



**SEPTEMBER
2020**

BOOK FRIENDLY

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY USED BOOK SALES: A WHOLE NEW WORLD WILMA JOZWIAK

When we folded up the last table at the end of our January Used Book Sale, we didn't know that COVID-19 was writing a new script for us.

In January, we had heard about the ravages of the coronavirus in other countries but were not yet aware that it had taken hold, with a vengeance, in New York State. For a couple of months, we continued to accept donations and sort them as always, until suddenly, our Library was closed in the effort to slow the spread of the virus. We didn't know what that meant, but within a few weeks we reluctantly agreed that the spring used book sale would not happen.

Thanks to the wisdom of our state's leaders, we have seen an amazing turnaround, and now New York State has one of the lowest rates of transmission anywhere. In order to maintain this status, our Library and other institutions are making plans in a completely new landscape that in the immediate future will mean a

very different way of doing business. That includes a slow and careful return to Library functions: first, returns of materials checked out before the virus hit, then limited and strictly socially distanced access to the Library, and so on.

What does this all mean for our Used Book Sales going forward? We are not yet sure. We will be brainstorming with our Library administration in the near future to decide. You see, there are many moving parts to a Used Book Sale, beginning with donations. Studies have shown that after 72 hours, there is no detectable virus on surfaces like books and other media, so that means that when we can resume receiving them, donations will have to be quarantined for that period of time. (We will post on our website and Facebook page as well as sending emails when donations can resume, as soon as we know.). Once out of quarantine, the books and other materials must be sorted; some of our volunteers may not feel safe resuming sorting activities, even with social distancing, until the virus is completely controlled, so availability of volunteers will also be a determining factor.

And then, there are the sales themselves. Anyone who has shopped one of our sales knows that people are (much) closer than six feet while

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"The world is going through a period of crisis, but whether we look at it as a crisis or as an opportunity to reshape our thinking, depends on us. So use this period as a lesson on how to live life with a concern for all of humankind."

— Abhijit Naskar

OUR LIBRARY RESPONDS TO THE PANDEMIC: SAFETY AND SERVICE A TOP PRIORITY

ALEX GUTELIUS, DIRECTOR

When the Library closed its doors at 5pm on March 15, no one could have imagined that the temporary closure would continue until early July. Making the decision to close for two weeks was very difficult, but of course in hindsight it was absolutely the correct decision. We had spent the previous weeks and days learning what we could about the coronavirus and its potential impact on our community. High touch items like toys and puzzles were removed from the Children's Library. Programs scheduled for March were postponed. Signage from the CDC was posted reminding patrons and staff to practice good hand hygiene.

Our Library is fortunate that we have an excellent IT infrastructure. IT projects completed in 2019 for other reasons enabled a smooth transition to working from home. Staff were able to access files, and hardware was loaned where necessary. A recent upgrade to our phone system allowed IT staff to reprogram incoming calls and forward them to staff members working from home.

As the reality of the pandemic set in, we began to plan how to support the community through what might be a lengthy closure. Lending books, DVDs and other physical items was no longer a possibility, nor were in-person programs. We needed to re-define our service model, while still supporting our mission of fostering community connections, and proving the space and resources for patrons to be educated, enriched and entertained.

We immediately increased our spending on electronic books and audiobooks through Cloud Library and OverDrive and put more resources behind our streaming service Hoopla. Throughout the months of April and May, ebook use skyrocketed and patrons found lots of movies and television programs to watch on Hoopla. For many patrons this was the first time they had used our digital services, and our Digital Services Librarian was busier than ever providing remote education and technical support.

Prior to the pandemic, library staff had dabbled in online programming, but the priority was always in-person programming. When overnight we all had to work from home, our creative and talented staff took on the challenge of learning new skills to record story times and host Zoom

meetings and webinars. We now have dozens of recordings on the Library's YouTube account, and more are added every day.

Throughout the closure, staff were also preparing for the reopening of the Library. We know for many patrons there is nothing better than a physical book. Once the state issued guidance for reopening, we were able to create our safety plan for reopening and began implementing our staged services reopening plan. The safety plan included having our Plexiglas shields in place and an adequate supply of PPE and cleaning supplies. On June 15, we began receiving some of the nearly 30,000 items that patrons had in their possession for three months, and on June 22 we began curbside delivery.

The health and safety of our patrons and staff is of utmost importance in all our plans. We opened the library building on July 6 in a very limited fashion, and reopened the first floor for browsing on July 20th. We are slowly providing additional access to the building and our services, with health and safety as our top priority. We recognize that patrons are eager to have regular library services – but we feel that a slow, careful opening is the safest option. We appreciate your help and patience as we navigate these new safety protocols.



"As the reality of the pandemic set in, we began to plan how to support the community through what might be a lengthy closure."

