

October  
2020

# Friends of the Portage Library

## Friends of the Portage Library Board

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Register the Friends of the Portage Free Library as your choice of organization to receive a portion of the purchase price for items purchased at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Once you have registered, return to Amazon Smile every time you shop.

## Save the Date!

### Friends of the Portage Library Annual Meeting

6 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 14, 2020**

**Attendance in person requires mask and social distancing.**

**Also available on Zoom.**

### New Technology Resources Available

Technology adaptation has become one of the most important considerations for institutions in response to COVID-19. We at the Portage Public Library remain committed to keeping staff and patrons safe while evolving our technology for increased ease-of-use and accessibility.

To this end, we've recently added a high-definition wide-lens video camera to our Aquos Touchscreen Smart Board. Businesses and community groups will be able to use these technologies together to facilitate safe, free, high-quality virtual meetings with employees and members across the nation.

We are also in the process of replacing our current self-checkout units with state-of-the-art alternatives which should be easier than ever to use while offering both patrons and staff more options.

We can't wait for our patrons to take advantage of these new options!

Chris Baker, Adult Services Librarian & Technology Coordinator

## Teen and Adult Programs

Thank you to the Friends of the Portage Library for supporting us during this challenging time! Thanks to your help this summer, the library gave away 643 “take and make” craft kits for students in grades 6-12. We also had Summer Reading Programs for both teens and adults. Combined, teens and adults logged over 10,000 hours of reading. Thanks to the Friends, we were able to raffle 9 fabulous prize packages to the teens and five \$50 Chamber of Commerce Green Gift Certificates to the adults.

In August, we held a Stargazing program at Observatory Hill in Montello with Jim Marshall and his son, Chris. Mother Nature didn't cooperate—visibility was poor—but Jim and Chris shared their vast knowledge of astronomy and a fun time was had by all! Fall programs are in full swing—and always with participant health safety in mind. Thanks, again, for your extraordinary commitment and hard work to make all of these things possible!

Pam Roets, Teen Services & Programming Librarian



## Donations Needed!

At the Friends' Board meeting in September, Treasurer Judy Morrow presented a summary of income and expenses for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2020. Fund-raising this year was drastically curtailed because of restrictions due the COVID-19. For example, income from book sales in the 2018-2019 provided \$5,000, income this year was only \$1,879.25. Total income from membership also dropped from \$1,700 to \$1,300.

The budget for 2020-2021 proposed by the Friends' Board reflects these figures. Friends' operating expenses have been reduced to the minimum necessary for postage and printing newsletters. Projected support for library programming was reduced to about 55% from last year (with the stipulation that funds will be restored if they become available.)

Judy noted that even this much support would not be possible without a handful of unexpected but significant donations by individual Friends and their families. Donations climbed from \$1,000 last year to nearly \$2,400 this year.

**Would you like to help?** Show your support for the library by writing a check to the Friends of the Portage Library. Indicate that you want this amount used to support the Friends' mission, especially to provide programming for Children, Teens and Adults.

Think what you might have spent at the Book Sale or another Friends' fundraiser. Consider donating that amount to support the library. Your gift is tax deductible and is most gratefully appreciated!





Friends Membership goes from January to December. Please check the Friends page on the Portage Library website for more information, or send an email to [portagelibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:portagelibraryfriends@gmail.com)



## Children's Department Programming

As the Children's Department says goodbye to summer, and hello to fall, we begin a new season of story times and school-aged programming. Due to COVID-19, the Children's Department will not be holding in-person programming for the remainder of 2020. However, we are working to provide programming that still meets the needs of Portage families in other creative ways. For example, thanks to the ongoing financial support of the Friends of the Library, we have been able to create library book bags filled with materials such as crayons, glue sticks, shaker eggs, scarves, craft supplies, and more--all items that will allow families to enjoy preschool story time at home.

Dawn Foster, Children's Services Librarian, will record a weekly themed story time that families can watch at their convenience on the department's FB page or YouTube channel. This virtual story time is a six-week session that will include stories, songs, sign language, and other elements that will be included in the "Library Magic @ Home" bags.

The Children's Department's Assistant, Angie Tomlinson, has created two different monthly craft programs, September-December, for ages K-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grades, appropriate for the two age groups. Thank you FoL for funding the supplies for these programs, as well.

And finally, beginning the first week of September, the Children's Department began a "Books-to-Go" service that would allow families, teachers, and students to request children's materials and then have them delivered curbside or placed on hold for them to pick up from the hold shelves at their convenience. In our first week we handled 14 requested transactions (which included delivering two FoL t-shirts!) involving 139 items!

During this extraordinary year of extraordinary changes and challenges, now more than ever, we appreciate the support, advocacy, and funding that the Friends of the Portage Library provide. Without this support our department would not be able to provide the level of excellence that Portage families have come to expect from us.

Thank you,

Dawn Foster, Children's Services Librarian

Support the Friends!

T-shirts available

Sizes XS-3XXX

\$18 (\$20 for 2XX and  
3XXX)

Available at  
Circulation Desk in  
Library



**Donations welcome:**

**Puzzles and Dvds**

**for the Friends'**

**Pop-Up Book Sale**

**Bring to the Circulation Desk**

**in the Library**