



DECEMBER
2020

BOOK FRIENDLY

WE'RE STILL HERE! KATHY ADAM BROWNE

Just as the Library and its services have been modified to reflect health and safety requirements during the ongoing COVID pandemic, the Friends of the Library have faced challenges as well. Many events and activities presented by the Friends have not taken place and many initiatives have been put "on hold". However, the Friends continue to support and enhance the Library's mission to the community in many ways even in these difficult times.

"Books for Babies", an annual event whereby parents and grandparents can receive a new children's book, library card application and other helpful information was held in early November.

FOL volunteers through the Outreach committee are delivering books and other materials to homebound individuals and residents of senior housing and nursing homes.

The Friends are also continuing their financial support of the very popular Museum Pass program as well as the

Library's audio-visual collection. To help families enjoy both reading and our local parks, the Friends partnered with the Library on the Nature Walk at Garnsey Road Park, Hayes Nature Park, Veterans Memorial Park and Northwoods Nature Preserve.

While the used book sales were not held in the spring or fall of this year, committee members are working hard to come up with new ways to offer alternatives to the big sales of the past. The hope is to offer used books and other materials while adhering to health and safety guidelines.

The FOL newsletter continues to be published quarterly in order to keep our members informed. And our Membership committee is still taking memberships and renewals. We're



Happy Holidays Ahead!

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*Think of all the beauty
still left around you
and be happy.*

Anne Frank

OUR LIBRARY RESPONDS TO THE PANDEMIC

ALEX GUTELIUS, DIRECTOR

It has undoubtedly been a challenging year for all of us. The Library remained closed for an unforeseeable four months, and during that time, our staff was tasked with the challenge of how to continue to bring library services to patrons, without access to the library building. It was time to put on our creative thinking caps and we did! Our electronic resources—ebooks, audiobooks, and movies—were always available to patrons and continue to be. We were happy to see an uptick in users during this time. As Zoom became part of our everyday vocabulary, our staff began having “live” programs via the virtual platform. We will continue to conduct many programs via Zoom for the immediate future. While we know it is not the same as attending a program in the building, it has been great to see familiar faces as well as new ones.

We are currently open 44 hours a week and many of our services are available. We recently reopened our public computer area, as well as some limited study space. Newspapers, magazines, and notary services are once again available. While we cannot offer in-person programs at this time, our staff has come up with many creative alternatives, including virtual programming, videos, story time live, tech help appointments by phone, and take-n-make craft and activity bags for both children and adults. In early December we will launch a new, free database called Creativebug to give you some inspiration for crafting at home.

This fall, we moved to a “live” presentation of our very popular story time. Each week our Youth Services staff read stories, sing songs, and greet young viewers live on our Facebook page. This was a great alternative to our normal story time, and as we move into the winter months, will serve as a nice outlet for parents to enjoy with their children without having to trek out into the cold and snowy weather!

Our staff has also been hard at work putting together video presentations that you can watch on your own, at any time on our YouTube channel. We cover everything from computer and technology tutorials to local history presentations to craft and activity ideas for the kids.

We look forward to adding more hours in the New Year and will continue to increase services, as safety guidelines allow. Something to note, our WiFi can always be accessed from outside the building--either from your car in our parking lot,

or while sitting in our reading garden or back lawn on milder days. And don't forget, you always have access to our digital collections and resources --24 hours a day, 7 days a week-- for reading, researching, listening, and watching!



“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. ‘So do I,’ said Gandalf, ‘and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.’” —J.R.R.

HOW YOU CAN HELP AS THE PANDEMIC CONTINUES

JO ANNE ROBBINS

Many seniors, especially those homebound and living alone, could use a helping hand. Here's how you can help.

1. Check on seniors, disabled or other at-risk neighbors in your area. Since there should be no contact right now, print out one of these #Viral Kindness Postcards and leave it on their door or doorstep. Then they'll know how to reach out!
2. Start a neighborhood signup to help those in need, using Facebook or Nextdoor. Think errands, chores, errands, and trashcans, yard work.
3. Donate to Meals on Wheels America, which works to keep older Americans across the country safe and nourished.
4. Check in on anyone you know who might have depression or anxiety, both of which can be exacerbated during a crisis like this.

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BOOKS FOR BABIES INITIATIVE

Each year, the Library invites Library District parents or grandparents of a newborn (up to six months old) to join in celebrating National Children's Book Week with "Books for Babies."

This year, during the week of November 9 -15, parents or grandparents of a newborn were invited to stop by the Circulation Desk to receive a special gift packet compliments of the Friends. The gift packet contained among other materials, a children's board book, library card application, nutritional information and tips on reading. It focuses on the importance of health and reading, and encourages families to read to their babies and young children. Reading together helps establish the love of books and develops important early reading skills. It is also a great way to bond.