Used Book Sale Continued from page 1

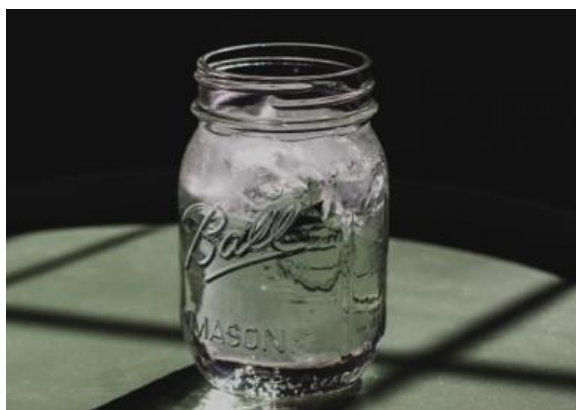
shopping – and for that matter, even while standing in line waiting to get into the sale. Part



of our planning process will have to include practices for ensuring safe distancing. And of course, everyone –

volunteers as well as customers – will have to wear masks appropriately situated over mouth and nose. Volunteers are critical to the sales process as well. We have as many as 75 people helping on any given sale long weekend. Since many of our existing volunteers may be part of a vulnerable group, they may not be able to help until the virus is completely under control.

As you can see, this is not a simple solution to achieve. We WANT to make used books and other materials available to our community again as soon as we can, but we are also very aware of the importance of keeping our community and our volunteers as safe as possible in the new world we now inhabit. We will keep you informed as we go forward.



Best COVID-19 recommendation – hydrate, hydrate, hydrate!

2020 YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC OR HOW THE ‘C’ WORD CHANGED EVERYTHING - JAMIE HANLEY

Membership: it’s one of those ‘behind the scenes’ kinds of things, but an important one, nonetheless. Especially when you know what it supports. The monies brought in through membership are one of our top three biggest sources of revenue for the Friends; it allows us to support many wonderful programs at the Library - including author visits, travel opportunities, Battle of the Books, museum passes, and so much more.

This year has proven to be difficult on so many different levels, and all because of the ‘C’ word - call it novel coronavirus or new coronavirus or call it COVID-19 – it has changed our lives in ways we could not have imagined. While our everyday lives have been put on pause, and we are perhaps feeling anxious and concerned about what may come, it can be difficult to find the positives around us. In an attempt to find that positivity, I have come up with a few “C words” to see how they apply to the Friends.

In these times of uncertainty, I am very **Certain** of one thing – we (the Friends) are more than just a group of volunteers. We are a **Community** of **Caring** people, we are **Creative**, **Compassionate**, and **Cooperative**. We have the **Courage**, **Conviction** and **Commitment** to continue brainstorming despite whatever **Challenges** are thrown our way. We have been both **Crafty** and **Collaborative** in our response to Covid-19, and we are **Cautiously** optimistic that we will indeed get to a new normal that includes our hugely popular Used Book Sales, providing baked goods at Library functions, supporting author events, and most importantly welcoming back both old and new members into our **Community** of Friends.

More than ever, we need the support of our members in order to continue our mission of supporting a wide range of programs at the Library. While things may not feel or look the same, rest assured the Friends are working hard behind the scenes, and collaborating with the staff of the Library, to bring you the programs you so enjoy. Please, spend a little time on our website and get to know us better. We welcome questions, concerns, comments and suggestions and hope that you will consider becoming part of our **Community**, either for the first time or coming back to be with Friends.

[Click here to download a Membership Form.](#)

Keep **Calm** and Read On

LIBRARY BUDGET VOTE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH 7:00am - 9:00pm

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 17th**. That's the day of the Annual Library Budget Vote. We need your support to help safeguard this valuable community asset. As *Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library*, we take special pride in supporting and advocating on behalf of our Library. In the past, before the COVID pandemic, the Friends provided many programs throughout the year that support the Library through advocacy, community outreach and fundraising to assist in specific library projects. And even as the novel corona virus shut down our Library and our in-person programs, that didn't stop our Library from providing excellent on-line services and on the phone support. It also spurred our FOL organization to modernize, streamline, and think of other ways to communicate and support our Library community.

One noteworthy program that the Friends offer and support is the **Two Towns-One Book (TTOB) Community Read**. On vote day, the TTOB usually announces the book of the year. This year, because of the pandemic, the TTOB Steering Committee will be installing a display about our plans for 2021 in the large glass display cabinet under the stairs at the Library. Don't miss it. The TTOB program has been streamlined to allow us to offer programming in this new and ever-changing environment.

Here are a few facts about the Library you might find interesting:

How the Library Receives Funding

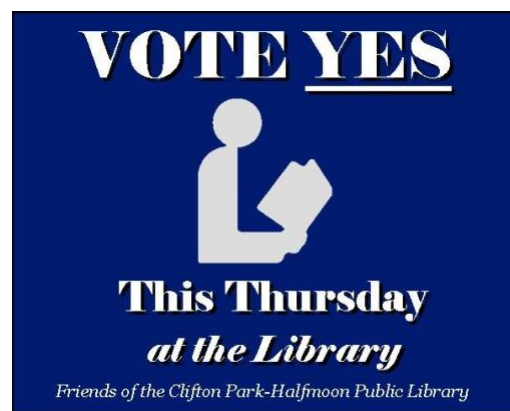


Our Library is a fully tax-supported community institution serving a specially formed tax district composed of the Town of Clifton Park and most of the Town of Halfmoon. The vast majority of Library operating revenue comes from an annual tax levy.

