

Friends of the Romeo District Library

2015 Annual Report –April 19, 2016

The Friends had a strong year in 2015! With your help and support, we expanded the book stores and increased the success of fundraising events – which gives us the ability to grow and have a greater impact on literacy in our communities.



Members of the Friends' Board of Directors in 2015 – from left: Ann, Lori, Marcie, Carol, Joyce, Donna, Kathy, Nancy, Al and Jean

Support for the Romeo District Library

The Friends of the Romeo District Library provided \$2,785 in support for the Romeo District Library in 2015 – by supporting the following programs:

Adult Summer Reading Program

Friends supported this annual program by paying for three grand prizes, an ice cream social, and tote bags with books.

Build and Break Lego Time

This is a monthly program at the Kezar Branch Library, when children of all ages and their parents come and build with each other (*see photo top right*).

Battle of the Books

Friends support provided books and other materials to prepare for the 2016 Battle of the Books. The Battle of the Books is a contest with teams of fifth graders who read 11 books from October to March and compete with each other to answer questions about the books correctly (*see photo bottom right*).

100 Best Books to Read before Kindergarten

For the past three years, Kezar Library has been running this program for ages three to five years. The funding in 2015 helped staff to update the list of books, better promote the program and to provide incentives for the children to start and to finish the list. Friends' funding will help this program expand to the Graubner children's room in 2016.

Library Staff Appreciation

Our community is so fortunate to have such a terrific library and one of the biggest reasons is the fine people who work there! We welcomed the opportunity to show how much we value the Romeo District Library staff by funding a monthly staff appreciation gathering, along with a water cooler and two picnic tables with umbrellas. Kudos to you all – we think you are the best!

Board of Directors

(as of December 31, 2015)

President: Donna Folland

Vice President: Nancy O'Brien

Secretary: Carol Sutherland

Treasurer: Marcie Cornett

Directors

Lori Anaple

Kathy Fannon

Joyce Hennessee

Al Kresse

Ann Kresse

Judy Park

John McNaughton*

Jean Viviano

* *non-voting member*



Library Sciences Scholarship

The Friends of the Romeo District Library makes funds available each year to support Romeo area residents or employees of the Romeo District Library who are working towards a degree in Library Sciences. In 2015, scholarships were awarded to Kel Keller to complete his Master in Library and Information Sciences and to Emily Peoples for ongoing work on her Masters, both at Wayne State University.



Book Stores and Book Sales

We expanded to two book stores in 2015, with a new book store opening in the lobby of Graubner Library on August 15. We established regular monthly book sales at both stores – the third Saturday at Kezar and the first Sunday at Graubner. Sale days offer lower prices to everyone and a 20% discount to members of the Friends. Our Big Book Sale on November 7-8 was a great success – helping us clean out a large stock pile of used books. Thank you to all our book store and book sale volunteers! And a special thanks to Romeo High School students from SERVE (Students Enriching Romeo through the Volunteer Experience) for helping us move truckloads of books (*see photo top right*).

Spring Rummage Sale

We celebrated spring by inviting everyone to clean out their basements and attics for our new rummage sale held on May 21-22. We made lots of new friends and successfully raised funds to support the library. Thanks to Marcie for sharing her home and to everyone who volunteered.

Romeo Area Garden Walk

Thank you to Marcie and David Cornett, Pat and Philip Hambleton, Diane and Ron Jesmore, Dick and Cathy Lonczynski, Sarah Haning and the Gardeners at St. Paul Episcopal Church, Richard and Carole Tapper for sharing your beautiful gardens with us at the Romeo Area Garden Walk on July 11. The Garden Walk this year was sponsored by the Romeo District Library Board and by individual sponsors. Ed and Gretch were our musical garden guests. The event was co-sponsored by Starkweather Arts Center. The Starkweather artists made beautiful art in each of the gardens that were displayed at the Moonflowers Afterglow. Thanks to everyone who helped!



Looking Ahead – Bookmobile Project

Starting in 2015, we have a new long-term focus for our Garden Walk fundraising – to support the future launch and long-term maintenance of a Romeo District Library bookmobile that will bring the library out into our communities and reach populations that may have difficulty accessing Graubner and Kezar Libraries. This is a multi-year project with the goal of raising sufficient funds to kick-start the bookmobile project and leverage grants from other sources. We raised \$4,846 in 2005.

Events in 2016

We look forward to new and exciting events in 2016, such as the **Altered Books Contest** in partnership with Starkweather and a revamp of the Garden Walk as the **Celebration of Gardens and Art**, and to continuing to grow the Friends' support for the Romeo District Library and for literacy in our communities.

Remembering Rosemary

We said good-bye to a good Friend this year. Rosemary Kern was an active member of the Friends of the Romeo District Library and organized the Romeo Area Garden Walk for many years. She was a treasured member of the Friends and enriched our lives with her love of books and gardens. Rosemary passed away on October 19, 2015 at the age of 84.



