



**FRIENDS**  
*of the*  
**PLEASANT HILL LIBRARY**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2024**



**Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library**

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# A Year of Continued Growth

We opened our new Book Friends store in Walnut Creek, and continue to expand our in-store and internet sales.

Since 1953, the Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library's small but enthusiastic group of volunteers has dedicated countless hours to serving the needs of the Pleasant Hill Library. In 2022 we saw the opening of the long-awaited new Pleasant Hill Library, as well as the opening of our book stores: the Friends Book Store on Contra Costa Blvd., and the Library Store at the Pleasant Hill Library.

This year we expanded our activities even further by opening Book Friends, a new book store at the Ygnacio Plaza Shopping Center in Walnut Creek. Book Friends is smaller than the Friends Book Store, but it has given us the opportunity to present some of our most popular offerings at a high traffic shopping center which features a TJ Maxx, Sports Basement and Peet's Coffee just a few steps away.

Our internet book sales continue to grow as well. Our participation in the Biblio platform (link at [Friends Book Store, Pleasant Hill, California](#)) as well as our continued use of Ebay has allowed us to continue to expand our reach into the global marketplace for used books.

It has been truly rewarding to see the enthusiastic reception our stores have received in our community. The Pleasant Hill Library is the busiest in Contra Costa County, with Library patrons flocking to a diverse array of programs in unprecedented numbers. And our customers have come to love our high quality offerings.

Our volunteers work tirelessly in our stores every day to process donations and arrange our eye-catching displays. Under the superb leadership of Bob Goldner and Katherine Bracken in particular, they have created a book store experience that brings customers back time and again.

We have also been blessed this year with significant continued donations from people who care deeply about our Library. Combined with our book store profits, this has allowed us to support so many programs that benefit our community and for which no public funds are available. Thank you to everyone involved. And keep on reading!

# Book Store Performance

Loyal customers bring us strong and growing sales revenue.

We now operate three retail book stores, each with a distinctive array of used books, audio books, DVDs, CDs, vinyl records, games, puzzles and other merchandise our generous donors contribute: the Friends Book Store at 955 Contra Costa Blvd., Book Friends at the Ygnacio Plaza Shopping Center in Walnut Creek (1839A Ygnacio Valley Road), and the Library Store at the Pleasant Hill Library.



The Friends Book Store.



The Library Store.

During 2024, our book store operations generated total revenue of \$354,221, an increase of \$60,659 above 2023 sales. This includes revenue from both online and in-store sales. The 2024 expenses of maintaining our book stores, including lease, utilities and various administrative expenses, totaled \$238,390. After taking into account contributions and investment gains, our net operating income for 2024 totaled \$211,793.

Compared to 2023, the expenses of operating our book stores increased in 2024 by \$81,688 primarily due to the increased cost of taking on a second lease at the Book Friends store. The increased book sales of \$60,659 did not completely cover this additional expense, but as more customers find Book Friends we are confident the Ygnacio Plaza store will add to our net income going forward. Even with the additional cost of opening Book Friends, we were able to not only maintain our previous level of Library support but also increase our Library grant.



Book Friends

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# Pleasant Hill Library Foundation

Our fundraising efforts are ongoing.

The Pleasant Hill Library Foundation was established as a committee within the Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library with the initial goal of raising the funds needed for the new Library's furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E).

By year-end 2022, the Foundation successfully raised \$1.6 million in pledged donations, though not all of the cash had been received. In order to receive a \$250,000 grant from Contra Costa County, the Foundation was required to enter into a contract under which the County reimbursed the Foundation. Payments under the County contract were largely received in 2023, but the last payment was received in January 2024.

Although the Foundation completed its original mission of funding the FF&E for the new Library, the Foundation remains in place as a fundraising vehicle. As with the net income earned from our book stores, Foundation funds are dedicated to serving the needs of the Library. We continue to explore potential fundraising opportunities, and engage in regular discussions with the Library as to how we can serve their needs.

During 2024, the Friends and Foundation received donations totaling \$96,429, which includes the final \$50,000 installment under the Contra Costa County grant. These donations from the community remain critical to our mission.

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# Library Projects We Supported

We fund a diverse array of programs that support our community.

During 2024 the Friends provided \$131,693 in financial support to the Pleasant Hill Library to make possible a wide array of Library services.

Many people do not realize how critical Friends support is to enable the Library to offer the wide array of programs that our community has come to love and depend on. While the Library's core collection of books and other materials is funded by the County, there is no public funding for the many programs the Library offers to the community every day. It is only support from the Friends that makes these programs possible.

During 2024, the Pleasant Hill Library hosted nearly 700 events that attracted almost 60,000 participants at every age level. These programs included:

- Story Time and after-school enrichment activities.
- Monday night Makerspace programs.
- Family Night.
- Lunar New Year Lion Dance program in February.
- Free Comic Book Days.
- Summer Reading Program (which attracted over 1,000 readers in 2024).
- Exploration Station.
- Tinkers and Thinkers Faire in September.
- Halloween Bash.

The Pleasant Hill Library is probably the most active one in Contra Costa County. It saw more than 300,000 visitors in 2024, with 40% higher check-outs of books and other materials than any other branch. The Friends is proud of its role in helping to make the Pleasant Hill Library not only a source for check-out material, but also a lively and engaging venue for learning experiences. And people are responding enthusiastically to the enormous value they bring to our community.

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# Financial Results

## Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library Financial Results, 2023-2024

	2024	2023	\$ Change
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Book Sales	\$354,221	\$293,562	\$60,659
Cash Contributions	\$96,249	\$226,069	-\$129,820
Investment Gains	\$9,918	\$4,785	\$5,133
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$460,388</b>	<b>\$524,416</b>	<b>-\$64,028</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
Book Store Expense	\$238,390	\$156,702	\$81,688
Admin. Expense	\$10,205	\$7,285	\$2,920
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$248,595</b>	<b>\$163,987</b>	<b>\$84,608</b>
<b>Net Income from Operations</b>	<b>\$211,793</b>	<b>\$360,429</b>	<b>-\$148,636</b>
<b>Library Grant</b>	<b>\$131,693</b>	<b>\$120,264</b>	<b>\$11,429</b>
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>\$80,100</b>	<b>\$240,165</b>	<b>-\$160,065</b>

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# The Friends Board

President (Acting)	Gary Hook
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Sales	Katherine Bracken
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Communications	Allie Henske
Treasurer	Robert Goldner
Secretary	Alisa Todd
Director	Eric Wall
Director	Susan Weaver
Director	Laura Decker

The Friends of the Pleasant Hill Library is a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation qualified as a tax-exempt entity under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). Our Tax ID is 94-6102207.