

Friends of the Greenfield Public Library

Presidents Report

Annual Meeting – June 22, 2009

It has been a successful and productive year for the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library. The Friends are, above all, advocates for the Library. We do this through many different fundraising events throughout the community. Our goal is to raise money and give to the library for programs and supplies that the town and state are not able to pay for. We as believers in community, education, and access to information feel it is necessary in the society we live in. In the troubling economic times we faced in the 2008-2009 campaign, the future of our library is more important now than it has ever been. The public libraries across our state are economic equalizers with loss of jobs and financial freedom.

Over the last 12 months, our board has been busy. We started this year's campaign with a successful fall event "For the Birds" organized by Deb Deskavich and Ann Dillon. In the early spring, thanks to Hope Schneider, Cyndie Rothschild, and Richard Gordon, we hosted our first pub quiz at the Meadows Golf Course. Then we had our 2nd Annual Plant sale chaired by Nicky Shipman and Jenny Hall. In addition to these major events, our Book Sales Committee lead by Bill Buchanan and Cyndie Rothschild has raised over a quarter of our income throughout the year. Our latest spin in regards to book sales has been the sale of books through Amazon.com, thanks to Deb Deskavich and her crew. And lastly, thanks to Ellen Berson and her Annual Membership Appeal, we have received a third of our total income through mailers and a beautiful letter written by the Buchanans and Sharon Sharry. So many members of the Friends board are to thank for a years worth of planning, setting up, executing, and clean-up for each event, the time and hours spent by our board is mind boggling.

Other major projects we are involved in that do not produce income but spread our message to the public are just as important to us. Thank you to Hope Schneider and Cindy Snow for the Poet's Seat Poetry contest they host year after year. Thank you to Connie Towler and Lynne Rudie for our Newsletter that reaches over 1600 members of our community. Thank you to Karen Larabee for her relations with Irmalie Jones and all of the publications who help promote our events and messages throughout the year.

We raise money and awareness for the Library without hopes of accolations and rewards. But our Library Director Sharon Sharry seems to praise our work on a regular basis. One of my goals as president has been to build a strong relationship with our not-so-new-

anymore library director. We want to thank Sharon, and her staff for helping us with our raffles, our sales, or communication to the community at the library, and for loving us day after day as we put more and more tasks on their plate. Also, thank you to the Trustee's and especially Doris Cowdrey for continuing to be strong partners and supporters of each others functions and responsibilities in regards to the library.

In finishing off this letter, I have happy news and then happier news. We will say thank you and good-bye to two of our Board Members. First to Deb Deskavich who has been part of our board for only a few years, but who has been so active and inspiring in all of our events and spear-heading numerous projects, she will always be remebered for contributing more in her time than most. And second to Marie Beeching who has been on the board for a longer period of time, who has served as an officer for many of those years, who is loyal to procedure, is always the first to volunteer, who is great on the landscaping front, and above all, a pleasure to be around. Her wisdom and sense of stucture will be missed.

On the other side of the coin, we welcome two new members to our board. Cynthia McNeilly has accepted a position on our board and she come with compliments from Cyndie Rothschild. We welcome your fresh ideas and your different perspectives on all that we do. And our second addition is Steve Roberto, husband to Deb Deskavich and #1 handy-man to every project and event we have had since Deb joined. Steve has done so much as "husband to the board", we are all happy to have the opportunity to see him more on a regular basis.

In conclusion, I will say that this past year has been a success in so many ways. We have advocated for the library, we have raised money for the library, but above all, the relationships that have been built with my fellow board members are special to me. Both because I love the library, but also because of the people who sit in this room who also love the library. I thank everybody on the board mentioned in this report and not mentioned who contribute in their way and will continue to contirbute in the 2009-2010 campaign. With the building blocks in place, we have no where to go but up. The goal for the 2009/2010 campaign is to raise 10% more than we raised in this past year. It will take a combined effort from all members on thies board, but if we try and succeed, then we make our Greenfield Public Library 10% better than it is now. Let's get to work...

Sincerely,

Joseph Ruggeri