



Friends of the Webster Public Library | 980 Ridge Road | Webster, NY 14580

**Friends of the Webster Public Library
General Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2023**

Present: Karen Stoddard, Val Eaton, Lori Lawrence, Kelley Kitrinis, Brenda Rubenstein, Ruth Tetlow, Cheryl Minchella, Mary Alice Moore, Laurie Heim, Diane Ellis, Deb Suffoletto, Richard Reid, Robyn Incardona, Phyllis Duncan, Eileen Brookins, Mehdi Araghi, Gail Dominik, Peg Ehmann, Millie Ippolito, Patricia Woos, Brenda Levingood, Diane Jordan, Kim Hanna, Karen Banasik, Winanne Messing

Guest: Jenny Paxton, library liaison

Linda called the meeting to order at 2:00pm and welcomed new members.

Minutes from May 16, 2023: The minutes for September 20, 2023 were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: The Lobby Book Store generated \$2,949.83 in October. It was noted that the Lobby Book Store was closed for 5 days during the semi-annual book sale. Expenditures included the cost of new aprons, two new tablecloths, new signs for the book sale and fees for the NYLA conference held in November. A check will be written to the library for \$25,000.

Membership: There were forty-one new members registered during the fall book sale as well as eighteen renewals. Renewal information for current members will go out in February and will be due in March. Currently there are 648 members. The database will be updated to identify inactive members.

Book Sale: The October Book Sale generated \$7,262.92 which included material sales and raffle sale.

Lobby BookStore: The Lobby BookStore helps to raise funds for the library. The library in turn used the money to purchase things not covered by their operating budget including all programs offered by the library. Twenty dedicated sorters work to sort donations, display books and pack books into boxes for the semi-annual sales. The Lobby BookStore averages about \$3,000 per month.

The Lobby Book Store will be adding decal decorations to the wall near the children's books. New shelving is currently being made by Webster Schroeder High School students under the direction of their teacher. The shelves will be delivered by the end of the year when a party to celebrate the students contribution will be held.

Vintage and Collectable Sale: The Vintage and Collectable Sale generated \$939. A mini vintage sale will be held at the Spring Book Sale as a way to introduce book sellers to the types of books available at the Vintage and Collectible sale. The next Vintage Sale will be held on March 21, 2024 from 4 to 7 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 due to the illness of one of the members. The following information was submitted to be shared with the membership.

Holiday Book Sale: The Holiday Book Sale will be held from November 30 to December 21 or until sold out. Books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles will be available and make great gifts and stocking stuffers (as long

as your stocking isn't too small). Their prices are the same, everyday low prices you find in the Friends' Sales Lobby: \$2 for hardcover and \$1 for paperback books -- children's materials are less; music CDs: \$1; DVD and Blu-Ray movies \$2; and puzzles between \$2 and \$4 depending on the number of pieces - children's puzzles are less.

Volunteers: Thirty-three Friends have volunteered to help the library during thirteen library events over the past year including events such as Libby Tips and Trick, National Puzzle Day, Argentina Travelogue, African Drumming and Dancing, Community Arts Day, Special Needs Parent Resource Fair, Volunteer Fair, Summer Reading Kick Off, Authors and Publishers Event, Trick or Treat, Gingerbread Houses and Mandolin Concert. Volunteers have assisted with the Spring and Fall Book Sales, Tee shirt sales, Vintage and Collectable Sale, and Caps for Sale. Volunteers have shared information about the Friends with the community at the Joe Obbie Market. During the recent book sale several patrons signed up to volunteer: 10 new volunteers for the fundraiser projects, 12 new volunteers for sorting, and 17 new volunteers for the book sale. New opportunities to volunteer will be available during 2024.

Caps for Sale: The Caps for Sale event was a success. There are several hats left from the sale. It was decided to have a Flash Sale on December 6. Any hats left after the sale will be donated to Hope House and other charities.

Publicity: There have been several articles in the Webster Herald this fall highlighting the Friends. Please take a few minutes to enjoy them. This fall was a busy time for the publicity committee as he provided information about the book sale, caps for sale, the vintage and collectible book sale and Marge Gason's award ceremony. The publicity committee continues to look for new avenues to share events and news about the Friends with the community.

Library News: The library will no longer charge a fee for holds beginning January 2024. Earlier late fees were eliminated. Currently fees are only charged for lost materials.

Miscellaneous:

- On Saturday, November 11th Marge Gascon, a Friend of the Webster Public Library since 2009, was honored posthumously with the Daniel W. Casey Award. The award was presented by Lisa Wemett from the Friends of the Libraries Section of the New York State Library Association. Given annually since 1993, the Casey Award honors one volunteer member or a group from the library community each year whose efforts have contributed to the growth of libraries or Friends of the Library organizations. In its announcement, the Friends of Libraries Section described Marge Gascon as "an exceptionally active and dedicated volunteer with the Friends of the Webster Public Library". Marge, a retired office manager from a prestigious law firm, Nixon, Peabody LLC in Rochester, brought her immeasurable managerial and technical skills to the Webster Friends. Marge held several key positions within the Friends including membership chair, treasurer, chairperson and advisory committee member. She revamped the membership process, revised the financial reporting system to be more informative, created policies for gifts, honorariums and reimbursement expenditures and worked with the library on grant writing. Marge introduced the use of PayPal and credit cards for purchases by patrons, and so much more. Sadly, Marge passed away suddenly on April 25, 2023. Her counsel, expertise and especially her friendship will be greatly missed by the library, the community and the many, many Friends she made there. The Friends of the Webster Public Library donated a bench in her honor to be located in the library lobby for young and old alike, who may need to sit a spell, rest, remember and be renewed.

- Wreaths Across America will be held on December 16, 2023. The organizers hope to place a wreath on each veteran buried in the three Webster cemeteries. Last year over 650 wreaths were placed on veterans graves in the Webster Union Cemetery. Information about how to donate a wreath or to volunteer is available on the [Webster Union Cemetery](#) website.
- Linda and Peg attended the New York State Library Association Conference held earlier this month. They both came away with valuable information on a variety of subjects involving the Friends. They will be sharing this information with the group over the next coming months.

We wish all our members a happy holiday season no matter what holiday they celebrate and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

The next general membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 2pm in the Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Brookins
Secretary