katherine Applegate (gr 4-6)



Friends Do Not Eat Friends, by Jill Esbaum (preK-gr 2)



The Gentle Genius of Trees QK475.8 .B86 2023 (gr 2-4)



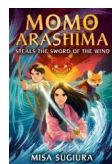
How to Eat a Book, by Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod (gr K-3)



@ * The Manifestor Prophecy, by Angie Thomas (gr 3-7)



@ * Marya Khan and the Incredible Henna Party, by Saadia Faruqi (gr 1-3)



@ * Momo Arashima Steals the Sword of the Wind, By Misa Sugiura (gr 3-7)



The Other Side of the Box, by Richard Fairgray (gr 3-6)



@ * The Spirit Glass, by Roshani Chokshi (gr 4-7)



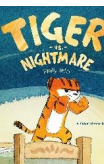
@ * A Spoonful of Time, by Flora Ahn (gr 3-6)



@ * The Swifts: a Dictionary of Scoundrels, by Beth Lincoln (gr 3-7)



* Things in the Basement, by Ben Hatke (gr 3-5)



* Tiger vs. Nightmare, by Emily Tetri (gr 1-3)



* A Winter Treasury of Recipes, Crafts, and Wisdom QH54.5 .F76 2022 (K-gr 3)

Kid Reads



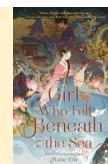
@ * As You Walk on By by Julian Winters (gr7+)



* Belle of the Ball by Mari Costa (gr 8+)



@ * Bianca Torre is Afraid of Everything by Justine Pucella Winans (gr 8+)



@ * The Girl Who Fell Beneath the Sea by Axie Oh (gr 8+)

Teen Reads



@ * The Grimoire of Grave Fates (multi author) (gr 7+)



* I'm Not Supposed to Be in the Dark by Riss Neilson (gr 9+)



@ * The Island by Natasha Preston (gr 8+)



* Unordinary 1 by Uru-chan (gr 8+)

* = eBooks available
* = graphic novel
@ = downloadable audio available

Titles on this list were compiled for students in grades k-6 by Hennepin County librarians, Nov 2023
Grade recommendations are from School Library Journal and Amazon and should be used as a guide, not as a rule.

Plymouth Library Youth Events

Baby Storytime

Mondays, Jan 22-Feb 12, 10am

No registration required. For children from birth to 24 months and their caregivers. Talk, sing, read, write and play together. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement in a format especially designed for babies.

Family Storytime

Thursdays, Feb 22-Mar 14, 10am

No registration required. For children of all ages and their caregivers. Talk, sing, read, write and play together. Share books, stories, rhymes, music and movement.

Story Yoga

Wednesdays, Feb 28-Mar 13, 6:30pm.

Register online. *Please register total number of family members (kids and adults) who will be attending this program.*

PreK-grade 2 and their favorite grownup(s). Experience yoga through stories and songs, and discover new ways to move and play together.

Move and Play

Thursday, Feb 8, 9am-12pm

Toddlers, PreKs and a favorite adult.

Explore balance and movement at the library!

Drop in to build gross motor skills and discover fun physical literacy activities together.

PreK Friday

Friday, Feb 2, 10am

No registration required.

Toddlers and preschoolers and their favorite grown-ups. Drop by the library for a fun activity!

Tap, Shake, Scrape – Percussion Instruments*

Monday, Feb 26, 10am

Register online. *Please register each child attending. A maximum of two caregivers per child may also attend.*

Join us for a fun-filled musical experience and discover percussion instruments. Led by early childhood music specialists, your family will listen to and respond to global percussion sounds together.

Read With an Animal

Sunday, Feb 4, 1:30-3pm

For kids, K-2 grade and their families, no registration required. Come have some fun and make some new friends to bring home with you. You and your adult will join in the fun of crafting {a worm, a spider, and a bug} with the provided materials!

Tutors at the Library

Mondays and Tuesdays, 4-7pm through June 1

Free in-person tutoring for K-12 students.

No advance sign-up needed.

Plymouth Library Chess Club

Thursdays, 4:30-6pm

Open to chess players of all ages and abilities, but children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Non-competitive and friendly playing only. All chess equipment will be provided. Come and have fun!

Teen Anime and Fandom Club

Sun Feb 11, 2:30-4pm

Grades 6-12. Watch anime and other shows/movies, play fun games, share your artwork, make geeky crafts, and nerd out about your favorite fandoms with others who share anime interests.

Writing Scholarship Essays*

Saturday, Feb 24, 2-3:30pm

Register online. Prepare to write your college scholarship essays by exploring your personal narrative and how to tell your story in a compelling way. Discover storytelling and persuasive strategies to showcase your experiences and describe your motivations, career aspirations and how you've overcome challenges.

