A Message From The President
Dear Friends,

In conjunction with National Friends of Libraries Week in October, The Times of Middle Country wrote an article about our Friends’ group. I was very pleased and proud to have an opportunity to meet with reporter, Karen Forman, along with director, Sandy Feinberg. It gave me an opportunity to talk about our amazing library and to explain how the Friends work to support and enhance our library. It was obvious that this reporter was impressed with all that she saw and heard, not just about the library, but also of the important role the Friends play in the success of MCPL.

During the last months of this year, the Friends have given financial support to the Library for speaker, Constance Hallinan Lagan, for the Singles Café. We provided refreshments for the two exciting Boomers and Seniors programs and we will continue to give financial support for Staff Appreciation Events. Friends worked together to sponsor another successful community Book Sale in November (see “More Than Just a Book Sale” p 2). Many Friends volunteered to help with the Library’s Women’s Expo in October. Also, in October and November, patrons were treated to beautiful music in the Centereach lobby by renowned pianist, Dr. Luiza Raab-Pontecorvo, who played the Yamaha piano that the Friends gifted to the Library in May.

Thank you one and all for your continued membership in Friends. As you look about the library and see our logo on the many things we have given and read about all the programs we help to support and enhance, take pride in knowing that you help to make this all possible. Best wishes for a healthy, happy holiday season and remember to renew your membership to Friends.

Donna Smosky

National Friends of Libraries Week

The Friends of MCPL celebrated National Friends of Libraries Week October 19-25, 2008 with a host of activities.

A membership table was set-up in the lobby of the Centereach building to sign up new members and we are happy to report that an additional 40 patrons joined our ranks during this week. A display case was set-up in the lobby proudly displaying achievements the Friends have accomplished in the past. Also, in the display case was a Legislative Resolution from New York State recognizing October 19-25, 2008, as National Friends of the Library Week. New brochures, explaining who we are, what we do to support the library and how to join were handed out to prospective members. Children were excited when they received new pencils marked Compliments of the Friends of MCPL as well as brightly colored bookmarks.

In addition, two raffles were held. The first raffle was a beautifully designed flower pot and plant with a Halloween theme on one side and a Thanksgiving theme on the other. The second raffle was a child’s chair decorated for Halloween along with a set of books. The winner of the first raffle was Suzanne McMurray and the winner of the second raffle was Joyce and Dominick Vassino.

“All you need in life is truth and beauty and you can find both at the Public Library”

...Studs Terkel
MORE THAN JUST A BOOK SALE
BY BARBARA GOTTFRIED

As members of the Friends since its inception, my husband and I have worked at all the book sales (and have canvassed our family and friends for donations, as well!). One of the biggest joys for us at these semi-annual events is not how much money is raised for MCPL, but the happiness on the faces of the people who bring their treasured bargains up to the check-out. There are so many sincere “thank yous” and smiles.

- We have met the special education teacher who looks for books for her students who come from multicultural homes and who can't afford retail book stores.
- We've met the volunteer who collects a few dollars from the seniors with whom she works, and comes to buy --of all things--romance novels, which she says they love.
- There was the gentleman who came to get books to send back to his native country's school, which, unlike the schools our children are fortunate to attend, cannot afford to supply books for their students.
- We look around and see many for whom book store prices are out of reach, but who want an opportunity to give their children and themselves something worthwhile, which they could not otherwise obtain.

The original purpose of the Friends was not to raise money for MCPL, in fact, that came later. The group's main purpose was, and still is, to instill and maintain a strong positive relationship between the community and its award-winning, outstanding library. If the Friends' semi-annual book sales (and the annual garage sale) along with the terrific community support they engender, help to bring this about, then we've gone a long way to reaching our goal. Come, join the Friends, support your library through the annual budget vote, and take advantage of and enjoy all that MCPL offers to you. Then you'll understand not only the philosophy of the Friends and their enthusiasm in running these fund raising events, but will also enrich your lives, as well.

P.S. Just for the record...our November book sale raised just over $2,655.00 to support MCPL programs and projects. Many thanks to all, especially our co-chairs, the mother and daughter team, Margie and Kathryn Sekulo.

Back By Popular Demand

Last year, The Book Lover's Calendar was a huge success. The 2009 edition is now on sale for $5.00, (retail price is $11.95) just in time for holiday giving.

Check at the circulation desk at either building. Supplies are limited.

If you want to receive the most up-to-date info on the Friends, as well as reminders of our most important events, make sure we have your e-mail address. You can be assured that we will not “clog up” your e-mail with unnecessary messages. Also, remember to check our website, www.mcpl.lib.ny.us and click on “Friends” for more information.

If you need to contact us, we can be reached via e-mail at Friends@mcpl.lib.ny.us or by calling (631)585-9393 ext. 239.
Membership Renewal Time Is Here

Membership is a critical part of our budget. Your membership dollars are needed at this time in order for the Friends to continue to show our support for our wonderful library. As you know, all monies raised from the Friends’ dues and activities directly support MCPL programs and projects (Music Fest, the Singles Café, Museum Day, Boomers and Seniors, to name a few). By your generous support, we recently purchased the upright Yamaha piano that you may have seen and heard during special events in the library lobby.

Membership runs from January through December. Members who have recently joined or renewed are paid through 2009. If “Your renewal is due now” is stamped next to your mailing label, we ask for your continued support and invite you to renew your membership for 2009. The levels of membership are: Bronze for $5.00, Silver for $10.00, Gold for $25.00 and Platinum/Lifetime for $100.00. Business and organization memberships are $25.00. Remember you can always “move-up-a-level” if you feel comfortable doing so but we appreciate your contribution at whatever level you choose.

Please use the renewal form located on page 4 in this newsletter and mail it to the library, or drop the form in the Friends’ mailbox located near the circulation desk at either the Selden or Centereach buildings. You can also renew at one of the many membership drives that we’ll be holding during the next few weeks. Our current membership exceeds 375 members but each and every renewal is extremely important! Please encourage family members, friends and neighbors to join as well! Thank you for your continued support.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
As of 11/8/08

Welcome to our Newest Members


Thanks to our Friends who have moved up to a higher membership level:

Amy Rosinger, Bob & Laurie Skidmore

Extra thanks to our newest Platinum member:

Sharon Breen

Tell Your Friends and Neighbors About the Friends

If you would like an easy way to tell your friends, relatives and/or neighbors about the Friends and what we do, contact us at Friends@mcpl.lib.ny.us or call (631) 585-9393 ext. 239 and ask for one of our newly-designed Friends’ brochures. Encourage them to join the Friends and make a difference today.
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 circulation 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

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 ___________

Thanks for being a Friend!