



**Save the Date!**

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

Next Meeting: 12/18 at 7:30PM

Please join us!

# Footnotes



Dear Friends,

As I write this letter at Thanksgiving time, I am reminded of the many things we at Friends have to be grateful for. I hope you agree!

- 📖 As our hearts go out to all those in New Jersey and elsewhere who were devastated by “Sandy,” we are thankful that Livingston was spared from the most severe damage. We hope you and yours are safe and well.
- 📖 We are grateful that “Sandy” did not strike until after our BookFEST! (see article)!
- 📖 We offer our heartfelt thanks to the Library administration and staff who kept the Library opened late nights so that residents without heat and power could find a place of refuge and community. And, lest we forget, these are the people who make our Library special *every* day.
- 📖 We are thankful to all our wonderful friends—both our new members and those of you who have been with Friends for many years. YOUR support makes our support possible. (See article in our new series, “Spotlight on Members.”)
- 📖 We are grateful to the many residents who donated to and attended BookFEST! making this year’s event a very successful one.
- 📖 We are indebted to our fabulous team of volunteers without whom we would not be able to exist. These are the folks who sort the books, stuff the envelopes, copy the materials, serve the coffee, and otherwise keep our organization running. (See article in our series, “Meet Volunteer.”)
- 📖 We are fortunate and honored that two talented individuals—Angela Wang and Teresa Allard—joined the Friends Board at our Annual General Meeting in November. Both have been wonderful volunteers and bring additional unique strengths to our Board (see article).
- 📖 We are thankful to the marvelous performers and lecturers brought in by the Library’s terrific Programming department. These programs help make our Library the heart of the community (see article).
- 📖 We extend our appreciation to *Macy’s* who has awarded Friends a \$2,500 grant that will enable us to fund the Library’s *E-Reader Experience* program (see article).

The list could go on and on but space does not. So let me conclude with our warmest wishes that you and your family have happy, healthy, and safe holidays.

In Friendship, *Bernie Stephan*, President

## Meet Volunteer Marie Sciocia

For many years Marie Scioscia has been a familiar face to hundreds of attendees at the Library's Senior Happenings. On the third Friday of every month from September through May, attendees of Senior Happenings bring a brown bag lunch, and enjoy coffee & dessert, usually served up by Friends volunteer Marie Scioscia.

Volunteering in the community is something Marie knows a lot about. Besides her time with the Library, Marie volunteers at Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5321 in Whippany where she serves as chaplain and participates in the VFW's semi-annual dinners for patients at the V.A. Lyons Hospital. Marie is also a past-president of the Auxiliary of American Legion Post 201 and is an active participant in the Legion's "Stand Down" in Newark where volunteers provide homeless veterans much needed supplies, clothing, and other paraphernalia.

Marie explains that she has a special interest in veterans because of a long tradition of family military service. Her father served with the American Expeditionary Force in France during World War I, her brothers and an uncle were in the South Pacific theatre of war during World War II while her husband served in Europe. In addition, she has a grand-nephew who served in Afghanistan and at Arlington National Cemetery.

Marie's community service does not stop here, however. She volunteers with Thursday Seniors at the Community Center and often provides transportation for older township residents. She notes that it is important for residents to not feel shut in. And in the realm of it's a small world, when volunteering at the Morris Museum, she met staff there who had known her brother from his days as a Newark police captain. She is also a volunteer at Morristown Medical Center.

Marie knows the Medical Center well. Before beginning her "career as a volunteer" Marie worked as a nurse there for nearly twenty-five years. In her "spare" time she sang and performed in musical theatre and modeled.

Marie became active with the Library when she was attending Monday afternoon movies and saw a request for volunteers for Senior Happenings. She met Thea White, and, as they say, "the rest is history." These days Marie is directing a new group of Friends volunteers to work as servers during Senior Happenings...and as one of the new volunteers said, "Marie sets a high standard."

Marie grew up in New Jersey as the youngest of four. A widow for many years, Marie has two daughters. Her daughter in Minnesota has given her three grand-daughters. Marie's daughter in Whippany has a daughter who teaches science in Wayne and a son studying technology at Morris County College.

Despite her active community involvement, Marie still finds time to read. She enjoys mysteries—particularly Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot—and romances by Danielle Steel.



## Meet Volunteer Marie Sciocia (cont'd)

Marie also recommends James Patterson. She invites one and all to join us at the Library's Senior Happenings for a wonderful program, a nice meal, and some good conversation!

## BookFEST 2012!

Preparing for storm Sandy did not deter patrons from attending Friends of the Library's annual book sale extravaganza, BookFEST! held October 27 through October 29. This year we dropped prices to their lowest ever and had tremendous turn-out.



Friends, in effect, ran two simultaneous sales. In the Program Room, we offered books, DVDs, CDs, and games. Outside the Program Room, patrons could purchase “old” non-print media—VHS tapes and books on cassette—at a \$1 a bag.

