Diana Ross Mc Cain Will be Available for Book Signing After Her Talk

Save the Date

Annual Friends Fall
Conference
Central Connecticut State
University
New Britain, CT

Saturday November 10, 2018



The Friends of Connecticut Libraries

Annual Meeting June 9, 2018

Middlesex Community College 100 Training Hill Road Middletown, CT 06457

FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

The Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL) is a non-profit organization consisting of local Friends groups, organizations and individual members who believe that libraries are an essential resource for the citizens of our State.

Founded in 1980, FOCL's 2018 membership includes over 100 local Friends groups, other organizations including the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) and the Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB), various booksellers, and individual members.

Board of Directors 2017 - 2018

| President | Barbara Leonard | Avon |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Vice President | Frank Ridley | Meriden |
| Secretary | Laura Riley | Simsbury |
| <u>Treasurer</u> | Peggy Brissette | Stonington |
| Gail Dunnrowicz | Manchester | |
| Linda Grayson | Woodbury | |
| Jennifer Hadley | Wesleyan University | |
| Janice Hollywood | Waterbury | |
| Richard Lowenstein | Westport | |
| Debbie Mislaszek | Berlin | |
| Pam Monahan | Prospect | |
| Carl Nawrocki | Salem | |
| Rob Sweeny | Enfield | |
| Anita Wilson | Newington | |
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HISTORY CONTINUED

At the 2010 annual meeting in the Cheshire Library, Ken Wiggin, our State Librarian, read a proclamation, signed by Gov. Jodi Rell and honoring FOCL's 30 years of service to Connecticut libraries.

FOCL now incorporates technology into its service delivery by:

- Revamping the FOCL web site and expanding the resources
- Incorporating the Members Directory into the website which allows user updates and results in more current information.

In early 2012, the FOCL Board conducted a retreat where a mission statement and core values were developed and approved.

In 2013, FOCL established their presence on Facebook and currently has over 400 "likes".

Throughout, 2014, FOCL helped initiate a number of Regional Meetings across the State.

FOCL established a liaison with The Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in 2015 and joined CLA's Legislative Advocacy Committee.

In 2016, the Web Site was refreshed and the Wild Apricots data management system was incorporated to make our member interface clearer and easier to use. In 2017-2018 FOCL conducted a survey on the relationship between Library Directors and Friends groups. The results were presented at the Connecticut Library Association Conference in March 2018.

AGENDA

Call to Order and Welcome

Barbara Leonard

Greetings from Middlesex C.C.

Introductions

Nominations and Election of Officers Gail Dunnrowicz

2018 – 2019 Budget

Barbara Leonard

FOCL Awards

Carl Nawrocki

Individual Achievement Awards

Linda Chapron, Farmington
Marge Fiske, Prospect
Natalie Harbeson, Newington
Sarah Hart, Simsbury
Elizabeth Lane, Salem
Cris Nichols, Ridgefield
Helen Rizzo, Guilford
Elizabeth Tyburski, Falls Village

Focused Project Awards

Friends of the Case Memorial Library-Orange Groton Public Library Circle of Friends

Group Award

Friends of the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library in Old Lyme

Introduction of Author Diana Ross Mc Cain

Tea Cup Raffle and Book Signing

FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Municipalities Between 10,000 and 25,000

Linda Chapron - Farmington

Linda Chapron has demonstrated not only a commitment to Farmington but also to the entire state; by her local and statewide actions. She has amalgamated and enlivened the state's Friends with her unwavering interest in making book sales and Friends activities better. Indeed, Linda has organized a statewide Friends committee who together review and evaluate methodologies and tactics that work in their respective communities for the good of all.

Linda Charon is undaunted in her pursuits. When the "Big Book Sale" doesn't bring in enough cash, she invents a special sale: garden books, children's books, and when that is not enough, she raises the bar by enhancing the "BOOK NOOK", whatever it takes to develop more funding for the Farmington Libraries.

She is a dynamo! When it comes to commitment to the libraries, and to children, prisoners, other libraries, and her community she is tops. Linda makes personal efforts to bring books to kids who need them, gives books to prisons, and juvenile detention centers, and generally works to make a better community for all.

