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**CURRENT  
MAIN LIBRARY HOURS**  
SUN-TUES: 10AM-6PM  
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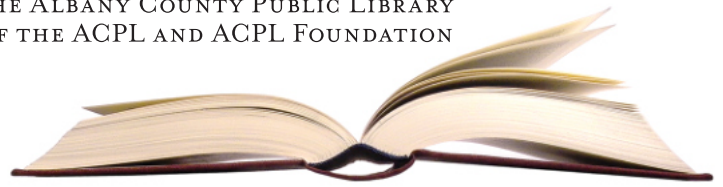
**CENTENNIAL  
BRANCH HOURS**  
MON-FRI: 11AM-3PM

**ROCK RIVER  
BRANCH HOURS**  
WED: 9AM-4:30PM

March  
2023  
Vol. 17 No. 1

# THE OPEN BOOK

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BY THE FRIENDS OF THE ACPL AND ACPL FOUNDATION



## ACPL spearheads early development coalition

Last year, Albany County Public Library received a \$115,000 grant from Albany County Government ARPA Recovery funds to form an early development coalition. The Albany County Early Development (ACED) coalition's goal is to build a group of organizations to collectively support ages 0-5 and their caregivers.

ACPL playing a central role in the coalition is a natural fit, as literacy is integral to early childhood development. So far, the coalition has about 15 partners on

board that meet monthly to discuss how best ACED can serve the community.

The coalition has come together quickly because of the interest and great need in Albany County. A large focus of the coalition is on low-income families and families that are at-risk or need more help with early childhood development.

ACED gives the partners an opportunity to spread the work, connect with one another, and share resources.

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Families play in the Nest, as part of ACED's first pop-up event.

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YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAM

FOL PROVIDES BIG DONATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

FOL BOOK SALE

ACPL is functioning as the primary organization, as the group begins to work on a series of pop-up events and building a resource website.

The coalition will host a pop-up from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on April 1 at the Laramie Plains Civic Center Kenny Sailors Gym. The pop-up is in celebration of the Week of the Young Child, a week to celebrate early learning, young children, and their support system. Participants are encouraged to come learn more about the coalition and engage in playtime.

The ACED website will include helpful information and resources that provide easy access to community-wide services for children ages 0-5 and their families. For example, the website will have information on vaccinations and how to enroll in kindergarten, as well as tips on good places to play.

At the library, partnerships are bringing more opportunity to programs for the 0-5 age group and their caregivers. At Book Babies, a lactation specialist is present every other week to support new parents, and WIC will be in attendance to answer questions and give information about helpful resources. ACPL will also be starting a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program to encourage reading long before children head to school. 🌈



Thanks to Laramie Garden Club for funding these new gardening books!

Here's to you!

Socrates  
Foundation  
\$5,250 Grant



Interactive Learning &  
Sensory Development

SO AMAZING!

Guthrie Family  
Foundation  
\$25,000 Grant



Library Programming  
& Materials Support

thank you Wyoming Humanities Council!

# Programming Highlight: ACPL's Young Writers Program

Albany County Public Library hosted a Young Writers Program in late 2022 for youth of all ages. The Young Writers Program was a series of weekly events that invited youth to participate in local author-led workshops and creative writing.

Local authors covered different topics each week. Participants learned more about research, editing, different types of writing, character development, and writing tips from the authors. For example, local



Author Melodie Edwards leads a workshop.

author, Melodie Edwards, read an excerpt from her Young Adult book to work with the students on developing animals into characters. Another author, Jason Clark, provided students with examples of his creative writing notebooks and described how music can play a role in poetry and different prose.

Thirty-one youth in Albany County registered to participate, and each week the program saw around 25 participants. Twelve of these students participated in all five workshops. The students were highly engaged, asked thoughtful questions, and immersed themselves in the writing project each week.

After each author workshop, participants spent an hour of individual creative writing time. Following all the workshops, students were invited to submit a writing sample to a contest judged by the participating authors.

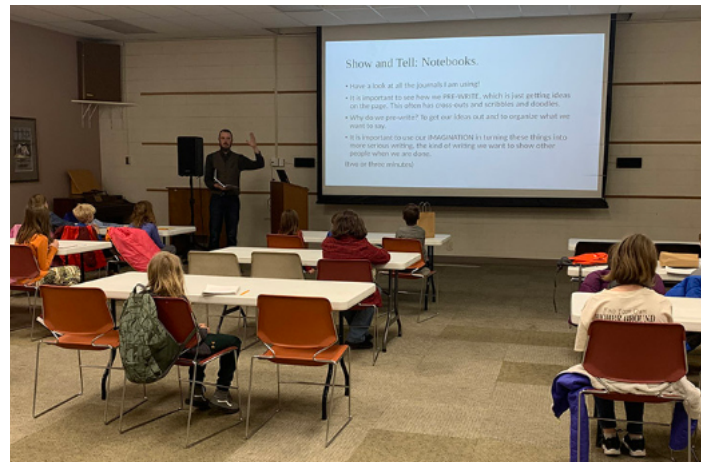
The judges were highly impressed with the variety of writing submitted. There was sci-fi, poetry, and

even a picture book submission. Many of the first lines in the writing samples were powerful.

