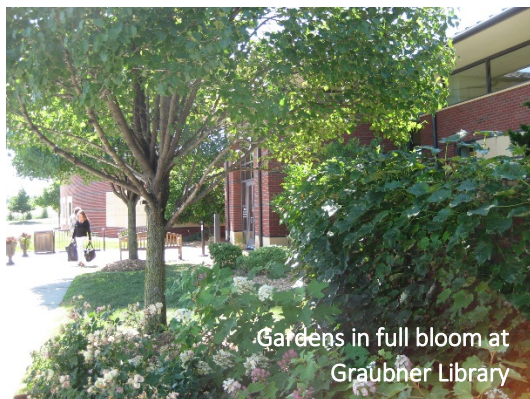


Friends of the Romeo District Library

2014 Annual Report – February 18, 2015



Gardens in full bloom at
Graubner Library

2014 was a year of fresh starts for the Friends. The Friends' Board began the year with goals designed to help the organization to thrive and become more effective in our communities. We wanted to find new ways to increase book sales, improve and diversify our outreach, institute new

fiscal processes, and become strong advocates of literacy. We are happy to report the outcomes of 2014 and hope you agree that the Friends are on the right path.

In May, the Friends hosted a gathering to welcome new Library Director John McNaughton to his new role and to the community. We love working with John and the entire Library staff – all of you do a fantastic job for the residents of our three communities – Bruce Township, Washington Township and the Village of Romeo. During her short stay, we appreciated the new ideas and energy that Interim Director Linda Sickles brought. Finally, a big thank you to the Library Board for your leadership and partnership. We are truly blessed to be a part of the Romeo District Library community!

Membership

Thank you to everyone who paid memberships in 2014 – many of you also gave gifts in addition to your membership. Membership costs \$10 and is valid through May 31, 2015. Membership renewal reminders will be sent out in May 2015.

Lori Anaple
Carolyn Anthony
Donna Beggs
Debra Beauvais
Mark Clark
Marcie Cornett
Dan Detkowski
Harry & Sally Doan
Rich & Judy Dugger
Joe & Kathy Fannon
Donna Folland
Bill Grandstaff
Joyce Hennessee
William Himmelberger
Paul & Virginia Howcroft
Barbara Jacobs
Joan Keller

Kel Keller
Al & Ann Kresse
Becky Laseke
Ilene Lock
Alice Longley
Elizabeth Miller
Eugenia Obrecht
Deborah Obrecht
Nancy O'Brien
Anne O'Donnell
Judy Park
Barbara Parks
Jane Perzyk
Rod & Michelle Porter
Dean & Mary Quick: *in Honor of*
Lillian See
Paul & Anna Reiz

Board of Directors

(as of December 31, 2014)

President: Jean Viviano

Secretary: Nancy O'Brien

Treasurer: Donna Folland

Directors

Al Kresse

Ann Kresse

Judy Park

John McNaughton*

**non-voting member*



John Shagene
Mary Shellabarger
Renee Simon
Carol Sutherland
Richard & Carol Tapper
Thee Office Pub & Cookery
Jean Viviano

Outreach

Printed postcards, social media, as well as great support from WBRW, the Romeo Observer, and the Source Advisor in getting the word out about our activities. Thank you to the Library for hosting our web site, providing space in the quarterly newsletter and posting our events on the electronic sign on Van Dyke. Our Facebook page has grown to 142 likes. If you use Facebook, please be sure and 'Like' us too!

Book Stores and Book Sales

The Book Store at Kezar is going strong. Volunteers at Kezar have grown from a couple of helpers to a regularly scheduled bookstore crew. Special thanks to Stacie Guzzo and the staff at Kezar for managing daily sales at the upstairs store – we couldn't do it without you! We started a monthly book sale at Kezar this year. Every third Saturday, shoppers can come downstairs and browse the entire stacks – as well as take advantage of special sales.

The Book Store has arrived at Graubner! In December, we placed two carts of books there. For now, they are available Saturdays only and are replenished weekly with new arrivals. This is our chance to show off better-quality books. It is becoming very popular. Thanks to Maureen Swanwick and the terrific staff at the Circulation Desk – shoppers can now pay for their books when they check out.



New Arrivals at the Book Store at Kezar



Book Sale Saturday at Kezar



The Book Store is Now Open at Graubner!

Battle of the Books

Friends Board member Nancy O'Brien is on the team with staff librarians Stacie Guzzo and Bethanie Connors to plan Romeo District Library's new Battle of the Books program. The Friends of the Romeo District Library are very excited to support the launch of the Battle of the Books by the Romeo District Library! Battle of the Books is a reading competition for teams of local fifth graders. Each team has an adult coach and reads books chosen by RDL librarians and answer questions in a quiz show format. Proceeds from the 2014 Garden Walk will purchase books for the fifth-graders and cover the costs of school plaques for winning teams and the awards ceremony.

Support for Romeo District Library

With the help of Interim Director Linda Sickles, we began consolidating requests for funding into a formal request that is presented to the Friends Board by the library director. In 2014, this constituted a gift of \$8,700 for the following items:

The new AWE Early Literacy Station at Kezar teaches cognitive skills in reading, math, writing, and drawing to children in an exciting and fun way – without connecting to the internet. It enhances the child's and the parent's experience at the Library and improves success at school. In addition, story time and other children's activities got a boost from a children's craft center at Graubner and new Edushape Giant Blocks at Kezar.

