

MIKAYLA DALTON'S

PRESIDENT'S
REPORT
2024





REFLECTIONS

This marks the completion of the third year of the existence of Friends of the Library - Winthrop by the Sea! Between Aug 1 2023 and July 31 2024, Friends volunteers put in a total of 264.75 hours just at Bookends. Sometimes our progress has seemed achingly slow, and the physical work in keeping Bookends running can seem hard, with the constant sorting and movement of books never-ending. That is a job that will never be “finished”, but our closeness to that work can sometimes blind us to our progress and achievements.

The organization of our space in Bookends is significantly better than it was when we began, and even compared to just six months ago. The results are showing and we receive a steady stream of compliments about our improvement to the space. We have a well-functioning inventory system.

But our largest success this year wasn't Bookends related; it was in supporting the Library's celebration of its 125th birthday, with a big community event held on June 27. Our Secretary sat on the planning committee, raised funds (with the wonderful assistance of her daughter) for a marvelous family-friendly party, and volunteered her time to assist on the day. All three of our Board members baked cakes for the celebration. I can't remember how many I did, as it's all a bit of a blur, but I think I baked 9 cakes! And our trusty Treasurer handled all the financials for managing the donations and payments so we could provide the community with the food, drink, music and decorations for a memorable event showcasing Winthrop's civic spirit.

I'm pleased with our work in 2024!

Mikayla Dalton

Nov 15, 2024

ACTIVITIES

We reviewed our membership list, which was a legacy from the prior organization, and reached out to each person there. We removed entries for those who were uncontactable, had moved far from Winthrop, or were deceased. This reduced our membership count, despite some new additions over the year.

We have continued to post on Facebook, and include ads in the town manager's newsletter.

We have continued to supply and service the Keurig machine at Bookends allowing patrons to purchase hot coffee and cocoa at a low price.

We donated children's books for the Library to participate in the Book Swap Table at the DCF Foster Closet Easter Egg Hunt at Ingleside Park on March 23.

We participated in the Town-wide Sidewalk Sale on June 8, and the Library's Summer Reading kickoff that same day.

We ran an August "pink spot" Summer sale, and a later "duplicates" sale of popular authors.

We assembled donated library shelves in the main room.

The work to affix bookcases to walls was completed by the Town's Facilities Manager on September 17, making the Reading Room safe for use.

We donated excess stock of adult fiction and non-fiction to volunteers at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

We have put up some seasonal displays of books as appropriate, most recently Halloween- and Autumn-themed titles.



OUR SUPPORT

Our Secretary secured two donated VIP Trolley Tour tickets for the Children's Library to use as teen prizes in the Summer Reading event.

125th Celebrations: Our Secretary sat on the Library's planning committee. We solicited donations to support the Winthrop Public Library in its 125th jubilee year, receiving generous support from local individuals and organizations. We covered the costs of entertainment, food, drink, decorations, and souvenir items for the Town's 125th anniversary celebrations. Friends volunteers baked home-made cakes for celebration, providing a culinary representation of each decade of the Library's existence.

We funded the purchase of cake for Pete Solomon's retirement farewell gathering.

We funded the purchase of storage containers for art/craft supplies for the library's new creative "Maker's Space"



OUR PLANS

With labeling almost complete, we will run a volunteer drive early in the New Year.

We will continue with the "pool noodling" endeavor on shelving to protect books and aid in visibility.

We will pursue merchandising, specifically tote bags to start and will consider other items like mugs later.

We will pursue getting shelving in the main room safely affixed to the walls/floor.

In the longer term, we will list signed books for sale online.

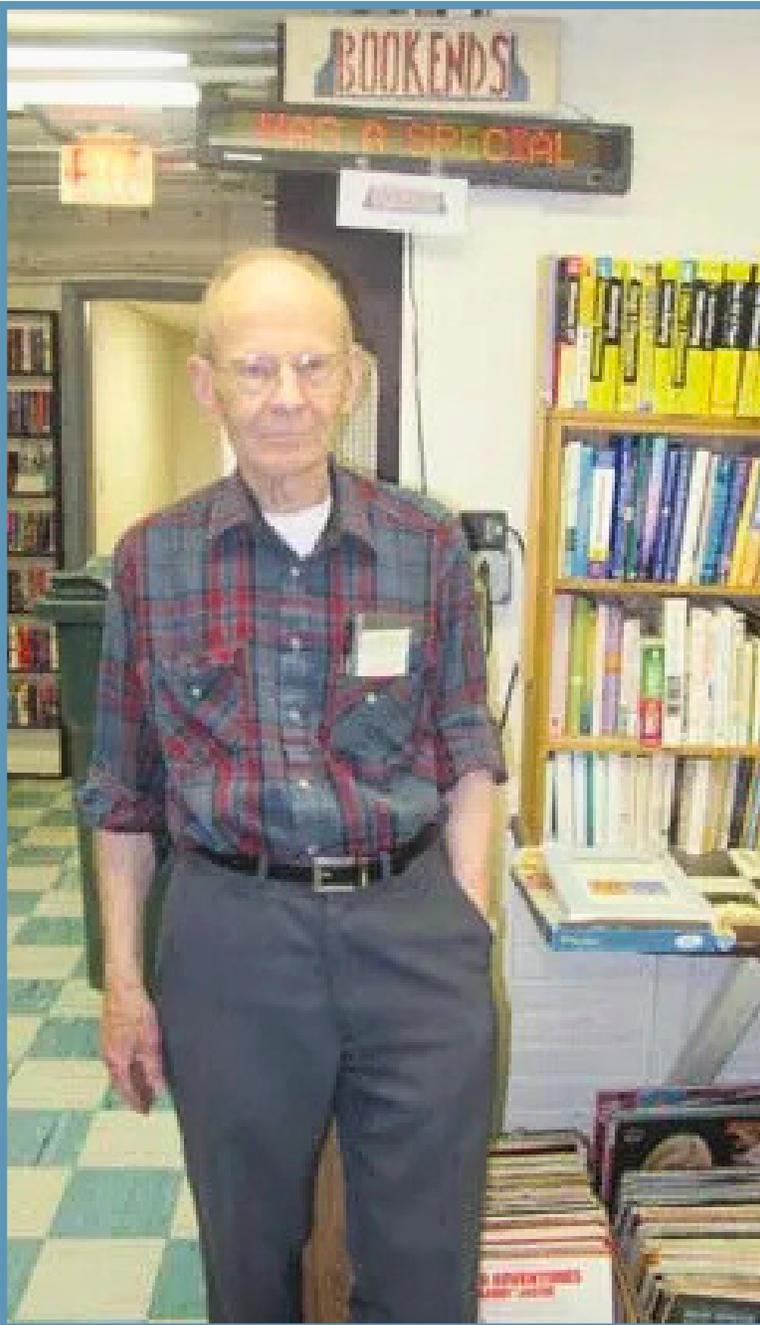


REMEMBERING JOE

Joseph Neville was a member of the prior Friend's organization, who for over 13 years spent many volunteer hours running Bookends. He was beloved by Library patrons and Bookends customers. Joe was a resident of Winthrop for 69 years, and passed away at age 90 on September 4, 2024.

A very accomplished man, Joe held degrees in Engineering from MIT and worked both in industry and in academia as a Professor at Wentworth Institute of Technology. He served in the Army, did book reviews for Choice Magazine, founded hiking trails, and volunteered as a Scout leader.

I remember Joe for his friendliness every time I visited Bookends as a mother with young children and a very limited budget. He was often there to assist with finding titles and getting me bags to carry my books. We had many pleasurable little chats; I remember his many small kindnesses fondly, and miss him. As a town, we are richer for Joe's involvement, and his passing is a loss.



LINDA CARGILL'S

TREASURER'S
REPORT
2024



2024 Revenue from Operations and Donations thru 11/14/24:

Revenue from book sales through October 31:	\$ 2,263.00
Revenue from book sales at Town-wide Sidewalk Sale	\$ 11.50
Revenue from merchandise & other sales	\$ 132.00
Massachusetts 2023 tax refund	\$ 35.00
Donations & Grants:	\$ <u>3,700.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ <u><u>6,141.50</u></u>

2024 Sponsorship and Operatng Expenses thru 11/14/24:

Winthrop Public Library 125th Anniversary Celebration	\$ 2,703.84
2023 tax payment Mass OAG	\$ 70.00
Operating Expenses	\$ 75.00
Children’s Library Summer Celebration	\$ 97.64
Children’s Library storage containers for “maker space”	\$ 35.33
TOTAL SPONSORSHIP & OP/EX	\$ <u><u>2,981.81</u></u>

<u>Starting Balance January 2024:</u>	<u>\$6,558.49</u>
<u>Total Revenue</u>	<u>\$6,141.50</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>(2,981.81)</u>
<u>Ending Balance November 14, 2024</u>	<u>\$9,718.18</u>

Friends was asked to sponsor the Winthrop Public Library 125th Anniversary celebration on June 27, 2024.

Friends filed a grant application with the Winthrop Foundation and was awarded \$1,500 to fund its sponsorship of the celebration. In addition, donations totaling \$2,200 were received from some generous citizens for the event.

Revenue from book sales is strong averaging \$226/month despite having to close the Fiction Room for a few months due to safety concerns caused by unstable bookcases in that room. We want to acknowledge and thank the Town of Winthrop for addressing the issues and allowing the Fiction Room to reopen.

Friends received a number of bookcases from the WPL and put them to good use providing more space for our ever-growing library.

