



Save the Date!

The Friends Board Meeting is usually the third MONDAY of each month.

Next Meeting: February 21 at 7:30PM

Footnotes



Dear Friends,

While we are deep in the winter and days are shorter, Friends is still striving to pack much activity into every hour. *BookFest! 2010* was a great success. Patrons had the opportunity to purchase thousands of books while generating funds that benefit our Library. This year we raised nearly \$5,000 in funds from our annual fall sale. We have also restarted the on-going book sale, now in a new location, inside the Library opposite the Children's Reference Desk. We are having a clearance sale with prices at an all-time low. Stop by to browse and buy!

On the heels of *BookFEST! 2010*, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Members in attendance voted to approve our annual budget and voted to add Sue Cone to the Board (See article about Sue on page 3.) After many years of dedication as the Treasurer of Friends, Ira Berkowitz, resigned his position, but fortunately for Friends, agreed to stay on the Board. Ira received a hearty thank you at our AGM. Anne Homa who had been serving as the Friends Vice President for Programming was named to fill Ira's remaining term as Treasurer. Anne, Controller for the Christopher Reeve Foundation, brings superb skills to the function. Friends is indeed fortunate to have Anne filling this critical role. With her transition to Treasurer, the position of Vice President for Programming remains unfilled. All other officers will continue in their present positions: Mary Jane Dough as Vice President for Membership, Barbara Bye as Secretary, and myself as President.

Under the adept leadership of Mary Jane, our membership drive, still underway, has been extremely successful in bringing in new members. Indeed, with Mary Jane's influence, our membership rolls now extend into Newark. At the start of the drive we were hoping for a 10% increase in new members—to date we have increased new membership by over 40%. We are, however, coming up short on renewing members. So if you have recently received a reminder notice in the mail that your 2009-10 membership has recently expired we hope you will consider renewing. We are trying to make it as easy as possible; you can renew by mail, online (<http://livingston.bccls.org>), or via telephone (973-992-4600 X505).

As you are probably aware, Friends uses the funds raised through membership and book sales to support Library Programming. We have been building and strengthening our relationship with the Library's Programming Department so that Livingston residents can enjoy the benefits. (See article on page 3.)

Planning for our 2nd Annual Wine Tasting and Raffle/Auction has also begun. See article on page 5 for ways in which you can help!

In closing, this has been a busy season for Friends. With our best wishes to you for a healthy and prosperous New Year, we look forward to a successful 2011 for the Library and Friends.

In Friendship,
Sheree Link
President

Meet John Sitnik

Readers and library patrons may remember a famous play and movie, “A Man for All Seasons.” The Livingston Library, too, has its man for all seasons. John Sitnik joined the Library this past autumn as the Head of Adult Services.

John brings an abundance of experience and knowledge to Livingston. Having served as Director of the Glen Ridge Public Library for the last thirteen years, he was responsible for the Library’s transition to the technology revolution in library and information science as well as a facilities renovation involving building rehabilitation and historic preservation. With these milestones achieved, John was keen to return to a “front-line” departmental function and is thrilled by the opportunity to come to Livingston as the Head of the newly re-structured Adult Services Department, which includes Adult Programming and Reference.



In this capacity, John is at the forefront of ensuring public access to the wealth of information that is our library. High among John’s priorities is ensuring that the Local History Collection is well organized and again available to the public. This might entail unearthing the early history of the property that was a chapel in the early 1900s for the current owner of the premises, finding a photograph of one of the first Police Chiefs of the Township for a curious resident, or, helping a student research the history of the Force House. Despite the job title of “Adult Services,” John emphasizes the importance of serving the needs of the entire community including youngsters. He is enthusiastic about making sure that the New Jersey & Local History Collections support the curriculum of the schools. And, particularly in these difficult economic times, he recognizes the need to assist residents with on-line job-searches—a task almost unheard of in suburban communities just a few years ago.

John traces his early love of books to his two older brothers who taught him to read even before he started school. Growing up in Newark and Bloomfield, his passion continued unabated throughout his years of schooling, and, during high school he worked at the Bloomfield Public Library shelving books. He continued working there throughout his college years at Rutgers-Newark and while pursuing his graduate degree in Library Science at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Holding the distinction of having worked in every department of the Bloomfield Library from Maintenance to Young Adult and from Switch Board to Inter-Library Loan, John was Head of Reference by the time he left for Glen Ridge.

In addition, John also served as Stage Manager for the Bloomfield Opera Theatre and performing arts series, based at the Bloomfield Library, and acted in a number of non-singing roles. Puccini is a favorite of his but his love of music and theatre is boundless.

