



ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

310 S. 8th Street
307-721-2580

acplwy.org
facebook.com/acplwy
instagram.com/acplwy

**CURRENT
MAIN LIBRARY HOURS**
SUN-TUE: 10AM-6PM
WED: CLOSED
THURS-SAT: 10AM-6PM

**CENTENNIAL
BRANCH HOURS**
MON-FRI: 11AM-3PM

**ROCK RIVER
BRANCH HOURS**
WED, FRI, SAT: 11AM-3PM

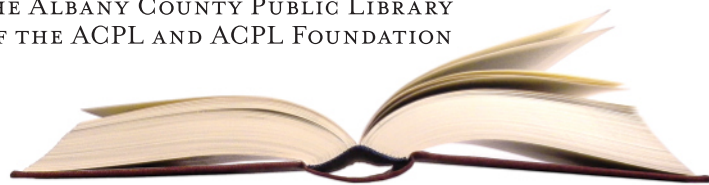
March

2025

Vol. 19 No.1

THE OPEN BOOK

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



Friends of the Library provides RECORD donation to ACPL

The Friends of the Library provided \$70,010 to the Albany County Public Library! This is a record amount, and the Albany County Public Library thanks the hardworking Friends of the Library board and volunteers. The Friends of the Library raise funds from memberships, book sales, online sales, and the Book Nook. 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.

Thanks for shopping with the Friends of the Library and making this donation possible!

Become a Friends of the Library Member!

Memberships are a simple way to provide extra support to the Friends of the Library. In 2024, Friends of the Library memberships raised \$4,350. Memberships can be purchased anytime during the year, and are valid for one

year. 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.

Membership Levels:

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

Attend a Sale!

In 2024, the Friends of the Library made \$30,506.77 from book sales. 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. Follow the Friends of the Library on Facebook to get updates on

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in this issue

WHAT'S
NEW

BLIND DATE
WITH A BOOK

WALT
WERNER

EVENTS
FOR
SPRING

sale dates. The next sale is in May. More details are on the last page of the newsletter.

Shop Anytime Online!

The Friends of the Library Amazon storefront is available anytime online at: 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 2024, the Friends of the Library generated \$24,255.53 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 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, earning \$10,214.92 in 2024.

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

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. To make a large donation, contact the Friends of the Library to make arrangements.

Learn more online at friends.acplwy.org. 🌈

Thank you 2024 Friends of the Library Benefactor Members!

Mark & Jennifer Andersen
Robert Baker
Edith Barthelmes
Michael Berry
Nickolas Beumer
Brandon Handeland & Billie Chapman
Cassie Clift
Cathy Craig
Gary & Lois Crum
Arthur & Antoinette Denison
John & Sue Dowd
Chris Podlesnik & Shari Hashimoto
Emily Hawes
Edward Koncel & Lynn Jones
Rawson Langlois
Bill & Lisa Mackey
Keli & James Malm
Toby & Nancy Marlatt
Bill McKay
Micah Richardson & Rich Miles
David & Deborah Miller
Brannen Moan
Richard & Betsy Moore
Linda Nydahl
Don & Nancy Potter
Brad & Lindsay Rettler
Jane Reverand
Kryssi Soule
Craig & Deisy Vaske
Oliver & Sidney Walter
Diana Wempen
Tom & Lora Wesche
Jackie & Crystal Yeend.



Thank you!

Blind Date with a Book has successful year

The ACPL Foundation held its fifth year of Blind Date with a Book. This fundraiser combines popular trends with great reads and fun gifts to create Valentine's Day gift packages. In 2025, our themes were Bridgerton, Gilmore Girls, and Wicked. The gift packages are popular as gifts for a friend or partner, a special treat for your pet, a fun celebration for your kiddos, or date night for a couple.

This year, the ACPL Foundation had 12 different themed-packages and nearly all the packages sold out. The ACPL Foundation sold 200 packages. Thanks to our buyers and sponsors, the Blind Date with a Book fundraiser had another successful year raising over \$6,000! 🌈



Thank you to our supporters!

Title Sponsor

Toyota of Laramie

Package Sponsors

Atmosphere Mountainworks

Dan Pasman with Union Home Mortgage

Elevate Real Estate with Carson Shoop

High Point CPAs

The Human Bean

Poppy's Flower Shop & Women's Boutique

RNDC

StagePoint FCU

The Still Package Liquor

SVAR, Inc.

TownSquare Title

Windy City Pet Store

In-Kind Contributors

Alibi Woodfire Pizzeria & Bakery

Big Hollow Food Co-op

Bond's Brewing Company

The Chocolate Cellar

Daylight Donuts

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers

Hudson Turning

Insomnia Cookies

Motive Coffee

Northridge Liquors

2nd Street Deli

Sugar Mouse Cupcake House

take a peek

What's New Around ACPL

- There have been quite a few shifts around the library, mostly due to construction. For example, our Young Adult collection and teen area have moved to the southwest corner of the building. Grab a map at ACPL to update yourself on the changes.
- ACPL's Library of Things has expanded to include radon detection kits. These kits check out for three weeks at a time.