We helped support two programs at the Library this year. Author Luis Carlos Montalvan, best-selling author of *Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him*, visited with his service dog, Tuesday. He also read to children from his book *Tuesday Tucks Me In* and discussed the role of service animals and the disabled. As in years past, the Friends supported the annual Mystery Writers program – a multi-author panel discussion of specific author works, the mystery genre, writing, and the current state of publishing.

The historic Kezar Library often hosts special collections of artifacts. The new display case at Kezar (photo, right) is helping to make sure that rotating exhibits and local historical and genealogical materials have a home worthy of their importance to our community.



Library Sciences Scholarship

The 2014 recipient of the Library Sciences Scholarship was Charles ("Kel") Keller. Kel is a free-lance photographer and a graduate student in Library and Information Sciences at Wayne State University. He has a particular interest in archival work. Congratulations, Kel!

For 2015, the Board has updated the scholarship guidelines and added a new scholarship opportunity for Romeo District Library employees who are working on their undergraduate degrees in preparation for future Library Sciences study. You can see our updated application online by visiting romeodistrictlibrary.org/friends/ and going to the Scholarship tab. Applications for the 2015 Library Sciences Scholarship close on February 21.

Romeo Area Garden Walk



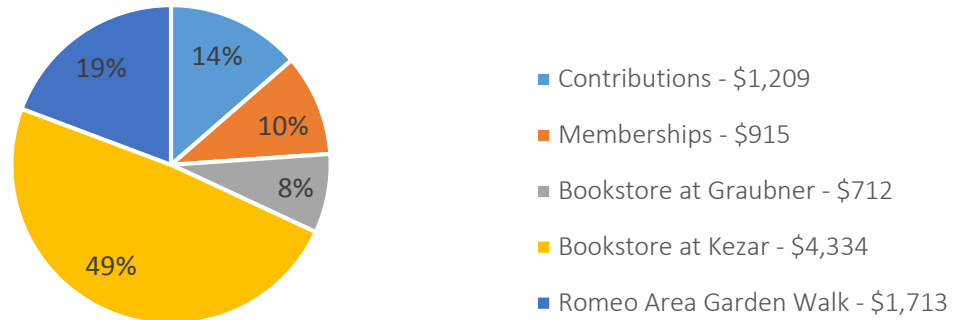
Thank you to our wonderful gardeners and artists and visitors that made the 2014 Romeo Area Garden Walk a big success! A very special thanks goes to Friends' volunteer Rosemary Kern for her leadership and hard work. We capped off a beautiful day with the Moonflower Afterglow hosted by our partners at the Starkweather Arts Center. Thanks also to Vera's Balloons for their support. This year the proceeds from the Garden Walk is supporting the launch of the Battle of the Books by the Romeo District Library. Please visit the Garden Walk page on the website to see the photo album and to get news about future events.

2014 Financials

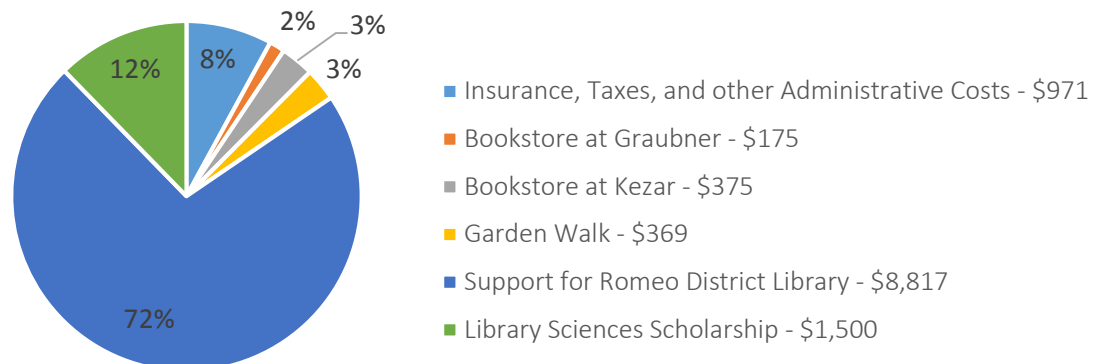
Cash Flow

▪ January 1, 2014 Cash Balance:	\$	13,640.49
▪ 2014 Operations Net Change:	\$	<u>-3,323.36</u>
▪ December 31, 2014 Cash Balance:	\$	10,317.13

Revenue



Expense



Who We Are

The Mission of the Friends of the Romeo District Library is to promote and support the Library and its services and programs through advocacy, fundraising and volunteers. Our activities stimulate community appreciation of the library's resources and services; encourage gifts and bequests in support of the library and sponsor special programs in cooperation with the library staff. The Friends have been in operation since 1987.

The Friends is an all-volunteer organization. Community members and Library patrons who volunteer and donate can see their support going directly to the Library. The Friends of the Romeo District Library serves the Kezar and Graubner Branches of the Romeo District Library. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization – all contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law.

Please visit us at romeodistrictlibrary.org/friends/. If you are not already a member, please consider joining!

If you have any questions, you can email us at friendsofrdl@yahoo.com.