

**FRIENDS OF
THE LIBRARY
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Enhancing your library through community support

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Dear Fellow Chatham Resident:

On behalf of the Friends of the Library of the Chatham, we wish you and your family a healthy and happy 2026! The beginning of a new year is a great time to review the past year. To that end, the Friends thanks all of our members for their continued support of the Library in 2025. Your generous donations, and the money raised by the Friends' book sales and art shows, play a vital role in supporting programs, equipment, and amenities that are among the Library's most beloved services.

As we look ahead to 2026, we humbly ask that you renew your membership for the upcoming year or become a Friend for the first time! The Friends are a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the library experience for all Chatham residents. In the past year, Friends' support made possible a wide variety of craft programs for our youngest patrons, financed the summer reading programs for kids and teens, and sponsored the library's popular museum passes and garden seed library for adults. Focusing on everyday items that library patrons can borrow, use, and enjoy, the Friends supplement the Library's municipal budget and the Library Foundation's focus on large-scale capital improvements.

The Friends of the Library – financed solely by membership donations, art shows, and our annual book sale – support programs and improvements that are not covered by the regular library operating budget, such as:

- Passes for museums like the American Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, MOMA, and many more;
- The popular youth forensics and astronomy programs;
- Furniture, planters, and benches to enhance the Library experience for all patrons; and
- Musical instruments, telescopes, and other popular items in the *Library of Things*.

Please mark your calendar for our highly anticipated annual event: the **Friends' Book Sale** beginning on March 6, 2026. Those residents who join or renew their membership in advance by making a donation of \$20 or more for the current membership year (December 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026) will receive exclusive early access to the Book Sale on opening night and early access to the Holiday Sale in December!

Chatham residents are truly fortunate to have a community Library that not only offers a wide variety of items, programs, and resources but is also cared for by a dedicated and supportive Library staff. Our Library is, of course, a great place to borrow books. But it is also a place to get online, attend lectures, meet with others, pursue a hobby, or learn something new. These latter items are supported by the generous help of Friends like you. Please renew your membership or consider becoming a Friend for the first time! Return the enclosed card, scan the QR card below, or make a donation online at <https://www.friendsofthechathamlibrary.org/>.

