



Check It Out

Friends of Plymouth Library Updates Book Sale Pricing, Expands to Ridgedale in Pursuit of \$72,000 in 2026



Early birds wait for doors to open for the 9 AM members-only hour at our sale on Nov. 15, 2025. Not a member yet? Donate online or at the door!

Every book, puzzle, game, CD, and DVD purchased at our sales fuels real impact for our library. Now more than ever, our library needs this financial impact.

In 2025, Friends of the Hennepin County Library committed a record \$2.5 million in fundraising support to the Hennepin County Library. For 2026, that commitment increased to \$4 million. (See a breakdown of this commitment on pages 8-9.) This increase is driven by record usage at the Hennepin County Library system combined with local tax funding not keeping pace with the rising costs of the library's growth and impact.

HCL saw 12.8 million checkouts and 4.9 million in-person visits in 2025. These numbers are of course wonderful—they mean our libraries are serving more people than ever—but they also mean rising costs for materials, staffing, and programs.

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THIS ISSUE'S SPECIAL FEATURES

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Plymouth Library's 2025 Success, By the Numbers

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FOPL Hosting Book Sales on Jan. 31 at Plymouth, Feb. 21 at Ridgedale



Members enjoy early access to the children's books at our sale on Nov. 15, 2025.

Save the date: our ever-popular book sale returns to the Plymouth Library on Saturday, January 31.

Then, for the first time in our history, the Plymouth Friends will be taking our book sale know-how on the road with a sale at the Ridgedale Library on Saturday, February 21.

At both sales, you'll find hundreds of adult and kids' books, puzzles, games, DVDs, and CDs ranging from \$1-3.

Hours, locations, & more on [page 3](#) →

Expanding FOPL's Financial Impact From Sales in 2026

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HCL's challenge has been covering these rising costs while keeping their tax-funded budget within a 2% target. (They came in at 2.7%.) HCL has made reductions where possible, but they've also looked to other revenue sources, including the Friends.

The Friends of the Plymouth Library want to do our part to meet this moment of increased need and shared responsibility. To help strengthen our fundraising efforts, we will be making two important moves in 2026.

1 For the first time in 12 years, we're updating our book sale pricing

These new prices were considered carefully. We believe they strike the right balance between maximizing our fundraising impact while ensuring that our sales remain accessible, welcoming, and full of great finds. Book lovers and bargain hunters will still feel right at home at our sales.

2 For the first time ever, we're expanding our book sale presence to another Hennepin County Library location

Hosting an off-site sale allows us to maximize our impact by leveraging available space, sharing our book sale expertise, and bringing in more funds to support the library.

These two changes will make a significant difference in our ability to support the Plymouth Library and the broader Hennepin County Library system.

We are grateful for your understanding, your enthusiasm, and your ongoing commitment to the Plymouth Library. Together, we are helping ensure our library remains a welcoming, well-resourced hub for everyone in our community.



New book sale pricing, effective at our upcoming January 31 sale:

Adult Books

- Hardcover – \$3
- Softcover – \$2
- Mass Market Paperbacks – \$1

Children's Books

- Hardcover – \$2
- Softcover & Board Books – \$1

Media

- DVDs – \$2 per disc
- CDs – \$1 per disc
- Audiobooks – \$1 per disc

Other

- Games – \$3
- Puzzles – \$3 (All puzzles will be priced the same; piece count will no longer be a factor)
- Bag Sale – Still just \$5/bag (paper grocery bag provided by us) for the last hour of the sale at 2 PM

Prologue

Book Sale Logistics for Jan. 31 and Feb. 21

Dates & Locations:

- **Jan. 31: Plymouth Library**
15700 36th Ave N, Plymouth, MN 55446
- **Feb. 21: Ridgedale Library**
12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305

Sale Hours:

- **9–10 AM:** Exclusive early access for Friends members (join at the door!)
- **10 AM–3 PM:** Open to the general public
- **2–3 PM:** Fill entire bags (paper grocery bags provided by us) for just \$5 per bag!

Payment Methods:

Cash, check payable to FOPL, and Venmo are accepted for payment.

Volunteers Needed for Jan. 31

We are still looking for volunteers to...

- **Move boxes of books** from the truck and the back room of the library to the book sale room on Thursday Jan. 29. (*Do you know someone with a good back and a love of the library?*)
- **Place light-weight yard signs** promoting the sale on the streets near the library on Fri. Jan. 30, and pick them after the sale on Sat. Jan. 31.
- **Volunteer mid-day at the sale on Sat. Jan. 31.** (Cashiers and general volunteers needed.)
- **Help clean up** after the sale on Saturday, Jan. 31.

Sign-up online to help on January 31:

fopl.link/volunteer-booksale


Note: Volunteer sign-up for the February 21 sale at Ridgedale coming soon.


Upcoming Donation Days: Jan. 30 and Feb. 7 at Plymouth, Feb. 14 and 20 at Ridgedale

We will be accepting donations on the following days and locations:

- **Friday, January 30**, from 9 AM–3 PM at the **Plymouth Library**
- **Saturday, February 7**, from 10:30 AM–12 PM at the **Plymouth Library**
- **Saturday, February 14**, from 12–2 PM at the **Ridgedale Library**
- **Friday, February 20**, from 9 AM–3 PM at the **Ridgedale Library**

 **We gladly accept gently used adult and kids' books, DVDs, CDs, games, and jigsaw puzzles.**

 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.

2025 Year In Review: A New Chapter for FOPL

Happy New Year, Friends!

