2023
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
IMPACT LETTER
AND THANK YOU

Thank You for Being our Friend!
General Note/Acknowledgement

Every year, we have a plethora of reasons to thank the Friends of the Library. Their dedication to patrons, staff, and the building itself is something that helps us to better serve the Chatham community. The amount of planning and volunteer hours they put into the annual booksale alone is staggeringly impressive.

We are grateful every day for both the big and small contributions the Friends make. From fresh flowers on the circulation desk, to their yearly volunteer luncheon, and all the wonderful things they do for library staff during Library Week each year - all of these things and more make the Friends of the Library an irreplaceable part of our library family.

What follows is just a small number of the reasons we are thankful for this wonderful group of people.

Karen Brodsky
Library Director
Dear Friends:
Thank you all for the services you provide to the Library throughout the year. The book collections you hold for the annual sale require much time, organization, and labor up to the actual event. The benefit of the proceeds from the sale helps us purchase special books outside of our regular budget that Chatham patrons will enjoy for years to come.

I would also like to thank you for providing memberships to a wide variety of museums. Access to these museums offer one of a kind cultural and educational experiences for Chatham residents of all ages. These memberships allow families to visit for free or at a greatly reduced rate.

Finally, I would like to thank you for sponsoring our monthly art shows, and book deliveries to homebound patrons in Chatham. These services provide aesthetic enjoyment as well as recreational and informational resources to all members of the community.

All of us at the Library of the Chathams greatly appreciate your dedication to making this library the best resource possible for all.

Deborah Fitzgerald, Head of Adult Services
Museum Passes

I would like to add my thanks to the Friends of the Library for their hard work throughout the year. Our Museum Pass program continues to be a much used and much appreciated gift that enriches the cultural life of Chatham patrons.

The continued generosity of the Friends has allowed us to add a new pass, Museum of Modern Art, which has proven to be a popular addition.

We are truly lucky to have such a hard working and creative group supporting the library.

Elaine Galvin
Youth Services

On behalf of the Youth Services Department, I want to thank the Friends of the Library for the generous funding that allows us to offer programs and resources to the community that we would be unable to provide otherwise.

This year the Friends continued to sponsor our Thursday is Library Day! programming which averages 160 participants each week. They also helped make possible a number of holiday craft programs which celebrated Cinco de Mayo, the Moon Festival, and Halloween just to name a few. Thanks to the Friends, we were also able to kick off our Summer Reading club with a dazzling performance of experiments hosted by the Liberty Science Center that amazed all 200 attendees.

The Friends were also the sole sponsor of our Summer Reading Club treasure chest and grand prizes which incentivized a record number of participants this year.

Although we only get the chance to formally thank them once a year, the Youth Services Department wants to emphasize how grateful we are each and every day for all of their hard work. Thank you Friends for all that you do!

Jaime Sabonya, Head of Youth Services
Young Adult Services

I would like to thank the Friends of the Library for all of their hard work and support. Without their generosity and support, teen programming could never have been as successful as it was this past year.

Throughout 2023, the Friends have sponsored numerous teen programs, including various drawing & painting classes and the National CSI Camp class, amongst others.

The contributions from the Friends also made it possible to purchase ingredients and supplies needed for the ever-popular teen cooking program.

In addition to these programs, the generosity of the Friends also allowed us to have a variety of prizes for teen summer reading, Super Smash Bros. tournaments, and Dungeons & Dragons tournaments. It truly takes a village to accomplish our goals, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a kind and committed team of Friends on our side.

Due to the Friends’ dedication to the library, we were able to expand teen programming tremendously and are continuing to make an impact on our community. My sincerest thanks to the Friends for all that they do all year-round!

Liz Day, Young Adult Services
Reference Services

This year we received a wonderful gift from the Friends in the form of a donation for our Seed Library, which is an extremely popular item among patrons of all ages.

Their generosity ensured that we were able to make not one, but two large purchases of seeds. This was especially important this year as the popularity of the Seed Library has really taken off, resulting in the seeds moving very quickly.

Another community favorite program the Friends made possible this year was the movie nights. The Friends purchased movie licensing rights, which allows the library to offer showings of timely and recently released movies. Some of the movies shown were Lyle, Lyle Crocodile, The Super Mario Bros. Movie (2023), and Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves.

Finally, in addition to the well attended book sale the Friends host annually (one that is known throughout the state!) smaller sales held around Halloween and Christmas are always festive and enjoyable, and popular among both staff and patrons.

For all of this, as well as their constant care, dedication, kindness, and generosity; we offer our most heartfelt and sincerest thanks to The Friends of the Library.

Robert Schriek, Head of Reference Services
Adult Programs

The Friends of the Library, long known for their generous donations towards children’s programs, have now extended their generosity towards adult programs. Several extremely popular adult programs were made possible by the Friends this year.

In July and August, artist Mou Saha taught classes in Mixed Media Affirmations and Handlettering. In October, local art teacher Philia Barkhorn conducted a series of watercolor classes (Fruit, Animals, Autumn Wreath).

On a less serious note, patrons enjoyed a cheese tasting conducted by a family company that imports gourmet food from Abruzzo, Italy. There was also a family affair for children as well as adults – Fun with Mega Bubbles, which provided a lot of fun for around 100 people!

And of course, the irresistible charm of the Fab Four drew patrons to the program “History of the Beatles: From Liverpool to Abbey Road”, which was also funded by the Friends.

Thank you to the Friends for giving so much enjoyment to Chatham residents!

Galina Natenzon, Assistant Director