



### Save the Date!

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

Next Meeting:  
10/15 at 7:30PM

Please join us!

# Footnotes



Dear Friends,

We hope you had an enjoyable summer and are ready for the fall. Before looking ahead to autumn, I'd like to update you about our busy summer.

We said a fond farewell to Anne Homa who left the Board and Livingston to relocate to Israel. Anne's years of service, first as a Board member and then as Board member/Treasurer, have been marked by her valuable insights, skills, and dedication. She will be missed by all. Angela Wang will take on the duties of Treasurer, resigning as Vice President for Communications & Technology. Friends is fortunate to have the excellent communications skills of new volunteer, Nada Akmal, who will promote active online communications including Navigator, Patch, The Alternative Press, and Facebook. Last, but not least, Sue Cone will fill the office of Secretary, vacant since the resignation of Sheree Link.

The summer was also about books! Friends introduced a limited-category Big Book Sale in June—**Poolside Prose & Beach Books**. We took over the Program Room for a weekend in June to offer customers a large selection of light summer reading, focusing on on mysteries, romance, and general adult fiction. A selection of children's books and games was also available. In addition, we introduced "dime novels" and other \$.10 books—a feature we will continue with **BookFEST!**. In June we further expanded our Ongoing Book Sale, bringing the daily selection up to nearly 1500 books and non-print items. We also decided to add an extra day to BookFEST!—scheduled for **October 24–27** plus **October 23 for Members ONLY**. (See page 4.) With our policy of accepting book donations throughout the year, our volunteers spent the summer sorting books!

We again participated in **Macy's Shop for a Cause**. Our volunteers sold nearly twice the number of tickets as last year and staffed a table at Macy's. We gained shoppers' attention with book give-aways. (See page 2.)

During the summer we prepared for the September launch of our 2013-14 Membership Drive with a redesign of benefits. We are especially excited by our new **Merchants & Members Program**. (See page 3.)

Friends support of Library programming was in evidence this summer with underwriting of adult and youth programs. With the start of fall, Friends will continue funding our signature series—*Think Theatre*, *Music Matters*, and *Literary Liaisons*. (See page 6). Our volunteers will also be staffing *Senior Happenings*.

Mark your calendars for our **Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday November 19** at 8:00. The AGM allows all members to participate in the election of officers and the review of activities. As ever, we welcome your feedback.

In Friendship, *Bernie Stephan*, President

## Meet Library Bookkeeper: Sumona Bhattacharya

While Library patrons are bustling around on the Library's main floor, Sumona Bhattacharya is stationed on the second floor making sure that all the funds are flowing to ensure our Library can function. Sumona is our bookkeeper and for the last twenty-four years she has made sure our vendors have been paid, our staff receives their pay checks, and our revenues are properly on deposit at the banks.

The duties of bookkeeper for a large organization such as the Library are many and varied. With scores of vendors—running the gamut of book sellers to contractors—Sumona reviews all the Library's invoices and is responsible for generating some 100 checks every month!

As Sumona explains, each day there is usually a different set of assignments that need to be accomplished. For instance, the fees that the Library collects for fines must be deposited promptly. Payroll information must be submitted to the Township. Monthly data must be readied for the outside accountant. And for those who think that the annual audit is a two-week a year event, you may be surprised to hear that the preparation is essentially a year-round task—ranging from the proper cataloging of invoices to maintaining Board minutes.

Besides superb financial skills, Sumona demonstrates her strong “people” skills in her extensive liaising with many constituencies. Besides supporting the Library Director, Sumona works with the Board Treasurer to ensure that the monthly financial reporting to the Board of Trustees is accurate, comprehensive, and comprehensible. When budget time rolls around, she is involved in collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information and trends so that the Director, the Board...and ultimately the Township can make informed decisions about the Library's funding. She regularly works with the Township Controller's staff as well as accountants, auditors, and bankers. In addition, when the Library receives grants and support from sources other than the Township (e.g., the American Library Association, the State Council for the Arts, Friends), Sumona must monitor these funds to provide assurance that they are properly accounted for and segregated by source.