Infrastructure Grant – Multi-Purpose Spaces Project Update

The Laramie Branch of the Albany County Public Library is under construction! The construction phase of the infrastructure project officially kicked off in January. A lot has already happened in just two months.

The project is focused on three community-use spaces in the library. Grant funding will support a renovation of the ACPL large meeting room and the small conference room. The third part of the project is the creation of an Activity Center for children and families.

Each space will focus on enabling health, education, and job functions to improve the Albany County community. This project will allow ACPL to host more simultaneous programs, increase its partnerships in the community, and provide higher quality areas for public use.

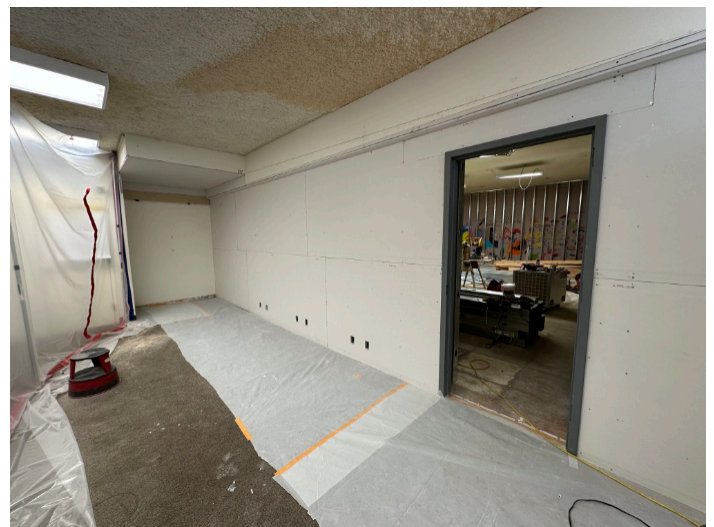
Here's an update on how construction is progressing in each space:

Meeting Room

- The ACPL Meeting Room was the first area to go through demolition. ACPL didn't have much trouble saying goodbye to the worn carpet and dated ceiling and light fixtures. The small closets on the north side of the room have been removed to be ready to construct the new entrance to the room, a larger storage closet, and a small kitchenette.



- One exciting piece of the project for staff has been the removal of the moveable wall between the meeting room and staff offices. The moveable wall has been replaced with a permanent wall, adding extra wall space and more outlets on the staff side.



- As the rest of the construction moves forward, the Meeting Room will be used for staging and completed toward the end of the project.

Conference Room

- Work on this room will start in the next few weeks.



addition and add a fully accessible emergency exit after construction.

- Work on the current lobby and the public restrooms should start soon. ACPL will provide communication on any changes for patrons that may arise from this part of the project.

Other Details

- ACPL expects to use the temporary entrance until fall 2025, as it approaches the completion of construction. The temporary entrance is located behind the blue book drop on the south side of the building.
- ACPL's front parking lot is closed during construction. Patrons can park in the two south lots or on the street. There are four marked handicap parking spaces in the southwest parking lot.
- Portions of the construction project will create noise disruption in the building. ACPL will work to communicate with the public about dates where noise is expected to be high. There are also free earplugs at the entrance.

Special thanks to ACPL's construction team led by Dwel, Inc. with Christie Roberts and ARCON with Brandon Ahrenholtz!

Activity Center

- You may have noticed a lot of work happening on the front side of the building, as well as a giant pile of dirt. This was the start of construction, related to the Activity Center. The base of a new storage closet has been laid on the north side of the Activity Center.
- The construction crew is also working on prepping the roof and the cutouts for two pyramid skylights that will be installed.



Miscellaneous Extras

- An accessible ramp and handrail were installed on the south side of the building to be used as a temporary entrance. ACPL closed its main entrance on March 13. This is another significant update to ACPL. Based on the age of the building, the emergency exits were not built to be handicap accessible. The new ramp will be a permanent



The majority of this project is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act for the Wyoming Library Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program.

ACPL will provide an infrastructure grant update in each library newsletter moving forward. 🌈

Past ACPL Foundation financial advisor – Walt Werner

Recently, a former financial advisor to the ACPL Foundation, Walt Werner, passed away.

Walt was an integral part of the ACPL Foundation's early growth. He volunteered his services as a financial advisor to the ACPL Foundation. Walt had exceptional knowledge of the stock market. His investment skills helped to more than double the size of the ACPL Foundation's holdings. Walt's assistance made it possible for the organization to hire its first executive director, Paul Heimer, in 2005.

"Simply put, the Foundation would not be where it is today without Walt," Paul Heimer, the ACPL Foundation's former executive director, said.

The ACPL Foundation sends its sympathy to Walt's family and has included his obituary as a tribute to his volunteer service to the organization.

Walter G. Werner died peacefully at his home in Ft. Collins, Colorado on Monday, February 10, 2025, with his wife Ann by his side.

