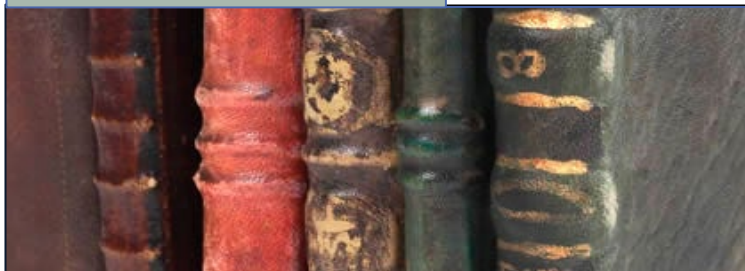




**MAY 2022**



## BOOK FRIENDLY

### CALLING ALL GARDENERS JOAN FOX, PLANT SWAP CHAIR

The Friends of the Library Plant Sale will be returning this year on **Saturday, May 21st** from **9:30-12 noon** under the Library portico.

This is a great way to share your excess happy perennials with your neighbors and a great place to find some new “treasures” to try in your garden at very low prices.

All plants are donated by community gardeners, so you know they grow and thrive locally! All proceeds benefit FOL programming.

**IMPORTANT: This will be a “BARE ROOT” sale.**

All outdoor plants should have their roots washed and be brought in without soil (see prep instructions on page 2).

Only potted indoor houseplants will be accepted in soil.

**DONATIONS:** Donated plants will be accepted Friday, May 20th from 1:30-5:00 pm and on Saturday May 21st from 8:30-10:00 am. Please label your plants. Labels will be available in the Library foyer beginning May 1.

You will receive a \$1 coupon for each donated plant up to a \$5 total. These coupons can be used to offset your purchases. Please help us with our set-up by bringing in your plants Friday if possible!

**PRICES:** Most plants are priced from 50 cents to \$4.00. Some plants may be priced higher depending on size or variety.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers are always welcome! No gardening experience is necessary!

*Plant sale continued on page 2*

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That perfect tranquility of life, which is nowhere to be found, but in retreat, a faithful friend, and a good library. Aphra Behn

Plant sale continued from page 1

One organizational meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 3 in the Boardroom. If you are interested in helping but unable to attend this meeting, please just let us know.

A couple of volunteers will be needed on Friday afternoon (May 20<sup>th</sup>) to help with intake, and many are needed from 8:30-12 on Saturday to help with set-up, sales, and cleanup.

**CONTACT:** Interested in volunteering and questions about the sale or donations can be directed to Susan Cromer: [geoteach98@aol.com](mailto:geoteach98@aol.com).

### HOW TO PREP YOUR BARE ROOT TRANSPLANTS\*

- Water thoroughly the evening before digging
- Dig up, then gently swish roots in clean water until dirt is gone
- Wrap roots loosely in newspaper or a paper towel
- Tuck plant into an open baggie (Ziploc bags in a quart or gallon size work well)
- Moisten to keep roots damp. Keep plants in a shaded area, adding a little water as needed
- Label (our paper labels can easily be stapled at the top of the baggie)

\*By bringing your plants in “bare root,” you are helping prevent the spread of pests, diseases and invasives (such as the Asian Jumping Worm). Protect yourself and protect your community!





## USED BOOK SALE: A TEENAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

### RAJA PATTON

The Library Used Book Sale was a great event that provides used books to anyone interested. When my mom and I were waiting outside the building for the library to open, there was already a huge crowd of excited people in the front of the library, waiting for the sale to start. And when the sale finally opened, tons of people began to flood the room, and it grew crowded very quickly. The children's section was a total success. Not a single book was left there at the end. That's great to see so many children getting access to books.

As volunteers, my friend Iris and I had to organize the books and take the books from the top and bottom shelves in the book room and move them to the center so more people could see them. We also shelved books together that had been on the shelves for a long time, so they are easy to find.

For me, I feel that the book sale was a wonderful way for people (who might not be able to spend money on a bunch of new books) to buy many books for a great price; or maybe for someone to just find a great book that they will love.

The selection at the sale was very diverse - from books of poetry to cookbooks and even DVDs (*the FOL will not be accepting DVDs in the future*)! I even got a few books for myself. I had a great time volunteering, and it was amazing to see how many people were happy for the book sale to be on again!



Raja and her friend Iris organizing the books



A young lady looking for a book.



A customer enjoying checking out some books.



The children's section after everyone bought all of the books.

## OPTIMISTIC WELCOME BACK ALEX GUTELIUS, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

As signs of Spring begin to appear around us, we are inspired by a sense of renewal both in nature and in the Library. In February, we were able to lift the mask requirement that was in place for many months. It was refreshing to see everyone's smiling faces again! As things continue to improve in our community, we are moving towards more in-person programs and have been pleased to see more people coming through the doors of the Library.

Beginning in May, our Youth Services staff is planning a return to in-person Story Time. We will offer two sessions on our Back Lawn each week, and two sessions on Zoom. These virtual story times are a great option for those who are still not comfortable returning to in-person programs or for those rainy spring days! We are also pleased to welcome our Therapy Dogs back into the Library, both for kids and teens.

Look for more hybrid and in-person programs for adults, including our new series, First Fridays. This program will be offered on the first Friday of each month at 10:30 am, and replaces our long running series, Friday Morning Free-for-All. You can expect the same great content with interesting lectures, presentations, and performances.

Our staff is already hard at work planning for Summer Reading and a full slate of programs at the Library! Mark your calendars for the kickoff event on June 30 with a performance of Treasure Island on our Back Lawn for the whole family! Stay tuned for a Library Luau and concert for all ages featuring beach music. We will also resume our very popular craft programs in person and book groups in our lovely Reading Garden.

If you haven't been back to the Library, we encourage you to come in and see us—to try our new self-checkout machines, explore our expanded collection of games and activities, to pick up a book or movie, attend a program, or just to say hello. We are looking forward to once again seeing a bustling Library filled with happy children, studying teens, and reading enthusiasts!



### What is a Luau?

The Luau, a Polynesian and ancient Hawaiian ritual, is a popular social gathering meant to unite the people of a town in celebration of a significant life event, achievement, war victory, or launching of a new canoe. Our creative Library staff will provide a fun family event, a time for families to have a good time together at the Library.



## THANK YOU STEWART'S, TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK, AND OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thank you to Stewart's Corporation for the support they have provided to our Two Towns-One Book Community Read, **Kids Read, Too!** programming. For the past ten years, they have awarded our children's programs, \$1,000 through their Holiday Match program. All grant monies have been used to purchase children's books, computers, craft project materials, and services like a visiting planetarium.

