



January

The Friends Connection

we're so glad you're here!

A Board Update

Welcome to 2026 and thank you for being a member of the Friends.

This year we are looking forward to many new volunteer activities for our members. The library needs help, and we are here to answer the call. Read through the newsletter and see an explanation of each activity and whom to connect with to help out the library.

Our book sales in spring and fall of 2025 netted the Friends a total of \$5,300 and a new community partner in the Food Alliance of Ozaukee County. Due to our success with the book sales, manned by our great volunteers, we were able to review requests from Director Kloppmann and members present at the January 8th quarterly meeting voted to donate \$2,600 to the library.

There are three upcoming events to place on your calendar ASAP. I will highlight the first one which is taking place next Tuesday, Jan. 20th from 11am-9 pm at The Stillery in Grafton. The Stillery is partnering with the Friends for a 10% giveback day/night. Check the event page in this newsletter for all the information. We are looking for volunteers to cover a two-hour shift in teams of two. What is required? Wear your Friends T-shirt/Name tag and talk to guests about the Friends and what we do. AND... remind them to mention "Grafton Library" when ordering food and drinks to ensure 10% of their bill will be donated to the Friends of the Library.

The Friends Board meets monthly and is always welcoming to all members that would like to meet with us outside of the quarterly general membership meetings. We meet the third Thursday of every month at 1:15 pm in the lower meeting room at the library.

Have an idea or a question, come see us.

Stay warm these wintery days and hope to see you at our events the next couple of months.

the Friends of the Library Board

January 2026

Friends of the USS Liberty Memorial Library

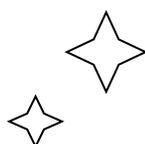
Grafton, WI



January



MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Carol Curtis

• **How long have you been a member of the Grafton library?**

I have been a patron of the Grafton library for four years, since I moved here. I also joined the Friends group when it restarted. I really like the people who are involved and they are so kind and have tremendous energy.

• **What do you love about going to the library?**

For my grandchildren's weekly visit with me, I love taking them to library. The children's librarians are wonderful. They're always willing to help and make the library so welcoming. My grandchildren look forward to their weekly library trip.

I love the activities put together, such as the monthly adult book group. This is a fun way to read new books and helps me to expand my reading horizons.

I also look forward to the Friends of the Library meetings. The library is so important and the Friends group is a good opportunity to help keep it a special place to visit.

• **What are you reading currently?**

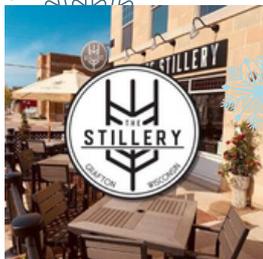
I'm currently reading *The Emporium* by Olga Tokarczuk for the book club. I am ready to start *How to Dodge a Cannonball*, a novel by Dennard Dayle. I hear this novel is funny and I can always use a good laugh.

• **What is your all-time favorite book?**

Growing up, I enjoyed *Charlotte's Web*, *Phantom Tollbooth*, all of the *Wizard of Oz* books, *Nancy Drew*, and *Hardy Boys*, which allowed me to travel to other places. Learning of books that parents wanted banned opened up *Rosemary's Baby*, *Johnny Got his Gun*. Studying them brought awe to Shakespeare, Orwell, Paine and so many more. I learned how powerful words are and how they can change history. As an adult, I have focused on more enjoyable literature, but my overall favorite authors would have to be F. Scott Fitzgerald and John Steinbeck.

I am so grateful to be part of a community with similar values, interests and where they are willing to help keep and maintain growth of our excellent library. We are fortunate to have such a great library with so many terrific librarians. It is truly a treasure. ~ Carol

What's Happening



10% Give Back Day at The Stillery Grafton Tuesday, January 20, 2026

- 10% of your bill will be donated to the Friends of the Grafton USS Liberty Memorial Library when you mention "Grafton Library" to your bartender or server.
- Online orders are also included toward the give back.
 - Please **use code : LIBRARY**, when ordering
 - For **online ordering: scan QR code**



Book Talk

Inside Holy Hill

Monday, February 16, 2026

Author **Cornel Rosario**

The author takes us through the three shrines, the church grounds, grottos and more.

6:00-7:30pm

Grafton Library

Lower Level Meeting Room



Musical Event

Irish in America

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Lee Murdock

Join our storyteller for history and songs of Irish immigrants.

Grafton Library

Lower Level Meeting Room

6:00-7:45pm





What's Happening



FRIENDS MEETINGS

April 9 @ 6:30pm

July 9 @ 6:30pm

*all meetings held in the lower level meeting room



Friends of the Library Membership Renewals

Just a reminder, now is the time to renew your Friends membership for the new year 2026.

If you became a member at the Book Sale in October 2025, your membership is good through December 2026. You are now able to renew directly on our website or download the application and mail it in, and as always you can stop into the library and fill out the application.



Scan code to go directly to the Friends website

Just Confirmed Spring 2026!

The Friends will be sponsoring an adult writing competition.

Watch for more information to come.



Spring Book Sale

May 6th-9th, 2026

May 5th Set-up 9:30am-4:30pm

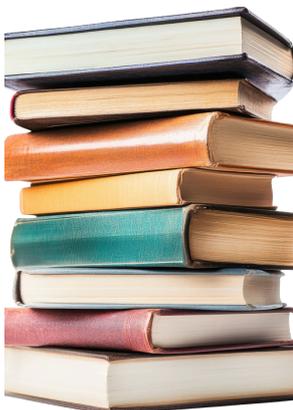
May 6th Friends only sale 1:00pm-7:45pm

May 7th General public sale 9:30am-7:45pm

May 8th General public sale 9:30am-4:45pm

May 9th General public sale 9:30am-1:45pm

May 11th Takedown 9:30am-1:30pm





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

For all volunteer needs please contact **Debbie Krueger** at:
vicepresident@friendsofgraftonlibrarywi.com

1. January 20th The Stillery "Giveback Night"

- **NEED** - Teams of **TWO** to work 2hour shifts, circulating the restaurant, letting the patrons know who The Friends are and what we do. Remind them to mention " Grafton Library" to their waitstaff for the Friends to receive the 10% "Giveback".
 - **SHIFTS NEEDED** - 11-1pm, 1-3pm, 3-5pm, 5-7pm, 7-9pm
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2. RFID Tagging

The library needs our help to RFID tag their ENTIRE collection of items. These tags help the library identify, inventory, and checkout. ALL items from books to DVD's, CD's and more need to be tagged before the end of June, 2026.

- **TRAINING** - January 26th 10am-12pm (Youth department)
1pm-3pm (Adult department)
January 30th 11am-1pm (Both departments)
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3. Hanging Artwork

The library is needing to have paintings, prints or other visual pieces on the walls mounted for display. This would be under the direction of the library staff.

- **NEEDED** - January 29th 1-3pm, 3-5pm.
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4. Gallery Night Thursday February 5th

- **NEEDED** - Volunteers to greet, count the number of people attending and serve refreshments. 3:30-5:30pm, 5:30-7:30pm.