

BOOK FRIENDLY

SEPTEMBER 2023



THE CONTENDERS REVEALED LINDA CONKLIN

This summer forty people, divided into seven groups, volunteered to read 4 books per group. They recommend the books that would inspire rich discussion and be most appropriate for a community read. Many good books were on the list of the top 28 books nominated by the community. However, only 5 books were selected as Contenders.

Small World: A Novel by Jonathan Evison

Small World is set against such iconic backdrops as the California gold rush, the development of the transcontinental railroad, and a speeding train of modern-day strangers forced together by fate, it is grand entertainment that asks big questions.

The characters of *Small World* connect in the most intriguing and meaningful ways, breaking and winning our hearts again. In exploring the passengers' lives and those of their ancestors more than a century before, *Small World* chronicles 170 years of American nation-building from numerous points of view across place and time. And it does it with a fullhearted, full-throttle pace that asks on the most human, intimate scale whether it is truly possible to meet, and survive, the choices posed – and forced- by the age.

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Remarkably Bright Creatures, is an exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope, tracing a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus. After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine, but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for

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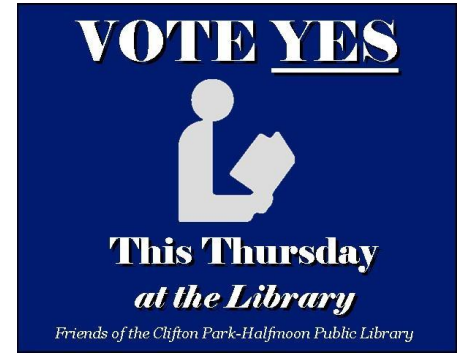
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"The most important office, and the one which all of us can and should fill, is that of private citizen."

- Louis Brandeis



On Library Vote Day, Thursday, September 14th, these roadside vote signs remind our community to take a few minutes to stop at the Library and vote. Our Library is a treasured resource. Please make voting a priority this year!



WE'RE HAVING A FREE DRAWING ON VOTE DAY! ~

- On Vote Day, the Friends of the Library Two Towns-One Book program will announce the winning book for our 2024 Community Read.
- On Vote Day, the Friends of the Library Hospitality Team will serve cider, donuts, apples, and home-made brownies in the Library "cafe".
- On Vote Day, there will be a drawing for an Adult FOL Book Bag with a free \$5.00 FOL membership and a coupon to fill the bag at our next Used Book Sale.
- On Vote Day, there will be a drawing for an FOL Yellow Children's Backpack with a \$5.00 FOL Membership and a coupon to fill the bag with children's books the first day of the next Used Book Sale.
- On Vote Day, there will be a drawing for an Amazon Fire tablet.
- On Vote Day, there will be a drawing for two great family board games.

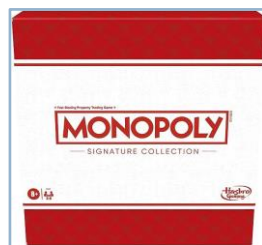
Our goal in 2023 is to increase the participation of our Library Community in our Library Budget Vote on Thursday, September 14th from 7:00 am – 9:00 pm. Will you put that date on your calendar and VOTE? Help us achieve this goal!



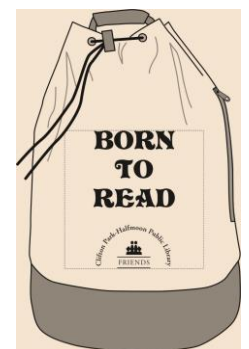
Amazon Fire Tablet



Fill Adult Book Bag Next UBS



Two Great Board Games



Fill a Kid's Backpack Next UBS

The Friends are having a drawing on Vote Day, Thursday, September 14. Come and vote, check out the display about the winner of our Community Read in the Around the Corner Display under the stairs, and visit the TTOB/FOL table where you may register for the drawing. Don't miss it!

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YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!

EDITORIAL COMMENT BY LIBRARY PATRON, DAN BRUNELLE

In America, almost ALL US Citizens over the age of 18, if registered, may vote in our elections. A few exceptions apply, and yet the total vote for Presidential elections over the past 50 years has varied from 33% (in 1948, re-electing Harry S. Truman) to 43% (in 2008, electing Barack Obama), with the exception of the last two elections, increasing to 48% (to elect Donald Trump), and then 66% to have Biden defeat Trump. Trump lost the two recent votes by millions of voters, but won the first in the Electoral College, then was defeated by Biden by the exact same margin of electoral votes.

