

It's never too late in January to wish every one of the Friends a Happy New Year. The Friends Board, **Drew Birden** the Falls Librarian and I send a big thank you for your strong support of our Library.

The Friends started more than 20 years ago by a small group of Fallsers who joined together because they saw a need to supplement City support of our Library. All these years later we are still complementing the City budget by doing what needs to be done to maintain our Library as the heart of East Falls.

Our past President **Nina Coffin** initiated many significant changes to what has been a robust agenda of needs for the Library. Working with **Peg Hallenbeck** and the Building Committee, Nina shepherded the final installation of new chairs and flooring for the meeting room. She set up an ad hoc committee to focus on strategic direction and with **John Gillespie** sought a successful change of venue for our Christmas tree sale. Happy to say that Nina as past President remains on the Board

Under my watch as President, I will be working with a strong Board and officers: **Susan Smith** as VP oversees all engagement committees; **Jenna Musket** is the new Treasurer replacing **Phil Hughes** who ably handled that job for many years; **Beth Johnston**, continuing as Secretary. A list of Committee Chairs is on our website www.friendsoffallslibrary.org

To help clarify the role or mission of the Friends Board, I developed charters as leadership guides for the major Committees. Many of our Committee Chairs have great staying power as noted in **Wendy Moody's** highly successful Book Sales and **Victor Lewis** as the "tech guy" in establishing internal communications or **Suzanne Penn** tirelessly assuring a beautiful Library garden.

In 2018 the Friends published for the first time our value statements. They are reprinted on our new book marks (available at the Library at check out.) The values talk about what is important to us as Friends of the Library and as citizens of East Falls. All the Committees have been charged with developing expectations for 2019 that will incorporate our values. There will be more about that in 2019.

In addition to realizing our values, The Friends will emphasize several growth areas in 2019:

1. Increase in Membership in the Friends, making being a Friend a high priority for families and all newcomers to East Falls. **Faith McDowell** is Membership Chair.
2. Being a Friend and having a Library Card (its FREE) is a natural combination. But the Library card comes first and is the premier support of our Library! Encourage everyone you know to sign up for a Library card.
3. Becoming a volunteer in our community. Not only volunteering for the Friends but for all our terrific East Falls organizations that need a bit of your time. The Friends have many one-off opportunities for volunteering whether it is providing baked goods for events or book sorting for the Book Sales, we have a select job for you. If you want to go a little deeper, any of our committees would be pleased to have you as a member.

4. Be an advocate for the whole Philadelphia Library system. Funding comes from your tax dollar and when budget cuts come around Libraries often are hurt so speak up when you get a chance in support of all Libraries.

There is a lot on our plate for 2019 and it all starts with the Friends biennial Winter Interlude Saturday February 23, 2019 from 7:30-9:30 pm at the Library There will be music, a wine bar, dessert buffet, and a silent auction. It is a winter tradition and a fund raiser for the Friends. Tickets are \$15 available at the Library or \$20 at the door. This lovely event offers many one-off volunteer opportunities. Co-Chairs **Peggy Gertz** and **Anne Hagele** are waiting to hear from you. Details are on our web site www.friendsoffallslibrary.org

The Winter Interlude starts the year but we rely on our talented Library Staff all year long. Thanks **Drew, Meredith and Steve and the whole team**. Check out all the good programming going on every week.

See you at the Winter Interlude but in the meantime I'd love to hear from you margaretsadler@verizon.net or call 215.843.6793.

Margaret Sadler

President of the Friends of Falls Library