



JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS

Winter 2017



Volume 21 Issue 4

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Message from the President

The crisp air has arrived which reminds us that the holidays are approaching. It also reminds us that it is time to renew your membership. The *Friends'* membership runs from January through December. Your membership dues and support for our activities enable the *Friends* to contribute to many library programs and fund the various gifts we donate to the library. As a reminder, you can complete the membership form on p. 4 and either place it in the *Friends'* mailbox at the library or mail it. Another option is to simply go to our link on the library's website, scroll down on the left and follow the directions to renew your membership online.

The *Friends* had a busy fall season with several events including the celebration of National Friends Week, another successful Book Sale (See p. 1) and the "Laugh for a Cause" comedy fundraiser (See p. 4). A special thank you to all our *Friends* who volunteered at these activities and also at the Women's Expo.

During the holiday season, the library formally thanks their outstanding staff through Staff Appreciation Day. The *Friends* are proud to contribute to this event. We are grateful and sincerely thankful for all that the library staff does throughout the year. Take a moment to express your appreciation and special thanks to those library staff members who are also *Friends!*

Speaking of the holidays, remember that we also have copies of the Images of America: Centereach, Selden and Lake Grove, which are still available for purchase at the Customer Service Desk. These would make great holiday gifts.

Much happiness and joy through the holiday season!

Lori Kenney

Friends' Scholarships for College Bound High School Seniors

We are pleased to announce that, for the third year, the *Friends* will recognize and award two \$500 scholarships to college bound seniors who have contributed to MCPL during their high school years. If you know of a college bound high school senior who has given back to our community through service to our library, please let them know about this opportunity. In February, an email will be sent to our members with additional details which will also be available in Centereach, Selden, and on the *Friends'* website, as well as at the high school guidance offices.



Fall Book Sale!

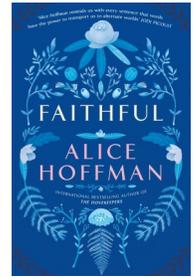


The Friends Fall Book Sale was held on Nov 3-4, 2017, and once again was a fabulous success. The sale earned \$1,759. As a reminder, all earnings support library activities. We thank the many volunteers who work the set-up, the sale and the break down. You all make the sale the success we always experience! For this sale, the remaining materials were donated to various charities, specifically The LI State Veterans Home, Mather Hospital, St. Cuthbert's Food Pantry, St. Gerard's Thrift Store, and the Town of Brookhaven Youth Bureau. We would like to give special thanks to all the library patrons and visitors who shopped the sale and received unprecedented pricing. We are thrilled that the community benefits from these sales. Thanks for your support!

Library Highlights

Middle Country Reads 2018

Faithful, by Allison Hoffman, is a powerful story that takes place on Long Island and in New York City and is this year's selection for Middle Country Reads. The main character, Shelby Richmond, finds her life turned upside down when she survives a devastating car crash, withdraws from life and then struggles to find her journey back to life. The author has a gift for engaging the reader so that they can relate to the main character and truly feel the aches and joys of life. You don't want to miss this one!



Visit www.middlecountryreads.org to pledge and register for related programming, including Alice Hoffman's upcoming visit to the library on March 27th, during which time she will speak to us about her life and work as well as sign books.



Not Your Ordinary Library

by: Donna Smosky

Do you remember a time when people went to the library simply to get a book and go home? I do. Wow! Things surely have changed!

While doing the membership drive during our fall book sale in November, I could not help noticing that the number of events and activities going on at MCPL was really impressive.

On Friday night the teens were meeting in the Underground. I have been told that scores of teens usually show up on Friday nights to visit with their friends. Many teens told me that this was something they look forward to all week long. How wonderful that our young people can have a safe, supervised atmosphere to just hang out with their friends. A number of parents told me that they are thrilled that their teens have this place, while they (parents) have some "time off."

On Saturday, November 4th, in addition to our book sale, a large group of patrons arrived for a daylong Defensive Driving class. A bus left the library at 10 am taking another group to see Aladdin on Broadway. The Red Cross was giving a first aid training class for teenage babysitters. Instruction on the iPad was also given at MCPL on that Saturday. "Babies Boogie," and "Toddlers Tango" classes were given to meet the needs of our youngest patrons. Excited toddlers and their parents arrived at the library ready to interact with one another through music and dance. Every one of them came out with a smile on their face.

While all this was going on, our "regular" library activities were also happening. Many parents exchanged one blue backpack of books for another as they participated in the "1000 books before Kindergarten" reading program. Some patrons came in to get their discounted museum tickets for places like the LI Aquarium, the American Museum of Natural History and many more. Patrons made use of the copy machines. The list goes on and on and on.

It is no wonder that, while I was at the membership table, many patrons told me how much they love MCPL.

As a Friend of MCPL, you should feel good knowing that you support the amazing work our library does for us day in and day out meeting the needs of all ages, genders, races and religions. MCPL continues to be on the cutting edge of the potential of today's libraries and it certainly continues to earn its reputation as "the gem of our community."

ROBERT MONTANO Performs at Radio City



Over the years, you may have been fortunate enough to have heard 14 year-old Robert Montano, a freshman at Centereach High School, play the piano and sing at the library during Sunday Sounds or any number of other events during which he has performed at our library. Robert started playing at MCPL when he was 12 years old and has been amazing his audiences ever since.

