

Friends Complete Successful First Year

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“This past year was all about forming a functioning, thriving, and legal organization. We’ve come a very long way in a short time,” announced Cindy Changyit Levin, the President of the newly formed Friends of the Morton Grove Public Library at a recent Board meeting.

Current and prospective members were invited to attend to celebrate the successes and begin planning for the coming year.

Changyit Levin said achievements in this inaugural year included:

- Obtained official 501(c3) non-profit status;
- Exceeded a goal of signing up 50 members;
- Assumed responsibility for the used Book Sale near the Library entrance;
- Raised funds to purchase a flat screen TV and assorted AV equipment for the library circulation desk area and educational programs.

In the coming year, the group hopes to double in size and become more visible in the community.



Friends Board Members Sherry Banks (l) and Sabiha Patel sell used books for adults and children.

The Friends of the Morton Grove Public Library is a non-profit group of library users working together to increase awareness of the Library’s services, to expand programs, and to raise funds for exciting, new library projects.

President’s Message

Happy 1st Anniversary, fellow Friends!

Congratulations to everyone who donated time and resources to getting the Friends of the Morton Grove Public Library off to an ambitious start.

It’s been my joy to meet many of you at the various events we’ve held at Morton Grove Family Fest, Spring Blast, and the Fourth of July Parade. Whether we were collecting food at the library for the Niles Township Food Pantry or helping our neighborhood kids tie-dye their Summer Reading Program T-shirts, I feel proud that we sponsored events to keep our community connected to the library and each other.

Looking ahead, I very much want the coming year to be about building our relationship with you – our members! We will communicate more with you via email updates as well as periodic newsletters. We will be

setting ambitious new goals to increase membership and looking for creative opportunities to get our Friends actively involved with the library. Expect to hear more from us in the coming months for ways you can contribute your opinions and energies to our group.

This is a defining moment for us to grow as an organization and decide how best to support the library we love so much. Please renew your membership today! You are an integral part of our success.

Thank you for being a Friend!

Cindy Changyit Levin

Check It Out!

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Tie-dye Shirts at Summer Reading Program

This popular event, held on June 18, had the Friends, library staff and other volunteers helping children to tie-dye well over 160 shirts! We saw a lot of the dyed t-shirts running around town and especially in the Youth Services department, so the fun lived on throughout the summer. It was a great example of how our group created a brand new event to support an existing Library program. It also involved the community even more in the life and culture of the Morton Grove Public Library.



Board members (from left) Cathy Carmody, Jan Wilkinson, Karen Berkowsky promote the Friends at Music in the Park.

Music in the Park

The Friends worked a membership table at the Park District's Music in the Park series at Harrer Park on June 23. Members talked up our organization and signed up new members. The library was also giving away free ice cream to any child wearing a library t-shirt colored at our earlier Tie-Dye event. Eighty-five eager young readers received free ice cream.

Fourth of July Parade

Despite drippy weather, the Friends had a wonderful time marching with the library Trustees and staff in the Morton Grove Fourth of July Parade. This event was truly an anniversary for us, because this was the very first public event we participated in as a group one year ago!

We marched with kids on bikes whose faces had been painted in the library's "Go Wild" theme. Our teenage participants carried our banners. Friends board members handed out candy and "goodies" promoting the upcoming LabFest event that the Library helped sponsor later in July.



Friends members and families walked the 4th of July parade in a drizzle but spirits were bright.

Book Sale

This year a major project of the Friends was taking ownership of the library's ongoing book sale. The book sale began over 20 years ago to recirculate donated books and generate funds. For many years managing the book sale was part of the responsibility of the library staff.

Our Friends group adopted the book sale to free up the library staff to spend more time on services and programming. Hundreds of used books are donated to the Library each month. Friends volunteers select quality books for our own sale and donate the remainder to the Metra train station kiosk and various charities.

In addition to the books on sale every day near the circulation desk, volunteers also sell books at special events such as the Spring Blast and the Lab Fest. All paper back books are \$.50 and all hard cover books are \$1.00.



