



Save the Date!

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

Next Meeting: 10/17 at 7:30PM (Wednesday)

Footnotes



Dear Friends,

As we move from summer to autumn, we at Friends have much to both look back on for the season just passed and much to anticipate with the start of fall.

With nearly 10,000 print and non-print items donated by the generous residents of Livingston, our volunteers are preparing for *BookFEST2012!*—our sale extravaganza held on October 26-28. Members have pre-public access on Thursday, October 25. We are dropping prices to all-time lows. We are also experimenting with specialized sales. Friends ran a sale of thrillers for the Mystery Club. We're participating in the Livingston Art Council's Art at the Oval with the sale of art books. In future, look for more "targeted" sales. As our volunteers culled books that did not quite meet sale standards, we were also able to make a much appreciated donation of books to the Essex County Department of Corrections.

Selling over 100 tickets, we are very pleased with the results of our summer fund-raiser—participation in **Macy's Shop for a Cause**. We staffed a table at Macy's and had an opportunity to tell shoppers about *BookFEST2012!* We gained shoppers' attention with a complimentary goody bag.

Our Membership Drive with enhanced benefits is well underway. We hope you'll renew and encourage friends and neighbors to join....And "the gift of Friendship" makes a wonderful present. We have improved the "giving page" on our website so you can now give a gift membership or other donation in honor/memory of someone online. Our Friends' volunteers are also able to handle memberships/gifts over the phone—973-992-4600 X505.

We have worked with Library Administration to fund a pilot Museum Pass Program. Look for the program to launch during October.

With the start of fall, Friends is again supporting our signature series—*Think Theatre*, *Music Matters*, and *Literary Liaisons* (see Page 5). Friends is also very pleased to be part of the Library's lifelong learning commitment (see Page 6).

Mark your calendars for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday November 19th at 7:30. The AGM is an opportunity for all members to participate in the planning and assessment of Friends' activities. If you would like to volunteer but are not keenly interested in "meetings," there are many opportunities to help us staff and prepare for events. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with *BookFEST2012!* and to assist with *Senior Happenings* which is held the third Friday of each month starting at noon. As ever, we welcome your thoughts and feedback.

In Friendship,
Bernie Stephan, President



Meet Michael San Martin & Ann San Martin

When people say that the Livingston Library is a great place for families that expression has a special meaning to Michael San Martin and Ann San Martin. Both employees of the Library, Ann and Michael are mother and son. They also share another unique distinction; they are the “oldest” employees in the Library. Michael, who first worked at the Library part time and then full time since 1982 is the “oldest” current staffer in terms of tenure. Ann, who is perhaps one of the youngest employees at heart, celebrated her 90th birthday in the summer, thus earning her the honor of the oldest member of staff as measured in years.

Ann just completed twenty years with the Library and now works in the Technical Services Department. While she is usually busy in the back office, patrons may see Ann making the mail route around the Library. Of her many accomplishments, she is perhaps proudest of son Michael.



Michael first became involved with the Library when a beloved high school English teacher recommended that he volunteer at the Library. Then-Library Director Leila-Jane Roberts saw his potential and encouraged him to become a “page”—shelving books and performing other tasks. After graduating and following a year’s stint in the insurance business, Michael returned to the Library on a full time basis. He continued his education, attending Morris County College in the evenings while working in the Library’s Reference and Circulation Departments. Following a re-organization in the Library, Michael became part of the Technical Services Department as a librarian assistant. During his tenure, Michael has performed many functions. Indeed, early in his career, one of his duties was closing up the building which entailed clearing books left on tables, fixing chairs, and checking the boiler as well as locking the doors! He was heavily involved in an initial project of archiving photos on the then MAC-based computer system. Michael also remembers the days when students requesting periodicals would stand in line with their paper request form, while the librarian/assistant went into the stacks to retrieve the item.

Currently, one of Michael’s primary responsibilities is the Library’s extensive periodical/newspaper collection. He ensures proper entry in the computer files, correct labeling and dating. Over the years, he has seen the nature of the collection change in response to the diversity of the Livingston community, including a more extensive foreign language periodical collection.