As our organization turns the page into another year, let's take this moment to look back at how we evolved in 2025, and look forward to how we're setting ourselves up for an incredible 2026:

A smooth integration with Friends of the Hennepin County Library:

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hennepin County Library and Friends of the Hennepin County Library in January, making us an official chapter of FHCL
- Evolved our newsletter, posters, bookmarks, flyers, and social media posts to match FHCL branding
- Transitioned to FHCL's joint membership program in May, which reduced administrative overhead while enhancing member benefits such as dual newsletters and broader discounts
- Maintained our identity while gaining a county-wide support network

A truly remarkable financial impact:

- Generated **\$42,027** from six book sales — our best sales year ever — **meeting and exceeding our \$30,000 annual goal**
- Introduced Venmo as a payment option at the July sale: 204 transactions and \$3,405 in payments across three sales
- Granted **\$27,008 in legacy cash** (matured CDs and direct donations) to FHCL for a **total financial impact of \$70,854 in 2025!**
- More detail in the Treasurer's 2025 Wrap-up on [page 7](#) →

An outstanding year for experimentation and collaboration:

- Ever-evolving book sale footprints and layouts, making the entry, shopping, and checkout experiences more efficient and comfortable while also putting annexed library spaces back into service much earlier
- Refined the Venmo payment option rollout in collaboration with FHCL
- Collaborated with Plymouth Library leadership to expand our organic and paid Facebook promotion efforts to promote six library programs, reaching 8,000+ unique Facebook users



Josh Velasquez,
President &
Communications Co-chair

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Celebrated 15 years of Plymouth READS:

- The author event with Mona Susan Power on April 10 drew nearly 100 attendees
- HCL Director Scott Duimstra presented a proclamation honoring LuAnn Svendsen's 15 years of leadership

Strong community engagement:

- **665 total Plymouth members** through FHCL's joint membership program
- **114 FOPL volunteers and dozens of Wayzata High School volunteers** for donation days, discards packing, and book sales in 2025
- Added **two new FOPL Board members:** Megan Kohls and Jennie Reece
- Fourth consecutive year at Discover Plymouth: **500 visitors**, 30 library cards, 380 prize wheel spins, 167 books distributed, \$450 in book sale vouchers donated by FOPL
- **1,355 Facebook followers**, adding 270 net follows in 2025, a 25% increase over the year

Looking ahead to 2026:

- Another six Plymouth sales in 2026, plus one FOPL-hosted "traveling" sale at Ridgedale, along with updated pricing which should allow us to far exceed our 2025 numbers
- Looking forward to our first endowment appropriation coming in Q1 2026
- Continued discussions and innovation on how to grow our financial support for FHCL in 2026

Bottom line: 2025 was a year of transition, growth, learning, and remarkable community support for our library and our organization.

Thank you!

Warm Regards,

Josh Velasquez

President & Communications Co-chair



A meeting on January 4, 2025, to discuss implementing our first-ever expanded book sale footprint.



The Plymouth READS committee with featured author Mona Susan Power after her talk on April 10, 2025.



Volunteers set up the fiction section on July 11, 2025, in advance of the book sale the next day.



Thank You, Volunteers!

We're grateful for all 114 of you
who made our book sales a
huge success in 2025



Treasurer's 2025 Financial Wrap-up



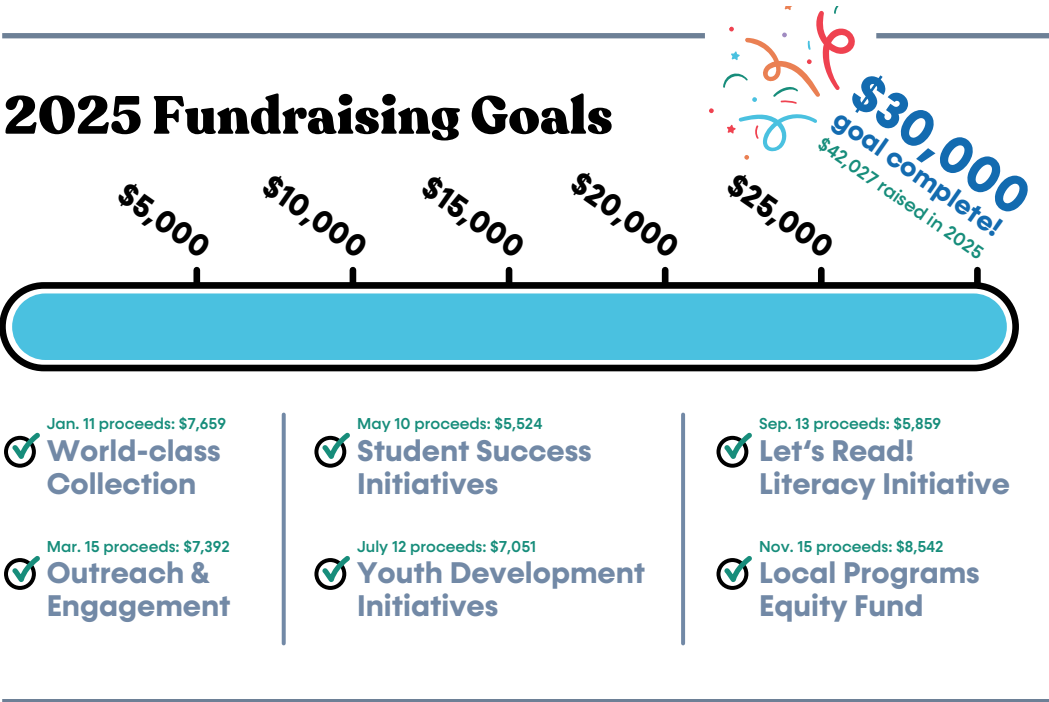
Bernadeen Brutlag,
Treasurer

Successful fundraising continued in 2025. The primary focus of our fundraising efforts was our six book sales, which raised \$42,027, breaking old records and making 2025 the most successful year yet for book sales. In addition, every day in our library lobby, we offer, for a donation of your choice, used books on our Ready Reads carts. Donations for these books in 2025 totaled \$6,258.

We sent grants of \$40,195 to Friends of the Hennepin County Library (FHCL). An additional \$3,633 went directly to the FHCL from our customers who paid using Venmo, for a total to FHCL of \$43,828 from our fundraising activities. These funds helped to support the World-Class Collection, and the initiatives of Outreach and Engagement, Student Success, Youth Development, Let's Read Literacy, and the Equity Fund for Local Programs for the 41 libraries.

The Friends of the Plymouth Library \$25,000 endowment fund that was set up in November 2022 had a value of \$34,507 at the end of 2025, a 38 percent increase since it was established. This endowment is designated for the collection. The first appropriation will occur in the first quarter of 2026.