Clearly, votes matter. If any of us care about the outcomes of our elections, we need to get out and vote. I've personally voted in every election since I turned 21 (voting age way back then). Sometimes I won, sometimes I lost. However, at least I had an admittedly tiny voice in the outcome. If you choose not to vote, you've had absolutely NO say.

In the USA, two major parties, Democrats and Republicans, have won every Presidential election, comprising over 95% of the total vote. Although we have many other parties, they have never won in a Presidential election, and rarely surpass 5% of the vote. These are typically protest votes, suggesting that the voter favors neither major candidate. Recent spoilers in 3rd party votes include Ross Perot, who led to the election of Bill Clinton; Ralph Nader, who allowed George W. Bush to be elected; and Gary Johnson (Libertarian) and Jill Stein (Green Party), who took over 5.8 million votes out of the contest, and could, possibly, have changed the outcome in 2016 of Clinton vs Trump.


According to the media, and I also believe it's true, we are now a greatly divided country, in terms of hopes, dreams, and values. We all need to educate ourselves about the evolution of our country on a whole host of important topics, which include the economy, our future, guns, education, abortion rights, climate change, our teaching of history, racial issues, foreign policy, and the war in Ukraine, to mention a few. I ask all of you to read, learn, and decide. Who will lead our country? By your vote, you exercise a fundamental right and responsibility within a democratic state. Who we elect sets an example to the world about who we Americans are, what our most fundamental values are, and whether our country makes decisions that benefit future humankind (not just Americans).

This is because this country with its vast resources has an outsize influence in the world. Please, VOTE for the person who you believe will ensure the greatest good for us and our neighbors.

Two local votes, which typically gather a small percentage, are those for our local school Boards and CPH Library Board. Both votes are vitally important for the education of our children as well as to promote lifelong learning for adults. Neither should be left to indifferent or uninformed citizens. Please go to the Library website and read about our CPH Library vote and the candidates running for Clifton Park Trustee, and VOTE.

Dan Brunelle is a retired GE chief scientist, research chemist, avid reader, supporter of public schools, and appreciative patron of the Clifton Park – Halfmoon Public Library!





Support Your Library!

Please vote on

**Thursday, Sept. 14th, 7am-9pm
at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon
Public Library**

*Ad sponsored by the Friends of the
Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library
www.friendsofcphlibrary.org*

You'll see this ad in local Stewart's Shops the week prior to the vote. The add was paid for by the Friends of the CPH Library, another way your memberships help support our library.

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BOOK LOVERS, UNITE! THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ARE CALLING!

ANTHONY (TONY) MCCANN

“Books are violent things, they wound some hearts deeply.” I read this comment from the French novelist, Francois Mauriac, some sixty years ago, while browsing the bookshelves of an Army library on a NATO base in Livorno, Italy. I was alone.

I remember the librarian, Mr. Jacobs. He was excited to have a ‘customer’. Library patrons were rare he said, sadly. Beyond the Library in our terrain, all important communication was classified. There was no annual vote and funds for the Library were guaranteed in the military budget. The kind Librarian was looking for disciples, not customers. I saw the light when he sent me to the novel department to look at Mauriac and some other French fellow named Albert “Kamus.” (Years later, a Stony Brook Prof corrected my French.)

There was a book called “Catcher in the Rye” that I had read about in the Army newspaper. A soldier from Kentucky mentioned “A Separate Peace”. The buddies from Long Island had not heard of Jay Gatsby, but one soldier knew about Hemingway’s war stories, and I remembered a play by O’Neill that we had read in high school and a heart breaking book by another French novelist called “The Last of the Just” that a fellow student recommended.

I dug into ‘Kamus’ and Salinger and a very strange Kafka and got lost in the weeds and the flowers. The holy Librarian urged me to keep on searching for the Light that would change my life. He was not a monk. “Words are beautiful things, like a garden.” he said repeatedly. “Books heal!” he declared with religious zeal. But Mr. Jacobs also knew that words wound deeply and must, sometimes, be handled like a grenade. “Don’t pull that pin.”

“Sorry, I should not have said that.” Few soldiers went to the Library on their days off.

