

FRIENDS OF THE CHAPEL HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

An overview/Martha Brunstein, President

Highlight of the year 2008-2009 was the selection of the Book Worms, Virginia Powell, Margie Pfaff and Jean Seaman as Volunteers of the Year for the Central District by the Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries which earned them well-deserved statewide recognition.

Long time board member, past President and 20 year Newsletter editor, Margery Thompson moved out of state in early 2009. The Board doesn't seem the same without her.

The Board was pleased to welcome three new members during this year, Nancy Dixon, Alisa Hutchison and Maria Piskor. We regretfully accepted the resignations of Chris Page, Eunice Brock and Nancy Peacock.

A tradition was reinstated when the Friends Board hosted a thank you luncheon for the Library staff on April 22, 2009

A special thank you is due our officers this year. They included Lee Mayfield, Vice President; Pat Carpenter, Treasurer and Kathy Harris, Recording Secretary. Thanks also to Dot Blyth, Corresponding Secretary and Phyllis Henry, Assistant Treasurer as well as immediate past President Patsy Saylor for her willingness to help wherever and whenever needed.

Books Sandwiched In/Nancy Dixon, Chair

This has been a transitional year for Books Sandwiched In. The leadership was transferred by Chris Page to Nancy Dixon at the December meeting. Also at that meeting we were fortunate to have Luba Solczyn of the Chapel Hill Public Library become a member, advisor and liaison with the Library.

Records from July through April (except Sept. and Oct.) indicate an average attendance of 10, with a record of 21 in March. We meet every month except January. Discussions are led by members; at the December meeting we secured volunteers for the rest of the year. Titles to be discussed have been selected for next year and are listed on the web site. Meaghan Rosen of the Library is ordering the books funds for which are provide by the Friends.

Memos are sent to a number of those interested in BSI. Bookmarks listing the titles are available. The Friends arrange for a broad range of public announcements in all media. Luba Sawczyn is designing a new bookmark which we hope to have by next month.

BSI is appreciative of the support it receives from the Friends and the Chapel Hill Library. The Friends provide books, funds for bookmarks and incidentals, and encouragement. The Library provides the meeting space, coffee, circulation of books, help with ordering books and ongoing liaison and advice. Our mission is books so we have an ongoing satisfying connection with both organizations.

Meet the Author Tea/Nancy Peacock, Chair

Monthly programs included the following authors with attendance ranging between 20 and 50 people each month.

September - Sybil Skakle - Confessions of an Outer Banks Filly

October - author cancelled (Ted Dunnagan - A Yellow Watermelon)

November - Joyce Allen - Hannah's House

December - Nancy Peacock - A Broom of One's Own

January - no reading due to library meeting

February - Louise Hawes - Black Pearls

March - Kate Betterton - Where A Lake Becomes a River

April - Zelda Lockhart - Cold Running Creek

May - Dawn Shamp - On Account of Conspicuous Women

Financial/Pat Carpenter, Treasurer

The 2008-2009 Annual Report is attached. The Friends gifts to the Library in 2008-2009 included an annual gift of \$34,200. Additional money given to the Library for the Friends Bookshelf, Youth programs and the book club brought the total to a few dollars short of \$50,000. Money is earned from Book Sales and membership fees.

Hospitality/Eleanor Engel, Chair

The Hospitality Committee served tea, coffee and cookies to guests of the Meet-The-Author Teas. This year we also hosted a luncheon for the Library staff in April. I would like to thank the members of the committee for their participation and dependability.

They are: Martha Boren, Martha Brunstein, Lee Mayfield and Patsy Saylor. Bitty Holton provided the beautiful centerpieces for all our events.

Newsletter/Martha Brunstein/Jon Breece, Editors

Four 4 page and three 6 page editions were published during our 2008-2009 year. Business conditions meant that we had to change both our mailing house and our imager. Both changes have worked out well in terms of the appearance and delivery of the Newsletter. An attempt to change to on-line distribution met with such low response that it appears the time is not right yet for our membership. Will move to all six page issues in 2009-2010 and publish every two months except for hiatus in June/July. In addition to publicizing Friends events, the Newsletter promoted Foundation events and fund raisers. It also carried publicity for events and activities like Movie Nites, Featured Databases, Friends Book Shelf, Children's programs and Book Sales. The Newsletter provided updates for members on the progress of the expansion. In 2009 we concluded a series on Five Decades of Dreams and Discovery in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the CHPL

Sunday Series/Martha Brunstein, Interim Chair

With no full time chair for this activity we were able to schedule five Sunday events:

Hidden Voices, October 19

Birth of a Book, October 26

Prompt Writing Workshop, November 16

Opera at the Library, January 25

Jaki Shelton Green, May 17

In spring of 2009, one of our new board members, Maria Piskor, volunteered to take over the adult program series. The Sunday Series will be replaced by Beyond the Books, a series of programs on varying topics which will be presented on weekdays or Saturdays depending on the presenters' availability.

Book Sales/Virginia Powell, Chair

There were four quarterly book sales in May, August and November, 2008 and February, 2009.

In addition, Mini-Sales were held in the lobby on most Wednesday afternoons from 3-5:00pm. No Wednesday sales are held during weeks prior to and immediately after the quarterly sales or on holidays. Total revenues generated by book sales during the 2008-2009 year were \$44,069.24.

Membership/Kari Winter, Chair

Total membership as of the end of April 2009 stood at 482; 33 are honorary memberships and 449 are current members. We had a total of 96 new members during this period. A special annual fee of \$10 was created for students in February and resulted in three student memberships. Membership generated \$17,542.00 in revenue.

Investment/Ray Carpenter, Chair

As the conditions in the stock market deteriorated badly during the past year, the committee made no changes in its portfolio. In its January meeting, it did recommend further investment in a bank certificate of deposit.

The portfolio balance presently comprises \$11,174 in the T. Rowe Price Capital Appreciation Fund and \$8,275 in the T. Rowe Price New Era Fund for a total of \$19,449. This represents a 38% loss in the original capital investment of \$31,377, an amount closely approximating the loss in the stock market overall.

Scanner/Patsy Saylor, Interim Chair

In March 2009, the Scanning Committee began scanning books that were designated by the Book Worms for Wednesday mini-sales. Books which scanned for values of \$10 and more were put aside. Starting in April a rack of X-tra Value Books was included in mini-sales with books which scanned for an average value of \$10-\$20 selling for \$2.00 and books scanned for an average value of \$20-\$30 selling for \$3.00. About 1/3 of those higher priced books sell each week with an increase in revenue generated by the total of four racks of \$1.00 books and one rack of \$2.00 and \$3.00 books. An effort will be made to sell books scanned at an average value of over \$30 on line by a member of the Scanning Committee.