



**The Friends of the Roeliff Jansen Community Library
40th Anniversary -- History Project Report
(1976-2016)**

The Friends of the Roeliff Jansen Community Library have been actively supporting their local library (first the Hillsdale Library, from 2010 the Roe Jan Library) since April 1976. Over the past 40 years, the group met on a regular basis to discuss their projects and make decisions. This anniversary report was prepared by member Jeanne Kiefer in July 2016, using the minutes from the monthly meetings. It briefly summarizes the activity and donation history of the group, as culled from these minutes.

The Friends' secretary was charged with preparing a written report on meeting discussions and decisions. The minutes were circulated to active members and stored in binders. However, a number of reports are missing from the collection of minutes. As well, details were occasionally omitted or unclear (e.g. specific activities or donations) and therefore this record should not be viewed as a complete report on the Friends' 40 years of operations.

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Friends of the Roe Jan Library History Project – 40th Anniversary

Part 1: Friends Activities

These notes are culled from meeting minutes and may not be complete. This section focuses on the various activities of the Friends group, from April 1976 through June 2016, where known.

(Donations made by the group are noted in Part 2.)

- **1976** - First meeting 4/29, John Hines first president, librarian Mrs. Alex (Carol) Briggs present, first used book and food sale, on library grounds.
- **1977** - 11 members present, 211 registered members, \$1,111 in account, gave \$800 toward library deficit, first volunteers to help in the library, Tuesday evening 7-9. Group painted walls and floors in basement.
- **1978** – Agree to call people with overdue books, annual food sale, first raffle (one basket), first “at home” tea, with rum punch and piano music, earned \$460.
- **1984** – First life members (\$25), by 1985, 11 life members.
- **1985** – Commitment to buy six new books a month.
- **1986** – Open the new community room in the basement, paid handyman \$25 a month, first book bags, children’s art show in basement.
- **1987** – First June strawberry fair (annually for years), discussion on adding bathroom.
- **1988** – First volunteer training, children’s programming begun (puppet show drew 70 children, magic show 100), life membership raised to \$50, library expenses \$12,000, Copake and Hillsdale contribute \$1,000 each.
- **1989** – First t-shirts, first Sally Laing book sale, first budget - \$1,500 for books/tapes and \$1,000 for children’s programming (ongoing), Trustees to take over maintenance/Friends do volunteers and programming, board meetings once a month, goal of 100 new members, first tote bags, first outreach to shut-ins, help with Trustee mailings, problem of disposing of extra books, sale with 50 cents-fill-a-bag.
- **1990** – First newsletter (2/1990), library brochure, fair slogan – “let’s be Friends,” 24 weeks of children’s programming, raffle brings in \$1,000, post-fair recap to improve, dues \$3, family \$5, life \$50, December book sale paperbacks 25 cents, hard covers 50 cents.
- **1991** – First books to troops (Desert Storm), goal of two lectures per year, t-shirts for toddlers, new library card (Maggie G.), have 33 volunteers who work 2 hours a day, library budget is \$20,000. Too many volunteers for fair! Salary for children’s programmer (Dean I.) is \$7.50 per hour. Buy first computer element for library, discuss others, book sale paperbacks 50 c, hard covers \$1
- **1992** – Computer, software and tutoring for Carol (\$4,671 in all), 17 weeks of children’s programming, push to get local authors to speak, goal to put Friends addresses, etc. on computer in 1993.
- **1993** – First push for tax-exempt status, first book discussion group, music program (Demetrious Quartet), brochure and donation to add hours to the library service (only 14 hours), first cookie and bookie open house in December, in library.
- **1994** – No one wants to be president (2 yrs. only), discussion on getting younger people (evening meetings?), newsletter schedule 3 times a year, red dot on mailings to alert members to renew (2/3rds not paid), labels on computer.