CHILDREN'S & TEEN CHOICE BOOK AWARDS MELINDA TAORMINA, HEAD OF YOUTH SERVICES

The Children's & Teen Choice Book Awards are the only national book awards voted on only by children and teens. This initiative is a program of EveryChildAReader <https://everychildareader.net>. The entire program takes place online, except for the actual trip to the Library to select a book from those listed on the ballots. However, if these titles are found in one of the two e-book and audiobook services, OverDrive and CloudLibrary, the Library offers to patrons, or found in SORA (accessed through OverDrive) through their school system, the entire experience can be virtual. That option is more important than ever during the pandemic, when we want our patrons to have choices about how they access their reading materials.

Launched in 2008 by the Children's Book Council and Every Child a Reader, the awards provide young readers with an opportunity to voice their opinions about books being written for them, and then vote for a book of the year from among preselected titles. The age categories are K-2nd; 3rd-4th; 5-6th and Teen book of the year. There are 7 titles in each category, including fiction and non-fiction.

This year, readers were able to cast their votes online beginning September 14 and ending on November 15, the last day of the fall Children's Book Week. The winners will



be announced in early December 2020.

The Children's Library at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Pubic Library features a book display of some of the 2020 titles from each grade level, excluding teens. Perhaps the teens will be included in our program next year. To see a list of last year's winners and finalists, please use the following link:

<https://www.cbcbooks.org/cbc-book-lists/2019-finalists/>



Our Children's Library Displays 2019 Winners

TWO TOWNS-ONE BOOK AWARDED \$2,000 BY STEWART'S CORPORATION LINDA CONKLIN

Three FOL Board members, Rhona Koretzky, Michelle Gorab and Linda Conklin, participated in Stewart's Shops grand opening at 1736 Route 9 in Halfmoon on October 9th. As part of the celebration, Two Towns – One Book was presented an award of \$2,000.00 in recognition of all of the opportunities and the work completed to encourage our children to take part and read. That funding will be used to purchase Chrome Books for the library to loan to patrons.

The opening drew a number of elected officials including state Sen. Jim Tedisco, R-Glenville, Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh, R-Ballston, and Clifton Park Supervisor Philip Barrett. As one of the largest employers in the county, the Stewart's Shops opening also drew Todd Shimkus, the director of the Saratoga County Chamber and Pete Bardunias, the senior vice president of community advancement for the Capital Region Chamber.

Since 2011, Linda Conklin, chair of TTOB, has put in many hours writing successful grant proposals to the Stewart's Corporation Holiday Match Program to fund a children's component of our wonderful Community Read program specifically designed for children - Kids Read, Too! Stewart's matches individual donations made in their shops from



It was a beautiful morning for a celebration!



Linda Conklin happily received the award

thanksgiving through Christmas Day. The Holiday Match Program is part of Stewart's commitment to donate 5% of their profits annually to charity.

The goal of Kids Read, Too! is to encourage families to read together and discuss important themes discovered in the Two Towns-One Book community read book of the year. The School Connections Committee, co-chaired by Carol Davis and Susan Kirby Le-Mon, provides a Junior Companion Book List, discussion questions and activities for featured titles, and several related events. Over \$8,000 has been awarded TTOB over the past 9 years. Items purchased with these funds always include the junior companion books identified each year that relate to the TTOB winning book. In addition, funds were used to purchase supplies for projects implemented every year. Journals and embossed pencils were necessary for activities associated with the Malala books purchased in 2019. In one activity, children were given the prompt, "What would you do if you had a magic pencil?" Monies were also spent on special museum presentations by miSci Museum of Schenectady and the World Awareness Children's Museum of Glens.

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LIBRARY SHADE GARDEN PATH LOUANN STEWART – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Last fall, work began on a new path leading from the Reading Garden, behind the water feature, to the back lawn of the Library. This lovely shaded walkway features plantings and perennials native to our area. It was funded by donations made in memory of Jo Piracci, former Director of the Library, and by monies raised by the Friends of the Library in support of the Library's 50th anniversary. The landscaping was provided by Faddegon's Nursery. Next spring, benches will be added to the path, and there will be a dedication ceremony honoring Jo Piracci.



It is so peaceful walking in the library shade garden.



It will be a beautiful walk during every season.

Who Loves A Garden
Poet – Louise Seymour Jones

Who loves a garden
Finds within his soul
Life's whole;
He hears the anthem of the soil
While ingrates toil;
And sees beyond his little sphere
The waving fronds of heaven, clear.

