President’s Message

As a new year begins, I have renewed pride in our library and the Jackson Friends’ accomplishments in 2018. Our membership is growing and the number of business sponsors has more than tripled! Please familiarize yourself with these business Friends and patronize them whenever possible. Their financial contributions have helped us significantly this year. You can find their information on the last page of this Newsletter.

Have you ever wondered whether libraries may become irrelevant in this age of Kindles, iPads, social media, digital books, etc.? They absolutely will not! In our modern world libraries shape the way people interact. They provide not only access to books and cultural programs, but also other services such as companionship for older adults, a wide variety of free workshops and classes, book clubs, art activities and computing. In addition, an often overlooked benefit of libraries is that they offer a place for socialization where people can meet and interact with others in their community. Providing an opportunity for education, as well as the development of social skills, are both important aspects of a library’s reason for being.

By supporting Jackson Friends of the Library, you too are utilizing your library in a new way. You are supporting its financial needs by contributing your time and service through one of our many volunteer opportunities. Please consider 2019 a “Library New Year Resolution.” Meet us and join us. Our contact information is in the Newsletter on page xxx.

I look forward to a fun and fruitful 2019!

Rochelle Blum, President
What in the World is a Makerspace?
By Caroline Aversano

Staff at the Jackson Branch are often asked “What is a makerspace?” The answer to this question is both simple and complex. Sparks’s Lab at Jackson is a mashup of an art studio, computer lab, and kitchen. It is the physical manifestation of the Library’s commitment to life-long learning by providing not only space and equipment, but the opportunity for community members of all ages to learn new skills, develop hobbies, and collaborate on hands-on projects. Programs for children, teens, and adults include cooking and nutrition, the fine arts of pottery making and drawing, arts and crafts like jewelry making and sewing, and tech-focused endeavors like learning about electrical circuits and soldering.

The Jackson Branch has been a participating site for NJ Makers Day every year since its inception in 2015; more than a year before Sparks’s Lab officially opened. And thanks to the continuing, generous support of our Friends, we are planning a variety of activities for all ages for the upcoming 5th NJ Makers Day, March 22-23, 2019. We hope you can come experiment with us!

Meet a Librarian!
By Rochelle Blum

Judy Roberts has enjoyed working for the Ocean County Library System for 23 years. She came to the Jackson branch 14+ years ago, when she was promoted to Supervising Library Assistant, the position she holds today. Her responsibilities include overseeing the circulation department and supervising the library staff within it.

As a lifelong lover of books, Judy has a perfect pairing of interest and vocation. When asked about what she loves about her job, she quickly answered “helping people.” I hadn't realized that many adults who enter the library might be first time visitors. She enjoys assisting them to find out what they need, but also to help them become comfortable in the library. The children are also a source of joy to Judy, because they are always so eager and happy to be in the library.

Judy loves to read, which comes as no surprise, but she is also a new entrepreneur. She is developing a side business, Isagenix, which is a health and wellness venture. She finds it exciting to promote its growth. When there is time to relax, she practices yoga, something she would like to do more frequently.

It was my pleasure to have this opportunity to converse with Judy. When you see her in the circulation department, please say Hello!
The Friends of the Jackson Library held a very successful Psychic Fair fundraiser on October 18. Three psychics saw clients in day and evening sessions. Fifty-four clients came during the day, earning $540 for the Library.

The experienced psychics often work at psychic fairs. Harold Chasmar has done Tarot readings for 20 years. In addition to working at 18 psychic fairs each year, he is available at the Silverton Diner in Toms River every Tuesday evening. Carol Lidle also works at psychic fairs and has been giving Tarot readings for 20 years. Kassandra Chasmar has worked for 50 years giving palm, Tarot and crystal readings. Visit Kassandra and Victoria Chasmar at Charmed In Company in Waretown, offering readings, classes and gifts.

Our thanks to Shop-Rite and Stop and Shop in Jackson for gift certificates to purchase refreshments, and the Mug Rack in Jackson for donating wraps and salads. The generosity of these businesses allowed the Friends to keep all the profit from the Fair for the use of the Library. We ‘predict’ that the Library will benefit many Library patrons with the results of the Fair.
Trick or Treat at the Library  By Amy Tetreault

This Halloween, the Friends sponsored a “Trick or Treat at the Library” event. Staff members were dressed up in a variety of different costumes from the traditional witches and devils to video game characters. The children could visit various Trick or Treat stations around the Library by following a trail of Fall leaves, black cats, and other Halloween symbols from one to the next. They were rewarded at each station with smiles from costumed staff and candy. In the Children's area, there were crafts and games for the kids and their parents to enjoy.

Sewing a Table Runner  By Linda Lafer

The Friends of the Jackson Library sponsored a program entitled Learn to Sew a Table Runner on Monday, September 17 and Monday, September 24, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Five women, with prior sewing experience, attended the first session under the supervision of Linda Johnson, Library Assistant. Each person was provided with a sewing machine and instructed on how to make a fall table runner. All participants were fully engaged in this beautiful as well as useful project. Their comments included, “Having fun!”, “Very excited!”, and “I will now be able to make curtains.” There were approximately ten people on the waiting list for each session. The second class should prove to be equally successful!

Coffee Social  By Linda Lafer

The Jackson Friends of the Library hosted a coffee social at the Jackson Library on Monday, October 1 in honor of National Friends of the Library Month and International Coffee Day.

