



Bouton Honored on Friends Plaque



Brain Games always had a special place in Judy's heart

Judy Bouton has turned lots of "Can Dos" into "Done Thats" in her decade of service to the Friends. Her record and the cheerful way she provided leadership made her an easy choice as the most recent member of the Friends of the Island Library to be honored for her achievements by having her name added to the Friends' plaque of distinguished leaders,

Bouton grew up in Bayonne as one of 41 first cousins. "My parents had Polish and Italian ancestry, and my life was all about family," she recalled. As a member of the middle group of cousins age-wise, she found herself "in charge" of the younger cousins.

"Because of that, it was natural for me to go into teaching," Bouton said. She served a quarter century as an elementary school teacher in her hometown. As they neared retirement, the Boutons bought a house in the Peahala Park section of LBI.

In 2008, Judy had joined the Friends of the Island Library and, soon after that, the Board, working with Program Chair Nancy Petralia. "I was hooked on the library immediately after joining Brain Games, a brain exercise program then run by Basil and Phyllis Karp. It was fun learning and socializing in such a friendly atmosphere," she recalled.

In 2013, she became Board President, succeeding Judy Heuberger, and held that position through 2017. "Judy Bouton was always very enthusiastic," Linda Feaster, Branch Librarian at the time, remembered. "From the start, she was very interested in building up the Friends so it could be an even more effective partner for the Island Library. This was true in promoting the goals of the Ocean County Library System, especially that of building community."

Leaving the board in 2018 didn't mean walking away from Friends' programs. Judy took over management of Brain Games, "My first love," she admits, several years ago and has grown community interest in that lively learning program. In addition, she coordinates Project InVOLve, a Friends initiative that matches up eager volunteers with non-profits and volunteer organizations. She also works with other Friends to coordinate the Author Luncheon fundraiser each spring.

No slowing down for this dynamo, just changing course a bit. Congratulations, Judy. Well deserved!

National Friends of Libraries Week

Storm Rises On.

On Sunday, October 20, the Friends of the Island Library mark National Friends of the Library Week by presenting Gail Storm singing songs by Carole King. Storm, always a favorite at Friends' events, will begin her performance at about 2:45. Registration is required for her performance due to limited space.

Everyone is welcome at the Open House for refreshments at 2 p.m.; no registration required.

Quilts of Faith.

About 25 years ago, imaginations were captured by a tale of African-Americans weaving secret codes into quilt patterns in the 1800s to pass on clues and directions to runaway slaves in their dangerous journey to freedom. On Saturday, October 26 at 2 p.m., Quilts of Faith, a program presented by performer and storyteller Michelle Wilson, combines the legacy of quilting in the African American community with stories and songs of the Underground Railroad to weave a patterned explanation of this important part of Americana.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Island Library in honor of Friends donor Rosemarie Wirth.

Ever-Changing Music

The Friends of the Island Library will present "The World Changed, So Did The Music" on Saturday, November 9 at 2 p.m. Dr. Robert Butts, Ph.D., an award-winning conductor, composer and educator, will lead attendees on an enlightening tour of the sounds, aesthetics and auras of each decade of music in the modern era. From the late 1800s to today, the times have shaped what and how Americans hear and experience a wide variety of music genres.

Writing Groups Remain Strong

When Richard and Pat Morgan moved to the hills of North Carolina in 2018, two locals took up the banner for creative writing in the LBI Library. Sue Cummings now leads the poet's group, while Jerry Bowe heads the prose writers.

Bowe started attending the writer's workshop a decade ago. "When I first joined, it was just me and a few others. At the time, the group was led by Margaret Hawke. Richard Morgan took over when Margaret moved to Florida. As time went on, our numbers grew steadily.



"I was a rank amateur when I joined the group, but improved to become a much better writer, thanks to the constructive criticism I received from the group. "I highly recommend the group to anyone who likes to write," Bowe said. "You don't have to be good when you start, but with the skill, knowledge and experience of the members, you'll be a better writer before long."

"I'm still learning," said Kay Donnelly, another member of the Writer's Group. "I had never written fiction before and had no idea how to write dialogue or how to make a story interesting," Donnelly said. "The group has been a great help to me. I'm still learning, but appreciate the continued tips, encouragement, and constructive criticism of my fellow writers.

Raphael Morillo joined the Writer's Group last autumn. "I had done some writing, and had gotten a few articles published in fishing publications," said Morillo, a native of Venezuela. "My wife Jane had assisted me, but I wanted a third party to help me progress."

"The Writer's Group has been great," Morillo noted. "They gave me the confidence that my work on matters other than fishing was publishable. I have had four or five articles in *The SandPaper* this year."

Editor's Notes: The Writer's Group, pictured above, meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, from October through May, with occasional meetings at How You Brewin'. A report on the Poet's Studio will be in an upcoming issue of this publication.

Saving is the Key to a Secure Retirement

In a program sponsored by the Friends of the Island Library, Dr. Mary Gatta of the City University of New York presented a troubling outlook for workers who rely on traditional saving vehicles such as employer-sponsored plans to attain a secure retirement.

"We have moved away from the idea that individuals have an economic right to a secure retirement," Gatta said. "We have moved to a more free-market approach."

Her recently published book, *Waiting on Retirement*, included interviews with a number of workers in the restaurant business. "Everyone I talked with worked very hard, but simply working hard does not guarantee economic security in America," she noted. "We've woefully under-saved, and are working in jobs that have fewer employment benefits. At the same time," Gatta said, "we're living longer."

She highlighted several restaurant workers, some from the Jersey Shore. While they can make good wages through tips, many waitresses, bartenders etc. don't pay into Social Security or take part in health insurance. Their work life is filled with injuries, sickness, layoffs due to restaurant closings, and other vagaries that lead to inadequate savings. Joan, one of the workers Gatta interviewed, lamented, "I'll work until I die. Getting sick is my greatest fear." Workers like Joan see themselves "retiring into a coffin," Gatta said.



Consider these statistics Gatta provided: 29% of all Americans 59 or older have no savings. Those who have saved have far too little. The median savings for 55 year-olds is \$104,000 (\$148,000 for 65 and older). Sound good? Only if you ignore estimates that people will need at least \$250,000 for health care alone in the future.

Gatta's solution? "We need a new social contract to democratize access to economic and retirement security." She outlined a three-pronged approach aimed at improving jobs, securing an adequate retirement, and addressing health care. "We need to talk about living wages and closing the pay gap between men and women, and between whites and people of color," Gatta said. "We need to ensure that Social Security is modernized. In addition, I argue health care is a right. It shouldn't be tied to your employment.

"The data is getting more dire, but this is also a moment that we can galvanize around," the professor concluded.