

August 6th 2025 7:00 PM

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

Attendees: Nancy V, Nina A, Bob B, Meghan S, Kim D, Carolyn D, Jerry C, Allison P, Nicole W, Kathy P, Kathleen D, Victoria O, Nancy G, Janet L, Susan H, Laura

President's remarks-

Welcome!

September 4th @ 5:00-7:00PM for a ribbon cutting and 25th anniversary celebration.

- Will be a simple affair with cake and some video/music from Local History room playing. Hoping to be able to reveal Roosevelt papers, but not sure they will be back in time. Planning a few very simple crafts, and hoping that mayor will speak a few words, and if possible Nancy V to represent the Friends donation that made
- Will have a story wall collection of post-its about loving their library. Looking into having local music, reached out to schools to see if they could have students perform (haven't heard back yet, but Christine T. is following up with music department). Friends suggestion: Bedwell Band of teachers (though it's the first day of school).
- Birthday cake box packing and birthday cards making. Do we need more cake/icing?
- **Laura will share feedback about first day of school conflicts for school-age kids, and will coordinate with us on the birthday cake boxes.**

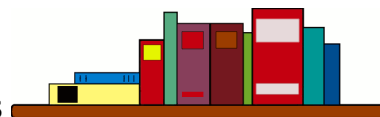
Campaign task force-

- Meghan started the draft, and it is circulating with the task force
 - We are in good shape! On version 3 and are waiting on answers to a few questions from Fran when she gets back from vacation on 8/11. We will have the final version out to the group for review ahead of the September meeting.
- Target 9/30 for final version, to printer, end of October, in mail mid to end of November.
 - Consider pictures? An increase in costs would be estimated.

Gratitude Event- November 14 or 15 during our Campaign,

A look ahead at September: Make decisions on **2026 Mini Golf**

1. **Date:** keep or move to after Superbowl? More time after holidays. Last year same date as Kemmerer- don't think it was an impact, but certainly made it easier for Libraryminigolf.com



Kemmerer	NJ	January 31-February 1, 2025
Bernardsville	NJ	February 1, 2025

- **Looking at 1/21 or 2/21.**

2. **Adult night:** keep 7PM or move earlier? Pros/cons...
3. **Pricing:-** any changes? \$25 for raffle book, \$40 for Adult night, \$5 for day
4. **New course-** keep first 9 the same, and 18 in 'children's' reading room, but 10- 17 will be different. No tall stacks, more free form. I would like to get a new map for Rich (Libraryminigolf.com) and have him redesign for our review.
 - **Laura to follow up with updated library map.**
 - Many of the new items in the new wing and rotunda are on wheels, so can be moved around.

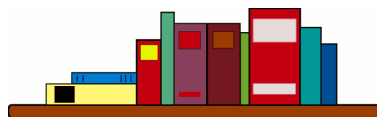
New idea: can we discuss a discount for educators in town? Incentivize teachers to be a part of the experience! Could do flyer for faculty room in schools.

Transition planning: Nominating is working on viable options for consideration Working on transition plan to be available in October/November. If any Friends would like to volunteer to head up open committees, please reach out to to Nancy G!

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.

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



8. August
 - Finance-Initial Budget development with library director & committee chair feedback
 - Campaign task force **draft** annual letter, confirm list updates with TBD, campaign details
 - Volunteer committee- Junior Recognition award planning- if to occur in September
 - **Nominating/officers finalization of potential candidates for chair/co chairs/vice chair**
9. September
 - Campaign task force finalize annual letter, confirm list updates with TBD, campaign details
 - Finance- Preliminary Budget 2026 presented
 - Nominating committee- initial discussion officers and committee chairs for 2026
 - Public Relations- Plan for National Friends of the Library week event publicity
 - Volunteer Committee- Junior volunteer recognition event

Public Comments:

Board of Trustees-

Foundation- Patrice Cummings

- **Email update:** Foundation will make final decision on The Gratitude Event date and time, most likely keeping it to a 2-hour gathering, and finalize that and other details, at the next Foundation Meeting on Monday, August 11 at 6:30 pm, and coordinate the information with Nancy and Carolyn.