I remembered learning in history class about a long Celtic war fought a thousand years ago by holy Monks over an engraved sacred book allegedly stolen by a rival medieval Monastic scholar. My grandmother who was married to the Village Blacksmith was angry, for twenty years, with a family who did not return a borrowed book. I thought the book was gold. My father, before he died, gave me two shillings to join the Village Library. The government built and stocked the libraries, but there was a

modest membership fee for book lovers. After all the wars were over a writer rebel from Cork had gone to all the Towns in Ireland to make sure that they set up “The Library.” I always had a good feeling about books but was relieved when a famous poet said, “Poetry can communicate before it is understood.”

Years later in another country on the Great Plains of Shenendehowa, I watched citizens build a beautiful new Library after a long and contentious public debate and referendum. One pro-book voter said, “I am a Citizen not just a Taxpayer.” Another said: “The children are watching.” Voting lines were long and the arguments intense. Luxury or Necessity? Which side are YOU on? The book lovers won that day. The students cheered.

More years later, I saw an elderly man who had voted “NO” sitting in a library chair by the window reading a magazine. He seemed happy. He stayed a long time. The children running up the stairs did not distract him. Some people had DVDs and others had arms filled with books. The parking lot was full. In the wintertime, the Library was filled with light. The staff were all serving the disciples, cheerfully.

In September when the leaves turn again on the Great Plains of Shenendehowa, I will remember again Mr. Jacobs in Livorno and my father’s two-shilling Library fee. We MUST vote. Ghosts are counting the budget ballots. Our children are the poll watchers.

Anthony “Tony” McCann is legendary on the Great Plains of Shenendehowa with colleagues, former students and their parents. You can imagine, while reading his editorial, that he did a great job leading kids to love reading, writing and books! Mine, did! I thank you, Tony.



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JOURNALING WITH INTENTION

JANINE DE TILLIO CAMMARATA

One of the most impactful ways journaling has improved my life and how I live each moment is through my daily morning journaling. Before my day begins, I sit with a cup of tea and think about my INTENTIONS. To me this means how do I want to show up for myself and others. My word of the year is 'Connection,' so that's always in the forefront of how I prioritize my time. How will I connect with my purpose and bring that to my family, community, and the world? It may mean I'm checking in on a friend or teaching a workshop. Big or small, as long as it's aligned with who I am, then it's a great intention.

A little twist on gratitude, POSITIVES are about noting what I'm looking forward to throughout the day. Even if I don't have something scheduled, I find I write what will bring me joy. Sometimes it's cleaning off my desk.

Checking in on my MOOD and WHY is something that Brené Brown called a Two-Word Check-in. How am I feeling right now? Knowing why helps with self-awareness, and writing it down gives me space to process my emotions. Another step I might do is deciding if I need to act, especially if my mood isn't on the positive side.

Then at the end of the day and sometimes during it, I'll circle around and write a DAILY JOURNAL POST. How am I feeling. How did my day go? Did I do what I planned to do? If not, what got in the way? I also refer back to those intentions, and journal about how they were brought into my day.

Journaling . . .

"The best time to begin keeping a journal is whenever you decide to."

— Hannah Hinchman, *A Life In Hand: Creating the Illuminated Journal*

"The starting point of discovering who you are, your gifts, your talents, your dreams, is being comfortable with yourself. Spend time alone. Write in a journal."

— Robin Sharma

"What a comfort is this journal. I tell myself to myself and throw the burden on my book and feel relieved."

— Anne Lister, *I Know My Own Heart*

I may not get to all of this. I may write one sentence or not at all. That's alright. The fact that I started my day with good intentions sends a positive ripple effect to me and others.

Use the prompt pictured as a guide on how to set your daily INTENTIONS, POSITIVES, MOOD, and DAILY JOURNAL POST.

Journaling is a practice. The more you do it, the more you notice the benefits and the easier it gets.

Once a month, you can practice journaling at my CPH Library journal workshop. This is our 7th year, and every session is different. It's a fabulous community and I hope you'll join in-person or virtually! To register for that and other journaling and memoir workshops, please visit my website at www.janinedetilliocammarata.com

Happy Journaling!
Janine

Journal Post w/Intentions, Positives, Mood

Intentions: How do I want to show up today
Joy. Connection. Ease.

Positives: What I'm looking forward to doing.
Ride to Ft. Ticonderoga
Dinner
Being with family

Mood and Why (may do throughout the day & note time of day)
7:57am: Excited for ride
Grateful for my family and this quiet moment right now.

