



JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS

Winter 2013

Volume 17 Issue 4

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A Message from the President

As you read this, fall will nearly be coming to a close, and the holiday season will be kicking off. The **Friends** have had a busy fall season. We celebrated National Friends of Libraries Week, had a winning entry at the Stony Brook Village Scarecrow Competition (see below) and also held another successful Book Sale! (see p.2) You can read more about these activities in this newsletter and be proud that you are a member of such an accomplished organization.

As we reflect on 2013, it is appropriate to thank our membership for their support of our efforts all through the year. Your membership dues and your support for our various activities enable the **Friends** to contribute to many library programs and to donate items to the library. As a reminder, our end of fiscal year document, **The State of Friends**, is available on the library website. If you have not had an opportunity to review the document, please take a moment to do so. It provides a good refresher on all the activities that your membership supports.

Speaking of membership, remember that your **Friends'** memberships run January through December. When you receive your renewal notice, please do your best to renew your membership early. Your ongoing support is key to our continued success. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbors to join as well.

Last, but certainly not least, during this time of the year, the library celebrates their outstanding staff through Staff Appreciation Day, to be held on Dec 11th. While the **Friends** are proud to contribute to this special event, we know we all appreciate the library staff every day. They are the best. Special thanks to those library staff members who are also **Friends!**

Warmest regards, and best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season,

Kathryn Sekulo

Friends of MCPL's Scarecrow Wins First Place

This year, as part of the National Friends of Library Week, the **Friends** entered the 23rd Annual Scarecrow Competition in Stony Brook Heritage Village. Terry Kowalski and Harry Nelson designed and constructed a **Friends** of MCPL scarecrow family. There was a mommy wearing a pink gown and pink hair, a daddy sporting a pink hat, cowboy boots and even a t-shirt with our **Friends'** logo on it. They were wheeling their baby dressed in a pumpkin outfit and reading a Halloween book in a pink wagon and, of course, there was their little pink puppy.

There were over twenty scarecrows and people were able to vote for their favorite during the month of October. Then on October 31, 2013 it was announced that the **Friends** of MCPL won first place and received a \$300.00 prize at the Harvest Day Festival. We cannot wait to enter this competition again next year and are looking for new ideas for the next scarecrow. Kudos to Terry & Harry. A great team!



"In the 37 years we have been here, the library has played a big part in almost all aspects of our lives."

Deb Morrell (see p. 2)

MCPL Equals a Lifeline
by Deb Morrell

My husband and I moved to Centereach on Veteran’s Day in 1976. We were already expecting our first child. My husband was an over-the-road truck driver and would be away for weeks at a time. MCPL became my lifeline. We lived close enough to walk to the library so it was great exercise for myself and my children over the years.

I read books on what to expect when you’re expecting, even before they made the movie. A few books on child rearing came in handy as well, not to mention the books on do-it-yourself home repair, gardening, cooking and ah, yes, romance novels.

In the 37 years we have lived here, the library has played a big part in almost all aspects of our lives. As our children grew, the programs offered went from mommy and me story time, to teen trips and clubs. Our daughter made life-long friends at a scrabble club held at the Centereach building when she was in sixth grade. Our son read up on collections, camping and car repair. As our parents aged, we found compassionate staff and tons of information on how we might help them age gracefully. We have also used the Miller Business Center for job counseling, resume writing and information. The library has held job fair days with many different employers in attendance. All of this assistance has enabled me to obtain my present position.

We have been *Friends* for a very long time and enjoy volunteering immensely. The camaraderie of the wonderful people that come together to bring programs, art work and much more to our library is so fulfilling. I am certain that our family is not the only one that MCPL has been a lifeline for.

The lobby was alive...with the sound of music

One of the gifts that the *Friends* has given to MCPL is a wonderful Yamaha piano. We were delighted to hear it being played during National Friends of Libraries Week in October and then again during our Fall Book Sale.

Patrons were greeted by beautiful music as Amy Liu and brothers Loui and Leo Chen played the piano. An added treat was listening to three year old Sophie Chen play her violin.

The smiles on the faces of the patrons as they entered the lobby and heard the music became wider when they realized that the musicians were children from our community.

We would like to thank our musicians as well as Diana Cook, the Director of Music and Fine Arts for the Middle Country School District, who assisted us in finding these talented musicians. We hope that we can look forward to more beautiful music in the future.



Fall Book Sale

Once again the *Friends* gathered at the library the first weekend in November to organize and run our annual fall book sale. For those of you who have never been a part of this exciting event, it all starts with empty tables and boxes and boxes (216 this time) of books, DVDs and CDs that need to be sorted into different categories and put on the correct tables.