Vice President Remarks- Vacant-

Recording Secretary- Nina

July Minutes – no updates

Correspondence – Nancy G

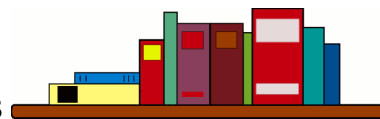
No updates

Treasurer's report- Bob Baker

YTD summary shared and discussed during meeting.

Library Update- Fran (on vacation); Laura gave brief update below

- Response to new spaces have been overwhelmingly positive. We have noticed more interaction with the books from the children – this means more clean up for the staff, but we're thrilled to do it because it means kids are engaging with the books and the new design is working! Meeting rooms are being used throughout the day, every day. Grateful to Fran for bringing a wealth of experience and juggling the many contractors and complexities of the redesign. CLC told us that most libraries doing this kind of renovation would be closed for 3-4 months, so it's a big testament to Fran's leadership that the library was able to stay open through the majority of the process, and



to the staff to power through the construction phases! Thanks to the Friends for the ongoing support.

- Becky has accepted a new role (last day is 8/22); we are happy for her but sad to see her go! Fran has posted 1-2 open roles.
- Library to be open until 9pm in September.

Reports by committee chairs-

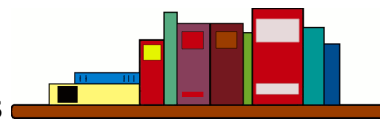
Programs- Youth- Allison/Meghan

Summer Reading

- Traveling Storytimes
 - Since last meeting, have had 3 storytimes: Stirling Stables, the movie theater, and the Great Swamp. Haven't heard a ton of feedback.
 - Not great weather at stables (this is typically a great venue without weather challenges), but familiar faces showed up.
 - Good turnout at the Great Swamp (~60), and it was a good venue for the event. Had volunteer guides working that helped people hike around. Recommend keeping this one for future.
 - Movie theater was good too, owner always willing to engage with community events.
 - 2 more in the summer series - Kiwanis park (8/7) and town pool (8/14)
 - Fall storytimes - 9/25 @ Willowwood Arboretum and 10/16 @ Audubon - **sign-up for volunteers to go out at end of August**
 - Becky may have been planning to do more, so October one may be the last for now.
- Finale/Ice Cream Party
 - **Looking for one more volunteer for computer help – Susan can volunteer.**
 - Ice cream is ordered - 3 tubs (same amount as last year). Expecting 150.
 - Victoria to pick up ice cream; Elizabeth to purchase toppings; Baskin Robbins to supply paper goods

StoryWalk

- Books purchased from Bookworm
- Ballpark quote from Bville Print Center is \$150 for lamination and some lawn sign boards/stakes (expect exact quote before meeting)



- Met with Parks and Rec re: location at Polo Grounds
- Will work with Fran on signage permit – link to form provided

Tiny Art Show

- Revised documents circulating with committee this week; then to library for review
- Adjusting age categories a bit because we really didn't have any teens last year.
- Following up with Alisa Donohue on updating large canvas posters
- Canvases available for pickup starting 9/2 (must use canvas given this year)

Programs Adult- Jerry/Kathy

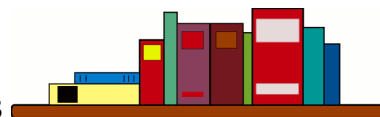
Concerts pick up again in the fall with Simon and Garfunkel band and NJ Academy of Music.

- May want to reconsider timing of concerts to have them all in a row, keep momentum up and community engaged (October – May, instead of multiple months of a hiatus).
- No downside to taking summer off and calling it September-May.
- Do one poster with all the concerts listed and scheduled out by month
- This October could be the kick-off for the 25-26 concert season. But in order to do that, we would need to book the rest of them so they can all go on the poster together!
- **Kathy** to submit new form to PR team for Simon & Garfunkel, and also new form for any other concerts that get scheduled.

Public Relations- Alica / Kim

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

- Looking into individual business cards for Mini Golf solicitation
- Social Media metrics- Facebook: 305 views this month (up 5%), 3 new followers, 46 page visits (up 27%). Instagram: 1,214 views this month (up 7%), 8 new followers, 18 visits - Steady growth
- 3 new posts this month + 4 story shares, mostly all centered around summer reading and traveling storytimes
- Upcoming events- traveling storytime and summer reading wrap up content need to be created and posted. We continue to share relevant Library SM content to our pages as well.
- Looking forward - will calendar PR campaign for Friends of Library week once we get firm dates



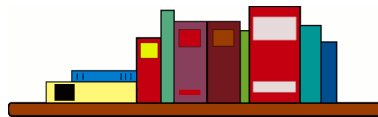
Friends of the Library Week

- Friends of the Library week - Meg Lyding, MFA, Sound Practitioner & Musician is available to do a sound bath concert experience during that week in October. Her fee for a 1-hour event in Bernardsville would be \$350. Need to discuss whether we'd like to proceed and what date/time. Open times/date: **Tuesday 10/21. Laura to confirm with library staff.**
- Friends of the Library Week: "Friendship Bracelets with the Friends" as usual - any weekday at 4pm should work
- **Saturday Trunk or Treat time? Laura to follow up to ensure no conflict with Kumon on 10/25.**

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
Spelling Bee- 6 th to 8 th grades		Singing Bowls (confirming room availability)				Kumon Math event 3 rd -5 th grade	Artist Reception

- **Food tasting or cooking-related workshop?** Something like previous tomato-tasting event at library (was someone from Natirar). Something harvest/fall-related? **Fran can look into it, they are very popular and gather a lot of attendance.**
- Wine Tasting- **Nancy to follow up with Patrick (this would be Thursday night).** 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.
 - 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).
- **New idea: silent book club** (30-45 minutes of quiet independent reading, light finger foods and beverages). Rotunda could be a good option – check with Fran if some of the circulation on wheels can be shifted around for a bit.



Fundraising- Jerry/Vacant

Reforming efforts, new members- Jerry, Kathleen, Alicia, Nicole, Carolyn, Kate
Email ideas that have floated in the past month:

1. Restaurants
2. Somerset Patriots – several organizations are doing this already this year.
3. Movie theater - this might be the most viable option to do when our fundraising window opens - maybe we could do a classic movie with a book tie in? Like Jaws? 50th anniversary and the book is pretty good. Or maybe do a double header - one kid movie, one adult. Chris from the movie theater is very friendly and charity-minded. Would have to see costs/benefits.
4. Trivia night- Family oriented? Not likely to raise funds?
5. Bingo
6. **Cornhole contest – Friends excited about this idea! Kim to write up a brief blurb about how she's seen this work.**

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

I advised them that we would not be looking for sponsors and at best would cross promote and possibly do the craft. Share cars if we know of any.

Finance- Matt

See report

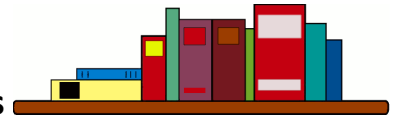
Beginning 2026 budget planning. **Committee leads: if you have any suggestions/changes, let Matt know.**

Volunteer Recognition- Victoria/ Kathy

Jr Recognition event is September- **Laura to follow up with Fran to confirm date. Victoria to loop in Susan for planning once date is confirmed.**

Nominating: Nancy G

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library Board of Directors



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

Friends of the Bernardsville Public Library Key Dates 2025

Meetings 9/10, 10/8, 11/5, 12/3

Concerts:

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

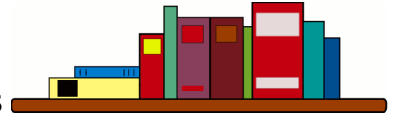
Annual Campaign: November 2025

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

Links:

Full year milestones listing: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aDmhTzzGWZwSI_a-PGVAtftTnPoj_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)