Supporting the Library with funding, programming, and technology

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Friends News of Brooks Memorial Library

224 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont

President's 2019 Annual Meeting Report

By Joyce Marcel

FIRST OF ALL, there are so many moving parts to this organization that it's hard to keep things straight. But this is a fine working board and I'm proud to be a part of it:

1. The board meets once a month on the third Wednesday of the month, at 4:30PM in the meeting room.
2. Downstairs and behind the scenes at the library, Bob Oeser and Elaine Murray are running a lucrative Amazon bookstore.
3. Bob Oeser also keeps the membership data base and monitors the Annual Appeal checks coming in.
4. Treasurer Connie Kimball sends thank you cards to everyone who donates less than $100. President Joyce Marcel sends letters to those who donate $100 or more.
5. Betsy Wagenknecht puts her heart, soul and back into running the book sales and, up to now, has also done a brilliant job putting out a newsletter four times a year. Jamie Harvey will be taking over that job now.
6. Karen Duggan has done a great job with the minutes this year; when she's not available, Sue Dyer and Betsy Wagenknecht have filled in.
7. Connie Kimball has been doing brilliant work as treasurer; we don't want to ever lose her.
8. John Komar has become our secret fund-raising weapon. He did the soliciting for First Wednesdays this year and raised $2,100. I think that's a record. Then we turned him loose on finding raffle prizes for the Dessert Gala, and he outdid himself.

Everyone always asks this, so here are the latest figures from the Annual Appeal. We solicited donations from a 425-name data base.

Thus far have received:

04/01/18–11/30/18	**$2,407.87**
12/01/18–03/31/19	**$11,196.88**
total	**$13,604.75**

Friends activities:

- A Dessert Gala in April which was a brilliant success because of the food and organization, but the brilliance was somewhat diminished by the unnatural blizzard that kept people away.
- A Samirah Evans and Evelyn Harris concert in the Fall drew about 100 people and gave us an opportunity to hear real jazz and scat singing.
- We held two book sales, a "historic" one in December and one attached to the Strolling of the Heifers parade.
- In addition, thanks to Bob Oeser and Elaine Murray, we made a lot of money selling books on Amazon. But first we did some soul searching about working with large corporations like Amazon. We decided to keep working with Amazon.
- With the help of the Rotary, we raffled off or sold six Little Libraries for a total of $2,000.
- We supported BCTV in its fight with the Federal Communications Commission.

We funded (among other things):

- First Wednesdays for $2,900
- Kanopy, for $2,000. Acording to Jeanne, by

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Officers and Board Members

THE 2018–19 ANNUAL MEETING of the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library was held on May 15, 2019 at 4:30PM in the library meeting room. It was our regular meeting day and time, and perhaps because of this, we had great (for us) attendance — at least seven people showed up. Also in attendance were our board (minus Jamie Harvey) and Starr, for the library of course.

Current Board members pictured l to r: Courtney Carey, BML Circulation Manager; Betsy Wagenknecht, Vice-President; Starr LaTronica, BML Director; Sue Dyer; Kathryn Turnas; Karen Duggan, Secretary; Connie Kimball, Treasurer; John Komar and Joyce Marcel, President (Missing: Jamie Harvey)

Officers elected to the Friends Board are: Joyce Marcel, President; Betsy Wagenknecht, Vice-President; Connie Kimball, Treasurer; and Karen Duggan, Secretary. Sue Dyer, John Komar, Jamie Harvey and Kathryn Turnas round out the board, with Starr LaTronica and Courtney Carey as representatives from the library.

We recently had some changes to the make-up of the Friends Board.

Kathryn Turnas joined our board in the spring. Kathryn has served on a number of Boards in the Brattleboro area. She currently also serves on the AARP Board and the BMH Auxiliary Board. Kathryn currently also produces and directs on BCTV and has been a Brooks Memorial Library Volunteer for over 7 years. Kathyrn has taken over publicity for Friends events.

Kate Wylie resigned due to her recent move to Keene, N.H. Kate oversaw publicity for Friends events.

Jennifer Robinson resigned due to time constraints.

We are grateful for their service and look forward to seeing them at future Friends events.

The Friends are currently searching for two board members to replace Kate and Jennifer. If you are interested in joining the Friends Board, please contact Joyce Marcel at friendsofbrookslibraryvt@gmail.com ■

Joyce Marcel, contributor.