Two Towns – One Book continued from page 4

In our first year, who can forget the community's participation in the Butterfly Project, a symbol of freedom, where Kids Read, Too! furnished supplies to make butterflies that were sent to the Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas or involving the community in the origami project and sending over 1,000 paper cranes, a symbol of peace, to the Hiroshima Peace Museum in Japan. For three years, Kids Read, Too! hosted a Literary Walk in our Shenendehowa Elementary Schools. We appreciate Stewart's support in providing such services to children in our community.



IT'S SOMETHING I ALWAYS WANTED . . .

LINDA FOX

We all have had one or two thoughts of how we might be different or better people if only . . .

Travel to Europe, read **War and Peace**, write a song, knit a sweater. For many of us, COVID-19 has given us a gift of time. Maybe, time to do some of those things we always thought we should do, wanted to do, and might do . . . if only we had time.

There are several things I think I should do (or should have done) at some point in my life. But I was looking for one of those that I could actually make happen. I've watched hundreds of the Brendan Kavanaugh videos on YouTube. Ordinary people walk up to a piano installed in a London train station, sit down, and start playing their hearts out. No sheet music, no audience except passers-by. None of them look like a concert pianist. They look like moms, construction workers, college students, plumbers, businessmen. But they're all pianists. And I can say, not in a cliché, "I've always wished I could play the piano."

I thought I wanted a traditional piano, but my friend convinced me that a keyboard would fit the bill better in many ways. For one, they come with headphones so no one in the house or neighborhood can hear my efforts. Also, they don't need to be tuned and they come with a built in metronome and other features like recording and built in tunes. I followed her good advice and ordered a full-sized keyboard. I was able to assemble it in an hour or so using the instructions included.

I'm not at all networked in the music world in the Capital area, but I do have a phone. With a couple of calls to the Troy Music Academy, I was hooked up with a gentleman who teaches "adult" learners. COVID surely complicates music lessons for everyone. I was not willing to go to someone's home or to a studio. I asked for all of my lessons to be delivered via Zoom. The woman from Troy Music Academy was a little hesitant. They were just beginning to do online lessons with their established students. But she, my teacher and I were willing to give it a try.

We meet online weekly now for a half hour lesson as I stumble my way through notes, measures, chords, Hanon exercises and an occasional recognizable song. I have never

keyboard. But he is patient and kind and he's guiding me to one of my "should haves". I know now that those train station piano players, regardless of how they might appear or their station in life, have all spent years picking out notes, practicing scales and making a zillion little mistakes. I'll probably never get a chance to play with Brendan. It's ok. It would take a lifetime to get to that level of confidence and skill. For right now, I'm just playing for myself. It's something I always wanted to do.



Linda Fox enjoying her piano.

How You Can Help Continued from page 2

5. Schedule regular chats or even book or poetry readings by phone with homebound individuals.
6. Ask kids to call grandparents and other senior family members every couple of days. If they're set up to do video chat, even better.
7. Have the kids draw pictures and write letters to local seniors in nursing homes who can't have visitors at this time.
8. Call a friend or relative who's far away and lives alone. The mental toll of self-isolation can be immense for some people. Reach out to them, let them hear your voice, listen to them and make sure they are in a good mental place.
9. Don't have a nearby neighbor in need? Ask your place of worship if there are any ways to help their aging attendees.

WE'RE STILL HERE! - FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK JAMI HANLEY

Hello Friends. Hard to believe, but we are finally the end of what has proven to be a very challenging year! 2020 has brought us challenges on many fronts, and what resonates with me is that we have seen obstacles overcome by people simply working together. We have seen it in our communities, in our schools, our neighborhoods, and at our library – people from all walks of life coming together for the common good.

We at the Friends are lucky to be a part of one of these groups. Despite the many challenges faced by the library, we are thankful to have been able to stay in close communication with the library staff during the pandemic, and we are ALL looking forward to the days when we can get back to our usual routines!

Another group that needs to be recognized and thanked is our membership at large. You are amazing! You always respond to our call for help, you attend author events, book sales, and you turn out to vote in record numbers. Your support is crucial to the work we do, and we simply could not do it without you. Thank you.