While this is being done, volunteers get to see if there are any books, DVDs, etc. they would like to purchase making volunteering a “win-win” situation. At the same time, it also gives us an opportunity to visit with other *Friends* and catch up on what is new since our last fundraiser.



This time we raised \$2,191, all of which will go right back to our library. Books that did not sell were given to Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Veteran’s Homes located in both Northport and Stony Brook as well as St. Cuthbert’s Food Pantry in Selden.

Thanks to Kathryn Sekulo and Margie Sekulo, our fabulous co-chairs, who always make the book sale such a well-organized event as well as to all who volunteered to make another successful sale.

National Friends of Library Week October 20th-26th

Pictures of the many gifts that the *Friends* of MCPL has given to the library since our inception 19 years ago were on display in the lobby of the Centereach building during the month of October until the end of our Fall Book Sale. We were delighted to see so many patrons stopping to look at our special display and hope you had an opportunity to view it as well.

You deserve to be very proud that you are part of an organization that has contributed so much to our library. From the Girl and the Cat Bench, the Yamaha Piano, Dragonfly Benches, the Chase Waterfalls, the Infinity Mirror, the Friends Bench in the Nature Explorium, the Aquarium, the Doll House, the Flat Screen TV in the Miller Business Center and much, much more. Just as important, the *Friends* have worked hand in hand with the library to continually support the many programs that we all enjoy. We also are proud to participate in staff appreciation.

We were happy to welcome 20 new and renewing *Friends* to our ranks at our membership drives during National Friends of Libraries Week. Remember, the greater our membership, the more we will be able to continue to support the library we all love so much.

End-of-Year Donation Opportunity

Many of our Platinum/Lifetime members have expressed a desire to donate to the *Friends* even though their membership no longer needs to be renewed. Please note that we have added an "End-of-the-Year Donation" category on the membership form on the back of this newsletter. If you are interested (regardless of your level of membership) in sending in an additional contribution, we would invite you to use this form to help you do so. Remember, the *Friends* is a 501(c) 3 organization so your donation is fully tax deductible. Thank you for your consideration and continued support.



Thanks to Our New and Renewing Friends as of 11/2/13

New & Renewing Members

Juan Amaya, Joanna Barry, Jill Bellino, Ellice Berg, Helen & John Brinton,
Alanna Connolly, Eileen Connolly, Kathy Deerr, Liann M. Dennis, Melissa Eichinger,
Melissa Fardella, Beth Finn, Gregory & Denise Ford, Stephanie Fortunat,
Alice Gerlach, Narendra Joshi, Regina Moloney, Lisa Monteleone, Harry Nelson,
Mauro Nicoletto, Karen Paoli, Linda Perro, Jennifer Quinn, Nicole Schor,
Theresa Silvestri, Meong Uh, Linda Vigario, Carolyn A Ward, Mr. & Mrs. John Ward,
Annette Werner, Charles Zervakos, Patricia Zervakos

Thanks to Our Newest Moving Up Members

Janice & Stephen Boscarino & family, Sara Calderone, Sandra Kerzner

Extra Thanks to Our Newest Platinum Member

Barbara J. Alonso



Friends of MCPL
101 Eastwood Blvd.
Centereach, NY 11720

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**Friends' Executive Board
2013-2014**

President: Kathryn Sekulo
Vice President: Terry Kowalski
Secretary: Diana Gallo
Co-Treasurers: Eve Munsky &
Marjorie LaStella
Nominating Chair: Janice Boscarino
Ex-Officio: Tracy LaStella
Past President: Donna Smosky

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings at Centereach

December 10th: Friends' Meeting – 7:00 pm
March 11th: Friends' Meeting – 7:00 pm
April 4th & 5th: Spring Book Sale
June 10th: Friends' Meeting – 7:00 pm
August 2nd: Garage Sale

Please complete this form and include it with your membership check to: **The Friends of MCPL**
You may drop your membership form and check/cash at the **Friends'** mailbox near the Customer Service Desk at MCPL
Centereach or Selden or mail them to:

**The Friends of MCPL
c/o Middle Country Public Library
101 Eastwood Blvd.
Centereach, NY 11720 - 2745**

Please check one: Bronze \$5 Silver \$10 Gold/Business/Organization \$25 Platinum/Lifetime \$100
End-of-Year Donation

Name

Address

City State ZIP

Telephone

E-mail

Check one: New Member Renewing Member

I would like to play an active part in **Friends**

Thanks for
being a *Friend!*

