



2020 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT AND MINUTES With 2018 Highlights and Golden Sneaker Awards

Welcome, Entertainment and 2019 Slide Show Recap of Friends Activities

Announcements: Upcoming Fitzgerald Lecture 3/31 at 6:30 pm; Regular Monthly Meetings Changed to 2nd Wednesdays – Next meeting to be held on March 11, 2020.

Introduction to a performance of an excerpt of the play “Tea for Three” concerning the musings of three American First Ladies of the 1960s-70s. Monologue performance brought by Your Theatre of New Bedford which offered the play in its entirety during the previous season. Your Theatre has been in continuous operation for 74 years. Performance featured actress Sue Wing Markson as Ladybird Johnson.

2019 Friends Events & Activities Slide Show (12 minutes long, to be kept in Friends Archives)

Annual Report and Minutes

In Attendance: The following FOTL board members Rosemary Probasco, Wenonah Clarke-Smith, Celia Van Hof, Sue Souza, Christiane Brain and Joyce Dunagan and approximately 20 additional members of the public.

January Minutes and Treasurer’s reports. Motion by Rosemary Probasco to table review of January secretary and treasurer’s reports until March meeting. Seconded by Celia Van Hof. Motion passed.

Election of Officers and Members-at-Large of Board of Friends of Tiverton Libraries. Motion by Rosemary Probasco to nominate the following slate of board members to continue serving in their current roles.

Rosemary Probasco to the position of president
Wenonah Clarke-Smith, vice president;
Celia Van Hof, secretary;
Sue Souza, treasurer;
Pauline Dumas, archivist; and
Christiane Brain and Joyce Dunagan, Members-at-Large.

Motion seconded by Sue Souza. Motion passed.

Summary Of Treasury Notes

From a combination of sources we brought in over \$21,350 in receipts, our biggest income year to date. Of that amount over \$8,200 was attributable to membership donations with an unexpected number of members donating in excess of dues at the time of the membership drive. Our book sale receipts were \$6,300 - less than our record year -- but a solid performance we'd be happy to repeat if we can. Our craft sale, on the other hand, earned more than other years to date, almost \$2,000, a satisfying result that helps us financially without depleting us physically. Year-round book sales were outstanding, bringing in over \$2,160 with the bulk of that attributable to the year round book sales project that took off with the introduction of the Book Nook in early spring. Due to the ingenuity of Joyce Dunagan who recruited a volunteer team of builders, the total cost to build the Nook was just over \$2,000. We only had to pay for materials. A budget-conscious and forward-thinking project, sales have been brisk in the Book Nook, and it has already paid for itself.

Some expenditures increased, our required liability insurance policies rose for example. But we are pleased to have provided more funds for library programming than we have given for any other year to date. We also purchased special equipment for the library -- a mini transport library in the form of a sturdy red cart. We also bought our own adding machine to ring up grocery receipts from local grocers Lee's and Clement's, who have provided a steady source of income to us over the years.

Summary Of 2019 Programming Funded By Friends

As a reminder, library programming is brought to the community courtesy of the Friends of Tiverton Libraries and a few other charitable sources. It is not part of the town budget now. Unless an individual or organization funds a particular program such as locals Dick and Debbie Danner did in paying for summer concerts held at the library, programming funds come from the Friends. Occasionally there may be a special grant for which the library is eligible and a librarian or a volunteer has gone above and beyond to pursue. But awards such as these, though something to celebrate, are unfortunately not a given. The Amica grant that helped Tiverton for years has already indicated it will not provide funding for the library's Summer Reading program for the 2021 year.

The \$10,550 of programming monies we donated to the library in 2019 brought patrons - free of charge - movies, talks, lectures, arts and craft materials and so much more. In addition we spent over \$2,000 on a wide range of museum passes providing free or discounted admission to area museums such as the Providence Children's Museum, the Audubon Society, and Roger Williams Park Zoo. A versatile Escape

Room Kit was purchased and has already served as the focal point of two popular programs, one for Harry Potter's Birthday, another for Banned Books week. The summer reading program also received our support. An innovative and new program we funded was the purchase of a book cart for a Little Free Library at Grinnell's Beach. We also provided an appreciation luncheon for the library staff and volunteers. Here are some of the specific programs the Friends helped to fund:

A workshop on social networking for small businesses;

A Zumba fitness program;

A meditation workshop;

A podcasting event;

A steel guitar concert;

A Living Literature's "Holiday Sampler" program;

For the kids, we helped bring in the Rainbow Beard Show, the Feel Good Circus, a Fiddle 'n Fun performance, and a Robot Coding workshop;

For different age groups, we funded the licensing and paid for popcorn for a number of movies including Crazy Rich Asians, A Star is Born, Love Simon, Green Book, Bohemian Rhapsody and more; and finally

Programs centered on crafts including the new CreaTIV Crafts program and Landscape Painting class, button-making supplies for both the teen and children's departments, and children's storytime crafting, Make & Take activities, and paint party supplies.