Though she is a Bengali, Sumona was raised in Delhi, India and received a Master's Degree in History from Delhi University. In the US, however, she studied accounting. Prior to coming to the Library, Sumona worked in West Orange. She and her husband were attracted to Livingston as a great place to live and a raise children given the wonderful school system. She then naturally thought of working in Livingston. Fortunately for us, Sumona chose to use her skills at the Library! When not working, Sumona enjoys cooking, knitting, crocheting, and singing. She is trained in and performs the musical works of Nobel-prize winning writer and composer Rabindranath Tagore and is currently studying Hindustani classical music. Her reading interests run toward philosophy with a focus on Vedanta philosophy. Sumona says she really enjoys working at the Library and encourages all to us its resources.



## 2013-14 Membership Drive is Underway: New Benefits!

We have launched our 2013-14 Membership Drive with a mailing to all Livingston households introducing new benefits including our **Merchants & Members Program**. Members of Friends are eligible for discounts from the Philly Pretzel Factory, The Boston Ice Cream Company, and Jay's Shoe Box in Livingston. As Board Secretary Sue Cone said, "Use the discounts often enough, and membership pays for itself." She added that "the biggest benefit is probably the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting our wonderful Library."



Membership is the single largest source of our funding, accounting for about half of our annual revenues. We hope you'll renew and encourage your friends, relatives, and neighbors to join....And "the gift of Friendship" makes a wonderful present. We are now issuing membership cards so you can carry your card with pride!

Along with Friends' Board Secretary Sue Cone (left) are merchants participating in the Friends Members & Merchants Program: Craig Fischbein, president of **The Boston Ice Cream Company**, Jennifer Rosenblatt, owner of **Philly Pretzel Factory of Livingston**, and Ronald Cartlidge, manager of **Jay's Shoe Box**.

## Shop for a Cause: A Success!



Friends volunteers sold nearly 220 tickets as part of Macy's *Shop for A Cause*. Our volunteers engaged in personal selling and sold tickets at the Library in the weeks leading up to the event and at Macy's on "Shop Day" on August 24. Our top seller and winner of our sales contest was Adela Fiorello (pictured left) who sold tickets to relatives, friends, and neighbors; Adela even sold a ticket to her mail carrier! From our table at Macy's, we distributed free books and flyers about October's BIG book sale, BookFEST!. Out thanks to our great volunteers and all who supported us!



## 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      Omer & Rumeysa Gokcejus      Francis & Candace Lai

Heather & Paul Lichtman      James Lynch      Caryn & Joel Mollin      Doreen & Allen Mollenhauer

Judith Nudelman      Nadia & Achilles Perry      Joy & Neil Prupis & Family



## A Win for Everyone: Ongoing Sale Book Sale and BookFEST!

Patrons who want to purchase a book, need no longer go online to Amazon or visit Barnes & Noble! Friends' book sales are a great alternative. At our **Ongoing Book Sale**, we replenish the stock on a semi-weekly basis and “flip” the entire stock of nearly **1500 items** monthly. The Friends Board views its books sales—the ongoing sale and special “big” sales such as the recent Poolside Prose and the upcoming BookFEST!—as a “win-win.” Customers can get good quality books and non-print items at very low prices. Board Secretary Sue Cone says, “We might be able to charge a bit more but we want to encourage customers to read. With lower prices, our inventory has turned more quickly.” For Friends, the book sales are a great source of revenue. Since the expansion of the sale in June, the introduction of categorizing, and re-stocking, the average daily “take” from ongoing sales has nearly quadrupled. Proceeds from the Ongoing Book Sale are given to the Library to augment its acquisition budget. Earnings from the Friends big sales go toward programming.



The ongoing book sale is visited by patrons for many reasons. Some customers have said that they use our book sale to purchase gifts since many of our items are in excellent condition. Teachers have used our sale to find books for classroom use. Indeed, with an entire book case devoted to children, it is common to find children and parents gathered on the floor reviewing the selection.

