

The FRIENDS

David & Joyce Milne Public Library



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December 2015

Dear Neighbors,

The holiday season is a time for reunions and homecomings. The Friends of Milne Public Library had a homecoming of its own this fall, returning its Book Sale sorting and storage to the library after two years at temporary space provided with the help of Williams College.

As part of this homecoming, the executive board worked with the town to determine how to bring a portion of the library's basement up to code for book storage. The board voted to invest more than \$11,000 toward that effort, ensuring the sale's physical infrastructure for years to come.

Bricks and mortar are just part of the equation. The lifeblood of the book sale is you, the Friends of the Library, who have supported the Milne over the years through countless hours of volunteer work, donations of used books, items baked for the café and bake sale, purchases at the sale itself and, of course, **your membership in the Friends.**

On behalf of the board, I thank you for your continued support of the Friends. Please return the enclosed membership envelope with your donation as a sign of that support. Although the annual Book Sale — scheduled for April 22 and 23, 2016 — is our largest source of revenue, membership income accounts for nearly a third of the Friends' annual revenue, which directly supports library programs, as you can see on the back of this letter.

We invite you to attend our 2015 Annual Meeting and board election on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the library.

Our best to you and your family in this holiday season,

Stephen Dravis

Friends Contributions

Technology/Equipment

Four replacement wireless PCs.....	\$4,000
Ancestry.com subscription (renewal).....	\$1,335
Total.....	\$5,335

Children's Room

Crafts supplies.....	\$500
Summer Reading program.....	\$2,500
Three seasonal programs.....	\$1,000
Two database subscriptions (early literacy)	\$350
Young Adult programs.....	\$1,500
Total.....	\$5,850

Library Development

Staff attendance at three regional/national conferences.....	\$4,500
Total.....	\$4,500

Collections

Adult and Children's Collections.....	\$6,000
Total.....	\$6,000

Infrastructure

Renovation of library basement	\$11,745*
Total.....	\$11,745*

**Estimated cost of project*

2015 commitment to the Milne: \$33,430



Author Elizabeth Zunon works with children at the Milne.

Plus:

Again in 2015, the Friends helped the **Words are Wonderful festival** at Williamstown Elementary School, this year contributing \$2,300 to support the two-day residency of author and illustrator Elizabeth Zunon. Part of her residency included a visit to the Milne to lead a program on recycled crafts in the children's room. The event was tied to Zunon's most recent book, 'One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia.' In addition to the Oct. 26 program in the library, the Friends funded the purchase of several Zunon titles to add to the collection.

Did you know?

The annual Book Sale's **Book Share Program** invites local non-profits to come to the elementary school gymnasium on Saturday afternoon and select books, free of charge. Participants in the program have included: Childcare of the Berkshires, the Elizabeth Freeman Center, Berkshire Housing Services, and Northern Berkshire Community Action.

About the Friends of the Milne

The Friends of Milne Public Library is a 501c3 charitable organization which raises funds through memberships and used book sales, while the Library Trustees raise funds through their Annual Appeal. The Trustees fund operational needs; the Friends support non-operational needs. Your support of both the Friends and the Trustees helps the library thrive.

www.milnelibraryfriends.org