GOLDEN SNEAKER AWARDS

It is a tradition each year to recognize at the Annual Meeting, individuals who have gone the extra mile to support the library in the previous year. To these people and organizations, we present Golden Sneaker Awards.

2019 Golden Sneaker Award for a member of the library staff goes to Meg Paquette, Children's Librarian.

In 2019, 4,400 patrons attended children's programs which children's librarian Meg Paquette planned and implemented. In good company with Mr. Rogers, Meg is a puppeteer who engages children with her side kick Mr. Monkey whose adventures are inspired by books she introduces at story time. She helps the Friends

organization categorize books we sell for age appropriateness, she makes signs to let people know we funded an event, and she and Mr. Monkey ride with us in the Tiverton Days parade.

Meg applied for a LORI grant awarded to the library for the 2019 Universe of Stories summer reading program. This grant funded Blast-off Boxes and Backpacks containing telescopes, binoculars and robots that families could check out of the library as well as a Kindle Fire prize for the “most books read” incentive program. Still available for circulation through the library are one 4.5” reflector telescope, three night sky binocular sets with tripods, and a Botley robot that introduces software coding fundamentals.

Meg provides Make It, Take It activities for most Saturdays as well as other programs geared toward families who cannot attend activities scheduled for set dates and times. She serves as many children as possible, offering back to back programs to maximize the efficiency of staff and volunteer hours.

Here’s a story about Meg shared by another librarian: there was an especially popular program this summer -making space glitter art to take home as framed artwork. Signups surged as the event approached. Meg did not want to cut off participants for lack of supplies so, on her own time, she made a special trip to IKEA to purchase additional frames. For her many hours of creative and professional service to children and their families, the 2019 staff award goes to Megan Paquette.

2019 Golden Sneaker Award for a teen volunteer goes to Ethan Aguiar

A student at Tiverton High School, Ethan Aguiar logged more volunteer hours in the library than any other teen. He is admired for two things: 1) he isn’t fussy about what he’s willing to do, and 2) he is fearless at new challenges. He is ok about moving piles of books, boxes of books and heavy tables from one place to another. He will break down a pile of cardboard in short order outdoors in record high temperatures. He will push hand trucks, and load them six boxes high. He doesn’t roll his eyes when we give him instructions in vocabulary people our age speak, and he can change gears when two adults tell him to do two different things within two minutes.

Big events at the library have been better in 2019 because of Ethan. Mandated staff coverage for library services makes volunteers critical, and in this case, a volunteer was needed to run, single-handedly, a key feature of the library Summer Block Party. And the skill required was sophisticated. Ethan would be photographing subjects in front of a green screen background to be substituted with a Star War’s image (like the Death Star). Through outreach to the Rhode Island’s Computer Museum which lends mobile technologies to libraries, Ethan handled the proprietary software that works with the green screen. He had to learn

the chromatic application in the short time the screen was on loan, with little notice since the activity originally planned for the Block Party had fallen through. (Children were supposed to have pictures taken with Storm Troopers, but they cancelled). Ethan had to have the people skills needed to deal with a long line of children and their parents, as well as the non-threatening likeability that child photographers learn from experience. He also had to keep a level head to get the correct email addresses to send photos to the families. Did I mention that Ethan is still a freshman in high school? For his many hours of service to the library, the 2019 teen award goes to Ethan Aguiar.

2019 Golden Sneaker Award for a volunteer of the Friends of Tiverton Libraries goes to Chris Cardosi

First she put green stools in the Book Nook for people who wanted to sit while they browsed. Then she switched them out for white stools because they looked better. She didn't want reimbursement because she said she got them for a song from Job Lot. Then she added a kids chair and a basket for rifling through kids paperbacks. Then she brought supplies to clean the books – Clorox wipes, paper towels, tape for little tears in book jackets that were otherwise perfect. She bought bookends. She brought a trash can into the sorting area in the back and stuck a paper bag in it for a liner. I don't know why we never thought to use a real trash can.