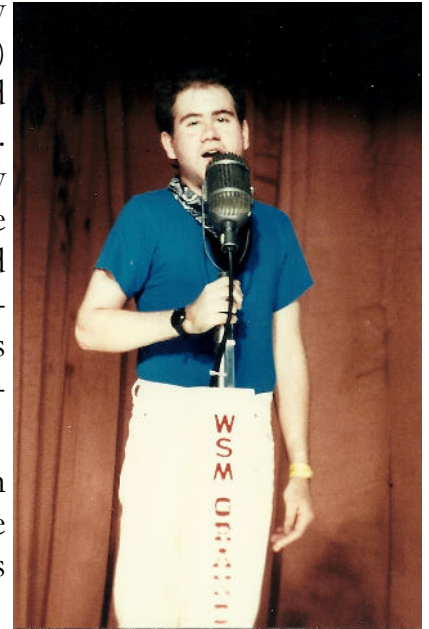
Michael also supports the Library’s patron reserving process. He re-activates the item so that the patron receives email notification (or in some cases, telephone notice) and sees to it that reserved books are brought to the Circulation Desk. Michael still occasionally helps out at the Circulation Desk as well.

(cont’d)

Meet Michael San Martin & Ann San Martin (cont'd)

Despite health issues—Michael has had three kidney transplants—he always brings a positive attitude to his work and to life. He attributes his outlook to his upbringing when his mom referred to him as “the miracle boy.” Michael jokes that his doctors are a veritable “who’s who” of the medical profession and he even appeared in *Time* magazine as part of series on health care. He is also very appreciative of sister Judy who donated a kidney.

When not working, Michael indulges his passion for music. While he loves all styles, he is especially fond of traditional country music and contemporary Christian music. (See Michael pictured at the Grand Ole Opry.) Michael ventured to the Country Music Fanfare and the Grand Ole Opry many times and has an extensive autograph collection. Once while on a personal tour of the archives of the Country Hall of Fame located in Nashville, he noticed that the file for one of Olivia Newton-John’s albums was mislabeled. An embarrassed archivist acknowledged Michael’s correction after pulling the actual album! Michael also sings with the St. Raphael Music Ministry’s Choir, noting that “my voice may not be the best but it is heartfelt.”



In addition, Michael has a penchant for adventure. When planning an extensive camping trip to Utah and Arizona, he points out that he used the Library’s vast resources to gather his information.

Michael’s reading tastes are varied but he currently recommends Garth Stein’s *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, a book that is part of the Livingston Library’s wonderful fiction collection. Both Ann and Michael wish to encourage residents of Livingston to visit the Library and partake of its many treasures. Residents, in turn, can be grateful that dedicated employees like Michael and Ann are on the job!

Mark Your Calendar

**Annual General
Meeting**

Monday

November 19, 2012

7:30PM

**4th Annual Spring Wine
Tasting/ Buffet and
Auction/ Raffle:**

**Thursday, April 25th
2013**

Children's/Teens Summer Reading Program

“**Dream Big—READ!**” That was the theme of the Library’s Children’s/Teens Summer Reading Program this summer. Thanks to the efforts of our Library’s fine team of youth librarians, Livingston’s youngsters—over 900 of them—had the opportunity to do just that. And for a third year in a row Friends of the Library was very proud to sponsor this program.

Experts in the field of child development note that literacy skills develop early and are strengthened when children read during the summer months. The Summer Reading Program (SRP) is designed to reach families with children through a variety of reading and reading-related activities. Crafts, book discussions, programs, contests, and displays are all used to foster a love of reading and to encourage youngsters to become lifelong library users. As Linda Sempendorfer, Head Children’s Librarian, says: “We want to keep children engaged in the summer and keep up their reading skills. We also want them and their parents to enjoy reading and look at the library as a valuable resource and a wonderful place to visit.”