Daily Journal Post (note time of day)

JOY:

- What brought me joy today?
- Describe with details:
 - Who, what, where when, how
 - Sensory: see, feel, hear, taste, smell
 - How did I feel doing what brought me joy?

Connection:

- Who did I connect with today?
- What did this connection mean to me?
- How did it impact my day or someone else's?

Ease:

- How did I bring ease into my day?
- What ease mean to me?
- How am I feeling right now?

www.janinedetilliocammarata.com



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SUMMER LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

LOU ANN STEWART

Have you seen the construction signs and the workers in hard hats at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library? We are busy renovating our much-loved Children's Library. It may be hard to believe, but our building is almost 17 years old! It was time for a refresh and update of this well-used space.

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends, we are creating an exciting new Reading Nook in the Children's Library overlooking our beautiful Reading Garden! It will offer comfortable seating for all. When finished, it will be a cozy place to curl up with a good book and enjoy the view out the windows.

Before the pandemic, the Children's Activity Room was one of the busiest places inside the Library. It will soon re-open with bright new paint, a fun new floor design, and cabinets for storing all of the supplies we use to create great programs for your children. Additionally, our staff offices in the Children's Library are expanding and getting new paint, flooring, and window treatments.

We expect construction in the Children's Library will be completed this summer. In the meantime, please pardon our dust while we work to make the Library a better place for you, your family, and your fellow library patrons.



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UPDATE ON LIBRARY FOUNDATION ED RODGER



The Clifton Park Halfmoon Library Foundation was created upon the occasion of the Library's 50th anniversary in the late Fall of 2019.

We developed a mission statement: The goal of the Foundation is to enrich the overall services of the Library by funding programs and projects that traditionally are not or would not be financed through local tax dollars or other public resources reflected in the annual library budget. Monies raised by the Foundation will be used to support programs and projects that fall outside the scope of the annual budget of the Library and might not be initiated or continued without supplemental private funding.

We decided to meet in April 2020 to start planning how to introduce the Foundation to our community. Unfortunately, the pandemic had different plans.

Our plans are to regroup and begin to seek grants and opportunities that are not available to the Library as a unit of local government but

could be accessed by a Foundation and to encourage donations to an endowment to support the Library in the future.

We are seeking individuals who would be interested in serving on the Foundation Board and help us go forward. For additional information, please [contact Francine Rodger](#).



Vincent Aceto, Ed Rodger, Daphne Jordan, and Michelle Gorab selecting the logo.

WELCOME NEW FOL BOARD MEMBER, LISA TOTARO!



Lisa Totaro joined the Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library Board in June, after volunteering with the Friends through the first half of 2023. She brings 20 years of marketing and communications experience - and a love of libraries - with her.

Her role with the Friends includes sharing content on the Friends' Facebook and Instagram pages to foster conversation and community.

Lisa is a graduate of the University of Virginia, which is also the home of one of her favorite scents - the Alderman Library book stacks. She lives in Clifton Park with her husband and son.

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INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATIONS

JIM FOSTER

In an effort to continue to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in New York State, the Library has partnered with National Grid and a local company, Livingston Energy Group, to install four EV Charging Stations. As the first certified “green” library in the state, this initiative goes hand-in-hand with our continued efforts to remain environmentally friendly.

The charging ports occupy the first four parking spaces along the Library’s sidewalk in front of the building. The installation of these ports was made possible by a grant from National Grid and a generous contribution from the Friends of the Library. There will be no financial impact on library district taxpayers, including for regular usage.



NEW MUSEUM PASS: THE EMPIRE PASS COMING SOON!

JO ANNE ROBBINS

The Empire Pass will be our next new Museum Pass. It provides an opportunity for all-season enjoyment at New York State Parks and the State Department of Environmental Conservation areas including forests, beaches and trails. The pass provides **unlimited day use vehicle entry** to most DEC forest preserve areas, boat launch sites, arboretums and park preserves as well as most parks administered by NYS Parks.

Enjoy the beaches, the picnic areas, scenic highways and the lakes in the Adirondacks and Catskills throughout the spring, summer and fall. Swim, hike, picnic, fish, and bring as many friends as your car holds! It’s all covered by the Empire Pass. It’s another good reason to show up on Vote Day and say, “Thank you!” for the excellent services provided by our Library by voting in support of our 2024 Library Budget!

Once we have received the pass, we’ll send an announcement by email. It should be available soon!

