



February 20, 2019

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

**Welcoming Comments** – Introduction to 2019 Book Nook opening, Announcement regarding 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fitzgerald Memorial History Lecture on March 18, 2019.

**Motion by Friends President Patricia Atkinson-Santos to table January Minutes and Treasurer's Reports** until March meeting - Passed

**Motion by Member-at-Large Joyce Dunagan to Nominate and Elect Full Slate of Board Officers and Members-at-Large** – Passed as follows:

Rosemary Probasco, president  
Wenonah Clarke-Smith, vice president;  
Celia Van Hof, secretary;  
Sue Souza, treasurer;  
Pauline Dumas, archivist; and  
Christiane Brain, Joyce Dunagan and Karen Ephraim, members-at-large.

**Thanks to outgoing board members** president Pat Atkinson-Santos and outgoing archivist Rebecca Farias for their service.

**Recognition of new board members** as follows:

**Archivist Pauline Dumas** has used libraries her entire life and calls this one magic. She served 19 years as a Navy disability counselor transitioning ill and injured active military to civilian life. Certified as an IRS volunteer tax preparer she assisted active military with their returns after hours and has volunteered for the AARP tax aide program for 7 years. Last year she assisted 450 people with returns and tax questions in the community room at the Tiverton Public Library.

Member-at-large **Karen Ephraim** is a financial analyst at the Navy Base. She is exploring the development of a phone app for linking business professionals, and she may help with our transitioning to the 21st century. A lifetime Tiverton resident, her early education started at the Essex Library and continued in the Tiverton

school system. Crediting the library with both enrichment and joy, she is giving something back through her board membership.

## **Presentation of 2018 FRIENDS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES SLIDE SHOW**

**2018 Programs Funded by Friends.** The \$9,610 of programming monies Friends donated to the library in 2018 brought to area residents, free of charge movies, talks, lectures, reading group supplies and arts and craft materials. In addition Friends spent close to \$2,000 on a wide range of museum passes. The summer reading program funded in part by Friends offered enrichment programming to children, teens and adults. The Friends provided a holiday appreciation luncheon for the library staff. To keep the public better informed of library events Friends purchased a lobby information stand. With a view to our Book Sale and Craft Sale fundraisers we purchased 24 sturdy tables with weight bearing capacities exceeding 1,000 lbs. These are also available for library events not sponsored by the Friends. Here are some specific programs the Friends helped to fund:

An Extreme Travel Talk by an award winning journalist;

A Parenting Strategies Talk about boys by an author/clinical psychologist;

Tips on how to organize and energize your closet program;

A Mermaid Masterpieces painting event;

A steel guitar concert;

Embroidery and stitching programs by a local artisan and entrepreneur;

For the kids, we helped bring in Schmitty the Weatherdog, the Sea Shanty Man, A circus juggler/balloon twister, a magician with a live rabbit, a fiddler and a hula dancer;

For different age groups, we funded the licensing and paid for popcorn for a number of movies including The Zookeeper's Wife, The Black Panther, Iron Man 3, Jackie, Won't You Be My Neighbor and more; and finally

Programs centered on crafts including Library Week T shirt making, Nooney's Eve, Operation Gratitude to make paracord bracelets for veterans, children's Storytime crafting and Make It Take It events.

## **2018 TREASURY NOTES**

From a combination of sources we took in almost \$20,000, our biggest fundraising year to date, with almost \$7,000 attributed to the book sale. Membership dues brought in over \$5,680, our second biggest source of income. Our craft sale also did well raising \$1,850. We received multiple donations this year including gifts from the Lions Club, the Union Library and the Garden Club. We had a strong year in the collection of grocery receipts

from Lee's and Clement's market, totaling close to \$1,300. Thanks to Lorraine St. Laurent for adding up those receipts to facilitate that program. We earned about \$1,000 from selling books from the blue cart in the lobby.

From our treasury, we disbursed monies to the library largely to fund programs with a direct gift of \$9,610 to the library to use for programming and close to \$2,000 for Museum Passes. We invested \$1,322.00 on 20 8 foot tables and 4 six foot tables which in the past we rented for the book sale and craft sales. These are of better quality than the items we rented and the library can store and use them. We also funded the bulk email and newsletter service, Constant Contact to help spread information about Friends and library events.