This year, four Tuesday evenings were designated *Family Night*. On June 26th, **Sciencetellers** (a combination scientist and storyteller) from the New Jersey-based organization Piccirillo Sciencetelling performed unexpected and unforgettable experiments which taught science through stories. July 17th was **Peter Pan Night** as the Traveling Lantern Company delighted the audience with the tale of the boy who never grew up. Families played classic board games such as Candy Land and Scrabble on Game Night (July 24th). And in keeping with the SRP’s theme, on July 31st storyteller Bob Kanegis presented *Little Bear’s Big Dream & Other Stories*. Bob told imaginative tales of night animals, the stars, dreams, and adventures great and small with LOTS of audience participation. His harmonica and accordion added a little campfire music to the mix. At the end of the performance, children were guided to story sources and related books.

For those who couldn’t make it to NYC’s Hayden Planetarium, the SRP offered its own form of stargazing when Starlab’s portable planetarium came to town on July 11th. Youngsters in elementary school grade levels could gaze in amazement at the planets, stars, and constellations.

Paws to Read was offered for four consecutive Mondays in July. Warm brown eyes and wagging tails created a positive, nonthreatening, fun environment for emerging readers (grades 1 and 2) to read aloud. The therapy-trained dogs listened and didn’t tease, laugh, or judge. As the children read, they gained confidence and their reading skills increased.

Animals also took center stage on July 26th with the *Stuffed Animal Sleepover*.

Teens helped children with crafts and told bedtime stories. After a snack, the youngsters went home as the stuffed animals had a wild sleepover night at the Library. (cont’d)



Children's/Teens Summer Reading Program (cont'd)

Storytimes introduced children to books and reading. Four different age-appropriate programs were offered each week as our librarians adapted stories, songs, and movement activities to match the ages and attention spans of the children attending. Parents learned how to foster early literacy skills in their children. *Book Buddies* paired a trained teen mentor with an emerging independent reader in grades K-2. (Note that these programs re-commenced in the fall.)

The SRP concluded with a celebratory party featuring composer and performer Yosi who brought a joyful experience to all attendees as he performed original and traditional songs.

SRP prize winners were announced at the party and all children received a goody bag. Beth Downey, the mother of grand prize winner Heather Downey, explained that all three of her children were actively involved in the summer reading program and thoroughly enjoyed it. "They enjoyed playing the board games and talking about the books they read, as well as the various programs they attended." She said that she loved being able to bring her children, ages 4, 6, and 9, to educational, fun programs that were age appropriate for the three of them. She adds, "Heather was thrilled to win the bookcase, and is still enjoying the books she won."

All-in-all, it was an exhilarating finish to a wonderful summer program!

From left to right: Librarian Amanda Winter, Megan Downey, Heather Downey, Andrew Downey, Librarian Linda Simpfendorfer, Librarian Gina Vaccaro.



Our Signature Program Series Return this Fall

During the summer, Library Programming Department personnel Chris Demidowich and Thea White were busy planning the programs for the three signature series that Friends sponsors— *Think Theatre*, *Music Matters*, and *Literary Liaisons*. On Monday September 10th, over 150 people were captivated by Rita Parisi's one-woman show, **I, Zelda**. The play was an unflinching look at the tumultuous life of the beautiful, talented, and emotionally disturbed Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald.

In the weeks and months ahead look for more wonderful offerings under these series. We'll see the return of Dennis Kobray as Scott Joplin, Gordon Ward on New Jersey Ghosts and Spirits, Elliot Engel with a masterful lecture, and Eric Clarke & John Clarke for another beautiful recital. New to the series will be soprano Annamaria Steffanelli & tenor Rory Angelico, the Princeton Tigertones, and actress Dorothy Leeds giving us Good Lessons from Bad Women.

Friends Supports the Livingston Library's Lifelong Learning Curriculum

Lifelong learning can be a source of enjoyment as well as self-improvement. That is why the Livingston Library is committed to this goal. As John Sitnik, head of Adult Services, says, "the library is the 'people's university.'" Our Library has two major instructor-based programmatic tracks for lifelong learning—mini-courses and lecture series.

In contrast to the policy of many libraries, our Library is retaining its commitment to offer programming free of charge. Accordingly, Friends is pleased to be able to support the lecture series track.

