

 *July 9, 2024*

Friends of RRPL Annual Report

2023-2024
Fiscal Year



Friends of RRPL

Rocky River Public Library
1600 Hampton Rd.
Rocky River, OH 44116



Director's Report:

Thanks to the Friends for your support of an amazing slate of programs this year! We appreciate your generosity and hope you've had a chance to enjoy a few of the offerings you helped make possible.

Cooking Club

Makerspace Fun

Spice Club

Trivia Nights

Tune In River

Bibliobistro

Eclipse Fun: Mask Making, All About Solar Eclipses and others!

Embrace Life in Yoru Garden

Library Lawn Concerts

History Talks series

Art + YOU

Outback Ray's Amazing Animal Show

The Bubble Laby

And many more! We are very grateful and looking forward to another great year of community service and educational, entertaining and engaging programming courtesy of The Friends of Rocky River Public Library. THANK YOU for being a Friend! Stop in and say hello soon! Jessica Breslin-Director

The Friends of the Rocky River Public Library's fiscal year starts July 1st. In August of 2023 a new Governing Board was voted in including:

President-Susan Gallagher

Vice President-Open

Treasurer-Craig Rimlinger

Recording Secretary-Roberta

Trutko

Membership Mgr-Mary Horvath

Members at Large: Jody Hobson

And Noreen Vokic

Committees:

Corporate Sponsorships-Sarah Siebert

Event Support-Jenny Dieringer

Marketing/Media Outreach-Nate Louis

Book Sale Liaison-Hermina

Kaczmarek

Library Administration:

Director-Jessica Breslin

Administrative Asst-Krista Carte

The Friends of the RRPL Mission Statement is:

The Friends of the Rocky River Public Library, a nonprofit organization founded in 1971, provides financial support and volunteer services to the library. Through membership dues and fundraising activities, the Friends make possible programs and services, furniture and equipment purchases that the library could not otherwise afford. The Friends enhance the library's ability to serve children, teens, families, seniors and the whole community.

Our meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4:00pm in the Community Room. This meeting includes the opportunity for all Board and Committee Members, as well as library staff in attendance, to speak about what they are working on at that time. The meeting is open to the public.

President's Report:

It has been my pleasure to be elected to the Governing Board of the Friends of the Rocky River Public Library for the 2023-2024 fiscal year after being away from the organization for nearly a decade. Much has changed in 10 years. We have combined the efforts of the Women's Club and Friends, allowing us to bring in greater funds on an annual basis.

As I began my role after being elected in the August meeting with several new people including Mary, Membership Manager and Jody, Member at Large, there was a great deal already on our plates due to the incredible activities of the existing Board and Committee members. We started by determining a new logo to represent the Friends of the RRPL. It was well overdue. The new logo can be seen on page 1 of this document. Another item that became glaringly obvious at the beginning of this fiscal year was the inability to track memberships (both existing and new). This is something we have been working on all year as we moved to having our own website (thank you Nate) and changing how members pay for new memberships/renewals, while collecting data we need, or, at least, would like to have.

We started off with what we could do for the National Friends of Libraries Week. With Board elections occurring later than expected in 2023, our new team couldn't do any

extra fundraising events, but stuck with the basics and made sure that we had a week where we were focused on new memberships. That went well.

Together our Treasurer, Craig, worked with the RRPL Human Resources Department to develop a plan to offer scholarships to folks that worked at the library that were heading off to college. We completed a soft launch this year with a \$500 gift, with our recipient sending us a lovely thank you letter which I am including below:

“Dear Friends of RRPL,

Thank you for the academic money that you gave me for McGill University. I really appreciate it and it will be put to good use next year for college. It has been a pleasure to work at the library, and the library and the community around it have been a very important part of my life, both in and outside of work. I want to thank you both as a patron that gets to enjoy the library, and as an employee that has always enjoyed my time at the library and have always felt welcomed and happy. Overall, thank you for the academic money and for the positive influence that you play in our community.

*Sincerely,
Benjamin Buehrle”*

I couldn't be prouder of the progress we have made as a team and individually in areas such as our media presence, our marketing campaigns, and our growth in corporate sponsorships (now up to 11). We now have our very own website that gives updated information on programs we sponsor and an easy way for folks to join, as well as, for us to track memberships. It also gives us a way to let the community know about the available scholarship. We are making tremendous strides in our outreach efforts. I expect that to continue with the foundation we have in place.

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President.
Susan Gallagher*

The Friends of the Rocky River Library 2023 – 2024 Event Schedule

National Friends of Library Week – October 15-21, 2023

Each October, the Friends offer special giveaways for members who renew or join during October. Due to the month delay in voting on a new board, some additional fundraising events (such as a yoga fundraising event-Yoga by Josh) did not occur. However, we did celebrate the week and had many renewals during that time.

Staff Appreciation Day – April 9, 2024

Jenny and Roberta put together the table and goodies for the Staff Appreciation Day, with the help of wonderful artwork created by Jody. You will see Jody's artwork later in this report. The theme was The Sky is the Limit. Included in the goodies were Sun chips, Starburst, Luna bars, and Milky Way mini candy bars. Notice the theme in action here with the chosen treats.