The financial support we are able to provide to FHCL for the benefit of all libraries in the Hennepin County system is made possible by all the enthusiastic shoppers at our book sales. We will have six sales at the Plymouth Library this year. At every sale we have a great selection of bargain-priced books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles. Check them out at our upcoming sales on January 31 at the Plymouth Library and February 21 at the Ridgedale Library.



2026 FHCL Funding Commitment to HCL

\$1,470,000

WORLD-CLASS COLLECTION

EXPANDING ACCESS TO BOOKS, MUSIC, AND E-RESOURCES

Expanding the print and digital collections, preserving and digitizing local history, providing access to Minnesota music, and more.

\$935,000

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

EXTENDING RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Offering patron-responsive programs to communities served by all 41 libraries including youth, families, the homebound, and the incarcerated.

\$905,000

STUDENT SUCCESS

CHAMPIONING LITERACY AND LEARNING

Providing students with Let's Read literacy support and Homework Help tutoring to improve foundational reading skills, master academic concepts, and build confidence.

\$690,000

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

Developing strong leaders through teen tech initiatives, youth internship opportunities, and early learning spaces that inspire creativity and foster curiosity.



**TOTAL 2026
FHCL FUNDING
COMMITMENT**

2026 FHCL Funding Commitment to HCL

Detailed List of Programs and Initiatives



FUNDING COMMITMENT

World-Class Collection	\$1,470,000
General circulating collection (print, audio, and ebooks)	\$1,270,000
Books and materials for library programs	\$100,000
Special Collections (preservation and digitization)	\$55,000
MNspin (local music streaming service)	\$45,000
Outreach & Engagement	\$935,000
Local programs & resources at 41 Libraries (Equity Fund)	\$300,000
Regional programs (adult programs, book clubs, etc.)	\$200,000
Services to homebound patrons	\$205,000
Services to incarcerated patrons	\$80,000
Mary Ann Key Antiracist Book Club (print copies, no-hold ebooks)	\$60,000
Library collections at 19 homeless shelters	\$50,000
Public awareness (library passports, marketing initiatives, etc.)	\$40,000
Student Success	\$905,000
Let's Read (literacy initiative)	\$590,000
Homework Help (after-school tutoring)	\$315,000
Youth Development	\$690,000
STEAM Squad (science, technology, engineering, art, and math program)	\$200,000
Teen interns across 41 libraries	\$165,000
Teen Tech Center at Minneapolis Central Library	\$150,000
Youth summer programs	\$75,000
Early learning and youth spaces	\$85,000
Library Youth Advisory Committee (14 paid positions)	\$15,000
Total FHCL Funding to HCL	\$4,000,000

Extra! Extra! Read All About FOPL's Impact in the Dec. 25 Sun Sailor

The Plymouth-Wayzata Sun Sailor delivered a nice Christmas gift when they published a year-end story in their December 25, 2025, print issue. The story highlighted our accomplishments in 2025 and our intentions for 2026.



FOPL's strategic approach to growing awareness, appreciation and financial support for our library is second to none, and I'm thrilled to be working together towards this shared goal of increased funding."

— Kristi Pearson

Executive Director & CEO
Friends of the Hennepin County Library

The book sales by the Friends of the Plymouth Library are an instrumental part of our programming and collections for all ages at the Plymouth Library."

— Scott Duimstra

Director, Hennepin County Library

Kristi Pearson and Scott Duimstra were kind enough to contribute several complimentary quotes to the story, as shown here.

If you have a subscription to the Sun Sailor, you can read the full article online:

fopl.link/sun-sailor-story →

Subscription required

Plymouth Library’s 2025 Success By The Numbers

Plymouth Library Still #1 in HCL System for Checkouts

2025 Checkouts
466,705
2025 Returns
470,297
2025 Visitors
280,065
2025 New Library Cards
3,189
Active Plymouth Library Cards
30,819

Plymouth Library Book Sale Day Visitors	
Jan 11, 2025	2,131
Mar 15, 2025	1,902
May 10, 2025	1,389
Jul 12, 2025	1,650
Sep 13, 2025	1,557
Nov 15, 2025	1,905
Plymouth Library Monthly Visitors	
Jan '25	23,022
Feb '25	18,904
Mar '25	25,268
Apr '25	22,241
May '25	22,311
Jun '25	26,422
Jul '25	28,682
Aug '25	24,930
Sep '25	23,694
Oct '25	23,715
Nov '25	22,069
Dec '25	18,807

Plymouth Library's Top 10 Most Circulated in 2025



**Dog Man:
Big Jim Begins**
Dav Pilkey



**Dog Man: The
Scarlet Shedder**
Dav Pilkey



**People
Magazine**



**Classic &
Sports Car**



**Cat Kid
Comic Club:
Collaborations**
Dav Pilkey



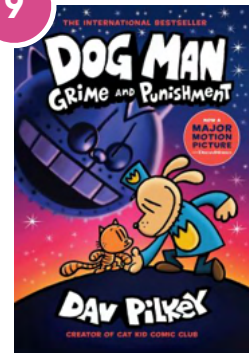
**Cat Kid Comic
Club: Influencers**
Dav Pilkey



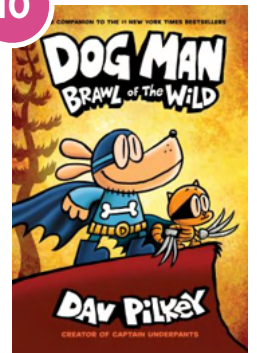
**Consumer
Reports**



**The Baby-sitters
Club 16, Kristy and
the Walking
Disaster**
Ann M. Martin &
Ellen T. Crenshaw



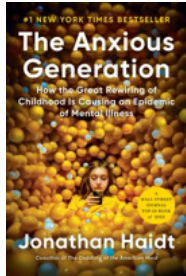
**Dog Man: Grime
and Punishment**
Dav Pilkey



