

# FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Dwight Foster Public Library

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kathy Marr

What a year! The 2019-2020 year for the Friends of the Dwight Foster Public Library has definitely been a tale of two years. The first six months of our fiscal year was situation normal and all systems go. Then the Corona virus hit and everything changed. My first year as president of the Friends board of directors has been nothing if not interesting!

During the Fall of 2019 Friends hosted two very successful book sales, our primary fundraising vehicle. We also held a Traveling Wooden Chair Art Contest that culminated at last year's Annual Meeting following some pretty competitive bidding. (I actually have a gorgeous chair in my living room!) These types of events allow the Friends to annually donate on average around \$10,000 throughout the year to the library to support special programming needs, or any other purchases that may not be covered by the library's general budget.

In 2019, we began providing the library with a lump sum payment at the beginning of the year so the library could utilize the funds when they needed without the bureaucracy of having each and every purchase approved by the board ahead of time while simply providing the board with a record of their ongoing usage of the monies. This worked so well that the Friends made a \$9,000 donation for the 2020 year. These one-time lump donations still allow the Friends to bring in speakers and programs that we feel will be of interest to the patrons of the library and the community.

At the beginning of 2020 the Friends' Board of Directors made a decision to change our strategy on book sales to move from a quarterly frequency to a monthly schedule. This decision was made based on several reasons... book inventory, customer demand, and an enthusiastic book sales team. We had our first monthly sale in February. We had a fantastic turnout despite it being Winter in Wisconsin. But it ended up being our first and only monthly sale because by March the world and our library was shut down due to COVID-19. We have not been able to determine when we will be able to restart the sales again because of

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the ongoing virus situation. In the meantime there will be a table of used books for sale at all times, stop by and check them out. When everything is back to normal and we are no longer limited to how many people can congregate in an area we will announce our new sale schedule. So stay tuned!

As you most likely know, the library is open but under new guidelines. These guidelines preclude the Friends from hosting any events or activities for the foreseeable future. However, there is one activity we are still providing to the library... our Adopt-A-Shelf volunteers are back in keeping the shelves straight. So, we are not totally out of sight right now!

The Board of Directors of the Friends has voted to extend all 2020 memberships through 2021 because of the limited access this year. We feel this virus-interrupted year has been tough on everyone and we hope this extension will make it just a little better.

Happy Reading!

## PERSPECTIVES ON COVID-19

Eric Robinson

Like many, my work life and personal life haven't changed in some ways, but in others it may never be the same. A looming question in my life has become "is this the right thing to do?" Whether during the first moments of the pandemic starting to reach into our community or at home and trying to take over as the teacher of

one of my sons while continuing to do work from home. We all have so much to balance and react to at this time –sometimes more than we want to.

In my work role, I felt internal pressure to make the 'correct' decisions and be mindful of everyone I work with and for as Covid-19 began to hit home here, I spent endless time trying to use my craft as an information expert to understand what we were going to deal with but how to give a clear path for how to work in an unforeseen environment. There is a secret magic to the folks I work with, though, that laid the groundwork for our future.

As we came up with our plans to close, work from home, and prepare for an uncertain future – the librarians here did what they do best. They adapted quickly, and envisioned doing things we had never done before, nor felt wholly comfortable trying. They were compassionate and caring.

The question "is this the right thing to do?" is becoming easier to answer, even though the decisions fell to us more than we had anticipated. I try to be informed about the facts we know at the moment, and continue to make the most educated choices. But at the end of the day, my gut feeling and intuition are what I rely on most.

I hope you too can answer this question more easily in the future. Be compassionate – be respectful to others – and realize your choices can have an impact on others. As polarizing as so much feels right now, I hope we can continue to work through these issues without shaming or judging one another so much that real harm is done to the fabric of this wonderful community.

# THANK YOU FRIENDS

## Marcia Baird

Thank you to the below businesses, organizations, individuals, and families who are 2020 Friends of the Library members. Please join us in supporting them and thanking them for making our library a continuing source of education, information, and fun.

During the past few months the Friends Board suspended our annual membership drive due to the impact of the virus on each of us and the economy. Because of this unusual year, we've decided to extend all 2020 memberships through December 2021. Yay! Everyone on the below list is now—automatically—a 2021 member, too!