Each year, in September, a

budget proposal is presented to district residents for approval. **All registered voters** residing in the library district for at least 30 days are eligible to vote after showing proof of residency. Both **renters** and **property owners** are eligible. A detailed description of the proposed budget was mailed to all Clifton Park and Halfmoon residents in late August. It is also available at the Library, and on the Library's website.

The Library's Annual Budget Supports Programs and Services
Approval of the Library budget provides the funding to:



This bright blue sign will remind you of our upcoming budget vote.

- Support the collection of books, DVDs, audio books, e-books; digital music, and digital magazines;
- Provide the many services offered such as reference and wireless Internet access;
- Provide a wide range of on-line programs and services for children, teens, families, and adults.

While the Library remained closed for nearly four months due to the pandemic, the library staff worked diligently to continue to provide programs and services to our patrons. Library staff were quickly introduced—as we all were—to the world of virtual programs, meetings, and presentations. The Library saw high interest and participation from the community and gratitude from those who welcomed new opportunities and even a sense of adventure as we learned new skills and adapted to a different “normal.”

How Patrons can Support the Library

Please help the Friends of the Library demonstrate our strong support of our Library during this challenging time by showing up on Thursday, September 17th to vote YES for our 2021 Library Budget!

If you will not be in town on that date, an application for an absentee ballot may be obtained at the Circulation Desk, and on the Library's website. In the meantime, stay safe and keep reading!

A WALK DURING COVID-19

PAULINE BOEHM

Poetry has been a love of mine since elementary school when I was introduced to "The Children's Hour" by Longfellow. I began writing poetry around the age of 10. I continued to do so for years but had gotten away from it over time. Covid-19 and the isolation that ensued gave me lots of time on my hands and I began writing once again. Attached is one of the poems I wrote during this time.

A Walk During COVID-19 April 7, 2020

At 7 a.m. the sun was rising across a cloudless, azure sky
Trees, laden with buds, raised up their expectant limbs.
There was no sound of cars to drown out the bird-song
or to pollute the morning air.
The sidewalks were empty.
The peace that often comes with silence was missing.
This was a solitude of uneasiness.
Suddenly the smell of sizzling bacon
and the comforting aroma of strong coffee
filled my nostrils and made me stop.
From a partially open window I heard voices
speaking in low, early-morning tones.
And from another window
Floated the deep voice of Leonard Cohen
Singing Hallelujah from a CD.
Taking a deep breath, I smiled
feeling that all would be well again . . . in time.



"... all will be well again, in time."

ARE LIBRARY BOOKS SAFE TO USE? NOTES FROM THE CDC

JO ANNE ROBBINS

If you frequently borrow books from the Library, you may be wondering how to make sure it is still safe to borrow books from the library. Some of the books we borrow are paperback, and some of the books have Mylar or laminated plastic covers. Does this make a difference regarding safety?

According to Dr. Colin Furness, an infection control epidemiologist and assistant professor at the University of Toronto, the precautions for books should be the same as anything else you come into contact with.

"Book borrowing is a bit like grocery shopping," said Furness. "You are touching items and bringing them into your house. We can't wash or boil books, obviously. So, the thing to do is to clean your hands after touching them before touching your face."

When you borrow a book from our library, the books have already been sitting and decontaminating in bins for 96 hours before they are returned to the shelves.

"Coronaviruses are most commonly spread via respiratory droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or by close, prolonged personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands."



Our Library, because of the phased in process of reopening and the safety precautions in our reopening plan, is not crowded, but we do get a lot of traffic over the course of the day, so it is probably a good idea to have some hand sanitizer with you and use it after touching anything, such as door handles or books. Of course, hand sanitizer is also available at the library.

The most important things to remember, no matter where you are or what you're dealing with, are to wear a mask when in contact with others, avoid touching your face, and keep good hand hygiene.

Notes taken from the [CDC News](#) · Posted: May 15, 2020 4:00 AM ET.

NEWS FROM TWO TOWNS - ONE BOOK

RHONA KORETZKY

The steering committee has decided to put TTOB on pause. We all prefer in person events and since we aren't sure when that might be possible we have chosen to take spring 2021 to plan with a hoped for resumption of programming in fall 2021. So watch for an announcement of the chosen title.

In the interim we do want to encourage everyone to keep reading! One positive of staying close to home has been that people are voraciously reading. To encourage our community of readers, we've put the call out to our TTOB steering committee and reading committee members to recommend a title they've read recently and enjoyed. We're encouraging all members of our community to do the same. Our future issues of Book Friendly will each include another list of suggested books. Please feel free to send your own suggestions to Rhona Koretzky at busplus1@gmail.com and watch for your choice to be featured in a future issue!

