



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

Next Meeting:
Mar-19
Time: Noon

Footnotes



Dear Friends,

Perhaps you’ve read the recent Gallup poll that found visiting the library remains the most common cultural activity in America today. In fact, more people visited their local library than attended a movie, a concert, a theme park, or a theatrical event during 2019. Those of us who support our Library can take great pride in the fact that our board, staff, and donors have well positioned us to continue to serve as the cultural cornerstone for the Livingston community.

To support this claim, I invite you to take a look at our new strategic plan – Imagine the Possibilities – which is now on our Library’s website. The plan, which encompasses 2020 through 2023, positions us to meet and surpass the challenges of the next three years. You’ll notice that the plan focuses on four major priorities. The second – “Be the leader in technology resources, instruction and digital literacy” – concentrates on the technological needs and access to digital resources.

To address this critical need, Joseph Emery, Technology Librarian, Adult Services Department, has been promoted to Head of Technology, a new department where he will oversee all of the technological areas of the entire Library. This new area will position the Library to meet the ever growing technological and digital needs and opportunities going forward.

When Joseph was hired in 2015, his major responsibilities included supporting the technical needs of the staff, maintaining the workflow throughout the Library, and being a technical resource for Library patrons. As the years passed, he took on additional responsibilities including creating, and maintaining the Library website and spearheading pilot programs.

Joseph will continue to shoulder these responsibilities, but within the structure of his own department and staff. In his new position, he plans to continue introducing new technology solutions, which will improve programming and staffing. As the head of the Technology Department, he is also vigilant regarding cyber security.

As background, Joseph, a native of Georgia, is a graduate of the University of Georgia where he received his bachelor’s degree in philosophy, and of Rutgers University where he received his master’s in Library Information Science (MLIS). Please join me in congratulating Joseph on his new role.

In Friendship,

Mary Jane Dough, President

On the Move: Joe O'Brien

When Joe O'Brien clicked on "Idealist," a website that connects *millions of idealists – people who want to do good – with opportunities for action* back in 2017, Joe set in motion a new career path which included bringing musical entertainment for children to an elevated level at our Library. Joe joined our team three years ago as a Library Assistant and was recently promoted to Adult Services Librarian.

"Looking back, I never considered library science as a career," Joe reflects. "Three years ago, I didn't realize that the field could be so interesting and creative. Since joining the staff at the Livingston Library, I've learned not only the mechanics of library science in general, but also so much about the various programs and services our own Library offers to the community. With my recent promotion, I'm grateful to have been given this opportunity to advance my career." Joe is currently pursuing an MLS (Master of Library Science) graduate degree at Rutgers University.



A native New Yorker, Joe earned a bachelor's degree in film and screenwriting from New York University. Upon graduation, Joe expanded these creative interests, exploring other fields as a freelance writer, composer, and musician. Three years ago, Joe and wife, Ashley, who were renting wanted more space. That desire eventually led them to cross the Hudson. This move prompted a search for a career closer to home. "I began researching jobs online, and my former position – Library Assistant – popped up. I was fortunate to have landed it."

When Joe accepted the position, the Youth Services Department of the Library was an unexpected beneficiary of Joe's creative and musical talents. Within a few weeks on the job, Joe developed the Musical Story Time, and began playing the guitar and ukulele much to the delight of children and their parents. These musical enactments of stories have become a source of pride not only to the Youth Services Department, but have also become renowned throughout the entire Library as well as the Livingston community.

"While I have enjoyed covering the Children's Desk as a library assistant, my greatest joy is developing and orchestrating the Musical Story Time programs. I just love the way the kids are engaged with the stories, the music, and even the various voices I give to the characters. I get real satisfaction when parents, caregivers, and family members approach me, sometimes weeks later, and tell me how much their children enjoyed the performance. When I hear stories that the kids continue to sing the songs and retell the stories days later, it's so gratifying."

In the new Adult Services position, Joe relocated to the reference area and now handles requests for information; locating specific articles, books, and periodicals; and answering research questions. Joe also plans to facilitate a new book club on Wednesday mornings, targeting stay-at-home parents, freelancers, and seniors. One of the books Joe hopes to revisit and discuss is *1984* by George Orwell. "I am intrigued by such works with futuristic themes, and am sure that particular book will bring about a deep discussion." (cont'd on page 7)

Programming

Adult Programming

The Winter 2020 **Senior Happening*** series is in full swing! As always, there is a social hour from 12-1pm with the shows starting at 1pm and lasting for an hour. We ended 2019 with our December program “Synergismus Duo,” a violin and cello performance, and we kicked off 2020 in January with Ruben Castillo starring as Elvis! In February, Salvatore Chiarelli serenaded us with beautiful love songs. We are looking forward to our March Senior Happening on 3/20 with Barbara McCarthy’s musical performance “Here’s to the Ladies.”



We continued our **performance series** with a “Comedy Magic Show” for all ages. Magician Tom Yurasits wowed us in January with tricks committed to making us laugh. He even brought a furry friend along! Mark your calendars for our next performance with classic rock band, The Kootz on 4/5.