In 2022, we celebrate the tenth year of our collaboration with Stewart's and our Community Partners including Clifton Park - Halfmoon Public Library, Friends of the CPH Library, Town of Clifton Park, Town of Halfmoon, Shenendehowa Central School District, Halfmoon Senior Citizen Association, Shenendehowa Adult Community Center, Captain Youth and Family Services, and Southern Saratoga YMCA.

The Town of Clifton Park has also supported TTOB with a community grant of \$ 1,000 annually for the past six years and list our program as one of Clifton Park's Community Resident Services. We appreciate their recognition and continued support.

Finally, a hearty thanks to Linda Conklin, the chair of the Two Towns-One Book Steering Committee and the author of the ten grant applications that were funded by Stewart's and the applications for funding by the Town of Clifton Park. Linda's leadership has kept our project moving ahead and successfully providing a creative program for our Library district children and families. It has been a pleasure working with Linda and the entire steering committee.



Linda Conklin, Chair of TTOB, received the check from Stewart's Holiday Match program

### WIN NY TIMES BEST SELLER

#### **Win a NY Times Best Seller Book!**

Become a member (or renew your membership) of the Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library at the \$10 level or higher, from March 1 through June 30, 2022, and be eligible to win a NY Times Best Selling Book of your choice!



**Join the Friends!**

[Click Here for a Membership Form](#)

## REQUEST PENDING

WILMA JOZWIAK

There's nothing like a computer to humble a person. We've become so used to (addicted to?) the almost-sentient things that live on our desks and in our laptops and phones (and cars and refrigerators, but I digress). Those of us whose youths predated the computer age remember a time when even a so-so typist could outrun the processing speed of our TRS80 or Apple II, resulting in a frozen cursor on the screen. Times have changed, technology has changed, humans not so much. The frustration we felt looking at the blinking cursor sitting there waiting for things to catch up has been fed by screaming speeds of current machines and internet connections (wait - my 80s self says - what's an internet?). Now, when any request isn't fulfilled immediately or sooner, our frustration is painful.

"Your request is pending". The database doesn't download instantly, the requested document or pattern or graphic takes more than a second, and we find ourselves fiddling with paper clips.

And now, pending requests are the facts of existence, pretty much everywhere. The pandemic has brought many new ways of doing things, but also supply chain blockages and staff shortages that slow things down - sometimes way down. Need a delivery from the grocery store? "We're checking our calendar - your request is pending." Need a garage door for your new home? "Join the queue - your request is pending." Want an appointment with your primary? "Let's see - we've got a cancellation in a couple of months - we'll check. Your request is pending."

Perhaps this is more the way life is supposed to be. Perhaps we'd just gotten fooled by the immediate availability of information from the vastness of the

'net and same-day deliveries from Amazon. Perhaps this is the Universe's way of telling us to slow down, to ponder the possible alternatives to any request, to spread our wings and our consciousness, to consider alternatives, to live in the moment. Nature has her way of enforcing patience, doesn't she? "That snow I gave you - it'll be here for a while, as I have no plans to warm up right away. Take a careful walk in my snow, then have some tea or some cocoa. Everything will still be here."

Nature's way with seasons is instructive as well. Right about now, teetering on the cusp of mud season while winter hangs on by icicle teeth, we yearn for green. We pull the leaves away from pachysandra beds, just to see the color that will soon spread where snow now lies. We think of ways to outsmart Nature, winter sowing in milk jugs and growing lights in the nooks and crannies of our houses. And Nature commends and rewards our patience: in spring with the newness of growth and aromas of tiny sprouts and new leaves; in summer with flights of birds and butterflies sipping nectar from those blooms that finally came in; in fall with raging color competitions among maples and oaks and beeches; and yes, in winter, with the black bones of trees sketched against the sky and icy rime on fallen leaves.

Request pending. Enjoy it!



## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK TOM AND JUDY CORIGLIANO MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS

We hope everyone is well and looking forward to an active and fun-filled summer. And we hope that the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library will be part of those summer activities since the Library is back to regular mask-free hours!

We are happy to report that the Friends of the Library were once again able to offer a successful four-day used book sale in March. We would like to offer kudos to Wilma Jozwiak and Lana Langlois for their tireless work and leadership in organizing and supervising the book sale; they did an excellent job, as did all the book sale volunteers!

During the book sale, we had 29 Friends renew their memberships, and we had thirty-three folks become Friends for the first time! So, a hearty welcome to our new members! Our membership is strong, as we have 347 active memberships as of mid-April, a gain of forty compared to January membership numbers.

At the end of February, we concluded our first “Win a New York Times Best Seller” promotion and selected a winner from the forty-eight new and renewed memberships received during the first two months of the year. We will continue to run this promotion in each newsletter, so look for it if you haven’t renewed for 2022 yet.

If you are an FOL member, we thank you again for your membership and your support! If you have time, consider volunteering to work with us. There is great satisfaction in helping the Library to provide funding for programs and events for the entire community.

If you are not yet an FOL member, join us now, it’s easy! **[Just click here to download our membership form.](#)**

And the Winner is . . .

On February 28, the first FOL membership promotion to win a New York Times best-selling book ended. On March 23, at the FOL Board meeting, we drew a winner.



And, the winner is, Pat Lesniewski of Clifton Park! We contacted Pat, and with the assistance of Jim Foster, the Library/FOL Liaison, and we secured “Run Rose Run,” by Dolly Parton and James Patterson.

We met Pat (pictured with her new book), on April 5th to present her with the book, which was #1 on the NYT Best Seller List at the time.

The New York Times Best Seller promotion runs quarterly in the “Book Friendly Newsletter.”

The next close date will be June 30, 2022. If you haven’t renewed your FOL membership yet, do it now! You could be our next NYT winner!

**[See you at the Library!](#)**



## THE OTHER OZ BOOKS

### WILMA JOZWIAK

It would be tough to find very many people in this country who are not familiar with at least some aspect of *The Wizard of Oz*. Dorothy and her little dog Toto, the wicked witch of the west, the good witch Glinda, the flying monkeys, and the Wizard himself, have become lodged in our popular culture. Even though most of us have probably NOT read the book, we've probably seen the movie, and the iconic characters and others from the book pop up constantly in memes. Then there are the spin-offs, starting with the Broadway play and movie "The Wiz," and of course including Gregory Maguire's fascinating 5 book series *The Wicked Years* that was followed by the immensely popular Broadway play "Wicked." (It's interesting that both Baum and Maguire hail from Upstate New York – what is it about our neck of the woods that inspires wild imagination?)