If you don't see your name below, now's your chance to renew for this year AND next. One renewal will make you a 2020 and 2021 member. You can renew your membership online or download a form from the library's website: <https://www.fortlibrary.org/friends/membership/> or stop at the library.

On a personal note, I'll be leaving the Friends Board when my second three-year term ends this month. I've served as membership chair for five years and it's definitely been rewarding to serve our library in this way. Thank you to the library's amazing staff and to fellow Board members for all your support.

Finally, I've especially enjoyed my contacts with each of you. Together, you've made so many programs and services possible. Some tell me you join the Friends because our library is such a jewel for our community or because you just love the place! Others say it's the "right" thing to do to make Fort Atkinson even better. Some purchase gift memberships for their grandchildren, a neighbor, or a relative. Others join in memory of a

loved one who loved our wonderful library. Whatever the reason that you're a Friend of the Library, you're part of a very special community. Thank you!

Paul & Bonnie Babcock  
Alisha Bade  
Hillary Baird  
Marcia & Perry Baird  
Marianne Bardenwerper  
Nancy Becker  
Pat & Ken Belt  
Stephanie Beran  
Sharyl Beranek  
Mark Bernhardt  
Nancy Bienfang  
Luke & Lori Bocher  
MaryBeth Bradshaw  
Adam Brock  
Kari Callaway  
Fred & Florence Catron  
Bob & Kathy Cheek  
George Clokey  
Liz Collins  
Jane Colwin  
Margo Connell  
Laura Cox  
Sharon Daly  
Julia Dewey  
Charlie Dorfman  
Harper Dorfman  
Thea Dorfman  
Carrie Doyle  
Shari Dunn  
Kimberly Ehlers  
Gina Elmore  
Ann Engelman & Andy Yocom  
Dan & Jane Fary  
Diane Fick  
Thomas Fick  
John & Janine Fixmer  
Mary Flessert

Chuck & Fran Frandson  
Jack Garrett  
Gordon & Ruth Gavin  
Midge Gill  
Betty Goodman  
Rita Gray  
Beverly Haluska  
Bonnie Hamer  
Gary & Bonnie Hamm  
Phyllis Hanke  
Karen Hart  
Megan & Sam Hartwick  
Mike Helmick  
Kristi Hill  
Larry Horsfall  
Debra Jacobsen  
Lana Jilek  
Bruce Johnson  
Linda Kania  
Carol Keleny  
Andrew & Sally Koehler  
Robert Komes  
Elizabeth Laing  
Steven Larson  
Edith Lindert  
Minetta Lippert  
Michael Longrie  
Dave & Ann Lueder  
Susan Lyter  
Paul & Margaret Majors  
Karla Manternach  
Kathy & Michael Marr  
Dolores Masker  
Lisa Masker  
Betty Maul  
Jerry & Ute McGowan  
James & Patricia  
Merriman

### More Friends

Constance Meyer  
 Patricia Mitchell  
 Joan Mittag  
 Kirsten Mortimer  
 Rachel Neidlinger  
 Fred & Janet Negus  
 Jennifer Neugart  
 Alicia Norris  
 Julie Olver  
 Pat Pelky  
 Donna Petersen  
 Arlene Phillips  
 Vivian Pilior  
 Barbara Redenius  
 Thea Reeves  
 Mary Rinden  
 William Rowlands  
 Marvel Rowley  
 Ric & Kelli Rowley  
 Don Sauer  
 Tom Schabowski  
 Bonnie Schaefer  
 Ruth Schauer  
 Quintin Schiller  
 Luanne Schindler  
 Margaret Schroeder  
 Mabel Schumacher  
 Wallace Sherlock  
 Jayesh Sheth  
 Diana Shull & Ben Knowles  
 Cynthia Smith  
 Steve & Lauralynn Southworth  
 John Stewart  
 Roger Strege  
 Arlene Strunk  
 Karen & John Syens  
 Nancy Urbaniak  
 Wayne Vogel  
 Sandra & Uli Wagenpfeil  
 Jeanne Waggoner  
 Tim Weidenfeller  
 Jim & Onnie Weiss  
 Satchel Paige Welch  
 Richele Wendt  
 Brett & Marsha Wilson  
 Joel Winn  
 Fred York