Chris liked that the Friends had converted an underused coat closet into a book store to raise money for library programs. She was the first to volunteer after the Book Nook opened. She wasn't a new volunteer, having sorted thousands of fiction hardcovers for the annual book sale over the years. She is generous and smart. She bought a concealer device to hide personal inscriptions or identifiable children's names. She brought in a paint brush to dust off the top edges off of books. She repurposed Styrofoam in lengths of 12-16 inches, cutting them with an electric blade to put behind rows of books to keep the spines close to the edge for better visibility. This eliminated the annoying "flopping" this way and that which results from the frequent removal and addition of materials. We used the Styrofoam as a prototype for wooden ones in the Book Nook now.

Chris is easy to work with. She reached out to board members for decision making that we didn't even know we needed to do. She has a good sense of what appeals to shoppers, namely, a clean, organized, well-lit space. When she comes in to volunteer, she always checks for trash in the Book Nook, stickers on the floor, books fallen over. Chris continues to put her stamp on the Book Nook in many ways, making it more and more profitable for the Friends and beneficial to the library. For her generosity, good sense and many hours of service in the Book Nook, the 2019 Friends award goes to Chris Cardosi.

2019 Golden Sneaker Award for an adult library volunteer goes to Marlene Beaulieu

Marlene is a former nurse and a lifelong volunteer who has served the Tiverton area for many years. She worked for Meals on Wheels through the Tiverton Senior Center the Coalition for the Homeless, the Fall River Historical Society and other nonprofit organizations. Marlene is the essential player in the library's Library to Go program whose purpose is "Free home delivery of library materials to qualifying Tiverton Residents." Marlene is the driver who delivers the library materials to residents who are temporarily or permanently homebound. At no cost to the residents, Marlene delivers books, audiobooks and DVDs. The way it works is the resident chooses what he or she wants from the online catalog or tells the librarian what kinds of materials they like in general (fiction or nonfiction, history, romance, whatever). The librarian orders and collects the materials, and contacts Marlene who picks them up and delivers them. Three weeks later Marlene picks up the old materials, drops off new ones and so on.

Marlene doesn't just deliver the materials. She often stops in to visit with them, a very kind thing to do above and beyond the requirements of a volunteer driver. When a patron complained that some of the books were too heavy for her, Marlene found her a reading pillow designed to hold the weight of a book to allow for hands-free reading. Often filled with polystyrene beads, these pillows are flexible for bending and molding on uneven surfaces, like your lap where the pillow will remain steady. Marlene offered the pillow to the patron who accepted it and was overjoyed. We have no idea whether Marlene purchased it or where it came from. She didn't submit a receipt for the pillow to the library or anyone else. Marlene took a step above and beyond that made a big difference to a library user. This is only one snapshot of Marlene, an amazing volunteer whom we are just beginning to know. For ingenuity and consideration, for rolling out the Tiverton Library to Go program with a bang, the 2019 adult volunteer award goes to Marlene Beaulieu.

2019 Golden Sneaker Award for a Community Partner goes to Michael Napolitano and Macray's Seafood

People love food trucks. They're fun, festively decorated, and they smell like good food. But you can't expect them to be at a weeknight concert on the library grounds in a semi-rural town. It's especially unlikely in the case of a concert series that's a fairly a new idea -- not guaranteed to bring in a crowd. But we're lucky enough to have a resident who owns a food truck and loves the town. Mike Napolitano is such a one.

Just over a year ago, he bought the fish and chips mainstay on Stafford Road in East Tiverton and renamed it Macray's Seafood II. He kept the basic recipes, did some cool upgrades. When the library asked Mike if he could send their Food Truck out for a free summer concert series, Mike was all in. A young family man himself, Mike understands that folks are more likely to go to a 6 pm concert if they

can get their supper there. He never asked for crowd sizes or guarantees; he just said "tell me which dates you need." He even closed Macray's on the first evening to make sure the trucks and staff was all set up.

His staff worked steadily and happily, and there were many compliments on the food - even from the performers, from the Elvis impersonator himself. Mike's crew always arrived in plenty of time to set up, and they left the parking lot in perfect condition afterward. They set up a Del's Lemonade stand twice transforming the concert into a quintessential Rhode Island event. One evening we took a cell phone video of five seniors doing a line dance alongside of the truck. It was perfect.

We realize that food trucks are expensive to maintain, tires, tune ups and a lot of gas per mile. But Mike says the library "is just up the road." His family loves the library, and they use it a lot. We are glad they benefit from it, and we are grateful that Mike decided to give something back. For being a terrific patron and helping to make library summer concerts sizzle, the 2019 community partner award goes to Michael Napolitano and Macray's Seafood II.

MEETING AND AWARD CEREMONY ADJOURNED AT 7:45 PM