



Oct 2026

A Message from Interim Executive Director Andrea Heisel

Dear Friends,

Happy National Friends of the Library Week!

Thank you for your support, your time, and your talents. Over the last five months, I hope you have felt and seen a shift in the relationship between TRL as a whole and each of your groups.

Together, we have:

- Revised the former Friends of the Library Policy into the Friends of the Library Partnership Policy.
- Begun a revised process for refreshes/remodels that employs a thorough community engagement component as well as opportunities for Friends members to provide feedback and to serve on ad hoc committees around the refresh/remodel.
- Administration has attended, listened, and taken feedback from Friends in FoL meetings to inform our work together.

TRL is committed to continuing this work with you. We know that our Friends provide immeasurable support of our branches and we have been exploring ways in which we can better support you.

Here are just a few things we have been working on behind the scenes:

- Friends of the Library Handbook – a how to guide to help Friends groups, especially during times when leadership within the group transitions. IN PROCESS
- Friends chats and annual Friends Forum – connecting you to other Friends groups in our district, sharing ideas, questions, and answers from your peers and TRL. Lily has done a great job coordinating the chats, and we are looking into how to bring folks together in-person for an in-depth time in community with one another. IN PROCESS
- Developing next version of MOU between TRL and individual FoL groups with feedback and input from FoL groups. TO START IN JAN 2027

At the end of the day, I hope you know, understand, and can feel that TRL values your work, your contributions, and your input. We will continue that work and will continue to be open to feedback, questions, and ideas.

Thank you for all you do for our libraries and for helping us dream bigger on what we can do together.

Sincerely,
Andrea

ADVOCACY
SUPPORT
FUNDRAISING
COMMUNITY



**THANK YOU,
FRIENDS!**

you're the best!



NATIONAL Friends OF Libraries WEEK

OCTOBER 18-24, 2026

AN INITIATIVE OF UNITED FOR LIBRARIES



UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Levy Lid Lift

There are less than two weeks until Election Day! TRL continues to add to and update the information on our website regarding the levy. Please visit trl.org/levy for the latest info!

Tumwater Library Art Donation

Thank you to the Friends of the Tumwater Library for their generous donation of artwork! Read about this project here: trl.org/blogs/post/art-that-feels-like-home-how-tumwaters-friends-are-bringing-local-beauty-into-the-library/

Funding Opportunity

[United for Libraries](#) and [Penguin Random House](#) are teaming up to offer cash grants of \$500 and \$1000 to Friends groups supporting small and rural libraries. Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/4hdubzv>

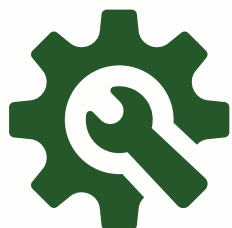
If you are interested in pursuing these grants, please coordinate with your Regional Manager and Special Projects Coordinator Lily Grant.

Evaluating Children's Areas

The children's areas are currently being evaluated with staff and community feedback to improve patron experience. Some changes have already started happening and will continue into the next year. If you want to know about those changes and the direction that TRL will be heading in when it comes to designing our youth spaces, please reach out to our Early Learning Coordinator Alexis Hardy at ahardy@trl.org. She is happy to provide a presentation and discussion with your Friends group.



IN THE WORKS



Quick Updates on FOL Related Projects

TRL Friends Handbook: Coming soon! This will be a how-to guide for Friends that will address common questions regarding fundraising, advocacy, book sale management, and organizational duties.

Revised MOU: TRL will be collaborating with FOL groups to draft new MOU agreements. Look for more news about this in January 2027.

LET'S CHAT!

Thank you to everyone who has attended our online chats so far! We have had some great conversations!

The next chat is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 12pm-1pm.

Invites have been sent to all Friends we have an email address for. Didn't receive an invite but want to come? Please contact Lily at lgrant@trl.org for a zoom link. All Friends members are welcome!

CALL OUT FOR NEWS

Has your Friends group had a successful sale or other fundraising event recently? Sponsored a great library program? Just want to share what makes your local library special? Let us know!

We would love to highlight your Friends group in an upcoming newsletter. Contact Lily Grant at lgrant@trl.org or (360) 704-4533



QUESTIONS?

Contact Lily Grant, Special Projects Coordinator at lgrant@trl.org or (360) 704-4533

Timberland Regional **LIBRARY**