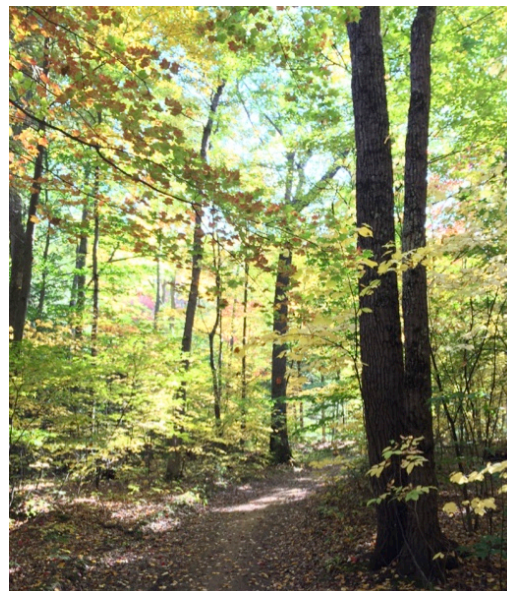
Once again, you have enthusiastically embraced our latest endeavor to encourage new and renewed memberships. Our Fall 'Backpack Bonus' membership drive has been in full swing since early October – stay tuned to find out our three lucky winners of these personally curated backpacks full of books!

On a final note, I would like to end this tumultuous year with thanks and continued gratitude to each and every one of our members in the Friends of the Library.

Join or Renew Your Membership



**It is Never Too Late! Click Here to
Download a Membership Form**



THE TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK GREEN COMMITTEE PLANNING A TREE INVENTORY

The Town of Clifton Park's GREEN Committee is starting an endeavor to take a tree inventory of the trees in town. This project will be a "citizen scientist" effort. Training of interested citizens of all ages to participate will be an important component of the project. The training will be done on Zoom, and all project activities will be socially distanced outdoors.

You may be wondering, "Why do a tree inventory?"

- 1) Risk assessment/safety issues
- 2) Track disease and pest problems
- 3) Prioritize tree budget for care and planting
- 4) Guidance on future tree planting
- 5) Develop an appreciation for trees and our natural world

There will be a variety of opportunities to participate. Those who don't physically want to observe and collect data could be involved in processing data - there will be non-contact roles for everyone.

During this time of isolation, we are about to face the winter doldrums. An opportunity to develop an appreciation for our environment (and a healthy distraction from the madness) might be a good community activity. If you are interested in participating, please contact committee member, Joanne Coons - j.coons359@gmail.com.

DANIEL W. CASEY LIBRARY ADVOCACY AWARD

In September, the NYLA (New York Library Association), Friends of Libraries Section, announced that the Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library were awarded the Daniel W. Casey Library Advocacy Award. Given annually since 1993, the award honors a volunteer member or a group from the library community whose efforts have contributed to the growth of libraries or Friends of the Library organizations.

In their August/September Newsletter, "Friends News and Notes," they recognized the Friends as an "exceptionally active group of dedicated volunteers." Special mention included our FOL Get Out the Vote Campaign, and our support of many library programs and services including Two Towns-One Book Community Read, our Museum Passes and our national and international travel program. The article also commended our organization for our community student scholarships, our newsletter and our contributions to the implementation of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library Foundation.

CPH Library Assistant Director, Jim Foster, noted, "I've been so impressed by their ability to continue meeting the original goals of the group and meet the needs of a modern library." FOL Quad Chair, Kathy Adam-Browne, recalled - "As the staff member involved with the early Steering Committee and as Staff Liaison to the organization for twenty years, I feel this has been the most dedicated, hard-working, focused group of volunteers I have ever encountered."

EARLY VOTING AT THE LIBRARY JIM FOSTER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Last October (2019), the Library hosted Early Voting in Saratoga County for the first time. It was held in the Local History Room; foot traffic was steady, but far from overwhelming.

That certainly changed this year with the extraordinary turnout nationwide for the presidential election. The Library again hosted Early Voting, but lines were at least 90 minutes long most of the time. This created some challenges for Library Staff – parking (for voters, patrons, and staff), safety in the parking lot, space in the building, and lousy weather. In order to accommodate the crowd, the library closed on the first day of voting (Saturday, November 24), but then things settled down. The voting line was re-routed, some schedules were changed, even furniture was re-arranged and the process ran smoothly for everyone. Despite the challenges, the Library is proud to have

8 played a vital role in the democratic process.



The Daniel Casey Award was presented to our FOL at a brunch in our beautiful library garden.



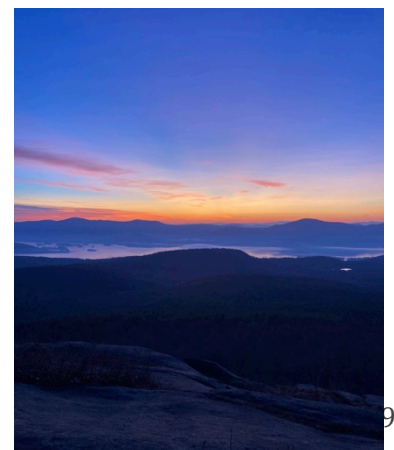
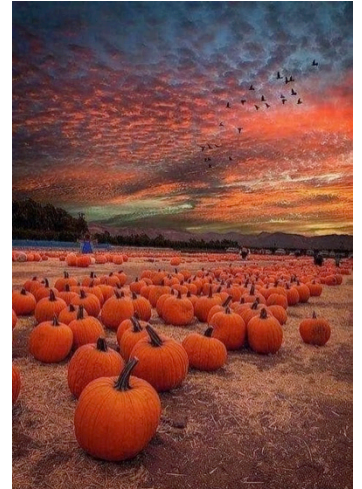
It was a beautiful day to celebrate!



