

Friends of the Sullivan County Library

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Quarterly Newsletter

September 2020

Sullivan County Library

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From the President's Desk

1) A big thank you to everyone who has responded to the annual fund drive. With several fundraising activities suspended because of the pandemic (including the Spring Tea and our Mystery Dinner), such a positive response is greatly appreciated to help make up the difference. At this point, the fund drive is well ahead of last year: As of August, contributions totaled \$14,886, from 227 donors.

We want to emphasize that the Friends' sole purpose is to provide financial support to the library, so you know exactly where your money ends up. For those of you still waiting in the wings, you can send a donation to Friends of the Sullivan County Library, PO Box 485, Dushore, PA 18614.

2) I am so pleased that the addition of the new library staff will not only continue the success of the existing adult, children's and Little Free Library programs, but also place a new emphasis on a teen program.

3) I hope this newsletter finds you and your extended family safe and healthy.

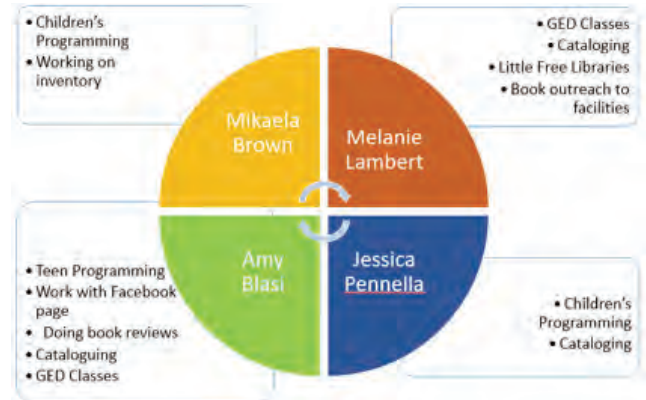
**John Krakoski, President,
Friends of the Sullivan
County Library**

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Director's Corner

It's almost fall, and the library has been working on projects that will improve services for all our patrons.

In the last newsletter, we announced the hiring of four new staff: Amy Blasi, Mikaela Brown, Melanie Lambert and Jessica Pennella. Each has begun to focus on key services (as detailed in the accompanying



clever diagram). They have received catalog training, worked with the children's coordinator at James V. Brown Library, and became GED trainers.

Rebecca Aldinger has also volunteered to work on GED training.

Another completed project is a comprehensive inventory of the library's collection, ensuring that the online catalog is correct and up-to-date.

We're also excited to announce the return of the Children's Story Hour. Anyone interested in participating should register on the library's webpage or at the library. Story Hours will be offered via an online format to ensure safe social

distancing. Part of this year's Story Hours will include a take-home bag of activities connected to each story. Bags can be returned to the library to be refilled for the next reading.

The second-floor storage room has been cleared and new shelving added. In working with technology coordinator Joshua Hudson at J.V. Brown Library, a patron counter installed on all public computers will eliminate the need for patrons to sign a log sheet when using the computers. The number of users counted each year will be included in the



Dan Curry held outdoor painting classes at Kast Pond and Keystone Lodge.

annual report.

Mary Ellen Minnier is re-painting the main sign on the front of the library – as well as an older version of the library sign discovered in the library’s attic. The older sign will be placed on the side of the building near the door to the Children’s Room.

The library exterior was recently power-washed to prepare for painting the trim. More information will follow about interior work and the groups and individuals responsible for enhancing the look of the library.

Alan Miller, Library Director

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Circulation Desk

At the circulation desk, we would be happy to act as your “book concierge.” We can help you learn how to use the catalog, retrieve items from the stacks, or help you with digital downloads. Just let us know what authors, series, or genre you enjoy, and we’ll pull books for you to browse. You can come into the library to check out books – or we offer curbside delivery!

We have processed 180 new materials during the summer months to be added to our collection.

We have updated the Overdrive feature at the library. Libby is the new and improved app – known as the “one tap app.” It is especially useful for ebooks, audiobooks and magazines.

We also have tutors to help with adult literacy and GED instruction. If you know someone who could use help with their reading skills or coaching to take GED tests, please tell them to call or stop by.

We are working to increase our social-media presence. Check Facebook for updates and book reviews. And make sure you like and share our posts to help us spread the word.

We would love to see you, but please wear a mask when you visit the library (we’ll still see 95% of you)!