Presidents 1980 - 2018

John Sibun, Hebron
Peter Blum, Waterbury
Libbie Burdick, Groton
Mary Beeckman, Cheshire
Lillian Levin, Glastonbury
Jack Short, Avon
Gil Alwang, Meriden
Wanda Janowski, Plainville
Marge Storrs, Simsbury
Anita Wilson, Newington
Carl Nawrocki, Salem
Paul Mcllvaine, Brookfield
Barbara Leonard, Avon

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ABOUT OUR AUTHOR



Diana Ross McCain

Diane Ross McCain is an independent historian who has been researching, writing, and speaking about Connecticut and New England's past for more than thirty years. She was on the staff of the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford for twenty-five years, most recently as Head of the Waterman Research Center. Since 2015 she has been a partner in "Come Home to Connecticut," an enterprise which offers historical and genealogical research services, consulting, and programming.

Diana is the author of several non-fiction books, including It Happened in Connecticut, Mysteries and Legends of New England, and Connecticut Coast, all published by Globe Pequot Press; and the award-winning To All on Equal Terms: the Life and Legacy of Prudence Crandall. She has also written extensively for publications such as Early American Life and Connecticut magazines, and the Hartford Courant. Thy Children's Children is her first novel.

Diana holds bachelor's and master's degrees in history, and a master's degree in library science. A native of Ohio, Diana has lived in Connecticut for forty years, thirty of them in her current hometown of Durham. Visit Diana's web site at https://dianarossmccain.com.

Friends of Connecticut Libraries

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Municipalities Less Than 10,000

Marge Fiske - Prospect

Marge Fiske has an enthusiasm and a passion for the Prospect Library which is demonstrated by her years of dedicated service through the Friends of the Prospect Library, Inc. Marge has "done it all. She provides leadership and the organization necessary to sustain a Friends Group over time. She is a problem solver, looking for resources both with the organization and in the community. She offers new ideas, but also has recruited help and ran the book sale. And she is an effective advocate for the library. Her accomplishments include:

- Serving as an officer of the Friends, Marge kept the organization going for many years
 when membership was low. She created new membership categories to recruit more
 members including business partners. Marge continues to provide leadership though
 her work on the membership committee:
- Keeping up with trends by maintaining membership in the Friends of Connecticut Libraries, attended workshops and conferences over the years.
- Taking the Friends group from being paper-based to the technology age, using computers, excel spreadsheets, and the like.
- Working with the Mayor to obtain storage space for donated books
 Organized and conducted book sales, moving the donated books from library to storage space and from library to storage space and from store area to sale area.
 Maintained Constitution and Bylaws.

Maintained relationship with Board of Directors of Library and Friends.

Provided press releases to local paper and had collaborative relationship with editor to produce various marketing materials including brochure.

Single-handedly conducted election procedures; recruited officers and committee chairs throughout the years.

Worked towards building up museum pass program. Went from a program funded in part by the library to solely funded by the Friends.

Applied to FOCL for grant to assist in costs with nonprofit status.

Worked with attorney Holley providing legal services pro bono to file the necessary papers to form a 502(C) (3) corporation; did pre-status research.

Worked with coordinators at Friends' participation in the town wide Pumpkin Fest where books were given to children at the festival. It will now become an annual event.

Marge has created and executed many fundraisers over the years including:

The Thanksgiving chance baskets; working with vendor on a tote bag fundraiser, assisting with concerts presented by the library for ; veral years.

Has provided multiple in-kind donations over the years to this day.

Expansion of Book Nook sales area at the library.

Participated in Library's 25th Anniversary Celebration: specifically the Time Capsule. Served in multiple officer positions over the year.

When Treasurer died unexpectedly in 2017, took over those duties until next election.

Friends of Connecticut Libraries

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Municipalities Greater Than 25,000

Natalie Harbeson - Newington

Since joining the Friends of the Lucy Robbins Welles Library in the late 1990's, **Natalie Harbeson** has participated in almost every activity, event, or project the Friends have. She volunteers freely, has wonderful ideas, and often takes on the leadership responsibility, even when she'd rather not, getting others involved.

