

**FRIENDS OF THE SELINGROVE COMMUNITY LIBRARY**  
**BIANNUAL REPORT**  
**2003-2004**

Dear Friends members,

It has been an amazing two years since Friends of the Selingsgrove Community Library was re-formed. Brought back into being because of cut-backs in library funding, a very dedicated group set about revising by-laws, soliciting members, and becoming a viable organization which has a foundation which will lead into the future. And, what a future is in store for this group- promoting and fundraising for our library.

We are about to elect our second slate of officers, have garnered a membership base and plan to triple our monetary contribution to the library by the end of 2004. Some innovative, fun and financially successful events have taken place over these two years, and you are the people who are the heart and soul of our growing effort to support a most important public institution. We heartily thank you for your participation!

**Following is a two year progress report.**

Getting organized was the first order of business, and we met for our first board meeting March 20, 2003. The group of volunteers sorted themselves into officers and committee chairs and got underway revising the by-laws, and setting a course for the year. The aforementioned along with a few ad hoc members formed the first board which continued with few exceptions through 2004.

**Officers**

<u>President</u>	Carol Bull
<u>Vice President</u>	Audrey Wolfberg
<u>Secretary</u>	Grace Housley
<u>Treasurer</u>	Gloria Fultz, resigned -replaced by Janis Gemberling

**Committee chairs**

<u>Membership</u>	Walt Hagenbuch
<u>Publicity</u>	Pat Rock and Charles Bull
<u>Fund Raising</u>	Joyce Bilger and Linda Wieder
<u>Ad Hoc members</u>	Pat Hess, Elizabeth Heim
<u>Library Board Rep</u>	Pat Wendt
<u>Librarian</u>	Lynn Burkholder, resigned – replaced by Barbara McGary

We began with an opening balance in March 2003 of \$1,559.55. This money was transferred to us from the library account which held the monies of the original Friends Group which had ceased to exist. By the end of 2003 we were able to give the library \$3,500 to purchase their first CD collection, and posted \$9,040.03 at the end of the year as our balance.

### **Membership**

Our by-laws were changed to make us a membership organization and the latter part of 2003 was spent preparing for a membership drive which we conducted in February 2004 for that year. We prepared a brochure and compiled a mailing list and the result was just short of 10% return of our solicitation. We have a membership of 133; of these 10 are life members, four are corporate, 33 family memberships and the balance individual, student and senior. 104 members have Selinsgrove addresses. We have already begun our 2005 campaign by distributing the new brochures at the Tree Fest of Children's Books. A mailing will occur in February 2005.

### **Our major fund raising activities for 2003 and 2004 were the quilt raffle, sale of sesquicentennial crocks and two book sales.**

The quilt was Amish made and purchased at Nora Martins Quilt Shop in Mifflinburg PA. Tickets were priced \$1.00, 3 for \$2, 7 for \$5, and 15 for \$10. Tickets were sold throughout the year at Antiques on the Isle, Beavertown Chinese Auction, and Riverfest in Sunbury. The drawing was held at the Selinsgrove Street Fair on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in September 2003. 2004 followed the same procedure and was equally successful.

The total sale of crocks in 2003 was 650. Made by Bjuno Pottery in Adamstown, PA each crock sold for \$32 and depicted a 1915 street scene of Selin's Grove. Each crock was consecutively numbered and included a "Friends" stamp. The sale of the crocks was publicized in local stores, newspapers and at the various sites where the quilt raffle tickets were sold. The 2004 edition is a depiction of the Camelback Bridge in a 1919 scene. 550 crocks were ordered. The stamp and numbering is as above, and the sale price is \$35. Many orders were obtained by mailing to last year's buyers.

Book sales were held in the spring and fall of 2003 and 2004 in the community room of the borough building. Each sale was successful monetarily and the latter year received matching funds up to \$800 as well. Logistics still remain the major problem as the storage room is small, the library cramped for space and the amount of books far surpasses our ability to sell in a two day period of time or successfully store. We are studying this for 2005.

**New Ideas for 2004 were put into play: Book donations in conjunction with the Kind Café and Tree Fest of Children's Books.**

The Kind Café sponsored a “have a cup of coffee on the Kind, when you are kind enough to donate a book to the library”. This event took place in May 2004 and had several promotional events: poetry reading, and guitar music for the pre-school set. A number of books were donated and the library received promotion.

Tree Fest of Children's Books just concluded on the 17 of December after running from the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Held at All Saints Episcopal Church in Selinsgrove, the event featured 26 trees and wreaths, each of which was decorated to illustrate a children's book which was displayed with it. Voting for favorite tree and auctioning off many of the creations brought proceeds to the Friends. It is hoped that this will become an annual affair which marries reading with creativity and produces revenue and publicity for the library.

**Publicity**

Throughout the two year span we have worked hard at getting publicity. It is a challenge! We have received coverage from the press when we donate money to the library or stage an event, but it is not easily obtained. Radio coverage on WKOK (Round Table), the electronic sign at Sovereign bank, posters around town and in merchant's stores, the e-newsletter at S. U., flyers and word-of-mouth have all been helpful. Now that we are beginning to be known, perhaps our coverage will increase.

I hope that I have been able to give you, our membership, an overview of our two years of activities. Looking to the future, and with your continued support we hope to grow and become a major force for the betterment of our public library!

Thank you for your support.

Carol Bull, President