Others enjoy the adult section. Pictured above is Ruth Kane, a long-time Livingston resident, who visits the Library every day. Ruth explains that when her husband could no longer get the baseball box scores in the daily newspaper that they subscribed to, they started coming to the Library each morning to find them in other newspapers. “We have always loved the Library. It’s a ‘second home’ for us. I used to come in weekly but now we’re in every day.” While husband Larry reads several of the many newspapers in the Library, Ruth browses the Friends book sale shelves. She, like many customers, is thrilled that Friends has reduced the prices and expanded the selection. She also appreciates the recent categorizing of the stock. Ruth explains that now she can concentrate on her and her husband’s particular reading interests including humor, the performing arts, and sports. For Ruth, the book sale provides the “thrill of the hunt” and “finding treasures I never knew existed.” She points to a recent find—a fascinating book written by the originator of a major History Channel series.

Ruth is anticipating **BookFEST!**, the annual book sale extravaganza that Friends holds in the Library Program Room when thousands of books, DVDs, CDs, audio books, games, LPs, and paintings will be offered at very low prices. In response to feedback from last year, we have added a day to BookFEST!; it will be open to the general public from **October 24-27**;



## Heather & Paul Lichtman

Heather & Paul Lichtman, residents of Livingston since 1976, have been “extraordinary” members of Friends of the Library for many years. Their two children received superb educations in the Livingston public schools. And they are the proud grandparents of three beautiful girls.

Heather works as a speech/language pathologist for the Banyan School in Little Falls. Paul is systems analyst for Barnabas Health. Their dog, Marlo, adopted from the Mount Pleasant Animal Shelter, also works as a therapy dog at St. Barnabas.

When asked about the role the Library has played in their lives, Heather and Paul are emphatic: “From our earliest years in Livingston the Library has been an important element of our lives because we have always enjoyed and valued reading. The Library is special because it can provide information on almost any topic and enrichment on many levels.” One of their favorite features of the Library is the capability to reserve books and media from home through the BCCLS (a consortium of 70-plus libraries in northern New Jersey to which our Library belongs).

Heather and Paul explained, “We support the Friends of the Livingston Library because they promote the love of reading and for all the special Library programs they help fund.” Two of the Lichtman’s favorite Library programs have been the late Pete Fornatale speaking on Simon & Garfunkel and the recent story of the movie *Argo* as told by the retired CIA operative Carlos Luria.

As for suggestions, “We just ask that the Friends of the Livingston Library continue to support and encourage new programs.” With the aid of all of the members of Friends, this is a recommendation we can wholeheartedly endorse!

### **Books Sales: Ongoing Sale and BookFEST! (cont’d)**

Members of Friends will have pre-public access to BookFEST! on **Wednesday, October 23** in both the afternoon and the evening. In preparation for BookFEST!, Friends is seeking donations of gently used books, games, DVDs, and CDs. (Please, no textbooks, VHS tapes, or cassettes.) Donations, which are tax-deductible, may be brought in during Library hours.

## Programming!

The Library was filled with activity during the summer as programming for adults, children, and teens abounded. In June, Friends sponsored a visit by noted author Dan Gutman. Making his second visit, he again delighted his young audience. Friends was also pleased to fund the Children's & Teens Summer Reading Program. Registration exceeded last year's levels with 945 children, tweens, and teens signing up. From a fabulous Kick-off Party on July 2 to the concluding Bubble Trouble Summer Reading Party on August 12, the youthful participants read a combined total of 16,185 books and enjoyed a wide array of wonderful programs. Friends volunteers assisted Library staff in the fun & games at the Kick-off Party. At the concluding festivities, all children received a goody bag. Many prizes were given out including the grand prize of a book-filled bookcase and a Barnes & Noble gift card. Performer Jeff Boyer even put some children in a bubble!