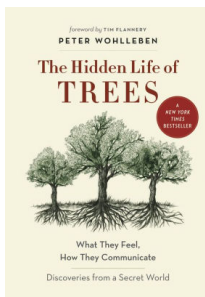
Voting . . . ran smoothly for everyone!

IT'S THE SEASON TO APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY OF UPSTATE NEW YORK

Very often, we stop to give thanks only when something exceptional has happened, on birthdays, or during other celebrations. Today, as we traverse a difficult environment - COVID and politics – we are fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of New York.



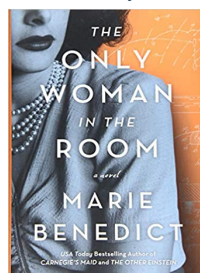
TWO TOWNS-ONE BOOK COMMUNITY GREAT READS LINDA FOX, TTOB STEERING TEAM



The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben. This beautifully written book journeys deep into the forest to uncover the fascinating—and surprisingly moving—hidden life of trees.

Only Woman In The Room by Marie Benedict.

Bestselling author, Marie Benedict, reveals the story of a brilliant woman scientist only remembered for her beauty.



Mistress of the Ritz by Melanie Benjamin. Based on the story of the



extraordinary real-life American woman who secretly worked for the French Resistance during World War II—while playing hostess to the invading Germans at the iconic Hôtel Ritz in Paris

Vanishing Half by Britt Bennett. The author

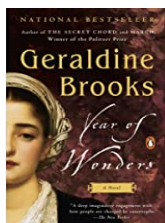
examines sisterhood, black identity, and parenthood with compassion and conviction



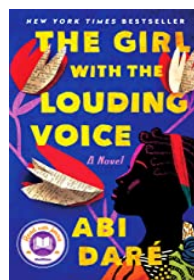
American Moonshot by Douglas Brinkley. Brinkley takes fresh look at the space program, President John F. Kennedy's inspiring challenge, and America's race to the moon.



Years of Wonder by Geraldine Brooks. This tale, set in 17th century England in a village that quarantines itself to arrest the spread of the plague, sounds amazingly familiar.



American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins. Forced to flee their home in Mexico, Lydia and eight-year-old Luca soon find themselves miles and worlds away from their comfortable middle-class life.



Girl With the Louding Voice by Abi Dare. This is a story of a teenage girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village. She longs to get an education so that she can find her “louding voice” and speak up for herself,

Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis. In this historical novel, a series of book thefts roils the iconic New York Public Library, leaving two generations of strong-willed women to pick up the pieces.



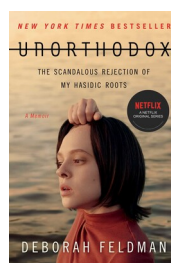
Untamed by Glennon Doyle. It is the story of how each of us can begin to trust ourselves enough to set boundaries, make peace with our bodies, honor our anger and heartbreak, and unleash our truest, wildest instincts so that we become women who can finally look at ourselves and say: “There She Is.”



Catch and Kill by Ronan Farrow. The author exposes serial abusers and a cabal of powerful interests hell-bent on covering up the truth,



Unorthodox by Deborah Feldman. Feldman's memoir (Kindle or paperback) of escaping from a strict Hasidic community also features a new epilogue by the author.



We surveyed all of our Two Towns-One Book Steering Committee, our readers, and our leaders to find out what they are reading and to get recommendation for “Great Reads” to share with you. These books were the top picks! Enjoy!

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP

JO ANNE ROBBINS

Since the pandemic began and people were thrust into the boredom of sitting around the house, more and more people have taken to the trails in state and national parks, many for the first time. What many rangers and volunteers trail caretakers have noticed are the resulting negative changes including trash left along the trails or in park and camping areas where trash receptacles are available. Graffiti has also appeared on rock outcropping and lean-tos.

On trails close to local communities, hikers planning to have a relaxing walk in nature have found parking lots filled with cars. Too many people on a trail at one time makes safe distancing a problem. Some parks have begun taking appointments and when that didn't succeed, some parks and trails have been totally shut down.