Natalie had the idea for a Cat's Meow model of the library. She filled out the forms, took pictures, and pulled together the necessary information. Because of Natalie, we got to hug our library.

Natalie often has an idea or recognizes a need and she acts on it. That's how two years ago the Friends became co-sponsors with the Newington Children's Theater of "Desserts Ever After." Young actors came to the library dressed as Fairy Tale characters, and the children who attended the event had autograph books signed and had their pictures taken with the characters. The event culminated with ice cream sundaes. It was so successful that it's being repeated. Ask Natalie for details.

Natalie is adept at including others in all types of activities. For example, the Newington/Wethersfield Women's Club was interested in doing something with the Friends. Since many of their members like sewing and other crafts, Natalie suggested a Teddy Bear Clinic. At the end of December, many Teddy Bears and other stuffed animals, and dolls, were repaired and then waited in the "Recovery Room" while their owners were occupied in the Children's Room. And so it goes, have a need, have a problem, or have an idea, Natalie will make it happen.

Because of Natalie, the library has active advocates and a presence at town events including a runners and spectators in the 5K race and the Memorial Day parade. At events such as the Summer Reading Kick-Off or Newington's Business Showcase, or Friends or library events at the library, we have a display board with information on Friends activities, created and maintained by Natalie.

Because of Natalie, our Friends group is using technology. Although our Friends Group agreed we should have a presence on Face Book, only Natalie would take on the coordinator responsibilities. And she continues to be our coordinator. Natalie also thought we could use email to communicate with our members more often than with the newsletter, which is published only 5 times per year. And so was born *Lucy's Mini Footnotes*, created, written and broadcast by Natalie whenever needed.

Friends of Connecticut Libraries

GROUP AWARD

Municipalities Less Than 10,000

Friends of the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library -Old Lyme

The Friends book store, the Phoebe's Book Cellar, is located in the basement of beautiful and historic Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library. We are proud to call the only book store in town. After 20 years, the Friends have made significant improvements in income, community awareness and outreach. In the last fiscal year, the Book Cellar contributed \$23,000 to the library. The Friends have 73 volunteers who work a shift and/or own a category of books for shelving and updating. They have improved access and organization added new signage and beautifying the entrance and added chairs, shelving for books and CDs.

<u>In addition to the Book Cellar,</u> The Old Lyme Friends maintains a seasonal book store at a seasonal ice cream shop in South Old Lyme. This effort has raised \$1,400 since its seasonal opening last year.

During the Light Up Old Lyme weekend community celebration the holiday book sale was relocated from the Community room to the Reading room of the main library which was beautifully decorated for the holidays by the Friends and library staff. The Friends provided music and refreshments for the Friday kickoff. The event yielded \$1,279.

Volunteers reproduced maps of surrounding towns from the 1868 Atlas of New London County, CT. Over 100 prints have been sold with a profit of \$8.50 per map. Notice of their availability at the library was posted at Town Hall and in the local press. This effort has been financially successful and has increased traffic at the library.

The 2017 Old Lyme Midsummer festival had vendors sharing the lawn with our book sale. Vendors included Lyme Academy College of Art, The Lyme Art Association and the Florence Griswold Museum. The Friends broke our sales record for the event. entitling them to 5 free children's books and half off any additional children's books they buy. We hope to attract new customers to the

Natalie has served as President, twice, Vice President, and Secretary, at least twice. She's been Chair of the Nominating Committee and on the Membership Committee. For several years, she co-chaired the Book Sale, and though she's no longer chair of the Book Sale, she takes on many tasks no one else wants. Examples include updating the lawn signs and banners, screening, sorting, pricing (for the sale and for Friends corner, and packing oversize books. And, of course, she works the book sale. She's always advocating for the library, especially at budget time. In addition to being an active Friend, Natalie also volunteers in the library. She repairs books, share responsibility for decorating the table at the library's entrance, and has even gotten her dog involved. Natalie trained her rescue dog Ellie, as both a Therapy and a Reading dog, so Ellie visits the library many Saturdays and listens to stories read by young patrons. In recognition for all she has accomplished and for her willingness to do more, Because of all of the above, I nominate Natalie Harbeson for an Individual Achievement award for Exceptional library service. (NOT for Lifetime Achievement because she's definitely not done achieving yet!)

