

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

In January 2016, we held our Annual Meeting and re-elected Mary McDaniels as President, Suzanne Knapp as Vice President, Jeanette Reed as Treasurer, and Leah Bolt as Secretary. Newly elected Board members were Andy Greeley to a 2-year term and Diane Lisi to a 1-year term. Mary McDaniels, Suzanne Knapp, Leah Bolt and April Case were re-elected to 2-year terms.

2017 began with making our plans to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in March. This is our 3rd year participating in the parade. We participated as planned; however, the weather was miserable and very cold. We made a Board decision to sadly discontinue our participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade since the weather in March is so unpredictable. We thank the loyal Board members and volunteers who have made our participation happen these last three years. We talked about in 2018 participating in the Memorial Day Parade and possibly making that a yearly event.

We organized, advertised, and promoted our 2nd Edible Books Festival to be held at the Arts Center; however, again had very minimal participation and displayed entries at the Library instead. We need to rethink this event.

In the Spring, we held a Barbecue Bandit fundraiser which was successful.

In the Summer, the Library always offers the Summer Reading Program. We usually sponsor at least two events. In 2017, we sponsored the Bubble Man and assisted with other events.

During the year 2017 we made a donation to digitize more of our Tribune newspaper tapes. As of now, the tapes have been digitized from June 1851 through December 1901. We hope to make another donation in 2018.

We were able to secure arrangements with MLW Productions and Olean Community Theater to come to Hornell for our Dinner Theater fundraiser in October. A 3-night event with theater only on Thursday and Friday evenings, and dinner theater on Saturday, along with door prizes, a Second Annual Basket Raffle, and 50/50 each night. We mailed 200 letters to the businesses, agencies and community in July asking for a donation of checks

or product for the basket raffle and followed up with telephone calls and received participation of over 70 businesses.

MLW Productions presented a musical comedy, The Great American Trailer Park Musical, which was enjoyed by those who attended and, of course, John Carbone of the Main Place catered a great meal for us as usual. However, attendance was disappointing. Thanks to the basket raffle, we still made a profit. However, the Board feels we need to stick with our local theater group, the Hornell Community players who have done two successful dinner theaters with us in past years. We are unable to secure Hornell Community Theater for 2018. However, we hope to present a performance with them in the Spring of 2019.

We again sponsored the Art of the Film Club for the September 2017 through June 2018 year. Memberships are still available - \$30.00 for the remainder of the year including January, or \$25.00 for February through June, half of the year, which includes 10 movies.

We held a successful Fall Holiday Bazaar in October with some new vendors this year.

As 2017 was an election year for Mayor and City Council members in Hornell, we hosted a Candidate Meet and Greet at the library in October which was very well attended.

The kids cookbooks are still being sold. We have reduced the price to \$8.00. Books are available for purchase at the Library.

In 2017 the Friends brought in the following authors/presenters to the Library:

On August 26, 2017, author Harry Long, Fighting in the Shadows: The Untold Story of the Deaf in the Civil War, gave a presentation of the participation of the hearing-impaired in the Civil War. 20 attended.

In November, in celebration of New York State History month, Craig Broak presented the history of the Erie Canal on November 9, 2017. 10 attended.

On November 27, 2017, Jeanette Reed spoke about the history of Auburn, New York, and history of women's rights – William Seward and Harriet Tubman. 7 attended.

The Friends of Hornell Library are a very dedicated group and want to continue supporting the Library financially, as well as educating the community regarding the many benefits and services the Library has to offer. We look to encourage volunteers and ideas of ways to fundraise and ways to work with the Hornell community to meet the needs of the community. Please share your ideas, your skills, and your time with us. A list of volunteer assignments is available online and at the Library.

The Friends of the Hornell Library thank everyone who has helped us this year from the Board members to volunteers to businesses and individuals who have donated to fundraisers and those that have attended events at the Library. We look forward to a successful 2018.

Happy New Year!

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