

This is my second report to the friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Library. I hope to send out updates on our activities every other month.

The high light of the winter programs was surely the 2019 Winter Interlude, our every other year fund raiser. I heard from so many attendees that this year was the best ever.

We had record breaking attendance of 178 Friends, neighbors and their guests. **Wendy Moody** reported that the auction not only grossed more in receipts but had more auction items from a broader range of contributors. We raised \$9600 from tickets and auction and we kept expenses at a minimum. More about how we spend the money later.

The Winter Interlude Committee Co-chairs **Peg Gertz and Anne Hagele** managed the event like pros in spite of never having been to a previous event. The evening was dressed in white and blue snowflakes and glittering lights all designed with the expert eye of **Beth Hymel**. We had a full complement of fine wines and bubbly selected by **Karen Du Brul** and a full bar staff to go with it. **Mary Jean Cunningham and Marie Fillipponi** reached out to the community bakers and in return we had a delicious and beautiful sweets buffet and even had goodies bags for the few leftovers. Food and drink coordinators deserve applause!

What is the Winter Interlude if not the auction? Once again **Wendy** and her committee made magic happen. Local stores and services came through with gift certificates, tickets to events, and personal services; and generous members made donations of baskets of cheer to art work. Wendy was pleased with the results. **Jenna Musket** managed the checkout line with her volunteers seated at two feet high tables in the children's library section.

Ken Kolodziej handled ticket sales-that alone was a full time effort- and he also efficiently planned the room set-up, secured two Jefferson students to help and even allowed space for seating.

Faith McDowell handled hospitality with a team of greeters. **Victor Lewis** did lawn signs, name tags and all the e-communications and **Tyler Noriecki** helping in every way he could.

Drew Birden, our Librarian, just kept graciously saying yes to every request a committee asked for. It was his idea to use a drone to take a pix of the crowd and it tells the whole story. If you missed this grand event it will happened again in the winter of 2021. We will need volunteers then too.

Earlier in this report I mentioned funds we raised. Here are how these funds and your membership donations support the Library over the last twelve months starting with the most recent.

- New good looking wood book cases with wheels making transport easier at a cost of \$6000.
- Meredith the Children's Librarian requested an Early Literacy Tablet with a warranty as the current one is barely functioning. The tablet has about 4000 activities for children with no internet access. The Board approved the purchase plus two other less costly devices for a total of \$3373.

- The Midvale Ave doors were refurbished for \$550.
- Plans are in the making to repair the in-ground marker on Midvale.
- Garden maintenance contract (exclusive of the Suzanne Penn and her steady garden volunteers) \$2675.

On a side note, Mayor Kenny added another \$2.5 million to the City's Library Budget- a bit shy of the \$15 million requested, so our support of our Library remains critical.

Upcoming events include the Spring Garden, Bake and Book Sale set for Saturday May 4, watch for details on our web site. We can use some volunteers for this event so please let me know if you can help.

I'd love to hear from you at margaretsadler@verizon.net or call 215.843.6793

Margaret Sadler

President of the Friends of Falls Library