New Circulation Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

THE FRIENDS of Brooks Memorial Library is pleased to welcome Courtney Carey to the Library community.

Courtney holds a Masters in Information and Library Science from SUNY Buffalo.

Courtney returns to Brattleboro and her love of community-based library services following her tenure as Library Support Senior at UVM's David W. Howe Memorial Library in Burlington. She has also served as a library patron specialist at the Norwood Public Library and as the adult programming coordinator for the Potsdam Public Library, both of which are in New York.

Courtney Carey , Circulation Manager and Bob Oeser, Volunteer Extraordinaire.

As a former Vice President of the board of trustees for the Norwood Public Library, Courtney appreciates the role of the Friends and looks forward to working with us as she begins her new position.

We certainly appreciate her ability to learn on the fly with regards to the Summer Book Sale! Well done and thank you! ■

June Book Sale

OUR JUNE BOOK SALE, held on the weekend of the Strolling of the Heifers, has proved to be another success. As of this publication, we have generated $3,500.

We wish to thank the following volunteers: Carmen Berelson, William Brown, Rob Buckley, Mary Carnahan, Jeff Dahir, Carol Davis, Karen Duggan, Mark Eggert, Peter Falion, Bob Glennon, Jamie Harvey, Mary Heninger, Susan Hesse, Wendy Houlihan,Mary Ide, Pat Ireton, Harriet Ives,Betsy Judson, Connie Kimball, Peg Lopata, Therese Marcy, Joyce Marcel, Diarmuid McLoughlin, Elaine Murray, Bob Oeser, John Ogorzalek, Rebecca Ohm, Pat Panella, Marshall Patton and the Masonic Lodge, Susan Rhode ,Vicki Shepard, Jane Southworth, Robert Stack, Annie Stauffer, Elizabeth Tannenbaum, Kathryn Turnas, Walter Wagenknecht, Betsy Wagenknecht, Kate Wylie and Carol Young.

Our sincere thanks to Courtney Carey, new Circulation Manager and Volunteer Coordinator for her superb work in recruiting volunteers, both old and new!

These books sales are among the biggest money-raisers for the Friends, and they could not be done without the great support we get from the community and loyal friends. Many Friends groups have given up holding book sales, but we are fortunate in the amount of people who volunteer, as well as the support of patrons who donate to and shop at the sales. Thank you. ■

Market Bag Raffle

IN CONJUNCTION with the Summer Book Sale, we raffled a market bag with a decidedly bovine theme!

The drawing was held on June 26, the last day of the book sale. Congratulations to our winner Anne Howes.

This beautiful bag was handmade by library volunteer Amy Wickstrom. Amy is one of the people who sorts and categorizes the books for the book sales. Unfortunately for us, Amy is leaving us for greener pastures. (Is that even possible?) We wish her all the best of luck and will miss her hard work and dedication.

Children's Room Summer Programs

By Chloe Liotta-Jones, Assistant Youth Services Librarian

FOR LIBRARIES, summer time means summer reading. This year's theme is "A Universe of Stories," and the Children's Room will be busy providing new programs and building on popular summer programs. This year we will offer a summer challenge for kids, ages 4–12. (Teen programs and programs for littler ones will also be available.) This program offers kids the chance to earn points for reading, being read to, or listening to audiobooks. Kids can also earn points by attending library programs. All these points are recorded on a specific form that can be picked up in the Children's Room. When a child earns 25 points, they can progress to the next level to earn more points and more prizes; the higher the level, the better the prizes. There will also be special tasks throughout the summer to earn bonus points. Prizes include free books, free snacks at local establishments, and free passes to other fun activities. Children can sign up starting Monday, June 19th, and then all the way through the summer. The completed forms have to be turned in by Saturday, August 10th to be able to win any prizes.

Our summer program for little ones is an activity sheet for parents with kids from birth to age 4, with suggestions of great early literacy activities, including, "Sing a song with your child," and "Read a wordless picture book." This program is a great way to introduce common early literacy skills and fun activities that parents can do with their little readers. If parents finish 20 out of 25 activities on the sheet, they can get a free board or picture book.