We all need to be cognizant of others who are in the same boat as we are no matter where we go to relax, exercise in the great outdoors, and enjoy the beauty of our parks and trails.

We can all be part of the solution – what you carry in to the trail or park, plan to carry it out when you leave. You can also become a volunteer. The National Park Service offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups as part of their Volunteers-In-Parks program. They offer positions ranging from a one-time service project/volunteer events to a longer-term position, serving alongside park employees.

In Clifton Park, the Town Parks & Trails Clean Up Day takes place every April. The Parks and Trails Committee encourages residents, community groups, faith groups and local businesses to sign-up teams and individuals to help clean and clear various public parks and trails to get ready for spring use. The Town provides collection bags and they pick up the debris collected from each site. In Halfmoon, there are opportunities to volunteer for clean up activities as well.

In the meantime, when you plan to go hiking, camping, cross country skiing or any other outdoor activity in our parks, please remember to be a good citizen and carry out what you carry in.



Visit the National Park Service website for additional information how you can help.

[National Park Service Web](https://www.nps.gov)

DREAMING OF BOOK SALES

WILMA JOZWIAK, QUAD CHAIR

I've been reading about COVID dreams. Rebecca Renner in National Geographic says, "With hundreds of millions of people sheltering at home during the coronavirus pandemic, some dream experts believe that withdrawal from our usual environments and daily stimuli has left dreamers with a dearth of "inspiration," forcing our subconscious minds to draw more heavily on themes from our past." So I guess that explains the dreams I've had about our FOL Used Book Sales. They've been fun – I had quite the conversation with Louise Penny, explaining why I didn't think Justin Bieber should play Chief Inspector Armand Gamache in a television series I was pitching to her (and no, I have no experience, but I've always wanted to direct).

It seems I may not be the only one dreaming about our sales since the pandemic put them in limbo. Our wonderful volunteers miss sorting books, setting up for the sale, and serving our customers during the sale (they enjoy these tasks, which is one big reason why our sales are always favorites with the public). I've had dozens of emails from members of the community wanting to donate materials (not yet – the logistics are just too much even if volunteers managed all the comings and goings). Other members of the community have contacted me to find out when sales will begin again, because they miss the opportunity to refill bookcases and choose gifts for friends and family.

The bad news is that our wonderful book sales with rooms full of books, CDs, DVDs, and people are not likely to resume in the near future, especially with a second wave of COVID-19 already on the horizon for the colder months. The good news is that we've figured out a way to make books available to purchase for holiday gifts: FOL Used Book Concierge Shopping!

We are inviting you to complete a checklist of the kinds and numbers of books you want (we will be as specific as possible, given that we know many FOL Used Book Sale purchases are serendipitous finds). Since we can't invite you into our lair, we will shop for you. Prices will be a little different from the regular sale due to the increased effort we have to expend (paperbacks \$1, Hardbacks, CDs, and DVDs \$2), but still REALLY good deals, and you can let us know how much you want to spend all told. All books, CDs, and DVDs

chosen for you will be bagged and allowed to quarantine before being made available to you. There will be a limited number of pick up days. We will prepare an envelope for each sale for your payment. If you need a receipt, you can let us know and we will place one in the envelope for you.

We hope that you will take a chance on our ersatz Used Book Sale – after all, how often do you get a concierge shopper? More information on the FOL Used Book Concierge Shopping experience can be found by clicking the link below: <https://www.friendsofcphlibrary.org/concierge-ubs-shopping-2020.html>. We will also be sending emails and posting information on our Facebook page. Stay well, and keep reading!

"Books constitute capital. A library book lasts as long as a house, for hundreds of years. It is not, then, an article of mere consumption, but fairly of capital, and often in the case of professional men, setting out in life, it is their only capital."

Thomas Jefferson

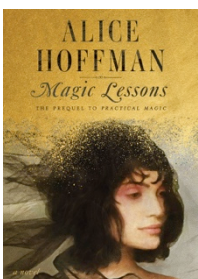
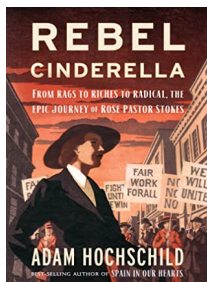




Everything Beautiful in its Time by Jenna Bush Hager. Former first daughter and granddaughter, shares moving, funny stories about her beloved grandparents.

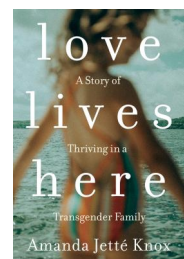
Rebel Cinderella: From Rags to Riches to Radical by Adam

Hochschild. It's a forgotten story of an immigrant sweatshop worker who married an heir to a great American fortune and became one of the most charismatic radical leaders of her time.