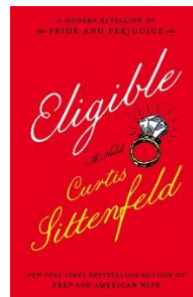
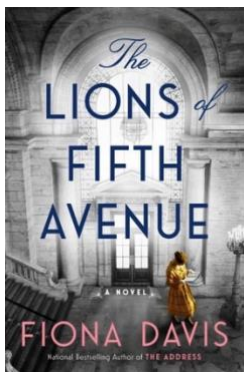
Our titles for this issue are as follows:

The Whip by Karen Kondazian
Inspired by the true story of Charley Parkhurst, this story is about an extraordinary woman who lived her life as a man in order to keep her career as a stagecoach driver.



The Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis

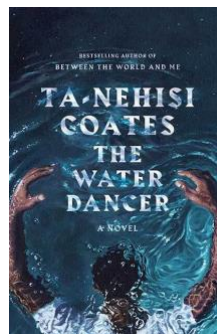
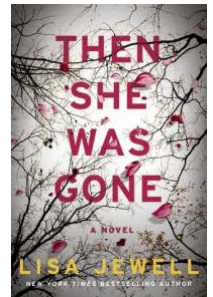
It is a story centered in the NY Public Library (before the Lions were Patience and Fortitude, they were Leo and some other name), and is a mystery that includes valuable stolen books and manuscripts.



Eligible: A Modern Retelling of Pride & Prejudice by Curtis Sittenfeld

This version of the Bennett family and Mr. Darcy features Liz, a magazine writer in her late 30s living in NYC, neurosurgeon, Fitzwilliam Darcy and the Bennett Family of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Then She Was Gone by Lisa Jewell
The setting is present day London. The story embellishes on family dynamics after a tragedy.

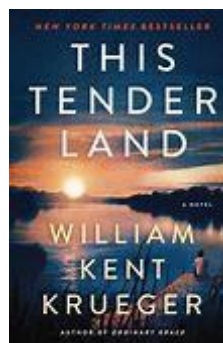
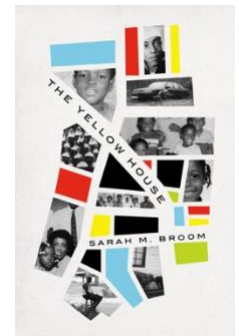


The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates
Heartbreakingly beautiful, a compelling group of stories of multiple generations, each unique, personal and tragic. You won't put

this one down.

The Yellow House by Sarah Broom

The 2019 National Book Award winner for non-fiction (which reads like a novel), this is an exploration of black lives and the politics of poverty in New Orleans.



The Tender Land by William Kent Kruger

Set in Minnesota in 1932, four orphans leave a Native American school to head for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call home.

The TTOB committee wishes everyone good health and happy reading!

It's raining outside - why a perfect day to curl up with a good book! It's snowing outside - I think I'll curl up by the fire with a good book! What a hot, sunny day! I don't want to get sunburned, so I'd better curl up in the shade with a good book! Oh, my, I have to stay home during this COVID isolation. I'll simply have to sit in my most

COVID MUSINGS

WILMA JOZWIAK

My husband and I know that we are very fortunate and, yes, privileged, because we have not been negatively impacted either health-wise or financially by the pandemic. We worry about our daughter returning to teach third grade in the fall, but we don't have a first responder in the family. The impact for us has been an immediate stop to pretty much everything - no volunteering, no tai chi, no in-person board meetings.

We are not very social people, so for the first couple of weeks, we sort of enjoyed the opportunity to relax. As one meme put it, it was the first time in our lives that sitting on the couch and watching TV was patriotic. And of course, given that most of our yard is one big garden, there was plenty to do outside. But that all got stale after a while, and like I suspect many of you have done, I turned to organizing and sorting and deciding what to keep.

I am not a Marie Kondo groupie, so for me the sorting is less about "what gives me joy" and more about what I might be likely to ever use in the years I have left, and what others might find useful. To understand the extent of the task, you need to know that I am something of a, ahem, craft accumulator (that sounds better than hoarder, I think). I rarely met a craft sale I didn't love, and I also inherited from craft-loving relatives and friends. For about 15 years, the small bedroom in our house has been my craft room (my husband would have it as "crap room"), and even after I had done a pre-pandemic donation of over 20 shopping bags full to Up-Stitch and The Albany Craft Room, it was tough to see that anything was missing from the room.

So my pandemic sorting has been getting down to the nitty-gritty, the things I've held close for a long time. This edging was from what I used on my daughter's toddler sun-suits; that fabric was left over from a top I wore at my first teaching job; those buttons came from my mother's favorite coat.

As I sorted, I came across things given to me by my grandmothers. At the time, I was simply thrilled to receive tiny crochet hooks and hairpins to make hairpin lace, and a boxful of buttons. Now, I realize that my grandmothers were making some of the same choices I am now: tiny crochet hooks don't go with hands made

thick by arthritis, and even though she sewed for friends and relatives, using up that box of buttons would have required another lifetime.

My life has been very different from my grandmothers', but alike in one quite important way: they were wives and mothers during the 1918 influenza pandemic, a time when no one really understood the pathogen, and the only way people knew to protect themselves was to wear masks and stay away from people who were not family. Also similar was the number of quacks peddling miracle nostrums. My mother and aunt told stories of having to wear foul smelling "asafidity bags" full of herbs and camphor around their necks to ward off the flu. (Those things may actually have had some value - no one wanted to be anywhere near them when they were wearing the bags.)

