

THE FRIENDS MAKE IT WORK

Debbie Desrochers – Library Director

In late fall 2000 a small group of people met to talk about what to do about the old Lake Pleasant Library. After a lot of discussion about redoing the old library, the group decided that we should have a new library.

The group could not, by law, even call itself a Library of any sort as the State does not recognize any but chartered Libraries. They came up with a temporary name – the Community Cultural and Media Center or CCMC. Thus was born the precursor to the present Library.

The first issue was what kind of library. Because one of the major members of the group was the Town Supervisor Frank Mezzano and because Frank was working to get the old health clinic as a place for a new Library, the group decided to go with a municipal library.

A Board of Trustees was selected by the Town Board and work on renovating the old clinic began. Work was done by volunteers led by Mickey O'Rourke and a real library building began to unfold. The new Board of Trustees worked to get a provisional charter and when that was done, the old CCMC was no longer there. Now the group could become the Friends of the Library, first under the leadership of Audrey Newell and for the last three years the leadership of Toni Morrison.

The Friends do not run the library but the library could not run without the Friends. The Library staff and the Board of Trustees depend on the Friends for much support. This is the time of year for the Friends to seek members. Membership Chair Carol Sengenberger has worked to increase membership and last year it reached an all time high of 85. Membership is \$10 per person per year. Meetings are held from May through November the second Tuesday of the month at 4 PM at the Library. Join and become a helper for the Library.

Friends raise money to support some of the programs the Library sponsors and also to support programs the Library staff runs such as the very successful children's Tuesday program. Friends are the main source for planning and carrying out fund raising for additions. So far, the first renovation was done completely by volunteer labor and the addition a few years ago was the result of Camp Fowler's wonderful contribution of labor and money. A new addition may be coming and this one would be built professionally so Friends will be working hard.

Friends also helps recruit the many volunteers who work to make the library so successful. When you join, please fill out the form to help out in the many ways volunteers serve the library. You will have a lot fun and be a big help to an ever growing library. Applications for membership are in the mail to past members and available from at the Library for new members. Join.

The month of December we served 739 patrons, of those 139 used the computers and 130 were here for various meetings.

Here are some items you may want to check out this month:

Trial by Fire by J.A. Jance;
The Honor of Spies by W.E.B. Griffin;
Witch & Wizard by James Patterson;
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs;
The Winter of My Repose by Linda McGovern;
Terror in the Adirondacks by Lawrence Gooley.