Saturday at the Movies attendees were treated to new release movies this winter. Our January featured film was “Rocketman,” which told the story of Elton John’s breakout years. Our February movie was “Apollo 11,” which followed the journey Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins took to the moon. We are looking forward to March’s movie, “Greta,” on 3/7.

Livingston patrons continued to explore their creative side with many wonderful **crafting programs**. From flower collages and upcycled snowflakes, to mermaid sugar scrub and watercolor word art, patrons had the opportunity to make and take a variety of projects. For those looking for a relaxed social hour, Color Your Stress Away remains a favorite. Drop-in to color in our new adult seating area while listening to calming music.



Looking to learn about something new? Our **life-long learning programs** have you covered there too! January featured “How to Protect the People You Love and Assets You Own” and “The Art of the Hudson River School.” February included “What It’s Worth: Valuing Your Treasures,” “Healing with Humor.” We are excited for the many programs planned in March those health related to garden related, and more!



*Sponsored by Friends, Senior Happening is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.


It Pays to be A Member of Friends of the Library

Under the **Merchants & Members Program**, as a member of Friends, you are eligible for discounts from the following establishments by showing your valid Friends membership card. It pays for you to carry your card!

- **ACL Art Gallery**, 2030 Town Center Way, 201-247-8787: 15%-off discount. Cannot be combined with other offers.
- **Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey**, Performances at College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown and Grace Episcopal Church, Madison, 973-538-7562: \$5.00 off adult and senior tickets for the cardholder and guest(s) for at door sales for any regular season or Summer Festival concert. Valid for up to 4 tickets.
- **Boon Thai Kitchen**: 21 E. Northfield Ave, 973-994-7383: 10% off discount.
- **Chocolate Works**, 1170 Town Center Way, 973-740-9090: 10%-off discount on products. Cannot be used on parties or workshops.
- **Dunkin Donuts**, 464 W. Mt Pleasant Ave (Route 10), 973-422-0007 and Livingston Mall (Lower Level, Sears Wing) 973-992-1925: 10%-off discount. Not valid on pound coffee, K-cups, and items already on sale or discounted.
- **Eye Level Learning Center**, 184 South Livingston Avenue (CVS Plaza), 973-992-8008: 50% off first month's tuition for new customers. Valid only at the Livingston location. Cannot be combined with other offers.
- **Grooves Unlimited**, 355 Eisenhower Parkway # 100, 973-878-2836: Waiver of all registration fees. Cannot be combined with other offers.
- **Ike's Bagel Café**, 277 Eisenhower Parkway, 973-369-7526: 10%-off discount on purchases. Not valid for catering. Cannot be combined with other offers.
- **Mezza Mediterranean**, 277 Eisenhower Parkway, 973-992-9300; 10%-off discount on dine-in lunch/dinner and take-out. Cannot be combined with other offers.
- **Morris Tutoring**, 38 Park Terrace, East Hanover (by Castle Ridge Plaza), 213-709-4085: 50% off first month's tuition for new customers. Valid only at the East Hanover location. Cannot be combined with other offers.
- **Philly Pretzel Factory of Livingston**, 21 West Mt. Pleasant Avenue, 973-994-1004: Buy 3 pretzels and get 3 pretzels free. Available on equal or greater value purchases.
- **Skybox Sports Collectibles**, 517 S. Livingston Ave, 973-740-0060: 15%-off discount on products. Cannot be combined with other offers.
- **West Essex YMCA**, 321 S Livingston Ave, 973-992-7500: Access all 3 potential benefits, as follows:
 - Receive a one week free trial as a guest of the Y; one-time use only.
 - Become a member of the Y and pay no joiners fee for your Y membership (a \$50 savings for families, a \$25 savings for individuals); valid for first-time members of the Y only.
 - Become part of the Y 20/20 Rewards Program. Join with a friend and you can both save 20% on your membership fees each month, for as long as you both remain members of our full facility.

In addition, members of the West Essex YMCA will receive a 5% discount on a new Friends membership.



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*Reflects memberships processed from 6/1/2019—2/18/20120 List shows Circle Member and Patron level members. Our thanks to those supporters who wished to remain Anonymous. See our Summer issue for a full list of all members.

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.

Programming (cont'd)

Youth Programming

Reading is the perfect indoor winter activity and Heritage Middle School students couldn't agree more! Teen Librarian Karen DeWilde collaborated with HMS Media Specialist Sue Tanler to offer the book club *Booked for Lunch* for grades 7+8. In total, 73 middle schoolers participated for December and January.

