



100 Poverty Road, Southbury, Connecticut 06488 • 203-262-0626

FRIENDS OF THE SOUTHBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer/Fall 2021 Newsletter

Friends Collectibles Auction:

Your Collectibles and Art Can Benefit You AND the Library!

The Friends of the Southbury Public Library are partnering with Clearing House Auctioneers representative Karen Bierce for an online auction of Collectibles and Art to be held September 27-29. Members of the Friends are invited to submit their items for consideration for inclusion in the auction. Items will have no reserve price with a \$1 minimum bid to encourage bidding. Donors will receive 40% of the sale price with 10% going to the friends and 50% going to the auction house. Any member of the Friends who wishes to include items to the auction must bring them to the library and meet with Karen on Thursday, September 2, from 4:00-9:00 p.m. Karen will have sole discretion as to whether or not an item is to be included. We are limited in the number of items we can submit. Payment will be made approximately 1 month after the September 22-29 online auction. Buyers will pick up their purchases on Saturday, October 2, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you are interested in submitting items or require more information, please contact Glenn Heckendorf at 203 264-1460 or LibertyCor@AOL.COM

Join the Friends!

In the words of the late Mr. Rogers, "Won't you be my friend?" Everybody needs a friend – even the library!

The Friends purchase passes for free/reduced admission to area museums; fund almost all programs for adults, teens, and children; provide funding for the Library Music Series; award one \$1,000 scholarship and two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors each May; and offer umbrella bags to keep the library clean and dry. In 2019, the Friends funded a major upgrade to the library's courtyard gardens and installed new lighting.

You can find membership forms in the library, or at <https://www.southburylibrary.org/about-us/support-the-library/friends>.

COVID-19 vs The Book Sales

What a year it was! We met with Southbury Emergency Management Director Steve Schnell to consider the number of potential Book Sale shoppers. We were initially limited to none – which meant no Lower Level sales. We ramped up sales in the lobby by advertising to the public and dealers. We also provided concierge services to patrons by finding the books they wanted on our sale shelves. We were exceptionally successful, and over the year sold more than \$25,000 of books and records. As more people were allowed in, we held an antiquarian book sale for a few dealers and townspeople, marketed online and on the town and library web sites and social media. On one pleasant Saturday in June, we had a highly successful outdoor pop-up \$1 book sale. We sold mass market paperback and non-fiction trade paperbacks and made \$1500, not bad for 4 hours' work (plus set-up and restocking work by a dozen book sale friends and board members). Many thanks to the Town's outdoor maintenance crew for moving probably a literal ton of books up from the lower level. Based on those successes, we were able to fully fund the library's virtual programming and children's programs during COVID. And thanks to Glenn Heckendorf, we have items now with four different auction venues, since different venues appeal to different collectors.

The plan for this year: The budget as shown below includes both a Fall book sale in the lower level and a spring book and half-price sale. We will also continue to provide a free day for schools and non-profits in the spring, and will invite home school parents to participate. The lobby sale will continue through the year with an early fall break so the library entrance and staircase can be restored in September and October to its graceful self before the Christmas sale, which will start after the election in November.



StoryWalk at the Library

The Southbury Public Library Youth Services department is thrilled to announce its inaugural StoryWalk, featuring the picture book *Cat's Colors* by Airlie Anderson.

Join Cat on a leisurely stroll through nature as she collects different colors from nature. What will happen at the end of her journey? Stop at each station to read the text and follow the prompt. Experience the StoryWalk at your own pace, on your own time. There are no set times and no registration is required. Pick up a related craft inside the library to make at home. *Cat's Colors* StoryWalk began on Monday, June 14 and runs through the end of summer reading until Friday, August 13 at noon.

StoryWalk is sponsored by the Friends of the Southbury Public Library. With thanks and permissions from publisher Child's Play, Barking Dog Exhibits, and Curious City.

Where Does the Friends’ Money Come From, and Where Does It Go?
The 2021-22 Budget

Income		Expenses	
Book Sales	\$43,000	Museum Passes	\$2,000
Auction/Special Sales	\$2,000	Programs	\$32,500
Contributions	\$1,000	Scholarships	\$2,000
Labonne’s cash for receipts	\$50	Movie Licenses	\$700
Membership	\$4,000	Donor Recognition	\$2,600
Miscellaneous Income	\$800	Marketing/Fund-raising	4,300
Interest income	\$40	Improvements	\$1,500
		Capital Fund	\$1,000
		Communications	\$1,000
		Contingency	\$500
		Dues	\$60
		Insurance	\$400
		Postage, Office, Supplies	\$1300
		Printing	\$900
		Total	\$50,760

Scholarship Awards

The Friends of the Southbury Public Library awarded scholarships to three college-bound Southbury residents:



Evelyn Kuo was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. In her essay, Evelyn noted that even during the year of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Southbury Library was a place she felt welcome and safe, and provided “an island of peace, if only for a few hours” while the family home was being shown by a Realtor. Evelyn’s academic achievements, her membership in multiple honor societies, and her volunteer help with the Friends for Donation Day and the book sales all contributed to her scholarship award.

Benjamin Ecsedy was awarded a \$500 scholarship. In his essay, he said “From a young age, he wanted to find out everything that anyone could ever know about the world.” The Scholarship Committee was

pleased by Benjamin’s statement that browsing the library stacks exposed him to book titles he didn’t encounter in his Internet searches. His academic achievements and long and varied list of extracurricular activities were contributing factors in the scholarship award.



Mikayla White was awarded a \$500 scholarship. Mikayla’s comment that the memory of receiving her first library card and cherishing it as “one of the first things that was hers and only hers” resonated with the Scholarship Committee. The Committee also appreciated her comment that the hours spent at the Southbury Library in childhood uncovered “a love of reading, storytelling, and the appreciation for the community” formed at the library.

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.

Donations?

Do you have donations of gently-used books for all ages, DVDs, vinyl, puzzles, art, antiques, or collectibles to be picked up? Call Ken Huff at 203-233-1714 to arrange for pickup.