

FRIENDS OF THE BERNARDSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

2017 ANNUAL LETTER

You are the “hero” of our story. It’s your gifts of support that allow the library to offer the range of programs and events that cover the interests and needs of all members of your family and of the community at large. And it is this same library which continues to keep just one step ahead of our needs.

I’d like to tell you my story. Perhaps you will recognize yourself in parts of it. I came to this town as a newly married “young” professional (okay, maybe not that young!). Always a reader, for me, one of the “musts” for a place to start our married life was a library where I could feel at home browsing the aisles for just the right book. As I had first one, then another child, I turned to our library for children’s story time, fun crafts, and a seemingly endless supply of books and movies. It was a great way to provide entertainment and growth for our children. And yes, it was a great way to get out of the house to meet other mothers (sorry, Dads, it was mainly a Mom’s world back then). And all of this at no charge to me.

Our network of friends grew as we moved from preschool to Bedwell and on to middle school. The highlight of those early years? Remember the St. Nick tradition of leaving a shoe out to get goodies? And we loved getting the newsletters to see what activities and events were coming in the next few months. The library calendars always graced our refrigerator!

Over the years, we signed up for chess lessons, summer reading programs and museum passes. We even tried our hand at origami and other crafts. As I look back, I see that as my children grew, so did the library. From the books we loved, to the reference materials needed for school projects, from Beta to DVDs, computers and the Internet, it was all at our fingertips. My son and daughter had the opportunity, in a very safe environment, to earn community service hours and to socialize with their friends. And all of these services and benefits free of charge.

All too soon it was the end of my daughter’s and then my son’s time in high school. As they went off to college, I found myself with “me” time. I forgot what that was! Once again, I was drawn to browsing the aisles; the library was the same, but oh, so much more! Now I noticed the book clubs, rental books, large type books (yes, the time had come!), online magazines, E-readers, special events, speakers, and Sundays at Three concerts! When did this all come about?

Even during difficult times, the library was there for our community. After Superstorm Sandy, as our town struggled without power, the library was there for us. Town residents, invited in to keep warm, filled every nook and cranny recharging their cell phones and laptops and reconnecting with neighbors. Not all libraries were there to help, but ours certainly was.

My story is not yet done. With time now to volunteer, I asked myself where I could best fit in. I realized all chapters of my life included the library and what better way for me to serve than to help sustain this “heart of the community” for future generations? I found what I was looking for with the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library.

This is my current chapter and I hope it includes you. Although most of the programs we offer are free to you, they are not free to the library. We need your support whether in talent, treasure or both. They say you can judge the quality of a town by its library and in Bernardsville, our 5-Star Library is representative of that excellence.

If you have given to the Friends in the past, we thank you for your continued support. If you have not, please consider including us in your charitable giving plans this year. Your donations help to make this an amazing library and we hope you will be the “hero” of our story.

If you are interested in being on the Friends’ Board, contact me at Friendsbernardsvillelibrary@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library. I’m looking forward to your being part of the next chapter.

Sincerely,
Nancy Verduin, President

Officers, Directors and Meetings

Monthly meetings of the Directors of the Friends are open to all members (next meeting is Nov. 1st). Our current board:

Steve Autenrieth
Bob Baker, Treasurer
Jamie Bertoni
John Bertoni, VP
Patricia Carroll

Jerry Clark
Tim Coleman
Amy DeMilt
Denis Dooley

Sarah Glazar
Nancy Goguen
Debbie Heimerl
Roni Larini

Dan Lincoln
Shikha Mayer
Maria Myers, Corr. Sec.
Lori Pakrul