Bookcellar

It was a very good year for the Friends of the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library and they deserve to be congratulated

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Friends of Connecticut Libraries

FOCUSED PROJECT AWARD

Municipalities Greater Than 25,000

Groton Public Library Circle of Friends

In the summer of 2015, members of the Groton Public Library's Junior Friends met at their annual Social to plan events for the upcoming school year. When asked what they'd like to do to promote the library, ten-year old Owin Parfitt suggested a trunk or treat event, where kids go from car to car to get candy. We discovered that many families don't celebrate Halloween, and that our Junior Friends events ideally should have a connection to books and the library. From that meeting Bumpers and Books was born, and it has become the most successful Groton Public Library event to date.

Put simply, Bumpers & Books is a twist on a traditional trunk-or-treat event. Junior Friends and their families, as well as Library staff and town employees, gather in the library's parking lot and give out treats from the trunks of decorated vehicles. The twist? All the vehicles are decorated in author related themes! As visitors go from car to car they step into scenes from books. From *Treasure Island, The Wizard of Oz,* and *The Giving Tree* to *Jaws, Jurassic Park* and *Mary Poppins*. This event has been described as the most book-tacular event of the year!

Spectators are encouraged to dress in book-or author-related costumes to add to the festivities. There is no a charge to participate in Bumpers & Books. It is not a fundraiser, but rather a friend-raiser, an event to encourage people to come to the library and get excited about books. The Junior Friends cover much of the costs of the treats that are given out. They also provide prizes and serve as judges for the best decorated trunks.

Now in its fourth year, Bumpers & Books has grown. The 2017 event featured 27 decorated vehicles and a line-up of food trucks and tables with crafts and tattoos. Adult Circle of Friends held a membership drive during the event. The event was covered by two local newspapers and was featured on Municipal Television. More than 550 people attended. Plans for the 2018 are well under way. We hope to expand the event to include more decorated vehicles and food trucks, face painting, interactive games and a DJ and add a dance performance and local authors. Our all literary version of Bumpers & Books has become a much loved community event and yields the highest attendance of all our Friends events. We are especially proud that this event came from the minds, hard working hands, and hearts of our Junior Friends, proof that young people can and do make a difference.

Friends of Connecticut Libraries

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Municipalities Between 10,000 and 25,000

Sara Hart - Simsbury

The Friends of the Simsbury Public Library nominate Sarah Hart for her Individual Achievement. Sarah has been an active Board member for over 15 years. She has chaired many committees and has served on the Board of Directors as President.

In her current role as a Director on the Executive Committee, Sara has dedicated herself to upgrading the Friend's website. She learned WordPress and worked extensive hours this past year, working with library staff and volunteers to identify what information needed to be on our website: Navigation, forms, display banners, slate of officers, Friends events, etc. She spent many hours trouble shooting our Paypal account, as it is attached to our website. Again, she worked with library staff and our technology chairperson to ensure our Paypal account was working properly. Sarah successfully set up processes to manage forms and payment submissions. Her work on the website with Paypal has helped our Friends group increase sales at our author events and increase membership and donations. Her many hours of work has also helped to attract younger members to our aging Friends population. The younger patrons are more apt to log on and see what the Friends have to offer on our website and Facebook accounts. She has helped bring our Friends group further into the 21st century! In addition to all of her time and effort on the website, she is also stepping in for our current president, who is moving out of town before her term is up. Sarah Hart has been a long time contributor to the Friends. Her work on the website, alongside our town library's staff, make her an ideal choice for the individual Achievement Award.

· Friends of Connecticut Libraries

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Municipalities Less Than 10,000

Elizabeth Lane - Salem

Elizabeth Lane's dedication to the Salem Library and, by extension, the Salem community is nothing short of remarkable.