**Dog Man:
Brawl of the Wild**
Dav Pilkey

Plymouth Library's Top Circulated Per Genre in 2025

ADULT NON-FICTION



The Anxious Generation
Jonathan Haidt

ADULT BIOGRAPHY



I'm Glad My Mom Died
Jennette McCurdy

ADULT TRAVEL



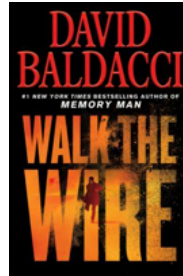
Paris
Rick Steves

ADULT LANGUAGES



Yuan jian za zhi
(Chinese monthly periodical)

ADULT AUDIOBOOK



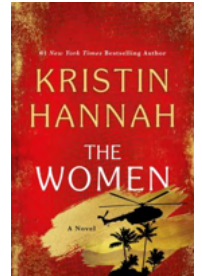
Walk the Wire
David Baldacci

ADULT DVD



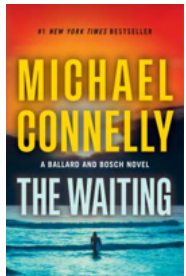
Oppenheimer

ADULT FICTION



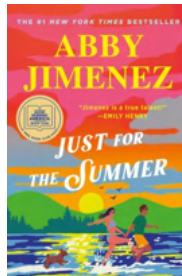
The Women
Kristin Hannah

ADULT MYSTERY



The Waiting
Michael Connelly

ADULT ROMANCE



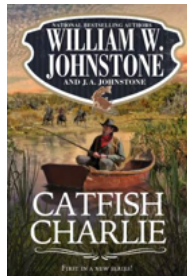
Just for the Summer
Abby Jimenez

ADULT SCI-FI/ FANTASY



Fourth Wing
Rebecca Yarros

ADULT WESTERN



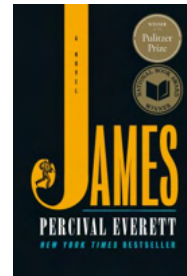
Catfish Charlie
William W. Johnstone

ADULT GRAPHIC NOVEL



Spy X Family. 4
Tatsuya Endō

ADULT LARGE PRINT



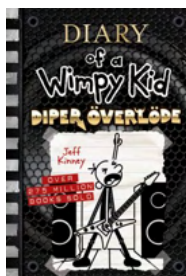
James
Percival Everett

ADULT MUSIC CD



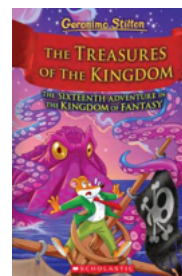
Beautifully Broken
Plumb

JUVENILE FICTION



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Diper Överlöde
Jeff Kinney

JUVENILE FICTION SERIES



Treasures of the Kingdom: the 16th Adventure in the Kingdom of Fantasy
Geronimo Stilton

JUVENILE GRAPHIC NOVEL



Dog Man: Big Jim Begins
Dav Pilkey

JUVENILE FIG. LARGE PRINT



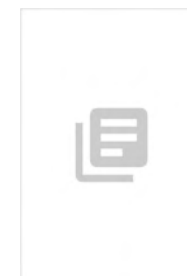
The One and Only Ivan
Katherine Applegate

JUVENILE NON-FICTION



Big Nate. Move It or Lose It!
Lincoln Peirce

JUVENILE LANGUAGE



Xin xiao Niudun
(Chinese)

JUVENILE AUDIOBOOK



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hot Mess
Jeff Kinney

Meet the FOPL Board: Barb Marshall

Barb joined the Board in February 2024 and currently serves as our Nominations Chair and co-chair for our Donation Days

WHERE HAS LIFE TAKEN YOU BEFORE PLYMOUTH?

I'm originally from Massachusetts and lived in different parts of New England (NH, NJ, NY) for school and work before moving to the Midwest after graduate school. We initially settled in Indianapolis, IN then followed jobs to Winona, MN and Charlotte, NC before landing in Plymouth in 2008.

WHAT'S YOUR EARLIEST LIBRARY MEMORY?

My grandmother was trained as a librarian, so I always received books for birthdays and holidays. My earliest memory of a library is actually the bookmobile that would come to our elementary school. I loved the idea of a library on wheels and was thrilled to pick out a book on my own.

WHAT'S A SURPRISING HOBBY OR SKILL YOU HAVE?

Over the last few years, I have developed a passion for genealogy. I enjoy researching my family history and putting the puzzle pieces together.

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING?

I just finished reading *The Many Lives of Mama Love* by Lara Love Hardin. I don't read many memoirs but this one was recommended by a fellow Friend of the Library and is an incredible story about overcoming one's own self-criticism and the judgment of others to navigate a world that makes it almost impossible to move beyond the worst thing we have ever done.



WHAT'S YOUR IDEAL READING SPOT?

Any place where I can curl up with a good book in a sunny spot. I often sit on the (carpeted) floor to read, a habit carried forward from my younger years.

WHAT BOOK DO YOU RECOMMEND MOST OFTEN?

The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue by V. E. Schwab. It's a fascinating reminder of both the human need for belonging & connection and what it takes to be remembered over time.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO JOIN THE FOPL BOARD?

I have always loved being around books and wanted to give back to my community in retirement. While I enjoy working alongside other book lovers and recognize the importance of the library in providing access to books, I also know the joy of having one's own books. The Friends not only ensures that donated/discarded books remain in our community but also makes it affordable for everyone to build their own little library of favorites — all while raising much needed funding to support library programs that help the entire community.

WHAT PERSPECTIVE DO YOU BRING TO THE BOARD?

I bring a business background to the Board as well as experience with other non-profit Boards focused on education and advancement.



Getting to Know Joanna Redman, Plymouth's Teen Services Librarian

If you live in Hennepin County and spend time on Facebook, you might spot a Plymouth Library superstar scroll by in your feed.

Joanna Redman is Plymouth's Teen Services Librarian and is currently featured alongside an adorable co-star in several promotional photos for the Friends of the Hennepin County Library. (Read on to see the photos!)

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY AT THE PLYMOUTH LIBRARY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

I spend my days working at the Customer Service Desk helping people find books, information for school, business, or life, and assorted tech-related questions. I'm also responsible for maintaining the teen fiction and graphic novels, which means I periodically go through the section looking for worn/damaged/broken books. I am involved in Outreach with the schools and in the community, and I run a Teen Advisory Group and a Summer Teen Volunteer group that help with teen and kid programs.



WHAT FIRST SPARKED YOUR INTEREST IN WORKING IN LIBRARIES? WAS THERE A PARTICULAR MOMENT OR INFLUENCE THAT DREW YOU IN?

When I was young, Saturdays were the days I would spend with my dad at our local library. We would walk in, he'd wander to the adult area and I would wander into the kids area and we would spend hours finding and reading books then meet back in the middle to check out and go home. It was a quiet happy lovely time. When I was a young adult I was a nanny and would take my three nannylings to the library at least once a week. In the summer we traveled all over the metro area attending all the different summer programs the libraries offered. Those were happy lively times! When it came time to decide what grown-up me would do I knew I wanted a job that offered me something different, day to day, and that let me continue my work with kids and families. I had to look no further than my own life to see a place that gave me this.

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Photos courtesy of
Friends of the Hennepin
County Library

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WHERE DID YOU GROW UP, AND HOW HAS THAT SHAPED WHO YOU ARE TODAY?

I am a Minnesotan through and through. I am a Hennepin county resident through and through! When I was young I lived within walking distance of the Washburn library. I then lived biking distance from the Edina library. My new home is about the same distance from the Eden Prairie Library. Libraries shape my world.

WHERE DO YOU CALL HOME?

Eden Prairie!

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD?

I've got an older and younger brother. Both are married with children. My five niblings range in age from 13 to 19 and are the best and most wonderful children in the world (outside of my nannylings and, of course, your kids are pretty nifty, too). I've got a very affectionate dog named Tory and a very shy cat that no one believes exists, named Hermie.

WHEN YOU'RE NOT AT THE LIBRARY, HOW DO YOU LIKE TO SPEND YOUR TIME?

I am a big reader, I have regular board game nights with some friends, and I enjoy spending time at the family cabin.



WHAT KINDS OF BOOKS DO YOU LOVE TO READ?

My go-to genres are non-fiction, fantasy, comedy, and romance. My fave subsection to any of those is anything that has an assured happy ending.

IS THERE A BOOK THAT CHANGED YOUR PERSPECTIVE OR MADE A LASTING IMPRESSION ON YOU?

"I am a part of everything I have read"

—Theodore Roosevelt

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BOOK YOU FIND YOURSELF RECOMMENDING OVER AND OVER AGAIN?

At least once a year I reread the *Queen's Thief* series by Megan Whalen Turner. The first book (*The Thief*) was a Newbery Honor Book and the third book (*King of Attolia*) was a Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults. The writing and plotting is clever. The characters are engaging and smart.

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WHAT'S THE BEST BOOK YOU'VE READ LATELY? (NO PRESSURE TO CHOOSE JUST ONE!)

My favorite books of 2025 were *Don't Trust Fish* by Neil Sharpson and Dan Santat, *A Fragile Enchantment* by Allison Saft, and *The Darkness Outside Us* by Eliot Schrefer.

WHAT'S A HIDDEN TALENT OR SURPRISING SKILL YOU HAVE?

My lack of hidden talents or surprising skills.

WHAT'S SOMETHING FUN OR QUIRKY MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I once painted a bat's toenails.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING AT THE PLYMOUTH LIBRARY SO FAR?

100% the people I work with and our patrons.

Lightning Round with Joanna Redman

COFFEE OR TEA?

Tea – specifically, sweet and spicy good earth blend

FICTION OR NONFICTION?

You can't make me choose

EARLY BIRD OR NIGHT OWL?

Night Owl

FAVORITE SEASON OF THE YEAR?

Autumn

CATS OR DOGS (OR ANOTHER FAVORITE ANIMAL)?

I've got a cat and a dog, love em both.

MOST-USED LIBRARY SERVICE? (BESIDES BOOKS!)

Libby (unless that still counts as books. Otherwise: LearningExpress Library)

BOOK YOU WISH YOU HAD TIME TO READ?

My holds list and my tbr pile at home may as well be infinite.

DEWEY DECIMAL OR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS?

🤔 Dewey

ONE WORD YOUR FRIENDS WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE YOU?

Loud

IF YOU COULD INVITE ANY AUTHOR (LIVING OR PASSED) TO A DINNER PARTY, WHO WOULD IT BE?

This answer definitely changes depending on when you ask. Right now I'd probably say MT Anderson (living!) he's an uber smart guy who writes wildly different types of books and they often have something deeper to say about where we are living now



Plymouth Library

15700 36th Ave. N., Plymouth | 612.543.5825 | hclib.org

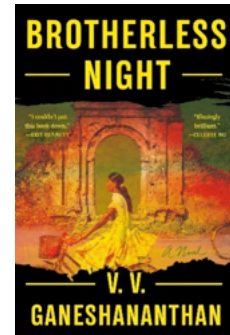
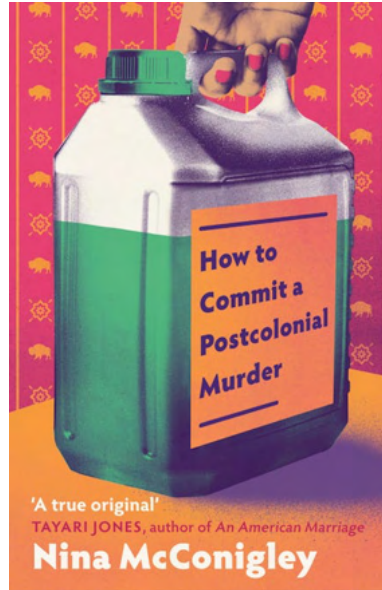
Try Ukulele

Register at www.hclib.org/events or call 612-543-5825
Thursday, January 15, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Brighten up the day with the sunny sounds of the ukulele! This single-session program is a hands-on introduction to the ukulele and how to play it. Attendees will learn about the instrument and how to play their first few chords. Led by Hennepin County Library staff. Ukuleles provided. No musical background needed. For adults, but high schoolers welcome. Registration required.