While his early performances have been very localized at places like, the Assumption Church in Centereach, Centereach High School, Dawnwood Middle School, other libraries and a number of restaurants, his performance world has certainly widened.

For the last two years he has been invited to play at Alive After Five in Patchogue as well as at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts. He has performed at Hofstra University and has been a frequent guest at the All Star Cabaret in Manhattan.

In July, Robert sang the National Anthem at the start of a L.I. Ducks Game. This summer he was the opening act for a Bruce Springsteen tribute band at Jones Beach. Originally asked to perform for 15 minutes, Robert actually played for 45 minutes when their lead guitarist got stuck in traffic. How many people would be able to do this, let alone at the age of 14!

In addition to playing the piano and singing, Robert also plays the clarinet, the guitar and the harmonica. A musician who has been blessed with a “musical ear,” he also now writes the music and lyrics for his own songs. Robert’s playlist of songs (including his own) now numbers almost 100.

An honors student, Robert shares his musical ability by volunteering at the Music Academy for Special Learners in Lake Ronkonkoma. He also regularly plays and sings at the Stony Brook Hospital Pediatric Cancer Center, the Pediatric Unit as well as at the Ronald McDonald House. Last year, as the President of the Junior National Honor Society, he spearheaded a toy campaign so that all the children at Stony Brook Hospital got a toy at Christmas. As you can tell, Robert is not just musically talented; he also has a very kind and caring heart for others.

This Christmas season, Robert has been cast in the lead role of “Patrick” in the Christmas Spectacular starring the Radio City Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall. Many from our community will be going to see him and we wish him all the best of luck.

Remember, the *Friends* donated the piano to MCPL on which Robert played some of his earliest performances. In a way, we have played a small role in Robert’s continuing success. Who knows who our community’s next star will be?

Membership Update: Thanks to Our New & Renewing Friends
as of 11/9/17

New & Renewing:

Agnes **Abate**, Hoda Mohamed **Abdou**, Jean **Auricchio**, Chris **Blount**, Colleen **Candurra**, Lynne **Chirlin**, Marilyn **Daley**, Nicoletta **Daum**, Gregory **DeAbreu**, Kathleen **Deerr**, Jeannine **Dunne**, MaryAnne **Ellinger**, Francine **Eriksen**, Michele **Goldstein**, Mohammed R. **Hamdani**, Lynne **Heldt**, Marilyn **Inkles**, Bonnie **Katz**, Werner **Keller**, Dr. Christine **Mohanty**, Clifford **Mulle**, Anna R. **Nunez**, **Obler** family, Margaret **Paone**, Pearl **Pecharsky**, Joann **Robey**, Doreen **SantaMaria**, Ron **Schmutzler**, Craig **Slezicki**, Aliza **Syeda**, Marcy **Tzanetatos**, Tanya **Wattley**, Elise **Wickenhauser**

Platinum:

LI Little Dragons Chinese School Inc., Sandra & Sandy **Rosenberg**



**Friends' Executive Board
2017-2018**

President: Lori Kenney
Secretary: John Perweiler
Treasurer: Marjorie LaStella
Nominating Chair: Janice Boscarino
Library Liaison: Tracy LaStella
Past President: Kathryn Sekulo

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
All meetings at Centereach**

- December 12th – Friends' Meeting – 7:00 pm
- March 13th – Friends' Meeting – 7:00 pm
- April 6th & 7th – Spring Book Sale
- June 12th – Friends' Meeting – 7:00 pm
- August 4th – Garage Sale
- September 11th – Friends' Meeting – 7:00 pm
- November 2nd & 3rd – Fall Book Sale

Program Support from the *Friends*

The *Friends* are proud to support the very active Mujeres Latinas program by providing the refreshments and entertainment for their December Celebration. For those of you who are not aware of this group, it is designed to help the families learn more about our community as well as how MCPL can help them. In the process, they are also making new friendships. Over 30 families attend this growing program. Buena Suerte. (Good luck.)

Laugh for a Cause...Another Success

On October 19th, the *Friends* of MCPL sponsored its second Laugh for a Cause fund raising event at the Governors Comedy Club at McGuire's in Bohemia. This evening of food and laughter netted \$905 for the *Friends*. Many thanks for all who attended!

Sunday Sounds

On behalf of the community, the *Friends* would like to thank the following musicians who shared their talents at Sunday Sounds on September 24th: **Dan Fogel** (piano), **Delaney Hallahan** (ukulele and vocals), **Grace Miller** (guitar and vocals) and **Arianna Velez** (guitar and vocals). What a treat it is to walk into MCPL and be greeted by such wonderful talent. Thank you!

Please complete this form and include it with your membership check to: **The *Friends* of MCPL**
You may drop your membership form and check/cash at the *Friends'* mailbox near the Customer Service Desk at MCPL Centereach or Selden or mail them to:

The Friends of MCPL
c/o Middle Country Public Library
101 Eastwood Blvd.
Centereach, NY 11720 - 2745

OR go to our link on the MCPL website and follow the directions for "Online Membership."

Please check one: Bronze \$5 ____, Silver \$10 ____, Gold/Business/Organization \$25 ____,
Platinum/Lifetime \$100 ____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

I would like to play an active part in *Friends* _____ **Membership runs until the end of December 2018.**

Thanks for
being a *Friend*.