These reflections about loved ones lost almost 50 years ago have been quite dear to me - more valuable than the donations will have to anyone who ends up with the stash. And yes, Marie Kondo, I feel lighter.



What brings you joy?



Do you have any old buttons like these?

A LETTER TO A FRIEND

JO ANNE ROBBINS

Dear Sheila,

I'm so happy to hear that you are feeling well and are looking forward to being able to travel once more. If only we get control of the menace virus, we might be able to begin to plan another travel adventure. Until then, I am traveling virtually. It is amazing how this COVID pandemic has forced many businesses and organizations to expand their ventures into the digital world and make virtually "anything" happen.

Did you know that you can visit the Louvre in Paris, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, and many **other museums around the world**, virtually? It's not as satisfying as actually standing in front of a painting or sculpture, but the fact that you can do this from a comfortable seat in front of your computer or your smart TV still amazes me.

Of course, you know that I am a techie and love my screen time! I am so thankful that I have these skills and can enjoy using them and sharing them with others. However, I began to realize when our book club decided to use GotoMeeting on our iPads or computers that many of our friends are missing out on the wonderful options available through technology, not because they don't have the devices, but because they don't know how to use them. Fortunately, our library has wonderful programs that provide the help needed to use some of these great tech options. This summer I took a short course on photo editing techniques. I learned about a number of free apps that will give me lots of new options to work with and to enhance the photos I take with my iPhone and my camera.

For all of us lucky enough to have a home and resources, we are blessed to live comfortably and enjoy our space and the luxury of gardens and yards. With the COVID orders to stay at home, I have discovered a renewed interest in my yard and my gardens. I especially love sitting outside in the late afternoon as the sun sets and evening approaches. The sound of birds chirping, flowers and the leaves on trees rustling, and the sudden appearance of tiny fireflies gives me such a tranquil feeling. It reminds me of a song that my grandmother sang to me.

Here are the lyrics. Do you by any chance know this song?

Once in the dear dead days beyond recall,
When on the world the mists began to fall,

Out of the dreams that rose in happy throng
Low to our hearts Love sang an old sweet song;

And in the dusk where fell the firelight gleam,
Softly it wove itself into our dream.

Just a song at twilight, when the lights are low,
And the flickering shadows softly come and go,
Tho' the heart be weary, sad the day and long,
Still to us at twilight comes Love's old song,
Comes Love's old sweet song.

Even today we hear Love's song of yore,
Deep in our hearts it dwells forevermore.
Footsteps may falter, weary grow the way,
Still we can hear it at the close of day.

So till the end, when life's dim shadows fall,
Love will be found the sweetest song of all.

Just a song a twilight, when the lights are low,
And the flickering shadows softly come and go,
Tho' the heart be weary, sad the day and long,
Still to us at twilight comes Love's old song,
Comes Love's old sweet song.

If you'd like to sing along with Irish singer and actor Damian McGinty, or simply enjoy listening, click the link below. He has been singing and performing for over a decade on various productions and shows such as Celtic Thunder, The Glee Project and numerous PBS specials. It's a beautiful old song and so touching during this difficult time.

<https://youtu.be/Io1Gxbu5uCk>

What are you reading this summer? I am always looking for suggestions. My book club selection this month is *The Splendid and the Vile* by Eric Larsen. It is the story of Churchill during the blitz. Larsen is such an excellent storyteller. You'll find some unforgettable details about Churchill's leadership and life during that very stressful time in history. According to Larsen, Churchill taught the Brits to be fearless. It is a great story.

Hopefully, we'll be able to get together soon once this virus has been tamed. I can't say, "Be fearless!" - but do stay safe, wear your mask and keep in touch.

Best regards,
Jo Anne

A NEW DANCE FLOOR FOR SPAC

JO ANNE ROBBINS

The Friends of the Library, a 501(C)(3) organization occasionally includes a message in support of another important community organization. This month, we are sharing important information about the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC)

It's hard to believe that the Saratoga Performing Arts Center opened for the first time in 1966 – almost 54 years ago. I remember taking our sons to SPAC when they were little boys, enjoying a picnic supper on the lawn and then the concert or the ballet. The music often put them to sleep, enabling my husband and me to relax and enjoy the beauty of the performance.

The SPAC website tells the story of the City Ballet cofounder and choreographer, George Balanchine, who spent many months discussing with the architects, the importance of the design of the floor. He knew that it was critical that the floor have just the right elements and construction to provide not only the solidity needed for a great ballet performance, but also ensure the safety of the dancers.

You may be asking yourself, how is the floor so important to the dancer? How is this dance floor different from a regular stage floor?

Technically speaking, a ballet dance floor is constructed in such a way that it reduces the dancers' impact and it's easier on the dancers' joints. If you've ever watched a ballet or any dance performance, you will recognize that dancing is an athletic endeavor. The floor reduces the risk of long-term injury and also the noise produced by the dancer's movements. This is a crucial and necessary piece of "equipment" needed to present ballet at SPAC.