HENNEPIN COUNTY
LIBRARY





Plymouth Library

15700 36th Ave. N., Plymouth | 612.543.5825 | hclib.org

Author Talk: Nina McConigley

in Conversation with V. V. Ganeshanathan

Saturday, March 7, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Register at www.hclib.org/events or call 612-543-5825

Award-winning author Nina McConigley will discuss her highly anticipated new book *How to Commit a Postcolonial Murder*, “a bold, inventive, and fiercely original debut novel that begins with an uncle dead and his tween niece’s private confession to the reader.” Nina will be joined in conversation by local author V. V. Ganeshanathan, whose award-winning *Brotherless Night* (2023) was a *New York Times* Editors’ Choice and an NPR Book of the Year. Followed by Q&A. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Collaborator: Valley Bookseller.

HENNEPIN COUNTY
LIBRARY





Plymouth Library

15700 36th Ave. N., Plymouth | 612.543.5825 | hclib.org

Jumpstarting Creativity

Saturday, March 28, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Register at www.hclib.org/events or call 612-543-5825

Every story grows from the seed of an idea. Generating ideas and developing them into a compelling piece of fiction can be tricky, particularly in the beginning stages. Learn creative exercises, brainstorming techniques, and writing habits that inspire confidence to explore your ideas and free your imagination.

Collaborator: The Loft Literary Center. This program is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

HENNEPIN COUNTY
LIBRARY



Plymouth Library Adult Events



Try Ukulele

Thursday, January 15, 4-5pm

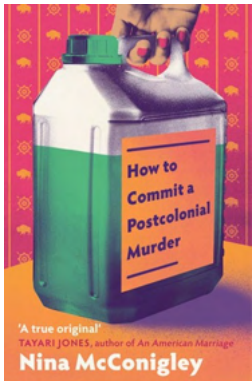
Brighten up the day with the sunny sounds of the ukulele! This single-session program is a hands-on introduction to the ukulele and how to play it. Attendees will learn about the instrument and how to play their first few chords. Led by Hennepin County Library staff. Ukuleles provided. No musical background needed. For adults, but high schoolers welcome. Registration required: hclib.org/events

Author Talk: Nina McConigley in Conversation with V. V. Ganeshananthan

Saturday, March 7, 2-3pm



Awarding-winning author Nina McConigley will discuss her highly anticipated new book *How to Commit a Postcolonial Murder*, "a bold, inventive, and fiercely original debut novel that begins with an uncle dead and his tween niece's private confession to the reader." Nina will be joined in conversation by local author V. V. Ganeshananthan, whose award-winning *Brotherless Night* (2023) was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and an NPR Book of the Year. Followed by Q&A. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Collaborator: Valley Bookseller.



Jumpstarting Creativity*

Saturday, March 28, 2-3:30pm

Every story grows from the seed of an idea. Generating ideas and developing them into a compelling piece of fiction can be tricky, particularly in the beginning stages. Learn creative exercises, brainstorming techniques, and writing habits that inspire confidence to explore your ideas and free your imagination. Collaborator: The Loft Literary Center. Registration required: hclib.org/events

Computer and Tech Help

Receive one-on-one help at Plymouth Library with a tech volunteer. Get help with setting up an email account, working on a Microsoft document, working with e-readers, tablets, laptops, cell phones, scanning, faxing and more. No appointment necessary. Call ahead to verify volunteer availability.

Sundays, 1-3pm

Mondays, 2-5pm

Tuesdays, 2-6pm

Wednesdays, 2-5pm

Thursdays, 2-5pm

Fridays, 2-4pm (no Tech Help Friday, Jan. 2)

Monday Night Book Club

Second Monday of the month, 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 required: hclib.org/events



Titles:

January 12: *I'm Glad My Mom Died* by Jannette McCurdy

February 9: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

March 9: *You Are Here* by David Nicholls

Plymouth Library Adult Events

(Continued!)

Bring Your Own Book - Book Club

First Tuesday of the month, 6-7pm

Join us at the Luce Line Brewing Company for a casual, commitment-free book club and discuss what books you are reading with the group. You may hear about books you'd like to read and ones you may not have considered before. Purchase of refreshments is not required to participate. Collaborator: Luce Line Brewing Company.

Wednesday Afternoon Book Club

First Wednesday of the month, 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. Drop in.



Titles:

January 7: *The Travelling Cat Chronicles* by Hiro Arikawa

February 4: *South to America* by Imani Perry

March 4: *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore

History Discussion Club

Second Wednesday of the month, 2-3pm

Each session we will dive into a fascinating historical topic, event or era. We all read a history packet comprised of news articles, database journal excerpts and book snippets before the discussion. There will be some physical packets available at Plymouth Library by the service desk. You won't need to read everything but come ready to have a conversation. Every month we will alternate meeting at the Plymouth Library (Py) or at the Old Town Hall (OTH). Collaborator: Plymouth History Center. Register: hclib.org/events

Topics:

January: No meeting in January

February 11: Dred and Harriet Scott (@ OTH)

March 11: History of Protest in MN (@ Py)

Medicare Counseling

First Wednesday of the month, 9:30am-1:30pm (no session in January)

Get free help answering your Medicare questions with Senior LinkAge Line.

Registration is required and can be done at

<https://trellisconnects.org/get-help/medicare/>

Choose to make an in-person appointment, select Plymouth Library and a date/time. Or call Senior LinkAge Line at 800-333-2433. Registration closes four days before the date. Collaborators: Trellis, Minnesota Senior LinkAge Line.

Knitting Club

Fridays, January 23, February 20, & March 20, 2-4pm

For all skill levels. The process of knitting is relaxing and even therapeutic. Make new friends while creating your own handmade masterpieces. Learn how to knit or practice new techniques. Bring your own needles and yarn. Drop in.

