

# The Friends of the Jones Library System, Inc.

Year in Review

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023



## MISSION

The Friends of the Jones Library System., Inc. is a volunteer-led nonprofit organization dedicated to fundraising and advocacy for the Amherst public libraries to enable the libraries to enhance their collections, programming, services, and special projects.

## NATURE OF OUR ORGANIZATION

The Friends of the Jones Library System, Inc. was incorporated in 2000, and, since 2018, has been the sole fundraising entity for the Jones, Munson Memorial, and North Amherst Libraries. It launched a Capital Campaign in 2019 to supplement funds from the Town of Amherst and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for an expanded and renovated Jones Library. The Friends also conducts an Annual Fund Campaign and other fundraising events and activities to provide support for the libraries to purchase books, audiobooks, movies, magazines, newspaper and research databases and to provide public computers, children's reading activities, lectures, classes, poetry readings, films, ESL tutoring, free or reduced admission to area museums, and more.

Anyone who has donated to the Friends of the Jones Library System, Inc. during the past twelve months is a member of the Friends.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thanks to the generosity and support of so many people, as of June 30, 2023, **the Capital Campaign has reached a cumulative total of grants, gifts, and gift intentions of \$7.7 million, and has remitted \$500,000 of this to the Town.** We appreciate the dedication of our Capital Campaign Co-Chairs, Kent Faerber and Lee Edwards, and of our staff, Ginny Hamilton, Campaign Manager, and Lisa DeGrace, Fund Development Associate, all of whom believe that an expanded and renovated Jones Library will continue to play a crucial part in the civic, cultural, and economic life of Amherst.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of the Friends meets regularly on the second Monday of each month, and the Annual Meeting of the Friends is held in June, the last month of the fiscal year.

## BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Marian Walker

**Vice President:** Nancy Campbell

**Treasurer:** Nat Larson

**Secretary:** Elaine Donoghue

**Board Members:** Kelly Erwin, Jennifer Fox, Carol Johnson, Kathy Lanza, Lewis Mainzer, Richard Morse, Judith Seelig

## ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund is the most important fundraiser of the Friends. All gifts to the Annual Fund are an investment in library materials, programming, and staff. **Thanks to many generous donors, the Annual Fund raised over \$112,000 in the year ended June 30, 2023.**



**THANK YOU! We are grateful to all our members for their generous gifts of both volunteer time and financial support.**

## SOME OF THE PROGRAMS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FRIENDS IN FY 2023

- The Second Grade Reader Program
- ESL Tutoring
- Museum Passes: Children’s Museum at Holyoke, Eric Carle Museum, Historic Deerfield, Mass MoCA, Smith Art Museum, Basketball Hall of Fame
- Kids Chess Club
- Kanopy streaming video for Amherst residents
- Kids, Teens, and Adults Summer Reading Program
- PC Dr. Hank’s Tech Help
- Take & Make Crafts for Kids and Teens
- Graphic Novel Book Club
- Teen Dungeons & Dragons
- Ukulele Play-alongs
- Sing with Your Baby
- Playful Engineers STEAM Workshop for kids
- Acrobat Li Liu
- Teen Lounge
- Young Adult Reading Challenge

## USAGE OF OUR LIBRARIES

The Covid-19 Pandemic continues to have a significant effect on patron use, but library staff are heartened to see in-person events and programs filling up once again, in addition to continued virtual programming.

For Fiscal Year 2023, there were:



**142,675 visits** to the Jones, Munson Memorial, and North Amherst Libraries



**517,208 items** circulated (including digital collections)



**740 in-person and virtual programs** attended by **10,775** patrons, of which **231** were **ESL instruction** attended by **1,324** patrons



**16,645** hours of public computer use



**2,213** meeting room reservations

## EVENTS

On August 20, 2022, the Friends held its second annual **Par 3 Golf Spree** at the Amherst Golf Club with snacks from the Black Sheep and a wine tasting by the Spirit Haus. Led by the UMass Five College FCU, many generous sponsors helped the event raise over \$13,000 for the library.

On May 20, 2023, the Friends held its annual **Book Sale**. Paintings by the late Edith Byron, a former member of the Friends, were also available for purchase. Despite having to hold the sale indoors because of rain, it raised \$6,880 of which \$3,145 came from the sale of paintings.

At the **Friends Annual Meeting** on June 5, 2023, Judith Seelig was elected to the Board of Directors, changes to the bylaws were adopted, and Nancy Campbell and Steven Dunn of Mount Holyoke College gave a presentation, **“Stones for the Jones,”** about the origin of the many beautiful stones used in the exterior of the Jones Library.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

### Statement of Activity

#### Revenue:

Annual Fund:	\$	112,671
Capital Campaign:	\$	186,818
Events and Other:	\$	18,170
Investments:	\$	<u>3,973</u>
Total Revenue:	\$	321,632

#### Expenses:

Capital Campaign Expense:	\$	160,248
Contribution to Library Budget:	\$	69,070
Contribution to Library Programs:	\$	10,477
Other Operating Expenses:	\$	<u>35,479</u>
Total Expenses:	\$	275,274

**Change in net assets:** \$ 46,358

### Statement of Financial Position

#### Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents:	\$	415,744
Accounts receivable:	\$	367
Prepaid expenses:	\$	17,509
Inventory:	\$	<u>3,256</u>
Total assets:	\$	436,876

#### Liabilities:

Accrued Expenses:	\$	29,389
Payroll Liabilities:	\$	<u>2,085</u>
Total Liabilities:	\$	31,474

**Net assets:** \$ 405,402

**Total liabilities and net assets:** \$ 436,876