There is a saying that most people know, "they don't make them like they used to" and this can certainly be said about Walter Werner. He was a man born of a time when all things were possible, and he made the most of that time.

Walt's story reads like one of an all-American hero. He was born in Detroit, Michigan to Dr. Walter I. Werner and Dr. Ly Werner, who then moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico to live and work in the pueblos. He loved the mystique and lifestyle of the

west, but his life's journey would take him away from the area until later in life.

He graduated from The University of Notre Dame, served as a U.S. Navy officer (and POW) during the Korean War, was a relief pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers, graduated from Northwestern University Law School, was the President of the Lake Forest, Illinois School Board and had a 20-year career at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

In 1982, Walt and Ann moved to Wyoming to fulfill his childhood dream of returning west to run a cattle ranch and tend the land for a decade. Walt continued trading stocks, was a true entrepreneur in a myriad of businesses and retired at 80 after a 10-year professorship at the University of Wyoming Business School. He then moved with Ann to Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Any man can be a father, but few who are also a "dad." Walt was a dad, mentor, and friend to so many people in his life. He was always there to listen, support and offer advice when asked. He loved telling stories of his adventures (embellishing them when possible!) and fostering the relationships he had developed throughout his life. He is missed with fondness and gratitude by his family and friends and will be remembered for the impact he made on the lives of so many people.

Walter is survived by his wife Ann and many family members. 🌈

Thank you grant supporters!



**\$10,000 grant for
all ages programming and
juvenile materials**



**John P.
ELLBOGEN
FOUNDATION**

\$5,000 grant for ACPL support



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
POWER
FOUNDATION**

\$4,000 grant for bookmobile support

WALMART

\$500 grant for ACPL support

For Connection, For Growth, For Community, Think ACPL!

What's Happening @ Your Library

Children:

Youth Services will take a programming break from May 1 to June 6.

Storywalk®

Come read a story while walking around the library! A new Storywalk® is posted each week. Enjoy them at your leisure.

Book Babies

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

Bring your babies for a short storytime filled with fun, baby-approved bounces, songs, and rhymes, plus early literacy and child development tips. Ages 0-2 with a grown-up.

Preschool Circle Time

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

Learning, books and fun to develop early literacy skills and school readiness. Enjoy stories for preschool-aged children and their families.



Toddler Storytime
Friday at 10:30 a.m. in the Children's Area

Stories, songs and rhymes for toddlers and their caregivers. Ideal for ages 2-4.

Preschool Playtime
Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Children's Area

Let's play together! STEM, literacy, art & motor-skill stations for preschoolers & their caregivers. Ages 3-5 accompanied by a grown-up.

Lego Club

Saturdays at 1p.m. in the Wyoming Room

Calling all Lego builders! We provide the Legos. You provide the imagination. Caregivers must attend with children. Program for children in grades K-6th.

Stuffy Sleepover

April 18 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Come for a slumber party themed storytime, then have your stuffy stay for a sleepover at the library all night! Keep up with their adventures on our Facebook and Instagram.

Teens & Tweens:

YAK!

Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Wyoming Room

Have a blast with science, tech, art, and more! It's all about having fun while exploring new ideas and skills. Program for 4th-6th graders.



Adults:

ACPL has a selection of books clubs you can join! Visit acplwy.org/adults/adult-book-clubs to join and see upcoming books.

Cozy Mystery Book Club

First Monday of the month at 2 p.m.

A book club for those who like their mysteries light on sex and violence, and particularly enjoy amateur sleuths! Contact Kennedy at kpennotoole@acplwy.org with questions.

Murder Club: A True Crime Book Club

Second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. in the Laramie Branch main area

A book club that delves into infamous murders, serial killers, and other true crime mysteries. Contact Bailey at bmurray@acplwy.org with questions.

Intro to Seed Starting

April 13 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Big Brothers Big Sisters

Learn some of the basic techniques of growing plants from seed.

Drop-In Leaf Print Card Class

April 27 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Laramie Branch Main Area

Stop by at ACPL between 1-3 PM and create your own leaf print cards. Raechel Henderson, local author of *Sew Witchy* and *Wheel of the Year*, will be available to teach you this fun technique.

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

Friends of the Library

310 S. 8th Street
Laramie, WY 82070
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Friends of the ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY


BECOME A
member

Become a **FRIENDS OF THE ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY** member. There are three ways to become a member, or to renew your membership:

- **Complete our online membership form.**
- **Join or renew at a Friends of the Library book sale.**
- **Stop by the Circulation Desk at the library during business hours.**




WANT TO
volunteer?

Volunteer with the book sale crew! Work at the next book sale (accepting payment, directing shoppers), become a regular volunteer, or help us list books in our Amazon storefront. There are many different jobs to be done.

Please email FOL_VolunteerCoordinator@acplwy.org for current volunteer openings and more information. Apply online: <https://friends.acplwy.org/volunteer>



SAVE THE
DATE

The **FRIENDS**
next **BOOK**
SALE is
May 9-12, 2025

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