

Friends of the Chatham Area Public Library
Annual Report
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018
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. The Friends support the Library by supplementing the Library's budget by providing funds and materials to assist with programming, services and staff support. As of June 2018, the Friends have 121 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.

Joint Friends/Foundation Meeting

In September 2017, the Friends and Foundation held their first annual combined meeting. The purpose of the combined meeting is to keep each group apprised of the workings of the other group. Also, Barb Germann, President of the Foundation, now attends each monthly Friends meeting, as Rhona does with the Foundation meetings.

Membership Campaign

A new membership campaign was undertaken to increase interest and numbers in the Friends of the Chatham Area Public Library. New color membership forms, flyers, posters and postcards were designed. These were ready for the 2018 membership year. These materials are more eye-catching and include more information on what the Friends do, the benefits of being a Friend and how to volunteer time, expertise and support. This information is now provided to the Chamber and Chatham Utilities Office to be distributed to new businesses and people moving into the community. Membership dues can now be paid by credit or debit cards. Once dues are paid, Friends members receive coupons for free books from the bookstore and are able to attend the "power hour" prior to the opening of each book sale. As of June 2018, there were 121 Friends members, 9 fewer than our all time high of 130 in 2014. We hope to surpass that in 2019. A Friends event is under development for early 2019.

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. James "Griff" Griffin, Coordinator of the Café/Bookstore, continued his marketing efforts by offering special sales on specific genre, authors, and hardcover and paperback books. These efforts complement the semi-annual book sales. He also made use of signage outside the Library as well as posts to Facebook advertising the food and book items available. As a pilot, Griff withdrew books published prior to 2000 to provide more current books and allow for more space on the shelves. History, military and cookbooks continue to have all publication years on the shelf. This change will be analyzed to see if sales and requests by customers support this change or if something else needs to be done. Griff resigned at the end of June. The search for a new Coordinator was initiated and completed in July.

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. A lack of volunteers has made it difficult to have the café/bookstore open all of

the hours that the Library is open. Efforts continue through Facebook postings, signage, and newsletters advertising the benefits of volunteering in the café/bookstore.

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:

- Winter 2017 Book Sale - \$ 758.75 Bake Sale - \$ 319.50
- Summer 2017 Book Sale - \$\$884.40 Bake Sale - \$230.25
- Winter 2018 Book Sale – \$1,086.50 Bake Sale - \$396.75
- Murder Mystery Play & Dinner - \$3,463.70
- Amazon Smile - \$53.49
- Sales of books, mugs, shirts, pins, bags, and note cards

CaddyStacks/Putt Putt in the Library Fundraiser

The CaddyStacks fundraising event was previously held in 2014. The Board decided to bring this event back on Saturday, November 4 (5-7 pm) and Sunday, November 5 (1-4 pm). Sponsors were obtained for each of the nine holes. Nineteen people “golfed” on Saturday and 20 people “golfed” on Sunday. \$990.75 was raised. Due to the low attendance it was decided to revisit whether or not to hold this event again till next year.

Contributions to the Library

Membership dues brought in \$2,685.00 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 - \$490.00
- Adult Reading Programs - \$550.00
- Summer Reading -\$1985.00
- American Girl – \$39.00
- Call to Entry Art Show Prize - \$100.00
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten - \$280.00

Services and Equipment Purchased:

- Library on the Go service - \$2400.00
- Security Certificate for Website – 97.00
- Laptops (3) – 900.00
- Lighting for Children’s Reading Nook - \$1350.00
- Posters - \$500.00
- Magnets – \$217.31

Volunteers provided support for the following events:

- Summer and Winter Book Sales
- Murder Mystery Play
- CaddyStacks Putt Putt Golf
- 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.