- **1995** – Cookie and Bookie sale brought in \$700, sci fi book sale. Around this time, seem to always have about 250 members and \$5,000 in the bank, had 22 volunteers for library, helped with Trustees' phonathon, spent \$280 on strawberries for fair and did not make it back, new Friends logo by Maggie Graefe.
- **1996** – More investment in computers for library, dues increase to \$5, expand library hours to 10-5 Tuesday and 10-8 Thursday – open only two days, cookbook project begun, internet access at library.
- **1997** – Bylaws amended, got tax exempt status (5/97), did holiday decorations at library.
- **1998** – Cleaned library shelves.
- **1999** – Made 5-year plan, had annual meeting at 7:30 pm to get more attendees, first mention of idea for library website.
- **2000** – Library website created (9/2000), officers elected until 10/2000, set up computer room in library, Cookies & Books nets \$1,000, Sally back from Trustees, wants to do book sale every 2 months.
- **2001** – Discussion with Trustees over library being too small, expenses \$8,500 over income, idea to bring in Copake and Ancram, Friends tax exempt status at issue.
- **2002** – Print T-shirts after lapse, idea of database for library//Trustees/Friends, end 2-year limit on Friends presidency. Vision statement for new library – Friends request children's area, quiet seating area for reading, Friends storage, used book area, bathroom, outdoor reading area, kitchen, to retain original building.
- **2003** – Waiting on plans for new library (6 months behind schedule), write reviews for children's book for mid-Hudson, book sales/presence suggested for Copake Day and Hillsdale Day, confusion over battling fund drives, Trustees will change, move books etc. for children's room redecoration, stuff envelopes for Trustees' drive, make scrapbooks with birth/death records, volunteers are 14 for desk, 16 shelvers – 110 hrs. per month, help with library's 90th anniversary children's program, first holiday baskets raffle.
- **2004** – Amend bylaws, can now buy things for library at Carol's discretion without Trustees' approval, public meeting on new library then petition to increase town taxes, Friends help with outreach, sell maps.
- **2005** – Movie night trial (not continued), discussion on location of new library (might be Washington Tavern), got PO box, June fair netted \$6,000, five books sales during year, 417 members, gift book program reinstated, recruit for new library programs, starting up committees for new library.
- **2006** – New book discussion group, tried NYC walk trip (no sign-up, cancelled), star put on membership envelopes to note not paid, dues increased to \$10/\$20/\$100, library feasibility study positive so Trustees going forward with plans, Friends have \$29,000 in bank, considering pledge to capital campaign.
- **2007** -- Cookbook again (600 recipes by March, hope to net \$8,000), Friends decide to pledge \$50,000 -- \$15K now, \$5K per year beginning in 12/2007, children's programs taken on by Trustees, Friends database updated as 120 envelopes returned, barn dance in Ancram (netted \$3,600).
- **2008** – Tax exempt at issue again, baking for Trustees golf tournament, no spring fair or barn dance, donated \$15,000 to capital campaign.