Photo credit: Danielle Santola



Photo credit: Eric Paragallo

Adults programming was not forgotten either. In June, Ballet Enchanté treated the audience to an original ballet program entitled *A Tribute to George Gershwin*. The seven dances comprising the program showcased the variety of Gershwin's work—from rag to Broadway to the classic *An American in Paris*. In July, retired CIA-agent Carlos Luria enthralled a packed Program Room with his description of CIA operations including the **real** story of the rescue of Americans from Iran which inspired the movie *Argo*. On September 12, nearly 80 people including a Boy Scout Troop braved stormy weather and black-outs to attend Dr. Paul Olsen's *Dinosaur Tracks and other Clues to Dinosaur Extinction*. A leading paleontologist who now teaches geology at Columbia University, Dr. Olsen described his letter-writing campaign to President Richard Nixon which ultimately resulted in the Riker Hill Site being named a National Natural Landmark. His lecture was accompanied by wonderful photos including the quarry site as it was when, as a Livingston teenager, he and friends excavated it. For his efforts, Olsen appeared in *Life* magazine and got a commendation from President Nixon. After the lecture, the former Livingston resident stayed on to answer questions well past closing time!



In the months ahead, Friends will be sponsoring Library programs under our three signatures series of *Music Matters*, *Think Theater*, and *Literary Liaisons*. Look for The Homegrown String Band on October 12, band music of the 1960s from The Kootz on November 10, and violinist David Podles on December 17. We'll get an early jump on Halloween when Gordon Ward presents *NJ Ghosts & Spirits* on October 1. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the JFK assassination, Friends is funding a program on November 18 by Prof. Terry Golway of Kean University who is the author of: *JFK: Day by Day: A Chronicle of the 1,036 Days of John F. Kennedy's Presidency*. Terrific programs from Dreamcatchers Rep are also being lined up.



## In Other News:

### Friends Joins the Library in Community Activities

Our volunteers shared a booth with Library personnel at the Township’s annual National Night Out on August 6. As Youth Services staff played a Toss Across bean bag game and book trivia with children, members of Friends talked to their parents and other visitors about the role of Friends.

The Friends was graciously invited to share a table with Library staff at the Township's Newcomers' Picnic on September 9 at the Senior & Community Center. Many newcomers signed up for their Library card. To the delight of Assistant Library Director Amy Hyfler, many new residents told her they had already gotten their cards, that it was among the first thing they did. Meanwhile, Friends’ volunteers helped welcome new residents with a free book and with information about our mission, our fundraisers, and the terrific benefits of Friends membership. It was an exciting evening of food, fun, and festivity, and we hope some of the lovely people we met will soon join us as new Friends of the Library!



### Bank for a Cause

For a second consecutive year Friends has received a \$2,000-plus check under the Affinity Program of TD Bank. TD Bank has made this contribution based upon the average balances that depositors “affiliate” with Friends. Friends is grateful to all who are participating.



TD Manager Michael Staryak and Customer Service Rep June Jeffries present Friends’ Board member Teresa Allard and Assistant Library Director Amy Hyfler with a check for \$2,005.72.

Friends’ President Bernie Stephan explains, “Participation in the Affinity Program is another example of how Friends likes to engage in fund-raising that represents a ‘win-win’ situation.” Joining the program does NOT alter the terms or conditions of your TD Bank accounts. The program does not cost the depositor anything. And, none of your funds or personal information is given to Friends. Your account information remains strictly confidential at the Bank. No one at Friends has access to your balance information, your account number; in fact, we won’t even know if you have an account unless you tell us.

If you have an existing relationship with TD Bank, you can call the Livingston branch at (973) 992-5277. Tell the TD Representative that you want to participate in the Affinity Program for the Friends of the Livingston Library (code: A1224). That’s it...TD Bank will take care of the rest. 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 (subject to an account opening minimum). After your account is open, call the Livingston office and tell them you want to participate in the Affinity Program for Friends of the Library (code: A1224).

We invite you to join the Affinity Program. For more information contact us at 973-992-4600 X505 or visit our website at <http://livingston.bccls.org/friends-tdbank.html>.



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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](mailto:friends_livlibrary@verizon.net)

**Mark Your Calendar: BookFEST!**

**Thursday October 24 - Sunday October 27**

**Members have Pre-Public Access on Wednesday October 23**

**Save the Date:**

**Annual General Meeting**

**November 19, 8:00PM**

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>.

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.

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