

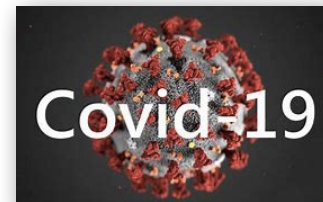
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FRIENDS OF THE SOUTHBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer/Fall 2020 Newsletter

So far, it's been a year like no other, hasn't it. The world on lock-down, quarantine, or WFH (work from home) because of COVID-19. Schools, libraries, businesses closed, and every one of us has felt the impact in one way or another. Adding insult to injury, western Connecticut was hammered by Tropical Storm Isaias in August, with thousands of residents without power, water, or Internet access for a week.

Southbury Public Library opened to the public on a limited basis in July, after a few months of reserving books online or by phone and picking them up by appointment. Hours are still limited, and full access won't happen until all health officials (Federal, State, and local), Town Hall, the Library Board, and the Head Librarian give their stamp of approval. Limited attendance and limited hours mean the library is unable to offer in-person programs, movies, concerts, story hours, book discussions, or meeting room space, although the staff has accepted the challenge and is offering a range of programs online. The Friends will fund up to \$15,000 in online/virtual programs in Fiscal Year 20/21. Restrictions probably won't be fully lifted until we have a vaccine or "herd immunity."



Given the restrictions, the Friends are unable to host our annual book sale, or even the lobby sale (we hope that's temporary) to raise money to help fund library programs. We know money is tight for everyone right now, but we hope your budget allows you to renew or join the Friends of the Southbury Library. We will continue our support for our annual scholarship program, museum passes, movie licenses, this newsletter, and online programs for all ages. Go to <https://www.southburylibrary.org/about-us/support-the-library/friends> to join online, or to print a membership form to mail. Or you can pick up a membership form when you visit the library.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Friends of the Southbury Public Library, Inc. has awarded scholarships to three college-bound Southbury graduating seniors.

Giovanni Romano has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. He will attend the University of Connecticut to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering. In his application essay, Giovanni noted "Volunteering at the library was my first community service activity and taught me the benefits of being active in your community and giving back to a place that has given so much to me."

Maura Fellin was awarded a \$500 scholarship. She will begin her studies at the University of Vermont this fall. Maura's application essay concluded with these words about the Southbury Public Library: "It will forever be a place that has influenced me in my academic development, as well as helped me become a well-rounded individual. I'm proud to call Southbury my home and so fortunate to have spent so many hours in the comfort of one of the best places in town, the library."

Emily Puglisi was awarded a \$500 scholarship. She will attend Boston University in the fall. Emily's essay noted "I don't think I would be where I am today – so interested in the philosophies and other ideologies behind books and other pieces of art – if it weren't for our local library. It built on the foundations of my passion for reading."

Awarding these scholarships to college-bound Southbury residents is an investment in the future of our community. The Board of the Friends of the Southbury Public Library believes that encouraging the further education of our children benefits all of us. The Friends are able to award scholarships with financial support from membership dues and the proceeds of the annual and ongoing book sales. Membership forms are available at the library and on the library's website.



Emily Puglisi, Giovanni Romano, Maura Fellin.
*Looking back at this image of these students with their masks
will always tell us this was 2020.*

Where Does the Friends' Money Come From, and Where Does It Go?

The 2020-21 Budget

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Lobby Book Sale	\$500	Museum Passes	\$2,000
Contributions	\$1,000	Scholarships	\$2,000
Labonne's cash for receipts	\$50	Licenses	\$700
Membership	\$4,000	Donor Recognition	\$2,000
Interest income	\$20	Improvements	\$500
Total	\$5,570	Capital Fund	\$2,500
		Communications	\$1,000
		Contingency	\$500
		Dues	\$60
		Insurance	\$400
		Postage	\$200
		Printing	\$250
		Virtual Programs	\$15,000
		Total	\$27,110

Note: Our Emergency Reserve Fund is sufficient to cover the one-time shortfall caused by the cancellation of our annual book sale.



Q: When will the Lobby Sale be open?

A: As soon as we get the OK from Town officials and the library staff!

Q: When will we have our Big Basement Book Sale?

A: As soon as social distancing is not required. The Friends need the sale to fund the programs the library offers to the community.

Q: Are the Friends still accepting books for the basement and lobby sales?

A: Yes! Pickup and drop-off are by appointment only. Call John at 203-525-0199 to arrange a pickup.

Q: What happens to the books that aren't sold at the sales?

A: The library staff gets the first chance to select donated books to add to the collection. The library has saved literally thousands of dollars of taxpayer money by selecting valuable titles that fill a need. According to statistics compiled by library staff, savings amount to approximately \$20,000 annually.

After our full price and 1/2 price sales, we have a free day for local schools and non-profits. Then we pack the leftovers and send them to Discover Books, which pays the Friends a small amount per pound. Discover Books sorts them for distribution to schools and other organizations in this country and overseas. The Friends sort some directly into the recycle bin (outdated medical, legal, and travel, or books in unsaleable condition).

Q: Can I volunteer for the Friends?

A: When the Friends resume sorting books for the sales, we'll need volunteers to help with that. Donation Days always need volunteers to accept books and do a preliminary sort. And we're always grateful to our volunteers who help at the basement sales.

Q: So how do I join the Friends?

A: Go to <https://www.southburylibrary.org/about-us/support-the-library/friends> to join online, or to print a membership form to mail. Or you can pick up a membership form when you visit the library.