He is also very active in community organizations, having recently received the Glen Ridge Rotary Club’s Community Service Award for his role in the Dictionary Project of the Literacy Program. He participates in various library organizations including critical work in the NJ Library Association BCCLs Committee.

John and Sharon, his wife of sixteen years, reside in Roseland, where Sharon runs her own graphic design company. While at home, John can often be found working on crossword puzzles or reading a good mystery. He also turns a deft hand to cooking. As he says, “I love to eat so I love to cook;” adding that “my love of food is not surprising. With an Italian mother and a Polish father, the dinner table was the heart of our family.”

With John’s background, knowledge, and enthusiasm he is set to lead us in the new decade ahead. So the next time you are in the Library stop by and welcome him to Livingston and perhaps find out a little bit more about the wonderful resources we have.

Sue Cone Joins the Board of Friends

Friends is pleased to welcome Sue Cone to our Board. A Livingston resident since 1977, Sue has been active in the community for many years serving as a volunteer with the National Animal Interest Alliance. She is also a dog trainer.

Sue's daughter, Jenny Chciuk, owns the West Essex Tribune, and her son, David, is Chief of the Emergency System at Yale. She is also the proud grandmother of five grandchildren.

Coupled with these many interests, Sue is an avid reader. She has used our Library and the BCCLS system extensively and has been professionally associated with libraries. A Cornell University graduate, Sue worked in the University's library and later in the library at West Essex Regional High School. She notes that she is "happy to serve on the Board, working with local publicity and BookFEST!"

Perfect Together

"Scarlett and Rhett," "Tristan and Isolde," "Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester," "Eleanor and Franklin," "Bogey & Bacall," "Brad and Angelina." Literature and history are filled with famous teams. We in Livingston are pleased to say that we have our own dynamic partnership—Library Programming and Friends.

We have all seen the change in the role of libraries in our communities. An important part of that change is programming offerings. In 2009 (according to a published article in *The Courier Post*) attendance at events at the state's public libraries (3.6 million) was nearly equal to attendance at Yankee Stadium (3.7 million). The drivers of all the innovative programming at our Library are that dynamic duo, Chris Demidowich and Thea White. (For more about Chris and Thea read our interview with them in the Fall edition of *Footnotes*.)

Of course there is a significant difference between libraries and the ball game; that of cost. Admission to library events is free to the public. However, this wonderful programming comes at great expense; hence the need to find sources of funding. This is where Friends comes in.

Chris and Thea develop programs to satisfy the many constituencies of Livingston. While in development, they bring their ideas to Friends to see if Friends has the interest and ability to fund them. During the last quarter of 2010, Friends teamed up with the Library's Programming Department to sponsor The Shenole Latimer Jazz Quartet and Elliot Engel speaking on Samuel Johnson. Both of these events were attended by scores—if not hundreds—of Livingston residents.

In January, Friends continued its support of Library music programs with an Evening with Robert Butts. Currently serving as Music Director/Conductor of The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey and New Jersey Concert Opera and as artistic director with Opera At Florham, Prof Butts recently premiered his own opera, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, based on the Edgar Allen Poe short story. Livingston residents were able to hear excerpts from the opera and hear Prof. Butts describe the creative process.



In the weeks and months ahead Friends will be expanding our partnering with the Programming Department. A sample of what is either scheduled or on the drawing board:

Rick Buscaglia—Tuesday March 15, 2011

Patrons may remember Rick for his wonderful presentation "Hooray for Hollywood: Great Movie Moments." Rick will be doing a new program on the America's Most Popular Musicals which will include lecture, DVD clips, and musical excerpts.

Happy Birthday Will—Coming in April

A celebration of Shakespeare in honor of the anniversary of his birth in April.

Continued on Page 5

Meet Friends Volunteer Victor Yee

“Business man,” “Sales manager,” “Photographer,” “Father,” “Parent,” “Neighbor.” Victor Yee wears many hats. Perhaps the most important one to our Library community is “Friends volunteer.” Every year Victor takes vacation from work and time-out of his busy schedule to volunteer at the Friends’ BookFest! Victor is one of the primary reasons that patrons of BookFEST! have a constantly updated source of books of all genres. Victor is in at the start, guiding the physical set-up of the sale before opening as well as at the conclusion by helping with the breakdown. Throughout the sale, Victor keeps an eye on replenishment and restocking. And he and cheerful disposition, always on

As Victor says, “I use the Library seen. I am indebted to the community that debt.” Indeed, Victor says unteering. In addition, he strongly volunteer. That message begins in his encouraged his daughter Jade to vol- currently considering her plans for promptings seriously; she can often and at the Children’s Summer Read-

Victor and his wife Mandy have fourteen years. They came to cause they felt it was a great place to notes, Livingston has a vibrant Asian system, and a wonderful Chinese who now works as an accounting sportswear apparel manufacturer in Randolph, NJ, was a teacher at the Livingston Chinese School.

