



Save the Date!

The Friends Board Meeting is usually the third TUESDAY of each month at 8:00PM Please join us!

Footnotes



Dear Friends,

Friends of the Library extends a warm welcome to our Library's new Director, Amy Babcock Landry, and we look forward to working with her to continue to make our Library the best it can be.

I'll be departing from the regular format of the President's letter in this issue. Typically my letter summarizes recent highlights and upcoming events. With our Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for November 18, I thought I would, instead, use this issue's letter to talk more about the Friends Board. At our AGM, we will, among other items, be seeking to bring new members of the community onto our Board.

Friends is, as you may know, a completely volunteer organization. This means that functions that are often done by paid staff in other not-for-profit organizations are done by our Board members. In effect, our Board both sets direction and policy for Friends and implements strategy and procedures. For instance, our Board runs our annual membership drive (now in process) and plans and manages our fund-raising efforts. The Board conducts community relations and publicity for Friends and oversees all of our volunteers. It handles every aspect of our finances and regulatory reporting and it liaises with library administration and trustees to ensure smooth interaction. We have been very fortunate to have a dedicated group of Board members with skills that complement and supplement each other.

I hope this has given you a better appreciation of what our Board does, and, perhaps it has sparked your interest in becoming more involved. We are always looking for new people to bring energy and new ideas to Friends. If you are interested in finding out more about Board opportunities before our AGM, please get in touch with us via phone or email. As part of our Board you will find that you have become part of a family of like-minded people who love our Library.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading the remainder of Footnotes. And, of course, if you have any comments, questions, or additional thoughts we hope you will share them with us.

In Friendship,
Bernie Stephan, President

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, November 18
8PM

Meet Director Amy Babcock Landry

Since the day in 1931 when Martha Devey was named the first salaried librarian of the Livingston Public Library, a handful of talented and visionary directors have led our institution. In August, Amy Babcock Landry joined those ranks as our new Director.

Amy is tremendously suited by education, experience, and temperament to lead the Library in the years ahead. After receiving her undergraduate degree in writing from Naropa University in Colorado, she returned to her New Jersey roots—Amy was born in Ridgewood and raised in Midland Park—where she began two full-time endeavors. She enrolled as a full time student in Rutgers’s School of Communication, Information, and Library Science to pursue her master’s degree. At the same time she accepted a full-time position with the Midland Park Library. From Midland Park she then moved to the New York Public Library where she garnered experience at multiple Manhattan branches and ran the gamut from Children’s Services to Adult Reference. Woodland Park lured Amy back to New Jersey where she assumed the directorship of the public library there.



When the opportunity arose in Livingston, Amy jumped at the chance, describing it as “my dream job”. She explained that Livingston has a beautiful facility that is well-supported by the people of the Township. “Both the people who come in to use the Library and the people who work here have a real passion. It’s inspiring!”

Like her predecessors, Amy is appreciative of the traditions and cultural role of our Library in the community. At the same time, she brings fresh perspective and boundless energy and enthusiasm to the position. Indeed, Amy joins the Library at a time when the Library is embarking upon a new multi-year strategic plan. She looks forward to collaborating with the staff, the community, and the Board of Trustees in fashioning the vision for the future. Amy explains that increasingly libraries are about connecting to the people—both inside and outside the library. “We’re on the cusp of a new dimension with human connectivity and high technology.” She explains that this may take the form of such things as “pop-up libraries,” learning/creating spaces (e.g., “maker spaces” equipped with 3D printers), or a host of other venues that will enable individuals to fulfil their dreams. Amy adds that outreach to all parts of our increasingly diverse community is crucial. “We want all constituents to feel welcome and valued at our Library.” She cites some current examples such as Senior Happenings and the Young Adult Cultural Drop-In Program.

With all the activity at our Library, Amy stays fit for the job by practicing yoga, hiking, biking, and kayaking. Her bulldog Tchotchke often accompanies her on her rambles. But, like any good librarian, Amy also enjoys reading. She strongly recommends books by Donna Tartt (the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Goldfinch: A Novel*, *The Secret History*, and *The Little Friend*).

Meet Director Amy Babcock Landry (cont'd)

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 28th, the Library will be hosting a "Meet & Greet" and Amy hopes many Livingston residents will visit. In the meantime, she invites one and all to come into the Library and say hello.

Thanks to Our 2013-2014 Extraordinary Friends

Sponsors Circle: Laurence & Deborah Bergmann Ira & Joan Berkowitz

Alan Glazer

Caryn & Joel Mollin

Members Circle: Laurence Agron Samuel Bickel Jeanette Black Barbara & Pete Bye

Judy Silberner and Haim Erder Eric Handler Roberta & Fred Horowitz Francis & Candace Lai

Heather & Paul Lichtman James Lynch Nadia & Achilles Perry Doreen & Allan Mollenhauer

Joy & Neil Prupis & Family Michael Smilios in memory of Athena Smilios

Bookplates honoring all Extraordinary Friends are placed in library books. To identify the book recognizing your donation, contact us at friends_livlibrary@verizon.net or 973-992-4600 X505. All members of Friends (except those wishing anonymity) are acknowledged on our website at <http://livingston.bccls.org/friends-membership.html>

We extend our thanks to those businesses partnering with us.

