



Save the Date!

**The Friends Board Meeting is usually the third MONDAY of each month.
Our Next Meeting is July 19 at 7:30PM at the Library.**

Volume 3, Issue 1
Summer, 2010

You can now
Donate Books
at the Friends
Desk next to
Circulation
Desk



Footnotes



Dear Friends,

Spring was a busy season for Friends! In April, Friends hosted 125 patrons at our First Annual Wine Tasting and Raffle/Auction. Furthermore, our organization kicked off our Guest Writers/Speakers Program by hosting two lecturers in May and June. To read more about these activities see the articles inside this edition of *Footnotes*.

Board member Barbara Bye and I attended the annual Book Expo America Conference in New York City in May. The conference afforded us the opportunity to meet and speak with many authors; some of whom expressed interest in joining the Friends Guest Writers/Speakers Program. We also brought back a variety of books which will be available through the Friends book sales.

May 31st was the close of the fiscal year for Friends. I am pleased to report that financially we had our most successful year on record with gross revenues of nearly \$28,000. THANK YOU to all of our members and to the participants in our fundraising events for this wonderful achievement.

Summer won't see any lazy, hazy days for Friends. We are busy planning our autumn and winter programming events. In November, look for the return of Elliot Engel. Other authors are also being considered for the Friends Speakers Program, so please stay tuned. Beginning during the second half of 2010 and running into 2011, Friends will also host a series of music programs. For the younger set, we at Friends are very excited to sponsor the Library's Summer Reading Program. Historically Friends has contributed to this program but, with our successful fundraising efforts, we have succeeded in sponsoring this important activity. See article on page 4.

Our On-Going Book Sale will continue throughout the summer. In addition, we are already preparing for October's *BookFest*, our annual book extravaganza. Mark your calendars – Thursday October 28 through Sunday October 31 – for this huge event. An impressive selection of books and non-print media of all genres will be available at bargain basement prices. If you are interested in volunteering this summer to help with book sorting please call us at 973-992-4600 X505.

Our annual membership drive is on the drawing board, as well. Taking into consideration the Library's Annual Campaign this June, Friends will mail our membership renewal request in September. We would appreciate it if you would note that the Library Annual Campaign and Friends Membership are separate and distinct requests.

Finally, we wish you a most enjoyable summer and hope that you include stopping by our On-Going Book Sale in your summer reading plans. Visit us anytime at <http://livingston.bccls.org/friends.html>.

In Friendship,

Sheree Link

President

Meet Susan Muntz

We go to the Library and take out a book or a DVD. It's that simple, thanks to the efforts of Susan Muntz, Principal Librarian, and the dedicated staff of 16 in Support Services under her management.

Few of us probably realize the myriad and complex tasks performed by Circulation and Technical Services. At the outset of the process is a decision as to what books and materials the Library will acquire. Susan recognizes the need to make every dollar count, so when making decisions about how to manage the budget for the Fiction Collection she is diligent in reading reviews and researching books before making acquisition decisions. Once such decisions have been made—a team effort by many staff members—there is then the process of physical acquisition. Within Technical Services, Ewa Bialoblocka handles all purchases—be they routine orders or identifying a unique supplier of an esoteric book. Technical Services' Harriet Goldsmith, Lillian Hsu and Jan Aji then assign books their call numbers, ensure accurate classifications, and link the books to the appropriate records. In today's multi-media age, classification can present interesting challenges. For instance, Susan established “the spoken word” as a category for the Library's new Lecture Series. Kristy Li efficiently prepares the books for circulation by labeling and jacketing them. Finally there is actual circulation. Susan is responsible for ensuring full coverage of the Circulation Desk through scheduling and for the accuracy of the Library's bibliographic database, and for implementing loan and fine rules.



Susan is very proud of the Support Services staff noting that they are “a fabulous staff who are very generous with their time and effort.” Susan, in turn, ensures that her staff members are well-trained about the policies and procedures associated with being part of our integrated library system, BCCLS (Bergen County Cooperative Library System).

An initiative that Susan is especially pleased with is the implementation of improved security for the DVD Collection. Based upon the success of a pilot using locking DVD cases, the Library Trustees recently approved their use for the entire collection. With this method patrons can see the Collection while control is maintained. In addition, Susan—along with Jan Aji, Colleen Piscioti, Kristy Li and Eitan Fine—are inventorying the Fiction Collection. Susan explains that weeding out “dusty books” actually increases circulation as the remaining books are more attractively displayed and shelves are not as crowded. Inventorying also keeps the Collection information accurate.