If most of us have not read *The Wonderful World of Oz*, it's a good bet that we're unaware just what a prolific author L. Frank Baum was. His first efforts in life were not so very successful; he tried his luck as a theater producer and playwright, then moved to South Dakota where he and his wife operated a store and he published and edited a newspaper, before moving on to Chicago, where he worked as a reporter and writer of children's literature. He and his wife opened a store in South Dakota and he edited and published a newspaper. They then moved to Chicago, where he worked as a newspaper reporter and published children's literature. Things were different in kiddie lit in those days – some of the Oz books are actually pretty scary for children, featuring a lot of mayhem and characters killed off, but his Oz books, the first published in 1900, brought him success as a writer.

With each book in the series, Baum continued to solidify the Land of Oz, and styled himself as "the Royal Historian of Oz". In the books, he intimated that Dorothy and the Princess Ozma had told him of their adventures through wireless telegraph messages (the original texts?). All of the Oz books are now in the public domain in the United States, so we invite you to do a little traveling in the Wonderful World of Oz! Just click on the included link to download your choice of format, thanks to the Gutenberg Project's digitization work.

The first book in the series, of course, is *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, in which Dorothy and her little dog Toto get caught up in a tornado and dumped outside the Emerald City of Oz. Along the way, they join up with the Tin Woodman, the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion and brave many dangers to find the Wizard and get back home. Click the link to read the entire book: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/55>



Another child in danger, a little boy named Tip, is able to escape from his evil witch guardian Mombi in this book. As in the first book, real boy Tip finds help from unusual companions, in this case Pumpkinhead, a wooden man with a jack-o-lantern head, and a living Sawhorse, both brought to life with the magical Powder of Life Tip stole from the wicked Mombi during his escape. Together the three help Scarecrow regain his throne, fighting an army of girls led by General Jinjur. Click here to read the entire book:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/54>

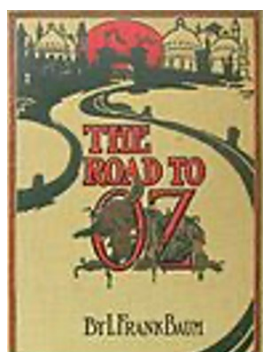
**Oz continues on page 9**



## Other Oz Tales continued from page 8

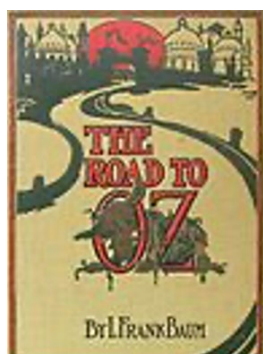
Dorothy continues her unfortunate experiences in Ozma of Oz while traveling to Australia with her Uncle Henry. She managed to get swept overboard in the company of a chicken named Billina, wash up in the country of Ev. Ev turns out to be across a desert from Oz. On their way they meet the Wheelers, and make friends with T-k-Tok, a mechanical man, and Princess Ozma, who is trying to save Ev's family from the evil Nome King so they can all finally return to Oz. Click here to read the entire book:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/33361>



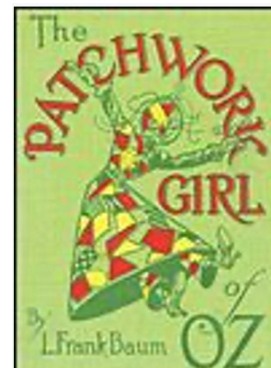
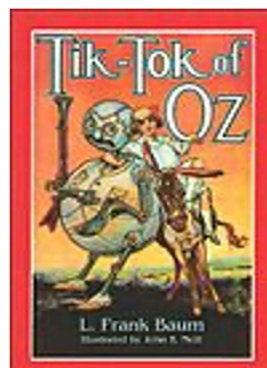
Continuing her lousy travel luck, on the way back from Australia Dorothy visits her cousin Zeb in California, where Dorothy, Zeb, his horse Jim, and Dorothy's cat Eureka are swallowed up in an earthquake. Somehow or other they manage to meet up with the Wizard of Oz and they all go through an underground passage back to Oz. Click here to read the entire book:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/22566>



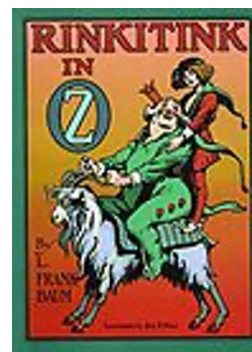
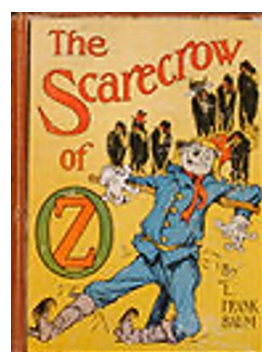
Bowing to the inevitable, I suppose, Dorothy and her Uncle Henry and Aunt Em pick up sticks and move permanently to Oz. While they tour Quadling Country, the evil Nome King is making a tunnel under the desert with the intention of invading Oz. Baum originally intending this to be the last book in the series, but .... Click here to read the entire book:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/41667>



Dorothy takes a break in this book so that a Munchkin boy named Ojo can hunt for a way to rescue his Uncle Nuncle from an evil spell that has turned him into a statue. He has help from a patchwork doll named Scraps, and the two of them search through Oz for the cure. Click here to read the entire book:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/32094>



What is it with the western states? In this book, a girl from Oklahoma named Betsy Bobbin is shipwrecked with her mule Hank (wait – isn't Oklahoma landlocked?) in the Rose Kingdom of Oz. Shaggy Man turns up again, and Betsy helps try to rescue his brother from the Nome King. Click here to read the entire book: Click here to read the entire book:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/52176>

Oz continued on page 10

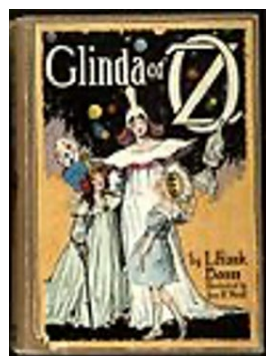
Other Oz Tales continued from page 9

Princess Ozma disappears under mysterious circumstances, and four search parties set out the four countries of Oz. Although the majority of the book focuses on Dorothy and the Wizard as they scour the countryside, in a side theme Cayke the Cookie Chef discovers that the magic cookie sheet she uses to bake her famous cookies has been stolen, and she teams up with the Frogman to hunt for the precious pan. Click here to read the entire book: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/24459>