Elizabeth's support of the library goes far beyond that of consistent patronage. For the past eight years, six of those on behalf of FOSL, she generously donated her time, effort, goods, and services to build a plant and used book sale fundraiser for the purpose of supporting the Salem Library. Throughout the year, Elisabeth collects donated plants from the local towns people. Many of these she cultivates on her own property, in addition to her own seedlings, until they are ready for the spring sale.

Months before the sale, Elizabeth creates the publicity flyers for distribution. She then recruits volunteers to assist with the sale and puts together a work schedule.

The first day of the plant and used book sale is reserved for set-up. The large Community room is filled with cookbooks, Children's books, and puzzles and games.

In the meantime, plants are arriving and being organized outside by type and price, including hundreds from Elizabeth's own garden. The effort takes many hands, and Elizabeth leads with aplomb. For the next; three days, the sale takes place all of the hours that the library is open, and Elizabeth is there for every minute of every hour, greeting customers and selling plants to the community. Although the sale takes place outside and the weather is unpredictable, she is there rain or shine, warm or cold. Her goal is to sell every plant, and as I was witness last year, she achieved it, earning approximately \$1500 to support the Salem Library and its mission. Over the course of the years, Elizabeth Lane's plant and book sale has earned thousands of dollars which has been used to support the programs, collections, museum passes, and story time at the library. In addition to her volunteer efforts, Elizabeth is an avid library patron. Not only does she utilize the libraries' collections, but she heads up a group of seniors who meet at the library weekly to use the community room for playing WiiU games, cards, and socializing while sharing a potluck lunch.

Friends of Connecticut Libraries

FOCUSED PROJECT AWARD

Municipalities Less Than 10,000

Friends of the Case Memorial Library Orange

The Friends of the Case Memorial library in Orange Celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2017. During this anniversary year, the Friends chose to celebrate the occasion by offering more programs and activities throughout the year to engage and bring patrons into the library. Our primary Focused Project involved reaching out to the community and gathering together patrons and folks from different local organizations to collaborate on a yarn storming outside the library and of the second floor gallery. The Friends wanted, by involving the community in this grand collaboration to create a destination enjoyed by all ages. It was a colorful illustration of the four seasons around our second floor rotunda all completed in yarn. The yarn installation also included the storybook and movie characters exterior light poles, bike rack and benches. This made a cheerful entrance to the library all entirely crocheted and knitted. The rotunda has 10, ten foot sections which were filled with a rainbow, a fall tree, flowers from each season. leaves and snowflakes. Also found throughout the display were insects, reptiles, the undersea world, storybook and movie characters. The large columns displayed the six crayons from the day crayons quit, which were donated to the children's library. Outside the bike rack became the Hungry Caterpillar and bright colorful scarves wrapped around each light pole. To further engage children, we provided search and find games with prizes. Patrons continually thanked us for making the library such a happy and inviting place.

The library is a central gathering place for the community where people meet to learn, experience, and share inspiration. Although art is a form of wordless communication, we feel it can also tell stories, evoke feelings or shed new perspectives on the world. The library has become another wonderful display center for people to share their gifts with the community. The Friends wanted our library to be a special destination during our anniversary year and into the future.

Communicate With Friends

• Join FOCL's Facebook page.

Over 470 people have "liked" our page. Go to the Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL)

Join FOCL FORUM.

Communicate with other Friend's groups. Have questions or need information? You can ask the Forum, people who love books and libraries as much as you do and can benefit from their knowledge and experience.

As a member of FOCL FORUM you have the opportunity to share your knowledge and experiences with others.

Go to the FOCL website at www.FOCLib.org to sign up.

• Keep your information on the FOCL website up-to-date.

Points of contact and book sale dates are on our website. To get information about your group or your activities changed, email our webmaster **Jack Clonan** at <u>Jclonan.focl@gmail.com</u>

Friends of Connecticut Libraries

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Municipalities Greater Than 25,000

Cris Nichols - Ridgefield

The Friends of the Ridgefield Library would like to nominate Cris Nichols, our Book Sale Coordinator, for a FOCL Individual Achievement Award for a town of over 25,000 people. She has been in charge of our book sales for 5 years. She organized two book sales each of those years, earning over \$200,000 for the Ridgefield Library.