FMGPL offered used books for sale at the Lab Fest.

Member Profile: Sherry Banks

Q. What is your earliest memory about going to a library?

A. I've loved libraries since I was 8 yrs old and discovered there is a pattern to the order of how the library works. I took out a book, which I absolutely loved and found out that I could go back to the same author, same section and find more that I loved. My mother just let me loose in the library and I was happy I figured it out on my own. The library has been an integral part of my entire educational experience..including teaching. The information I gained on my own about how to use a library set me up for my future education.

Q. How long have you been coming to the Morton Grove Public Library and how do you currently use the library?

A. 10 years. Now, I mostly read for pleasure, but when my computer went down it was my lifeline to read e-mail and stay connected.

Q. Why did you join the Friends of the Morton Grove Public Library?

A. Since I retired, I wanted to get more involved in my community. I spent 30 years working hard and never getting involved in things because I was so busy working. I want to make myself available and get to know more people.

Q. What is (are) your favorite feature(s) or program(s) of the Morton Grove Public Library?

A. The staff here is unbelievable. They bend over backwards for you and do it with a smile. They make you feel welcome.

Q. Your reading tends to...Fiction or Non-fiction?

A. Fiction

Q. Who is your favorite literary character?

A. Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot

Q. Who is your favorite author?

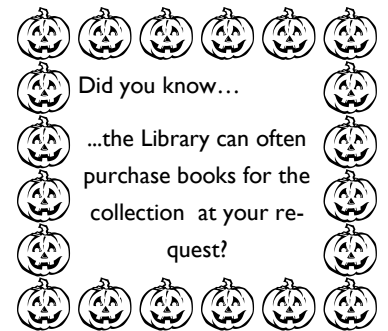
A. Lawrence Sanders or Belva Plain

Q. What are you reading right now?

A. Hester Street. It's about New York Jewish tenements at the end of the 1890's and how the residents lived.



Sherry Banks is our Board Member who leads our Book Sale efforts.



Volunteers Wanted

Looking for a way to plug into your community? We could use your talents!

Whether you'd like a leadership position on our Board or want a more hands-on role in our activities, we offer opportunities for you to make friends by being a Friend. Your assistance is welcomed in the following areas and more:

- Fourth of July parade: Organize Friends to march with the Library;
- Book Sale: Selling books at events and sorting book donations;
- Communications: Newsletter, email updates, media relations;
- Membership: Engage current members with the library and recruit new members;
- Fundraising: Raise money for projects that will enhance current library programs and facilities.

To donate your time, please email us at: friends@webrary.org or call 847.929.5090 ext 299



Membership Renewal Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

Phone: 847.929.5090 ext. 299

E-mail: friends@webrary.org

Support the work of the Friends
by becoming a member today!

Membership is open to people
of all ages; both residents and
non-residents are welcome.
Board meetings are open to all.

President: Cindy Changyit Levin
V. P. : Karen Berkowsky
Treasurer: Jan Wilkinson
Acting Sec.: Sabiha Patel

Newsletter Editor: Cathy
Carmody

Please select Annual Membership level:

General Membership \$15.00

Supporting Membership \$25.00

Donor Membership \$50.00

Patron Membership \$100.00

Other Donation \$_____

Members of the Friends group may be listed on the Library website Friends link or in publications. Please check the box below if you do not want to be publicly acknowledged.

I do not wish to be publicly acknowledged.

Would you be interested in volunteering on a project with us? __Yes __No

Memberships are tax deductible; the FMGPL is a 501(c)(3) organization. A formal letter of receipt will be mailed to you in acknowledgement of your generosity.

Your membership form with cash or check, payable to FMGPL, may be mailed to the Library in care of the Friends group or dropped off at the Checkout Desk:

6140 Lincoln Ave.,
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053

Friends of the Morton Grove
Public Library
6140 Lincoln Avenue
Morton Grove, IL 60053

postage

Mail to: