Annual Report

September 2024

Friends of Lake George Library

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, 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 approximately 50 members with many new members joining this year. Membership dues and donations have contributed approximately $3000 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, stock, and weed out the bookshelves and run the book sales. Our sales 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 $1400 from the sale of books, DVDs, and puzzles. We also sell Lake George Library book bags, which we feature in our special monthly promotions. We participated in the two-day Community Day Block Party where we sold books and bags. We held a fundraiser at The Adirondack Pub in November, and the restaurant generously donated a percentage of their profits for that evening to the library.

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

Annual Holiday Party for the children of Lake George

A button maker for Children’s Crafts

A program on Irish Stick Fighting

Yoga for Kids

The Wizard of Oz presented by The Puppet People

In addition to funding the above programs and supplies, 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, as well chaperoning many of these events. We also have volunteers who read to the pre-school children. We provided funding for the library staff ‘s membership dues in the New York Library Association and for the registration fees to attend this year’s NYLA Conference. We contributed to the Library Annual Dinner by making baskets for auction and paid for the musicians’ dinners for the event.

We started the year and ended the year with approximately $3000, so we have maintained a stable balance between what we’ve collected and what we’ve spent. We thoroughly enjoy supporting our wonderful library. We always welcome new members, so consider joining our group.

At our annual meeting, September 9th at 4:00 at the library, we will be electing new officers and beginning to plan for next year. Please consider joining us!

Janice Pontacoloni

President of the Friends of Caldwell-Lake George Library.