Under the first track, sponsored by the Library Endowment, the Library offers formal mini-courses. Each course is comprised of multiple classes, taught at an academically rigorous level. The classes build upon each other and the course is generally conducted by a single professor. There are no tests, grades, pre-requisites, or homework, so students attend for the sheer love of learning. Registration is required and attendees must possess a valid Livingston Library card. The Library's first mini-course is being taught by someone well known to Livingston Library program attendees. Dr. Robert Butts, professor at Montclair State University and Director of the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey, is offering **Opera 101: Introduction to Opera** during the fall semester.



The second track is somewhat less formal but equally exciting. The Library develops thematic lecture series. Like the mini-courses, the lecture series are comprised of multiple sessions around a common topic. In contrast to mini-courses, however, each lecture is designed to stand on its own and can be attended individually. Advance registration is not required. Typically, different lecturers will bring their expertise to each session. Last spring the first such series was offered on world art with lecturers from the Newark Museum.

This fall, three professors from Rutgers University are offering a three part series on **American Government and Politics**. The first of these—*New Jersey's Modern Politics*—was presented on September 6. Dr. William Gillette presented a survey of the state's governmental institutions and politics under the Constitution of 1947. (See the accompanying *Did You Know?* article.) The next program in the American Government series is *The Supreme Court in the Democratic System* on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. In this segment, Dr. Milton Heumann, Professor and Chairman of the Political Science Department at Rutgers University and Director of the Pace Center for Civil Engagement at Princeton University, discusses the impact of life-long appointments for Justices and the current composition of the Court vis-à-vis the American population. The lecture series will conclude with a post-Election Day program in November about the new campaign finance reality.

Did You Know...



If you were one of the nearly 60 attendees at William Gillette’s lecture on September 6th, you learned that:

The 1947 Constitution of the State of NJ is the state’s 3rd constitution. It extended the terms of governors to four years. It set term limits for governors—no more than two *consecutive* terms. A former governor is, however, permitted to run for a third *non-consecutive* term.

Gov. Richard J. Hughes is the only person to have served New Jersey as both Governor and Chief Justice.

Gov. Alfred Driscoll, a Republican, advocated for and oversaw the construction of the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway.

Gov. Brendan Byrne, a Democrat, was responsible for the establishment of spending limits on local governments, county governments, school districts, and the state.

New Residents Picnic

On September 10, Library staff and Friends volunteers hosted a table at the Township’s New Residents Picnic. Attendees signed up for library cards, heard about Library programming & services and went home with a complimentary book from Friends. Assistant Library Director Amy Hyfler noted that it was very gratifying to hear how many new residents already had cards. They told Amy, “It was among the first things we did!”

Thanks to Our 2012-2013 Extraordinary Friends*

Presidential Level:

Sponsors:

Member’s Circle:

Barbara & Pete Bye Joan Waldron Nadia & Achilles Perry Elli & Max Cohen Judith Nudelman

*Reflects memberships processed through September 27th.

Thanks to Our 2011-2012 Extraordinary Friends

Presidential Level:

Sponsors:

Ira & Joan Berkowitz Barbara & Pete Bye Laurence & Deborah Bergmann Kenneth DeGhetto
Thomas Waldron

Member’s Circle:

Omer & Rumeysa Gokcekus Roberta & Fred Horowitz Francis Lai Robert & Judi Miller
Judith Nudelman Nadia & Achilles Perry Joy & Neil Prupis & Family Carolyn Marlow & William Teltser

Bookplates honoring all Extraordinary Friends are placed in the Library. To identify the book recognizing your donation, contact us at friends_livlibrary@verizon.net or 973-992-4600 X505.



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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 friends_livlibrary@verizon.net



BookFEST2012!

Friday October 26 — Sunday October 28

10AM* — 4PM

Members have pre-public access on Thursday October 25, 7:00-9:00PM

Members are eligible for complimentary book(s)

Thousands of items in all genres

Our lowest prices ever!

*** 1PM on Sun.**

In order to keep up-to-date with the latest program offerings, we suggest subscribing to the Library's electronic news service; instructions can be found at <http://livingston.bccls.org/electronicnews.html>.