

Friends of the Chatham Area Public Library
Annual Report
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020
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. 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 130 members as of August 2019 with 15 lifetime members.

In August of 2019 Friends accounts were established for Instagram and Twitter, in addition to our Facebook account, to better help us connect with our Friends members and especially teens in the community. Our high school board member, Sarah Ruben, updates the accounts monthly with information about events and services available from the library.

Obviously, with the pandemic of 2020, many things have changed. The library closed in the middle of March and all meetings and events were suspended. The library was able to provide partial services beginning in July but the Café/Bookstore has remained closed. Friends activities have also been suspended. The Friends Board has met several times through Zoom. We have been able to provide some financial support for the library during this time.

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. Elizabeth Miller, the Coordinator hired in August 2018, resigned in November 2019. After detailed review, the Board decided to run the Café/Bookstore under the leadership of one of our Board members, Kay Titchenal. Kay began her duties as of November 9. Kay is the lead worker and with the input and advice of the Café/bookstore volunteers has gotten the store back on better financial footing. Giving the volunteers a say on how things are done, food to be offered and events to be held, has given them ownership of the store and pride in its success. New set hours were established and a volunteer schedule was maintained until the Café/Bookstore had to close in March of 2020 due to the pandemic. It has remained closed with no date set to reopen for the foreseeable future.

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. Due to the pandemic, book sales have been cancelled.

Fundraising Activities

The Friends of the Library sponsored and supported a number of fundraising activities during the fiscal year 2019-2020. These activities included:

- Summer 2019 -\$1442.75 Bake Sale – no bake sale
- Winter 2020 Book Sale -\$1094.00 Book Sale - \$342.25
- Murder Mystery Play & Dinner, March 2020 - \$5,350.00

- Amazon Smile - \$161.46
- Sales of books, mugs, shirts, pins, bags, and note cards

Contributions for Programming & Services:

- Teen Trivia - \$390.00
- Adult Reading Programs - \$635.00
- Call to Entry Art Show Prize - \$100.00
- Summer Children's reading - \$830.74

Contributions for Services and Equipment Purchased:

- Library on the Go service - \$2400.00
- Flash drives – \$95.25
-

Volunteers provided support for the following events:

- Summer and Winter Book Sales
- Murder Mystery Dinner and 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 met quarterly through 2019 with 15 – 25 people in attendance at each meeting. They provide speakers and videos on a variety of topics. This group will resume their meetings once the pandemic has been controlled.