

Behind the Scenes at the Book Sale

By Laura Stoll, Assistant to the Director

One of the most exciting community events of the year is coming up soon on the Clinton Village Green: the Friends of the KTL's Annual Book Sale! Mark your calendars for Friday, July 7 from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m., Saturday, July 8 from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Sunday, July 9 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The book sale is the Friends' largest fundraiser. During those three days, they will sell thousands of books to readers from all over the area, including some who make the trek to Clinton just for this event. The items for sale include novels, bestsellers, classics, nonfiction, romance, biographies, memoirs, mysteries, self-help, science fiction, history, cookbooks, young adult, graphic novels, children's books, puzzles & games, regional, rare & special books, CD's, DVD's, and more. Everything is priced to sell. On Sunday, you can fill a bag with whatever you can fit for just \$5.

The Friends committee works behind the scenes year-round to make this event a success. The process begins when readers like you drop off your gently used books in the shed in the library's parking lot. While you are packing your donations to bring us, take a moment and look over the condition of the items. We all love books and hate to throw them away but the reality is that it's time to say farewell to old, torn, moldy, and smelly books. Please put those in your trash at home and save our volunteers the extra step. (Paperback books can go in the recycling; hardcover books have to go in with household trash.)

The Friends move all of the donations from our shed to one of two off-site locations, which are temporarily loaned to us by generous community members. Then, it's the job of our crew of volunteer sorters to go through all of the donations, sift out the trash, and categorize them. They also look for valuable items that could be sold in our "specials" tent for a higher price. It's up to the sorters to distinguish whether a book is for children or adults, belongs in the fiction or non-fiction areas, or is another kind of media (DVD, CD, audiobook) that shoppers might be interested in. The sorters box up the donations again, carefully label them, and set them aside for storage until the summer.

This is the part where you can step in and help these hardworking Friends. The week before the sale, the committee, alongside a crew of community volunteers, move all of the boxes of books to the Village Green. There, they set up tables, set out the books, and make sure everything is neat and tidy for shoppers to browse. Once the sale begins, volunteers are needed to help the Friends keep the sale running smoothly, not to mention help clean up at the end.

You didn't hear this secret from me, but one of the fringe benefits of helping at the sale is that you get extra time to browse the tents and create your own stack of items to bring home. You'll get a chance to catch up with fellow book-loving friends and neighbors in the fresh air. Plus, moving the books and walking around the Village Green is good for your physical (and mental) health.

The Friends can't wait to see you at the book sale this year, either as a shopper or a volunteer. To sign up for a volunteer shift, stop in the library, call 315-853-2038, or email clinton@midyork.org. Our book donation shed is locked for the summer but we'll open it again

this fall to start collecting books for the summer 2024 event. Thank you for supporting the Kirkland Town Library and the book sale. We hope you find your next favorite read!