



Manchester Library

Manchester Library Friends' Newsletter March-April 2026 Issue

*Who are The Friends?
They provide the library its building and cover its cost; and they support programs at the Library. Plant Sales, Book Sales, and the Salmon Bake are their major fundraisers.*

April 25 is Earth Day!

Manchester is celebrating Earth Day with FREE activities for the entire family in qa'qad Stormwater Park from 11 am until 3 pm.

There's more: The Friends will hold the annual **Plant Sale** fundraiser in the Library parking lot from 9 am to 3 pm. And there will be a **Book Sale** in the Library Community Room from 9 to 3.

Can't wait until April 25 to pick up some great plants at amazing prices? Check out the **Sidewalk Plant Sale** at the Library beginning in late March.

When you look at your yard do you see a lot of over-grown plants you'd like to replace? The Plant Sale committee is looking for **donations of plants**. Your plant donations can be left in the open bins along the north wall outside the library. (There are signs.) If you need pots for donations, contact Carol Campbell at campbellcarol1949@gmail.com. (The committee has LOTS of pots!).

MANCHESTER EARTH DAY
April 25 Saturday qa'qad Stormwater Park
 11 am- 3 pm
FREE activities for the entire family

Learn from Experts About:
 Earthquake Preparedness
 Wildfire Prevention
 Rain Gardens
 Natural Lawn Maintenance
 ...and much more!

Kids Activities
 Bee Headbands
 Planting Seeds
 Face Painting
 Boy Scouts

Friends of Manchester Library
GIANT PLANT & BOOK SALE ACROSS THE STREET

MCA Manchester Community Association

Huge Book and Plant Sale
Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Purchase plants off the Friends of the Library trailer and stock up on books at the annual Friends of Manchester Library Book and Plant Sale
8067 E Main St., Manchester

Do you want to help but don't have any plants to donate? **VOLUNTEER!** Carol Campbell (campbellcarol1949@gmail.com) coordinates volunteers—email her!

Here is a partial list of **volunteer jobs**:

- Before the sale:**
 - help with pricing
 - loading/unloading and setting up for the sale
- During the sale:**
 - take payments
 - answer customers' questions
 - help customers load purchases
- Ongoing:**
 - care for plants (trim, fertilize)
 - watering during the summer

(sign up for one week (or more))

Earth Day Plant Sale Information

What kind of plants can you expect to find at the **Plant Sale**? Here's just a taste...

Edibles: strawberries, blueberries tayberries, Marion berries, Cosmic Crisp apple tree (only one!)

Native plants: vine maples, pacific crabapple, Nootka rose, noble fir, blue elderberry, sword ferns, fringe cup and more!

Shrubs and perennials: Hydrangea shrubs and divisions, Campanula varieties, rose campion, bear's breech, anemones, spireas, iris, Shasta daisies, ornamental grasses, Heavenly Bamboo (Nandina), and more!

Manchester Current Events Calendar

Please follow links for times and other information

Key: [Library](#), [FOML](#), [FOML Board](#), [Community](#)

- | | | | |
|--------|--|--------|---|
| Mar 12 | Preschool Storytime (For ages 3-5) | Apr 10 | Toddler Tunes 'n Tales (For ages 2-3) |
| Mar 16 | Manchester Book Group
discussing What an Owl Knows by Jennifer Ackerman | Apr 20 | Manchester Book Group
discussing Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano |
| Mar 17 | Baby Band (For ages up to 2 & caregivers) | Apr 21 | Baby Band (For ages up to 2 & caregivers) |
| Mar 19 | All Kitsap Regional Libraries closed for staff training day | Apr 21 | Spring LEGO Challenges (Geared to age 6-12; younger siblings welcome with an adult) |
| Mar 24 | Baby Band (For ages up to 2 & caregivers) | Apr 22 | Upcycled Book Boxes Create a secret storage box...(Ages 18+) |
| Mar 24 | Beading Fun (Geared to age 6-12; younger siblings welcome with an adult) | Apr 22 | FOML Board Meeting , 7:00 – 8:15 pm |
| Mar 25 | FOML Board Meeting , 7:00 – 8:15 pm | Apr 23 | Preschool Storytime (For ages 3-5) |
| Mar 26 | Preschool Storytime (For ages 3-5) | Apr 25 | Earth Day Book and Plant Sale , 9 am-3 pm |
| Apr 7 | Toddler Parachute Play (For ages 2-3) | Apr 25 | Manchester Earth Day at qa'qad Stormwater Park , 11 am-3 pm – see flyer! |
| Apr 7 | String Art (For ages 6-12) | | |
| Apr 7 | Preschool Parachute Storytime (For ages 3-5) | | |

Check manchesterwa.org & [KRL Manchester Library \(https://www.krl.org/locations/8/\)](https://www.krl.org/locations/8/) for more events

About Books: Manchester Book Group

Manchester Book Group will discuss [What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds](#) by Jennifer Ackerman on March 16. It is available as a (physical) book, eBook, audiobook and Large Print edition. I'm sorry this is such short notice; there's more time for the April selection...

On April 20, the discussion will be about [Dear Edward](#) by Ann Napolitano. This "instant New York Times bestseller" is available from KRL as a book, eBook, audiobook, and Large Print edition. From the publisher: "A twelve-year-old boy struggles with the worst kind of fame—as the sole survivor of a notorious plane crash."

Want to get started on the May and June books? Here they are:

May 18: [The Wives, A Memoir](#) by Simone Gorrindo

June 15: [The Familiar](#) by Leigh Bardugo

About Books: Recommendations

I received two great book recommendations to share with you. First is from John Winslow, FOML Secretary; the second is from Yoli Pardo.

[*The Gales of November*](#) by John U. Bacon ([also available as an eBook and as an audiobook](#))

“It is a new compelling read retelling the story of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald on the Great Lakes back in November 1975. A 50 year homage to the sailor on the vessel. We've all heard the Gordon Lightfoot tale of the Edmund Fitzgerald, well this is the detailed story of all the little things that built up to the sinking of the then largest ship to have sailed the Great Lakes. I highly recommend this to anyone who is interested in ships and nautical things. It was a genuine tragedy.” --John Winslow

[*Miracle and Wonder: Conversations with Paul Simon*](#) by Malcolm Gladwell, Bruce Headlam, and (of course) Paul Simon. The recommendation is for the audiobook.

From the publisher: “*Miracle and Wonder: Conversations with Paul Simon* is part memoir, part investigation, and unlike any creative portrait you’ve ever heard before.”

From Yoli: “I am a longtime fan of Paul Simon. This "book" is nothing without the audio. Paul noodles about on his guitar as he is being interviewed. The interview was done before he completed his last album and before his last live tour. We [Yoli and Ray Pardo] attended his final concert on July 30th of [last] year in Seattle. Simon was 87 years old at that time.” --Yoli Pardo.

November/December Newsletter Follow Up

Ray Pardo memorial service

Did you miss the Celebration of Life for Ray Pardo, held October 25, 2025? You can see it here:

<https://youtu.be/Cq3T6syk6gg>. It runs 1 hour and 03 minutes. There are many heartwarming tributes.

Winners of *Manchester Holiday Magic* Lighting Contest

The winner, **Barry and Diana Williams**, had a moving display that pulsed to the music (which you could also listen to on your radio).

To do it justice, I need a video but this series of photos will give you a *hint* at the impressive display.

The business winner was **Manchester Edward Jones**. (Santa, on the balcony, was napping when I took this picture.)



Thank you to the amazing sponsors of the Holiday Magic Lighting Contest.
Please visit their establishments and say "Thanks."

Holiday Magic Lighting Contest

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Thank You