November, 2021

Dear Friends,

The results of the recent townwide election are clear. By a majority of nearly two to one, Amherst voters affirmed the Town Council’s 10-2 vote to proceed with the renovation and expansion of the main branch of The Jones Libraries. **This result owes much to the library’s citizen friends to whom we are extremely grateful.** This welcome news is a stay against the dark days of late Fall and early Winter. We look forward to proceeding with the project and to creating a library that will serve our entire community in a building that is sustainable, accessible, and hospitable to all.

The vote is also a clear reflection of the number of Amherst lives touched by the work of our Library, and the significant role it plays in enriching the life of our Town. Our Annual Fund is vital to the preservation of that role.

Whatever your vote, your contributions are needed to allow the staff at the Jones, Munson, and North Amherst libraries to develop the dozens of programs and services that serve us all so well; such as introducing children to the joys of reading, helping English language learners, providing computer access to those without it, saving our historical heritage. Our goal for this fiscal year is an ambitious $200,000, particularly helping to defray the added costs of funding electronic services required by the continuing pandemic. This sum is in addition to and quite separate from the Capital Campaign funds needed for the building project.

**We hope that, like us, you are inspired by the sheer number of citizens who care about the Jones, and will respond with as generous a contribution as possible to this year’s Annual Fund.**

With thanks to all, especially those who have already given.

Lee Edwards
Co-Chair, Development Committee

Kent W. Faerber
Co-Chair, Development Committee

P.S. With the re-imposition of the IRA minimum distribution requirement, those subject to that requirement might consider the tax benefits of making a contribution directly from an IRA.