Monday Movie Matinees

Some of our summer's programs include our classic offerings like Monday Movie Matinee, which is sponsored by Bellville Reality. This program starts on Monday, June 24th and runs through Monday, August 12th. This year's movies in order are: *Secret Life of Pets, Hotel Transylvania 3, Ralph Breaks the Internet, How to Train Your Dragon: Hidden World, The LEGO Movie 2, Mary Poppins Returns, HOME, Big Hero 6*. A movie will show at 1:30PM each Monday throughout the summer. Bring a lunch or snack and watch a movie on the big screen in the Meeting Room. All movies are rated G or PG. This is free and open to the public.

Explore the Universe Programs

For this summer we will also start our Explore the Universe Program, with different special events on Thursday afternoons. All events will run from 1:30–2:30PM, unless otherwise specified. Some Thursday events include: Thursday, June 27th will be an intro to electricity conducting with Squishy Circuits; Thursday July 11th will be Mars Rover Day, where kids can design a Mars Rover and play a Mars Rover themed game; and on Thursday August 1st we'll have a guest visit to teach us how to do space-themed origami. Check out our website www.brookslibraryvt.org/kids to see the full Thursday Explore the Universe schedule.

Teen Nights

This summer we will also be hosting 3 evening activities for Teens only. At all the Teen activities, we'll provide a pizza dinner.

On Friday, July 12th from 6:30–8:30PM, we'll lead a couple of Breakout Box games in the Teen room — think mini escape rooms with the literary themes of Shakespeare and Freedom of Information.

On Friday July 19th from 6:30–8:30PM we'll be teaming up with the Boys & Girls Club to hold a Glow-in-the-Dark night at their clubhouse. Teens will be encouraged to cover themselves with glow-in-the-dark paint and run around in the dark to music.

On Friday August 9th from 6:30–9PM we'll be having a showing of *Thor:Ragnarok*. We might even have a popcorn machine.

For Little Ones and Families

On Tuesdays mornings from 10:30–11:30AM, we are hosting Sing & Dance with Robin Morgan, co-sponsored by KidsPLAYce. This program starts

on Tuesday, July 2nd and runs through Tuesday, August 1st.

On Wednesday mornings from 10:30–11AM, we conduct Rhyme Time. We read stories, sing songs, and play games all geared towards developing literacy, community, and fun.

On Thursday mornings from 10:30–11:30AM, we are hosting Radiant Child Yoga with Ditteke Everdeen-Gorman. This program runs from Thursday, June 20th to Thursday, July 25th. "Radiant Child Yoga uses stories, songs, and our imaginations to guide children 2–7 in basic poses as well as exercises for mindfulness and coordination. There will be no yoga session on Thursday, July 4th because of the holiday.

First Mime on the Moon!

We will be hosting two special events in the middle of the summer as well. The first will be "First Mime on the Moon!" with performer Robert Rivest on Tuesday, July 16th from 1:30–2:30PM. His interactive mime show will teach kids how to take a rocket to the moon and move around in space.

StarLab

The second special event will take place on Saturday July 27th when the Montshire Museum will be sending us their inflatable traveling planetarium, StarLab, which we will set up on the Adult floor. Their educator will hold four 45-minute sessions over the course of the day, to educate us on the constellations and movement of the sky. The final session will be set aside for teens and adults to enjoy. This program is for ages 7+ and registration is required.

Free Lunch for Children 18 and younger!

The library will also be a summer lunch site for kids and teens through the Summer Food Service Program. This year lunch will be offered Monday through Friday from 12:00 to 1:00PM starting on Monday June 24th and running through Friday, August 9th. Free lunch is provided for children 18 and under, no registration is needed. Adults may purchase a meal for $4.00

Check the Website

For more information about all of our events this summer check out our website www.brookslibraryvt.org/kids or like the Brooks Memorial Library Children's Room Facebook page to get updates and event reminders. For any questions or to register for certain programs call us at (802) 254-5290 x1210 or email cr@brookslibraryvt.org. ■

President's Report — Continued from page 1

January 2019 over 5,389 people had accessed the Website and watched 6,751 films. Making Kanopy available got us a front page spread on the arts page of The Commons.