Susan brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her position. Prior to joining the Livingston Library in 2002—in her current capacity—Susan was a cataloger for the Morris County consortium (akin to BCCLS). While at the Plainfield Library she managed the transition from physical card catalog to electronic database, while finding time to run that library's Adult Literacy Program. Susan performed a clean-up of DeVry University's catalog and at Clark University in Massachusetts managed the Map Collection. She also worked as a volunteer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art research library. Susan earned her MSLS (Master of Science in Library Service) from Columbia University. She decided upon a career in library science while working at the University of Pennsylvania's Van Pelt Library. At Penn she earned a Master's Degree in Classical Archaeology, having majored in the classics with a concentration in archaeology at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill.

Susan passed her interest in the classics on to her children. Son Charles is a Professor of Ancient History at the University of Arkansas while her younger daughter, Nancy, a senior at Bryn Mawr College, majors in anthropology and archaeology. Daughter Emily has taken a more modern path as an advertising professional in Manhattan.

Books and classics are not Susan's only interest. She is a Bronze IV competitive ballroom dancer with a passion for the salsa, rumba, hustle, and tango. Having recently moved to Springfield she can also now pursue her hobby of gardening. Born in Watchung, Susan lived many years in New Providence and Summit before her move.

While Livingston is not “home” for Susan, Livingston certainly gained a remarkable and committed resource when Susan joined the Library. Patrons can rest assured that there is an experienced professional running support services and keeping our Library humming.

THE FRIENDS GUEST WRITERS/SPEAKERS SERIES CONTINUES

The Spring calendar for our Speakers Series, brought two thoughtful and interactive lecture programs from two wonderful writers—Rea Nolan Martin in May and Barbara A. Davey in June.

Rea, author of *The Sublime Transformation of Vera Wright*, spoke on the role of story in our lives. Today, when we live in a world of 24/7 “news,” Rea explained how the big truths often come to us through myth. She discussed the role of archetypes in literature and asked the audience to explore the types that they were. Rea led a lively discussion about the four universal archetypes—Victim, Saboteur, Prostitute, and Child. In another exercise, she challenged the audience to consider the perceptions and assumptions they bring to the table as readers, as she asked the audience to consider four different questions about a volunteer from the audience. Rea concluded with a stirring reading from her novel.

Barbara held a seminar about wellness and healing through journaling—the process of writing one’s experiences, hopes, dreams, frustrations, and fears in a safe place. She explained that through this process, a holistic healing, a sense of well being, and increased positive self-esteem can occur. This can make us one with ourselves, and then, one with the world. This is the “magic” of journaling. Barbara described how the act of committing something to paper, can help bring a real problem to light and once acknowledged, can lead to resolution. After Barbara described various types of journaling, the class experimented with one of the most difficult types—a dialogue—a captured conver-



sation whereby you invite another person or entity to share a dialogue with you. The participants tried out some of Barbara’s techniques such as using different pens or different colors of ink. Then several members of the audience shared their journal entries with the group. In summation, Barbara offered the class some practical guidance on how to journal including rules to write everyday for five minutes.



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Friends Begins On-Going Book Sale

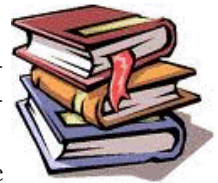
Books! Books! Books! As you plan your summer vacation, you may want to stop by the Livingston Library to purchase a book to take to the shore or other holiday destination. Friends is now managing an On-Going Book Sale in the Lobby. The shelves are stocked with a wide assortment of paperbacks, hard cover fiction and non-fiction, non-print media including CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, and audio books. A selection of foreign language, children's, and teens books are also available. Typically holding 150-200 books, a Friends volunteer comes by two or three times a week to re-stock the shelves. So a new selection is constantly presented. The books are both donated by Livingston residents and removed from the Library's own collection.

The On-Going Sale is in addition to BookFEST!—our annual book sale extravaganza scheduled for Thursday October 28 through Sunday October 31 when thousands of books and non-print items are available.

