

# FRIENDS

OF ROELIFF JANSEN COMMUNITY LIBRARY



## The Heart of a Volunteer

Not everyone has what it takes to be a great volunteer – flexibility, reliability, amiability and a willingness to work for no money and (sometimes) little recognition. Who wants to sign up for that?

Well, big-hearted people like Eleanor Germain, who lost her battle with cancer last December. A friend indeed to the Friends, Eleanor was always there for us. Moving to Copake in 2004, one of her first acts was to join our group. Officially, she served as treasurer for many years, but she also enjoyed her fund-raising roles as the soup queen at our annual Holiday Sale, co-maestro of the mah-

jong tournament and the candy-bar-wrapping wizard for the stash on the library counter.

**“Just three days before she died,” her daughter Nicole recalls, “my Mom was having a wonderful time as an elf at the library’s Polar Express event. They ran out of gift bags for the kids and she saved the day by pulling together enough presents for everyone. I can’t remember when she wasn’t volunteering –PTA, Girl Scouts, and for so many years, the Friends. She was thrilled to be able to help her library.”**



Shortly before she passed away, Eleanor suggested that the Friends purchase a computer for children aged 2 to 10, a bilingual early literacy station with 4,000 activities in 70 programs. We were **delighted to dedicate this special gift in her honor to the children’s area.**

**We will all miss Eleanor’s energy and enthusiasm, bustling into every monthly meeting with her arms full of financial reports and a smile for everyone at the table. She arrived with new ideas and spread good will at our events. But just as Eleanor gave of herself to our organization, she received something she valued in return – firm fellowship, warm friendship, an outlet for her creativity, the sure knowledge that she was a good neighbor in her community.**

Like Eleanor, every member of the Friends is a volunteer, supporting our activities in person or by donation. Together we have accomplished mighty things, together we have made a real difference, and we are always happy to welcome new members to our family. If you are interested in finding out more about the Friends, please check the box on the return envelope or visit our website: [friends-roejanlibrary.org](http://friends-roejanlibrary.org).

## Museum Passes

The Friends have funded free day passes to many local attractions for 15 years. You may now check out one-day passes at the library for 13 institutions:

Bershire Botanical Gardens (Stockbridge), **Berkshire Museum (Pittsfield)**, **Children's Museum of Science and Technology (Troy)**, Clark Institute (Williamstown), FASNY Museum of Firefighting (Hudson), FDR Presidential Library and Museum (Hyde Park), Hancock Shaker Village (Pittsfield), Mass MOCA (North Adams), Normal Rockwell Museum (Stockbridge), Olana (Hudson), Steepletop (Austerlitz), USS Slater Destroyer Escort Historical Museum (Albany). Most admit 2-4 people, see the library for details.

## RAFFLE\*RAFFLE\*RAFFLE

An extra \$5 contribution in your membership return envelope gives you six chances to win a wonderful gift certificate to: The Swiss Hutte Restaurant (Hillsdale), Little Apple Cidery (Hillsdale), **Hillsdale General Store**, **Harney's Tea (Millerton)**, Village Scoop (Hillsdale), Four Brothers Pizza (Hillsdale), IGA (Hillsdale), **Copake Country Club**, **Rodger's Book Barn (Hillsdale)** or Big Y (Great Barrington).

## Annual Meeting

The Friends Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 1, in the library. All are welcome and this is a good opportunity to hear about the group and meet the members. It begins at 11 a.m., right after the monthly meeting at 10 a.m.

Website: [friends-roejanlibrary.org](http://friends-roejanlibrary.org)  
PO Box 171, Hillsdale, NY 12529

Public meeting 10 a.m. the first Tuesday of every month in the library or Book Shop  
— Charlotte Shutts, President —  
Rose Marie Francis, Vice President  
Fran Colombo, Secretary  
Shelly Matthews, Treasurer  
Sally Laing, Book Shop Manager  
Jeanne Kiefer, Newsletter/web

the new literacy station



## Book Shop Summer Schedule

The Friends Book Shop in the lower level of the library is open every Saturday, from 10-2, through Labor Day. Tons of books and media have recently been donated, so shelves are bursting with wonderful new material. Please stop by for your next great read, one of our new bumper stickers or a copy of our delightful Friends Cookie Cookbook. If chocolate is your passion, we also have beautiful **gift-wrapped bars available at the library's check-out counter**. All proceeds from our activities go to support your library — win, win for everyone!  
PS: We always need Book Shop helpers!

## READER ON BOARD



## Good Works

We hope you will take this chance to renew your membership and/or donate to the Friends. Your contributions do make a difference.

This year our group donated **\$10,000 to the library's mortgage fund, purchased a children's literacy computer station, cart and shades for the library, funded a digitization project, audio book program and 13 passes to local museums, among other items.**