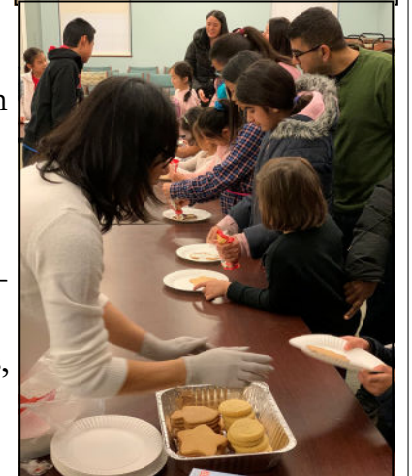
Another wintertime favorite at the Livingston Public Library, Paper Mill Playhouse's junior cast returned for performances of *Frozen Jr.* in Dec. and *Seussical Jr.* in Feb. to a total of 425 audience members. As always, the all-star cast put on fabulous performances.

Teen After-School Volunteering continued throughout the winter, and teen volunteers helped prepare materials for the Star Lantern craft for teens, practice tests for the SAT Practice Test for high schoolers, and hearts, baskets, and cards for the DIY Take Home Valentine's Craft for children. For December and January, 138 teens volunteered 148 hours and the teens continue to put in service hours this February.

This winter the Youth Services Department formed new partnerships and was able to offer Math Tutoring to grades 7-12 by partnering with the LHS Math Honors Society and an SAT Study Group by partnering with the LHS Organization of Student Tutors. In addition to the programs mentioned above, teens enjoyed programs for video games, *Dungeons & Dragons*, Teen Advisory Board, board games & hot chocolate, and knitting.

The Library's youngest patrons enjoyed the programs *Boogie Woogie Babies*, *Musical Storytime*, *Little Listeners*, and *Tiny Toddlers* this winter while elementary aged children enjoyed Chess, Art, book clubs, Yoga, *PAWs to Read*, *Yut-Nori*, and *Let's Cook*. Children had free play options as well: Legos, a wooden train set, and coloring were borrowed at the children's desk throughout the winter and the puppet theater in the children's section was well utilized.

Stay tuned for the exciting programs coming this spring for children and teens!



On the Move: Joe O'Brien (cont'd)

No matter how involved Joe becomes with new duties, library patrons and their children can rest assured that they will still be able find Joe in Youth Services several times a week, continuing the Musical Story Time program. The next session will begin this summer. In the meantime, Joe may also perform some individual children's concerts. And everyone—especially our youngest patrons—can enjoy the sounds of the guitar and ukulele once more.

In Other News

Take A Chance on the Library: Friends' annual Auction & Raffle returns in April. The community is invited to purchase cash raffle tickets and bid on a range of items. The auction gives the public the chance to win tickets and gift certificates for restaurants, arts organizations, etc. Our 50/50 Cash Raffle gives participants the opportunity to win cash. The lucky winner will take home 50% of the proceeds of all raffle ticket sales. Over the years, the Take A Chance winnings have averaged over \$2000.* It's a win-win because proceeds fund programs and services not covered by the Library's budget from the Township. Auction bidding can be done online and in the Library. Raffle tickets can be ordered at the Library. Also see the enclosed form to order. Winners of the Auction and Raffle will be announced in the Library Program Room, starting at noon on Thursday, April 30. All are invited.



*Winnings and chances of winning are a function of number of tickets sold.

Museum Pass Program: Friends is delighted to support the recent expansion of the Library's Museum Pass Program. To the dozen existing institutions for which the Library offers passes, we have added or are adding the Museum of Modern Art, the Children's Museum of Manhattan, and Storm King, an open-air museum located in Mountainville, NY with what is perhaps the largest collection of contemporary outdoor sculptures in the United States.

“Circle” Donor/Volunteer Year-End Luncheon: On December 10, some 30 Friends volunteers and “Circle-level” members celebrated the year-end with a lovely luncheon and lively conversation. Library Director Amy Babcock Landry thanked attendees for their support as she summarized the many Library programs and services they make possible. Following a catered lunch from Anthony Franco, guests enjoyed a delicious assortment of home-baked goodies from Friends Secretary Linda Alterman.

Looking Ahead (Mark Your Calendar)

Blaze \$5 Pizza Day: On June 10 members can again enjoy a fast-fired artisanal pizza for just \$5 at Blaze Pizza at 280 Eisenhower Parkway. Members should bring their Friends membership card as proof of membership. See attached insert

Members Appreciation Summer Celebration: Friends will celebrate our members on August 9 with an afternoon of desserts, conversation and entertainment. As is tradition, we welcome back artists from Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre for a TBD program. Under consideration are a musical cabaret, Improv, or a play reading.



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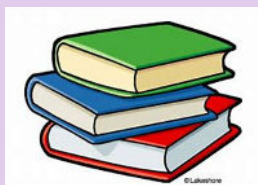
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Think Green: If you would like to receive the Newsletter electronically instead of via

U.S. mail, please contact us at friends_livlibrary@verizon.net



Beach Books & Bling Sale

Friday, May 29 - Sunday, May 31

Fri/Sat: 10Am-4Pm; Sun: 1-4Pm



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

973-992-4600 x505

To keep up-to-date with the latest program offerings, subscribe to the Library's e-newsletter.

Instructions can be found at <https://www.livingstonlibrary.org/>

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