Magic Lessons by Alice Hoffman. The author traces a centuries-old curse to its source. It's the story of Maria Owens, accused of witchcraft in Salem, and matriarch of a line of the amazing Owens women and men featured in *Practical Magic* and *The Rules of Magic*.

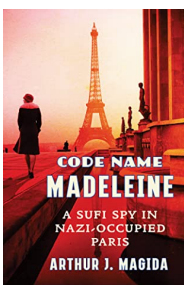
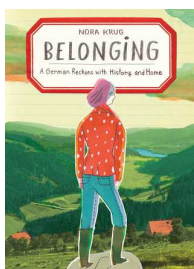
Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd. An extraordinary story set in the first century about a woman who finds her voice and her destiny, from the celebrated number one *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Secret Life of Bees*.



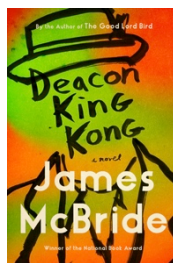
Love Lives Here by Amanda Jett Knox. The story, set in the first century, is about a woman who finds her voice and her destiny - a story of accepting and embracing two trans people in a family.

Belonging: A German Reckons with

History by Nora Krug. Krug's graphic memoir dissects anti-Semitism in her own family's history, Germany's national guilt over the Holocaust and the country's recent far-right backlash.

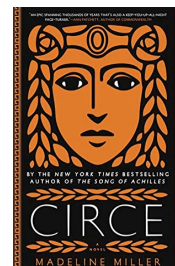


Code Name Madeleine by Arthur Majida. It's a captivating story of the valiant Noor Inayat Khan, daughter of an Indian Sufi mystic and unlikely World War II heroine.



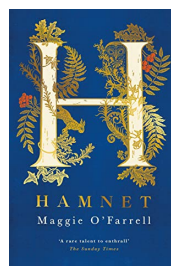
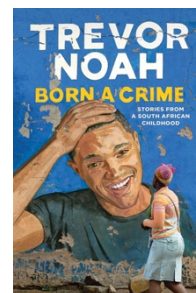
Deacon King Kong by James McBride. It's a propulsive and comic neighborhood epic set in the 1960s with a cast of characters that are beguiling, boozed-filled, and larger than life.

Circe by Madeline Miller. Miller provides a bold and subversive retelling of the goddess's story.



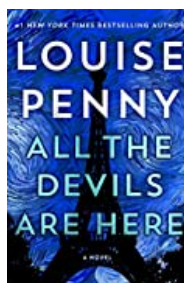
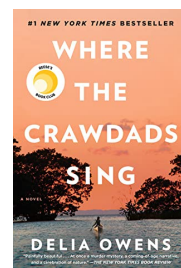
Dear Edward by Ann Napolitano. You'll enjoy this story of a young boy who must learn to go on after surviving tragedy.

Born A Crime by Trevor Noah. Trevor tells his wild coming-of-age tale during the twilight of apartheid in South Africa.

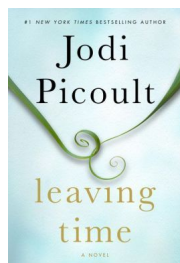


Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell. England, 1580: The Black Death creeps across the land, an ever-present threat, infecting the healthy, the sick, the old, and the young alike.

Where The Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens. This is an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and a surprising tale of possible murder.



All The Devils Are Here by Louise Penny. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec is investigating a sinister plot in the City of Light.



Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult. For more than a decade, Jenna Metcalf has never stopped thinking about her mother, Alice, who mysteriously disappeared in the wake of a tragic accident.

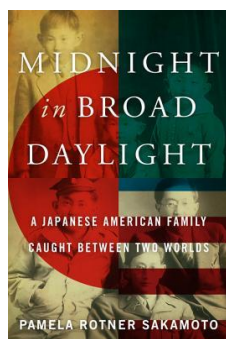
The Farm: A Novel by Joann Ramos. “The Farm is a smart, thoughtful novel about women, choices, and the immigrant experience that asks the question: How far would you go for the American dream?”



Book Woman of Creek by Kim wants to bring the hill folks, she's confront prejudice Appalachians and the holler.



Troublesome Richardson. If Cussy joy of books to the going to have to as old as the suspicion as deep as



Midnight in Broad Daylight by Pamela Rotner Sakamoto.

Alternating between the American and Japanese perspectives, this captures the uncertainty and intensity of those charged with the fighting and provides a fresh

look at the dropping of the first atomic bomb.

Olive, Again, Elizabeth Strout. Elizabeth Strout continues the life of her beloved Olive Kitteridge, a character who has captured the



TRAVELING WITH RHONA RHONA KORETZKY FORMAN

As we turn our calendars from 2020 to 2021, let's be hopeful for a return to all the wonderful experiences in our lives, including the opportunity to travel. The travel industry has been hit especially hard in the COVID pandemic; however Americans are eager to resume as soon as it is safe to do so. Travel companies are raring to go as well. As the FOL travel coordinator I can't wait for another opportunity to show our patrons the world. So I am planning, always with health and safety utmost in my priorities.

The June 2020 Colorado national parks tour that had to be canceled has been rescheduled for June 2021. We hosted a zoom presentation in October. If you missed the presentation I would be happy to send you the link to the recording. Just email me at busplus1@gmail.com. The trip will happen if and only if it is safe to travel. If you would like more information simply email.

I'm already looking ahead to 2022, March to be specific. It is only 15 months away! I have chosen an outstanding tour to reopen our international program, a two-week adventure spending one week in southern Spain and one week in Morocco. More details will be forthcoming in the spring.

I am also hopeful of resuming our bus day trips in fall 2021, with a commitment from me to bring a group to Seneca Falls to tour the women's history sites. Then I would love to revisit New York City at the holidays, just over a year from now, for the most magical experience.

I'm so grateful for all the wonderful adventures our travel group has had. I think we will all be especially grateful when we can resume! Stay tuned and stay healthy!



LIBRARY FOUNDATION FRANCINE RODGER, FOUNDATION PRESIDENT



A year ago when we formed the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library Foundation we had an idea of how we would be proceeding. As you all know, we were quite wrong.

In the past nine months, our library has had to adjust to a vastly

changing landscape, and the staff and Board have done an amazing job. While making many changes, they have uncovered a need that was less apparent a year ago.

You may have heard the term “bridging the digital divide”. It means getting access to the Internet for individuals who, for whatever reason, cannot access it. Libraries once again have found a way to help. They acquire what are known as portable hot spots (cellular access to the internet) and Chromebook computers that can be checked out by patrons, giving them Internet access for the period of the loan.

Hot spots cost about \$360 a year and Chromebooks are about \$300. The Friends of the Library recently received a grant from Stewart’s Shops that will be used to purchase Chromebooks, and we invite you to make a donation of any size to help as well. While it is not a permanent solution, it does fill a need for a short time, allowing someone to talk with far away family via Zoom or Skype, or do a tele-health visit, or countless other things.

To help the Library meet this need, the Foundation is participating in **Giving Tuesday**, an international day of community. Will you help by going to our website to make a donation?

www.cphlibrary-foundation.org

Or you may mail a donation to the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library Foundation, Giving Tuesday Campaign, 475 Moe Rd, Clifton Park, NY 12065.

Let’s join hands to help a neighbor bridge the digital divide.

WHAT DOES FOL FUNDRAISING SUPPORT

Each year, the Friends of the Library raise funds to support our wonderful library, providing funding to library projects that could not be covered in our library budget. We raise those funds with our travel program, our used book sales and our memberships. Despite the COVID pandemic shut down in 2020, the FOL has provided \$26,612 to support Library activities. Your membership and volunteer support makes this support possible. **THANK YOU!**

The amounts provided for various categories follow:

- GOTV = \$362.00 - For posters and message of support in Community News
- Library Support = \$18,408.00, includes:
 - Battle of the Books \$1,044;
 - AV collection development \$5,000.00;
 - Author events \$5,000.00;
 - Special projects \$7,000.00 (includes landscaping for the Library Reading Garden (Shade Garden) and the Nature Story Walk;
 - Museum Passes \$1,335.00;
 - Publicity \$3,467.00
 - Calendar of Library Events Weekly in Community -News \$3,300.00;
 - Bookmarks \$132.00;
 - Posters \$35.00l
 - Community Scholarships \$1,900.00;
 - TTOB \$1,140.00;
 - Books \$566.00;
 - Speakers \$300.00;
 - Supplies \$274.00

**Everything You
Might Want to
Know About
Giving Tuesday!**

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ABOUT BOOK FRIENDLY

- Book Friendly is published quarterly.
- Authors' writings do not reflect the views of the Friends of the Clifton Park - Halfmoon Public Library.
- Authors retain rights to all their own work.
- Works and photos are used with permission of authors.

Book Friendly is online!

Writers - Book Friendly is always seeking original writing. We accept: book reviews, poetry, articles, memoirs, and short stories.

Email submissions to editor, Jo Anne Robbins:
cliftonparkjosie@gmail.com.

We prefer Microsoft Word format. Please include a statement granting Book Friendly permission to use your work. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is March 15 for an April 1 publication.

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WE ARE LIBRARY PEOPLE®

WE'RE STILL HERE!

