

## Friends of Tiverton Libraries Annual Report for 2023

The Friends organization continues its mission to provide library support and is pleased to present a summary of accomplishments during 2023.

We held a “mini” book and bake sale in September. The Book Nook drew increased interest and support from library patrons and welcomed back a previous volunteer. An on-line See's Candy Fundraiser took place in November and December. Library patrons continued turning in grocery receipts from Lees Market and Clements' Marketplace with resulting donations from Lees and Clements. Patrons' contributions to the coin jar on the circulation desk and participation in the Amazon Smile program also added to the organization's income, along with generous donations from Friends' supporters. The Friends also sold books and other items on eBay. In addition, transfer of savings from a money market account to a high-yield CD resulted in a substantial increase in interest earned.

The Friends continued funding Constant Contact, the library's subscription service for monthly e-newsletters to library patrons. Our donations to Tiverton Public Library paid for the landscape painting classes, poetry workshops, Early New England Seascapes and History of Newport presentations, a blues guitar performance, summer reading prizes for all ages, “Make and Take” craft kits for children, CreaTiv craft supplies for adults, books for the children's outdoor Story Time Stroll, holiday cookie decorating supplies, movie licenses for film screenings at the library, and 10 museum and activity passes which were used 263 times in 2023. Museum passes for Battleship Cove, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum were added in 2023. In addition to funding supplies for children's programs, we financed an aquarium, 10 storage cases, a small portable washer, a HABA wall decoration and sensory items, and partially funded a wall book display. We also provided a variety of supplies for Teen and Community programs.

In April, we participated in the Earth Day Event by selling gardening books and holding a raffle, and we also sponsored the John Fitzgerald Memorial History lecture, featuring Richard Ring of the RI Historical Society speaking on the Providence Theatre and the restoration of the 1812 "Old Drop Scene". The Friends also assisted at the popular Snowcone Saturday event held in July.

Other support provided by the Friends of Tiverton Libraries included sponsorship of the annual Holiday Gift Drive benefiting East Bay Community Action Program, resulting in the collection of 14 large trash bags of gifts for area families in need, providing the publicity in November and December for the annual Penguin Plunge, and we closed out our year by funding the annual holiday staff lunch. All of this was accomplished thanks to the generous support of our membership and the library community.