



## Friends of the Library – Annual Report – June 24, 2022

### President's Report

The last two years have been quite different for the Friends of the Library. We have continued to be involved in the library as often as possible but to be honest it has been our BookCellar volunteers who have kept us going and in touch. We are so very grateful for the hard work that Joan Overfield and Claudia Condon continue to do along with their volunteers in the BookCellar. During the past six months, Beth Cote and I have had many discussions with Kirsten Sicuranza and Katie Huffman on the future of the Friends group. We have decided that the Friends will become their own 5013c at this time. We will remain connected to the library at all times and will continue to financially support it on a regular basis. We will be expanding into some exciting new plans for our “Friends”. Beth Cote has done amazing work completing our paperwork at the State and Federal level. We have a new email address, mailing address and will enter into the social media venues when it is time. We hope that you will join us on this journey and provide us with suggestions as we continue to support the Old Lyme - Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library.

### Treasurer's Report

The BookCellar year-to-date sales total \$21,587 for 11 months. Projected sales for the fiscal year will be over \$22,000 which was the pre-pandemic normal. Both the 2017-2018 & 2018-2019 fiscal years total sales were over the \$22,00 level.

The library closure for renovations and pandemic caused a decrease in sales for 2019-2021 to \$13-14,000 level which was quite remarkable given the challenges of operating out of 44 Lyme St and several months of complete closure.

The Friends year-to-date donations to the library totals \$26,247 with the 4th quarter donation to be made in early July. This is substantially higher than previous years due to the Council's decision to make approximately \$8000 in extra donations for computer and electronic purchases funded by reducing our average bank balance based on the recommendation of the Treasurer. Maintaining a bank balance of at least \$14,000 was not necessary and our financial stability is fine at a sub \$10,000 level.

The Friends total donations to the library from 2009 to date have now reached \$401,851. While the Bookworm Ball contribution had a major impact on the donations ending in 2016-2017 fiscal year the donations since then have still been substantial and extraordinary for a small town library. As our society adjusts to “normal” again, we hope that the Board of Trustees will develop a new fundraising event at which the Friends can assist to return to the Bookworm Ball level.

## Nominating/Membership Committee

The Nominating Committee recommends that the following slate of officers be presented for election at the Annual Meeting on June 24, 2022. Terms of Office will be for two years.

President – Martha Shoemaker

Vice President – Beth Cote

Secretary – Suzanne McAuliffe

Treasurer – Doug Wilkinson

Please note that membership applications will be sent via email to members for their yearly dues and contact information update.

## Phoebe's BookCellar Annual Report

After operating in reduced space for 6 months during the library renovation, and after being closed for 8 months due to Covid, this will be the first full year of BookCellar operations since 2019. During the first 11 months of the year, sales have been \$21,587 including 6,169 books, 1067 DVDs, 1030 CDs, and 301 puzzles. We continue to sell Lyme and Old Lyme maps and donated artwork which accounts for \$730 of our sales. Based on sales to date in June we anticipate setting an all-time record for BookCellar sales. Plans for this June include a Summer Stock Up Sale for half price bargains in the BookCellar. We will also be accepting the Friends of Connecticut Libraries Group Award for our community outreach and support of the library during the renovation and the pandemic while the library was closed. We currently have 45 active volunteers who work two hour shifts in the BookCellar working at the sales desk and cleaning and pricing book donations.

## Garden Gang

We have planted 6 new patio pots with a mix of beach blue stem & beach golden rod. There is also some mountain mint and spiderwort. Each pots plants are entirely native pollinators.

The true north pathway, plant beds and wheelchair accessible pathways have been finalized. The new grass lawn area has been planted. The tarps you currently see are in order to minimize the weeds in the new meadow area as well as the flower beds until July when over 4,000 plugs will be installed. Again, all the new plants are native pollinators.