Plymouth Library Language Clubs

Learn more about the language clubs offered at Plymouth Library: hclib.org/events

English Conversation Circle

Mondays, 10-11am (no meetings Jan. 19, & Feb. 16)

French Club

Mondays, 1-2pm (no meetings Jan. 19, Feb. 16, & Mar. 30)

Spanish Club

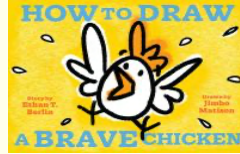
First and third Thursday of the month, February 5 & 19; March 5 & 19, 1-2:30pm (no meetings in January)

Awesome Books for Kids & Teens

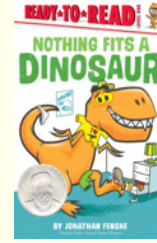
Picture Books



* Becoming Boba
by Joanna Ho (preK-gr3)



How to Draw a Brave Chicken
by Ethan T. Berlin (preK-gr3)



@ Nothing Fits a Dinosaur
by Jonathan Fenske (preK-gr2)

Kid Books



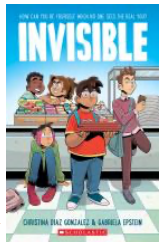
The Awesome Book of Edible
Experiments for Kids
Q182.3 .B53 (gr3-7)



@ Falling Short
by Ernesto Cisneros (gr4-7)



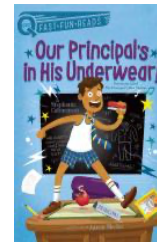
Find My Favorite Things
GV1507.P47 S45 (prek-gr1)



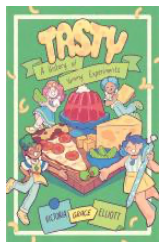
★ Invisible
by Christina Diaz Gonzalez (gr4-7)



@ * Just Right Jillian
by Nicole D. Collier (gr4-7)



Our Principal's in His Underwear!
by Stephanie Calmenson (k-gr3)



★ Tasty
by Victoria Grace Elliot (gr3-7)

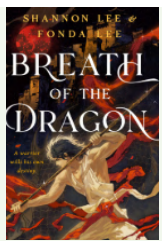


★ When Pigs Fly
by Rob Harrell (gr2+)



Why? Animals
QL49 .B43 (gr3-7)

Teen Books



@ * Breath of the Dragon
by Shannon Lee (gr7+)



* Call Me Iggy
by Jorge Augusto Acuirre (gr9+)



* A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and
Tomorrow by Laura Namey (gr7+)

Titles on this list were compiled for students in grades k-6 by Hennepin County librarians, Nov 2025

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

Grade recommendations are from School Library Journal and Amazon and should be used as a guide, not as a rule.

Awesome Events for Kids

Baby Storytime

Mondays, **Jan 12, 26, Feb 9, 23, Mar 9-23**, 10-11am

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

Family Storytime

Thursdays, **Jan 15-Feb 5, Feb 19-Mar 19**, 10-10:45am

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, **Jan 14-28, Feb 25-Mar 11** 6:30-7:15pm.
Register online.

PreK–grade 2 and their favorite grownup. Experience yoga through stories and songs and discover new ways to move and play together.

PreK Fridays!

Friday, **Feb 6**, 10-10:30am

For toddlers and PreKs and their favorite grownups. Drop by for a different fun activity every week! **No registration required.**

Discovery Theatre: Dinosaurs!

Saturday, **Feb 28**, 1-2pm

Kindergarten-grade 2 and their caregivers. Roar, stomp, and act along with teaching artists on this dinosaur adventure! How do dinosaurs move? What do they sound like? If they could talk, what would dinosaurs say? Learn the actor's toolkit of body, voice, and imagination and how they can be combined to create a one-of-a-kind dino-themed adventure. Collaborator: Children's Theatre Company. This program is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. **No registration required.**

Homework Help – Tutors at the Library

Mondays and Tuesdays, 4-7pm

Free in-person tutoring for K-12 students.

No registration required. More info on next page →

Awesome Events for Teens

Teen Anime Club

Sunday, **Feb 15**, 3-4:30pm

For teens in grades 6–12. Come watch anime, talk manga, eat snacks, and connect with other teens who share your interests! **No registration required.**

Textiles for Teens: Pattern Design Studio

Sunday **Feb 8**, 1-2:30pm

For teens in grades 8-12. Get a jump start on your surface design career! Design your own repeating pattern using traditional illustration techniques and then print your pattern on a cotton tote bag. Take your pattern block home to use again and again. Materials provided. Collaborator: Textile Center. This program is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. **Registration required.**

Plymouth Teen Programming is in Great Hands

Read this month's spotlight on Joanna Redman, Plymouth's Teen Services Librarian, on [page 15](#) →



For complete programming information:
www.hclib.org/events

free HOMEWORK HELP



2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Online Resources and Services

FREE WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD!

Access online tutors and online writing help

Visit hclib.org/homework to access HelpNow for live tutoring in every subject area, proofreading and writing support, and help for language learners. Live tutoring is available in English and Spanish 7 days per week from 1-11 p.m. Use your library card to connect.

Borrow and download eBooks and eAudio

Visit melsa.overdrive.com to borrow and download eBooks and eAudio from home! You can also find book lists created by library staff for inspiration at hclib.org.

Find primary and secondary sources, articles and information

Visit hclib.org/homework to find primary and secondary sources and information about history, geography, math, science, and more.

Need help learning to use library resources online?

Niche Academy (my.nicheacademy.com/hclib) contains video tutorials in English and Spanish on using a variety of the library's online resources.

Contact information

ask us

call 612-543-KNOW (5669)
text 'hclib' to 612-400-7722
email www.hclib.org/askus

Tutors at the Library

Free in-person tutoring for K-12 students at 17 locations. No advance sign-up needed.

