A BIG THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL TOOL SALE

BY JASON R. SANDERS

Despite the possibility for rain, the tool sale was open at 9am on October 30th to a sunny warm day. We are so grateful for the local community who came out to support us and the volunteers who helped us set up and clear down “behind the scenes.”

The tool sale is a great opportunity for folks to find deals on a wide selection of tools and related items, which in turn helps support us to help pay rent, buy new tools, and remain an integral part of the community.

Do you or someone you know have tools or hardware that you would like to donate? Please let us know as your gently used donations may become someone else’s treasures!

See you soon at the Spring Tool Sale!
We are very excited to announce a new program from the Tool Library: the Small Grant Program. This neighborhood is capable of anything: from creating community gardens to home repairs and alternative homebuilding. We are amazed by the projects our members undertake, and we want to help make more projects financially feasible. **We are launching a new grant initiative that will provide up to $1,000 in funding to four (4) small building projects a year.**

Projects will be chosen quarterly, and applications will be open January 1, 2022 for the first quarter’s grant!

“Applications will be rolling and will be banked. Once you apply, you do not need to reapply.”

We are keeping the application process simple. Interested community members should fill out a brief application available [HERE](#) or in person at the Tool Library.

In addition to this grant program, we have been working on gathering resources about other grants and programs offered in the city. Please check out our list [HERE](#).

Let us know if you know of a resource we can add or if you have questions about the small grant program!

You can email us at info@westphillytools.org.

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**BY ASH FRITZSCHE**

- Home repair
- Community pantry or fridge
- Community garden or similar public space
- Skoolie/Tiny Home
- Furniture building
UPDATES FROM THE 2021-2022 COMMITTEES

BY JASON R. SANDERS

In August 2021, several committees were formed to identify, plan, and work on improvements to specific areas of the organization. We are excited to announce the committee members and provide a brief update from each of the teams.

**Tools & Tool Maintenance Committee**
Jeff Cao
Don Webster

The committee has been working to clear out and organize the repair station at the tool library. In the next few months, the committee will be excited to invite more volunteers to come in and help out with tool repair.

**Operations and Personnel Committee**
Grace Gallagher
Jason R. Sanders
Laura Smarrito
Cassandra Zook

The team is working to consistently improve the user experience, starting with the 2022 Survey, restart of the newsletter, and the transition of our library database to a different platform to better serve our members.

**Fundraising & Finance Committee**
Jason R. Sanders
Ash Fritzsch
Erin Gautsche
Michael Froehlich

The team is working hard to establish new written internal procedures, startup the small grant program, and upgrade our payment systems to improve the user experience and enable advanced financial reporting & analytics.

**Community Engagement Committee**
Robinette Jones
Simone Shemshedini
Yianni Kourmadas

The engagement team has been working on getting classes back up and running at the tool library. Stay tuned for announcements when we launch classes this spring.

2022 KICKOFF SURVEY

BY JASON R. SANDERS

We are always trying to find new ways to improve the Tool Library for our members, and we need your help to give us feedback on the tools and services you would like to see offered in the future.

- **What tools would you like to see?** (new or more stock)
- **What workshop topics would you attend?**
- **What other services can the tool library offer to better meet your needs?**

These are just some of the questions in our survey and we would love to get your open and anonymous feedback. We are also giving away some prizes as a thank you for you completing the survey (more details in the link below)

Thanks for helping us with the 2022 New Year Survey!
A tool you’ll find in almost every carpenter’s belt is a Speed Square. It’s also called a rafter square because it is used by roof cutters to mark out the angled cuts on rafters. It has about a million other uses so I always keep one close at hand.

By holding it firmly against the edge of a board you can use it to mark out square cuts or a 45° angle. Rotating it at the pivot point and aligning the edge of the board with the angle marks on the edge allows you to mark any angle between 0° and 90°. You can also use it to check for square or as a guide to make square cuts with your circular saw.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GIVING TUESDAY DONORS

We appreciate all the support from our members, and would like to thank the donors from our Giving Tuesday drive. We are very excited to continue to grow and improve our Tool Library and could not do it without your support.

The winner of the lifetime membership is: Iva Victoria Goldsmith (member since 2018).

Thanks again for your continued support!
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ROB DOLECKI
BY GRACE GALLAGHER

West Philly Tool Library member Rob Dolecki has been borrowing tools since 2011, and in that time has taken home more than 300 tools! He is currently working on his second home renovation which has included gutting his home and building it back. Some of the projects that he’s undertaken include: parging the walls in his basement, painting his entire house and pouring a patio slab in his backyard. With such varying projects, the tool library helps make this work financially feasible.

WE LOVE TO SEE WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE WORKING ON!

WANT US TO FEATURE YOUR PROJECT?

EMAIL US AT: INFO@WESTPHILLYTOOLS.ORG