



BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

brookslibraryvt.org

224 Main Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301

November 2019

Dear Friend,

May we call you Friend? We hope so. You are now the proud holder of a Brooks Memorial Library card! That's why we're reaching out to ask if you will donate and become a member of the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library. Everyone who contributes to the library's 2019-20 Annual Appeal becomes a member of the Friends.

While you're reaching for your checkbook, we thought you'd like to know what the Friends' did for the library last year. So we compiled a little list. It's quirky as well as breathtaking, so hold on.

We brought to the library community:

- Rb Digital: for audiobooks, e-books (for reading on a screen), Acorn TV, Pongalo (Spanish language movies), and Quello concert videos. \$1,500
- Lynda library: instructional videos to help library users develop career and technical skills \$2,500
- First Wednesday Lecture Series: eight lectures on a variety of topics on the first Wednesday of every month from October to May..... \$2,900
- 3 PaperWhite Kindles that allow readers with visual impairment to instantly enlarge type or deploy a text-to-speech reader; gives users access to titles only published electronically; makes it easy to obtain multiple copies of titles for reading groups and gives patrons a chance to test out an interesting new technology \$445
- A Martin Luther King performance \$750
- Foundation Center: A comprehensive data base that helps funders and nonprofits find each other \$2,495
- Mango Languages: offers fun, self-paced interactive language lessons for more than 70 languages..... \$1,070
- Writing classes..... \$320
- Kanopy: "Thoughtful entertainment," mainly classic and Indie films, which library patrons can stream at home..... \$2,000
- Rebel Diaz Hip Hop Concert for Kids \$500
- Irish Concert..... \$300
- Meg Mott's lectures on the Amendments to the Constitution, "Debating Our Rights" \$600
- ProQuest: Ancestry.com, the world's largest collection of genealogy records \$1,851
- DearReader: An on-line showcase for new books being added to the library collection \$1,030
- Orion Telescope for circulation \$214
- Adobe Software for iMac..... \$642
- Constant Contact: The platform for our on-line newspaper \$848

BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jennifer Rowe
President

Leo Schiff
Vice President

Connie Bresnahan
Secretary

Adam Franklin-Lyons
Treasurer

Howard Burrows

Sirkka A. Kauffman

Beth Ruane

Leo Schiff

John Woodward

FRIENDS OF BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joyce Marcel
President

Elizabeth Wagenknecht
Vice President

Karen Duggan
Secretary

Connie Kimball
Treasurer

Sue Dyer

Jamie Harvey

John Komar

continued...

- BookPage: The colorful monthly magazine about books; free at the library.....\$348
- Laptops: This year we bought eight new laptops for library patrons.....\$3,336
- Museum Passes: We spent \$2,100 on passes so we can offer free or discounted tickets to these area museums, parks and historic sites:

- American Precision Museum
- Bennington Museum
- Billings Farm and Museum
- Brattleboro Museum and Art Center (2 passes)
- Clemmons Family Farm
- Echo Lake Aquarium & Science Center
- Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art
- Fort at No. 4
- Hildene: The Lincoln family home
- Historic Deerfield
- KidsPLAYce
- Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory
- Mass MOCA (2 passes)
- Retreat Farm
- Clemmons Family Farm
- Shelburne Museum
- Smith College Art Museum
- Southern Vermont Natural History Museum
- Vermont Institute of Natural Science
- Vermont State Historic Sites
- Vermont State Parks
- Vermont’s History Museum

- TixKeeper: how the staff manages the museum passes.....\$425

Upstairs, a contribution of \$2,500 helped to buy three chairs for the Young Adult room. We paid for a mime to entertain in the Children’s Room. We brought in the Montshire Star Laboratory, an inflatable planetarium, for a magical day’s experience among the stars. We bought 50 copies of the book “Hey Kiddo” to give away at a Young Adult author’s reading, and we buy pizza every other week for the gaming group. Total: approximately \$3,615.

In addition, we are helping cover the cost of an archivist to identify the unique archival materials in the library’s special collections, helping to preserve them and make them more accessible to the public. And we decorated the library with poinsettias for Therese Marcy’s farewell party.

All told, we were able to raise and spend more than \$32,000 to help support the library.

But wait, there’s more. We also did: two book sales; a Samirah Evans and Evelyn Harris jazz/blues concert; a thank you event for all our Friends; four colorful newsletters, plus a dessert night to celebrate National Library Week.

In the digital age, libraries provide us with not only books and magazines but all manner of electronic goodies, as well as lectures and a place to play chess or Scrabble. Our library is truly becoming the living room of our community.

We need your help to continue with our support.

Thank you,



Joyce Marcel
President of the Friends of Brooks Memorial Library



Jennifer Rowe
President of the Board of Trustees