- RB/Acorn for $1,500, which includes books and courses as well as British television shows
- The Foundation Center for $2,495
- We're supporting with a $1000 grant a project to organize the local history collection along with the Words Project.
- Lynda.com which offers over 4,000 courses in Business, technology and Creative skills. We paid $2,500 for the year.
- We bought $636 worth of Adobe software for the iMac.
- $1,418 worth of furniture for the Young Adult Room.
- Museum passes including MassMOCA, Tasha Tudor Museum, Smith College Museum, Historic Deerfield.
- Mango Language on-line language-learning service
- Fine Arts restoration work: cleaning up the statues, providing permanent mounting for art on the walls.
- DearReader for new book alerts
- BookPage, a free monthly magazine of book reviews.

Special thanks to John Komar. Because of him we were able to provide the library with an AED defibrillator.

The next National Friends of the Library Week will be October 20–26. We will plan an event and some publicity about the Friends to go along with the national event. ■

First Wednesdays 2018–2019 Season

WE ARE FORTUNATE to be one of the few libraries in the state to host the First Wednesday Lecture Series sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council.

This was a banner year for us as our attendance numbers topped 800. That was an increase of over 100 people from last year's attendance figures. Among the most heavily attended lectures was David Blight's, focusing on the life of Frederick Douglas. He was awarded the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for his book *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*.

This series was made possible by the generous support of these local businesses and organizations: Against the Grain, Brattleboro Auto Body & Detailing, Brattleboro Food Co-op, Brattleboro Savings & Loan and Park Place Financial Advisors, Friends of Brooks Memorial Library, New Chapter, The Richards Group and Windham World Affairs Council.

We are currently soliciting sponsors for next season's series. If you have, or know of, a group that might be interested in sponsoring this series please contact Joyce Marcel at friendsofbrookslibraryvt@gmail.com.

The 2019–2020 series will begin in October. More information will be available in the Fall newsletter or available on the Vermont Humanities Council website in September. ■

Parking for evening Library events

IF YOU PLAN to attend an evening event at the Library, the Municipal Parking Lot behind the Library is available for free parking after 6:00PM. It is a short walk to the rear entrance of the Library, and there is an elevator to the first floor. There is one handicap parking spot nearest to the walkway to the Library.

Mass MoCA

THE PASSES to the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art have proved so popular that the Friends have purchased a second pass. These passes will each admit 2 adults and 2 children under 16 for gallery admission only.

You can reserve these passes for a specific date by stopping by or calling the library at 802-254-5290 during open hours, or by reserving online through the website: www.brookslibraryvt.org.

Among the highlights is an exhibition by Annie Lennox titled "Now I Let You Go…". This is an exhibit featuring objects from Annie's life. This exhibit was recently written about in Time magazine.

Check out the museum's website: massmoca.org for a list of all the current exhibitions. ■

Dessert Evening

THE FRIENDS held our second annual Dessert Gala on Friday, April 5th in the Main Room of the library.

Even with the freak April snowstorm happening outside, the event drew about 70 people to the library for delicious desserts, coffee and tea, games, raffle and mostly friendly conversation.

Guests took home 23 raffle prizes donated from area merchants including Colonial Pool and Spa, Mocha Joe's, Brown & Roberts, The Works, Saxtons River Distillery, Tavernier Chocolates, On Point Massage Therapy, the Marina, Burton's Touchless Car Wash, Grafton Cheese, Yankee Candle, Renaissance Fine Jewelry, Moss Kahler, and Shear Designs Hair Salon. Thank you to all the merchants for supporting the evening.

The Friends would also like to thank the following individuals and merchants for donating baked goods: Amy's Macarons, Against the Grain, Top Tier Bakery, Vermont Gelato, Sue Dyer, Karen Duggan, Mary Heninger, Kathy Johnson, Connie Kimball, Julie Laamanen, Starr LaTronica, Peg Lopata, Pat Sheehan, Kathryn Turnas, Betsy Wagenknecht and Jeanne Walsh.

The Friends are lucky to have willing volunteers to assist with these fundraisers. We are grateful for all the help with the set-up and clean-up.

Special thanks to Rentals Plus for supplying cups, plates and utensils at a discounted rate.

The Friends were able to raise about $650 for programs to support the library.

We hope to see you next year and keep our fingers crossed for NO SNOW! ■

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RANDOLPH HOLHUT.

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OF BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

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Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes to the fullest extent allowable by law.