The contest selected 5 winners:

- “Stone and Pine Needle” by Theo
- “Back to the Dinosaurs” by Roma
- “In My Next Life, I Want to Come Back as a Butterfly” by Erin
- “The Cat vs. the Baby” by Lilla
- “The Neon Lazers: Protectors of the Universe” by Xander

Winners were provided with a certificate to a Young Writer's Camp with Lighthouse Writers Workshop. Special thanks to Lighthouse Writers Workshop for donating these certificates!



Author Jason Clark shows his creative writing notebooks to participants.

The programming series was based on the Young Writers Program, as part of National Novel Writing Month. Due to the popularity of the program, ACPL is planning on hosting another workshop series in the future. The program had great engagement and offered a different activity for students in the community.

The Young Writers Program was a partnership with the Wyoming Humanities Council. The ACPL Foundation received a \$5,000 grant from America Rescue Plan funds to provide programming.

**Thanks to our authors: Tasha Alexander, Andrew Grant, Melodie Edwards, Jason Clark, Ammon Medina, and Raechel Henderson!** 🌈

thank you, to this amazing crew!

# Friends of the Library provides BIG

The Friends of the Library provided \$58,230 to the Albany County Public Library in 2022. This is a major accomplishment, as the 2022 donation amount is a return to pre-pandemic contribution levels. Funding from the Friends of the Library is predominantly used by ACPL to continue to grow the library's collection of books and other items.

The Friends of the Library raise funds from memberships, book sales, online sales, and the Book Nook. In 2022, funds also included a \$7,500 grant from the Wyoming Humanities Council!

## Become a Friends of the Library Member!

Memberships are a simple way to provide extra support to the Friends of the Library. Memberships can be purchased anytime during the year, and are valid for one year. You can also purchase a membership at the door when coming to attend a book sale.

### Membership Levels:

- \$10 for an individual membership
- \$15 for a family membership
- \*\$50 for a benefactor membership

Memberships include admission to the Friends of the Library Members Only Sales. A benefactor membership includes a family membership and recognition in the library newsletter. Sign up to be a member at: [friends.acplwy.org/membership](https://friends.acplwy.org/membership).

### Attend a Book Sale!

In 2022, the Friends of the Library made \$19,990.69 from book sales. Friends of the Library members are given shopping priority and may enter the sale before public hours begin. Sales are held in the basement of Albany County Public Library.

The book sale has an incredible offering of books from every genre. Books are neatly sorted and priced to allow for easy shopping. There is a large assortment of children's books, as well as specialty books, such as: cookbooks, classics, foreign language, and more. Sales also encompass more than physical books. Shoppers can find audiobooks, music (CD & LP), and movies/TV shows (DVD and BluRay).

Follow the Friends of the Library on Facebook to get updates on sale dates. The next sale is in early May. More details are on the last page of the newsletter.

### Shop Anytime Online!

The Friends of the Library Amazon storefront has over 1,400 materials available for sale. You can shop online at: [friends.acplwy.org/shop](https://friends.acplwy.org/shop). Items sold online are ones that would benefit from a larger sales audience and are priced to be more in line with the high quality, rarity, and interest of the item.

In 2022, the Friends of the Library generated \$18,494.02 from online sales.



### Shop for a Book in the Nook!

The Book Nook is a great option for shopping anytime the library is open. The Friends of the Library Book Nook is located right inside the library's front doors. The space includes a selection of popular books from different genres, as well as many children's books, music, and movies.

The Book Nook is another area that generates significant income for the Friends of the Library. In 2022, this area made \$8,690.25.

### What Happens To Your Donations?

The Friends of the Library rely heavily on donations of gently used items from the community. When you donate to the Friends of the Library, your items go on to a great new life and support your public library.

Donations are first considered for the ACPL collection. After this determination, items are moved downstairs to the Friends of the Library area where volunteers sort, label, price, and shelve materials. Materials

# donation to ACPL

are sorted based on where each will be sold, whether it is at a book sale, online, or in the Book Nook.

Recently, the Friends of the Library received a donation of about 10,000 DVDs. These large donations rely on the dedicated work of many volunteers to prepare them for sales or to be sold online. If you're a big DVD fan, make sure to stop by the next sale to see the collection!

Donations are accepted anytime the library is open. Accepted items are: books, audiobooks, CDs, LPs, DVDs, and Blu-Ray discs. Items that are not accepted are: VHS tapes, magazines, and yard sale items. If you have collectible magazines you're interested in donating, contact [FOL\\_booksale@acplwy.org](mailto:FOL_booksale@acplwy.org). To make a large donation, contact the Friends of the Library to make arrangements.

**Donations since December 2022 have been down. Consider going through your personal collection to see if you have any items to donate.** The Friends of the Library can provide you with a tax-deductible receipt for your donation.


## Community Involvement:

Not every item is appropriate to sell, so the Friends of the Library have an extensive outreach system to provide free books across our community and beyond. When enough books are available, the Friends of the Library provide materials for over 30 locations. Free books have even made their way to groups who took them as far as Kenya and Brazil. Locations interested in receiving books can email: [FOL\\_Outreach@acplwy.org](mailto:FOL_Outreach@acplwy.org).

## Want to Volunteer?

The Friends of the Library run entirely on volunteers. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the organization is overseen by a board of directors, but it has no staff. The volunteer-run organization has about 60 volunteers.

The Friends of the Library are searching for a volunteer to spearhead its Outreach Program. It is also in need of volunteers to work at the book sales. Email [FOL\\_Volunteercoordinator@acplwy.org](mailto:FOL_Volunteercoordinator@acplwy.org) for information and an application.

Learn more online at [friends.acplwy.org](http://friends.acplwy.org). 



## Friends of the Library Benefactor Members!

Rollin & Carolyn Abernethy

Mark & Jennifer Andersen

Edith Barthelmes

Billie Chapman

Arthur & Antoinette Denison

John & Sue Dowd

Jamie Egolf

Mary Foster

Richard & Mary Guenzel

Andrea Hayden

Brenna Hutchison

Lynne Livingston

Bill & Lisa Mackey

Keli Malm

Hollis Marriott

Ken Gerow & Ann McCutchan

Mike & Eileen Milam

Micah Richardson & Rich Miles

David & Deborah Miller

Richard & Betsy Moore

Linda Nydahl

Dan & Nancy Potter

Kryssi Soule

Craig & Deisy Vaske

Christel & David Walrath

Steve & Karen Williams

William & Flewellyn Wilson

Mary Winger

Jackie & Crystal Yeend

# What's Happening @ Your Library

## Children:

### Children's Area Scavenger Hunt & Storywalks®

Everyday

Enjoy a different themed scavenger hunt in the Children's Area. Scavenger hunts are available at the Circulation Desk. Come read a story while walking around the library on the StoryWalk®!

### Book Babies

Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Children's Area

Bring your babies for a storytime filled with fun, baby-approved bounces, songs, and rhymes, plus early literacy and child development tips. Immediately following Book Babies there will be bubble play and the chance to meet and engage with other caregivers.

### Montessori Play Group

Every Other Thursday at 10:15 a.m. in the Children's Area

A free playtime for babies and toddlers with stories, songs, and activities. Themes, stories, and songs are Montessori-based and allow caregivers to explore Montessori methods.

### Family Storytime

Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Children's Area

At family storytime, children and their caregivers come to the library to sing, hear stories, and participate in a craft.

### Lego Club

Saturdays at 11 a.m. in the Meeting Room

Come make things with Lego! Lego Club will work singularly or together to create whatever their imagination can think of.

### UPCOMING! Summer Reading Program 2023

ACPL is planning Summer Reading 2023. The theme is "All Around the Neighborhood!" Summer Reading will have a

community theme with a kickoff, summer entertainment, family events, and visiting community helpers.

## Teens & Tweens:

### YAK!

Thursdays from 3:45 p.m.–5 p.m.

A social club for teens. Teen can hang out, enjoy snacks, and partake in a variety of activities. For ages: 13–18

### Test Tube Tuesday

Tuesdays from 3:45 p.m.–5 p.m. in the Children's Area

Open to elementary and middle school-aged children, Test Tube Tuesdays is a hands-on activity for children to learn about STEAM-related topics. Guardians are required to stay and supervise their children during the program.

## Adults:

ACPL has a wide selection of books clubs you can join! Visit [acplwy.org](http://acplwy.org) to join and see upcoming books.

### Cozy Mystery Book Club

First Monday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Meeting Room

A book club for those who like their mysteries light on sex and violence, and particularly enjoy amateur sleuths! Upcoming books are listed online: [acplwy.org/adult/adult-book-clubs](http://acplwy.org/adult/adult-book-clubs). Contact Kennedy at [kpennotoole@acplwy.org](mailto:kpennotoole@acplwy.org) with questions or if interested in joining.

### Murder Club: A True Crime Book Club

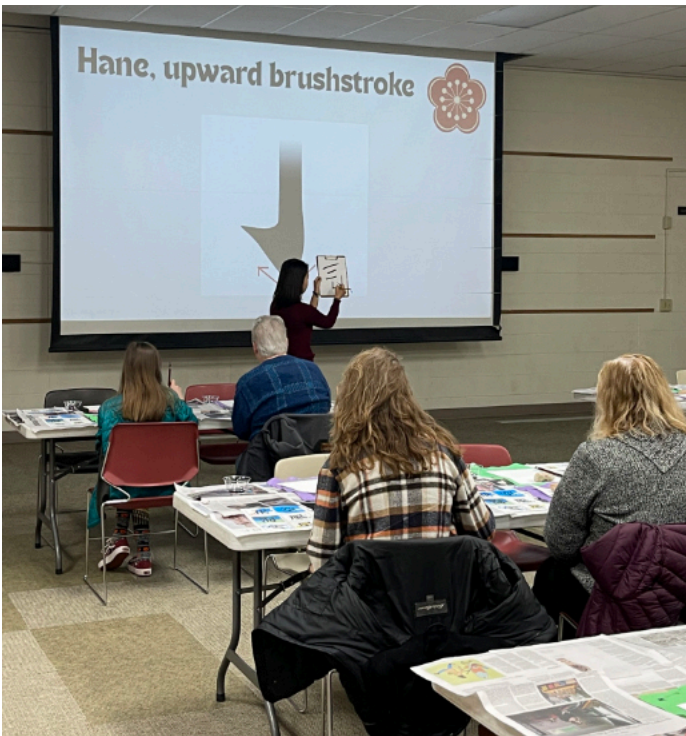
Second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Meeting Room

A book club that delves into infamous murders, serial killers, and other true crime mysteries. Upcoming books are listed online: [acplwy.org/adult/adult-book-clubs](http://acplwy.org/adult/adult-book-clubs). Contact Bailey at [bmurray@acplwy.org](mailto:bmurray@acplwy.org) with questions or if interested in joining.



Thank you for providing \$5,000 to the  
Albany County Public Library Foundation!

**First Interstate Bank**



ACPL hosted a calligraphy hands-on art experience to debut Land Art in the West in February.

**After Hours Book Club**

Last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

A fun, low-commitment book club where good company is just as important as good books. Books are chosen by club members, so genres vary. Upcoming books are listed online: [acplwy.org/adult/adult-book-clubs](http://acplwy.org/adult/adult-book-clubs). Contact Cori at [cpotter@acplwy.org](mailto:cpotter@acplwy.org) with questions or if interested in joining.

**Land Art in the West: New Perspectives**

ACPL is continuing its Experiences in the West programming series with a focus on land art and its relation to Wyoming and us. The series will highlight different perspectives of art in the West. The series will have a set of artist panelists starting in March. Check the library calendar for more details.

- Linda Lillegraven on March 21: Focus on oil paintings, color theory, and breaking the rules of landscapes.
- Susan Moldenhauer on April 18: Focus on photography and her series "Everything is not alright," an exhibition of archival pigment prints that reflect a time when the fast-paced, immediate, and reactive hyper-social media escalated dramatically.

**All Ages:**

**Land Art in the West: Hands-On Art**

As part of the art panelist series, ACPL will offer hands-on art experiences. These classes will take place the last Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in the meeting room.

These classes will be available to all ages, with a focus on adults and older children.

- Heart of Soil on March 25
- Beading on April 29
- Cyanotypes on May 27

**For more information on events, visit the library's website, like the library on Facebook, or contact the library at 307-721-2580.**



Albany County Public Library

# Foundation

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### Friends of the Library

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Keep our mailing list current. Let us know about address changes or multiple copies. We can email this too. Send your address to [cwhite@acplwy.org](mailto:cwhite@acplwy.org).

Visit us at [acplwy.org](http://acplwy.org)

Friends of the Albany County Public Library


# Spring Book Sale

May 5-8, 2023

**Members Only:**  
**May 5, 2:30pm - 5:30pm**

**Public Sale:**  
**May 6-7, 10:00am - 5:30pm**

**1/2 Price Sale:**  
**May 8, 10:00am - 5:30pm**

 Friends of the Albany County Public Library  
 310 S. 8th St.  
<https://friends.acplwy.org/>