What we love about Cris is her ability to think creatively. She is always trying new things to make our sales better. Among other ideas, she decided to split each of our book sales into two weekends. The first weekend, we offer only children's books. This allows parents to bring their children and focus on finding books their children will enjoy. The second weekend of our sale we sell books for adults and children. Adults can find books for themselves and enjoy a quieter less hectic sale.

In addition to our two book sales each year, Cris sets up pop-up sales during town events. One of these events earned over \$800 in just a few hours! She also maintains a bookshelf year round where library patrons can buy books. This earns about \$200 a month for the library.

Cris is incredibly organized. She has changed the way we store the books for the next book sale. She boxes them alphabetically in the sorting room as they come in, so setting up for the sale is much easier. We don't know what we'd do without Cris and her positive attitude, organizational skills and great ideas! The Fiends of the Ridgefield Library are very lucky to have Cris Nichols as our Book Sale Coordinator!

Friends of Connecticut Libraries

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Municipalities Between 10,000 and 25,000

Helen Rizzo – Guilford

Helen Rizzo has been an avid library supporter, Friend and board member for over 12 years and for these contributions alone I would nominate her for the award. Over the last year her contributions have grown in importance and long-term impact. Our Friends have sold more books online for many years, but starting just over three years ago Helen began to set up a much more organized system. She recruited and trained a team of dedicated volunteers and gradually refined the process to maximize profits and efficiency. Last year the online sales team brought in over \$24,000 and the well managed operation continues to steadily earn \$2,000 a month. Her process runs so smoothly that there are typically only a couple of hundred books for sale at any given time, Our customer feedback is all positive, and there has been no impact, financial or otherwise, on the traditional book sale. In addition to her leadership of the very lucrative online sales operation, Helen serves on the Library Board as the Friends representative. In the past she has served on the library board as Vice-President and President and has been involved with either the Friends or the Board almost continuously since 2006.

Last year she also agreed to serve on the search committee for the new Director.

This was especially significant because the former director, Sandy Ruoff, had been with the library for over 40 years, 30 as director. Helen's continued support has been invaluable during this transition. She is perfect for this role as she embraces and supports new ideas and critical thinking while always maintaining solid relationships with the people and organizations who have served us in the past. Her connections with the Guilford Foundation and Rotary help to ensure that the library's connection with the Guilford community continues to grow and evolve. While Helen is never one to crave the spotlight or take the credit, I hope recognition by the Friends of Connecticut Libraries will let her know how much she is appreciated.

Friends of Connecticut Libraries

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Municipalities Less Than 10,000

Elizabeth Tyburski – Falls Village

Our small town of Falls Village is amazingly blessed with volunteers, and our D.M. Hunt Library is especially blessed. At the top of that list is our nominee for individual achievement, Elizabeth Tyburski, familiarly known as Betty. The quality of her work is unsurpassed, thorough, and thoughtful. She is loyal, classy, generous, good-natured, enthusiastic, and so much fun. Friends President, Laura Munson, ads that we are blessed to have Betty and her passion for the library.

Betty is a long-standing member of our Friends group and of a sub-group known as Cookies' Bookies (named after our previous director Cookie Kubarek). Betty is a faithful participant of this effort that coordinates our Upstairs/Downstairs monthly book sales. Betty is always looking for new ways to promote the sales and thus increase the funds we Friends are able to add to the library's operating budget.

Betty has a vision for whatever project she takes on. One recent project is the renovation of the Connecticut Room, a room dedicated to local history. She and her colleagues keep the room as locally and historically true as our meager budget allows. It was decided that a Hitchcock dining room set as well as an oriental rug would give a finished and inviting look, allowing patrons the comfort and space needed for research. Betty accomplished this with private donations for absolutely no cost to the library. She also keeps files that would be the envy of any organization. In addition, she coordinates with the Falls Village Canaan Historical Society, sharing information and research.

Quoting our library director Erica Joncyk, I can't think of anyone more deserving of recognition for her services to the library and community. Her dedication to the library, to history, and to her friends, is a great example for all of us."