### Our Business/Organization Friends

AAUW Fort Atkinson  
 Abendroth Water Conditioning  
 Agency Insurance, LLC  
 American Legion Auxiliary of Post 166  
 Animal Clinic of Fort Atkinson, LLC  
 Armstrong Heating and Cooling  
 Badger Bank  
 Ball Corporation  
 Behling, Jasper & Selberg, LLC  
 BKS Dental  
 Black Hawk Senior Residence  
 Blodgett Garden Center  
 Bruce Waller — Edward Jones  
 Century 21 Affiliated  
 Cloute, Inc.  
 Crimson Salon & Spa  
 Day Insurance  
 Dunlap Memorial Home  
 Dunsmoor Doors, Inc.  
 Fort Atkinson Hometown Pharmacy  
 Fort Atkinson Lion's Club  
 Fort Atkinson Woman's Club  
 Fort Community Credit Union  
 Fort Real Estate Company  
 Fort Tax Service  
 Friends of Lorine Niedecker  
 Friends of Rose Lake  
 Green Bay Packaging, WI Packaging Div.  
 Highland Dental Health  
 JM Carpets  
 Johnson Financial Group  
 Jonas Office Products, Ltd.  
 Jones Dairy Farm  
 Kiwanis Club of Fort Atkinson  
 Logo-Works, Inc.  
 Maas Bros. Construction Co., Inc.  
 Mike Foerster Real Estate, LLC  
 Nasco Education  
 NorthFit Creamery  
 Optimist Club of Fort Atkinson  
 Paddy Coughlin's Pub  
 Planet Chaos  
 PremierBank  
 Reena Senior Living  
 Rock River Dental  
 Spacesaver  
 Tailor Made Sewing Studio  
 Ten Pin Motors, LLC  
 The Tuesday Club  
 Vance Law Office, S.C.  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Edwin  
     Frohman Post 1879  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Edwin  
     Frohman Post 1879 Auxiliary  
 W & A Distribution Services  
 W.D. Hoard & Sons Co.  
 Yerges Van Liners, Inc

A membership in the Friends  
 of the Library makes a great  
 gift, especially for newcomers  
 to our community.

## ADOPT-A-SHELF PROGRAM

Jane Colwin

Like a lot of things, the annual April celebration of National Library Week came and went without much fanfare this year. So, I am celebrating now with a big thank you for the work done by our Adopt-A-Shelf volunteers.

I would like to recognize and thank our current roster of volunteers: Paul/Bonnie Babcock, Renee Barr, Stephanie Beran, Judy Block, Cathy Deichl, Shari Dunn, Tom Fick, Karen Gierzak, Midge Gill, Shelley Greene, Carol Gruber, Bev Haluska, Bonnie Hamer, Phyllis Hanke, Karen Hart, Kristi Hill, Pat Hunn, Alice Kemna, Larry Ketterman, Lisa Kotz, Huss Lederman Family, Lisa Livieri, Michael Longrie, Ann Lueder, Michael Marr, Joanne Moon, Carolyn Nord, Pat Pelky, Marcia Phelps, Bonnie Schaefer, Pat Schwartz, Howard Straub, John and Karen Syens, Trudianne Thom, and Linda Winn. I'd also like to thank these recently "retired" volunteers Helen Matrisch and Eileen Harrison.

When the Library reopened to the public in early June, many of these great volunteers were ready to don their masks and get back to work. In fact, several of them had already been in to check their shelves before I had time to send out an email letting them know they could return. That's dedication!

There are several areas of the library that do not have a volunteer at this time - Adult Nonfiction 394.26 - 599G (Customs, etiquette, and folklore, Languages, and the Sciences) and Juvenile DVDs. If any of our current Friends would like to adopt either of these areas, please let me know. The time commitment is minimal - several hours once a month will work wonders!

Although not strictly part of the Adopt-A-Shelf program, the Youth Services Department is in need of two volunteers - one to organize the board books, picture books, easy readers, and intermediate readers and one to clean and sanitize toys twice a month. If you are able to help with these Youth Department requests, please contact Youth Services Librarian Minetta Lippert ([minetta@fortlibrary.org](mailto:minetta@fortlibrary.org)). She would love to hear from you!

