



FRIENDS
of Saratoga Springs Public Library
enriching your library experience

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020 EX LIBRIS MEMBERS

Phyllis Aldrich

Pat Arno

Sheelagh Baily

John Beisler

Leslie Bell

Susan & George Bergmann

Frank Brady

Elise Cagle

Dorothy Christiansen

Helen Crawshaw

Ann Crowell

Robert & Marcia DeSieno

Marilyn Devine

Marji Dickinson

Jean Dugan

Becky Ford

Ben Ford

Friends of Harry Dutcher

Leo Geoffrion

Jim Gold

George Grigorovitch

Henry & Pauline Hamelin

Karen Kolanowski

Deirdre Leland

Marian Lewis

Nancy Luther

Marilyn Mammola

Gloria Marceau

Thomas Martin

Genia Meinhold

Barbara Morris

Margarita Muinelo

Jean Murphy

Kristina Neddo

Carol Newhouse

Pat Oles

Ruth-Ann Parent

Jay Portnoy

Ike Pulver

Carol Reynolds

Almeda Riley

Joanna Schneider Zangrando

Lindsay Shippee

Dr Robert & Barbara Sponzo

Suzanne Steinkamp

Julia Stokes

Sullivan/Eichler

Marilyn Vanden-Handel

Kathleen Young

Jeannette Zehr

Alice & Don Zeiger

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Leah Moore Woods

Though we end the Friends fiscal year in May 2020 amid strange and tumultuous times, it gives us a welcome opportunity to look back on a good year, with many positive community moments for the Friends of Saratoga Springs Public Library.

In Spring 2019, we held a gathering in the Saratoga Springs Public Library with many Friends and Volunteers. We celebrated Library Volunteer Betty O'Connor by presenting her The Marie Madden Volunteer Award, recognizing her support of reading, learning, and a literate society, and Jim Gold by presenting him H. Dunham Hunt Award, recognizing his outstanding service to the community through support of the public library.

The summer brought an exciting addition to the Library - the Library Outreach Van! Happily driven into our Library's parking lot in summer 2019, fundraised in 2018/2019, and made possible by a generous grant from the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust, this Outreach Van will help Library Staff bring services to every corner of our library district. In July and August, we greatly enjoyed offering ticket discount opportunities to Friends to attend NYC Ballet and Philadelphia Orchestra performances, through a partnership with the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Our Library community was thrilled to have such access to world class performances!

The fall highlight was the co-presentation of a unique event! The Friends partnered with Shelters of Saratoga, Saratoga Springs Public Library and New York Library Association to present a showing of Emilio Estevez' film, *The Public*. The film explores many important topics, including homelessness, mental illness, polarized government, and slanted news coverage, and it is set inside a public library. The showing at Bowtie Cinema gathered 90 attendees, many Friends, and many others visiting our city as New York Library Association conference attendees. Ticket donations raised \$1,153, with donations shared between the Friends and Shelters of Saratoga's Code Blue program.

In winter 2020, the Friends were very excited to support SaratogaReads! programming for our city-wide read, *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah. The Friends funding provided a raffle for free tickets to community members to see Trevor Noah live at the Times Union Center in Albany, NY. The event was a great success, widening horizons while giving us all a good laugh.

Of course, spring 2020 has brought many challenges, unexpected and unprecedented in the history of our organization. With the strength of our volunteers, and under the experienced guidance of our Book Shop Manager, Jeff Budge, we are making plans toward the goal of reopening the Book Shop. We do not know what form that reopening will take, and many adjustments will be needed, but with innovative thinking and collaboration, we feel the Friends will thrive. Our mission is to support the programs, staff, and facilities of the public library, and we will continue to do that, no matter the obstacles!

Each and every season, we must, of course, thank our Friends Members, who join, and rejoin the Friends ranks every year, and who's donations provide funding which improves our Library.

We would like to say a special thank you to all of our wonderful Friends Volunteers. Thank you for all you do! Your efforts bring success to our Friends Book Shop, and by extension, our Library!

Thank you also to Friends, Volunteers and community members who donate items to the Book Shop - the high quality merchandise we have available for the community, comes from the community!

Because of all this support, the Friends community can be proud of a good year, and together the Friends can weather the current storm and come out stronger, ready for our next successful year.

