

# Friends of the Library News



## The Friends Need You!

Did you know that the Friends leadership positions are filled by Friends like you? We recently appointed Liz Reyner to complete Suzanne Aiardo's 2017 term of vice-president. We also welcomed Maryann Morgan to the book sale committee. As we contemplate the 2018 year, we are seeking candidates for the office of President, and Book Sale/Fund-raising Chair and Co-chair. These leadership positions are essential to sustain the mission of our not-for-profit Friends organization. Friends leaders advocate for our library, fund-

raise for library programs, and work with Library leadership to create and promote new and exciting community programs.

For more information, contact Lynne Oudekerk at 518-479-4465 or Mari Harris 518-479-7027. Or,

email Lynne or Mari at [foegcl@gmail.com](mailto:foegcl@gmail.com).

Are you feeling strong? If physical activity is more interesting to you, we are looking for a few volunteers who can move heavy cartons of books and keep our book storage shed organized.

Throughout the year, community members donate books which are sorted, and then stored in the shed behind the library until the next book sale. A few volunteers are needed to lift and stack cartons full of books, navigate flatbed carts loaded with books and maintain organization in our book shed. These volunteers work closely with our Chief book sorter. The activity takes place during library hours and requires a few hours per week, which can be shared between fellow volunteers. In this role, you would work together with library staff and volunteer book sorters to keep our shed and sorting room tidy and organized. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please email us at [foegcl@gmail.com](mailto:foegcl@gmail.com).



## Don't Miss Out on our Upcoming Book Sales!

The **Children's Book & Media Sale** takes place on **September 23 and 24** in conjunction with the Annual Children's Festival on September 23.

Also mark your calendars for the **Friends Fall Adult Book & Media Sale** **November 2 - 5**.

The Friends are very appreciative of the generous donations of gently used books, DVDs, CDs and audiobooks for our book sales. Please remember that we do not accept damaged items, technical books and textbooks more than 10 years old, encyclopedias, videotapes, cassettes or Reader's Digest condensed books. Donations are generally accepted year round; check the library website for details.



*Thank You to the Volunteers who Participated in our Spring Book & Media Sale including Columbia HS Coach Morris and members of the Varsity Lacrosse Team!*





## A Favorite Library Benefit!

### 2017-2018 Museum Passes Available

#### Art & History Oriented Museums

The Clark  
Berkshire Museum  
MassMoCA  
The Hyde Collection  
Fort Crailo Historic Site  
Bennington Museum  
Berkshire Botanical Gardens  
Albany Institute of History & Art  
National Museum of Racing in Saratoga  
Olana  
Hildene (Lincoln Family Home)  
Schuyler Historic Mansion  
Historic Cherry Hill



#### Family Oriented Museums

USS Slater  
Children's Museum of Saratoga  
MiSci  
Hancock Shaker Village  
CMOST - Children's Museum of Science & Technology  
FASNY Museum of Firefightes  
World Awareness Children's Museum



Museum passes are available one per household per visit and may be checked out for three days. Museum passes are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for residents and Friends members at the library circulation desk. They are available one per household per visit and may be checked out for three days.

For 2017, the Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library unanimously approved a grant to the library to continue to fund the Museum PASS Program. This unique library benefit offers East Greenbush library cardholders and Friends free admission to area museums.

The Museum PASS Program is a terrific, educational service which is extremely popular with patrons. The program has grown each year since its inception in 2008. Museum PASS usage has skyrocketed 31% over last year! It is a cost efficient way for families to enjoy a day outing with their children or for individuals/seniors on a fixed income. If a family of 4 visited each museum one time, they could potentially save \$600.

The Friends have purchased an additional pass for CMOST - Children's Museum of Science & Technology, the Berkshire Museum and MassMOCA to keep pace with the increased demand.

## Libraries ARE Education

Advocacy is defined as an activity by an individual or group which involves working to influence government, business, schools, or some other large institution to address a situation affecting people in the community. Advocacy is active promotion of a cause or principle and involves actions that lead to a selected goal. Each year library advocates from across New York State converge on Albany to voice their support for funding and policies that benefit libraries.

This year, Lynne Oudekerk, Friends president, Betty Bellino Giugno, Friends member and library trustee, Anne Burton, Chair of the Friends Advocacy/Membership committee and Mari Harris, Chair of the Book Sale committee let state legislators know how the Governor's proposed 4% cut in library aid and \$5 million reduction in library construction aid could impact important library services in our community. They asked that state library aid be treated fairly and equitably in our state budget and reminded legislators that libraries, including our fabulous East Greenbush Community Library, count on state funding to support programs and capital projects. Governor Cuomo's budget for 2017-18 proposed significant cuts in library funding. Thanks in part to a very successful lobby day with state legislators on March 1, both the Assembly and Senate budget proposals restored the cuts proposed by the Governor.

## *Farewell and Best Wishes, Suzanne!*

It is with heavy hearts yet well wishes that we say farewell to Suzanne Aiardo, a long-time member of the Friends leadership team who is moving out of the area. For years, Suzanne has supported our book sales as a year-round book sorter extraordinaire, cashier, and supervisor. More recently, Suzanne has served as the vice-president of the Friends, spearheading our organization's bylaws revision process and supporting numerous Friends activities and initiatives. We have always counted on Suzanne to see issues clearly, offer her opinion honestly, and give her time generously. Thank You for your service to the Friends and best wishes in your new community, Suzanne!