



FRIENDS OF THE BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

June 2020

Dear Friends,

We want to share information reported during the Friends of the Belmont Public Library (FOBPL) annual meeting and elections. This year's meeting was particularly gratifying as our combined efforts sustained our commitment to the Library's purpose during a challenging pandemic.

Before we share the results of our annual meeting, we'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the gravity of our nation's social challenges and let you know that our library has put together a list of helpful resources. [Click here](#) for more information on racism.

2020 Board of Directors

Officers of the 2020 Board of Directors:

Marie Mabardi and Elaine Westermarck – Co-Presidents

Sue Black and Hannah Fischer – Co-Treasurers

Pamela Delalla – Secretary

Directors at Large:

Colleen Bolton, Emily Bowman, Laura Caputo, Kristen Carte-Smith, Kelly Chiu, Diane Coulopoulos, Nancy Dignan, Louise Halstead, Beatrix Kastor, Tony Kastor, Leigh Kenney, Diane Malcolmson, Margery Miller, Robin Ratcliff, Laury Verner, Lynn Zheng.

We are extremely fortunate to have this slate of officers as they represent the wide range of interests, life stages, cultures and professional experiences of our town. We want to express how pleased we are with the overwhelming response from our membership who said “**Yes**” to the call to join the Board of Directors.

Overarching Accomplishments This Year

1. Exceeded our revenue and membership goals despite the negative impact of Covid-19! Thanks to the 325 members who provided thousands of volunteer hours and gave generously, the FOBPL raised over \$50,000 in unrestricted, fungible dollars for Library programs and events.

2. Increased our communications to create greater community engagement. We met with various town groups such as the Belmont Chinese American Association to create greater awareness and knowledge of FOBPL, and welcome engagement.

3. Continued to work with leadership across the Library community to share information and coordinate our message, communications calendar, and events. We collaborate with Peter Struzziero, our Library Director, to amplify and support programmatic goals to reach wider audiences.

4. Clarified the role of the FOBPL by discovering the history of the Friends of the Library. Our purpose to communicate, represent and support (both financially and with volunteers) allows us to better focus our efforts and makes us better partners.

During this discovery we also learned that the FOBPL will celebrate our **50th anniversary** in 2022. We will kick off a year of celebration beginning in 2021 which will bring this important milestone to the attention of the Belmont community.

Update on Current Library Activity and Feedback from Town to Library Staff During Pandemic:

Corinne Coveney, Belmont's Community Outreach Librarian ([Click the links in BLUE](#)):

"Thank you to the Friends for their support of the Care Packages! The Friends have been invaluable in providing not only the books that go into these bags, but the time and effort to create the Care Packages -- special thanks to Louise, Nancy, and Stephanie for their help with putting them together. Since the library closed in mid-March, we have distributed 700 Care Packages, and our patrons are so grateful.

In addition, using the Zoom accounts, supported by the Friends, we've hosted 60+ online programs with almost 900 live attendees. Using Zoom has also enabled us to record and share some of our presentations after the fact. If you're curious, you can watch our [Tai Chi class](#) from April 25 or our [Kid-Approved Snacks Cooking Class with Chef Meryl MacCormack](#) from May 21 on the Library's YouTube channel.

We've seen some of you in our online programs already, but we'd also like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us on Zoom, including upcoming author visits with [Nina Sankovitch, author of American Rebels, on June 22](#) and [Sam Ducharme, author of Sole Searching on the Appalachian Trail, on June 29](#). We also have [concerts, puppet shows, and more](#) for kids and families. Register on our website events calendar and we look forward to seeing you there!"

Remember to share your love of the FOBPL with your friends and family and encourage them to join or donate at <https://belmontpubliclibrary.net/give/renew-join-or-donate/>. Kindly follow the FOBPL on social media: [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Look for the FOBPL update in the Belmont Library's monthly

newsletters sent electronically.

Sincerely,

Elaine & Marie

Elaine Westermarck & Marie Mabardi
Co-Presidents

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