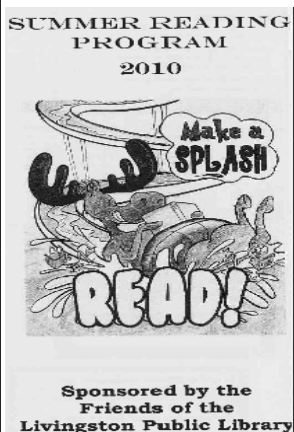
The books sale works on the honor system. While most patrons use cash, items may also be purchased with a check. Patrons select their book(s) and are asked to leave the funds in the metal cash box.

The On-Going Book Sale was the brainchild of Assistant Director Amy Hyfler who had successfully used the approach in another library. She garnered the enthusiastic support of Library Trustees and took the idea to Friends who seized upon the idea. Working with Amy to identify the best equipment, Friends had the book sale up and running by the time of its Wine Tasting event. Since it was initiated on April 20, the sale has generated nearly \$1,000. The proceeds go directly back to the Library on a monthly basis for the purchase of books, non-print media, and other operating needs.

We hope you will take advantage of this new venue to purchase books at discount prices while helping Friends raise much needed additional funds for our Library. If you are interested in contributing books, we have a collection bin behind the Friends Desk inside the Library. If you need a confirmation letter for IRS tax purposes, you can pick one up at the Library Help Desk at the time of drop-off. Volunteers to help sort books are welcomed and needed. Please give us a call at 973-992-4600 X505.



Friends Sponsors Summer Reading Program



As a member of Friends you are aware of our strong commitment to youth services. We have expressed this support by endowing the Children's Room as our contribution to the Library Capital Campaign and with children's and teen programs as part of our Guest/Writers Speakers Series. In the past, we have also contributed to the Children's/Teen's Summer Reading Program. This year we are thrilled to announce that we are sponsoring the Program.

Under the direction of Youth Services Librarian Linda Simpfendorfer, the Program provides a wide array of fun programming for youths of all ages. *Gleeful Guppies & Rubber Duckies Storytimes* offers stories, songs and fun for newborns to five-year olds. *Paws to Read* pairs up emerging readers entering grades 1 and 2 with trained, certified therapy dogs. For those in grades 4-5, *X-Treme Readers* serves as a book club—members read the monthly book selection, discuss the book, and enjoy theme related activities. *Book Buddies* teams up a teen mentor with emerging readers. Balloon artist Allyn Gooen enchants children with his unique performance, making balloon creations while leading stories with children

from the audience as stars.

Parents can get in involved during *Family Night* as science is taught through the engaging story of *Hendrick, the Pirate's Mutating Hand*. And don't forget *Cool by the Pool* and the *Summer Reading Club Party*, marking the return of *StarFish*. Children also participate in contests and can earn awards and prizes.

The Summer Reading Program is a wonderful experience. As Linda has said, "It is remarkable to see the growth of the reading skills of the children over the course of the summer program. A child who started the program giving single-syllable responses may well be giving a dissertation on a book by the end of the summer." Friends is pleased to be able to sponsor such a program.

Meet Library Trustees—Peggy Slatkin & Larry Bergmann

The new Co-Presidents of the Library Board of Trustees—Peggy Slatkin and Larry Bergmann—are a dynamic duo who combine knowledge about and experience of our Library with a fresh vision for a new decade.

Both joined the Board of Trustees 18 years ago and both hail from New York—Peggy from Marble Hill and Larry from the Bronx. Both also share a love for our Library and a desire to make it the best it can be.



Throughout his residency in Livingston, Larry has always been a Library user and avid reader; so it is not surprising that Larry eagerly accepted the opportunity to join the Board. Prior to assuming the role of Co-President, Larry served as Treasurer. Peggy's involvement with the Library dates back to 1970, when, shortly after moving to Livingston, then-Librarian Ruth Rockwood got her involved. Later Peggy served as President of Friends. During the Library's recent renovation, Peggy chaired the Design Committee—so Library patrons owe a debt of gratitude to her for our beautiful facility. Most immediately, Peggy served as Board Vice President.



It is, of course, through the excellent hiring decision of the Trustees that Judy Kron was made Library Director and Amy Hyfler, Assistant Librarian. Both Peggy and Larry have established a strong positive rapport with Library Administration. In addition, they work cooperatively with the new board of Friends of the Library, promoting alignment among the Trustees, Administration, and Friends. Indeed both cite the good relationship with Friends President Sheree Link.

