



## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT With 2020 Highlights

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.** This Annual Report is unlike that of other years and reflects challenges and hard decisions resulting from the Covid 19 pandemic. But thanks to the generous contributions of our supporters and the ingenuity of the library staff, the Friends were able to continue their mission of supporting a full range of library programming. In 2020, the Tiverton Public Library staff successfully transitioned its regular programming to virtual or outdoor formats, providing 375 programs with an overall attendance of 5,745. We could not have done this without the financial and volunteer support of our members and community partners. Our heartfelt thanks go to all.

Next meeting to be held virtually on Wednesday April 14, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

### **BUSINESS AND ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

February Minutes and Treasurer's reports. Request for Motion to table until next Friends board meeting. Passed.

Confirmation of email votes since last FOTL board meeting

1. Unanimous vote in February to provide funding in the amount of \$5,490 to the library for 2021. This is the full amount requested by the library, but half of what the Friends provided in 2020, the difference owing to funds remaining from our 2020 grant due to the pandemic-related limit on large-scale events
2. Unanimous vote in March to fund museum pass for Blithewold Gardens

Motion to nominate the following slate of FOTL board members - Passed

\_\_\_\_\_, President;  
\_\_\_\_\_, Vice President;  
Celia Van Hof, Secretary;  
Sue Souza, Treasurer;  
Pauline Dumas, Archivist; and  
Christiane Brain and Joyce Dunagan, Members-at-Large  
Wenonah Clarke-Smith and Debra Darkow, Advisory Members

Request to Support Application of Grant for Adult Programming. FOTL to be fiscal sponsor to support application and receive funds if awarded. Grant to RI Council on the Arts to fund a storyteller series for adult summer reading. Mix of local

stories and performances from state-wide groups (RI Black Storytellers, Stages of Freedom, and Tomaquag Museum). Consensus Agreement.

## **SUMMARY OF FINANCIALS**

Our total receipts for the 2020 pandemic year fell short of the amount earned in the past several years due to the inability to hold our Annual Book Sale and Fall Craft Sale. A combined total of \$6,300 in the Membership and Donations miscellaneous categories<sup>1</sup> show membership income at a lower level than in previous years, but still better than expected given the financial concerns of families in the pandemic environment. Clements and Lees markets continued their grocery receipts program through the year, providing a modest but steady source of income totaling another \$1,000. A car donation and online sales of gifts in kind brought in \$500 of unexpected income.

Year-round book sales in the Book Nook totaled \$1,344.55, surprisingly positive given mandated visitor limitations including a temporary closure of the library in the spring.

The Friends provided \$10,900 for programming to the library in 2020. Due to the ingenuity and frugality of the staff, just over \$4,000 was used to support the 375 programs offered. The balance was set aside by the library for future programming.

Most other expenditures remained steady except for our Museum Pass program which was significantly reduced. Down from \$2,000 expensed in 2019, after refunds the Friends spent \$600 on passes with an emphasis on outdoor attractions.

## **SUMMARY OF 2020 PROGRAMMING FUNDED BY FRIENDS**

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.

For children and families, Friends funding was used for **20 Different Storytime To-Go Kits** containing books, songs, poems and crafts. Parents and children participated in **Storytime Strolls**, walking around the library building where several stations displayed parts of a story, concluding at an exit door where children could push a wireless doorbell to receive take-home kits that extended the content of their stories. Two Saturdays a month **Family Fun Kits** were available containing materials for seasonal activities designed for families to enjoy together. In place of school vacation in-house activities, children could pick up **Grab and Go Activity Packs**. The children's department used Friends funds to purchase:

- Packaging materials (zip top bags, paper bags, envelopes)
- Copies of the books needed for the kits and the strolls
- Craft materials
- Large paper cutter and laminator to prepare outdoor story displays,

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<sup>1</sup> Membership receipts are now recorded with donations in excess of membership covered in the category of Donations - miscellaneous.