- **2009** – Paid \$40K in all to capital campaign, Trustees ask for \$4K for museum passes, etc. Sold books at Copake Day and Hillsdale Day (\$400 in 9/09), continuing to run monthly programs at Hillsdale Library, barn dance success (\$1,700), Fall Fiction sale (\$1,000), Correctional facility helped with December sale.
- **2010** – Communications starting up on new library, helped with Cooking for Books, agreement letter with Trustees on Friends relationship, 1 member on each organization, now \$10 for maps, very active outreach by Trustees on capital campaign, hope to move into new library in 6/2010. In April, \$50,000 pledge paid in full. Friends got 501©3 status. Provided catered breakfast for Library Tour weekend, provided dessert for Trustee's BBQ event, 297 names in Friends database (after culling). Library \$300K short beyond pledges, etc. Purchased E-Z Up tent for sales, need to move books into new library basement, last Friends annual meeting in old library, down to \$8K in bank. Barn dance, 100 people. Help with moving from Hillsdale to Roe Jan Library, which hopes to open Labor Day weekend (opens in November). In September, first Friends meeting in new library (not yet completed). Start discussing Friends area in lower level. Shelving put up in basement. Use firehouse for December sale, 35 people help, cookies \$6 per lb., selling soup too. Friends and Trustees working out Friends' role, Friends running monthly programs at new library – Nasau event had 75 attendees. In November, start seriously considering book shop in basement, Sally Laing working on plans.
- **2011** – Cookbooks reduced to \$15, Friends Winchester program had 115 attendees (library committee will take over programming). Tour of basement – shop put on hold until geothermal installation complete, Cabin Fever sale in Community Room (\$1,100), now selling tote bags, Parmet book sale (prisoner help, \$2,000), shelving sold to Valatie (\$1,700), baked for golf tournament, changed monthly meeting day from Thursday to Tuesday, \$28K in bank.
- **2012** – Discussing used book shop, potential Cooking for Books effort. In March, geothermal in use. Flowers to Carol Briggs for 40 years, Sally Laing talking to three contractors about shop, Memorial Day sale (\$1,300). In June, Trustees approve shop proposal. Discussing Friends role, new mission statement? Survey report on Future of Friends feedback – shop should be main focus, expand email, create website, strengthen relationship with Trustees. Costs estimates on shop -- \$10.5K construction, \$6.5K electric, \$1.7K furnishings – hope to open in November. Cooking for Books deemed too expensive. Discussion of updating membership lists. Habitat uses our books for insulating house. Parking lot discussion – Trustees can't pay for it. Name discussion – vote for Friends Down Under Book Shop (later changed to Friends Book Shop). Discuss town permits, estimate \$4K for parking lot. October sale in Community Room (\$1,200). DSL installed in shop. December sale \$4,200.
- **2013** – No hard opening at shop due to CO permit issue, occasional sales OK. February Cabin Fever sale (\$4,120 book sale + lobby), funding defibrillator and training. Bought bin for donations, 20 boxes taken to Habitat Restore. Flowers for lobby. April Art Books Sale (\$4,000), lobby books bringing in @ \$250 per month. Shop reorganized in May – more shelving, 7 people worked 112 hours. New locks on shop (pilfering). Two sales in July (baseball (\$3,300), cooking). Trustees approve creating Friends website, link to library site. Work done on shop parking lot and driveway, rock wall, etc. Books in shop counted -- @ 12,000. Sheds painted. Community birthday party for library – baked cupcakes, gave away 101 books. Email list updated, \$130 for website tutoring, website launched – friends-roejanlibrary.org. Group has 130 life members, 44 annual. Leaf Peeper book sale (\$1,500).

- **2014** – Shop is open first weekends January-June, every Saturday September-October. Using new email list to send out notices. May retreat at E. Levy’s house. June Books & Blooms sale. Tried afternoon meeting, back to mornings. August Tent Sale (\$5,500). In November, newsletter emailed for first time (xeroxed at library and mailed to those without addresses). Social event before holiday sale (total \$3,200, \$1,650 from books). 14 volunteers sorted books. Last Friends cookbooks donated.
- **2015** – Bookmarks with shop opening dates, shop gift certificates available, new donation bin. Discussion on new totes, t-shirts, hats, visors. Outdoor electric sign proposed – estimate \$13.5K. Discuss presence at Farmer’s Market (across road on Saturdays). Shop open Saturdays from Memorial Day – October. Two sandwich signs purchased (\$350). Updated mailing list. Tent Sale in August (\$2,900), 27 volunteers. Discuss acoustical “clouds” for children’s area. Pool party at E. Levy’s. In July, Friends Cookie Cookbook proposed, printed 500, sold 150 at holiday sale (100 recipes, \$10 each). Suggestion of silver tea for 40th celebration in 2016. 3-day September sale (\$690). 3rd holiday party, Cookies and Books \$5,460 (books \$4,220, cookies \$700, baskets “not special” enough). No raffle with membership materials. Sally Laing/Friends celebrated at June library gala.
- **2016** – Shop open first Saturdays from January-May, every Saturday from Memorial Day – October. Discuss need for housecleaning storage areas. Gaily wrapped chocolates available at circulation desk. Trustees meet in shop in February (library budget \$320K). April book sale (\$660). Mah Jongg tournament in May (\$300). Donated books to Columbia-Greene Community College and Books for Vets (2,000 total to vets). Shades repaired, new shades purchased for teen area. 10 helpers in shop are working 70-80 hours per month. Shop hours revised to 10-2 rather than 10-4. \$40 donation suggested on July membership materials. (as of June 2016)

Friends of the Roe Jan Library History Project – 40th Anniversary

Part 2: Friends Donations

Items listed here were culled from meeting minutes and may not be complete. This section details donations made by the Friends from April 1976 through June 2016, where known.
(Activities of the group are noted in Part 1.)

