

Friends of the Library News

Welcome!

Welcome to Friends' new newsletter format. Beginning with this issue, the Friends' newsletter will be printed as designated pages in the *Greenbush Bookmark*, the Library's quarterly newsletter. Friends' past newsletters are accessible online on the Friends web pages, accessed via eastgreenbushlibrary.org, by clicking on the Friends' logo.

2016 Goals

The Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library leadership team already accomplished several of its goals before the calendar page turned to 2016. The team continues with its work on a wide spectrum of goals. The 2016 leadership team – led by President Lynne Oudekerk, Vice President Suzanne Aiardo, Treasurer Judith Maguire and Secretary Kate Hafner – is a diverse group, each with specialized skills and backgrounds but all committed to ensuring Friends continues its work to support and enhance the East Greenbush Community Library.

New Logo

A primary goal of 2016 is to deepen Friends' working relationship with library staff. Working with staff, Friends established a logo, it's first, so community residents and library patrons can easily identify the nonprofit group. In addition, Friends and library staff worked together to revamp the Friends' website, accessed via the library's home page by clicking on the Friends' logo.



Other Fundraising

While the book and media sales are the Friends' major fundraising activity, other fundraising measures are now available. The East Greenbush Library tote bags—which have been for sale at the library for many years—will also be sold via the Friends' web pages and available at various library functions. Beginning late 2015, the Friends signed on as a charitable organization listed on **Amazon Smile**, enabling a small percentage of each Amazon Smile sale to be sent to Friends. Please support Friends of the East Greenbush Community Library by designating it as your Amazon Smile charity today!

Sign up at smile.amazon.com or by clicking on the Amazon Smile logo on the Friends' Web page.

Friends of the Library Spring BOOK SALE

Thursday, April 21, 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Friday, April 22, 9:00 AM - 8:30 PM

Saturday, April 23, 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Sunday, April 24 1:00 - 3:00 PM -
BAG SALE ONLY

BARGAIN PRICES:

Paperbacks \$1.00; Books on CDs/music CDs \$1.00,

Market Books \$.50; Hardbacks \$2.00;

DVD and Computer Games \$2.00

SUNDAY ONLY: Books in Bag Sale \$4.00/Bag

Book Sales

Another accomplished goal is streamlining book/media donations. Spearheaded by Hafner, who co-manages the book/media sales with Mari Harris, the changes to the donation process ease the burden on both donors and the many volunteers who sort books and media throughout the year. Accepted donations include hard and softcover books, books on CDs, music CDs and DVDs. Friends no longer accept: damaged materials (torn, moldy or damp books or heavily scratched DVDs and CDs); LPs (vinyl); cassette or video tapes; book sets (such as encyclopedias); magazines; condensed books (such as Readers' Digest); text or technical books more than 10 years old; any personally copied media; maps or puzzles. While Friends greatly appreciates donations contributed for our sales, we cannot continue to offer items that do not sell, such as LPs," said Hafner. "Also, Friends stopped producing individual receipts for donations, a time-consuming process for Friends' volunteers. Listing our prices in the library and on Friends' web pages allows donors to create their own donation lists. This practice is commonplace with organizations as large as the Salvation Army and as small as Rensselaer's Circles of Mercy. We offer the donation values; the donor then uses the guide to write a valuation on what he or she has donated.

Book/Media Donation Valuation

Beginning 2016, Friends no longer offer individual, itemized donation receipts. This follows a commonplace practice held throughout charitable organizations. Donors prepare their own submissions using the following valuations below.

\$2.00 _____ hardcover books, DVDs, computer games

\$1.00 _____ softcover books (larger than mass market books), books on CD, music CDs

\$.50 _____ mass market books (5" x7")

\$.25 - \$1.00 _____ children's (infant to young teen) books

2016 Goals continued

Membership

Friends is also revamping its membership brochure as a first step in a campaign to attract new members. "Friends is an open and welcoming organization that attracts people of all ages," Oudekerk said. "Friends welcomes anyone who loves books, learning and helping others. We'd like people to join Friends and help in our events or just offer an opinion on what we can do. It's more than writing a check, although we do value all donations! An important part of our ability to be as active as we are is through membership donations and contributions."

According to Maguire, people who continue as a friend or

Have you sent in your membership or renewal form?

If you've not yet done so, please send in your membership/renewal form so our records are up to date and so we can reach you with Friends' news and activities.

become a friend won't regret it. "Clearly, I love our library and all it has to offer our community," she said.

A key initiative begun in 2015 is upgrading the Friends' data base to be more useful to the organization and library and to better identify Friends' members and volunteers. The upgraded data base is being managed by Friends' new Data Base Administrator Patrick Cronin.

Other 2016 work includes:

- revising organizational bylaws, role descriptions and procedures to better reflect current activities and systems;
- expanding advocacy work for the East Greenbush Community Library; and,
- augmenting Friends-sponsored community programs.

"The Friends' role is to support the library and enable the library to better serve the community," said Aiardo. "Our mission is to ensure the library is a major and expanding cultural resource and vital part of the East Greenbush community. This is what Friends is—an advocate for a great community library."