- More Accucut dies for quick, easy preparation of materials for 150+ participants
- Wireless doorbell that the kids love to push
- Treats for holiday storytime strolls

In the early months before the pandemic, the Friends paid for the snacks and licensing fees for movie nights and the instructor's fees for landscape painting classes. They also supported the Bi-monthly CreaTiv Craft classes (through craft supplies) and the Monthly Cookbook Club (through drinks, napkins, cutlery, etc.).

In February 2020 Friends income helped fund a non-partisan multi-media presentation called **C Change Conversations** developed in consultation with scientists, business leaders, and public policy experts working on climate change.



For both adults and teens, the Friends funded gift certificates to give away as **summer reading prizes** and to support over 15 local businesses during pandemic closures, including Tiverton restaurants, studios, coffee shops and gift stores. They paid for **take home kits containing**

**supplies needed for popular projects** demonstrated on Youtube or Zoom, including seasonal crafts, paracord bracelets, Trebuchet catapults and waterless snow globes.

Friends funding allowed the library to provide a **Feasting from Your Pantry Cooking Demonstration with Chef Liz Barbour**, paying for the presenter's fee. Barbour gave a PowerPoint presentation covering pantry basics and how to create meals using whatever is on hand. In July/August the library used our funding to present a **Harry Potter Virtual Escape Room** experience where props for the originally planned in-person escape room became images for the final, virtual product

The Friends also supported the connection the library has maintained with URI Learning Extension through a donation to that organization which presented in October a **URI Master Gardener Program on Putting the Garden to Bed** and in December a **URI Master Gardener Program on Creating a Pollinator Friendly Garden with Native Plants**

The library was able to reach around 945 patrons of all ages by **setting up a table for 7 weeks at the Tiverton Farmer's Market**, the fee for which was funded by the Friends as were **300 screen printed tote bags, to be used at outreach events**. The bags were used to distribute materials for residents associated with the Senior Housing Authority and Brookdale Sakonnet Bay. They will also be used at the Farmer's Market and other outreach events in 2021.



## **MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM**

The Friends have long funded the Museum Pass Program which provides library patrons with free or discounted passes to local museums and attractions. The number of available passes ranges from 10 to 15 depending on usage, value and availability. In 2020 we purchased only five passes with an emphasis on outdoor attractions including the Buttonwoods and Roger Williams zoos and Blithewold Gardens. Our relationship with these museums and attractions has been maintained, and we hope to resume access to most of the attractions that were offered as of January 1, 2020.

## **LIBRARY NEWSLETTER (EBLAST)**

Finally, through the Friends' **financial support of the library's emailed newsletter Constant Contact**, the library was able to share news and resources with patrons every two weeks while

the building was closed. These newsletters became one of the primary service outlets during that time.

## **BYLAWS AMENDMENT**

Beginning February 2020 a subcommittee undertook a review of the Friends bylaws. In July 2020 that group presented a draft amendment in the entirety. In addition to minor changes related to consistency and simplicity, the committee recommended bylaws changes to reflect (i) a revised mission statement to clarify the Friends long-standing emphasis on the support of library programming, (ii) the addition of an “Advisory board member” category to the existing board composition, (iii) provisions related to board vacancies, and (iv) provisions related to virtual meetings and voting by email. The amendment was approved by the Board on September 9, 2020.

## **PLATINUM SNEAKER AWARD**

In a year like no other, the Friends present a special award. Instead of the traditional Golden Sneaker Award for library service in the previous year, we present the Platinum Sneaker Award to the Tiverton Public Library Staff for going the extra mile with their commitment and ingenuity in adapting to the pandemic environment in 2020. The staff surpassed expectations in serving the community in creative and remarkable ways, with critical information, with grab and go library materials, and with virtual and occasional outdoor events. Warmly in jest, we grant this organization the auspicious title of “The Best Library Staff in the World.”

**PHOTO COLLAGE OF STAFF AWARD ON FOLLOWING PAGE**