Friends of the Library
Used Book Sale!

Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library

Friday, September 29th
11:45 - 12:45 FOL Members Only (50 book limit)
12:45 - 1:00 Closed, no shopping
1:00 - 5:00 All admitted

Saturday, September 30th
10:00 - 4:00

Sunday, October 1st
12:00 - 4:00 Bag Sale
\$1 a bag!

friendsofcphlibrary.org

The next FOL Use Book Sale will take place September 29 through October 1. Save the date and get your next great read. FOL members get in early on day one! Deadline for donating books September 21.

[Join today!](#)



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his human captors--until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late. Shelby Van Pelt's debut novel is a gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible.

The Nature of Fragile Things by Susan Meissner
April 18, 1906: A massive earthquake rocks San Francisco just before daybreak, igniting a devouring inferno. Lives are lost, lives are shattered, but some rise from the ashes forever changed.

Sophie Whalen is a young Irish immigrant so desperate to get out of a New York tenement that she answers a mail-order bride ad and agrees to marry a man she knows nothing about. San Francisco widower Martin Hocking proves to be as aloof as he is mesmerizingly handsome. Sophie quickly develops affection for Kat, Martin's silent five-year-old daughter, but Martin's odd behavior leaves her with the uneasy feeling that something about her newfound situation isn't right.

Then one early-spring evening, a stranger at the door sets in motion a transforming chain of events. Sophie discovers hidden ties to two other women. The first, pretty and pregnant, is standing on her doorstep. The second is hundreds of miles away in the American Southwest, grieving the loss of everything she once loved. The fates of these three women intertwine on the eve of the devastating earthquake, thrusting them onto a perilous journey that will test their resiliency and resolve and, ultimately, their belief that love can overcome fear.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
Lessons in Chemistry is a heartwarming and witty exploration of gender expectations, personal growth and the power of knowledge. It demonstrates the importance of challenging societal norms and serves as a reminder that everyone has the potential to make a meaningful impact in the world. Elizabeth Zott is the protagonist of the story and is many things. She is a scientist, a lover, a friend, a mother, a television host and an excellent cook. In fact, most of Elizabeth's growth comes from accepting that she does not need to fit into one neat and tidy identity. Elizabeth's friendships, career, and dating life are all impacted by sexism. The obstacles she faces ultimately inspire her to advocate for women's rights through her work and in her private life.

Horse by Geraldine Brooks

Horse is based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred, Lexington. *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.

Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom named Jarret and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South. When the nation erupts in civil war, an itinerant young artist who has made his name on paintings of the racehorse takes up arms for the Union. On a perilous night, he reunites with the stallion and his groom, very far from the glamor of any racetrack.

New York City, 1954. Martha Jackson, a gallery owner celebrated for taking risks on edgy contemporary painters, becomes obsessed with a nineteenth-century equestrian oil painting of mysterious provenance.

Washington, DC, 2019. Jess, a Smithsonian scientist from Australia, and Theo, a Nigerian- American art historian, find themselves unexpectedly connected through their shared interest in the horse--one studying the stallion's bones for clues of his power and endurance, the other uncovering the lost history of the unsung Black horsemen who were critical to his racing success.

These are your choices, now it's up to you. Vote for the Contender (whether you have read any or not) you would like to be the winning book. [You can vote online](#) or through ballot boxes at the library. You may only vote for one book. Your name and email address is required to vote. The winner will be announced at the Library Budget Vote on September 14th.