Similar to last year, members had pre-public access to BookFEST 2012! on October 26. This year we introduced a Friends Service Desk. Members could stop by and pick up their coupon for a complimentary item or items. With the help of a dedicated team of volunteers we had more people handling check-out and straightening out books...but with a record number of patrons, our volunteers were still sometimes hard-pressed to keep up with foot traffic. Attendees also seemed to enjoy the social aspect of the event—often catching up with friends and neighbors while book hunting.

Thanks to a record number of donations, we offered nearly 10,000 items. Total proceeds from BookFEST 2012! exceeded \$4,000 including memberships specifically attributable to the sale. With these funds Friends is able to support programming, services, and acquisitions not covered by the Library's budget from the Township.

Patrons attending programs in the Program Room, may still see some of our books boxed up in corners. We are donating additional books to the Essex County Corrections Department and we are arranging for a bulk sale to a warehouse re-seller. In addition, the Board of Education also received a donation of non-fiction children's VHS tapes.

In response to feedback, Friends is planning to extend the length of BookFEST! in October 2013 including some evening hours for both members of Friends and the general public. We will, of course, continue our policy of a members-only pre-public sale. We are also looking into the feasibility of running a pre-summer book sale in June with a focus on light summer reading. In the meantime, our on-going book sale is up and running so we hope you'll stop by to browse and/or buy. We have many excellent quality books at great prices. A book makes a nice holiday gift—for a loved one, a friend, or as a treat to yourself!



## *Judi Nudelman*

Patrons of the Library know Judi Nudelman for the many years of service she has given the Library; indeed, the Township declared January 26, 2010 as Judith B. Nudelman Day at the Livingston Library in honor of her 23 years as President. Judi has been a Trustee of the Library since 1975 and has served as Treasurer since turning over the reins of the presidency. Throughout the years, Judi has also used the experience she garnered as a member of the State Library Board to bring additional insights to Livingston. She remains a frequent visitor to other libraries and to conferences so as to keep abreast of best library practices.

What makes Judi most proud of our Library is the way it has evolved to meet changing community needs and the changing times. Indeed the expansion of the Library to the excellent facility we now have grew out of a needs assessment that the Library undertook. Then, when the State (under then-Governor Christy Whitman) offered grants for library renovation, Livingston was prepared and we received one of the largest grants from the State. All aspects of the Library design—from the architectural layout to the building-wide WiFi to the selection of colors and furniture to the Internet Cafe—were geared toward making the Library a welcoming environment to all ages.

As a corollary, Judi is also very gratified by the Library's pro-active search for new ways to serve the people of Livingston. It encompasses new programs and services such as the Museum Pass Program and an expansion of e-reader services. It also is reflected in outreach to the increasingly diverse communities that comprise Livingston.

This approach of keeping in touch with the community also informed the most recent strategic plan that the Library undertook ("Listening to the Community") and earned the Library the highest satisfaction marks in the recent 20/20 Vision survey. Judi notes that the relationship between the community and our Library is a two-way street. The Library in many ways is the heart of Township offering a "non-judgmental place to be and to experience." At the same time, she notes that the Township has been wonderful in its support of our Library. This is all the more important when budgetary pressures at the county level have precluded Essex County from providing any Essex County libraries with financial support.



## Spot on Members: *Judi Nudelman (cont'd)*

Judi notes that “being the heart of the community” is more than a physical presence. It’s about the atmosphere and the quality of programs and services that our Library offers. She is pleased by the story-telling in the Children’s Department, the encouragement given to early-reading, the opportunity for ESL education (English as a Second Language), the family and adult programming, and the wide ranging collections. Despite this wide array of programs and services that is our Library, Judi admits that for her *personally*, the Library is still about the books. She is frequently seen on the check-out line with a stack of books to take out or at the new book display perusing the latest additions (see photo).

Judi is a loyal member of Friends of the Library declaring that Friends is a vital part of the Library support network. She emphasizes the role that Friends plays as a “booster” and source of community insights in addition to the financial assistance that Friends provides. Judi says, “Libraries that do not have an active Friends group are missing out on an important resource.” She encourages Livingston residents to visit our Library and to join Friends.

## Bravo!!

In October and November, the sound of applause, bravos, and animated discussion filled the Program Room. The cause—a terrific set of programs developed by the very-talented team of Chris Demidovich and Thea White, the duo behind Library programming.

The American Government lecture series continued in October with a lecture on the Supreme Court. And in a fitting conclusion to the election season, the final lecture in the series was on campaign finance laws. The *American Government lecture* series was taught by three distinguished professors from Rutgers University and were thought-provoking and insightful.

The Friends-sponsored *Think Theatre* series continued in November with Dorothy Leeds giving the audience **Good Lessons from Bad Women**. The talented and funny young men of the **Princeton Tigertones**, a part of the *Music Matters* series, received a rousing response from the standing-room only audience.



