

Friends of Lake George Library

Annual Report

September 2023

The mission of the Friends group is to “raise public awareness by fundraising events and other activities to support the services, needs, and programs of the Caldwell-Lake George Library” and to “enrich the cultural and educational opportunities available to the citizens served by the library.” Throughout this past year we have worked to fulfill this mission in many ways.

The Caldwell-Lake George Library, under the directorship of Laura Burrows, is a vibrant hub for the community of Lake George, hosting a wide range of children’s activities; adult classes in painting, computer use, and various arts and crafts; writing workshops; art exhibits; book clubs; teen activities-the list goes on and on. The Friends group exists to support these programs.

We currently have 35 members with 12 new members joining this year. Membership dues have contributed \$1150.00 to our budget. We always welcome new members and encourage anyone who is interested to get involved. Membership forms are available at the library and in the Library Newsletter.

Our book sales are our biggest fund-raising activity. Our members organize and stock the bookshelves and run the book sales which are held every second Saturday of the month from 10:00-1:45, with sales on Fridays and Saturdays during the summer tourist season. This year we realized \$1378.30 from book sales. We purchased more Library Book Bags which we feature in our special monthly promotions and to sell to our patrons. We also held two fundraisers where two local restaurants, Bistro LeRoux in October, and The Adirondack Pub in January, donated a percentage of their profits that day to the library.

Our total income from all of these activities this year was \$3285.33.

To fulfill our mission of supporting the library, we funded the following programs:

- Annual Holiday Party for the children of Lake George
- Writer’s workshop presented by Colleen Paratore
- Passage on the Titanic, a program presented by Sue McLane
- Poetry workshop offered by Susan Jefts
- Puppet Show presented by The Puppet People

In addition, we provided funding for the library staff to attend the Annual NYLA (New York Library Association) Conference in Saratoga. We sponsored NYLA membership for all three staff members. We also contributed to the Library Annual Dinner by making baskets for auction and financing the musicians for the evening.

In addition to these larger programs, we helped prepare materials for children’s activities during

the Winter Carnival, summer camps, the children's story hours, and the children's Holiday Party.

To improve community awareness, we purchased a plaque to recognize those who were honored through memorial donations to the library. The plaque is on display as you enter the library. We also provide baskets of free books in the town hall, the laundromat, The Temporary Shelter in Glens Falls, Glens Falls National Bank, and in various hotel lobbies. Our events are publicized in the LG Library Newsletter, on library bulletin boards, and on the community digital display in Shepard's Park.

We started the year with a balance of \$3532.24 and ended the year with a balance of \$3019.34.

At our annual meeting, we will begin planning our activities for the coming year. The meeting will take place at the library, September 11 at 4:00. Please consider joining us!

Janice Pontacoloni

President of the Friends Caldwell-Lake George Library.