

Friends Newsletter Summer 2022

It's time! It's time!



Time for what, you ask. Time to renew your membership – or join The Friends for the very first time. But why?? Why pay money when you get all the benefits without joining? Sooooo many reasons! Your membership dues, whether at the \$10 minimum level or higher, help underwrite the cost of the services The Friends provide to the entire community. Summer reading for kids and teens, movie licenses, scholarships for college-bound high school students, passes to area museums and attractions, programs (**so** many programs), equipment – wouldn't you like to know that you helped fund all of that? To join or renew, go to <https://www.southburylibrary.org/about-us/support-the-library/friends>, return the form sent with this newsletter, or pick up a membership form at the library.

A Message of Thanks From Head Librarian Shirley Thorsen

The library staff and I are very grateful to the Friends for ongoing support of library programming. The Friends fund the vast majority of presenter fees and supplies for programs for all ages, and sponsor museum passes offering free or reduced admission to area museums and attractions. They also fund all of the Teen summer reading prizes and many of the Children's summer reading prizes, including gift cards to local businesses like Riverview Cinemas, Annie's Nail Salon, and Nardelli's.

The Friends continue to purchase special equipment. This year they purchased the new 4k Optima projector for the Kingsley Room, which has greatly enhanced attendees' movie-going experience. On a daily basis, they work in the lower level sorting thousands of donated materials in preparation for their tremendous book sales. We thank all of you who have made donations to the Friends either by giving or purchasing materials!

We extend a special thank you to the current and former members of the Friends Board for their dedication and support of the library. We wish the Friends many, many more years of great success!

Programs? What Programs?

While the Friends don't fund all of the programs the library offers to the community, we do fund the great majority of them. If you look at the budget further down in this newsletter, you'll see that we've allocated \$36,000 for programs for the new fiscal year that began on July 1. So how many programs? And who attends them?

For the period from July 2021 through May 2022 (not even a full year), here are the numbers:

- Adult programs: 126
- Children's programs: 311

- Teen programs: 46
- Total programs: 483
- Total attendance at all programs: 14,828

Programs included crafts and food, music, story times, author talks, history programs, genealogy programs, and movies, and so many more. What a great service to the community!

Gift of New Projector to the Library from the Friends of the Southbury Public Library

The Friends of the Southbury Public library provided funds to the Library for the purchase of a new 4K projector for the Kingsley Room. The Friends have supported the Wednesday afternoon movies and Friday evening family movies for many years, and have paid the licensing fees that make showing them possible (and legal!). Friends President Jeff O'Sullivan stated "the Friends are very excited to be able to provide the funds to upgrade to the new 4K projector



system. We hope the enhanced resolution and color enhancements will make the movie viewing even more enjoyable." We anticipate more good news in the near future, as the Library has also requested funding from the Friends for a new and enhanced sound system for movies and programs.

The Friends' regular budget provides for \$45,000 for library programs and other support needs. This past year the ongoing lobby sale (daily in the library lobby during library hours) created an extraordinary financial windfall. The Friends will continue to refresh the lobby sale twice weekly with books that are mostly new condition, as well as vinyl, DVDs, and CDs. The community has responded and the Friends have extra funds to support the library.

The Library Board of Directors and the library staff thank the Friends for this wonderful gift, which will enhance library patrons' movie-going experience.



Jeff O'Sullivan, President, Tessa Massi, Jonas Romano, and Jeanne Marie Nealon, Scholarship Committee

Friends Award Three Scholarships

The Friends of the Southbury Public Library awarded three merit-based scholarships to college-bound seniors from Southbury. Jonas Romano was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Grace Cerneck and Tessa Masi were selected as the winners of the \$500 scholarships.

In his application essay, Jonas stated "Volunteering with the library was a part of who I was, the hours I spent there cementing my ideals and values in a way nothing else could. Libraries represent so much to a community.

Free, accessible information is so important to offer to all people, especially in the world we now live in." Grace's essay noted "You would think the pandemic would have hindered the influence of the Southbury Library but I was actually able to utilize multiple of their resources. Throughout my life, the Southbury Public Library has provided me with resources and an environment that has shaped me into who I am today." In her essay, Tessa stated "The Southbury Public Library fed my ravenous appetite for literature as a child and helped form the way I interpret the world and the products it creates. When consuming literature--whether it be books, movies, or series--I dive in through the surface and scan the sea of words and imagery for more underlying themes, symbolism, and parallels like treasure in the sand."



Grace Cerneck

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.

Book Sales

The generosity of our friends in the community resulted in unprecedentedly successful book sales. The Friends held a full price book sale, a half price book sale, and a \$5/bag sale, along with our ongoing Lobby Sale. After so many books, DVDs, CDs, games, puzzles, and wall art were sold, we offered the "leftovers" free to the community. Even our Free Day yielded a profit of over \$800, with voluntary donations from grateful area residents. After going through three rounds of sales and give-aways, the unwanted remaining books were sent to a recycling facility to be donated and/or recycled.

Museum Passes

The Friends purchase passes to area museums and attractions that can be checked out by Southbury residents with a current library card (library cards are free). Passes offer free or discounted admission, and are checked out for three days. First-come, first-served, and passes can't be reserved. Please contact individual institutions prior to your visit for current updates.

Previously closed museums that have reopened include:

- The Mark Twain House
- Stepping Stones Museum
- Discovery Museum - renamed Sacred Heart University Discovery Science Center and Planetarium
- Connecticut Old State House
- The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art
- The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center
- The Beardsley Zoo -- cost *with* the pass has increased from \$5.00/person to \$9.00/person.
- The Wadsworth Atheneum is currently offering free admission; no pass is needed.
- The New Haven Museum
- The State Parks DEEP museums, nature centers, and historic buildings
- Basketball Hall of Fame - discounted admission for up to 3 adults and 3 children at the discounted rate of \$17 per adult, \$15 per senior, and \$12 per youth

The following museum passes are currently unavailable due to museum closings/restrictions: American Museum of Natural History (pass permanently discontinued); Connecticut Science Center (pass program discontinued); ImagineNation Museum; Maritime Aquarium; Mystic Aquarium; Peabody Museum (museum will reopen free to the public after renovation).

Books for a Good Cause



Faith Kiio of Faith Kenya Mission came to our Free Day after the Book Sale to fill a U-Haul truck with over 30,000 pounds of books to be shipped to communities in Kenya that have no access to books. She is working to fill a container by the end of the summer with as many books as possible. Once the container ships, it will take two months to reach Nairobi, Kenya. From there it will be unloaded onto trucks which will deliver the books, but we don't know the final destination. Faith's 501c3 (Faith Kenya Mission, Inc.) is looking for

donations to cover the costs of shipping and transporting the books. She has sent thousands of

emails to celebrities and companies looking for funding. For more information, go to faithkenyamission.com

Where Does the Friends' Money Come From, and Where Does It Go? The 2022-23 Budget

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Book Sales	\$55,900	Museum Passes	\$2,000
Contributions	1,000	Programs	36,000
Labonne's cash for receipts	200	Scholarships	3,000
Membership	4,000	Movie/other Licenses	1,450
Miscellaneous Income	600	Donor/Volunteer Recognition	2,500
Interest income	100	Marketing/Fund-raising	7,040
Directed Donation*	<u>100,000</u>	Improvements	3,500
	\$161,800	Capital Fund	1,000
		Communications	2,270
		Directed Donation*	100,000
		Contingency	750
		Dues & Fees	120
		Insurance	450
		Postage, Office, Supplies	1150
		Printing	500
		Total	\$161,730

*This is a pass-through donation for a special project that will be announced soon.

By far the largest percentage of our expenses goes for programming. For the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Friends will contribute \$36,000 to the library for programs for the community. Of that, \$9,000 will fund programs for adults, \$11,000 will cover programs for children (including Summer Reading programs), \$8,000 for teen programming, \$5,000 will bring concerts to the town, and \$3,000 has been allocated for programs that don't fit neatly into any single category.

Cleaning off your shelves?

Please consider donating your gently-used books for all ages (adults, teens, children) and genres to the Friends for the book sales. We also accept DVDs, music CDs, audiobooks on CD, vinyl records, puzzles, games, framed wall art, and boutique items such as diaries and journals. We have an ongoing sale in the library lobby that will be expanded during the holiday season, and we add new items on a regular basis (that's why we accept donations year-round). Our annual sale in the library lower level will be held in the spring of 2023.

You can drop off small quantities of books at the library's Circulation Desk, or call Ken Huff at 203-233-1714 to arrange for a pickup.