

Friends of the Chatham Area Public Library
Annual Report
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019
Submitted by Rhona Kelley, Chair

The Friends of the Chatham Area Public Library is led by a volunteer board that provides a link between the Library and the community. Two new members joined the Board this year, and a teenage member was added to increase awareness to that population through advertising at the high school and creation of social media accounts and posts.

The Friends support the Library by supplementing the Library's budget by providing funds and materials to assist with programming, services and staff support. Friends members volunteer and donate their expertise, time, services and baked goods to assist with Library events and to staff the Bahlow Bookstore and Bank & Trust Café. The Friends have 110 members as of June 2019 with 11 lifetime members.

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. Elizabeth Miller was hired in August 2018 as the new Coordinator. Elizabeth updated the public health requirements, as well as added a Keurig coffee maker to provide more variety of drinks, added some hot foods and revised a number of the procedures and processes for adding books to the sale shelves. Maintaining a complete volunteer staff continued to be a problem which created a number of hours that the store was closed each week, thereby creating financial issues. The Board initiated some changes such as reducing Elizabeth's work hours as well as cutting back on some of the food items offered to get the Café/Bookstore back on secure footing.

The Café/Bookstore has been open during the many special events that the library offers throughout the year. The Café also provides coffee service for meetings that are held in the library. The Café donated gift baskets in the name of the Friends for the Glenwood Middle School dinner theater and Slumberland's 40 Winks Foundation.

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, churches, the Chatham Senior Center and Goodwill.

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 2018 Book Sale - \$918.51 No Bake Sale this summer
- Winter 2019 Book Sale - \$1,359.20 Book Sale - \$186.25
- Murder Mystery Play & Dinner - \$3,272.62
- Amazon Smile - \$120.08
- Sales of books, mugs, shirts, pins, bags, and note cards

Contributions to the Library

Membership dues brought in \$2,152.00 this fiscal year. 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 - \$630.00
- Adult Reading Programs - \$575.00
- Call to Entry Art Show Prize - \$100.00
- Children's Department - \$852.71
- Giant Connect 4 Lawn game - \$164.99
- Book Club Kits - \$1,257.22
- Gift of Reading (pay off fines) – \$250.75
- State Journal Register, 2 subscriptions - \$677.28

Services and Equipment Purchased:

- Library on the Go service - \$2400.00
- Flash drives – \$108.00

Volunteers provided support for the following events:

- Summer and Winter Book Sales
- Murder Mystery Play
- Baked goods for the book sale 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. This year a very popular topic was DNA in genealogy research. FOG members continue to assist people in doing genealogy research through presentations, field trips and the sharing of information.