



100 Poverty Road, Southbury, Connecticut 06488 • 203-262-0626

## FRIENDS OF THE SOUTHBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Summer/Fall 2024 Newsletter

#### *Look what we've done with your membership dues!!*

It's time to renew your membership, or join The Friends for the very first time. But why pay money when you get all the benefits without joining? Your membership dues, whether at the \$10 minimum level or higher, help underwrite the cost of the services The Friends provide to the entire community. Summer reading for kids and teens, movie licenses, scholarships for college-bound high school students, passes to area museums and attractions, programs (so many programs), equipment – wouldn't you like to know that you helped fund all of that? To join or renew, go to <https://www.southburylibrary.org/about-us/support-the-library/friends>, return the form sent with this newsletter, or pick up a membership form at the library.

#### *Friends of Southbury Library Award Scholarships*

The Friends of the Southbury Public Library awarded four merit-based scholarships to college-bound seniors from Southbury. Trey Brattain and Kitan Arole were each awarded a \$2,000 scholarship. Brody Bowser and Isabelle Pepe were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

In his application essay, Trey stated "I knew I wanted to involve the library because I had been volunteering there for the past 3 years. Through the help of the library staff and my goal to get the community involved, I was able to decide on a tiny art show project. The objective was not only to enhance the relationship between the library and the community but also to inspire the younger generation to get involved with the arts. Collaborating with the library staff was pivotal." Kitan's application essay described her decision to "host an Immersive Creative Writing Workshop. I wanted other Southbury residents to learn about the power of their words, and that their creative expression shouldn't be silenced. I taught kids who had no interest in writing to share their ideas endlessly. I was ecstatic that I could share my passion for storytelling with my community to help bring them closer together."

Brody wrote that "From a young age, the library taught me the power that books possess and I was immediately captivated. The library became a sacred space for me where I could immerse myself deep into the world of stories. Even now, as a graduating senior, the library is still a part of my life. I find time in my busy schedule to volunteer in hopes of inspiring young kids to take up and fall in love with reading the same way I did." Isabelle's essay told the story of having her library card blocked because a young sibling destroyed a book, and her work to overcome that block. She wrote about "the incredible kindness afforded to me by the library staff, whom I will always be grateful to. Volunteering at the library has afforded me a lot of incredible opportunities, and has changed my life for the better."



*Jeanne Marie Nealon, Scholarship Committee Chair, Isabelle Pepe, Head Librarian Heather Aronson, Bill Schulz, Friends Board member, and Trey Brattain*

Awarding these scholarships to college-bound Southbury residents is an investment in the future of our community. The Board of the Friends of the Southbury Public Library believes that encouraging the pursuit of further education of our children benefits all of us. The Friends are able to award scholarships with financial support from membership dues and the proceeds of the annual and ongoing book sales.

#### *Feeding the Book Sale Volunteers*

Many thanks to these Southbury restaurants and bakeries for providing lunch and treats for the many volunteers who made the book sales such a rousing success: The Bakery, DiPalma's, Hometown Pizza, Hudson's Café, Julio's, Leo's, Mercato, Mikee's, Miranda's, Oriental Gourmet, Samui, Senior Pancho's, ShopRite, and Sonny's Asian Grinders, and Southbury Printing Center for the lunch signs.

#### *Book Donations*

Don't wait for Donation Days to bring your gently-used items to the Friends to sell! We accept books in all genres for all ages, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks on CD, vinyl records, puzzles, wall art, jigsaw puzzles (all the pieces, please!), and games. You can drop a few items at the library's Circulation Desk –specify they're for the Friends, and please don't put them in the book return or leave them outside anywhere. Drop off any quantity of donations at the door at the ramp in back of the library any Tuesday or Thursday between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., when the green "We're open" sign is out. For pickup of larger quantities, call Ken at 203-233-1714, Jeff at 203-578-5988, or John (after Labor Day) at 203-525-0199 to arrange for a pickup.