This event was attended by thirty-five Jackson residents as well as members of the Jackson Senior Center. The coffee was donated by Rook Coffee Roasters of Freehold and the homemade treats were provided by the Friends Hospitality Committee.

This was a wonderful opportunity for the Friends to educate the public on all of its many important contributions to the library while promoting membership in such a wonderful organization.
Back to School Nights
By Linda Lafer

During the Summer of 2018 the Jackson Friends of the Library Board decided to promote the Friends by participating in the Back to School Night programs to be held in the Fall throughout the Jackson School District. To this end Linda Lafer, Vice President of the Board contacted all of the elementary and middle schools in town and secured approval to have the Friends and Jackson Library staff attend the events at Christa McAuliffe, Goetz, Crawford-Rodriguez, Rosenauer, Lucy Holman, Elms, and Switlik Schools. There was a considerable amount of information that was shared among the parents and teachers during these special evenings. Much thanks to Liz Villecco, Amy Tetreault, Carol and Dave Whelan, Rochelle and Ira Blum, and Linda Lafer for volunteering their time. All agreed that this was a great way to publicize the Friends and the Jackson Library. Consideration will be given to repeating this endeavor for the Fall of 2019.

Children’s Furniture
By Amy Tetreault

One of the major projects that the Friends has undertaken with the Jackson Library in 2018 was the purchase of new furniture for the Children’s area.

The new furniture includes a wheeled book holder shaped like a mushroom. A new padded oval seating bench is low enough for even the littlest patrons to use comfortably. And a new padded bench that looks like a funny green snake is both comfortable and invites the use of little imaginations to create their own adventures.

There is also a fun new graphic rug and two small table and chair sets for the children to use. Stop in and check out the changes!
Help support the Friends through everyday activities

**Amazon Smile:** Support us with every purchase you make on Amazon! Shop through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), select “Jackson Friends of the Library A NJ Non Profit Corporation” from the list of charities and we will receive .05% of your purchase price!

- **TD Bank Affinity Membership Program:** TD Bank will donate to the Friends for every existing checking account ($10) or new checking account ($50) that our members open! Plus, at the end of the year, we will receive a contribution of .1% of our savings account or CD participants’ total annual average balances.

  If you already have an account with TD Bank, please email [FriendsofJacksonLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofJacksonLibrary@gmail.com). We will email you a form to fill out and take to Angela or Tina at the Jackson branch of TD Bank.

  If you open a new account at the Jackson Branch (checking, savings, CDs, retirement, etc), email us for a form and give it to your account manager at the time you open the account. None of your information will ever be shared with us.

- **Volunteer:** We are looking for people to help write articles for this quarterly newsletter, to visit businesses for our annual Business Sponsor program, to visit schools and community events for our outreach program, and to help out with occasional fundraising and community improvement events. If you are interested in any of these activities, email [FriendsofJacksonLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofJacksonLibrary@gmail.com).

Join the Friends Word of Mouth Campaign in 2019

The new year provides us with new opportunities to challenge ourselves. Make this the year you challenge yourself to help the Jackson community learn about the Friends of the Library! Many people in the area, including those who use the Library every week, don’t know about the Friends.

Challenge yourself to tell just one person you know or meet this year about the wonderful things the Friends help make possible at the Library. For example: if you are attending a Friends sponsored crafting or entertainment event, share that event and the fact that it was funded by the Friends of the Library with a friend of yours. Then explain that donations from community members are what make these enrichment programs possible. Spread the word about the Friends of the Jackson Library!
FIND OUT ABOUT THE FRIENDS!

Website: bit.ly/Jackson_FOL.com
Email: FriendsOfJacksonLibrary@gmail.com
Facebook: @JacksonBranchFriendsoftheLibrary
Twitter: @Jackson_FOL
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month at the Library
Address: Jackson Friends of the Library
2 Jackson Drive, Jackson, NJ 08527

JACKSON FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM
Make checks payable to: Jackson Friends of the Library
Mail to: Jackson Friends of the Library, 2 Jackson Drive, Jackson, NJ 08527

Name(s) ___________________________ Please Print
Email ________________________________
Address __________________________ Phone __________________________
City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______

How did you hear about the Friends? __________________________________________________________

Membership Level
Individual □ $10 Family □ $15 Patron □ $25 Benefactor □ $50
Champion or Business Sponsor □ $100 Other Donation Amount □ $ __________

As required by IRS regulations, we provide the following information: Jackson Friends of the Library is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our federal tax identification number is 43-2024252. As no goods or services have been provided in connection with this gift, the full amount is deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

Please indicate your interest in joining one or more of the Friends committees:

☐ Book Sales
  Participate in our annual book sale - set up, selling, breakdown, sorting book donations during the rest of the year.

☐ Hospitality
  Provide refreshments for select programs. Baking not a requirement. President will contact you with details.

☐ Membership
  Participate in membership drives and renewal program. Make personal visits to potential Business Sponsors.

☐ Publicity/Outreach
  Visit local community organizations to promote the Library and the Friends. Maximize donation opportunities for groups and individuals.

☐ Fundraising
  Participate in a major annual fundraising event as well as smaller events throughout the year.

☐ Social Media
  Manage social media accounts for the Friends to promote the Library, reading, and the Friends organization.

☐ Newsletter
  Contribute to the writing and editing of the Friends quarterly newsletter.

☐ Other - Please let us know what skills or strengths you might have to offer us!
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
P E A L  E O R D  H E OF T H E LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS!

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