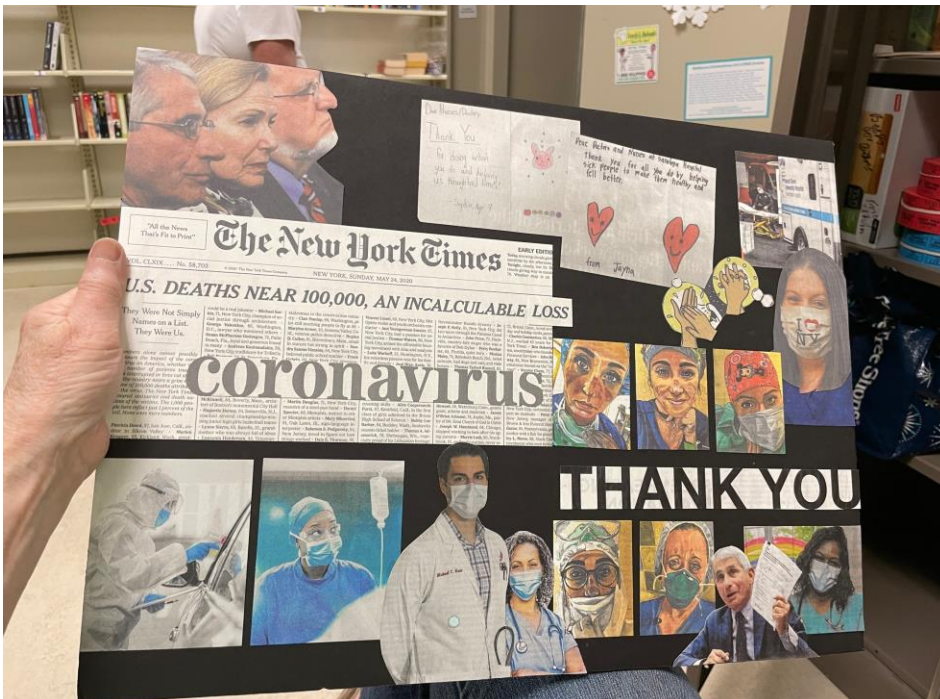


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GIVING THANKS FOR SURVIVING COVID – HOW HAS YOUR LIFE CHANGED?



These collages summarize our COVID experience; history; sadness; grief; challenges; service; loss; amazing sacrifice; amazing achievements, and why I am thankful today! It is hard to put all of this into words, but these posters tell that story! Book Friendly has documented our experience. Thank you to the teens who put these posters together to sum up where we were and where we are now!



COVID HAIKU – HOW HAS LIFE CHANGED?

Work from home? Now? How?
Miss office space, colleagues face
Boomer learning Zoom
-Anita Thompson-Heisterman

Schools closed, children home
Running, screaming, crying loud.
Not them, I meant me
-Ramon Presson

Sting wrote our anthem:
Don't stand so, don't stand so, don't
Stand so close to me
-Ramon Presson

I search for yeast, yes
To bake the bread we don't knead
Gotta stay busy
-Dr. Amu Bass

Sniffing and sneezing
My head floats - mind fogs over
Promise it's a cold
-Jesse Glucksman

My mother's cooking
Has gotten better thanks to
Coronavirus
-Kazuma Inamin

I am still concerned . . .
How am I to avoid it?
No masks - just vaccine?
-Jo Anne Robbins

No more pandemic
People still dying daily
COVID isn't gone.
-Anonymous

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FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK JUDY AND TOM CORIGLIANO

Wow! We waited so long for summer to get here, and suddenly, fall is on the horizon! It seems that the end of summer is coming earlier and earlier each year!

Having said that, we hope everyone is well and enjoyed an active and fun-filled summer. And we hope that the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library was part of those summer activities! We are happy to report that at this writing, the Friends of the Library membership has passed five hundred members and has been fairly stable since the first of the year! We think that part of that stability has been the change from having all memberships expire at the end of the year. The “rolling” membership, that was introduced in January 2023, means that your renewal notifications will come throughout the year on the anniversary of your initial enrollment. So many of you will start to see emails urging you to renew your “Friends” membership very soon.

If it isn't already on your calendar, please note the dates for the fall Used Book Sale from Friday, September 29 to Sunday, October 1. FOL members will have early access on Friday from 11:45am to 12:45pm. We will have a desk setup where you can re-new your membership or become a member then.

If you are a 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 go to [Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library - Welcome \(friendsofcliftonpark-halfmoonlibrary.org\)](https://www.friendsofcliftonpark-halfmoonlibrary.org) to download the application form.

See you at the library!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NEWS ABOUT LIBRARIES?

The Library of Congress . . .

The Library of Congress's National Book Festival took place August 12 in Washington, D.C., and recordings of all talks will soon be made available on [the festival website](#). If you visit, you can learn about upcoming books, trends, and more. It is from the Library of Congress, and free to all Americans.

The New York City Public Library . . .

The beautiful research library on Fifth Avenue guarded by Patience and Fortitude (the most famous lions in the world) has been making some major changes in order to be more welcoming and less intimidating.

That library, (especially the entrance at the top of those front steps) is still as imposing as ever, but it is becoming a far more welcoming place. There's been a \$200 million renovation going on.

