

President's Report 2013-2014 Membership Year

On May 7, 2014, the Friends of the Scarborough Library held its annual meeting at the Egg & I in Scarborough to mark the end of its 2013-14 membership year. About 36 members and guests attended the meeting.

The President informed those in attendance that the Friends just completed its 43rd year, and during this year the Friends was successful in carrying out its stated mission: to support, aid, and render useful service to the library...to promote fellowship among the members, and to raise funds to carry on the mission. Further, the President reported that the Friends remained financially sound.

In *May* 2013, the membership year started with the arrival of 100 newly ordered Friends tote bags. Even though most of bags have been sold, the remaining bags can be purchased for \$12 at the June 2014 book sale (or at the Library circulation desk).

The *June* 2013 book sale continued to be a major community event, offering thousands of books at remarkably low prices. After expenses, the 4-day sale netted \$9120.

After recognizing the need to obtain its own website domain name, the Friends purchased its unique domain name in *July* --- www.scarboroughlibraryfriends.org. The Friends also decided to shift from Scarborough Crossroads and engage a new host for its website.

In *August*, the Friends participated in the town-wide *Summerfest*, where 4 of our new tote bags were filled with donated books and raffled to 4 lucky winners. Later that month, board members volunteered to "scoop" ice cream for children who participated in the summer reading program.

In *September*, the board adopted a Living in Maine theme for the 2013-14 adult literature series. Four Maine authors presented programs during the membership year. Also in *September*, the Board authorized a \$300 donation to help the Library in Lac Megantic Quebec rebuild after the town suffered a major catastrophe.

In *January*, the board authorized the purchase of a 5 year \$35,000 Certificate of Deposit in order to earn a higher rate of interest. Also in *January* a \$100 donation was approved for the Library's e-book collection to honor Sue Winch on the occasion of her retirement.

In *April*, the Friends sponsored "Wind Over Wings," program for children that featured 5 live birds of prey.

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In addition to the month-to-month programs and actions listed above, the Friends earmarked a portion of its income – either from the book sale, from donations, or membership dues to fund

the summer reading program for children. Funds were used to purchase free or discount passes to 4 museums or parks. The passes may be borrowed from the Library Circulation desk:

- Portland Museum of Art
- Maine Wildlife Park
- Children's Museum
- 19th C. Willowbrook Village in Newfield

The Friends renewed its subscription to *Book Page*, a monthly newspaper that reviews print, audio and e-books. This user-friendly resource helps readers choose a book to check out from the Library.

The President noted that the Library has become a comfortable and increasingly popular venue to watch recent Oscar winning movies. During the past year, the Friends continued to fund half the annual license to show these high quality feature films.

The President said that the success of the year's activities is directly attributable to the hard work and long hours donated by the board and volunteers. They generously committed the time needed to plan and present adult and children's programs, to organize the annual book sale, to maintain our membership records, to publicize programs and coordinate the redesign of our website, and to preserve our records. The President thanked each member of the Friends board for the extraordinary amount of time and effort needed to achieve the success enjoyed this past year. The outgoing board members were cited for their help:

- Brenda Birkner: Treasurer
- Lois Kahn: Archives
- Jennifer Minkowitz: Membership
- Lenore Rapkin: Book sale, Programs, Website

Three new members agreed to join the Board starting with the 2014-2015 membership year.

- Anne Janak
- Karen Lindholm
- Betty Perry

The President said that on behalf of all 236 members, the Friends again was pleased to make an annual donation of \$3500 to the Scarborough Public Library. Nancy Crowell, Director of the Library, accepted the donation on the Library's behalf.

With the end of the membership year, the gavel was turned over to the incoming President, Susan Helms.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Ward, President 2013-14