

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

**Annual Membership Meeting  
June 12, 2022  
Library Assembly Room**

**Beginning a return to “normal”**

June 2021 brought the welcome return of some normalcy. The library increased hours back to the traditional 56 hours of service per week and resumed some in person programming. Bookstore hours increased from 10 ½ hours per week to 30 hours per week. The First Saturday Bag Sale returned to the bookstore in July after months in Smiley Park. Also in July, our board met in person (masked, of course) at the Contemporary Club after many months on Zoom. We continued our journey back to normal until January 2022, when the library once again was closed for two weeks. The months since that closure have seen steady progress in volunteer and customer activity. We honor and appreciate the resiliency of Friends members, library staff and our community.

**Bookstore**

Bookstore leaders, George and Marie DeLange, jumped into July with new pricing, “Volunteer’s Pick” featuring a favorite book, updated colorful signage, reorganization of the book categories to make them easier to locate, and creative promotions to entice customers to return to shopping with us.

We were fortunate that many long time volunteers returned as soon as it was deemed safe to do so. Behind the scenes, the Monday sorting team sorts the hundreds of donated books we receive each week and puts them on the shelves. Up front, our volunteer cashiers help make our bookstore a pleasant place to shop. Both groups are essential to our success.

Staffing in the bookstore was impacted by some retirements. If you are interested in becoming a bookstore cashier, please email our Volunteer Coordinator Alice Moore at [info@friendsofsmileylibrary.org](mailto:info@friendsofsmileylibrary.org).

**Adult Literacy**

The Friends have been a crucial partner in helping the adult literacy program grow and broaden its services to the Redlands community since 2010. Our financial support during the year covered the purchase of instructional materials used by tutors and learners and some administrative support. Kim and Andy Green, Friends members, developed an adult literacy website that highlighted the community read of Charlotte's Web and posted materials that Redlands families could use as they conducted

homeschooling. Diane Shimota, the adult literacy coordinator, recently shared "I am grateful to the Friends for providing key support to the adult literacy program so that every adult in Redlands can have free access to improving their lives through literacy."

### **Membership**

One year ago, our membership had dropped to 564. We are proud to say that we have increased to 826 as of the end of May. Our membership coordinator, Robin Urquhart, has done a wonderful job of reaching out to former members over the last year. Our bookstore cashiers have also helped to increase this number by reminding patrons of the benefits of becoming a member. Remember - members receive special pricing on books and early access to our popular First Saturday Bag Sale and special sales.

### **Community Outreach – Social Media**

Our social media has been active throughout the year thanks to our coordinator, Tracy Wise. We are now on Twitter and have been active on Instagram and Facebook for several years – we have over 1,000 followers on Instagram! Information about our bookstore sales and special promotions, the Silent Auction, Amazon Storefront, and other activities can be found on our social media. We also have fun posts in **#FriendsEagerReader** (Wednesday book suggestions) and **#KeepReading** (Saturday quotes about reading).

### **Volunteer Efforts**

Our volunteers are indispensable – we are grateful for the many hours devoted by them to making all the pieces of our work come together. From June 2021 - May 2022, our volunteers (including board members) contributed 4,580 hours of their time.

### **Redlands Little Library**

Last year planning began on a Redlands Little Library to be installed outside the Redlands Community Center. This effort was spearheaded by board members Katherine Gifford and Kathryn Brown working with Dave Jaffe, Recreation Coordinator for the City of Redlands and Franz Rettig of Rettig Machine. Months of planning and effort culminated with the ribbon cutting ceremony on April 14th. The Friends will continue support of the Little Library by replenishing books as needed. Congratulations to all on the completion of this special project.

### **Use of Funds**

Since July of 2018 the Friends have provided \$209,938 to the library. This is lower than in previous periods because of the lengthy closure of the library in 2020 and 2021. The funds raised by the Friends are used to purchase Adult, Children's and YA books, electronic resources, programming, audio books, DVD's and security systems support.

## **Board of Directors**

This year two Board members are departing – Michael Bosman and Toni Momberger. We thank them for their service and wish them well.

Jim Rice will be joining the board for the first time. He has lived in Redlands for 76 years and attended three local schools: Redlands High School, San Bernardino Valley College and UC Riverside. Jim has volunteered with the Friends for five years and currently works with the Monday sorting team and on the Silent Auction.

Les Kong, former Friends president, will be rejoining the board and will continue to work with the Silent Auction.

Kim Green is currently an adjunct member and will be returning to the board, serving as Secretary. Kim joined the board in 2016, working primarily on adult literacy. She currently writes and distributes the Friends Newsletter, does updates to our website, supports adult literacy and teaches community computer classes for the library.

## **2021 - 2022 Board Members**

Michael Boseman - Finance Committee  
Kathryn Brown - Adult Literacy  
George DeLange - Bookstore Manager  
Marie DeLange - Bookstore Manager  
Robert Garcia - Assistant Treasurer  
Katherine Gifford - Adult Literacy  
Chris Hans - Treasurer  
Joyce Katkov - Hospitality  
Rebecca McCurdy - President  
Toni Momberger - At Large  
Alice Moore - Volunteer Coordinator  
Torrey Nyborg - Special Sales  
Kathy Rosenfeld - Tax Preparation  
Bob Toister - Vice President  
Robin Urquhart - Membership  
Karen Watkins - Secretary

## **Adjunct Board Members**

Kay Dobbartin - Book Keeper  
Kim Green - Adult Literacy/Web/Newsletter  
Tracy Wise - Publicity