Victor, a graduate of St. John’s University in Queens, NY with a major in marketing, has worked at Sony Corp in Park Ridge, NJ for the last seventeen years. Beginning in Sony’s retail product division, Victor was then promoted to manage the “Employee Store.” He is now the Senior Account Manager of Sales for the Professional Products Department, the arm of Sony that markets to television production studios. Victor’s career resonates with his personal endeavors as a professional videographer and photographer. Of late, he has cut-back on this business, but he can still often be found video recording weddings, birthdays, and other special events...except of course during BookFEST!

Friends is grateful and appreciative of the “above and beyond” efforts of Victor and we look forward to his continued association with Friends and BookFEST!



the inventory and ensures on-going does this with a completely upbeat the look-out to be helpful.

and it is one of the best I’ve ever nity and this is my way of helping he would like to see more men vol- urges the youth of the community to own home, where Victor has always unteer. A high school senior, who is college, Jade has taken her dad’s be found volunteering in the stacks ing Program.

called Livingston home for the past Livingston from New York City be- raise their daughter. As Victor community, a first-rate public school school. For a number years, Mandy manager at Tahsin Industrial Corp, a

Victor and his wife Mandy have



Thanks to Our 2010-2011 Extraordinary Friends

Presidential

Level:

Barbara & Pete Bye

Benefactors:

Mary Jane Dough

Sponsors:

Ira & Joan Berkowitz

Joy & Neil Prupis & Family

Laurence & Deborah Bergmann

Adam & Jeanine Zocks

Member’s Circle:

Sheree & Martin Link

Rachel & Neil Glatt

Francis Lai

Perfect Together (cont'd from Page 3)

More Musical Masters And Literary Luminaries—To Be Announced

📖 Several vehicles are still under consideration.

Staged programs/readings about well-known composers including lecture and performance. It may be another program by Dennis Kobrory who will be portraying Beethoven on Tuesday March 29. It may take the form of another production by the same group who did Eulogy for Vincent...OR... Thea and Chris may have yet another surprise in store for us!

Compelling authors on intriguing topics. Chris and Thea are always on the hunt. For instance (while not sponsored by Friends), the Library will be presenting Michael Perino on January 25 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss his book, "The Hellhound of Wall Street" and Anthony DePalma will talk about his book, "City of Dust: Illness, Arrogance, and 9/11" on February 10 7:30 p.m. So stay tuned!

To paraphrase a slogan familiar to many New Jerseyans—Library Programming & Friends—Perfect Together.

Second Annual Spring Wine Tasting and Raffle/Auction

As planning gets underway for our 2nd Annual Wine Tasting and Raffle/Auction we are looking for volunteers to:



Help plan the event

Identify Raffle/Auction Gifts—We are looking for interesting and unusual services and items:

- A vacation/weekend getaway
- Tickets for the theatre or a sports event
- A club membership or spa treatment
- Golf clubs, sports memorabilia
- Stereo equipment, jewelry, designer clothes
- Lunch or dinner with a noted personality or celebrity
- Gift baskets and gift certificates
- Tax preparation services
- And a host of other things!

If you can help, please email us Liv_bookfest@yahoo.com or call us at 973-992-4600 X505.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011.

Thanks to Our 2009-2010 Extraordinary Friends

Presidential

Level:
Greta Roesch

Benefactors:

Barbara & Pete Bye
Mary Jane Dough

Sponsors:

Ira & Joan Berkowitz
Joy & Neil Prupis & Family
Dale & Richard Gianni

Member's Circle:

Sheree & Martin Link Laurence & Deborah Bergmann Caryn & Joel Mollin Kenneth DeGhetto Patrick Po Shun Ng Francis Lai Nadia & Achilles Perry



10 Robert H. Harp
Livingston, NJ 07039
973-992-4600 X 505

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Caldwell, NJ 07006
Permit No. 351

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit Friends online at: <http://livingston.bccls.org/friends.html>

Think Green: If you would like to receive the Newsletter electronically instead of via U.S. mail, please contact us at Liv_bookfest@yahoo.com

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



LivingstonNavigator.com
FOR LOCAL LIFE, NEWS & FRIENDS
In Your Town

The Friends of the Public Library is on Navigator...you should be too.
Join today and become a "friend" of the Friends!