Thanks to our Board members and Volunteers

We are grateful to our Board members who have retired or moved away. Kathy Fannon joined the Board after her retirement as an Adult Services Librarian at Romeo District Library. She was with us for most of 2015 before moving to sunny Florida. Nancy O'Brien joined the Board in 2014, serving as Secretary and then as Vice President. Nancy left us early in 2016 to concentrate on her tutoring work. Judy Park has been a Board member of the Friends for over 20 years, serving many years as secretary. Judy has retired from the Board, but we still hope to see her often when she is in Michigan. Thank you all for your generosity and your service!

So many of you have volunteered at the book stores and book sales, at the Garden Walk and the Spring Rummage Sale and whenever strong hearts and hands are needed. Thank you for your dedication to the cause of literacy in our community!

Membership in 2015

Thank you to everyone who paid memberships in 2015 – many of you also gave gifts and sponsorships in addition to your membership. Memberships paid in 2015 cost \$10 and is valid through May 31, 2016. We encourage everyone to renew their membership! Memberships paid after January 1, 2016 will be valid through May 31, 2017.

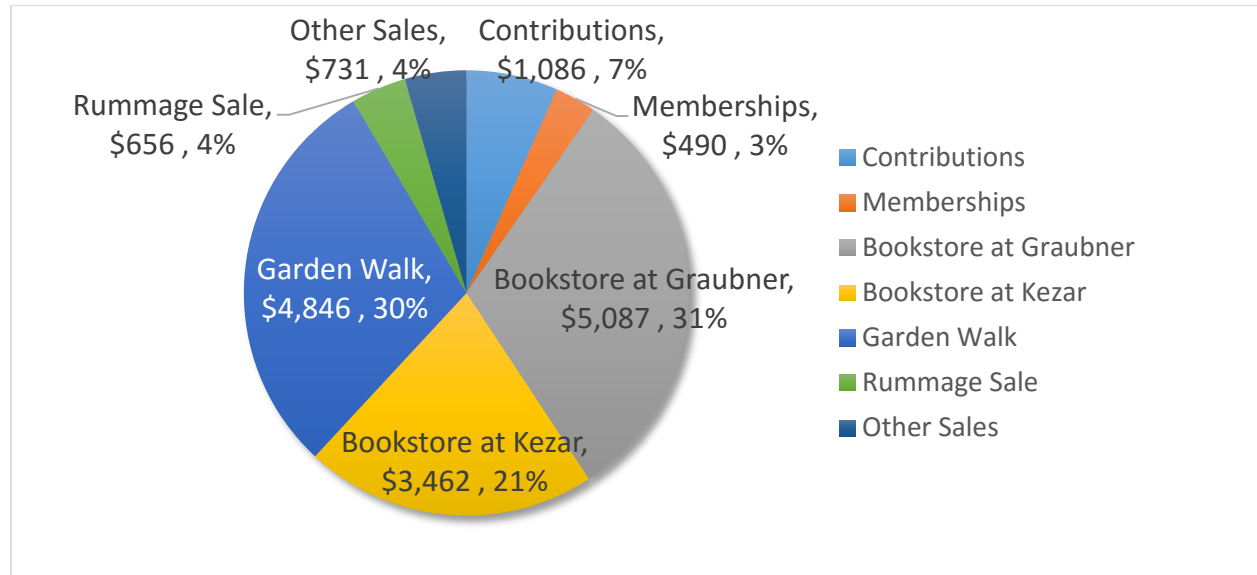
Lori Anaple	Betsy Fisch	Al & Ann Kresse	James & Judith Park
Carolyn Anthony	Donna Folland	Sharon Lark	Sandra Pelfry
Rhonda Apel	Joe Fortuna	Gail Leutze	Jane Perzyk
Haluk Baykara	Nancy Garr	Ilene Lock	Laura Pickett
Debra Beauvais	Mercedes Godin	Amy Maruca	Cindy Purdy
Melissa Bednard	Bill Grandstaff	John McNaughton	Antonia Raaz
Donna Beggs	Joyce Hennessee	Mike Meloeny	Mary Ann Radzilowski
Bricks & Minifigs	Dawn Hessell	Kelly Mero	Linda Scope
Sharon Cantrell	Jim Hohner	Elizabeth Miller	John Shagene
Betty Cassidy	Eno Hyska	A. Caryl Moore	Arlene P. Shy
Bethanie Connors	Kristin Irvin	Maysonya Morrison	Renee Simon
Marcie Cornett	Barbara Jacobs	Betsy Murchison	Carol Sutherland
Adrienne Cottingham	Joan Kellar	June Murray	Richard & Carol Tapper
Richard Czerjekian	John and Rosemary	Daniel Nelson	Darlene Trimble
Dan Detkowski	Kern	Mary Ann O'Brien	Jean Viviano
Symantha Jane Duggan	Cathy King	Nancy O'Brien	Elizabeth Vollbach
Judith & Richard Dugger	Lindsay Kopasz	E.M. Obrecht	
Kathy & Joe Fannon	Gary Kopp	Anna Pantalena	

2015 Financials

Cash Flow

January 1, 2015 Cash Balance	\$	10,317.13
Total Revenue	\$	16,357.71
Total Expense	\$	(6,447.14)
Other Income	\$	0.47
December 31, 2015 Cash Balance	\$	<u>20,228.17</u>

Revenue



Expense