On behalf of the Friends of the Library Board and the library staff, I would like to express a big THANK YOU to all the Adopt-A-Shelf volunteers!!  
[jcolwin@gmail.com](mailto:jcolwin@gmail.com) or 920-563-8047

## FRIENDS BOARD NEEDS ADDITIONAL MEMEBERS

There are two openings on the Friends Board of Directors. We are looking for members who would like to take their support of our wonderful library to the next level. It is not a huge time commitment, we meet on the first Thursday of the month from 9:30-10:30. We do have a few events throughout the year that board members can volunteer to assist with. It's a great feeling to know you are working to help the library and our community. If you are interested in joining the board email [marr.kathy@gmail.com](mailto:marr.kathy@gmail.com) or call me at 920-309-2668 or leave a message at the library.

## BUSINESS FRIENDS SUPPORT APPRECIATED

Janine Fixmer

As an independent insurance agency owner I truly understand the importance of educating ourselves and the value of options when it comes to protecting ourselves and growing as individuals and businesses. Libraries are one of the best resources for information, opportunities, and connections within a community and the Dwight Foster Public Library supports Fort Atkinson and the surrounding area brilliantly.

Ever since I was a youth growing up in Milwaukee, the library has been a place I could go to dream and explore possibilities. Using resources available to me I could dream about and research whatever I wished. Continuing the access of resources is critically important, as I firmly believe every child and adult within the community deserves access to information and resources that can enhance and better their lives. This is why my business, Agency Insurance, buys a corporate membership to the Friends of the Dwight Foster Public Library annually. It is important for successful businesses to give back and help ensure the success of important community institutions like our library.

It's not just financial support that is needed, of course. It is important to also get involved. I have been a individual member of the Friends for years and a member of the board of director for the last three years. Our Friends move mountains and help support our amazing library where on any given day all are welcome to participate and to be treated with dignity and

respect. As a Corporate Friend your donations will help provide technology, internet access, furniture, and equipment throughout the building which helps for better access and better environment. Information is strength when protecting yourself, the Friends program makes sure that all library patrons can be strong.

## 2020 BUSINESS MEETING GOES ZOOM

This year's annual meeting will be held virtually due to room size restrictions tied to the Corona virus. The agenda will be pared down to just the actual business meeting and there will be no entertainment provided. The plan is to keep the entire meeting to 30 minutes or less as we know that video meetings are somewhat tiresome to engage with.

The agenda for the meeting will be:

- Presidents Remarks – Kathy Marr
- Financial Report – Jane Colwin
- Library Report – Eric Robinson

The meeting will be Tuesday September 22 at 7:00pm via Zoom. If you are interested in attending the meeting please email [erobinson@fortlibrary.org](mailto:erobinson@fortlibrary.org) at the library for a Zoom link. Please log into the meeting a few minutes before 7:00 so we can officially call the meeting to order at 7:00. We hope to see you see you September 22nd!



2020

# SUMMER READING PROGRAM

## READING



441 participants logged  
3,884 reading hours and 576 books

## PROGRAMS



25 programs  
1,229 attendees



## PEN PALS

“It was a fantastic experience. Thank you for giving me a pen pal that is amazing.”

23 kids exchanged letters with  
19 adults



## STORYWALKS



# FRIENDS SHORTS

Thea Reeves

## **Books “Buy” the Bag!**

Although the Friends of the Library monthly book sales are on hold due to COVID-19, you can still get your hands on some great book deals at the library! We are placing specific genres of books into our new, but reusable library bags and selling them for \$5 each. So, say you are a mystery buff - you can stop in and purchase a bag of mystery titles (think Sue Grafton or Jonathan Kellerman). Other genres, such as children's books, non-fiction and young adult, will also be available.

Proceeds of our book bag sales will remain in Fort Atkinson to support the activities of the Friends of the Library.

## **Coffee and Beverage Sales**

Our Coffee Cart program is one of the Friends of the Library's favorite programs. However, to help protect the public in light of COVID-19, our beverage sales are on hold until further notice.

## **Meet the Friends Board**

The Friend of the Library Board includes:

- President: Kathy Marr
- Vice President: Janine Fixmer
- Secretary: Thea Reeves
- Treasurer: Jane Colwin
- Marcia Baird
- Luke Bocher
- Richele Wendt
- Julie Olver

The purpose of the Friends of the Dwight Foster Public Library is to assist the public library in meeting community needs, promoting knowledge of and participation in library programs, and to aid in providing funds for special library needs.