BOOK SHOP COMMITTEE

Gloria Marceau, Chair

Fiscal year 2019-2020 was a very successful year for the Book Shop. There was a slight decrease in the in-store sales, but an increase in our on-line sales. Amazon sales have almost doubled each month compared to the same timeframe as the previous year. EBay sales is another potential sales generating revenue producer and a team was working on listing items on that platform.

The Book Shop has about 80 volunteers and every one of them is vital to the success of the Book Shop, they bring subject matter expertise and a dedication and love of books. The Board thanks all of the volunteers and also our Book Shop Manager Jeff Budge for his tireless commitment to assist the volunteers and to Jeff's innovative ideas of how to maximize sales in the most cost efficient manner.

The COVID-19 pandemic closed the Book Shop in mid-March and unfortunately also shut down the on-line sales. Personnel were not allowed in the building and our inventory is located in the library. This is an ongoing situation and the Book Shop and the Friends of the Library are working with the library on the reopening protocols.

Estimated sales for fiscal year 2020-2021, in-store will be lower due to the closing of the Shop and the possible restricted access to the Shop for the immediate future. When personnel are allowed into the Library we will open our on-line sales. We rely on our donations and the safe processing of donations will be handled under the protocols set by the library.

COVID-19 has affected all of our lives and will continue to for a period of time, we look forward to the new normal and will make the necessary adjustments to serve the community.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The public relations committee, working in conjunction with the book shop committee, the board leadership and the library's public relations staff, worked to expand awareness of the organization and the book shop's activities.

Our Facebook page, which has grown its following by about 15 percent in the past year, has been our main way of communicating with the community, sharing information about sales at the book shop, special events and board activities. The committee also experimented with a Facebook advertisement to try to attract new members to the organization.

We also distributed emails to our list of "friends" and past patrons that updated them on sales, our fundraiser trip and important news.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tim Maguire, Chair

Total Book Shop revenue was down due to COVID-19 requirements to close the Library and the Book Shop. Even with the forced close, the consistent stream of revenue has allowed the Friends to continue their support of library programs such as the Children's Summer Reading, \$5,000 Program, Saratoga Reads, \$5,973, Staff development day, \$3,032 and the upgrade of computers and registers for the bookshop. There is a Net Loss of (\$49,962) due to recording the payment of \$56,923 for the library van and advertising wrap, \$5,973 for Saratoga Reads, Staff development day, \$3,302 and Summer Reading Program, \$5,000. In addition to community support, the Friends also pays an annual rent of \$8,450 for the Book Shop space to the Library.

Financial Report May 2019 - April 2020

Balance Sheet as of 04/30/2020

Assets:

Cash	\$101,450
Other Assets	\$3,021

Total Assets	<u>\$104,471</u>
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Liabilities and Equity:

Payroll Liabilities	\$46
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Total Liabilities	<u>\$46</u>
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Unrestricted Net Assets	\$154,387
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Net Revenue	\$(49,962)
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Total Equity	<u>\$104,425</u>
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Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$104,471</u>
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Revenue and Expense Summary May 2019 - April 2020

Income:

Book Shop	\$101,576
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Fundraising	\$2,431
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Interest	\$99
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Membership Dues	\$9,300
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Jan Lilibridge Scholarship Fund	\$1,200
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Total Income	<u>\$114,606</u>
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Expenses:

Administrative	\$10,051
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Book Shop	\$76,175
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Community Support	\$70,928
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Payroll Expense	\$56
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Membership	\$1,056
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Public Relations	\$240
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Special Events	\$6,062
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Total Expenses	<u>\$164,568</u>
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Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$(49,962)</u>
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FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Rhona Koretzky, Chair

The fundraising event for Fall 2019 was a showing of the film *The Public* on November 13 at the Criterion Cinema in downtown Saratoga Springs. It was timed to coincide with the annual New York Library Association conference.

Our purpose was to draw attention to the issue of homelessness. We shared our profit with Shelters of Saratoga/Code Blue. There were 90 attendees. Ticket sales amounted to \$2,078. This included donations totaling \$275 above the ticket price. We paid \$850 for the theater rental and \$74 in fees for the online ticketing service. Profit was \$1,152. \$922 was donated to Shelters. The Friends share of the profit was \$230.