You may also be asking why SPAC is building a new floor in 2020 while, because of the COVID pandemic, SPAC is closed for the season.

In preparing for New York City Ballet's return to Saratoga in 2020, with a full slate of ballets by Balanchine, Robbins, Cunningham, and a full-length Swan Lake, SPAC ordered a brand new, state-of-the-art floor expecting that revenues from the season would provide the resources to pay for the floor. By the time the COVID-19 pandemic struck New York, canceling the 2020 season, the custom floor was already being built and couldn't be cancelled. Looking forward to a future when

the dancers will return, SPAC is doing a special fundraiser to pay for the floor.

We all know how COVID-19 has presented a host of unexpected challenges for the entire nonprofit sector, and sadly, to our entire world. SPAC has not been spared.

SPAC hopes that our entire community will come together to support this important upgrade our beautiful SPAC facility – a fabulous venue for the rock concerts, jazz festivals, and classical performances that are such an asset to our Saratoga region. This year, in lieu of being able to gather on the lawn under the stars for a fabulous performance, SPAC is asking our community to consider making a special gift to support the future of dance at SPAC. A gift of any amount would be greatly appreciated - whatever you can afford. Every little bit will help.

Supporting SPAC is indeed giving a gift to our Clifton Park community. Have you enjoyed a performance at SPAC? Have you attended a graduation at SPAC? Has SPAC and the beautiful park that surrounds it enhanced your life? If you can help, simply visit the [SPAC website](#) and contribute. The Friends of the Library, also a not-for-profit organization, are happy to share this message of support.



The arts strengthen our community. Did you know that the arts and culture sector is a \$730 billion industry, which represents 4.2 percent of the nation's GDP—a larger share of the economy than transportation, tourism, and agriculture (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis).

DANIEL W. CASEY LIBRARY ADVOCACY AWARD JIM FOSTER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Congratulations to the Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library who won the prestigious Daniel Casey Library Advocacy Award for 2020!

This statewide honor is given each year to “a volunteer member or a group of the library community whose efforts have contributed to the growth of libraries or Friends of the Library organizations.”

Retired Assistant Director Kathy Browne and current Assistant Director Jim Foster nominated our Friends of the Library organization. Kathy and Jim pointed to the Friends long record of service to the community in many ways: helping get out the vote, supporting programs like museum passes, summer reading programs, the nature story walk, author events, trips, TTOB, and many other activities. The Friends were also commended for their innovative leadership and for their willingness to share ideas with other FOL organizations throughout the state.

Usually, a plaque is presented to representatives of the winning Friends organization at the New York Library Association (NYLA) conference in November. This year, that conference will be virtual, so we expect to plan a special ceremony, probably here at the library early in 2021.

Congratulations again on this well-deserved recognition, and thank you to the Friends for all the many things they do to support our community and the library.

OUTREACH AND COVID KATHY ADAM-BROWNE

Librarian Alison Starkey reports that the Outreach committee, which is a wonderful collaboration between the Library and the Friends, continues to provide service during the pandemic.

In June volunteers began picking up library materials from various sites for quarantining.

In July volunteers resumed delivery of library materials to residential sites and homebound individuals. Two new clients signed up to receive services and Barbara Axten and Virginia Colorito quickly stepped up to provide delivery.

The Friends of the Library Books for Babies program which provides a complimentary book, an application for a library card and useful information for parents/grandparents of newborns was cancelled this past spring due to the closing of the Library. The program will hopefully be in place in the fall.



“One lesson from the occurrence of crises in the last century is that they are here to stay. The other aspect brought to light by the novel corona virus 2019 (COVID-19) is that personal or organizational experience cannot be a form of inoculation from future events that may present more crises.”

— Victor Manan Nyambala

JOURNAL OF A PLAGUE SUMMER

RUSSELL E. WISE, JR. PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As President of the CPHPL Board of Trustees, my experiences in the first half of 2020 were as much library-related as personal.

By the beginning of March, it was obvious - to most New Yorkers, if not to some others nationwide - that the COVID-19 outbreak was a developing global pandemic with serious local implications. Director Alex Gutelius and I decided to move up our regular March Board meeting and hold an emergency session - distanced, and in a larger upstairs meeting room at the Library. On March 15th, The Board voted to close the Library immediately; to continue to pay the staff, but have them working from home; to set up a smaller ad hoc safety committee of the Board to assist the Director and staff in developing a reopening plan; and to grant the Director, in consultation with the ad hoc committee, the flexibility to adjust the plan to meet changing conditions. At that point, most people were concerned, if not frightened.

