

Friends of the Olympia Library Newsletter

February 2026



Friends of the Olympia Library

Our mission

To support, promote and augment the operations of the Olympia Library.

Find us on the [web](#)
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Olympia Timberland Library
313 Eighth Ave. S.E.
(360) 352-0595

Hours: 10-6 Monday-Saturday
Closed Sunday

West Olympia Library
625 Black Lake Blvd SW
In the Capital Mall
(360) 764-4440

Hours: 10-6 Monday-Saturday
11-6 on Sunday*

Friends of the Olympia Library Special Sale of Books

On Saturday, February 28th from 11-4 in the Olympia Library Meeting Room, FOL will be selling two collections of exceptional books from generous donors.

Stephanie Coontz, Professor Emeritus at the Evergreen State Library and a nationally known author on marriage and family life in America, has donated books from her personal library that were gifted to her and signed by their authors. The collection features over 60 new, unread books, mostly on marriage, family life, women's history and related topics, but also some fiction by well-known authors.

In addition to Professor Coontz' donation, there will be a large collection from the *Library of America*, classics of American literature all hard copy in slipcases and new condition covering a wide range of genres from poetry to novels, memoirs to journalism, crime writing and science fiction. For more information about the Library of America go to: <https://www.loa.org/>



Finally, there will be a small collection of old bibles. Their condition is very used.

Pricing will be as follows:

Stephanie Coontz Collection:	Priced as marked.
Library of America:	\$5.00 each.
Old Bibles:	Priced as marked.
Jazz LP Records	Priced as marked.

***This is *not* a Giant Sale of Books and does *not* include books from our Book Store inventory. ***

Hard Times for Timberland Regional Libraries

In January 2026 Timberland Regional Library discovered a \$3.8-million-dollar shortfall in the budget. The library is taking immediate action to reduce purchases of new materials, decrease performers and programs and reduce the amount of free copying available to patrons. A hiring freeze is in place and plans for a staff reduction are being developed. In addition, travel and training are being reduced.

Victoria Harmon, TRL Regional Manager, spoke extensively about the budget situation at the Feb. 10 Friends of the Library Board meeting. She said the Olympia Library programming for 2026 would be fine, with the financial assistance from Friends of the Olympia Library, but added that she was still gathering information about the budget impacts. Asked about how the Friend of the Library could help address any program gaps, Harmon said, "If something comes up, I will make a request."

For further information on the TRL 2026 budget, Harmon said FOL members and the general public could look at TRL's Funding and budget page on its website. <https://trl.org/budget/> The TRL Board also will discuss the budget and staffing at its February 25th meeting. Interested people can Zoom this meeting live and view recordings of past TRL Board meetings at: <https://trl.org/board/>

There will be a Save Our Libraries Join the Fight Against Staff Layoffs Community Forum sponsored by AFSCME Local 3758 from 3-5 pm on Sunday, February 22 in the Friendship Hall, 220 Union Ave SE.

Friends of the Library members are encouraged to stay informed about the budget situation because FOL will need to provide support to the library and its staff going forward.



*Your
Library*

More Places to Buy Books from the Friends of the Olympia Library

Visit the FOL book sale inside the West Olympia Library in the Capital Mall. It's hard to find in the back corner of the library, but worth the effort.

The FOL also sells books on eBay. Visit our online store at:

http://www.ebay.com/usr/friendsoftheo_0

**The Friends of the Olympia meet every month on the second Tuesday in the Olympia Library Meeting Room from 1-2 pm. Consider attending to meet the Board members and find out what the Friends are planning for the future.*

FOL VOLUNTEER FORM



Friends of the Olympia Library

The mission of the Friends is "To support, promote and augment the operations of the Olympia Library".

Volunteer

Would you like to help the Friends of the Olympia Library?
There are varying degrees of participation for every interest level!

Fill out this form and leave it in the box on the FOL slat board wall opposite the FOL Book Store inside the Olympia Library. The FOL volunteer coordinator will contact you.

If you have questions, please contact: fol73volunteers@gmail.com for more information. *The Olympia Library requires all volunteers to have a background check.*

Name: _____

Best way to contact me: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Jobs that interest me:

___ Accepting book donations on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

___ Emptying the donation bin.

___ Book sorting and/or pricing.

___ Stocking ongoing book sale shelves.

___ Help with publicity, membership and volunteers.

___ Help with FOL Board activities.

Date _____ *Your information will not be shared.*

For more about the FOL: www.olylibraryfriends.com

FOL MEMBERSHIP FORM



Friends of the Olympia Library

Join the Friends of the Olympia Library

Members receive our newsletter *and* the good feeling of supporting your local library.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

E-mail _____

Telephone (_____) _____

*None of your personal information will be sold, given, or traded to any third parties for any reason.

New Membership _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Memberships are for one (1) year, except "Friend for Life".
If your dues are for more than 1 year, indicate # of years here _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (Tax Deductible)

Individual	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 15.00
Senior (65+)/Student	\$ 5.00
Business	\$ 50.00
Best Friend	\$ 100.00
Friend for Life	\$ 150.00

Please mail this application and your check to:

Friends of the Olympia Library

313 8th Avenue SE

Olympia, WA 98501

or

place it in the membership box on the Friends slat board wall opposite the FOL Book Store
in the Olympia Library, or join online: www.olylibraryfriends.com/join