Merchants & Members Program: Members of Friends receive discounts from the following when they present their Friends membership card to participating businesses.

Jay's Shoe Box, 20 East Mount Pleasant Ave: \$5.00 off on purchases of \$50.00 or more. Excludes sale items and Uggs. Cannot be combined with other offers.

Philly Pretzel Factory of Livingston, 21 West Mt. Pleasant Avenue: Buy 3 pretzels and get 3 pretzels free. Available on equal or greater value purchases.

Eye Level Learning Center, 184 South Livingston Avenue (CVS Plaza): 50% off first month's tuition for new customers. Valid only at the Livingston location. Cannot be combined with other offers.

The ACL Art Gallery, 2010 Town Center Way: 15%-off discount. Cannot be combined with other offers.

Chocolate Works, Town Center Way: 10%-off discount on products. Cannot be used on parties or workshops.

Skybox Sports Collectibles, 517 S. Livingston Ave: 15%-off discount on products. Cannot be combined with other offers.



Skybox
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Affinity Program with TD Bank

TD Bank makes an annual contribution to us based on the activity of all customers' TD Bank accounts participating in the TD Bank Affinity Program. Contact Friends or TD Bank (973-992-5277) for more information



Programming

During the summer, the Children's/Teens Summer Reading Program (SRP) takes center stage for live programming. The SRP motivates and rewards young readers while offering fun and educational programming. The theme of this year's SRP was science with *Fizz, Boom, Read!* for infants, toddlers, and children through grade 5 and *Spark a Reaction* for those in grades 6-12. Interim Schools Superintendent James O'Neill commended the Library's SRP, saying, "[Y]our innovative program...puts books in the hands of children. And that's just where we want them. Summer reading is the best antidote for the 'summer slide' in children's reading achievement...Access to books and library programs over the summer results in more reading which, in turn, results in improved reading skills."

The SRP encourages and rewards reading through its "reporting" process. This year the SRP used "traditional" reporting and "express" reporting. With the former, children came into the library weekly and sat down one-on-one with a library staff member or volunteer to talk about what they read. The latter allowed children to use a computer to enter the number of books read and their favorite book for that week. Children who completed reading assignments were eligible for various prizes. Across the SRP for both age groups, nearly 19,000 books were read!

But the SRP is not only about reading. As Superintendent O'Neill noted, "It is wonderful seeing so many youngsters...taking advantage of your wonderful presentations, performances, and book discussions. Your efforts are helping children stay academically sharp..."

In addition to activities for youngsters, the SRP encouraged family fun with exciting programs. Over consecutive Thursday nights in July, five wonderful family programs were held: *4th of July Celebration*, *Mad Science*, *Jazz Musical Legends*, *Exploding Geoscience*, and *Science Tellers*.

The *4th of July Celebration* was hosted by Youth Services Department Head Anna Coats, who put together red, white, and blue crafts and games for families to enjoy. *Mad Science* demonstrated the difference between magic and science; for instance, chemical reactions were shown to change a compound's color. Lauren Hooker of *Jazz Musical Legends* performed an interactive musical storytelling piece to bring Ghana's creation myth to life. Field paleontologists Mike & Roberta Straka introduced attendees to the world of dinosaurs and mosasaurs during a high energy interactive *Exploding Geoscience* performance. *Science Tellers* had the audience laughing the whole night while showing how fun and funny science can be.

The children's librarians, Anna, Gina Vaccaro, and Amanda Winter, hosted a range of events including storytimes and crafts. Library Specialist Latha Nair ran a read to dogs program. Anna with Amanda also presented the Library's first *Eid al-Fitr Celebration* which had over 100 people attend for crafts, stories, and snacks. Karen De Wilde, the YA librarian, held her 10th Annual Murder Mystery and an event to commemorate Batman's 75th Anniversary.

Children who completed the SRP attended *Dancing Lantern's Shadow Puppet Show* and received raffled prizes, while teens participated in the fun filled *Blackout Auction* to receive their final prizes. In all, the SRP offered more than 100 different programs. Kudos to our terrific Youth Services team!

And a good time was had by all:



Picture Credits: Brittany Perez, Alexis Ahern, Library Staff

On the adult side of programming, our wonderful programming staff are gearing up for the fall and winter. *Senior Happenings* returns in September and Friends volunteers will be busy serving coffee and dessert in the hour preceding the wonderful programs which Thea White brings in. The celebration of New Jersey continues with a program about birding in the Garden State and a history of jazz in Newark. Chris Demidowich is also planning an exciting production from Raconteur Radio. The Raconteur troupe includes classically trained actors who are staged around a fully functioning, standing art deco “fat boy” microphone with a vintage chrome grill; the programs feature theatrical lighting, costumes, and extensive sound effects. They may do a re-creation of the famous Orson Wells broadcast of War of the Worlds which originally debuted on October 30, 1938. Among future programs under discussion are a return of the Princeton Tigertones music group, a musical lecture program on a great composer, and a fun program on “Non-Essential History.”

TGI Friday’s Benefit: Thursday, September 18th

As we go to press with this issue, plans are in place for a second *Friends of the Library Day* at TGI Friday’s of East Hanover on September 18th. TGI Friday’s will donate 20% of the bill of anyone who presents the Friends of the Library Day flyer at the restaurant from the hours of 11AM to 11 PM. For those readers receiving Footnotes before the benefit day, flyers are available online and at the Friends Desk in the Library.

As an added incentive, patrons will receive a free gift from Friends for participating in TGI Friday’s *Friends Day*. Bring your receipt to our Library and select one complimentary item (book or non-print item) from our Ongoing Book Sale shelves. Drop your receipt in the cash box in lieu of payment; there is no expiration date on use of your receipt.

In Other News:

Friends Volunteers Participate in National Night Out and Newcomers Picnic:

Friends volunteers joined Library personnel to celebrate National Night Out on August 5 at the Oval and to welcome new Livingston residents during the Newcomer's Picnic on September 8 at the Community Center. As the Library staff signed up new patrons, visitors to the Friends table learned more about us, heard about volunteer opportunities, and received a complimentary gift from Friends. Pictured (l to r) are Director Amy Babcock Landry, Assistant Director Amy Hyfler, and Friends volunteer (and library employee) Jessica Moskowitz at the Newcomers Picnic.



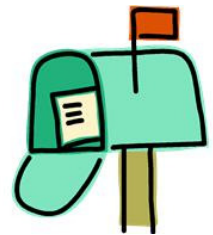
Shop for a Cause

Friends participation in Macy's Shop for a Cause for a third year in a row was a great success. With 120 tickets sold, Friends raised \$600.00. Friends staffed a table at Macy's Livingston Mall on "Shop Day" (August 23) and advertised our upcoming October BookFEST! which offers nearly 14,000 books and non-print items at greatly reduced prices. Visitors to our table also received a complimentary book and bookmark from us. Pictured right are Friends volunteers Michael Infante and Teresa Allard.



Annual Membership Drive

Friends' Annual Membership drive is underway. Friends does an annual town wide mailing inviting residents to join. Membership runs for a full year from the time a person joins. Benefits change annually based upon our membership year which begins June 1. Your 2014-15 form is coming soon to your mailbox! Forms are also available in the Library and online. If you have recently renewed or joined us, THANK YOU!



Membership dollars are used by Friends to support programs and services not covered by the Library's budget from the Township. This includes youth programming such as the *Children's/Teens' Summer Reading Program*, *Yoga for Kids*, and author events. It also includes family friendly activities like the Museum Pass Program. Friends also provides funding for series for all ages including *Music Matters*, *Think Theater*, *Literary Liaisons*, and lifelong learning lectures as well as the *E-Reader Experience* which permits patrons to borrow e-readers with pre-loaded books and the monthly subscription to *Book Page*, plus more.



Samuel Bickel



Footnotes recently caught up with “extraordinary friend” Samuel Bickel at his home. Seeing Sam’s home, it is no surprise that he is a supporter of our Library. His home is a showcase for books of all genres and he himself is an inveterate reader. Having been born in western Virginia and raised in Michigan and western New York, Sam, with his wife and family, moved to Livingston in 1992 and returned again to Livingston after living abroad from 1996 to 2003. Given their extensive travels—including living and working in Liberia, Niger, Colombia and Panama—their commitment to Livingston is telling.

He reserves special praise for our Library. Having been raised in a small town, he appreciates the resources that the township devotes to the Library. He loves the beautiful facility and says that its location on the Oval truly helps make it part of the community. Sam adds that the Children’s wing is really wonderful and gives children a very positive association with the Library. Sam also emphasizes the collection, noting that the Library appears to spend its acquisition budget wisely, developing a varied collection that is responsive to the needs of the community.

Sam complimented the reading clubs including the very popular Coffee & Crime Club. His one qualification was that not everyone can always avail themselves of the clubs, citing those working who have long commutes! (Sam and his wife work for UNICEF and are based in NYC making day and early evening programs difficult to access.)

Sam supports Friends because he recognizes that there are limits to township support and Friends is a valuable supplemental source of funding. He also encourages patrons to stop by the Friends ongoing book sale and to visit its book sales in the fall and summer so they can fill their homes with books. He explains that having books in the home is important, adding that he has always encouraged his children to read, including youngest daughter, Chloe Rose, who has begun her senior year at Livingston High School. Sam concluded his interview with us with a powerful thought, “The need to communicate is a deeply human one and libraries and books are a core response to that need.”



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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

BookFEST!

Members-Only Access: Wednesday, October, 22: 2:30-8:30

Public Sale: Thursday, October 23 - Sunday, October 26

Friends is seeking donations of gently used books, board games, electronic games, CDs, DVDs, books on CD, and toys for our sales.

973-992-4600 X505

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>.

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