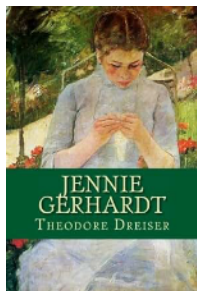
For more programming information, search www.hclib.org/events

**This program is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.*

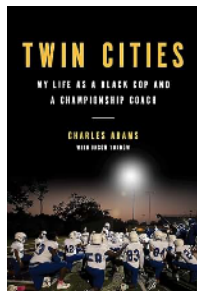
Epilogue

The Friends Recommend

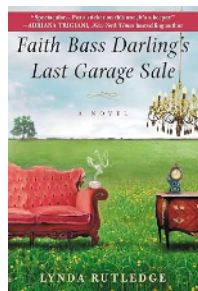
Check out these books recommended by the Board at our most recent meeting.



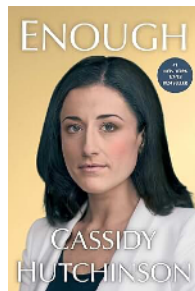
Jennie Gerhardt by Theodore Dreiser



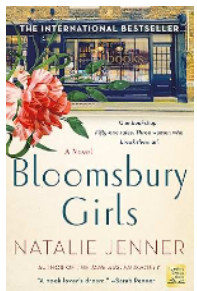
Twin Cities: My Life as a Black Cop and a Championship Coach by Charles Adams



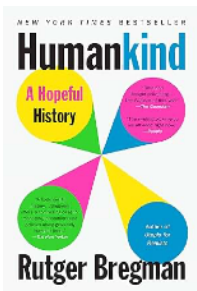
Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale by Linda Rutledge



Enough by Cassidy Hutchinson



Bloomsbury Girls by Natalie Jenner



Humankind: A Hopeful History by Rutger Bregman



Homecoming by Kate Morton



Sword Art Online - Alicization Uniting by Reki Kawahara

Bonus Bookstores

Show your Friends member card at several local independent bookstores to receive a 10% discount on your purchase!

Participating bookstores listed at

<https://www.supporthclib.org/bonus-bookstores>

Discounts may not be applicable on sale/discount items or for purchases online or by phone.

Help Us Hit 1,000 on Facebook

We're using Facebook more this year to get the word out about donation days, book sales, Plymouth Library happenings, and interesting stories in Plymouth and beyond. Follow us at <http://facebook.com/PlymouthLibraryFriends>

Getting to know you, our readers

Take a quick 3-minute survey to tell us about yourself and to give us feedback on our newsletter:

bit.ly/fopl-feb2024-survey



Thank you, Members!

This coupon entitles the Member to one FREE book* at the February 2024 book sale.

*Coupon counts towards books only. Maximum value \$2. Must present paper coupon to cashier.

Always Good to Know

Board Meetings

All members are welcome at Board meetings, which are held at the Plymouth Library on the second Thursday of each month from 6–8 PM.

Recurring Donation Days

Donations of gently used adult and children's books, DVDs, CDs, and jigsaw puzzles are accepted the first Saturday of each month from 10:30 AM to noon in the meeting room at the Plymouth Library. Donations are also accepted the Friday before each book sale, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Growing Our Endowment

In 2022, the Friends of Plymouth Library established an endowment fund to support the Hennepin County Library collection well into the future. When we have extra funds, we contribute them to the endowment. Did you know you can contribute, too? There are three options that are commonly used by individuals to help grow an endowment:

1. Making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD)
2. Including the fund in an estate plan
3. Making a legacy gift

Please consider these when making your charitable giving decisions this year. For questions, please contact us at plymouth@supporthclib.org or write us at: Friends of the Plymouth Library, P.O. Box 46232, Plymouth, MN 55446.

Plymouth Library Hours

Monday–Thursday 9 AM–8 PM
 Friday–Saturday 9 AM–5 PM
 Sunday 12 PM–5 PM

Who are we?

The Friends of the Plymouth Library (FOPL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to support the Plymouth Library by providing resources, promoting programs and services, and strengthening community. FPL volunteers also assist library staff with many activities throughout the year. Membership is open to all.

Board Members

PRESIDENT	Josh Velasquez
VICE-PRESIDENT	Carrie Almaer
TREASURER	Bernadeen Brutlag
SECRETARY	Cathy Fischer
BOOK SALES	Katherine Jaeger
MEMBERSHIP	Ellen Griffin
COMMUNICATION	Josh Velasquez
VOLUNTEERS	Sandy Hogleund
EXT. RELATIONS	Cathy Fischer
PLYMOUTH READS	LuAnn Svendsen
NOMINATIONS	Katherine Jaeger
DIRECTORS	Shannon Banks Margaret Bird Brian Wilkerson Barbara Wills
TEEN DIRECTOR	Shritha Devaraju
LIBRARY LIAISONS	Aaron Albertson Joanna Redman Steve Richter

Contact Us

plymouth@supporthclib.org
 (612) 543-5825