Friends of the Library

Annual Report

March 2021

Dear Friends, March 15, 2021

Due to Covid-19, our annual Friends meeting has been canceled this year. I would like to share with you the Annual Report that I would have given at that meeting.

Purposes of the Association:

The purposes of this organization shall be to actively support the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library by doing the following: maintain an association of persons interested in books and libraries; focus attention on library services and needs; fundraise and stimulate gifts, desirable collections, endowments, and bequests; and strengthen reading interest and library information services for young people.

This statement was approved at the Board’s annual review of the Bylaws. The current Bylaws can be found on the Friends page of [clarksville.org](http://clarksville.org) under the Your Library menu tab.

An election of new officers was held in May of 2020 and are as follows:

Jennifer Ford, President

Jan Hodgson, Vice President

Christina Chester-Fangman, Secretary

Anne Black, Treasurer / Past-President

All officers are serving two-year terms and are just beginning the second year of the present term. Therefore, there will be no elections this year.

Board Directors are: Gerald Beavers, Jacqueline Crouch, Micki Daugherty, Brenda Harper, Shirley Hood, Jim Marshall, Heather Clark Mendoza, Linda Nichols, Joel Wallace, and Barbara Wilbur

Special thanks to our outgoing officers: Anne Black (President), Linda Nichols (Vice President), and Malinda Scott (Treasurer), for their years of leadership and service.

Malinda Scott, a long-time and dedicated Board Director and Treasurer, resigned this year. The Board thanks Malinda for her years of invaluable service. She is missed.

On behalf of the Board, I thank all Friends for the support of the library. Our current membership for 2021 stands at 74. The cancellations of in-person used book sales last year may account for the lower than usual membership number, as we generally take in a large number of new members and membership renewals during book sales.

Due to Covid-19, the April and October used book sales in 2020 were canceled. For the continued safety of our volunteers and community members, the April 2021 book sale has also been canceled. The library has graciously stepped forward to help the Friends by creating a series of virtual used book sales to tide us over until we can resume in-person book sales. The virtual book sale idea is the brainchild of Sarah McKinney, Marketing Associate. Library staff have volunteered to handpick books and videos for specially curated collections and place them in bags by genre. Jason Camp, Public-Services Supervisor, has been overseeing the assembly of the pre-packed bags being offered and has been facilitating the sales through Eventbrite. Each curated pre-packed collection contains at least eight items and can be purchased in a Friends of the Library canvas tote bag for $11, or just the book with no tote for $5. The virtual used book sale held in December 2020 was a great success and generated $550.00 in sales for the Friends. A second virtual book sale took place in March of this year. You can find announcements and links for future book sales on the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library Facebook page, as well as on the Friends of the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library Facebook page.

Our newly formed Newsletter Committee has been working closely with Jessica Hartley, Administrative Assistant, to update and improve the efficiency of the Friends Newsletter mailings. We are trying out a new postage rate to better track any undelivered mailings. If you do not receive any future newsletter, please notify Jessica at jessica@clarksville.org or (931) 648-8826.

Two newsletters will be sent out in 2021; one in mid-April and one in mid-October. Given the interruption of our regular book sales, even those who have not yet renewed will be sent both newsletters. The form to join or renew membership is available on the Friends page of [clarksville.org](http://clarksville.org) under the Your Library menu tab. It will also be included in the newsletter when space is available. Please consider choosing email delivery which allows more of your membership donation to support library program services.

At our last meeting in March, we approved the Treasurer’s Report, which indicated current assets of $7,151.88 in our certificate of deposit, $16,338.48 in the FOL bank account, and $153,392.05 in the account we hold for the Imagination Library (the program that sends books from birth to age 5).

This year (May 2020 - February 2021), Friends took in funds raised by the virtual book sales, membership dues, and Friends of the Library tote bag sales. In addition, we continue to receive memorial donations for the support of the library.

This year (May 2020 - February 2021), Friends support of the library included the purchase of prizes for the Summer Reading Program, the purchase of new wooden playsets for the Children’s Library, a new mobility scooter for the library, and a $2,000 donation to the Imagination Library. In addition, $535 worth of new books were provided to the library in conjunction with memorials and funds received from Tyler and Gracey level memberships.

There were higher than usual operating expenses this year, which included bookkeeping software for the new Treasurer, federal tax preparation costs, and increased newsletter expenses as we work to improve the delivery of the Friends Newsletter mailings.

We remain the 501(c)3 organization for Imagination Library to hold donations in a separate account for the Clarksville Imagination Library Board.

March marks the one-year anniversary since Covid-19 arrived in Tennessee, and widespread closures began. Thank you for your continued support of the Friends and the Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library during these difficult times. We look forward to seeing you all in person once it is safe to do so. Brighter days are ahead.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ford, President