

July 9th 2025 7:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84369990069?pwd=btxwvHA2DRyYzCc6hY99NZwiNM0YIC.1>

President's remarks-

Welcome! End at 7:40 so we can get a tour of the reimagined library!!

Nominating: Nancy G Nomination for Meghan Scott returning to board
- Nomination seconded and all present in favor. Welcome back Meghan!

Campaign task force-

- Meghan will start the draft and send around for task force to add/change, etc.
- Target 9/30 for final version, to printer, end of October, in mail mid to end of November.

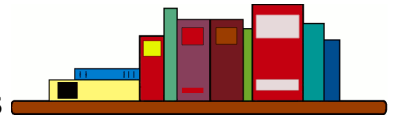
Gratitude Event- Discussion Email sent with details

November 14 or 15 during our Campaign, or the event will move to 2026. *More information on the event is discussed in a later section.*

Key milestones and dates: Any concerns, adds or changes?

- 7. July
 - Fundraising committee 2025-26 initial planning
 - PR committee on 2025 Friends of the Library week events formalized
 - **Nominating/officers finalization of potential candidates for chair/co chairs/vice chair**
 - **Campaign letter draft reviewed**
 - **Updating to Mailing listing continues- Nancy**
- 8. August
 - Finance-Initial Budget development with library director & committee chair feedback
 - Campaign task force finalize annual letter, confirm list updates with TBD, campaign details
 - Volunteer committee- Junior Recognition award planning- if to occur in September

Transition planning: Nominating is working on viable options for consideration



3. Identify Potential Successors- with Nominating, Officers- Active

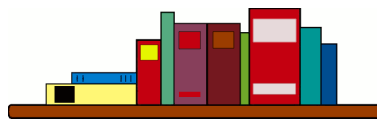
- **Recruit and Mentor Potential Candidates:** Start by identifying individuals within the current board or Friends group who have the potential to take on a leadership role. Look for someone with a strong commitment to the organization, leadership qualities, and the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively.
- **Provide Mentorship:** If possible, begin mentoring your potential successor now. Provide guidance on their involvement, share your leadership experiences, and let them shadow you in meetings and decision-making processes.
- **Consider the Need for a Vice President:** Since there is no current vice president, consider appointing someone to serve as an interim or acting vice president for the year. This can help balance the workload and ensure the board is prepared for leadership continuity after you depart.

Public Comments:

Board of Trustees-

Foundation- Patrice Cummings

- Last year, the Foundation had a gratitude event for major donors (\$500+ in given year). Library helped a lot, event was on a Thursday night in September. There has just been too much going on at the library to find a date this fall. We are looking at two dates, but they fall under the six months when Friends typically fundraise. Looking at dates now for a combined event: 11/14 or 11/16. Alcohol (white wine) is served, so cannot be when library is open; must be after hours. We would plan to invite all Friends, Trustees, major donors and their spouses. Serve finger foods. This will be a chance to also clarify to our donors the difference between the Friends and the Foundation. Opportunity to say "Thank you" to all donors/supporters do for the library.
- The Chatham Library website has a wonderful breakdown of what the difference between the two organizations. Friends should take a look.
- Members of Friends and Trustees can engage in conversations with donors too.
- Fran suggested having the library staff member that supports ESL programming to speak and share how both groups support the library in different ways.
- Will plan to send out Save the Date and printed invitations (which is one of the larger costs). Entire event cost about \$1K last year, but we received that back in a donation that evening.
- Most of the library's recent renovations comes from two estate gifts! That's an important message to share with the community.
- **Friends are in agreement to hold joint event.**



- Motion proposed to contribute to the cost of hosting the event, up to \$2,000 (that is the highest end of the estimate; amount will likely be based on final invitee list and will likely be less).
- Motion seconded and all present voted in favor.

Vice President Remarks- Vacant-

Recording Secretary- Nina

June Minutes - no revisions.

Correspondence – Nancy G

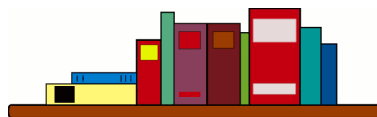
Card and gift (check) to library from Ridge Oak Seniors as thanks for holding Senior Breakfast

Treasurer's report- Bob Baker

- YTD summary shared and discussed during meeting.
- Agree to not renew movie licensing since we are no longer holding movie events. Can always renew it again in the future.
- Charitable registration to the state was filed on time
- IRS 99 report is done and will be sent over next few months

Library Update- Fran

- Summer Reading is underway and has been a great success; we have close to 150 attendees and Read Squared app is doing well (more participants than we did last year at this point).
- If you don't have a library card, please get one! Because of construction, we're a little down on numbers and want to get the word out again so anyone without a library card is reminded to come on in and get one!
- Leaders in community have expressed how grateful they are to have the free lunches. On average, we have about 15 meals going per day (we usually have about 20, but we reduce waste as much as possible).
- **Biggest news is renovations!** The cooperation and coordination all paid off and the library wasn't closed for too long. We are in a phased reopening. Local History Room and Quiet Room not currently accessible, but will be soon. Not quite camera-ready yet, but close in a lot of areas. Library staff and public are so excited for how it's coming along – Friends should be proud of contribution. Expect to be fully open in early August.



