

**Friends of the Chatham Area Public Library**  
**Annual Report**  
**July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017**  
Submitted by Rhona Kelley, Chair

The Friends of the Chatham Area Public Library is led by a ten member volunteer board that provides a link between the Library and the community. The Friends support the Library by supplementing the Library's budget by providing funds and materials to assist with programming, services and staff support. Currently, the Friends have approximately 90 members who volunteer and donate time, services and baked goods to assist with Library events and to staff the Bahlow Bookstore and Bank & Trust Café.

### **Fundraising Activities**

The Friends of the Library sponsored and supported a number of fundraising activities during the past year. Community members were very appreciative and attended in great numbers. These activities included:

- Summer 2016 Book Sale - \$ 849.75
- Summer 2016 Bake Sale - \$ 356.51
- Winter 2017 Book Sale - \$ 758.75
- Winter 2016 Bake Sale - \$ 319.50
- Murder Mystery Play & Dinner - \$3340.47
- Amazon Smile - \$58.64
- Sale of books, mugs, shirts, pins, bags, and note cards

CaddyStacks/Putt Putt in the Library Event –

The CaddyStacks fundraising event was previously held in 2014. The Board decided to offer it again in 2017. Planning begun for the event to be held on Saturday and Sunday, November 4 and 5, 2017.

### **Friends Bahlow Bookstore and Bank & Trust Café**

The Bookstore and Café opened in April 2009 and has continued to be well-received by the community. Many people enjoy the variety of books, drinks and desserts that are sold. Dan Miller, Coordinator, resigned in May. The Board voted to offer the position to James "Griff" Griffin a long time volunteer. Griff began as the new Coordinator on May 16, 2017. Griff has implemented some new marketing efforts such as offering special sales on specific genre, authors, and hardcover and paperback books. These efforts complement the semi-annual book sales. He has also made use of signage outside the Library as well as posts to Facebook advertising the food and book items available.

Through the volunteer efforts of the Friends, the bookstore has continued to be self-sustaining and been able to be open most of the hours that the Library is open as well as during the many special events that the Library offers throughout the year.

Large numbers of used books from community members are donated to the Library, the bookstore and book sales. Books that are not needed by the Library, bookstore or sold at the book sales continue to be donated to several area nursing homes, the Chatham Senior Center and Goodwill.

## **Contributions to the Library**

Membership dues brought in \$2455.00 this fiscal year including two new Lifetime members. This in combination with other fundraising activities have enabled the Friends donate money to help support the Chatham Area Public Library and its services and programs. These activities include:

### **Contributions for Programming & Services:**

- Teen Events - \$551.00
- Adult Reading Programs - \$390.00
- American Girl – \$165.95
- Call to Entry Art Show Prize - \$100.00
- Kite Bookmark Competition – \$150.00

### **Services and Equipment Purchased:**

- Library on the Go service - \$2400.00
- Tables – \$429.96
- Tote Bags – \$2949.69
- Tween Rug – \$290.76
- Board Games/Craft Supplies – \$174.79
- Breakout Education for Escape Room – \$125.00
- Newsletter Insert – \$252.00

### **Volunteers provided support for the following events:**

- Summer and Winter Book Sales
- Murder Mystery Play
- Baked goods for the book sales and Murder Mystery Play
- Refreshments for art shows and other library events
- Staffing the Bahlow Bookstore/Bank & Trust Café
- History Room projects

### **Other Sponsored Programs:**

#### **Friends of Genealogy (FOG)**

The Friends of the Genealogy Group are members of the Illinois Genealogy Society. FOG continues to meet quarterly with 15 – 25 people in attendance at each meeting. They provide speakers and videos on a variety of topics. FOG members continue to assist people in doing genealogy research through presentations, field trips and the sharing of information.