

Friends of the Sullivan County Library

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Quarterly Newsletter

December 2020

Sullivan County Library

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From the President's Desk

Friends, what a year this has been!

What started as just another turn of the calendar quickly became an epic year of human and economic tragedy. By the end we are mourning the loss of over 300,000 Americans and 1.5 million people worldwide.

The pandemic forced us to learn how to survive and interact in a restricted and social-distanced world. Sacrifices were made, the use of technology was accelerated – some say by five or more years. While we learned how to adapt to this new reality, the measure of our humanity became evident as we helped each other with our time, talent and treasure.

It is this ingenuity and generosity that makes me so proud to be a part of the Friends. While many of our events had to be canceled, you still found a way to carry on with the services of our library. Your generosity helped us generate the funds necessary to meet our financial commitments to our library.

So, in closing, as we enter into a new year of hope, I'd like to thank you again for all you do. I am proud to be an American as we lead the world in combating this virus, and I am proud to be a part of this community.

So take care and stay safe. I hope you and your families had a blessed holiday season.

John Krakoski, President, Friends of the Sullivan County Library

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Director's Corner

Everyone at the library hopes that this newsletter finds our patrons healthy, happy, and staying safe during the pandemic. Despite needing to fluctuate between limited in-person and curbside service, the library is still enabling patrons to check out materials, and providing programming to the community.

Since September, the library has been receiving the latest bestsellers, children's titles, and DVDs. Patrons can find these titles by going to the catalog

on the library webpage. You can place requests for titles online or call the library to take advantage of our curbside service.

Curbside service helps minimize exposure, as Covid cases in the county rise. To take advantage, call the library at 570-928-9352 or send an email to curbsideservice@ptd.net. Staff will gladly pull titles for you and contact you when they are ready for pickup.

We have also adjusted programming to accommodate remote activity. Children's programs are being conducted and posted to the library's Facebook page. Families can register to get "Adventure Bags" with children's activities that coordinate with the book being read that week.

The library is being updated, both inside and outside. Inside, courtesy of the Eagles Mere-Laporte Lions Club, new shelving was installed in the second-floor workroom to enable the staff to organize Children's programming materials, and provide storage for the Friends of the Library and new space for office supplies that were previously stored in corners throughout the library.

This has also opened up additional space to enable better sorting of materials received for the annual book sale. Since there was no book sale in 2020, the library has started to put together small collections of books to sell for a donation through the library Facebook page.

On the outside, the doors and trim have been repainted. The painting was made possible through donations by Tom and Laurie Burkholder.



The main sign has been updated by Mary Ellen Minnier; she is working on a second sign that will be a homage to the building's history as a livery stable.

As a final reminder, until we can all meet again in person, keep up-to-date on all the Library activities through the following:

The library webpage at

www.sullivancountylibrary.org

The library catalog at

sullivan.biblionix.com/catalog/

The library's Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/SullivanCountyLibrary/

Of course none of this would be possible without our dedicated staff. Several newer staff members joined during the height of the pandemic and adjusted to meet the challenges. Their creativity and desire to continue to provide exemplary programs and services make living through these times bearable.

Alan Miller, Library Director

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From the Circulation Desk

We're keeping busy adding new items to the collection (over 300 items in October and November), organizing virtual programs, and reaching out through social media.

New books have been added for children, young adults, and adults in fiction and nonfiction. We work at highlighting some of the new materials on Facebook.

Story Hour has 20+ participants each week. The children can view a themed read-aloud through Facebook and pick up fun-filled "Adventure Bags," containing materials for activities and crafts – and of course, library books. Children can join the virtual Story Hour at any time. Call the library or look on the library webpage for a registration form.

The adult Book Discussion Group has moved to a Zoom format to allow for virtual meetings. If you would like to be a part of the virtual Book Club, call the library for more information. The current titles being read can be found on our webpage.

As we go back to curbside pick-up, we encourage you to check the catalog of materials on the library's webpage. You can search for popular and new titles by favorite authors or series. We know it is hard to choose books when you can't see or touch them, but the catalog is easy to navigate. If you find a title you like, you can reserve it within the catalog system or call us to pull the book. You can also request books by emailing us at curbsideservice@ptd.net. Or just call and tell us what you like, and we will do our best to find books

for you.

