

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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## FRIENDS *of the* VENTRESS MEMORIAL LIBRARY





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present this review of our activities in 2023. Thanks to the notable generosity of our members and donors and the unwavering dedication of a small team of hard-working volunteers, the Friends have been able to increase our support for the library with expanded fundraising activities. This support translates to substantial financial contributions which improve the library's ability to offer updated materials, discounted museum passes, and quality enrichment programming accessible to all area residents.

In February the Friends celebrated the library's Grand Reopening with a two-week membership drive, and in conjunction with the Summer Reading kick-off in June we organized a children's book sale. Steadfast volunteers on the Book Sales subcommittee also conduct monthly silent auctions and themed special sales, and recently revamped the Friends' Book Shop inside the library year-round. Surmounting many obstacles we finally launched online sales of curated book donations, propelled in large part by one determined member. Our Annual Trivia Night with the Friends fundraiser was more successful than ever, thanks to a very active subcommittee which implemented a basket raffle to complement the evening's festivities. On the administrative front, we revived our articles of incorporation and revised our bylaws. Other highlights include sponsorship of two children's programs and hosting a very well-received evening with renowned author Stephen Puleo.

Clearly the efforts of our devoted volunteers shine through all we do. We are ever grateful for those who contribute their time and talents, along with the "silent members" who give generously to support this worthwhile cause. As the recipient of less than 1% of Marshfield's annual budget, the town library depends on the Friends to enhance its ability to provide truly impressive and cost-free offerings to South Shore patrons. With your help we can continue to ensure that the Ventress Memorial Library remains a vibrant and vital community resource into 2024 and beyond.

Wishing you all good health and prosperity in the year ahead!

Joyce Kinsman  
President  
Friends of the Ventress Memorial Library

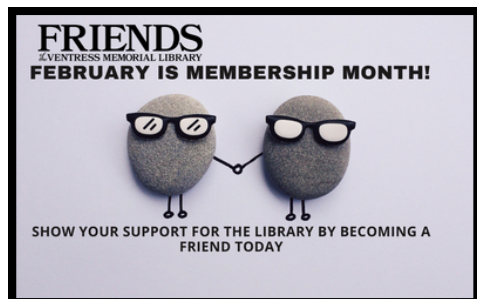


# OUR MISSION

The Friends of the Ventress Memorial Library (FVML) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing financial and operational support to the Ventress Memorial Library of Marshfield, enabling it to remain current, accessible, and appealing. FVML raises money for upgrades to book collections, purchases 12 passes to regional cultural attractions offering discounted or free admission to residents, and supports the library's efforts to promote literacy. Its volunteers sponsor educational and cultural programs to engage library patrons of all ages. FVML's vision and dedication enable our library to thrive as a vibrant asset to our community.

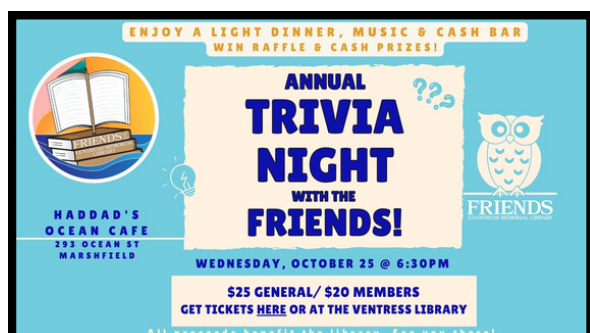
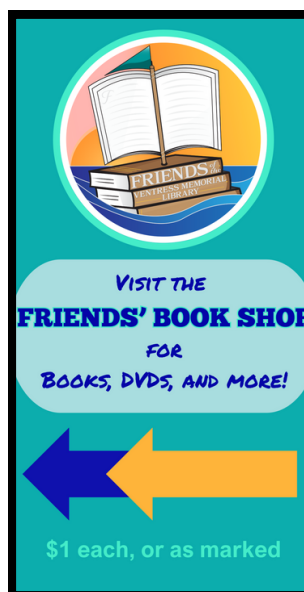


# FUNDRAISING EFFORTS



Membership in the FVML increased by more than 44% in 2023. Our members provide the solid base of support and financial assistance to allow us to achieve our annual goal. In 2023 the annual membership drive was held in conjunction with the library's reopening after carpet replacement.

Our primary source of income is through the sale of gently used books and media. Funds were raised through ongoing sales at the Jean Christensen Friends' Book Shop, a book sale at the kickoff of summer reading, monthly special sale items, a monthly auction of high-quality books, and online sales of exceptional items. In 2023 the Book Store was updated to provide customers with contactless payment options through Venmo and PayPal. High visibility signage was added at the entrance of the Book Store.



The Friends held the third annual Trivia Night with Friends at Haddad's Ocean Café. In 2023, the event was enhanced by offering a Gift Basket raffle. Local businesses donated valuable items, baskets, and gift cards. The event was highly successful and enjoyed by all in attendance.

## *The Friends Raised \$18,262 in 2023*

# STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY



**THE FRIENDS DONATED \$10,000 TO THE THE LIBRARY FOR THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS AND OTHER MEDIA.**

**IN SPRING 2023, THE FRIENDS SPONSORED AN AUTHOR TALK BY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AUTHOR STEPHEN PULEO.**



**GRADUATING SENIOR EMILY TIMBERLAKE RECEIVED THE 2023 FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNIZING HER MANY HOURS VOLUNTEERING FOR THE FRIENDS**

**SUPPORTING LITERACY EFFORTS, THE FRIENDS DONATED MORE THAN 200 BOOKS TO ATTENDEES AT THE SUMMER READING KICK-OFF, SERVED AS THE FISCAL AGENT FOR THE CREATIVE WRITING GRANT, AND MAINTAINED MEMBERSHIP IN THE PRO-LITERACY ESL ORGANIZATION.**

**VISIT THE FRIENDS' BOOK SALE IN THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM ROOM**

**GOOD FOR ONE FREE**

**CHILDREN'S BOOK**

**Valid June 26, 2023 only (Rain Date 6/28)**



**IN 2023 THE FRIENDS PURCHASED 12 PASSES TO ICONIC CULTURAL VENUES. THE PASSES OFFER FREE OR REDUCED ADMISSION TO MARSHFIELD RESIDENTS.**

- Boston Children's Museum
- Boston Harbor Islands Pass
- Heritage Museum & Gardens
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
- Museum of Science
- New Bedford Whaling Museum
- New England Aquarium
- Plimoth Plantation
- Sandwich Glass Museum
- Trustees of the Reservation Pass
- USS Constitution
- Zoo New England

# SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

There is no volunteer group any more crucial to FVML's fundraising mission than the Book Sales volunteer team. This group of volunteers help generate over 50% of the funds raised to support the Ventress Memorial Library each year. It could not happen without this generous group of volunteers who contribute their time, talents, energy and enthusiasm to this effort.

Another group of volunteers who contribute hours of time and effort towards supporting the mission of the Friends are those involved with planning and participating in the annual membership drive and Trivia Night Fundraiser.

All together these volunteers contribute hundreds of hours every year to ensure that the Friends can support the Ventress Memorial Library.



**Author Stephen Puleo**



**Childrens Book Sale June 2023**



**Trivia Night 2023**



**Raffle Basket drawing during membership drive**



**President Joyce Kinsman at Library Reopening**



# 2023 Trivia Night with the Friends!

## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS:



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