We learn that the Tin Woodman has an actual name (Nick Chopper) as he sets out to find the Munchkin girl he was wooing before he was turned into a tin man. He and Woot the Wanderer get up to all sorts of shenanigans on the trail, including being turned into animals by an evil giantess. They run into another tin man named Captain Fyter, and Chopfut, who was made of fleshy parts by the tinsmith Ku-Klip. This one probably wouldn't win the Newberry Award. Click here to read the entire book:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/30852>



The evil Nome King, Ruggedo, is trying to capture Oz with the help of Kiki Aru, a Munchkin boy. Because it's also Ozma's birthday, the subplot has all of Oz's citizens in a tizzy trying to find the most unusual present for her. This book was published posthumously a month after Baum died. Click here to read the entire book:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/50194>

In this book, written while Baum was terminally ill, Dorothy, Ozma, and the good witch Glinda are trying to stop a war in Gillikin Country. There are some pretty dark parts in this book, particularly in the House of Red Reera. Although many other Oz books have been written by other authors, this was the last one written by L. Frank Baum. Click here to read the entire book:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/39868>



Maria Scriver is a New York Times bestselling author and award-winning syndicated cartoonist. Her graphic novel series, *Nat Enough* (Scholastic/Graphix), launched on April 7th, 2020 and was an instant New York Times Best Seller. The sequel, *Forget Me Nat*, was published the following September, and *Absolutely Nat* and *Definitely Nat* were published in the fall of 2021. [www.mariascriver.com](http://www.mariascriver.com)



## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING PROGRAM - ALI WHITMER

The ELL Program is abuzz with activity this Spring! We continue to offer three levels of English instruction as well as the popular U.S. Citizenship Exam preparation course. Thanks to the dedication and kindness of our volunteers, we are currently running five classes a week.

Beginner English, offered on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, is meeting in-person on Wednesday mornings. We are grateful for the extra space provided in Program Rooms A-B, where we meet as a group of roughly 15-20.

The Citizenship course is also meeting in-person, and is offered twice on Wednesdays – once in the morning and again in the evening. Students have communicated their appreciation for the return of this important course. The volunteers have prepared them well, and we eagerly anticipate the good news of their success with the Citizenship Exam.

In addition to the classes, we continue to offer one-on-one English Language tutoring to patrons who reside in the Library's district. Quite a few Library patrons have volunteered their time as English Language Tutors, and we continue to grow the ELL Program through expanded tutoring opportunities. We look forward to celebrating our work later this season!



**Coronavirus  
Is nothing unaffected?  
Spring rain brings  
peepers.**

E. Heald



Elizabeth Letts, author of *Finding Dorothy* and *The Ride of her Life* is coming to Clifton Park for an author event sometime in October. You will be updated once plans are definite. Reservations will be required.



**CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE  
YOUR FAVORITE BOOK!**

## LEARNING SOMETHING NEW

### JO ANNE ROBBINS

I have been serving as editor of *Book Friendly* for many years, and for much of that time, I had the expert assistance of Sheila Morroni, who is an ace at solving tech problems from spacing to the shape of photos to coding issues, to careful evaluation of articles. I also had a format that worked and was easy to modify. Then, last December, I decided that after nearly 11 years with a desktop iMac (that had become overloaded with photos and documents, and the system no longer upgradeable), it was time to purchase a new computer. Also, living amid COVID, I needed to find something new and challenging to do. My decision – buy a new computer, organize, celebrate, and create.

I love my new iMac – a super-fast user-friendly desktop computer with plenty of storage and all sorts of whistles and bells. The transition process took time and I needed help. A friend suggested the name of a friendly tech support person, and he was a great resource. The process took several weeks, transferring data, organizing folders, adding new apps, upgrading others, and restoring my g-mail account (in the process, I found duplicate addresses for many contacts – ugh!!).

I couldn't take a course to master the new version of Word (not enough time available) I planned to use. It took a willingness to experiment and through trial and error, figure out the best way to create a new document that looked similar to earlier editions of *Book Friendly*. And I needed to find another helper, since Sheila had to step back from computer work and concentrate on other priorities. I want to thank Sheila for her friendship, her ability to make great suggestions and (always) add some perfect solutions.

I hope you enjoy reading *Book Friendly*, and I invite our readers to think about submitting an article – a book review, an essay, or a poem, on a topic that would meet our objective of acting as a bridge to our Library community. I am also hoping to find someone in the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library District who is interested in sharing their skills. If you would like to discuss the possibilities, please [get in touch by email](#).



**Magenta pink sky  
Songbirds singing melodies -  
My red bud opens**  
*J. Robbins*





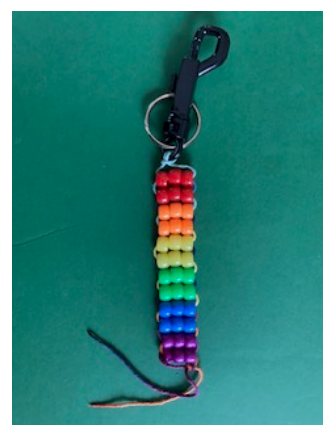
## “OFF TO SEE THE WIZARDLY” CRAFT PROJECT

MARY FRAN VEROSTEK

As part of the 2022 Two Towns – One Book program, the Steering Committee was excited to provide two Make and Take Wizardly Craft Projects during March. Each project echoed the “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” theme from our Book of the Year, *Finding Dorothy*, by Elizabeth Letts.

Over 90 “Off to See the Wizardly” craft kits quickly found their way to children eager to create keychains from rainbow hemp twine and pony beads in red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet. The colorful instructions provided step-by-step guidance to create either a “rainbow” or random pattern using the 36 pony beads. When finished, the keychain could be attached to a backpack using the colorful plastic snap-hook, and small items could be hung from the split ring.

The adult craft project invited 60 library patrons to create a luminary lantern that took inspiration from the library’s “Grab and Go: Fall Leaf Lantern” project. Most of the supplies, including tissue paper squares in all the colors of the rainbow, glossy Mod Podge, and a battery-operated votive candle, were carefully packaged inside a clear glass Mason Jar. The instructions suggested first cutting the colorful tissue paper into any desired shapes and then arranging the shapes onto the Mod Podge-coated Mason Jar. Librarian Emily Martin generously aided with both design of the lantern and ordering of the craft supplies. We are especially appreciative of her efforts in securing several different rolls of “The Wizard of Oz” washi tape. As a final touch, raffia ribbon, reminiscent of the scarecrow, was tied around the neck of the jar.



Wizardly Craft Projects



Andres Harnecker is moving from the USA to Norway. A loyal FOL Board Member for 14 years, he has been our technology guru, setting up our computers and recommending, ordering, and installing excellent software. He has also served as interim Treasurer, interim Secretary, and most recently, as Publicity Chair.

