



FRIENDS of the TOWSON LIBRARY

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The Friends' display located on the bridge near the café contains photographs of activities sponsored by the Friends, membership brochures, and a tote bag.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Board of the Friends has met twice this year. We have passed the budget, which contains funds for programs at the library, as well as a generous allocation of gift funds. As the year progresses, we will learn what the Library plans to do with the gift funds.

We note the passing of new board member Jack Emerson Boynton. Although he was with the Friends only a short time, he was enthusiastic and full of ideas.

To the right, please find a letter from Tina Reeves, who manages programs for the Towson Library. The letter details how the Friends' program funds for 2009-2010 were used. I'm sure you will agree that Friends' money enhanced the quantity and quality of the programs the Library offered.

Our membership is up. We believe the increase is due to the Friends' display, which is located on the bridge near the Spro Café. If you have not

Friends' funding enhanced 2010 library programming

Dear Friends of the Towson Library:

It has been my pleasure to work with you over the last few years. As of July, I have passed the Programming Coordinator torch to Melissa Hepler. Your interests are in good hands. This letter will recap our Friends-sponsored programming activities for FY 2010, the 71st year of the Towson Friends.

We love animals; and the Irvine Science Center did not disappoint with a great animal program in the fall that drew 124 participants. A fun holiday tradition was continued this year as librarian Amie Lee taught 50 kids, parents and grandparents to make and decorate gingerbread houses. Emily Casey, a new performer with a guitar and a great voice, along with her mandolin-playing husband, led kids and adults alike in remembering those old favorites on four Saturday mornings in the castle with up to 56 participants at each session.

The highlight of this year must have been the traveling Abraham Lincoln exhibit. I hope you had a chance to see it, in spite of the snow. The Friends supported numerous coordinating activities. Families enjoyed the hands-on activities in the "Civil War Soldier" traveling trunk that we borrowed from the Gettysburg National Battlefield. Ray Owen entertained with songs and stories from the Civil War period. A box of Lincoln Logs set up in the castle gave our younger customers a sense of Lincoln's first home.

In the spring, Amie Lee and Becky Kuhn outdid themselves with a program teaching 50 pre-teens and teens how to make a terrarium. Examples still decorate the Information Desk!

With your support we have been able to get involved in

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looked at the display, please do so. It contains a number of photographs of Friends'-sponsored activities, membership brochures, and a dragon-motif tote bag.

Donations of materials for the 2011 Book Sale have started and sorting is in full swing. This is the Friends' main fund-raising project. On page 3 you can read about the results of last year's Book Sale, and on page 4, a report of the status of this year's sale.

Although no Friends' money is involved, the welcome replacement of the elevator adds a new twist to book sorting. Our storage area is two floors below the sorting area, and is accessible by elevator or the rotunda ramp. The frightening image of a cart full of books careening down the ramp has led to the establishment of a temporary book donation storage area on the main library floor. The new elevator is expected to begin service in early January 2011.

The Board and I wish you all warm winter holidays.

Dorothy Fraquelli
Friends of the Towson Library President

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the community. This year we participated in the Towson Area July 4th parade and the Towson Festival. We also purchased refreshments for the handbell choirs and for the Business outreach session.

The Friends offer much-appreciated support for our Summer Reading Program in the form of decorations and snacks for 312 participants at school pre-registration nights. We also were able to borrow a wetlands traveling trunk (in support of our water theme) and learned a lot about animal skulls.

We were able to save a lot of staff time throughout the year by using Friends' money to get programs offered by the BCPL Youth Services Department. These programs included Candy and Cupcake with 83 participants, Tracey Eldridge with 53 participants, Pirates of the Caribbean with 52 youth, and Mutts Gone Nuts with a crowd of 240. It would not feel like summer without weekly visits from our friends, the Karma dogs. To thank them for their generosity, we were able to give each human a gift card to the 'Spro Café.

Thank you again for your dedication to the Towson Library. We are so fortunate to have you here working with us. I'll see you at the library!

Tina Rives
Programming Coordinator 2010

FROM THE MANAGER OF THE TOWSON LIBRARY

Greetings Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to express how grateful we are for this year's planned gift of over \$24,000 for enhancements to the Towson Library facility, programs, and services. We know how extraordinarily fortunate we are, given the difficult times so many other U.S. libraries are facing. We will be using a portion of that generous sum to purchase two new children's computer learning stations. The Baltimore County Public Library is funding one new station for many of the branches, and your gift makes it possible for us to have three. Big impact! Lucky children!

Here's a tip for you if you will be doing holiday shopping and are considering buying an e-book reader. Some models are compatible with the free downloading services that you have access to from our website. Check this nifty cheat sheet for help as you make purchasing decisions:

<http://overdrive.com/files/ebook-cheat-sheet.pdf>

To learn more about our free downloads of both audio books and ebooks, click on the "Download Audiobooks" link at www.bcpl.info. Best wishes to you all this holiday season.

Jennifer Haire

April 2010 book sale marked another successful fundraiser



We knew the book sale proceeds were going to be high, as there was a steady stream of customers throughout the four days of the sale. In addition, the number of books left unsold as of closing time on Sunday was the smallest it has ever been. So we were pleased, but not surprised, when gross revenues in sales and admissions exceeded \$12,000. This is only the second time since 2004 that we have cracked \$12,000. Net revenues, after taxes and expenses, were \$11,023.



Recurring book sale expenses included table rental, publicity, soda and pizza for our set-up night volunteers. For the past two years, students from Towson University have helped unload the storage area, empty the boxes, and arrange the books on the tables. With their help, set-up takes about three hours, whereas in the past, it would take at least five hours. One-time expenses included two new A-frame signs and several table signs.

A number of factors combine to produce a good book sale. The weather needs to be just OK. If it's too nice, folks want to be outside; if it is too bad, folks will stay home. If the Smith College book sale is on the same weekend, revenues will be up, as more dealers will be in town. In 2010, patrons of the Cockeysville branch discovered our book sale because they were using the Towson branch while Cockeysville was being renovated. We are inviting them to return for the 2011 sale.

In addition to the Towson students, several volunteers helped during the sale. They staffed the check-out table, helped straighten the books on the tables, moved books from boxes on the floor to the tables as space became available and repositioned books that had strayed from their category. We appreciate all the support from our volunteers.

Mark your calendar for the 2011 annual book sale

Mark your 2011 calendars! The 17th annual Friends of the Towson Library Book Sale will be held Thursday, April 14 through Sunday, April 17. Thursday is first-choice night and is free to members of the Friends of the Towson Library. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and close at 8 p.m. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. If you are not a member, there is a \$10 entrance fee. Hours on Friday and Saturday are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday's hours are 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

We are very busy collecting, sorting, boxing, and storing books for the sale. Gently used and new books in many categories, including current bestsellers, children's books, CDs, DVDs, and videos have already been donated. We have a wide assortment sure to please any reader's interest.

If you have books you would like to donate, please bring them to the Towson Library and leave them at the circulation desk. A tax receipt is available upon request. We do not accept textbooks, used library books, records, or encyclopedias. If you would like to help us, we would welcome new sorters. Please email Nora Kotula at norak205@verizon.net.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has donated books or volunteered already! We look forward to seeing all our Friends at the book sale in April!

Friends of the Towson Library



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Mission:

To increase and improve
the services, facilities
and resources of the
Towson Library.