



JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS

Fall 2008



Volume 12 Issue 3

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A Message From The President

Dear *Friends*,

We are proud to announce that the *Friends* of MCPL continue to support our wonderful library as it expands its programs. During this past year, the library initiated a very successful program, known as the Singles' Café, which targets our singles population. The *Friends* will be paying for one of their speakers for the upcoming year. At our June meeting we voted to donate \$3000.00 for the new Children's Learning Garden that is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2009. We will continue to give support to the Music Fest, Museum Day, the Teen Writing Project, Boomers and Seniors, Middle Country Reads as well as staff recognition.

We were delighted to receive a letter of appreciation from Denise Haggerty, President of the Library Board of Trustees, for the beautiful piano the *Friends* donated to the Library in the spring. It is great to know that the Board recognizes the many contributions the *Friends* make to MCPL.

We also appreciate the letter of recognition from Director, Sandy Feinberg. (*Thanks from MCPL* p. 2) and would like to congratulate her on her recent induction into the Suffolk County Women's Hall of Fame. Sandy and her staff continue to bring honor both near and far to our community. It is no wonder that residents of Middle Country are the envy of library patrons everywhere.

Special thanks to, one of our charter members, Barbara Gottfried, who has joined our newsletter staff. I'm certain you will enjoy her article *Why I am a Friend* on p. 3. Welcome Barbara!

Sincerely,
Donna Smosky



SPECIAL THANKS ...

to Terry Kowalski for hand-painting the beautiful birdbath that was raffled off at the Garage Sale and earned \$237.

Robert Zebrowski was the lucky winner. He was delighted to have this addition to his new backyard pond area.

Recipe for a Great Garage Sale á la *Friends* of MCPL

Start with a heaping helping of library staff and *Friends'* donations. Fold in the talents of co-chairs Diana Gallo, Theresa Kowalski and Marcia Schaeffer and then blend the mixture with an overflowing measure of community support. What do you get??? The perfect bargain hunter's feast!!!...the *Friends'* Annual GIGANTIC Garage Sale! Held on Saturday, August 2nd at the Centereach building, this year's tempting array raised a new record of just over \$1500! This amount, added to income from the raffle and membership table brought us a total for the day of \$2,257.20. Sincere thanks to all who helped to cook up this tantalizing event.



"Without your work and support our Library could not have become the model institution that we are today." Director Sandy Feinberg p.2

THANKS FROM MCPL

Dear *Friends*,

The *Friends* of MCPL frequently sing praises of our Library and staff. As we approach National Friends of Libraries week in October, it is my turn to do the same for the Friends. On behalf of the Library Board and staff, I want to express a heartfelt appreciation for the support the *Friends* provide for staff recognition, projects, programs and facilities. I merely need to look around the building to be reminded of your generosity. Each time staff and patrons relax on a dragonfly bench in the Reading Garden, take a peek at the fish swimming in the aquarium, or enjoy a staff recognition event, we are especially grateful for the *Friends*.

Thanks to your fund-raising activities last year, we were able to purchase a

piano for the Centereach building. Let the music begin!

The energy and time that our many *Friends*' and volunteers put into the various activities – the book and garage sales, membership drives, newsletters, administrative tasks (to name a few) - is commendable and truly appreciated. Without your work and support our Library could not have become the model institution that we are today. We look forward to continuing our wonderful relationship and building on the already successful partnership.

Sincerely,
Sandy Feinberg
Director, MCPL



The eighth Women's Expo will be held on Thursday, October 2nd from 11 am to 6 pm at the Library's Centereach building. The Expo will showcase over 70 women's exhibitors

from Suffolk and Nassau. Thousands of people attend this exciting event.

Friends are needed to help the vendors transport their wares as well as to help out in the Expo café. If you can help, please email us at Friends@mcpl.lib.ny.us or call Diana Gallo at

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better."

-Sidney Sheldon

MUSIC FEST



On Friday, August 1, 2008, MCPL held its fifth annual Music Fest (formerly known as the Battle of the Bands) at the Centereach building. With eight bands competing, attendance this year exceeded 500 teens and family members who came out to support their favorite band. Judges had a tough time deciding on the winning bands with so much talent to choose from.

The *Friends* were proud to provide the prize money of \$500.00 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners. First place went to **Voiceless Century**, second place went to **Piercing Silence** and the third place winner was **Years After Yesterday**. Congratulations to the winners and all the participants.

Friends' Recognition Week

The 3rd Annual Friends of Libraries Week will be celebrated October 19–25, 2008. We will use this week to promote *Friends* in our library community, to raise awareness and to promote membership. It will also be a great time to recognize membership for their past help and support of the library. Be on the lookout for our special displays.

We are looking for...



Someone who is familiar with Publisher and/or Quark and who would be willing to be the Layout Editor for our newsletter. If you are interested, contact Donna Smosky at dsmosky@hotmail.com or 473-6092.