The Trustees set the tone, policy, and overall direction for the Library. Under the auspices of the Board, select Committees are charted—e.g., Policy, Finance, Personnel, Public Relations. The Trustees are responsible for the business end of the Library, including procuring funding from the Town and overseeing expenditures.

With the start of their tenure as Co-Presidents, Larry and Peggy will lead the Board's three-year strategic planning effort to identify initiatives to fulfill the Library's mission within the landscape of the economic and budgetary environment over the next few years. They shared their vision with respect to the three major elements of the plan. In recognition of the changing demographics of the Town, a significant component will be the approach to community outreach and developing the concomitant programmatic and service responses. Recent examples are the expansion of the Chinese Collection, the addition of a Russian Collection, and the creation of an Indian Film Festival. Related, Peggy and Larry "want to get library cards in the hands of non-Library users and further entice patrons with our creative and innovative programming." Second, just as the Trustees made the invaluable decision to go wireless throughout the facility during the recent renovation, so too, in the coming years they will be making decisions pertaining to technology strategies—such as, the role of electronic delivery. Last, but certainly, not least, in these precarious economic times with State aid reductions taking a toll on Town funds, the development of alternative revenue sources will be an initiative. Illustrative of these new sources are the Annual Campaign for the Library (separate from the Friends membership drive) and the decision among Trustees, Administration, and Friends to institute the On-Going Book Sale, run by the Friends. With respect to the later, all proceeds from sales will be dedicated to the acquisition of materials and technology, based upon Library defined needs. In addition, Peggy and Larry spearheaded Trustee support for the Spring Wine Tasting and Auction/Raffle sponsored by the Friends.

Undoubtedly as we move into the decade of the teens, new opportunities and challenges will emerge. With outstanding leadership at the helm of the Trustees, the Livingston Library will be prepared to meet them and can truly say that the future is ours.

First Annual Spring Wine Tasting & Auction/Raffle A Great Success!

Wine, Food, Music, Art, and Gifts! These all combined to make the Friends First Annual Spring Wine Tasting and Auction/Raffle a stunning success. On April 22, 125 guests including Mayor Arlene Johnson (pictured below), Deputy Mayor Rudy Fernandez, Councilman Charles “Buddy” August, and Essex County Sheriff Chief John Dough (pictured below) attended this much-anticipated occasion. The event was the Friends’ first foray into fund-raising beyond the book sale and we are extremely pleased with the nearly \$6,000 grossed. Besides raising money for the Library, the event generated “buzz” for the Library and for Friends and engaged people who were not routine Library patrons. As one attendee said, “The free-flowing venue of having the guests walk through the area, sampling wine, nibbling on the hors-d’oeuvres, enjoying the music, watching the portrait artist, and looking at the various gifts *was perfect*. Everyone was free to mingle as much or as little as they desired, and the library provided an ideal setting.”

The wine portion of the event was coordinated by Dan Pastore, Manager of Kings Fine Wines & Spirits of Short Hills who arranged for more than 60 wines and fermented beverages from nine different distributors and importers. Dan, who has organized many such events for charitable organizations, explains, that “the event is a ‘win-win’ for everyone. It can be an excellent fund-raising venue for a non-profit. The patrons enjoy a wide array of wines and the wine representatives have an opportunity to educate guests.” To add to the festivities, Marina Goldin of the Do Re Mi School arranged for a piano teacher to play throughout the evening. The work of three local artists—Rosann Toma, Gil Riou, and Laurie Harden—was displayed and Laurie delighted guests with her sketching skills during the night. To round out the evening, more than 80 local merchants and individuals contributed gifts for our raffle and silent auction or made in-kind or cash donations.

Friends thanks everyone who supported this event by attending, volunteering their time and skills, and donating merchandise or funds. We hope our members will pay particular attention to those merchants who supported us and, in turn, hope you will support our sponsors. (See page 7). As one guest said, “The entire event was perfect. To all who participated in making it so magical, take a bow!”



**Thank You to All our Donors, Attendees, Volunteers for the Success of our
First Annual Spring Wine Tasting & Auction/Raffle**

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Bookplates honoring all Extraordinary Friends have been placed in the Library. To identify the book recognizing your contribution, contact: Barbara Bye at Liv_bookfest@yahoo.com or 973-992-4600 X505.



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