- 1976** - 5 volumes, Papers of DDE, the War Years
- 1977** - \$800 towards shortfall of library budget (\$3,469)
- 1978** - Subject guide, bulletin board, basement cleaning, microfilm reader, typewriter, encyclopedia, 100 book ends, telephone and line (paid for service for many years), bookplates, microfilming of Hillsdale Harbinger
- 1979** - Lock for door, vacuum, filing cabinet, materials for summer reading program
- 1980** - Painting the library interior, shelving, reference books, lighting, rubber stamp, first library stationery, dehumidifier for basement
- 1981/2** - Sign for front of the library, step stools, basement improvements, including carpet, concrete step repair
- 1983** - Window glazing, painting exterior of building (\$1,000)
- 1984** - Gutters, reference book, stained glass lamp
- 1985** - Rug, cushions, six new books a month
- 1986** - New community room in basement (opened 12/86), library cleaning, walnut conference table, \$1,000 to Trustee's Fund, paid volunteer handyman (Curt Herrington) \$25 a month
- 1987/89** - Stools, microfiche table, money for the well (for toilet), shelving, \$1,000 toward brickwork, volunteer handbook, \$500 to Trustees for Curt Herrington memorial, \$250 summer reading program
- 1990** - \$100 for Readathon (continued for years), Storytime programming (years), library magazine table, new locks, \$50 to WMAC, \$300 for Library Week, lunch for volunteer training (years)
- 1991** - Books for Desert Storm, \$650 for CD-Rom disc drive (first computer element)
- 1992** - \$2,800 for first computer for Carol, \$870 for ½ first printer, \$300 first software, tutoring for Carol.
- 1993** - Plants for flower beds, \$440 for shelving, \$400 for first books on tape, vacuum, safety treads on stairs
- 1994** - Children's tables and chairs, \$3,850 for Infotrac software and printer
- 1995** - \$1,500 for end shelving, library brochures, \$300 for landscaping, adult literacy program, filing cabinet for maps, etc.
- 1996** - \$3,000 new computer with internet access, \$650 dot matrix printer, Librarian Helper software, \$1,000 shelving units, \$175 external modem,
- 1997** - \$200 new volunteer handbook, \$675 audio books, \$500 for core collection of YA books, \$200 computer cart, \$500 CD Rom reference software
- 1998** - \$2,800 circulation computer, stepstools, \$150 folding table, rug for library
- 1999** - \$2,500 heating in library, \$1,800 storage shed, chair for circulation desk
- 2000** - 3 fire extinguishers, exit sign, \$100 outlet for computer, \$150 new lights, \$800 half of photocopier, \$250 book cart, \$350 lens for microfiche, carpet cleaning, computer for children's room, \$800 to upgrade Carol's computer
- 2001** - blinds for computer lab, computer desk chair, cordless phone, canopy for fair, video shelf, vacuum, \$185 scanner for desk, \$2,000 for new books, \$1,400 computer for circulation desk, \$1,000 for two AC units, CD display bin.
- 2002** - \$150 magnets for library week, \$350 first museum passes, \$200 computer table, \$200 MS Office software, \$725 CD display case, \$1,500 online catalog computer, \$300 receipt printer, \$1,600 for MAC software, \$175 zip drive, \$180 for three tables, \$500 for restoration of three old books.

2003 -- \$200 magnets for library hours, \$200 for self-defense workshop, \$100 to archive Friends materials, \$675 book carts, \$450 book trucks, \$400 replacement audio books cases, \$1,000 expand CD collection, \$150 large print books, \$2,500 new shed

2004 -- \$1,120 iMac + software, \$1,500 new books, \$500 software to weed out books, \$500 DVDs, \$350 shed shelves, dehumidifier

2005 -- \$2,500 Dell and Apple computers, \$600 library sign, \$500 DVDs, \$200 book truck, \$100 + \$30 month for second telephone (fax), \$350 magnets, fund National Library Week and National Volunteer Week – lunch, gifts

2006 -- \$1,800 Great Courses DVDs, \$600 for ESL materials, \$350 to Library Foundation, \$1,000 for Learning through Music

2007 -- \$25,000 to new library capital fund

2008 -- \$5,000 to new library capital fund

2009 -- \$10,000 to library capital fund (\$40K in all). \$200 for volunteer lunch.

2010 -- \$10,000 to library capital fund -- \$50K pledge paid 4/2010. \$350 children's books, \$160 flowers for library grand opening event.