- **Ribbon cutting** planned for Friday 9/12 (afternoon into evening, maybe with ribbon cutting around 5-6), as well as 20th anniversary of this site in this building. Going to invite community, including Friends, Trustees, etc.
- Friends of Library event after that in October and Gratitude Event in November.
- **Car Show with Friends of Bernardsville & Harding Kemmerer Libraries** – originally was going to be Saturday 9/13 9am-12pm. Free family event. Looking for not just vintage cars but special cars (can be modern). Have some sponsors already, and are looking to partner with us through: help with sponsors, special cars, and providing a craft for kids. Goal is to raise \$1,000 and have already raised some. Hoping to get 20-30 cars. NOTE: Raised during meeting that there is another car show in Far Hills the same day. Fran is going to circle back and likely change the date. We can decide how we want to contribute (we can ask about cars, support via promotion, if individuals want to volunteer. Fran will get us more information.

Reports by committee chairs-

Programs- Youth- Alllison

Summer kick-off was a big success:

- 148 attendees (increase over last year's 132) and 93 registrations at the event
- As of July 3rd, 253 program registrations (compared to 212 on the same date last year)
- Thanks to Kathy, Victoria, and Alicia for volunteering!
- Buddy the Bookworm in community is up and running with 20 locations

Upcoming summer events:

Event	Date	Time	Location	Sign Up Genius
Kick-off	Sat 6/14	11:00 - 12:30	Library Parking Lot	Full
Stirling Stable Storytime	Thurs 7/10	10:00 - 11:00	Stirling Stables	Full
Movie Storytime	Thurs 7/24	11:00 - 12:00	Bernardsville Cinema	Full
Great Swamp Storytime	Thurs 7/31	11:00 - 12:00	Great Swamp	Full
Kiwanis Park	Thurs 8/7	10:30 - 11:30	Kiwanis Park	Full
Town Pool	Thurs 8/14	10:30 - 11:30	Town Pool	alternate open
Summer Reading Finale	Wed 8/20	6:00pm - 8:00pm	Library Parking Lot	Full



Finale help still needed! **Need 2 computer helpers for 8/20 at 5:30pm. May also need support getting ice cream.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050845ABAA28A6FB6-56313459-summer>

Other programs:

StoryWalk

- Program was approved by Parks and Rec but have not yet been able to discuss with Tom
- Youth team chose a book with help from Katie (Bear Came Along)

Tiny Art Show

- Working on updating materials from last year's event for Sept 2nd kick-off
See the full schedule at end of the agenda.

Programs Adult- Jerry/Kathy

Concerts pick up again in the fall with Simon and Garfunkel band and NJ Academy of Music.

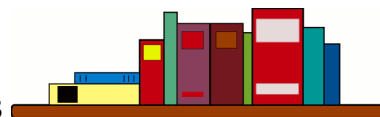
Public Relations- Alica / Kim

[Link to PR request form: https://forms.gle/2Y6MGgN2qbbs8BQW8](https://forms.gle/2Y6MGgN2qbbs8BQW8) (will also email)

- Have done 4 content creations (mostly for summer reading) over the past month. Also resharing posts made by library.
- Facebook views down (expected in summer) but Instagram views are way up!
- Posted "Summer Concerts on Hiatus for Summer"
- Looking into individual business cards for Mini Golf solicitation

National Friends of the library Week: Programming needs to be finalized

Sunday 19 th	Monday 20 th	Tuesday 21 st	Wednesday 22 nd	Thursday 23 rd	Friday 24 th	Saturday 25 th	Sunday 26 th
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Spelling Bee- 6 th to 8 th grades						Kumon Math event 3rd -5 th grade	Artist Reception
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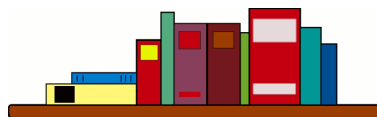
- **Singing bowls:** Alicia reached out – she is not available that day. Could be available the week before, which could be fine with us (as long as library has date open). Reached out to contact Allie shared but she hasn't responded.
- **Food tasting or cooking-related workshop?** Something like previous tomato-tasting event at library (was someone from Natirar). Something harvest/fall-related? Fran will continue to think about it, nothing to recommend yet.
- **Wine Tasting-** We charged \$35 last year and raised \$1,000 or so, which makes it a mini fundraiser. Sponsored by Patrick York's firm. He was talking about taking it off site to a restaurant this year- less work on our part. Note: the library pushed back a bit (nicely) and asked if we would consider a trivia night or something else more in keeping with the library.
 - Partrice has a contact who has hosted trivia events for Downtown Bernardsville in the past if we want to reach out.
 - 56 degrees carries local chocolatier J.A. Morrey. Can ask them about a wine + chocolate pairing (this kind of event has been successful in other places).
- **Friendship Bracelet workshop.** (During the week – can be flexible depending on when the other scheduled events fall).