Do you have old, interesting, collectible books sitting around collecting dust? Leather-bound sets? Pre-World War I cookbooks? A Boy Scout manual from 1940? As long as they're in good condition (again, not moldy or musty), we accept those, too.

Volunteer with us! Do you want to sort books for the sale? We sort every week, and we welcome new faces! Come to the lower level of the Southbury Public Library between 9:30 and 11:30 on Tuesday or Thursday mornings and ask for John or Ken, or talk to any of the volunteers you find.



*Board member Gary Gollenberg, Brody Bowser, Head Librarian Heather Aronson, Kitan Arole, and Scholarship Committee Chair Jeanne Marie Nealon*

### *Museum Passes*

The Friends purchase passes to area museums and attractions that can be checked out with a current library card (library cards are free). Our 31 museum passes were borrowed a total of 341 times in the past year! Passes offer free or discounted admission, and are checked out for three days. Passes are first-come, first-served, and can't be reserved. You can find a list of passes at <https://www.southburylibrary.org/using-the-library/services/museum-passes>.

### *Programs? What Programs?*

While the Friends don't fund all of the programs the library offers to the community, we do fund the great majority of them. We've allocated \$55,000 for programs for the fiscal year that began on July 1, by far the largest percentage of our expenses. For 2023-24, the Friends contributed \$44,000 to the library for programs. The success of our book sales allows us to increase that by \$11,000 for the 24-25 fiscal year. Overall, \$12,000 will fund programs for adults, \$16,000 for programs for children (including Summer Reading programs), \$11,000 for teen programming, \$9,000 for concerts and music programs, and \$7,000 has been allocated for programs that don't fit neatly into any single category. Programs included crafts and food, music, story times, author talks, history programs, genealogy programs, and movies, and so many more. What a great service to the community!

The library offers so many Friends-funded programs that we don't have room in this newsletter to mention all, but here are a few highlights:

**ADULTS** - offering Zoom options allows us to use presenters from other locations.

**TEENS** – we have revived the Junior Friends of the Library, and Cute Animal hangouts has become a monthly event.

**JUVENILE** – we offered a Family Giant Game Afternoon, a new Tunes & Tales musical storytime, and have continued our partnership with the Southbury Garden Club.

**ALL AGES** - Tiny Art Show had 177 participants from ages 4 months to 89 years, and we held Family Trivia Nights and Game Nights.

For the period from July 2023 through June 2024, here are the numbers for programs funded by the Friends: 109 Adult programs attended by 4,216; 93 Teen programs (1,941), 430 Children's programs (6,116), for a total of 632 programs attended by 12,273 people.

### *What Do the Friends Do with the Money We Raise?*

Your membership dues, proceeds from the book sales (annual, half-price, year-round in the lobby, and online) fund almost all of the library's children's programs, some of the concerts, movie licenses so the library can show films legally, and some of the digital services available to everyone in town. While the total amount of membership dues may not seem like a lot, every dollar we raise contributes to an ever-better library for our community.

One of the most exciting projects we're funding is BeanStack, a web-based application used for Online Summer Reading to give you the option to log your time or get virtual raffle tickets through Beanstack. If you also sign up for the online version, you can still keep a log on paper and/or collect paper tickets if you prefer (and vice versa). Why use the online version? If you have a ton of tickets to fill out at one time, it can be easier than writing them all out by hand. If you're going on vacation, you can enter in your raffle tickets from anywhere in the world with an internet connection. You can't lose your summer reading log, and it does the math for you—13 minutes there, 75 minutes there ... it all adds up.

## **Friends of the Southbury Public Library Board of Directors 2024-25**

President	Jeff O'Sullivan	<b>At Large</b>
Vice-President	Glenn Heckendorf	Melanie Brooks
Treasurer	John Michaels	Gary Gollenberg
Recording Secretary	Anita Barney	Eric Olsen

### **Committee Chairs**

Corresponding Secretary/Membership	Alexandra Mitchell
Communications	Anita Barney
Hospitality	Glenn Heckendorf
Scholarship	Jeanne Marie Nealon
LaBonne's	Bill Schulz