

Friends of A.K. Smiley Public Library
President's Report

Annual Membership Meeting
June 4, 2023
Library Assembly Room

What a difference a year makes! We celebrated baby steps - slowly returning to fully function after two years of dealing with pandemic issues. June of 2022 ushered in a welcome dose of normal.

Implementation of Credit Card

Kim and Andy Green had begun working on implementing a credit card device into the Bookstore and for our special sales. This process required training of thirty volunteers over multiple training sessions and monitoring of transactions to ensure systems were working as expected. Their efforts assured that we had the equipment, training and ongoing support to make a successful implementation. Revenue increased by XXXX over the last year. Some of that was obviously due to closures in the prior two years but we benefited greatly by the Green's efforts.

Membership

Currently we have 898 Friends members. This is an increase of 126 members over last year.

Adult Literacy

This year has seen a 30% increase in the number of tutors and learners involved in the program. Two Americorps volunteers have helped the who have worked to reinitiate and update tutor training and volunteer orientations. Kim Green is the instructor for recently reinstated computer classes.

The 5th compilation of learner writings, Our Stories: A Collection of Writings was published.

Bookstore

Marie and George Delange have done a wonderful job of transforming the bookstore. They introduced an extensive puzzle collection and are curating fun bundles of books, either a single author series or topic. Recently they added hand crafted greeting cards.

Unfortunately, due to a reduction in donations we have had to reduce the number of bags of books that can be purchased at our popular First Saturday Bag Sale to two.

The Delange's most recent project is a booth at the Saturday Redlands Downtown Market intended to increase the community awareness of our bookstore. The promotion is a "Welcome First Visit" coupon which entitles the patron to one free book.

Silent Auction

Under Les Kong's leadership, the Silent Auction is capping off a very successful year, with revenue projected to hit \$20,000 by fiscal year end.

The nine member auction team has worked tirelessly this year to select, price, and process auction items and transactions. Special mention goes out to Joyce Katkov, who has completed a two-year stint as the designated person to complete follow-up calls to bidders.

Two changes will be implemented this coming year. The auction closing time will change from 2:00pm to 1:00pm and the "bid-off" procedure will no longer be used. Signatures on bid sheets at the 1:00pm deadline will be deemed final and winning bidder.

We are grateful to the Redlands community that generously donated materials throughout the year and to Library staff who made available space on the first floor, including a prominent display case, and space in the basement.

Little Library

The Little Library in front of the Community Center has provided a visible Friends presence on the Northside. It has enhanced the collaborative relationship with the Community Center and community users are donating books and taking books to read. It has become a part of the neighborhood culture. We thank Katherine Gifford and Kathryn Brown for the many hours dedicated to this project

Social Media

Meta has benchmarked the Friends in the non-profits and religious organizations category.

INSTAGRAM:

- 1.3K Instagram followers are greater than the typical 947. Our content interactions were 338, compared to the typical 233. New Instagram followers were 15 during this timeframe, lower than the typical 26.

FACEBOOK:

- We continued to publish more than 75% of organizations in our category. Our 1.1K Facebook followers are comparable to the typical 1.2K. Our content interactions were significantly higher at 187, compared to the typical 69. Our new Facebook followers were 3, compared with the typical 7, so we continue under the average this month.
- Website Stats for April
 - 618 views
 -
 - 618 views 367 visitors
 - Friends Bookstore: 335 views
 - Friends of the Library: 98 views
 - Become a Member: 82 views

Board of Directors

We say farewell to board members Alice Moore and Bob Garcia who joined the Friends nine years ago.

We welcome three new board members and one board member who is transitioning to full board member status.

2022-2023 Board Members

Tracy Wise

Transition to voting member status

New Board Members

Dr. Laurie A. Smith, MSW, Ph.D.

Laurie earned her undergraduate degree in psychology from Michigan State University, her Master of Social Work from the University of Minnesota and her Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles. She taught at the University of Nevada Las Vegas for four years before coming to California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) in 2002 to develop and direct the new undergraduate social work program.

Laurie was the Director of the School of Social Work at CSUSB from 2009 to 2019 which offers accredited BASW degrees and MSW degrees. Laurie has served on various boards including the Advisory Board of Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) and the California Association of Deans and Directors (CADD). She served a two-year term as president of CADD. Laurie loves libraries.

Jane Weldon

Jane and her husband moved to Redlands four years ago from Cincinnati, Ohio, to be near their daughter, son-in-law and three granddaughters. She is a native of New York City and attended both Wellesley, Simmons (B.A., communications) and Tufts (M.A., political science).

Jane retired in 2019 after 20 years as a copywriter/director of copywriting services for a marketing firm in Cincinnati. Her favorite part of the job was copyediting the Chicago Cubs' monthly magazine, which her company produced for nine years.

Jane and her husband have enjoyed exploring Redlands and the surrounding area and look forward to further travels throughout Southern California and beyond. She belongs to a library book club at the library, is an Adult Literacy tutor and helped edit the program's anthology of learners' writings last year. She recently trained as a cashier in the bookstore.

As a newcomer to Redlands, Jane appreciates the opportunity to get more involved in the community and spend time with a group of smart, interesting people.