Fundraising- Jerry/Vacant

Reforming efforts, new members

We will be getting into shape during our "off season" and start brainstorming / planning fundraising events for the next fundraising year. Bingo was mentioned by some of the attendees to adult night. There was a definite interest in its return to the library.

Recommendation: we should consider asking local restaurants to do a fundraiser on behalf of the Friends (i.e. 10% of proceeds one night goes to Friends if patron brings the flyer). Fran can give us some leads on catering (i.e. discounted family meals that get picked up at the library). We lean towards engaging local pizzerias since local restaurants that cater have offered a lot of recent support to the library.



Discussed (see Fran's earlier comments for additional context and discussion during meeting). Friends of the Kemmer library on car show- They are moving forward with this, but no additional details. Need date and discuss expectation.

- Sponsored by Hagerty Car Insurers and in partnership with Sunday Motor Company in Madison. Hagerty would sponsor the event and bring antique cars to display. They do this with hopes of attracting car enthusiasts who might consider purchasing insurance through Hagerty.
- Free event spend money at the event via food sales and a 50/50 raffle.
- We would share the event's proceeds based on what resources we bring to the table- social media, another sponsor? Etc

Finance- Matt

- Shared via email, reach out to Matt with any questions.

Volunteer Recognition- Victoria/ Kathy

- No update (next event will be September, but we should discuss when since the month is packed.)

Nominating: Nancy G

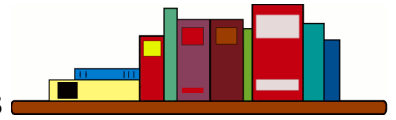
2025 Committee Assignments

Finance Includes tax letters	Fundraising includes campaign	Nominating	Programs Youth	Programs Adult	Public Relations	Volunteer Recognition
Matthew Porter (Co-Chair)	Vacant (Co-Chair)	Nancy Goguen (Co-Chair)	Meghan Scott (Co-Chair) (LOA 1/25)	Jerry Clark (Co-Chair)	Alicia Ochs (Co-Chair)	Victoria Oliveira (Co-Chair)
Vacancy (Co-Chair)	Jerry Clark (Co-Chair)	Carolyn Duff (Co-Chair)	Allison Porter (Co-Chair)	Kathy Peachey (Co-Chair)	Kim Donaghy (Co-Chair)	Kathy Peachey (Co-Chair)
Maria Parrella – Tax letters as well as committee	Kathleen Doran	Kathleen Doran	Elizabeth Stryker	Susan Horowitz	Nina Alstrom	Nina Alstrom
Nancy Goguen	Alicia Ochs		Kathy Peachey	Janet Loengard	Bob Baker	Susan Horowitz
Bob Baker	Carolyn Duff		Victoria Oliveira		Elizabeth Stryker	
	Kate Buchheim		Kate Buchheim			
	Nicole Woods					

1. Campaign Task Force: Meghan Scott, Allison Porter, Nina Alstrom, Janet Loengard
2. New Homeowner letters: Maria Parrella
3. Tax Letters- Maria Parrella
4. Attend Foundation: Carolyn Duff

Issues

1. No vice presidents



Meetings: 8/6, 9/10, **10/8**, 11/5, 12/3

Upcoming meetings

- **July 9th** - confirmed
- **September 10th** - Confirmed room is available so we will meet on the 10th.
- October 8th: Confirmed 10/1 to **10/8**

Concerts:

October 5 – Coococachoo, Simon and Garfunkel Tribute (duo: Ed Jankiewicz and Tom Johnston)

Annual Campaign: November 2025

National Friends of the Library Week: Oct. 19-25, 2025

Links:

Full year milestones listing: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aDmhTzzGWZwSI_a-PGVAftTnPoj_5el/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=117721953741565111103&rtpof=true&sd=true

Roster: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xUo8lQg4VmP7lxNw29VijWWBvnoYNBmc/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117721953741565111103&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Link to PR request form: <https://forms.gle/2Y6MGgN2qbbs8BQW8>

Tiny Art Show:

Tentative timing (*dates below are confirmed with Library*)

9/2 First day to pick up canvas

9/27 Open Art Day at library (10:30-noon)/Last day pick up canvas/First day to drop off canvas

10/5 Last day to drop off finished canvas

10/6 First day of voting

10/23 Last day of voting

10/26 Artists' reception (2-3pm)

Friends of the Library Week: "Friendship Bracelets with the Friends" as usual - any weekday at 4pm should work