

Friends of the AK Smiley Public Library

President's Report : Annual Membership Meeting (via Zoom)

June 26, 2020

Silent Auction

The Friends have had another successful year of raising funds for the library. Our fundraising efforts continue to be led by our team of volunteers that coordinate the incredibly popular weekly silent auction. Hours and hours of effort are spent in sorting, researching, preparing items for sale, bundling, monitoring and tracking of sales transactions. Our team scours donations for items of popular interest, and our practiced eyes regularly will feature items on film history, military history, gardening, classics, art, biographies, cooking, etc. **\$37,000** has been raised this year!

Bookstore/Special Sales

A close second in our fundraising can be attributed to the efforts of our volunteers who maintain, restock, and staff the Bookstore on a weekly basis. Our first Saturday of the Month Bag Sales continued to be popular in the community, as attendees can fill bags with books for as little as \$5. We also hold many "special sales" throughout the year – Lincoln & Civil War History; Holiday; Semi-Annual; and Blowout \$1 Bag sales, to name a few. Between the Bookstore and Special Sales, **\$34,000** has been raised this year!

Adult Literacy

100+ tutors have volunteered to tutor **100+ adult learners**. Tutor/learner teams meet at the library or at one of three off site locations (the Redlands Community Center, Clement Middle School, and Family Services Association). We noted, with pride, that the adult literacy program was mentioned time and again in public letters of support to the City Council during discussions concerning the city budget. Adult literacy continues to be active despite the library closure, as tutor/learner teams meet via "Zoom."

Outreach & Community Support

This past year, the Friends partnered with a number of local businesses. Jersey Mike's and Corner Bakery worked with us in successful fundraising efforts last Fall. The following businesses generously donated gift cards that were used as prizes in our Annual Academy Awards Contest: The Breakfast Shack, Martha Green's Eating Room, Saverino's Italian Deli, and The State. The Friends also receive donations from the community throughout the year. We thank everyone for their generous support. A highlight in the Fall was our collaborative effort with the library for the *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) event, which featured altars sponsored by families in honor of loved ones, Folklorico dancers, food truck serving delicious Mexican food, and fun family activities.

Library Use of Funds

How does the library use these funds? Books for adults, books for children and young adults, electronic resources, audio books, and DVDs are purchased. In addition, programs were funded with support from the Friends –children’s programs (music, gymnastics); and adult programs (travel, music, book talks).

Volunteer Efforts

How do we make this all happen? It is all due to the efforts of a dedicated core of volunteers. Here is how our activity breaks down for June 2019 – June 2020:

AUCTION	226 HOURS X 9 MONTHS = 2032 HOURS
SHELVERS	260 HOURS X 9 MONTHS = 2340 HOURS
CASHIERS	130 HOURS X 9 MONTHS = 1170 HOURS
SPECIAL SALES	48 HOURS X 9 MONTHS = 432 HOURS
BOARD	= 2426 HOURS
TOTAL	8390 HOURS

Interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the Friends? Contact the Friends’ volunteer coordinator, Alice Moore (mikenalicem1120@gmail.com).

Strategic Planning

The Friends’ Board met last Summer to develop its strategic plan and goals – these efforts will be reexamined in light of COVID-19, as we strive to work within state and local public health guidelines. Each of the Friends’ programs – Silent Auction, the Bookstore, Special Sales, and Adult Literacy will be reviewed and reimagined in light of the pandemic and its aftermath.

Board of Directors

This year, we regretfully say farewell to our departing Board members: Toni Curley, Katherine Gifford, Claudia Quen, and Joan Wells. Each has contributed to the success of the Friends, and they will all be missed. Rebecca McCurdy, our incoming Vice President, was instrumental in attracting interest from the community with publicity in local newspapers and social media. This broadened our search from previous years, and as a result, we were able to identify 8 new members to join the Board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Les Kong, President, Friends of the AK Smiley Public Library