

FRIENDS OF THE BERNARDSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

2019 ANNUAL LETTER

October, 2019

Dear Friend,

I read an article in last October's edition of the publication *The Voice for America's Libraries* titled "Libraries: Why? How? What?" The article got me thinking about these questions as it relates to the Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library. We are often asked "what" we do and "how" we do it, but rarely are we asked "why" we do it.

The "what" we do is to provide support and resources that expand the offerings of the library beyond what operational funding provides. Through your support of the Friends, the library offers the community resources and programs like museum passes, movies, concerts, a senior breakfast, and the library newsletter. In addition, we provide funding for expanded children's programs including winter camp and summer reading, as well as many of the clubs and events offered throughout the year.

The "how" we provide this support is through fundraising events and our annual campaign. This year we introduced a new event, **A Hole Lot of Fun**, which was a mini golf fundraiser. We had over 40 local businesses, organizations, and individuals contribute their time, resources and funding for the event. With close to 500 children and adults enjoying a fun day (or evening) of mini golf, local fare, and a wonderful basket raffle, we are already planning our second annual Mini Golf event for February 8th of next year.

The "why" reflects our passion. Why do we volunteer and more specifically, why the library? After all, there are many very worthy non-profits. Usually people who volunteer, including the members of the Friends' board, do so for more than one organization. It's in our DNA to actively participate in worthy causes that help our community, our friends, our family and those who need our support.

Another "why" is because we can help. An effective board needs people with diverse interests and abilities. Some of our board members contribute their professional skills while others bring their innate talents to the board. We have members who have an interest in numbers, others in creative writing and public relations, and some who engage in community outreach, and still others with great organizational skills.

So the fundamental question is "why" the Friends of the Library? I volunteer because I am passionate about reading. My two "go to" activities are reading and anything that has to do with the beach. I enjoy both whenever I can and often together!

I, like other Friends board members, am also passionate about our community. We often hear the library described as the *heart of our community*. Whether used as a quiet spot to read, a place to hold a meeting, get the latest books, movies, or e-Readers, or as a warming station during storms, the library opens its welcoming doors to us.

I can't help but be passionate when I see our dedicated library staff welcoming the community into the library.

I can't help but be passionate when I see a child beaming with pleasure holding a golf ball and club and expressing "I played mini golf in the library!"

I can't help but be passionate when I see couples, young and old, dancing in the aisle during the Sundays at Three concerts.

I can't help but be passionate when I see the care our youth services team takes to develop and implement programs that nurture our children and young adults including those with special needs.

I can't help but be passionate when Well, the list goes on and on. Each of us can fill in the "why" we are passionate about the library, our community, and the Friends.

If you are passionate about our community, please consider supporting the library with a donation to the Friends. In addition, we invite you to contribute your time and talent to the Friends board and be part of the "what," "how" and "why".

You can find us at www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheBernardsvillePublicLibrary; on Instagram: [FriendsofBernardsvilleLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/FriendsofBernardsvilleLibrary); and on Twitter: [FriendBvilleLib](https://twitter.com/FriendBvilleLib), as well as the library website at www.bernardsvillelibrary.org

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 2019-2020 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.

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