We are going to miss your smiling face and upbeat presence, Andres. Enjoy your new home. We’ll look forward to hearing about your integration into the Norwegian culture. Safe travels, Andres! Read Andres’ farewell article on [page 20](#).

## LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES

### KATHY ADAM-BROWNE

Little Free Library is a nationally recognized nonprofit organization that promotes reading through book exchanges usually in the form of a small public bookcase. Founded in 2009, there are currently more than 90,000 of these throughout the United States. Individuals are welcome to take a book and replace that book with another encouraging free exchange. Parks, town centers, schools and businesses are just some of the places you may find one. The Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library maintains 3 of these libraries; one at Kinns Road Park, one at the Town of Halfmoon Park and one at the Halfmoon Town Hall. Books received by way of donation to the Friends of the Library are brought by volunteers to these three sites to restock and refresh the supply. Think about stopping by one of these three spots this spring!

If you want to find out more about this excellent program and how you can get a mobile app on your smart phone, visit the Little **Free Library Website**.



## SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

### JO ANNE ROBBINS



The Friends of the Library organization is looking for a dedicated, qualified volunteer who can help us manage our social media accounts. We want to increase our visibility in the community, promote our programs, and engage with potential members and library supporters. We have an account on **Facebook**. Our Twitter and Instagram accounts needs to be resurrected. We are also interested in expanding our presence on other social networks.

We need your help in using these platforms and getting our members and community to post and respond to our posts.

This is an unpaid volunteer position. If you are interested in talking about the FOL social media goals and your interest in taking on this responsibility, please **e-mail Wilma Jozwiak**. High school or college students interested in technology and communications are welcome and encouraged to apply. This job could be accomplished primarily from home.



## TEN YEARS OF GREAT READS

### LINDA CONKLIN

This is the tenth anniversary of Two Towns-One Book, our community read program. Our winning books over the years can be found on some of the “best reads” websites.

Authors are the foundation of any community read program, and of course the Library. Having an author visit the program is always a goal of TTOB, once a book is selected. It is usually the culminating event each year. We were fortunate that of the prior nine seasons and of the 10 books selected, five authors have given presentations in our community.

This year we are happy to announce that Elizabeth Letts, author of *Finding Dorothy*, our Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library community read, will be visiting the Library on October 18, 2022. Be on the lookout for further information announcing the time and location of the event.

Here’s an update on the authors whose works we read. Our first author was Markus Zusak (from Australia) who wrote *The Book Thief*. He visited us for an author event through a Skype session in 2012. Zusak has authored 5 books with *The Book Thief* becoming an international best seller. It spent more than a decade on the New York Times best-seller list and has been translated into more than forty languages. In 2013, *The Book Thief* was made into a major motion picture, and in 2018, it was voted one of America’s all-time favorite books, achieving 14<sup>th</sup> position on the PBS Great America Read List. Zusak’s latest book is *Bridge of Clay*.

In 2013, Laura Hillenbrand, author of *Unbroken*, was unable to visit us because she suffers from chronic fatigue syndrome. Laura also authored

the book, *Seabiscuit*, the non-fiction account of the great racehorse that later became the basis of the 2003 movie.

*The Bucolic Plague (How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers)* by Josh Kilmer-Purcell was the third winner. Josh and his partner Brent Ridge made a presentation at the Library to a standing room only crowd. Josh has written two other books - *I Am Not Myself These Days: A Memoir* and *Candy Everybody Wants*. After moving to Sharon Springs in 2015, Josh and Brent promoted the Beekman 1802 brand through their store and online. They have authored 3 Beekman 1802 Heirloom cookbooks and 2 others, *Beekman 1802: A Seat at the Table* and *Beekman 1802 Style: the Attraction of Opposites*.

In our fourth year (2015), we had a visit from Jan Philipp-Sendker, who wrote *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats*, his first novel. A large audience gathered at Gowana Middle School to hear him speak. The book was written in German, Jan’s native language. After publication in German, it took a few years for him to find someone in the United States to appropriately translate it into English. He came up with the title when his toddler listened to his chest and told his father he heard his heartbeat. Since then, Jan has written three more novels including a sequel to the *Art of Hearing Heartbeats* - *A Well Tempered Heart*.

Author Andy Weir built a career as a software engineer before he self-published his first novel, *The Martian* in 2011. This allowed him to live out his dream of writing fulltime. In 2019, when his book was chosen as the winner, Andy did not do speaking engagements. A movie, “The Martian,”

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## COVID REFLECTION

Sunday, March 15, 2020

COVID-19 personal journal post.

Coronavirus forces us to slow down. Wash hands slower. Simplify. Stay home. Connect back to our humanity and what matters. Think outside ourselves.

Who is suffering? Elderly. Children because schools have closed and no food. Education. Where can we be kind? Compassionate?

Senior Cadet whose plans have been cancelled—starting campaign to send letters to elderly in homes.

Collect food for backpack program.

The age of technology allows us to communicate and not feel so alone when our natural inclination to hug and have physical contact isn't the norm right now. Humans crave and need contact to live. In what ways can we make that happen?  
Set up iPad for Mom today.

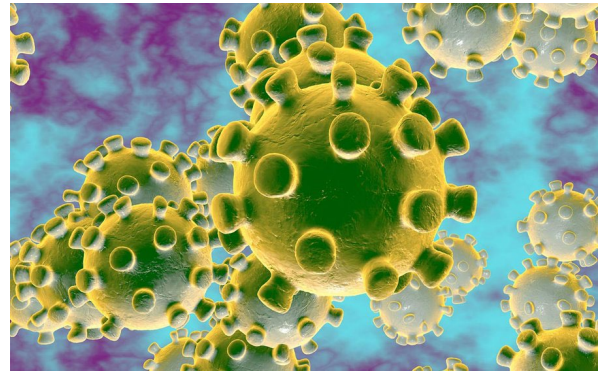
The fear has been palpable. Friday after I decided not to go to Florida, I went to CVS to pick up medicine. Toilet paper can't be found anywhere. A national state of emergency had been declared.

Went to Bath and Body Works—no hand sanitizer.

I went to Hannaford. It was a zoo. No pasta, no toilet paper, no tissues, no paper towels. Barely any beans, soups, or sauce. I couldn't find much needed alcohol wipes. People are stressed.

Internet is lagging—being stressed. Everything is lagging.

Nurses, doctors, law enforcement are all putting themselves on the line. They don't have the proper equipment to avoid getting sick. Parents of children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses can't



It's a New Normal

get the cleaners and items they need to keep their children safe.

Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library has closed until March 31. A teacher/staff person at Tesago has been diagnosed. This is changing how we live in our world, our perspectives.

I can feel the fear and my heart beats faster just rereading this entry in my journal. I feel many different emotions looking back and thinking that our lives would be back to what we considered normal in two weeks. No one could have imagined that it would have been two years and absolutely everyone would be severely impacted in ways we may never know in our lifetime.

I keep all my journals and refer back to them. Yes, some are painful, some are goofy, and some I can't even read because I wrote with such emotion. When I look at this entry, I do remember the fear of the pandemic.

Yet I also see the kindness and compassion of community and being human. Young adults searching for ways to connect with the elderly.



Journal continued from page 16

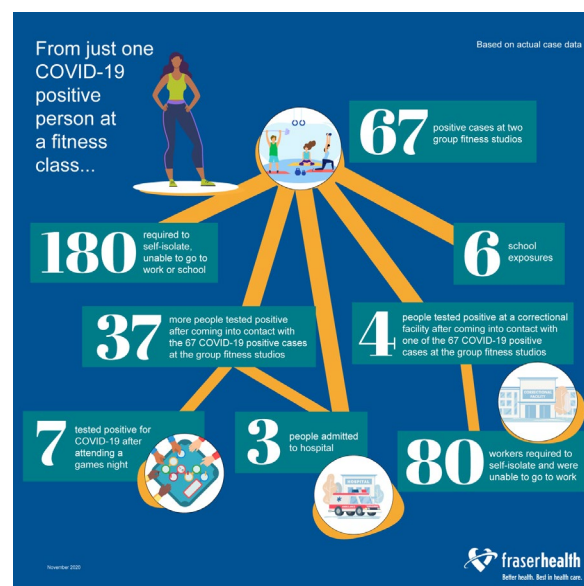
I also recognize the power of the universe forcing me to slow down. Knowing that any time in my life, I can create a seismic change if that's needed. The entries from the beginning of 2020 were filled with stress and illness. I couldn't find a way to get off the busy train. The pandemic did it for me. I now understand the power of stillness, the impact of rest, and the beauty in slowing down. When I stopped, I was able to look around, see what I had been missing, and prioritize what matters.

There is no doubt that the pandemic of the last two years caused devastation, so much loss and pain. But no matter where we are, there is hope.

There is also joy when we take the precious time to recognize and absorb it. If we continue to nourish those seeds of gratitude, they will outgrow the pain.

What joys, moments of gratitude, or seeds of possibility has the pandemic brought to you? Feel free to share them with me at [janinecammarata@highlandpub.com](mailto:janinecammarata@highlandpub.com)

Janine De Tillio Cammarata is an award-winning local author who teaches journaling and creative writing workshops at The Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library for children and adults. For more information, visit her at: [www.janinedetilliocammarata.com](http://www.janinedetilliocammarata.com)



## Journaling

### COVID Check-in:

Where are you mentally, emotionally, physically, and socially?

Write about what you're comfortable with, still concerned about, and look forward to doing.

Self-awareness and self-kindness are keys to wellness.

  
Janine DeTillio  
Cammarata

## FOL ANNUAL MEETING REFRESHING

The Friends of the Library Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 23, in the Josephine Piracci Board Room. It was refreshing to be able to meet without face masks or social distancing. It has been an extremely difficult time for many organizations due to the COVID pandemic, but we



are pleased to report that the FOL was able to keep our organization moving ahead in support of our excellent Library and Library staff. Thank you to all who have stepped up and helped document this unimaginable ongoing challenge.

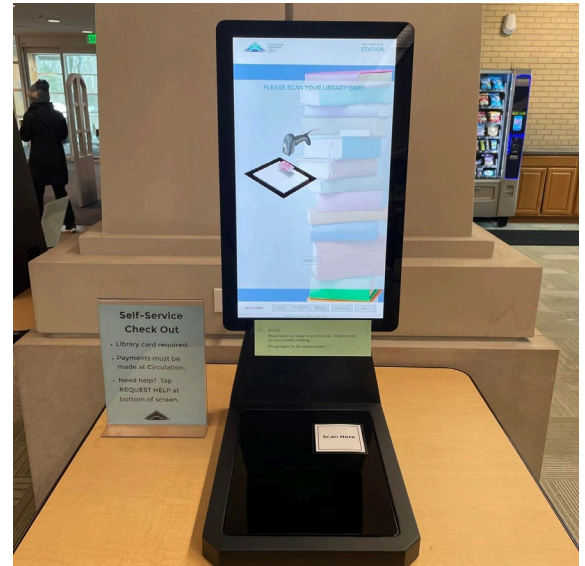
Click here for our [Annual Report](#). As we look back on 2021, we see a continual upswing that we hope becomes our new normal.

## NEW AT THE LIBRARY SELF-CHECKOUT MACHINES

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, three self-checkout machines were installed at the library. Two are downstairs by the pillar near the café area, and one machine is upstairs in the Children's Library. Kids seem to enjoy checking out books using the machines, and adults appreciate the convenience.

To use the machine, you will need your library card. First, scan your library card. Next, you will be instructed on the screen of the machine to scan the Library bar code that can be found on books, DVDs, or any other item available to borrow from the library. Library staff members have been trained to use the machines in case patrons have questions.

There are a couple exceptions: Museum Passes must be checked out at the main floor circulation desk. That's also where you will go to pay any fines.



Bring your library card and learn to check out electronically!

## THE RESUMPTION OF TRAVEL IS EXCITING! RHONA KORETZKY FORMAN

May is a big month for the Friends' travel group! We will begin the month on May 7 with a bus trip to Chittenango, New York, for sites related to L. Frank Baum in connection with our TTOB selection. And we will end the month with a flight to Denver on May 27 to start a 9-day tour of National Parks and Historic Trains in Colorado. These two events are the first FOL travel events to take place in over two years and both are 'reschedules' due to the pandemic. It is so exciting to be back on the road again.

Watch for an announcement about the resumption of INTERNATIONAL travel! The Southern Spain and Morocco trip that was scheduled for March of this year has been rebooked for March 2023! I am fine tuning the itinerary and hope to have information released very soon.

Stay safe and healthy. We have places to go!



