

FOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2021

Membership: 32 Individual Members and 5 Business Members (as of December 2021)

Meetings: Zoom: January, March, May, November. Hybrid In-person/zoom: September

Accomplishments throughout the year included:

January: Greater Hudson Chamber of Commerce membership was renewed. Virtual Business meeting appropriated monies for National Poetry Week Contest Prizes, Summer Reading Program, and one movie license. Weeding at Second Hand Prose has been completed. The 'Buy a Brick' program will now be coordinated by the Friends. The Scholarship Committee updated and revised the Leonard Smith Scholarship guidelines and application.

February: The Library opened with reduced hours and in-house services. The Membership and NLW committees held virtual meetings to update brochures and make plans for National Library Week.

March: Preparations were made for the Leonard Smith Scholarship. Due to COVID restrictions the Library Staff began working on two separate shifts.

April: National Library Week was celebrated with 'goodie' baskets in the Staff Room for 2 separate weeks to accommodate the split shifts. Thank you notes and Hannaford gift cards were given to each Staff Member. Service awards were given to Betsey Martel (15 yrs) and Gina Votour (5 yrs). Business Members were saluted with a tri-fold display in the lobby, and recognition on websites of HCTV, Chamber of Commerce, Rodgers Memorial Library as well as the FOL Facebook page. The Friends sponsored a virtual NH Humanities program given by Alice Fogel entitled: "*Strange Terrain: How Not to "get" Poetry and Let it Get You Instead*". Memorial contributions in memory of long time FOL Treasurer, Linda Kipnes, were received after her sudden death in April. The donations will be used for a suitable memorial at the library. The Friends purchased and planted a Weeping Cherry Tree at the library in Linda's memory.

May: The first curbside Book Donation Day collected over 30 boxes of books. The books were sorted and shelved at Second Hand Prose. A virtual business meeting was held at which the following officers were elected for the 2021-2022 year: Sue Gould, President; Jan Walsh, Vice President; Vacant, Treasurer; Kathy Hesse, Corresponding Secretary; and Margaret Femia, Recording Secretary

June: The Leonard A. Smith Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Hudson resident, Austin Howard, a student at the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School, Exeter, NH. A presentation and photo op with Austin and his parents was held at the library. A second drive-up Book Donation Day was held with many children's and adult books in good condition donated. Outdoor sound recording equipment was purchased to enhance the Summer Programs. The fiscal year and free membership year ended on June 30, 2021.

July: Preparations were made for the August 8 opening of Second Hand Prose. Signage was made for the bookcases and bulletin boards. An orientation was held to familiarize members with the new arrangement of books.

August: Old and new customers were welcomed to the Grand Re-Opening of Second Hand Prose on August 8.

September: A hybrid business meeting was held attended by members in person and on zoom. Some designated monies from the Kipnes donations were authorized to inaugurate a sustainable paper project in the Children's Department. Our 3rd Book Donation day was held resulting in over 30 boxes of books.

October: Friends helped Library staff paint a 'set', stuff goodie bags, and supply coloring sheets for the bags to be distributed at the Hudson Speedway Town Trick or Treat event. A 4th Book Donation day was held.

November: The Humanities program '*NH Art and Artists*' was presented in-person and virtually. Friends supplied baked goods and treats to the RML staff room every Monday in November and December.

December: Friends decorated the library for the holidays, and provided a "Hot Cocoa" station at the outdoor Community Winter Fest at the Library.