## Bank for Us: TD Bank Affinity Program

This holiday season we hope you'll consider another way to help Friends by participating in TD Bank's Affinity Membership Program. There is **NO** cost to you. Through the Affinity Membership Program, we will receive a contribution from TD Bank simply because you open an account or are an existing customer. Joining the program does NOT alter the terms or conditions of your TD Bank accounts and none of your funds or personal information is given to Friends.

**Here's how the program works:** TD Bank will make an annual contribution based upon the average balances and activity for all participating members' accounts. Checking, savings, money market, CDs and retirement accounts are all included. And, there is no limit to the amount of our potential contribution! In 2012, Friends received a contribution of more than \$2,700.

### **Here's how you can help:**

If you have an existing relationship with TD Bank, you can contact the Livingston store at (973) 992-5277 and tell them you want to "link" your account to Friends of the Livingston Library (code: A1224).

If you do not currently have a relationship, you can stop in any TD Bank location and open an account. As an added incentive, if you open a non-interest bearing checking account, TD Bank will give you a \$25 credit for opening the account. For additional information visit our website [livingston.bccls.org/TDAffinityProgram.pdf](http://livingston.bccls.org/TDAffinityProgram.pdf), or contact a representative from the Livingston store.



Your account information remains strictly confidential at the Bank. No one at Friends has access to your balances information or your account number; in fact, we at Friends will not know if you have an account unless you tell us. You can join the Affinity Program anytime but if you do so before December 28th, you can help us receive a contribution for 2012. As one member of the Friends Board said, "It was very easy to sign up and it is wonderful that TD Bank is giving us a way to help grow our organization without any cost to our members."

We hope you'll become part of the Affinity Membership Program to benefit Friends.

## Thanks to Our 2012-2013 Extraordinary Friends\*

**Presidential Level:** Barbara & Pete Bye      Ira & Joan Berkowitz

**Sponsors:** Laurence & Deborah Bergmann    The Horn Family    Arlene & Keith Johnson    Joan Waldron

**Member's Circle:** Elli & Max Cohen    Francis & Candace Lai    James Lynch    Judith Nudelman  
Nadia & Achilles Perry

\*Reflects memberships processed through November 30th.

Bookplates honoring all Extraordinary Friends are placed in the Library. To identify the book recognizing your donation, contact us at [friends\\_livlibrary@verizon.net](mailto:friends_livlibrary@verizon.net) or 973-992-4600 X505.



## Friends Receives \$2,500 Grant from Macy's

Macy's has awarded Friends of the Library a \$2,500 grant for the "E-reader Experience" Program. This program will put the Livingston Library in the forefront of e-book services by allowing patrons to borrow pre-loaded e-readers from the Library. Through the generosity of Macy's and its community grants area, the Library will fulfill one of its important Three-Year Strategic Plan initiatives—expanding the Library's e-collection. Currently, patrons may download e-books to their own device via the Library but this program will allow them to actually borrow the e-reader as well. In addition to the devices, the E-Reader Experience will be initiated with a training seminar for those new to the technology.

Asst. Director and Friends Board member Amy Hyfler worked with Friends to develop the proposal and Library Administration is now developing policies and procedures for this new program. Look for a launch during the second quarter of 2013.

This is Friends second collaboration with Macy's. In August we participated in Macy's Shop for a Cause program and raised more than \$500. Friends is extremely pleased and proud that this grant award raises our involvement with Macy's to a new level.



## Annual General Meeting: New Board Members

At our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November two wonderful volunteers—Angela Wang and Teresa Allard—were elected to the Board. Angela was also selected to fill the newly-created position of Vice President for Communications & Information Technology, with a special focus on social media. Both individuals bring a wealth of skills.

Angela was an Information Technology professional working primarily in the pharmaceutical industry. Since retiring from Hoffmann La Roche in 2010, she has volunteered at various non-profit organizations including the Livingston Arts Association. When Angela is not busy with her volunteer activities she loves to paint, travel, and read. Her family—son Eric, daughter Stephanie, and cat Sunny—is a source of great pleasure.

Teresa, a licensed pharmacist in California and Nevada, is currently studying to be credentialed in New Jersey since moving to the state a few years ago. She and husband John are the parents of two great children—Jesse and Claire. As the mother of a young family, Teresa brings an additional perspective to our Board—that of the needs and interests of young families in Livingston.

We are thrilled to have their talents on our Board.



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 [friends\\_livlibrary@verizon.net](mailto:friends_livlibrary@verizon.net)

## Mark Your Calendar:

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

**Thursday, April 25th 2013**



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>.

Follow us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/friendsofthelivingstonlibrary>. You will be able to view our past announcements on the Timeline of our page. If you are a Facebook member, please click on the "like" button to become a fan. Then our future announcements will show automatically on your Facebook.