Melanie Lambert, Circulator

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Annual Meeting

The seventh annual membership meeting of the Friends was held virtually by Zoom. Fourteen members attended: Bonnie Barry, Frank Barry, Connie Branosky, Steve Branosky, Pamelyn Bush, Richard E. Bush, Nancy Henne, Bill Henne, Teri Klem, John Krakoski, Kay Evelyn Krakoski, James Lambert, Melanie Lambert, and Ellie McCarty.

Donna Iannone, Sullivan County Commissioner, was unable to attend.

The nominating committee recommended Bonnie Barry as treasurer for the two-year term of 2020 to 2022, and Teri Klem for vice-president for 2020 to 2022. These recommendations were approved.



At the annual meeting, the Friends recognized Connie Branosky and Ellie McCarty, two long-time employees. Connie (right) worked at the library for 15 years, helping with the computers, cataloging new items and providing excellent patron service. She is enjoying her well-deserved retirement. Ellie (left) worked for 19 years with children in the popular Story Time and summer reading programs. She is now working with Trehab. The Friends appreciate all that these women did to make the Sullivan County Library a welcoming and pleasant place. Seen here with Melanie Lambert.

Treasurer Bonnie Barry presented a Profit and Loss Statement covering July 2019 through June 2020, showing a gross income of \$49,835.65, total expenses of \$46,374.47, for a net income for the fiscal year of \$3,461.18. The Statement includes a transfer of \$40,399.76 to the Sullivan County Library. The Balance Sheet for June 30, 2020, shows total assets and liability of \$41,103.63

A \$5,000 grant from United Way will help with adult and children's programs during the coming year. The Community Foundation for the Twin Tiers (CFTT) investment was now over \$12,500 and represents a long-term way to invest in the library.

There were 357 members as of August 11.

Pam Bush, Secretary

Adult Programs

Despite the disruptions and quarantine issues of Covid-19, life goes on. The county leadership combined with the creative talents of local artists Karen Black and Dan Curry to use United Way funds to sponsor two summer-long programs.

Karen held virtual art classes online, while Dan conducted in-person outdoor classes at Kast Pond and the Keystone Lodge in Muncy Valley. There was good attendance all summer.

The Last-Friday poetry sessions at Winterland Winery have been prospering, albeit with fewer in attendance. But the interest is there and we hope to see more of our friends with the coming of more "normal" times.

Another American Native archeology program is planned for November, so come hit the fields and find some artifacts. More information will follow.

Hopefully, restraints will be relaxed so that other programs can be realized.

John Silla, Director, Adult Programs

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Other News

• Little Free Libraries

The two current Little Free library locations in Laporte and World's End State Park are seeing a lot of activity. We thank Challa O'Conner and her family for keeping both libraries stocked – and also a thank-you to the library for providing the books. A third unit, for Ricketts Glen State Park, will be ready for installation later this month. Construction on the fourth unit, to be located at McCarty Mercantile in Hillsgrove, has been started but no completion date set. Another unit is planned for the Shunk General Store, with discussions being held about the design.

\$1,198 for the Little Free Libraries remains unspent, including a donation of \$500 for construction materials. A kit costing \$249 was available for Ricketts Glen, and we could purchase one for the Hillsgrove store that would look like a covered bridge. Funds were allocated for these kits.

• Memorials

The Friends of the Sullivan County Library would like to acknowledge the following donations made as memorials in 2020:

In memory of Jim Bahl and Edward Dunn
by Jacquelyn and Michael Rouse

In memory of Adele Moyer
by Dean and Kay Homer

In memory of Adele Moyer
by Robert and Mary Getz

In memory of Annetta Almoney
by the Hillsgrove Community Club

In memory of Corey Richmond
by the Hillsgrove Community Club

In memory of Ken Florentine and Sidney Hatch
by Nesta Myers

In memory of Ken Florentine
by Darrell R. Hoppes, Sr.

These donations, gratefully accepted by the Friends, will be passed on to the library for materials and projects.

• Friends Meetings

All meetings will take place in the library at 6 pm.

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

• Smile.Amazon

Amazon.com has established smile.amazon.com to provide purchasers the opportunity to contribute to your favorite charity – which of course is Friends of the Sullivan County Library. When you shop at Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Friends – at no cost to you. Prices, products and features at smile.amazon.com are identical to those at amazon.com – as are your ID and password. So, go to smile.amazon.com, register, and select Friends of the Sullivan County Library (Dushore, Pa) as your preferred charity. Add Smile.Amazon to your browser as your entry to Amazon so that all future purchases will also benefit the Friends – without costing you a penny!

