

Friends of the Chatham Area Public Library

Annual Report

July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Submitted by Rhona Kelley, Chair

The Friends of the Chatham Area Public Library is made up of a 12 member 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 157 members who volunteer and donate their time, baked goods and services 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 2013 Book Sale - \$ 1166.80
- Summer 2013 Bake Sale - \$ 387.00
- Winter 2014 Book Sale - \$ 1151.15
- Winter 2014 Bake Sale - \$ 318.91
- Murder Mystery Play & Dinner - \$2385.00
- Sale of books, mugs, shirts, pins, bags, and note cards

Friends Bahlow Bookstore and Bank & Trust Café

Since the grand opening of the Bookstore and Café many positive comments have been received. Books, drinks and dessert items have been selling quite well, and the Café has been able to support itself. A report from the Bookstore and Café manager, Paul Moore, showed the year-end sales total for calendar year 2013 to be \$28,706.86. Café sales were a bit lower in 2013 but book sales have continued to increase which is impressive with the popularity of e-readers.

Through the overwhelming volunteer efforts of the Chatham community, the bookstore has been able to be open all of the hours that the Library is open as well as during the many special events that the Library offers throughout the year.

Due to the large donations of books to the library for the bookstore and book sales, books continue to be donated to several area nursing homes, the Chatham Senior Center and Goodwill. Paul has also sold on e-Bay several publications which contributed \$442.00 to the Friends.

Contributions to the Library

Fundraising activities and membership dues have enabled the Friends to raise and donate money to support the Chatham Area Library and its programs. These activities included:

Contributions for Programming:

- Teen Events - \$ 605.00
- Summer Reading Programs - \$ 150.00
- American Girl Program - \$304.00
- Art Show Reception - \$300.00
- Call to Entry Art Show Prize - \$100.00
- Illinois Reading Council Visiting Author - \$333.00
- Railroad Display Reception - \$50.00
- Computer Classes - \$375.00

Contributions for Staff Events

- Ice Cream Social - \$50.00

Contributions for Community Events

- Ball Chatham Librarians In Service - \$80.00
- National Library Week Promotions - \$97.93

Volunteers provided support at the following events:

- Summer and Winter Book Sales
- Art Shows
- Murder Mystery Play
- Staff Institute
- History Room Projects
- Provided baked goods for the book sales and Murder Mystery Play
- Provided refreshments for art shows and other events
- Staffing the Bahlow Bookstore/Café

Services and Equipment Purchased:

- Library on the Go service - \$3000.00
 - Checkouts have increased or remained steady since the beginning of this service in FY11.
- USB drives - \$49.90
- Tabletop Spinning Prize Wheel - \$78.65

Other Sponsored Programs and Events:

Friends of Genealogy (FOG)

FOG continues to meet quarterly with 15 – 25 people in attendance at each meeting. Presentations and programs presented this past year included:

- Video: Research prior to 1850
- Considering hosting a genealogy conference next year.
- Continues to assist people in doing genealogy research.

Stargazing Event

The Stargazing evening was held again this year on July 15, 2013 with presentations by the members of the Sangamon County Astronomical Society.

Plans for 2014-2015

- **Amazon Smile Account** – The Friends have begun the process to activate an Amazon Smiles account where Amazon donates a percentage to the organization for purchases made through this site.
- **Putt Putt Golf** – The Friends are in the process of organizing this fundraising event for the Fall of 2014.