**We're Heading to Chittenango!**



## Ten Years continued from page 15

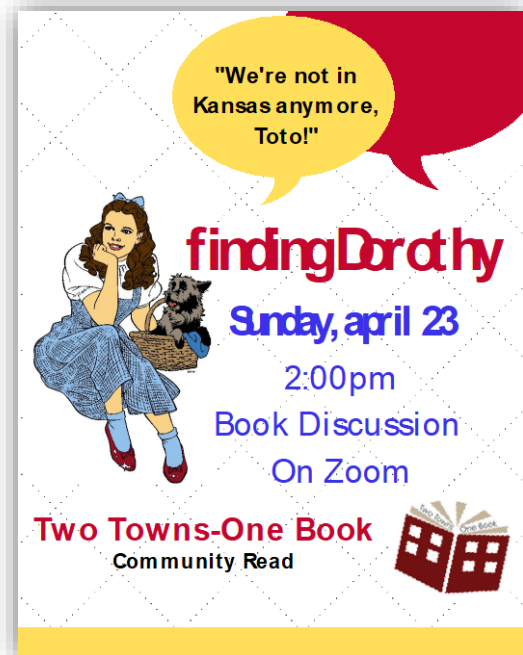
followed the book's publication. Andy has written 4 other books: Project Hail Mary (2021), Randomize (2019), Artemis (2017) and The Egg (2009).

In year six, Echo Heron author of Noon at Tiffany's (2012) came to speak at the Library. She has written 11 books and is a best-selling author of fiction, non-fiction, mysteries, historical fiction, and memoir. Her newly published memoir is Mooshie: Life With an Unconventional Cat. Echo is also a critical care registered nurse so much of her work centers around nurses and the medical field. Echo was born in Troy, NY and grew up in Scotia, NY.

The next winner was The Last Days of Night written by Graham Moore. This story was also adapted into a movie. He also wrote The Sherlockian (2010). His books have been published in 24 countries and translated into 19 languages. His next book, The Holdout was published in (2020).

In the eighth year, 2019, the book of choice was Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. Lisa visited us and because of the large registration, made her presentation at Gowana Middle School. During her presentation, she thanked the audience (her readers) for giving her what all authors dream about – a New York Times best seller. She also announced that she was about to publish another book based on events and characters in Before We Were Yours. It is entitled Before & After: The Incredible Real-Life Stories of Orphans Who Survived the Tennessee Children's Home Society. Her recent trilogy begins with The Prayer Box and is receiving rave reviews.

In year nine, there was a tie between Becoming by Michele Obama and Educated by Tara Westover. Both books were chosen as winners. They have both appeared on the New York Time best seller lists and Educated is still on it. Michelle Obama's other books include Love, and American Values (2009), American



We enjoyed an excellent book discussion on Zoom with author, Elizabeth Letts. She was delightful, answered many of our questions, and shared what she is currently researching. We can't wait to meet her in person!

Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens Across America (2012), Michelle Obama: In Her Own Words (2008), and Becoming: Adapted for Younger Readers (2021)

COVID delayed the next season of TTOB for two years. We are currently celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the book *Finding Dorothy*. Community activities are underway. We were thrilled when the author, Elizabeth Letts, agreed to participate in our Zoom book discussion that was held on April 22. We look forward to Elizabeth Letts presentation (in person) on October 18, 2022. Please save the date!

## SLOW VOLUNTEERING

ANDRES HARNECKER

After 14 years of volunteering for the Friends' Board, Jo Anne Robbins, who now edits Book Friendly, finally pinned me down to write my first article.

That's a reflection on just how easy volunteering can be with the Friends: there are large and small roles for everyone on and off the Board, with special consideration for those of us who have a full-time job. Slow volunteering, I would call it, now that slow living is a fashionable antidote for a hectic life: you can do as much or as little as you can, especially if still gainfully employed.

Jo Anne and then Publicity Chair Toby Elman interviewed me at Panera in 2008 for a board seat when I moved to Clifton Park and joined the Friends of the Library.

Toby, a tall lady who retired from the Friends a few years ago, asked me questions about the skills I would bring in as the Technology chair. The Friends' website needed to transition to another platform and that was my first job with the Friends. I would step into membership, interim treasurer, and then the publicity chair roles, mainly driven by the needs of this non-profit organization.

There are three groups that support or guide our Library:

- The Library Trustees serve as a board of directors for the Library Director, Alexandra Gutelius. Their role is specified by the State of New York and includes developing policy and managing the Library's budget and funding bonds.
- The Friends are a grassroots organization that funds smaller chunks of money needs, like the \$5,000.00 annual media budget complement. Occasionally, a larger project will be approved such as the expansion of the Children's Library on the second floor.

- If you're more inclined toward helping to develop Library funding, the Library Foundation started by longtime trustees Ed and Francine Rogers seeks to find donors with deep pockets that can provide large chunks of money for long term stability and larger projects. Which is a good segue way to say that the Friends board is a good training ground for those of you aspiring to become library Trustees.

As you may already know, the Friends sell donated books to finance media purchases, author events, museum passes, and other things that wouldn't be possible without FOL support. Rhona Koretzky brought a novel fundraiser concept to the Friends several years ago: literary-inspired travel, locally or internationally, to an author-related destinations. That explains the upcoming bus trip to Chittenango, New York, to see the birthplace of the author of *The Wizard of Oz*.

I'm still thrilled to have been on the bus trip to Sharon Springs, New York, to see the house the Beekman Boys bought and that inspired their book, *The Bucolic Plague*. The shutters on that beautiful house were closed during an attack by the Native Americans, the story goes. A friendship was born on that trip with longtime Library Trustee Russell Wise and his partner Anne that persists to this day. And Friends also "Get Out The Vote" by advocating for the Clifton Park Halfmoon-Public Library at budget vote time. The Library, as a public service entity, cannot, by law, advocate for itself. Board members plant those blue "Vote Next Thursday" signs every year to remind you to vote in favor of the Library's budget, which is paid for by everyone living in the special Library district originally also proposed by the Friends.

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The Friends of the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library is a bit like the game musical chairs, where you may take on a new role when someone else leaves it. Most people stay on as volunteers or Board members for many years, changing roles as needed in response to attrition. Unlike the game, sometimes you take your prior role with you to the new one until someone else joins to take it, so you might sit on multiple chairs at a time. As things change, so do the Friends, adapting to the circumstances: after Ann Christoffel's presidency on the board when everyone was reluctant to take on the job, the role was deemed too complex for a single person and the Quads were born: a quadruple team of co-presidents share the several tasks of the presidency, including facilitation of meetings. It's quite an innovative concept in cooperative leadership!

I've shared the technology coordinator role with Wilma Jozwiak, who currently heads the Used Book Sale, is one of the Quads, and whom you'll recognize by her friendly Tennessee drawl.

Mary Fran Verostek, whose design artwork for L. Frank Baum's 'Dorothy' Library event you might have enjoyed seeing on this publication as well as digital animations on the Friends' website, is taking over the Publicity Chair role upon my departure from Clifton Park.

