



September 23, 2020

OFFICERS

Kate Mason, President
Elizabeth Kassab, Vice-President
Joanne Blatte, Secretary
Giselle Princz, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Alice Cusner
Amity Kelley
Carolyn Weeks

MISSION

The FOSPL is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to partner with the Sharon Public Library in serving informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community through fundraising, programming, advocacy, and volunteerism.

Dear Friends,

Usually preparing for The Friends Annual business meeting is straightforward (i.e. set the date, book the room, invite members, etc.) but six months ago no one would have predicted there would be a world-wide pandemic nor the breadth of its disruption.

First and foremost, we hope things are better for you today than six months ago and will be better still in the next six months and beyond.

In summary, like so many other groups this year, we had to cancel our key fundraising activities, the Used Book Sale and our associated Membership Drive, which together would have raised close to \$10K. However, in the midst of the disruption many members and sponsors have generously continued to support The Friends. Your support will help us to fund museum passes and ongoing library programming. Thank you.

Our 2020 business meeting will be held on Zoom at 6:45 p.m. on October 8 followed at 7 p.m. by a talk with Tina Cassidy, author of *Mr. President, How Long Must We Wait?*, a book about suffragist Alice Paul's battle with Woodrow Wilson to win voting rights for women. Tina is co-sponsored by us and The League of Women Voters of Sharon-Stoughton. Please register in advance for the program at bit.ly/FOSPLTinaCassidy also found on our website: friendsofsharonpubliclibrary.org There is still time to register and to read about Tina <https://tinacassidy.info>.

Highlights of the Year

Thank you to all who list the FOSPL on their Amazon Smile purchases and who had purchased the reusable bags at Stop & Shop and Shaw's in support of the FOSPL.

Before COVID hit, we had a busy February 2020 with two "**Love Your Library**" Valentine fundraisers that together raised more than \$300. We:

- Sold delicious, handmade chocolates in an edible heart box provided by our local chocolatier, Sweethearts Three, and
- Ruffled off a Valentine-themed Book Basket filled with over \$100 worth of books and other delectables. The raffle ticket winner was Myrna Green of Stoughton.

Also, in February we, the Sharon Veteran's Club and the League of Women Voters of Sharon-Stoughton, co-sponsored Pat Jordan in her powerful one woman performance called **Celebrating Votes for Women** in which she portrayed suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt.

P.O. Box 235
Sharon, MA 02067
info@friendsofsharonlibrary.org
friendsofsharonpubliclibrary.org

Thank you...

...2020 Sponsors for continued support:

SCU Credit Union
Dedham Savings
Eastern Bank

...Members for renewing memberships, donating books & participating in events

...Giselle Princz for serving as our amazing treasurer

Special Thanks to...

...Pat Jordan for portraying Carrie Chapman Catt

...Tina Cassidy for donating her time for a book talk on October 8, 2020

...Janet Parnes for donating her time/talent on November 19, 2020

...Library Director and staff for offering programming throughout the quarantine

...Library Trustees for their commitment to the Townspeople of Sharon

...The League of Women Voters of Sharon-Stoughton for collaborating with FOSPL

...The Sharon Veteran's Club for co-sponsoring events

As we moved into March, the COVID-19 pandemic happened. Even though the Book Sale and the Membership Drive were both cancelled, we are grateful that our long-time sponsors continued their generous support. Thank you to our **2020 sponsors**: SCU Credit Union (merged with Crescent Credit Union), Dedham Savings, and Eastern Bank.

As the world quarantined, people were reading more. In May, we hosted a fundraiser called the **Stay At Home Gala**, our first online event. Instead of buying a ticket and dressing up for a formal Gala event, we asked members to donate the cost of a ticket to the Friends of the Sharon Public Library and then share pictures on how they spent their "gala night" reading a book in their own home. We raised over \$300. We look forward to holding this event in the coming year and maybe every year!

COMING UP

As an interim alternative to our book sale, we are **collecting books in book bins** located at Shaw's on South Main Street with the help of The Bay State Book Company of Norwood. The Company will sort and then sell books on Amazon giving The Friends 30% of revenue minus variable costs. We will continue this partnership until we are able to have our Used Book sale again. Donation Guidelines as well as a tax receipt can be found on our website friendsofsharonpubliclibrary.org.

We are continuing with Adopt-a-Book requests, Museum Passes and new/renewed memberships. Please remember to join/renew and, if you are able, consider an additional \$20 for 2020.

On November 19, 2020 we, along with the Sharon Veteran's Club, will sponsor Janet Parnes, owner of Historical Portrayals by Lady J, <http://women-history.com> who will portray **Deborah Sampson** via a Zoom event. Watch our website for more details.

Join Our Board!

The Friends of the Sharon Public Library can benefit by your time and talent!

We have an immediate **opening for a treasurer** on our Board. We thank Giselle Princz for her over six years of volunteer service as treasurer to The Friends, a critical role.

We can always use help with graphic design, membership outreach and data management as well as ideas for fundraising events! Contact us at info@friendsofsharonpubliclibrary.org.

Please check out our website for more information on our monthly board meetings, upcoming events or to contact us at friendsofsharonpubliclibrary.org/. All our meetings will be held via Zoom until it safe to meet in person.

As we close this letter, we fondly remember Bob Levin, a long time Library Trustee, who sadly passed away in August. Bob was a great champion of The Friends and supporter of our Used Book Sale. He is greatly missed.
Sincerely,

Kate Mason
President

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