We also urge patrons to download and try the Libby app, a way to find digital books and audiobooks. It is easy to use and helps with browsing because it shows popular and available titles.

Finally, we are able to aid adults who need help with literacy skills or GED instruction. Please help us spread the word about this service of the library.

Melanie Lambert, Circulatrix

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Adult Programs

On November 14, Thomas Baird, an avocational archeologist whose specialty is early American people, presented a well-received 90-minute program on the Adena Nation. He and the attendees brought artifacts that they had acquired in their digs, some of which were thousands of years old. Its pretty neat to hold a 5000-year-old Native American tool or weapon.

Coming in January we have a 90-minute DVD documentary on the nearby PA town of Centralia, where underground coal-mine fires have been active for over half a century. Details TBA.

John Silla, Director, Adult Programs

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Little Free Libraries



The Hillsgrove Little Free Library was installed November 20 at McCarty Mercantile on Rt. 87. It was designed and built by Bill Henne.

The Friends of the Sullivan County Library and the Sullivan County Library hosted a grand opening of a new Little Free Library at Ricketts Glen State Park on October 1. It was placed near the visitor center and filled with books. Visitors are encouraged to browse the books and “take one, leave one,” ensuring that the small library always has books for people who visit.

This Little Free Library was built by Bill Henne of Dushore. The funding was provided through a grant from Tom and Laurie Burkholder of Eagles



The Ricketts Little Free Library installation. Left to right: Nancy Henne, Melanie Lambert, Rihannon Summers from the Ricketts staff, Alan Miller, Bill Henne – the builder, and the Challa O'Conner family who steward all the Little Free Library book boxes.

Mere. The collection will be maintained by the Challa O'Conner family, who will serve as its stewards. We hope that the Ricketts Little Free Library will serve the residents of the eastern end of Sullivan County and visitors to the park.

Little Free Library is a world-wide non-profit organization that inspires a love of reading and builds community by fostering neighborhood book exchanges. The Friends of the Library and the Sullivan County Library are working to extend our reach by setting up LFL boxes in communities around the county. The Ricketts LFL was the third installed by the Friends. There are also Little Free Library book boxes in Laporte (near the Courthouse) and in Forksville at World's End State Park.

Little Free Library book-sharing boxes provide 24/7 access to books and encourage a love of reading in areas where books are scarce. The Little Free Library website maintains a map of registered Little Free Library boxes around the world. The Friends of the Library have funds for future LFL installations around Sullivan County and would welcome input about where best to place them.

To check out all the Little Free Libraries in our region, go to littlefreelibrary.org/

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Other News

2020 Fund Drive

Our 2020 Fund Drive continues; to date we have exceeded the amount received for all of last year – with five months remaining in the current drive. Although the average donation was down almost 13%, the number of donors was up better than 16%. More than 45% of our 2020 donors had contributed in each of the prior two years, while almost 17% gave for the first time. Hopefully, all 2020 donors will continue to donate to future fund drives.

If you have not given to the 2020 fund drive, it is not too late – the drive ends May 31.

Membership Appeal

Our 2021 membership appeal starts now, in early January, and our objective is to continue increasing the number of members. So look for our mailing, complete the card, and return it with your check to become a 2021 member of the Friends of the Sullivan County Library. We appreciate your continued membership that helps support all the library programs.

We had 364 members as of October with a total of \$1,820 at \$5 per person. That total surpassed the number of for all of 2019.

Smile! – You're Donating from Amazon

If you plan to shop through Amazon.com, please remember to enter using **Smile.Amazon.com** for all of your purchases. The Smile.Amazon site is exactly the same as Amazon.com. But, when you shop at Smile.Amazon and designate the Friends of the Sullivan County Library as your favorite charity, the Friends receive .5% of your eligible purchase from Amazon. You can use your regular Amazon ID and password – and it doesn't cost you an extra penny!

Memorials for Friends

The Friends would like to acknowledge the following donation made as a memorial:

In memory of Gloria Ryan, by Frank and Bonnie Barry.

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