The main event for this year was the scheduled trip to Italy which would be taking place in October 2020. Unfortunately due to COVID-19, that trip has been cancelled. There has been no financial gain or loss to the Friends.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Friends currently have 328 members, of which 53 are Ex Libris. Members enjoyed a 10% discount at the Friends Book Shop, 50% off at Membership sales, a discount on Amazon special items, and individual book searches for most of the fiscal year.

We would like to thank our members for their patience as we slowly and safely get back to normal business. We appreciate your valuable and continued support.

2019-2020 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Leah Moore Woods, *President* • Bridget Languth, *Vice President* • Rose Contadino, *Secretary*
Tim Maguire, *Treasurer*

BOARD MEMBERS: Jessica Niles, Rhona Koretzky, David Lombardo, Gloria Marceau,
Ian Townsend, Lyn Vanden- Handel, Klare Ingram

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Marie Madden Award

The Marie Madden Volunteer Award is presented annually by the Friends of Saratoga Springs Public Library to recognize those who support reading, learning, and a literate society by offering their volunteer services to the public library.

This award is given in memory of Marie Madden, a dedicated and tireless library volunteer whose good humor, high spirits, and hard work were an inspiration to library workers, library users, library trustees and all true FRIENDS of the Saratoga Springs Public Library and libraries everywhere.

This year's nominee is **Rose Contadino**, whose design work transformed the library's new outreach van into a work of mobile art. Her creativity, patience, good humor, and vision during this process were admirable and greatly appreciated, and her work will leave an indelible impact.

H. Dunham Hunt Award

The H. Dunham Hunt Award is presented annually by the Friends of Saratoga Springs Public Library to recognize outstanding service to the community through support of the public library.

This award is given in memory of Dr. H. Dunham Hunt who throughout his life was a dedicated and tireless supporter of public library service, and who gave endlessly of his time and talent to create and nurture the Saratoga Springs Public Library from its inception in 1945 to his death in 1982.

This year's nominee is **Jessica Niles**, under whose leadership during her tenure as President of the Friends of Saratoga Springs Public Library, the Library, via the Friends, secured grants from the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust for the purchase of an outreach van, and from Time Warner for the purchase of digital equipment. Through reviving mobile library services and helping to bridge the digital divide, these two initiatives will have a lasting impact on access to library services.

VOLUNTEERS 2020

Roberta Ambrosino	Jesse Hunter	Shelley Riley
Lisa Aronson	Penny Jolly	Betty Ruger
Ev Bedard	Bob Kearney	Stephanie Ryall
George Bergmann	Debbie Kemp	Bridges Saratoga
Amanda Blodgett	Joan Lambert	Linda Schneider
Alex Bowen	Carolyn Lansberry	Katie Schriber
Christienne Budge	Debbie Lauper	Fran Schwartz
Elsie Cagle	Resources Living	Sherry Smith
Shelley Carter	Diane Lloyd	Bonnie Smith
Janice Christiano	Garth Lloyd	Steve Strang
Eileen Coughlin	Penny Lockwood	Jean Tokarski
Joan Crean	Peter Luczak	Donna Tschetter
Mary Beth Delarm	Sharon Maidment	Craig Tunwall
Marilyn Devine	Marilyn Mammola	Brittany Tyrrell
Jean Dugan	Staci Mannian	Lyn Vanden-Handel
Barbara Egerman	Taryn Matusik	Bonnie Wasson
Henry Fernau	Mary Jo Michaud	Cheryl Woll
Sydelle Fischer	Diana Miller	Roland Wright
Larry Forneris	Linda Morzillo	Dee Wright
Mitchell Frost	Erica Oroszi	Alice Zeiger
Denise Gordon	Ellen O'Rouke	
Ginny Hewitt	Kathy Pike	

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Alice Zeiger

Since 1998, Alice has worked tirelessly as a volunteer for the Friends. In addition to doing a 4-hour desk shift for almost 10 years, she also is responsible, as a Shop Department Head, to price and determine what books should be put in the shop. Alice is head of more than half of our 80 shop categories. Her encyclopedic knowledge of her categories and what sells in the shop is truly amazing. She once went on leave for a month and a half- I had to find four volunteers to even attempt to do what she does. Alice brings with her an invaluable combination of being dependable and personable- truly deserving of this recognition.