Happy New Year to our library supporters!

2022 was a most successful year for the Friends of the Library. The Great American Book Sale, the signature event of the Friends of the Library, was back and better than ever with profits before expenses of $75,460 and net profits of $62,682.

Erie Gives provided a total of $25,820 - the most this event has ever generated.

Bayfront Bookshelf sales amounted to $18,795.

Sales at the smaller book sales - held in October, February and May in the Admiral Room at Blasco Library - totaled $9,172.

The first full year of AbeBooks online sales came to $4,595 before expenses.

Membership donations for the year were $4,525.

There was a total of $4,120 in direct donations and memorials.

And for gently used books available at four of the branches, donations were accepted in the amount of $1,594.

Because of this year’s successful fundraising, on 12/5/22 board meeting, the Friends board was able to unanimously approve the library's budget request of $80,580 for 2023. This included $32,500 for Youth Services, $26,380 for Adult Services, $12,000 for Outreach, $9,000 for staff development, and $700 in flexible funding for small projects.

The successes of 2022 were made possible only through the support and generosity of our members, volunteers, donors and loyal customers. The Friends of the Library is an all volunteer, nonprofit organization. Volunteers manage, organize and staff its fundraisers. All profits go to support the library.

The Great American Book Sale

Our 2022 Great American Book Sale was a great success! Held at a new venue, the Flo Fabrizio Ice Center at the Zoo, the sale raised almost $63,000 in support of programs and activities at the library. The 2023 Great American Book Sale will return to the Ice Center June 11 - 16, 2023. Save the date!

Thelma's Tasty Temptations

The Friends of the Library signed a lease on the newly renovated cafe space in the Blasco Library. Thelma's Tasty Temptations opened in November of 2022. The cafe is owned and operated by Mabel Howard and Thelma Blanks, who also own Cafe 7-10. The cafe will be open Monday - Friday from 10:30am-2pm and will serve coffee, pastries, and sandwiches.

2023 Small Sales

As we continue our commitment to support the Erie County Public Library, the Friends of the Library will hold several small Book Sales in the Admiral Room at the Blasco Library during 2023.

The first of these sales, A Sweetheart of a Sale, will offer a wide variety of paperbacks from several genres. Fiction, romance, and mysteries as well as children’s books, large print books, CD’ s, DVD’s and
puzzles will be available. The sale will begin on Thursday, February 9, and will continue on Friday, February 10, and will conclude on Saturday, February 11.

The Spring Sale which traditionally features cookbooks, gardening and craft books will be held on Thursday, May 4; Friday, May 5; and Saturday, May 6. This sale will also include other genres as well as large print books, children’s books, puzzles, CD’s and DVD’s.

The Fall Book Sale will be held on Thursday October 18, Friday, October 19, and Saturday, October 20. This sale will feature Mystery and Fiction gently used hardbacks and paperbacks as well as children’s books, puzzles and other media.

All proceeds from these sales benefit the Erie County Public Library and offer our many members the occasion to volunteer in a variety of ways. Their willingness to help is essential to the success of each sale. Helpers are needed for setting up and taking down the sale items and for working in the sales room as a room monitor or at the checkout table.

Please sign up for your preferred position by utilizing the SignUp Genius app that is sent out by volunteer Friend member Linda Graff. You can also contact the Small Book Sale Coordinator at Kathleen.A.Horan@gmail.com or by phone at (814)866-0048.

The Bayfront Bookshelf
The Friends' bookstore, the Bayfront Bookshelf, is now open Monday through Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm and Sunday from 1 pm to 3 pm. All holiday items are 50% off. Through the end of January, audiobooks, DVDs and Blu-Rays, and music CDs are 50% off. A great time for collectors to stock up. Be sure to check our website for future sales and promotions.

The Bayfront Bookshelf, is managed by Bob Gallivan and Peg Shenefelt. Donna Gloeckler is the store's buyer. Marcy Bencivega, FOL Treasurer, handles finances with the assistance of Sally Sheehan. Matt Dennison manages online sales on AbeBooks and consults about collectible items for the store.

Our volunteers who give their time weekly to keep the store going are:
Janet Coon  Claudia Dinardo  Mary Dunda  Mary Alice Grieco
Rosella Kwitkowski  Sherry Maxwell  Carl Moore  Patty Myers
Patty Palmer  Andrea Pennington  Peggy Stefanovski  Abbey Sullivan
Carol Theuret  Wendy Walters  Cheryl Wilson

Book Drives
Thanks to all of you who donate books and other items. In 2023, drives will be held in April and September; the dates will be advertised later. We could not have our book sales and store without your help, support and donations.

Membership
There were 116 membership renewals and 3 new memberships following the start of the Membership Drive in October 2022, with donations totaling $4020. We now have over 450 members.

Visit Our Website
Visit erielibraryfriends.org for the latest news about Friends' sales and other activities. If you have questions, write to us at info@erielibraryfriends. Our email account is regularly monitored.