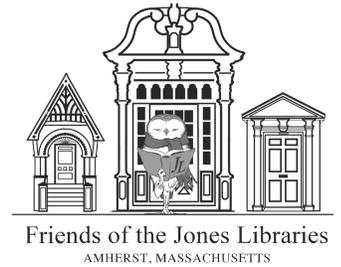


April 2022



Dear Friends,

Between July 1, 2021 and today, the Friends of the Jones Library System have received 693 gifts to our Annual Fund Campaign, totaling \$118,127. These funds are distinct from contributions made to the Capital Campaign, and are used for ongoing Library programs and expenses rather than renovating and expanding the Library's building.

We are particularly grateful for your generosity in such unsettled times. While Covid threats may finally be abating, an outbreak of bloodshed and brutality threatens another kind of dreadful epidemic. The wellbeing of a local library may not seem a mighty matter in the face of such cosmic concerns. And yet, wherever we are, we most need to access imagination and information when these are most constrained or undermined, no matter if the reasons are political or physical.

A glance at the Library's website will show you some of the mind-expanding programs that your contributions have enabled:

- On The Same Page, a community reading program, whose book choice this year is Jerald Walker's *How to Make a Slave*, a National Book Award finalist whose essays are described as "restless, brilliant and short" (NYTimes book review) and as "both engaging and enraging" (Kirkus).
- Homework Help for kids and teens, and beginning ESL classes for seniors;
- Online Pajama Storytime;
- And for lifelong learners, online classes in over 300 courses, including Arts & Crafts, Music, Languages, Investment Research and Personal Finance, Creative Writing, Website and Graphic Design, Computer Skills, Programming, Grant Writing, and Accounting, to name just a few.

The following notes of appreciation from Library patrons near and far are particularly heartwarming:

Dr. Hank [the Library's resident computer guru and tech assistant] is a great resource, and I am thankful the Friends support his tech service. He was able to restore my access to the Office suite efficiently, yay!
(Kathy Lanza/Amherst)

This is to thank you for being there so willingly, enthusiastically, calmly, effectively. . . Your presence has been particularly valuable to me since I live [abroad], and would not [otherwise] have had easy access to these books. So thank you . . . particularly at this time for your stalwart stewarding of the world of books.
(D. Hirson/Paris)

I'm moving out of Amherst, and I realize that the Jones Library is one of the things I will miss the most . . . From the beginning of the pandemic ... through now ... the Jones has been a huge mental health saver and light in my week. ... I want to share my gratitude for everything you all at the Jones Library have done and continue to do.
(Emma/Amherst, but not for long)

We hope these examples will let you know how much your philanthropy matters, how many lives you touch, how many people benefit, and how much your backing is appreciated not just by us who write to you but by all those who appreciate the programs and services you vitally help underwrite.

We know that not everyone can give, but if you can, we hope you will. Our fundraising goal for the fiscal year that ends on June 30, 2022 is \$175,000. We have a lot to raise and not a lot of time in which to do so. We do believe that with your help we can and will succeed.

We're happy to believe that you delight in receiving these mailings, but, if, after you have given in a fiscal year, you no longer wish to receive them for the remainder of that year, we've provided that option on the enclosed donation card.

Lee Edwards.

Lee Edwards
Co-Chair, Development Committee

Kent Faerber

Kent W. Faerber
Co-Chair, Development Committee