Last month, a new entrance opened along 40th Street, allowing visitors to bypass the Fifth Avenue front steps and come around the side through a peaceful, shaded outdoor plaza with benches. The library has also upgraded their public restrooms, expanded their gift shop, and transformed what was a simple food cart into a full cafe.

Just off the lobby, the room that was used to store maps has been converted into a beautiful visitor's center with a detailed model of the building as well as interactive screens to provide an overview of the library's history and collections. I can't wait to visit!

Capital Region Libraries . . .

Several Capital Region libraries will receive funding from a \$34 million dollar capital funds for [public library construction projects](#).

Nearly \$800,000 dollars will be split amongst Troy, Watervliet, Waterford, Albany, and Voorheesville Public Libraries.

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TRAVELS WITH RHONA RHONA KORETZKY FORMAN

*I haven't been everywhere, but
it's on my list.* - Susan Sontag



The Alhambra



Don Quixote and Sancho



Camel Train Morocco

In March 2023, 29 intrepid travelers departed for Madrid as part of the FOL travel group. From Madrid we headed south to Cordoba, Granada, and Sevilla, and then crossed the strait of Gibraltar heading for Morocco. With each day, we moved deeper into the Islamic culture, exploring new cuisine, architecture and customs. Our experience was enhanced because we were traveling in Morocco during the holy month of Ramadan, and we saw a side of this fascinating country that most visitors don't get to observe.

Would you like to be part of the unique experience of traveling with a small group of friends of our library? We take at least one extended trip per year and all are welcome!

In January 2024, we will escape our northern winter to visit the rainforests, mountains and both coasts of Costa Rica. There are a few openings on this tour and if you would like more information please contact the FOL travel coordinator, Rhona Koretzky, at busplus1@gmail.com or by text or phone at 518-505-1303.

Heads-up: the May 2022, national parks tour in Colorado and Utah was so popular and spectacular that there will be another trip to national parks (this time including several in Canada) in early September 2024. Watch for more details coming soon.

FOL is on the move!



The Blue City of Chafchouen



Hassan II mosque in Casablanca



Art at the Prado – Tobias and the Angel

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THE LIBRARY BRIDGE MARATHON

JO ANNE ROBBINS

Several years ago, I asked Friend Carolyn Gray to provide some history about the Library Bridge Marathon. At the time (2018), I had attended a bridge fund-raiser sponsored by Care Links. It was at that fundraiser that I learned about this organization and decided to join.

If you are in one of the younger generations, you probably don't know much about the game. Contract bridge, or simply bridge, is a trick-taking card game that is played by two pairs of players, one pair against the other pair. Partners sit opposite each other at a table. Millions of people play bridge worldwide in clubs, tournaments, online and with friends at home.

In the fall, the person coordinating the "marathon" sends a communication to all players containing the list of players and a schedule for the year ahead. Players pay a fee to participate that is used at the end of the year to fund prizes and a donation to a community not-for-profit and the Friends of the Library. At our library, the donation is put to use in some activity or project supporting our library.

According to Carolyn, the group was started in the late 1960's or early 1970's. Originally, there were 20-24 couples and there was a waiting list to join the group. Today, the group is smaller – 9 or 10 couples. Each August, the group is usually looking for interested players.

Bridge is a game for all ages. It is probably the only competitive activity that all generations can do together, and all have an equal chance of winning. It is a myth that bridge is an old person's game. It is a game best learned when you are young and enjoyed for the rest of your life. It is a game that you can spend your whole life studying, learning and playing, yet never fully master!

If you would like to learn more about the game of bridge, <http://www.learn2playbridge.com/> is an excellent on-line website where you can learn the basics on your own. The following YouTube address will take you to a series of free videos that will introduce you to the game. You can watch them over and over and they are all free.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-82gGKAsUE>

Another option - members of the Library Bridge Marathon invite anyone interested in learning to play to sign up for free bridge mentoring by sending a message to the following link. [Click here to register for a group lesson.](#) We will work with groups of six at a time (first come first served) – creating two tables, six learners with one coach at each table.

Bridge is good for the mind. It is a mental workout unlike any other and is one of the few activities to stimulate both halves of the brain in equal measure. So, thank you to the Bridge Marathon for its donation. Hopefully this article will encourage a reader or two to learn the game. You won't be disappointed.



"Many games provide fun, but Bridge grips you. It exercises your mind. Your mind can rust, you know, but Bridge prevents the rust from forming."

– Omar Sharif

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