

Winter 2020 Newsletter 'Between Friends'

It has been one year since a newsletter has been written. Surely, there are stories to tell of 2020! Maybe one of you will even write about it. Will it be fiction or nonfiction, perhaps a memoir? Did you find any humor? Some of you have shared experiences in an email, a note, or face to face. Should I say, mask to mask?! 2021 is a week away, will this finally be the answer?

Today, December 26, is a new day with blue, blue winter skies and brilliant sunshine. Friends, there is JOY in today! Do you know FOL resumed monthly meetings at the library in October? Did you know FOL held a big bag sale in early November and sold nearly 80 bags earning over \$400? Yes, FOL is back!

Bruce Hively and Paul Cleveland worked laboriously to expand our bookstore during the time the rest of the library staff was delivering requested books to your trunk. They moved existing shelves, books, and painted. Unnecessary items were removed and they hung pictures and a clock! Story Emporium has a special dedicated children's section now in the newly expanded space. It reopened November 21 and was open December 5 and 19. I mentioned JOY, teachers have discovered this new children's section and they are thrilled! So is FOL, they are our most frequent and best buyers! It is indeed a pleasure to offer these dedicated professionals a bargain, to assist all patrons find that special book, CD or movie. Kindness repays kindness tenfold. One young man found the perfect movie for his Mom for Christmas, he was so excited and it was only a quarter!! His total was \$14.75 on December 19, all Christmas gifts! JOY! The children, as their parents shop, oh, what fun to talk to them, answer questions...well, try to. Why does that hand on the clock move so fast? Read to them, help find their favorite book, watch them 'hide' on empty bottom shelves (I don't have to dust those now), bag up their selections with a sales slip to pay at the desk. 'Grandma Janet' has been in every Saturday we were open loading up on literary gifts for her 9 grandchildren! One young boy was so happy with 3 puzzles to work during winter break, \$1.00 spent by his mom. Friends' bookstore has treasures of JOY for everyone! Watch for whiteboard specials! Saturday, January 30, 2021 is the next time Story Emporium will be open. In the meantime, while they last, FOL offers a cart of free books for the community in the library lobby.

Ann Zydek, library director, has been the catalyst behind the bookstore expansion. She has single-handedly moved shelving, found other needed shelving, and offered so many great suggestions, it has been a pleasure to follow through. As a result, Story Emporium is the most organized it has ever been. The teamwork of dedicated FOL members have heart and are tireless in their efforts to promote Warsaw Community Public Library.

One of those ways recently was answering Dear Santa letters. This was a new coordinated endeavor by Children's Services, Robin Fosnaugh, administrative assistant and FOL liaison, Steve Campbell and Lorie Krygier. FOL was also happy to sponsor the Christmas gift bags for Children's Services.

To close this newsletter, FOL received an unexpected charitable donation by an FOL member and her husband. JOY and a blessing. Friends of the Library is ending 2020 on a high note. We are ever so thankful to Warsaw Community Public Library for their unwavering support. May you find JOY and peace, good health and your hopes fulfilled in 2021.

Merri Bottorff