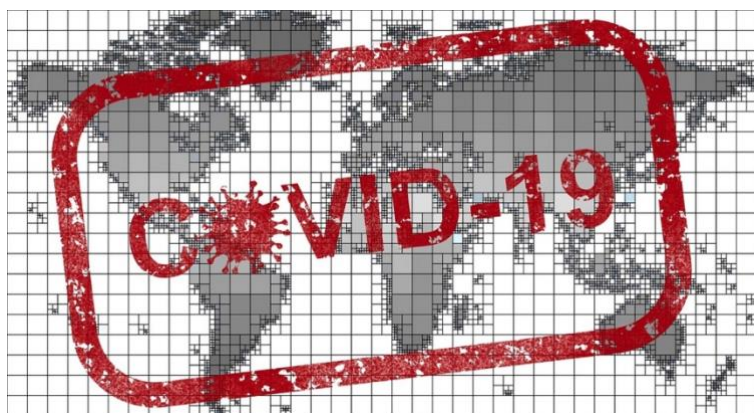
If March was a month of uncertainty, April and May were months of isolation. The Library remained closed, while staff working from home developed not only a reopening plan, but also a set of safety protocols to protect both patrons and employees. They updated the Library website to provide timely information and, also from home, began answering patron questions and requests by phone and email. The Board began meeting virtually via Zoom, a practice that that would continue into the summer. Most

people, except essential workers like my Albany firefighter/EMT son-in-law or Saratoga Hospital worker daughter-in-law, sheltered in place - some totally, some (like me) only venturing out occasionally to the supermarket or pick up takeout meals.

June saw cautious optimism. The revised and Board-approved Library reopening plan was in its second stage. Some staff came back to clean the building or plan restricted services for their areas, then curbside drop-off began on 6/15 for the 30,000-plus materials not able to be returned since the Library closed. Loaning of books and materials with curbside pickup began on 6/22, while interior traffic lanes were set up and Plexiglass shields were installed at the reference and checkout desks. My significant other and I began meeting one or two couples - outdoors, distanced, everyone bringing their own lawn chairs and drinks - and I had a few doctors' appointments and finally got a haircut!

July gave us a taste of the expanded "new normal." The Library moved to stage 3 and had a reopening ceremony on 7/6. Library hours were limited, as were the number of patrons allowed inside at one time; and masks were mandatory for both staff and patrons. Stage 3.b. began on 7/22, with Saturday hours added and browsing on the first floor allowed. I got together for a picnic - outdoors and distanced, of course - with choir friends, and also made plans for a few weeks in August at the family Cape house. On the other hand, we still avoid crowds and haven't eaten at a restaurant yet, even outdoors.

What these six or seven months have taught me is that the company of others and group activities are important and not to be taken for granted. The recent lack of human interaction we've experienced demonstrates the importance of community - and community organizations like our Library. And the concern for others shown by most, if not all, people during the pandemic should be a model for various forms of service to others, including those delivered by our Library. Finally, I have been impressed (once again) by the strong and visionary leadership of our Library Director, Alex Gutelius, by the dedication and creativity of the Library staff, and by the intelligence and cooperative spirit of my fellow Board members.



Our Library is an important community resource!

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THE JR. FRIENDS?

MICHELE GORAB

The Junior Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library last met in the Library on March 2, 2020. President Janice Indijang chaired the meeting and the discussion centered on the collection of Jeans for Teens at the September Used Book Sale. It was decided that the Jeans would be collected and donated to Cheryl's Lodge and the CAPTAIN Outreach program. A prior collection of jeans had been very successful with the collection amassing over 100 pairs of jeans. Other matters discussed were the possibility of hosting an event at the Library in the summer and a review of the volunteer signup sheet. The meeting was adjourned around 7:20 and several members stayed later to chat and catch up with friends. Little did they know that it would be the last time the JFOL would meet in the Library or at all for some time.

In mid-March, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, life changed almost instantaneously. The Library doors were closed, schools were closed, and the Governor issued a stay-at-home order. Family gatherings and celebrations were cancelled and vacations were cancelled or postponed. There was no place to go, no one to see. The Junior Friends had to quickly adapt to remote or online schooling; classwork suddenly became "homework" and it became necessary and challenging to learn to manage time efficiently outside of the structured environment of the classroom. Online learning has put even the most disciplined students to the test.

I have been in touch with several of the Junior Friends and most of them found that being forced to switch to online learning had its benefits as well, as it pushed each person to adapt and learn in a new environment and see what worked best. Without a schedule to follow, they found it was necessary to juggle multiple commitments, balancing online classroom Zoom calls, homework assignments, music and artistic hobbies, and sitting in front of a computer all day, to resist the lure of the desire to just "surf the net". Everyone missed their friends and the daily ritual of gathering with them at school or at sporting events.

The Junior Friends are excited to once again be able to meet in the Library when it becomes safe to do so, hopefully in the not too distant future. The Leadership Team has expressed a willingness to continue in place into

this next academic year or until a new in-person election can be held. They have some new ideas for volunteer opportunities and for ways they can assist the Library in a virtual capacity.

So, where in the world are the Junior Friends? They, like everyone, have been staying home, staying safe and learning how to navigate this challenging new normal.



Junior Friends of the Library Past President, Susan Jeong (left), delivered 99 pairs of jeans to CAPTAIN following a Teens for Jeans Campaign.



A little COVID-19 humor . . .

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING POSITIVE EVERY DAY LOCAL AUTHOR, JANINE CAMMARATA

Journaling can be therapeutic, consoling, uplifting, and healing especially during our current time of



uncertainty. Self-care has never been more essential. You're the only one who can decide what self-care means for you, and how to make time for it.

For me journaling is a large part of my self-care. I start my day setting an Attitude Intention. How do I want to live my life today? The quote

above reminds me to find something positive no matter what's happening in my life.

With social distancing, cancelling plans, and changes in jobs and financial situations, it can be difficult to see any good. Yet just the action of shifting our perspective toward something positive puts us on an active path of hope. Focusing on something positive, something thriving and growing opens opportunities that may not have been there before.

What is something or someone positive that brings you joy right now? How can you bring connections into your day despite the pandemic? How can you shift your perspective to see the good around you?

Choose two self-care activities to bring into your day. What brings you comfort is relaxing? Schedule these activities into your calendar. Make them a priority.

Each day choose positive, choose hope, choose to smile and you'll see the shift. Remember to write it down so when you feel despair or sadness, you'll know you have the power to change that feeling toward joy. For journal prompts and workshops, visit Janine's website at www.janinedetilliocammarata.com

NATURE BOOK WALK 2020 BY MELINDA TAORMINA

The second annual Nature Book Walk began this summer on Friday, July 17, with one of four nature-themed picture books; all four books will remain up for viewers to enjoy through Labor Day. The books are *Bats at the Library* by Brian Lies at Garnsey Park; *Bruce's Big Storm* by Ryan T. Higgins at Hayes Nature Park; *Sun! One in a Billion* by Stacy McAnulty at Veterans Memorial Park; *Over and Under the Pond* by Kate Messner at Northwoods Nature Preserve.

The project is collaboration between the Town of Clifton Park Open Space, Trials and Riverfront Advisory Committee, the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, and The Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library.

Jen Viggiani, The Open Space Coordinator-Town Planning Department, and Committee Member, Kristen Murphy (along with great assistance from her husband Joe), deserve credit for pushing the project along to fruition in such a short time and under the difficult circumstances Covid-19 has created for every group endeavor. As in 2019, the FOL generously underwrote many of the costs associated with this popular activity.

The Library requested that participants photograph themselves and their families enjoying the Book Walk and share the photos. Two of our staff members, Lou Ann Stewart, Assistant Director, and Ariana Quattracchi, Librarian, created a display in the Library Lobby, with a focal point being a tree made of paper bags and paper leaves, upon which the photos are attached.

The Book Walk has once again proved to be very popular with the communities of Clifton Park and Halfmoon, especially this year, as families can enjoy nature together, promote a love of learning and literature, and safely social distance.

Each child who views all four books is welcome to come to the Library for a small prize.



TRAVELING THROUGH TIME AT THE HYDE

RHONA KORETZKY

Hello and best wishes for safety and health from Rhona Koretzky, FOL travel coordinator. My plan for this message was to inspire hope for all of us that we WILL travel again, when it becomes safe to do so. However, my message has expanded, as I will explain.

On Friday, August 21, my husband and I ventured out of our comfort zone for our first museum visit since COVID struck. Avid museum-goers, we booked advanced tickets (required) for the **Hyde Collection** in Glens Falls (we used a **CPH Library Museum Pass**) and spent just over an hour feeling that we had been granted a gift of one of our favorite activities. This is well worth the trip up the Northway if you feel comfortable doing so. The safety protocols are strict and enforced. You must book timed entry with limited tickets for each time slot, masks and social distancing are required, and you must follow a one-way route through the museum. The entire collection is available including two special exhibits - photography of JB Wooley and Russian lacquer boxes.

If you love museums, as we do, you will feel that a bit of pre COVID life has been returned to you. It will soothe your soul. The Hyde is a jewel. The former home and art collection of Charlotte Pruyn Hyde is a gift to all of us.

JB Wooley (1867-1943) was a local resident for his entire life. The exhibit focuses on his work in the Adirondacks. But if you visit the museum, don't miss the room immediately to the left of the ticket window. You will find a small exhibit of photographs from all over the world. I was so gratified remembering that our FOL travel group has visited many of the places over the years.

We have enjoyed a robust travel program for years, and I am committed to resuming both day and longer trips just as soon as we can. Let's all hang in there. Better times are ahead.

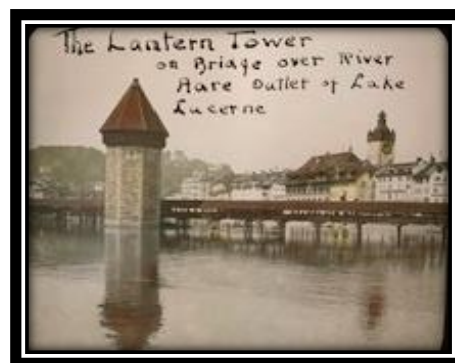
Photos in Exhibit of Places the FOL has Traveled

1. Antwerp. Tulip River Cruise 2019
2. Lucerne. Bavaria and the Alpine Countries 2015
3. Venice. Italy's Treasures 2013
4. Banff. Canadian Rockies by Train 2012
5. Lake Louise. Canadian Rockies by Train 2012

1



2



3



4



5



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