

FRIENDS of the Danbury Library
2011 Annual Membership Meeting
June 20th, 2011

President's Report

First I want to acknowledge Director Mark Hasskarl, Assistant Director Michele Capozzella, and the entire staff of the library. Because of continuing staff non-replacement by the city, the library in September will be functioning with seven full-time and eight part-time positions unfilled.

Thus while the library appears on paper to have suffered only superficial budget cuts, in reality hundreds of thousands of dollars have effectively been cut from its annual budget. This has not been an easy year, and staff members have all worked hard to keep the library operating at a high level. We encourage all FRIENDS to advocate for the library with members of city government whenever and wherever they can.

We have added two new Board members, Candace Milligan and Susan Anderheggen, during the last year, and we have two new officers to replace those who resigned: Connie Kaufman, Vice President, and Karen Chambrovich, Secretary.

Our Finance Committee now includes Connie Kaufman, Lisa Keller, and Susan Anderheggen. During the next year they will review and update our investment policy.

The Friends Legacy Society, started last year, has received donations in memory of two Danbury Library enthusiasts, Vera Sievert and David Harrison. Because a family member requested that donations be made in their names, the Friends have received gifts totaling almost \$2500. We want to thank these individuals, and their family and friends, and make special note of their contributions. We will establish a written record of our Legacy donors and post their names on the FRIENDS bulletin Board at the Bank Street entrance to the library.

The last Legacy donation was accompanied by a donation form from our new website. I'd like to take this occasion to again thank Sydnye Cohen, who facilitated the development of our new website. That the donor was able to easily link to our website from the Library's new website was made possible by the efforts of staff liaison during its development, Michele Capozzella and Sandra Grossi. We very much appreciate their mindfulness of our needs. An extra thank you goes to Sandra, who listed the donation form and made it accessible from our website menu.

Our FRIENDS Facebook fans now number 63 (or 64, depending on the day). Our page had 47 active users this week; when the library is in the news, that number has been higher.

During the last month, I have actively pursued a solution to our puzzling name change problem. The matter has been referred to Pro Bono, which provides legal services to non-profit organizations like ours. A more complete account is available upon request.

Our annual support of the library totaled over \$58,000. Over half of that amount, nearly \$34,000, came from our big October Book Sale. The big players on our team are Rob Feinson, Bob Mosley, and Mary Ann Frede. We could not thank them publicly today because of their previous commitments, but we hope to be able to do so when October rolls around again and all our volunteers gather at a small event, perhaps the September Book Sale Volunteer training meeting.

This year the Board initiated several projects. One was very successful and made proportionally reasonable demands on Board members: the Books for Teachers program. Karen Chambrovich coordinated and administered this grant program at our 2010 Columbus Day Book Sale. We netted almost \$2000. Two efforts that will not be repeated because of disappointing results are Macy's Sale for a Cause and the New Library Patron welcome packet distribution in February and March that resulted in only one new FRIENDS Member. During the next year the Board will increase its efforts to build community awareness of the library.

Our ongoing support has funded or helped to fund the library newsletter *Books and Beyond*, the Summer Reading Program, Blu-Ray DVDs, Book Talk with Catherine Riordan, One Book, One Community, Museum passes and various other adult and junior programs. In the coming year we will continue the mission of the FRIENDS:

- Supporting the library in meeting the community's educational and informational needs
- Sharing funding of library projects and goals
- Supporting the creative efforts of the library staff to enrich community life
- Focusing attention on the library and its services to the community
- Increasing our membership

With this in mind, we may discontinue our print newsletter and put this funding toward the library email newsletter, which did not exist when *Books and Beyond* was introduced. If so, members will be notified and arrangements may be made to mail a copy of the online newsletter to those Friends who request it.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Shriver Castiglione

President, FRIENDS of the Danbury Library

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