2011 -- \$2,500 patron counter, new TV, shelving. \$230 locking cabinet. \$7,000 shades for community room, \$300 database, \$160 basement dehumidifier and lamp.

2012 -- \$600 microfilm for Independent last years, \$3,000 towards mortgage, \$230 lobby cart

2013 – Ongoing museum passes (\$1K?) and Landmark Audio rental (\$1,350 per year). Books/games holiday gifts for 217 children, \$250 librarian course on graphic novels, \$300 teen magazine collection, \$6,000 teen area furnishings, \$2,000 library painting restoration, 335 books to library (worth @ \$4,800), \$1,700 defib set-up plus \$150 fees and \$535 CPR course, \$700 window cleaning, \$5,000 donation to library in name of Marj Deitz, 102 free books at anniversary celebration, \$2,120 in all on Prop 414 for tax support for library, \$570 rug cleaning, books to troops.

2014 -- \$350 for LIBRI children's fund, \$1,800 shades for community room (balance), \$1,000 four Little Libraries, \$100 Books for Troops, \$725 Legos, \$150 coffee machine, \$150 shredder, \$150 vacuum, \$250 book truck, \$1,000 landscaping, \$10,000 to mortgage.

2015 – \$700 loveseat for children's room, \$230 vacuum, \$170 book bin, window and rug cleaning, \$1,000 gala donation (Sally Laing honoree).

2016 – \$200 AED pads, \$1,125 shades for teen area, 4 new museum passes (added to total, \$1,700 year), \$2,200 50% sound system, \$200 Books for Troops, \$10,000 toward mortgage.

Friends of the Roe Jan Library History Project – 40th Anniversary

Part 3: Overview of Recent Income and Donations

(January 2011 – June 2016)

This overview summarizes intake and outgo over the past five and one-half years.
Only the most significant categories (\$1,000+) are noted, all figures are approximate.

Income

- \$120,000 – total from all fund-raising efforts over this period. Major elements:
 - \$70,000 – total from all book sales (in shop, tent sales, etc.)
 - \$14,300 – from lobby book carts
 - \$10,000 – donations to Friends
 - \$6,000 – from 10 raffles held over this period
 - \$6,000 – cookie sales during the December event
 - \$5,800 – membership fees
 - \$1,100 – soup sales
 - @ \$7,000 – misc. from other fund-raising efforts

Donations

- \$100,500 -- total donated to the library over this period. Major elements:
 - \$33,000* – for improvements to basement and parking area (creation of book shop)
 - \$29,000 – directly to Trustees for mortgage payments, etc. (this is in addition to \$50,000 for the capital fund, donated 2007-2010)
 - \$9,800 – blinds for Community Room and teen area
 - \$5,300 – annual fees for Landmark audio book program
 - \$4,700 – fees for window and rug cleaning of library
 - \$4,000 – annual fees for museum passes
 - \$2,400 – expenses for setting up teen area
 - \$2,300 – AED expenses (defibrillator in lobby)
 - \$2,200 – library sound system
 - \$2,000 – Prop 401 expenses (tax increase for library support)
 - \$1,000 – four Little Library installations
 - @ \$4,800 – misc. other donations

*Breakdown of basement renovation expenses, major elements:

- \$14,000 – general construction, drywall, painting etc.
- \$8,200 – parking lot, landscaping, etc.
- \$7,500 – electrical work

Friends of the Roe Jan Library History Project – 40th Anniversary
Part 4: Presidents of the Friends

1976 – John Hines
1977 – Susan Malevsky-Malewich
1979 – Helen Glynn
1983 – Elinor Truman
1985 – Johnnie Huebner
1987 – Ruth Oxenhorn
1989 – Sally Laing
1991 – Maggie Graefe
1992 – Sally Laing
1994 – Ruth Lebo (2 months), then Mary Lou Kersten
1995 – Marcy Ross
1996 – Ginny Formel
1997 – Joan Roberts
(information to come)
2002 – Jim Anderson
2003 – Harvey Weber
2004 – Haydee Varriale
2005 – Robina Ward
2006 – Marjorie Deitz
2007 – Mary Lou Kersten
2009 – Sally Laing
2011 – 2016 – Charlotte Shutts