Summer Reading Kickoff – June 8, 2024

Several members of the Friends board supported this very successful summer reading kickoff event including Mary, Jody (with the Little Friends pasta picture frame), Roberta and Craig. \$175 were received in donations and memberships with about 450 people estimated in attendance.

Kid's Membership Day at Mitchell's Ice Cream – June 13, 2024

Mary, Roberta, and Jody (with the Little Friends pasta picture frame) attended this successful event down at Mitchell's Ice Cream to encourage kids to purchase a \$5 membership and receive a Mitchell's scoop card, pencil, and bookmark.

Summer Lawn Concerts – June 12, 2024, and July 17, 2024

We are ready for some of the summer programs with our support of the Library Lawn Concerts. Hermina will have a cart of Book Sale books available with a "beach reads" focus for June and a "Christmas in July" theme for the July concert.

Some individual reports are below:

Secretary Recap – Roberta Trutko

I was honored to serve as Secretary for the Friends of RRPL for the 2023-24 year. During this time, I attended all but one (November) of the monthly meetings and took the minutes, which were then approved by those in attendance. Thank you to Mary, who took over that duty in November. In addition, I assisted in various events and activities that Friends sponsored or hosted, such as:

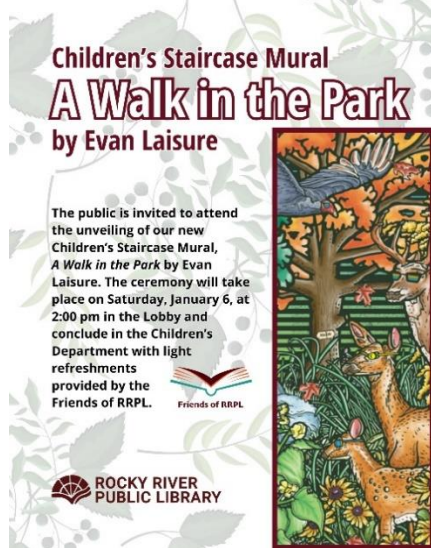
- *Serving as the Nominating Committee Chairperson for 2023-24 and for 2024-25.*
- *Coordinating efforts to purchase a commemorative brick in the pavilion of the Friends of Porter Westlake Library.*
- *Attending numerous Friends sponsored programs held at the library throughout the year and acting as an information source for those present.*
- *Instrumental in getting Friends signage at all events/programs held at the library that are Friends sponsored.*

- *Assisted Event Support Chairperson, Jenny Dieringer, in organizing and purchasing items for National Library Workers' Day.*

It is with immense pleasure that I look forward to returning as Secretary of Friends for the upcoming year.

Events Chair – Jenny Dieringer

Mural Reveal on January 6 - *Provided Refreshments for the Children's Stairway Mural Reveal. This wonderful and whimsical mural will be enjoyed by all ages!*



National Library Week Staff Appreciation Day April 9, 2024

Friends Board Members, Jenny Dieringer and Roberta Trutko provided goodies to Library Staff.

Thank you notes hand-written by Friends Board members were distributed to each of the eight Library Departments.

The staff was grateful for all our efforts and support from the Friends of the Rocky River Public Library.

Planning and discussion began in February with a deadline to drop off Thank You notes by March 31, 2024.

Member at Large – Jody Hobson

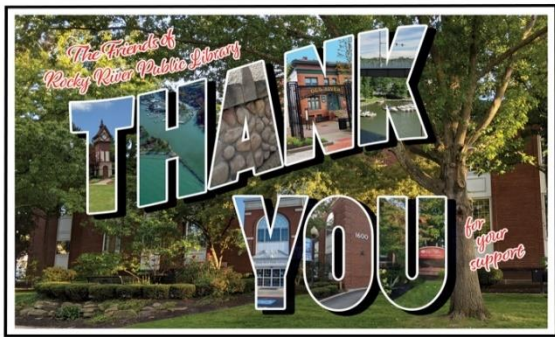
Attached are images of the projects that I worked on for Friends of the Library 2023/2024.

It was my first year serving on this board as a Member-at-Large and I have enjoyed working with the team.

In addition to the “art work” contributions, I attended several Friends Events. I was able to be present at all our Monthly meetings.

I am looking forward to next year as I continue to offer my marketing expertise to this organization.

See Jody's artwork below:



Membership Thank You "postcard"



Staff Appreciation sign



Little Friends Pasta Frame



Lobby Display Case



Book Box Refresh (in process)

Treasurer's Report – Craig Rimlinger

For the fiscal year ending in June 2024, the Friends raised just over \$11,500 to support library programming and its first-ever scholarship. The overall account balance remains strong to continue to fund various endeavors through the library. We started the fiscal year July 1, 2023, at \$19,602 and ended on June 30, 2024, at \$15,700 with \$16,000 donated to library programs and \$500 donated to our first scholarship recipient.