## **GOLDEN SNEAKER AWARDS**

2018 Golden Sneaker Award for a member of the library staff went to Rebecca J. Ott, Teen Librarian.

There is a special place in heaven for people who inspire teenagers to check out unrequired reading. The circulation of Young Adult materials at the library has increased since Rebecca Ott came on board. She knows how to select and display materials that broaden the horizons of youth, help them cope, and encourage a love of reading. She has realized the dream of library planners to bring more teens back. Because of Rebecca, RI is one of only five states nationwide participating in a pilot program to transform library services for teenagers through the creation of a space where teens feel welcomed. With that space and her guidance, youth are now able to plan and hold events they couldn't pull off alone-- an indoor yard sale, a Harry Potter celebration, a Star Wars movie marathon and photo op with Storm Troopers, a reality baking competition, an exploration of Mexican culture and the Day of the Dead. Also, her outreach makes the library a magnet for teen volunteers. This year we celebrate and recognize the gold mine of all of her training, which she has put to use serving patrons of all ages. In a year of staff departures, shortages and many peaks and valleys, for all of her work, Rebecca Ott has earned the 2019 Staff Golden Sneaker award for going the extra mile.

2018 Golden Sneaker Award for a teen volunteer went to Zachary Major

It's hard to believe that Zachary is a freshman at Tiverton High School and not a graduate. He practices commitment. In the past year alone, Zac has completed over 109 hours of community service, and that's just for the library. The Friends first met him when he carried the library banner in the Tiverton Celebrates Parade. He also passed out lollipops, and we remember that he popped one in his mouth and took it out to answer a question about sports. He smiled -- they say he's always smiling -- and Zach told us he played baseball. We wonder now how he found the time. He worked during the library's summer programs helping with a slew of projects from Wizard Wand Making to Tie-Dying. He's helped at the book

sales hauling boxes both for the Friends and the Union Library Association. He helped the community assemble scarecrows for Pardon Gray Day, which was an excellent vehicle for his sense of humor. Zac is the volunteer you always want – consistently happy, thoughtful, flexible and dedicated. Whatever the need in whatever capacity, if he's able, he is willing to help the library. For his service, he has earned the 2018 Golden Sneaker award for going the extra mile.

2018 Golden Sneaker Award for a volunteer of the Friends of Tiverton Libraries went to Dennis J. Smith

Dennis is a modest, unassuming veteran of both the military and the stage and screen. He literally carried more weight this year for the Annual Book Sale than any other Friends volunteer. He lugged hundreds of pounds of donated books from the trunks of cars to the library veranda and beyond, hand truck after hand truck, carrying boxes on boxes of heavy books. He also transported heavy library tables purchased from New Bedford to the library, unboxed and made room for a dozen purchased from Amazon and Home Depot. Within the library, he has moved all manner of furniture necessary to transform the library into a book sale in June and a craft sale in October. In 2017, he watered the newly planted orchard across from the front of the library, day after hot dry day. He is responsible for washing, waxing and loaning to the Friends his shiny red PT cruiser, the official library vehicle for the Tiverton Celebrates parade. In costume and as an actor of course "in character," he welcomed children at both holiday library parties this year. He painted and donated to the library two works of art memorializing both Essex Library and the late librarian John Fitzgerald. For his many hours of service and muscle, the Friends Golden Sneaker Award goes to Dennis J. Smith.

2018 Golden Sneaker Award for an adult library volunteer went to Wayne C. Browning

Wayne is one of the library's steadfast volunteers. What sets him apart is that he has logged more hours than any other adult library volunteer in town. He's a man of consequence, a conservationist, a former Land Trust director, and the point man for the recent Yankee Magazine Farm Coast article about Tiverton/Little Compton/Westport. His work at the library may be his most humble work. He waters plants, updates notice boards, and straightens coffee table books in the fireplace room. What we love most is his work at organization. He is the one who makes sure that the East Bay Life insert of the Sakonnet Times doesn't end up in the Boston Globe. Library patrons come in each day to read their favorite paper – from Newport, Fall River, Providence, USA Today, Wall Street Journal. But there's only one coffee table so organization is good. He also puts the right magazine in the right slot in the right order. He knows there's a difference between Popular Mechanics and Car and Driver, that Road and Track magazines don't go in with Rolling Stone, that the Boston magazine doesn't go in with Bow Hunting. And he makes sure that the Consumer Reports issue on the big ticket item you need to buy

right now is where you expect it to be. He's fun, too. When the children's librarian looked for volunteers for the reindeer parade, he came, and he blew bubbles. For his humility, his hard work and his agreeable nature, the 2018 Adult Volunteer Golden Sneaker award goes to Wayne C. Browning.