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
Augsburg Park 7100 Nicollet Ave. Richfield	—	5-7:30	5-7:30	—	—	—	—
Brookdale 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy. Brooklyn Center	4:30-7:30	4:30-7:30	—	—	—	—	—
Brooklyn Park 8500 W. Broadway Ave.	—	—	4-7:30	4-7:30	—	—	—
Cedar Riverside Opportunity Center 505 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis	—	3:30-6:30	—	3:30-6:30	—	—	—
East Lake 2727 E. Lake St., Minneapolis	4:30-7:30	4:30-7:30	4:30-7:30	—	—	—	—
Eden Prairie 565 Prairie Center Dr.	—	5:30-7:30	5:30-7:30	—	—	—	—
Franklin 1314 E. Franklin Ave. Minneapolis	—	4-7:30	—	4-7:30	—	2-5	—
Hopkins 22 11th Ave. N.	3:30-5:30	—	—	—	—	3-5	—
Hosmer 347 E. 36th St., Minneapolis	4-7:30	—	4-7:30	—	—	—	12-3
Nokomis 5100 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis	3:30-7:30	—	—	—	—	1-4	—
North Regional 1315 Lowry Ave. N. Minneapolis	4-7	4-7	—	—	—	—	—
Northeast 2200 Central Ave. N.E. Minneapolis	—	—	5-7:30	5-7:30	—	—	—
Plymouth 15700 36th Ave. N.	4-7	4-7	—	—	—	—	—
Rockford Road 6401 42nd Ave. N., Crystal	—	—	4:30-7:30	4:30-7:30	—	—	—
Roosevelt 4026 28th Ave. S., Minneapolis	—	3:15-5	3:15-7:30	3:15-7:30	—	—	—
Sumner 611 Van White Memorial Blvd. Minneapolis	4-7	—	—	4-7	—	—	—
Webber Park 4440 Humboldt Ave. N. Minneapolis	—	4:30-7:30	—	4:30-7:30	—	—	—

Funded by Friends of the Hennepin County Library.

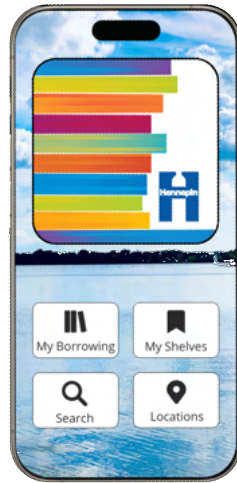
HCL 12/2025

Did You Know?

Download the new HCL App

Explore the library wherever you are with the new Hennepin County Library mobile app.

- Display your barcode
- Manage multiple accounts
- Discover library events



Available for Apple and Android devices



<http://fopl.link/hcl-appstore>



<http://fopl.link/hcl-googleplay>

At Home Service

A free service for any Hennepin County resident unable to visit the library due to illness, disability or visual impairment.

Call 612-543-8850 or apply online at www.hclib.org/outreach

Ask Us Service

Your library. Here for you.

- **Call:** 612-543-KNOW (5669)
- **Chat or email:** www.hclib.org/askus
- **Text:** 612-400-7722

Get a free library card

All Hennepin County residents are encouraged to get their own individual library cards!

Visit one of the 41 Hennepin County libraries — or get a card online, instantly. Scan to sign up for your free library card or visit www.hclib.org/card



Free things to do with your library card

- Borrow from a collection of more than **4 million items**.
- Watch **movies and TV shows** on your mobile device.
- Stream or download **music** from Minnesota artists on MNspin.
- Learn over 70 **languages** online.
- Listen to 100,000+ **audiobooks for adults, teens, and children**.
- Print up to \$5 of **free printing** each week.
- Connect to **Wi-Fi** in welcoming library spaces.
- Study with online or in-person **homework help** tutors.
- Reserve a **meeting room** for yourself or a group.

Accurate as of February 2025. Available services subject to change at any time.

Member Reminders

Maintaining Your Membership

The Friends of the Plymouth Library has officially transitioned to a joint membership program with Friends of the Hennepin County Library.

Your gift to Friends of HCL of any amount that's meaningful to you gets you membership for a year from the date of your gift.

We suggest an annual donation of \$25 or more. If you can give any amount on a recurring basis, that makes an even bigger impact as it gives us some predictability in our fundraising.

To our current and renewing members: thank you!

To our prospective members: we hope you'll join us today! Scan the QR code or visit the website on the right side of this page to join. You can also visit us at our next book sale to join at the door.




Thank you, Members!

This coupon entitles the Member to one FREE book* at the January 31, 2026 sale.

**Coupon counts towards books only.*

Maximum value \$3. Must present coupon to cashier at checkout.

Enjoy the Perks of Being Friends

All members receive these special benefits:

Discounts at Local Bookstores and Library Friends Events

- Fuel your literary love with a 10% discount at [select area bookstores](#).
- See your favorite authors live with discounts to [Pen Pals](#) and more.

Special Invites

Have fun with your friends by attending member-only events and members-only preview hours at local library book sales, including Plymouth!

This Plymouth Friends Newsletter

Includes this coupon for a free book at our next Plymouth Library sale! Look for these coupons in every Friends of the Plymouth Library newsletter, sent exclusively to our members before each sale.

The Friends of HCL Newsletter

Receive the latest library and Friends news in the fun and informative [Friends of the Hennepin County Library newsletter](#) along with one-of-a-kind bookmarks!

Ready to join or renew?

Give now at

supporthclib.org/join-plymouth



IMPORTANT: Be sure to select Plymouth as your favorite library when you fill out the form to register as a Plymouth member

Epilogue

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 unless otherwise announced.

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 AM to 3 PM.

Growing Our Endowment

The Friends of Plymouth Library established an endowment fund in 2022 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@supportthelib.org or write us at: Friends of the Plymouth Library, 15700 36th Ave N, Plymouth, MN 55446.

Plymouth Library Hours

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

Upcoming library closures: Monday January 19 (MLK Jr. Day) and Monday February 16 (President’s Day)

Who are we?

The Friends of the Plymouth Library 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. FOPL 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	Ellen Griffin
BOOK SALES	Katherine Jaeger Megan Kohls
DONATION DAYS	Sandy Hoglund Barb Marshall
MEMBERSHIP	Ellen Griffin
COMMUNICATION	Jennie Reece Josh Velasquez
VOLUNTEERS	Sandy Hoglund
EXT. RELATIONS	Cathy Fischer
PLYMOUTH READS	LuAnn Svendsen
NOMINATIONS	Barb Marshall
SOCIAL CHAIR	Shannon Banks
DIRECTORS	Margaret Bird Irma Johnson Brian Wilkerson
TEEN DIRECTOR	Shritha Devaraju
LIBRARY LIAISONS	Joanna Redman Stephanie Steinwedel Steve Richter

Contact Us

plymouth@supportthelib.org
(612) 543-5825