

FRIENDS OF THE BERNARDSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

2018 ANNUAL LETTER

October 2018

Dear Friend,

I am often asked, “*What is it exactly that the Friends do?*” “We help the Library with funding for programs and events” is one short answer I often give. But it is a lot more complex than that. If you think about those you would call a “friend,” some are new acquaintances, others old, some are family friends, and some are from work or from the love of sports. Some came with your spouse, others you met together. While each relationship is unique, you call each of them a friend for a reason.

We are called the **Friends of the Bernardsville Library** for a whole host of reasons. First, we are old friends with over 100 years of history. Second, we aren’t fair weather friends; no, we have been right here with the Library through thick and thin. Like your friends, the Library knows it can count on us, year after year. Through moves to new buildings, leadership changes, and the day-to-day workings of the Library, each of our directors has recognized the Friends as tried and true friends!

We have been there in times of need. With the 2017 budget shortfall, we were there to pick up more of the programming and event costs. While our mission does not allow our fundraising to pay for Library operating costs (lights, heat, payroll), by picking up a broad range of event, programming, books, and other expenses, the Library and Library Foundation can concentrate on covering operating costs.

And this year for the first time, the Friends will be supporting the English as Second Language (ESL) program. After over 20 years with ESL primarily supported by volunteers, the program will be run through funding supplied by the Friends. Remarkably, the ESL program has over 400 attendees each session! What a benefit this is to the community.

Of course, we could not cover this need without the support of our friends.

Like your best friends, the Library can count on the Friends to provide the funding necessary to put on fabulous children’s programming year after year. We are very proud of the Friends’ financial support of these wonderfully creative and varied programs. Two years ago, we began funding for what has become a popular new feature in the children’s arena – the Winter Camp. We have seen the camp expand and blossom. I wish the camp had been in existence when my kids were young!

Sometimes our friends ask us to do something new and different. Last year our Library director, Alexandria Arnold, presented a unique request to the Friends: “Could the Friends fund the leasing of a color copier?” We agreed! Now able to use bold colors and graphics with in-house capabilities, the creative and colorful Library materials are quicker and more cost-effective to create. Looking back, we can’t understand how the Library was able to do so much without one!

Of course, we could not offer something new without the support of our friends.

Friends like to tell each other what they are doing. I am sure some of you receive a few ‘holiday’ letters designed to let you know how the year went. Or maybe you share pictures and news on Facebook, Instagram, or Snapchat? We are no different! As true friends, we want to share what is happening at the Library with everyone; we do that by sponsoring the bi-monthly newsletter.

And what group of friends doesn’t want to throw a good party? Showing off what we do and sharing it with

our friends, is well, just flat out fun. Try one of the Sundays at Three concerts or attend the senior breakfast and entertainment, and come join the fun. Use one of the museum passes supplied by the generosity of the Friends and spend the day exploring the Grounds for Sculpture or The Frick Collection.

Of course, we could not provide concerts and museum passes without the support of our friends.

Who doesn't love to play mini golf? What could be more fun than attending our first ever mini golf event (mark your calendars for February 8th & 9th) as we plan to transform the Library stacks into **A Hole Lot of Fun!**

Friends like to try new things together. Ever hear of Hoopla (streaming digital movies), Flipster (digital magazines), or Ancestry.com? Our Library is ever-changing with the times. And, I look forward to growing together, as friends should.

Like all friends, we cannot take each other for granted. We cannot assume the Library will have the breadth of opportunities within its four walls. The opportunity to read, research, rejuvenate, or explore does not happen without the support of its friends. We cannot assume the funding will be there. Whether you have donated in the past or are thinking about donating for the first time, we thank you and are happy to have you as our Friend.

Sincerely,



Nancy Verduin
President, Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library

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P.S. If you are interested in being a part of the Board of the Friends, contact me at Friendsbernardsvillelibrary@gmail.com.

The 2018-2019 Annual Fund Drive is on!

Giving is easy. You can make a donation via PayPal on our website www.bernardsvillelibrary.org/bla, in the return envelope provided, or in person at the library. Please also remember us in your company's matching gift program.

Name (as you wish to be listed): _____

Address, City, State, Zip Code: _____

Donation: \$ _____ Phone Number: _____ E-mail address: _____

I wish my gift to be anonymous

If your company has a matching gift program, please provide a completed matching gift form.

Company Name: _____

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library. Mail to P.O. Box 455, Bernardsville, NJ 07924.