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Many Hands Make Light Work!

Friends of the Temple Public Library Hosts Annual Labor Day Book Sale Starting August 31

Volunteers work year round to prepare for the two used book sales attracting local and visiting shoppers to the Temple Public Library. During the Mid-Winter 2026 sale, Friends' members filled 206 jobs totaling 640 hours, says Diann Anderson, past president and volunteer co-chair. It's not too late to volunteer now for the 2026 Labor Day Sale, she adds.

"Our twice-a-year sales offer the biggest bargains in Central Texas. We're successful because we sell donated books for low prices, and we have dedicated volunteers who sort books year round and work the week-long sales," explains Anderson, who co-chairs the volunteer committee with Mary Murray and Dorothy Rubin. Most books are priced \$2 or less, the same price they were at the Friends first book sale 41 years ago.

The Labor Day sale starts with a preview for Friends members at 10 a.m. on Monday, August 31.

Friends Membership Chair Lana Shields says members can now skip the line and join or renew online, by visiting the Friends website: <https://friendsofthetemplepubliclibrary.org> Individuals also may volunteer by emailing friendsoftemplelibrary@gmail.com.

"Members can beat the crowds to get a first look at the sale offerings," Shields adds, with memberships starting at \$10 for an individual and \$20 for a family/household.

The Friends group has more than 200 members, many of whom give at the patron (\$100/year), benefactor (\$250/year) and lifetime (\$1,000 one time) levels. Business memberships also are available.

The sale opens to the public on Wednesday, Sept. 2, and continues through Saturday, Sept. 5, when all remaining items can be purchased for \$5 a bag (provided by the Friends). Teachers receive a 20 percent discount every day of the sale, except Saturday. New items are added to sale tables each day.

Books are sorted into categories – fiction, mystery, biography, history, romance, children’s books, etc. – and displayed on tables filling the McLane Room on the library’s third floor. Vintage books, record albums, DVDs, CDs, classic fiction, religious books, textbooks, non-fiction and cookbooks also are included in the sale.

“Whatever your reading preferences,” says President Al Waite, “the Friends bi-annual sale provides plenty of options. We’d love for you to take advantage of the bargains and to volunteer to help us in our mission.”

Book sale hours are: August 31 members’ preview, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sept. 2-4 open to the public, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sept. 5 bag sale for \$5 a bag, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Friends of the Temple Public Library held its first meeting in 1965 and its first used book sale in 1985. That annual sale, now expanded to twice a year, is the Friends’ primary fundraiser. The City of Temple recognized the Friends during its 60th anniversary last year, noting the group’s steadfast support of literacy, lifelong learning, and community connection through library services. The Friends used book sales have made it possible for the Friends to donate funds for library renovations, children’s summer reading programs, and the library bookmobiles. Each year, the Friends provide up to \$35,000 to fund the library director’s wish list.

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