There's a joke that the Friends are just like Hotel California: "you can check out any time you want, but you can never leave". It points to the fact that a devoted cohort of Baby Boomer retirees with a love for libraries and education have been helping raise funds for the Library for more than twenty years, through several buildings and on to the current amazing building on 475 Moe Road which that cohort of Friends helped raise funds to put together.

But unlike Hotel California, time waits for no person, and slowly but surely, time has been peeling off members from that original hearty cohort and the Friends have been put to the test to recruit new

volunteers. It doesn't help that we Gen Xers were a smaller cohort, and this population dip was reflected in less volunteers from our age group. But several years ago, Millennials became the largest population group and their numbers have started to swell the Friends membership. It's possibly the biggest challenge an organization can face, to pass the baton on to a newer generation and to have the organization retain its character, process and goals throughout the changes in its volunteer base.

Volunteers for the board (and for key volunteer tasks) who persist long enough to understand how things are run are needed at the board to steer the ship. Hands on deck to assist with the many tasks that keep the Friends running are always welcome, and volunteers often shift between the more demanding roles and the lesser ones as their life circumstances change. In that respect, volunteering for the Friends is a pleasurable load to carry. Board meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month are open to the public so you can meet the Board members and get a sense of what happens in our meetings.

So, by now you may be wondering what is required to be a volunteer (did you really want to know where I'm going?) and it's as simple as being a Library District Resident, a Library Patron, or a member of the Friends starting at \$5 per year. We are currently searching for a person with broad experience in using social media to become our Social Media Coordinator as well as a new Technology Coordinator. Neither job requires the person holding to sit on the Board of Directors.

Which is why on my departure to Norway, I may be on thin ice on a spring day as a volunteer, unless I continue to assist remotely on the social media and technology fronts. The Island of Bømlo has a more temperate climate than Clifton Park thanks to its proximity to the ocean, I've learned recently. It also has a beautiful library of which I'm now the proud owner of a patron card. Also, the crown jewel of this library is my fiancée, but that, my Friend, is material for another Book Friendly story!



## THANKS FOR A GREAT SALE LANNA LANGLOIS AND WILMA JOZWIAK

Our first used book sale of 2022 took place just a few weeks ago and while we're either well past or way ahead of Thanksgiving, depending on your perspective, we are very much of the mind to give thanks. The sale was a resounding success and we have so many people to thank for that.

Since our last sale in November, the book donations have continued to pour in. For that, we have to say "thank you" to the many people who think of us and take the time to package up and deliver their book donations to the library.

Once they come to the library, we are indebted to the library staff, most especially the receptionists, who greet the donors, gently ask questions to be sure the donations are acceptable, and then steer them in the right direction.

Next, we thank our dedicated teams of book sorters. These volunteers show up week after week to prepare donations for the sale. Each item must be screened, potentially cleaned, categorized, and then boxed or shelved. What a great resource! While it is often fun and a great chance to discover new authors, it can also involve a coating of dust and a bit of a workout. Gym weights have nothing on a box full of cookbooks! And thanks to our in-house expert who assesses any unusual books for special pricing.

Also on our appreciation list is the library itself for accommodating our numerous asks regarding the timing of the sale, the use of more and more space, and loans of tables, chairs and whatever else we might need. We appreciate the building staff for prepping the space and the library publicity team for promoting the sale with creative displays and announcements.

And then there are the sale volunteers. We were so fortunate to have a truly great complement of folks covering six long days, starting with sale set-up, and

ending with clean-up. Some have worked the sale for more years than they can count, while for others, this was their first time at the sale. Some are retirees, some are still working, and some are students. Some come on their own, some with a friend or family member. Many are from the CPH community, but some come from other library districts to help us out. They may or may not have met before, but they come together to make the sale the best possible experience for everyone. And they all say they have fun!

Guiding the volunteers are the coordinators who make sure the sorting work is well-staffed and completed in time for the sale. The coordinators then take the lead roles during the sale, making sure all goes smoothly during those long days before, during and after the sale. They are amazing!

Finally, we thank the many people who attended the sale. From the mad rush of the first hour Members Only sale to the bargain hunting frenzy of the Sunday Bag Day, the sale was continually filled with a great group of people who were generous, patient, and polite. Just as with the volunteers, it was a varied mix of folks, young and not so young, long-time attendees and newcomers, community members and those from further away. Despite the differences, they share a love of books, the library, and their communities, and when you see that, you can't help but smile and give thanks.



## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Adam-Browne, Co-President  
Michele Gorab, Co-President  
Wilma Jozwiak, Co-President  
Rhona Koretzky, Co-President  
Jamie Hanley, Secretary  
Tony and Reina Ciccarone, Website  
Management  
Linda Conklin, TTOB, Author Events  
Tony and Judy Corigliano, Membership  
John Jozwiak, Treasurer  
Lanna Langlois, UBS and GOTV  
Jo Anne Robbins, Newsletter, GOTV

## 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 August 15th for September 1 publication.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEES

### **Engraved Pavers**

Janice Jaskolka Golden

### **Get Out the Vote Committee**

Jo Anne Robbins and Lana Langlois,

### **Co-Chairs Hospitality Committee**

Judy Marotta and Pat Mitchell (Co-Chairs)

### **Membership Committee**

Judy and Tom Corigliano (Co-Chairs),  
Michele Gorab, Jamie Hanley, John Jozwiak, Wilma Jozwiak, Helen Kutt, Lanna Langlois, and Linda Mahr

### **Plant Swap**

Susan Cromer and Joan Fox, Co-Chairs

### **Publicity Committee**

Mary Duclos (Publicity Assistant), and Mary Fran Verostek (Graphic Artist)

### **Two-Towns One Book Steering Committee**

Linda Conklin (Chair), Matthew Andrus (Town of Clifton Park), Lynda Bryan (Town of Halfmoon), Mary Ann Campe, Janet Colton, Carol Davis, Jim Foster (Library), Linda Fox, Judy Holmes, Susan Kirby-LeMon, Rhona Koretzky, Rosemary Maguire, Maura O'Brien, Jo Anne Robbins, and Mary Fran Verostek

### **Used Book Sale**

Wilma Jozwiak and Lanna Langlois (Co-Chairs), Jane Herbert and Marie Miller (Sorting and Management), Raja Patton (Teen Volunteers)



Friends of the  
Clifton Park-Halfmoon  
Public Library

**BECOME A LIBRARY SUPPORTER. JOIN  
THE FRIENDS OF THE CLIFTON PARK-  
HALFMOON PUBLIC LIBRARY!**