We would also like to thank Bruce Kirschner for the excellent job he has done in this capacity for the last two years. Thank you, Bruce!

WHY I AM A FRIEND

BY BARBARA GOTTFRIED

Did you ever feel so strongly about something that you just had to be a part of it? Have you ever felt that you owed a debt that you passionately wanted to pay back? That was me many years ago, when a small group of us sat in a circle in the Community Room forming what would be the first group of **Friends** of the Middle Country Public Library.

I grew up in a town in Queens with a very small library. But every Friday after school my mother would take us to the "Story Hour", after which we (I was one of 7 children) would all pick out the books we would read for the week. We didn't have the money for our own books, so the library was a gold mine and we were permitted to have as many riches as we could carry. A love of reading and a love of learning started there. My mother taught us that we could learn and accomplish anything through reading and by following through on the knowledge we had acquired through our literary pursuits.

Many years and a Ph.D. later, I came to MCPL. If the little Poppenhausen Library in College Point was the gold mine, MCPL was the national treasure! And what was even more wonderful, was that I was being given the opportunity to pay back my debt to libraries by supporting this treasure through my efforts in the **Friends**. I became involved in many of the **Friends'** projects and felt a wonderful sense of pride in seeing tangible additions made to the MCPL through our fund raising efforts, encouraging patron participation in library budget votes to continue its wonderful works, and yearly increases in the number of patrons participating in our membership. How my family and I would have reveled in the programs, media, learning opportunities, and voluminous acquisitions available through MCPL! And our heads would have spun at being able to purchase and possess our OWN book from the **Friends'** book sales!

My enthusiasm and my linkage to the **Friends** and to MCPL have only strengthened through the years. As I watch young children and their families utilize and enjoy MCPL, and as I bring my own grandchildren here, I can only hope and wish that they are infused with the joy of reading, the zest of learning, the elation of accomplishment and the pride of being part of this national treasure!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome to our Newest Members

Jan Angelus, Ilene Augenlicht, Andrea Bowlay, Tom Brydezsky, Mazie LaPiana, Liz LaSala, Coleen Levitt, Helen J. Mirabella, Mary Ann Sherlo, Strassburger Family, Strong Family.

Thanks to our Friends who have moved up to a higher membership level:

Brian & Jennifer Beatty, Rosemary Pelham, Kristin Sabia, Carol Treptow

Extra thanks to our newest Platinum members:

Susan Buckley, Roberta Dola, Richard & Anne Hofelich, Eve Munsky, Wasilewicz Family

We Want You Back!

Perhaps it was an oversight, but.... there are many **Friends** who have yet to renew their membership for 2008!

You can renew your membership by picking up a membership form at the circulation desks at the Centereach and Selden buildings. Or, you can visit our link on the Library's website and download a membership form (www.mcpl.lib.ny.us). You can mail the membership form to: **Friends** at 101 Eastwood Blvd, Centereach NY 11720, or drop it at the **Friends'** mailbox at the circulation desk. Your renewed membership will run through December 2009.



As a reminder, membership levels are: Bronze (\$5.00); Silver (\$10.00); Gold (\$25.00); Business (\$25.00); Platinum/Lifetime (\$100.00). Your support and membership are most important, at any level!

If you are not sure of your membership status, please feel free to contact our Membership Secretary, Kathryn Sekulo at ksekulo@att.net or (631) 736-6929.



Friends of Middle Country Public Library

101 Eastwood Blvd.

Centereach, NY 11720

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Friends' Executive Board
2008-2009

President—Donna Smosky
Vice President—Kathryn Sekulo
Secretary—Marcia Schaeffer
Treasurer—Beverly Weinberg
Nominating Chair—Diana Gallo
Ex-Officio—Sharon Breen

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
All Meetings at Centereach

September 9th—Friends' Meeting at 7 pm
October 2nd —Women's Expo
November 7th & 8th—Fall Book Sale
December 9th—Friends' Meeting at 7 pm



FALL BOOK SALE

The next **Friends' Book Sale** is scheduled for **November 7** (Friday) from 4-8pm, and **November 8** (Saturday) from 9:30am – 3:30 pm in the Community Room at Centereach.

Please join us for this exciting event, which has become one of the **Friends'** main fundraising activities. In case you have not had the opportunity to attend one of the sales, there are thousands of selections, including hardcover and soft cover books, DVDs, videos, magazines, records. You never know what you'll find!

The Book Sale is also a great opportunity to help the Library, meet new friends and join in the excitement. If you can volunteer some time, even an hour or two, please contact one of the co-chairs: Margie Sekulo – liyellowbird@aol.com or Kathryn Sekulo – ksekulo@att.net (631)- 736-6929. **Friends** who help in the set-up activity get the 'first pick' of the sale items!

So, please tell your relatives, friends, and neighbors about this great community event!

Book Donations

Please remember, you can donate your gently used books for the Fall Book Sale. Bring them to the circulation desk at either building and just indicate that they are for the book sale.