2018 Golden Sneaker Award for a Community Partner went to William L. McGeough and McGeough's Turf Management, Inc.

It's not just the building we love. Your first glimpse of the library facade is not from the street or a parking lot but through a grove of oaks and cedar on the west side of the building just to the left of the front veranda. What a lot of us don't realize is that this natural screen is there thanks to the volunteer work of William L. McGeough who oversaw the grove's development, working with the Dept of Public Works and the Tiverton Tree Committee to remove choked specimens, brush and deadwood and to advise on the trimming of healthy specimens. This year we want to recognize the continued efforts of Mr. McGeough's team who go above and beyond mowing the grass. When Mr. McGeough learned that the library's septic area was inefficient due to rocky meadow and drivers were having difficulty pulling hoses across it, he arranged to clear that area and keep it clear at no extra charge. A dedicated Tiverton volunteer, McGeough devoted years to the music program TEMPO, the Tiverton substance abuse task force, Girl Scouts, Grinnell's beach festival and field work for Little League and soccer programs. Back in '94, he was selected as Grand Marshall of the Tiverton Tri-centennial Parade. Since then, he has continued to serve. When we stand on the veranda and look to the west, we give a nod to our community partners McGeough's Turf Management, Inc. and their president, William L. McGeough by awarding them the 2018 Community Partner Award for going the extra mile for the library.

2018 Volunteer of the Decade Award Goes to Kathleen A. Gallagher

This volunteer has banked thousands of hours without pay in the Tiverton area. Never to enhance her own image or her standing in the community, she has served this town and the library to fulfill a commitment to improve "in some small way" that little corner of the world where she happens to reside. She joined the Friends over 10 years ago, and she's done everything a Friend could do, including serving as prior board co-president and secretary, current advisor.

She worked the Fabulous Finds yard sale on the street across from Essex library, where a few hundred books were sold out of the trunk of a car, sometimes in the rain. Almost since the inception of the book sale, the Friend's biggest fundraiser, she has been the sale coordinator, figuring out how to acquire and sell thousands of books. For years she did this without a square foot of space in the library to collect or sort. One year she and a few Friends carried thousands of donations down a rickety set of stairs to the cold, damp basement of the Senior Center for collecting

and sorting, then hauled all of it back up the stairs and over to the Middle School for the sale. She borrowed dozens of heavy tables from a church basement and returned them a few at a time in a compact pickup. A few years back she hand trucked hundreds of boxes in and out of the Essex library to sort books in June the year Essex was closed, going the long way around behind the building to the parking lot, and it was brutally hot and humid.

If you know her, you quickly learn that she works like a longshoreman, but she talks like a lady and never, ever like a stoic. She makes everything seem like fun, even when it isn't.

Her goal is clear – through fundraising, ensure that the library can offer free enrichment programs starting with children. She wants to get kids excited about libraries, let them learn how it can better their lives so they can lead productive lives and pay it forward. First you learn, then you earn, then you serve. She is sold on summer reading programs with performances that get kids in the door with caregivers, and out the door with books. Live music, storytelling, exotic pets, fun science, Bubbleology, balloon magic – she has played a huge role in bringing these kinds of programs to Tiverton free of charge to the audience, and through these programs, ultimately inspiring kids to realize the accessibility of free, independent lifelong learning through the library system.

What makes her special is how she gets it done. She is a volunteer's volunteer. If it can't be done in the obvious way, she figures a workaround. If you love handling books but can't lift more than 10 pounds, there's a workaround. If you like making posters but you can't spell, there's a workaround.

She's been every kind of a volunteer herself, and to her it all comes down to "do unto others," which is her primary operating manual for the Friends of the Tiverton Libraries. This is her playbook. She's open to ideas, but if it doesn't take into account the decency to treat volunteers the way you'd like to be treated, it's not in the playbook. And there isn't a Friends volunteer in town who doesn't know her and know this fact about her. And so ....

For extensive and steadfast dedication to the library and extraordinary kindness to volunteers, we honor Kathleen Gallagher as the first recipient of the Friends of Tiverton Libraries Decennial Platinum Sneaker Award for a decade and more of remarkable service going the extra mile for the library.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**