

A Helping Hand

Friends of the Pequannock Library goes above and beyond to provide extra services for our town's library.

BY MARY SHUMEYKO



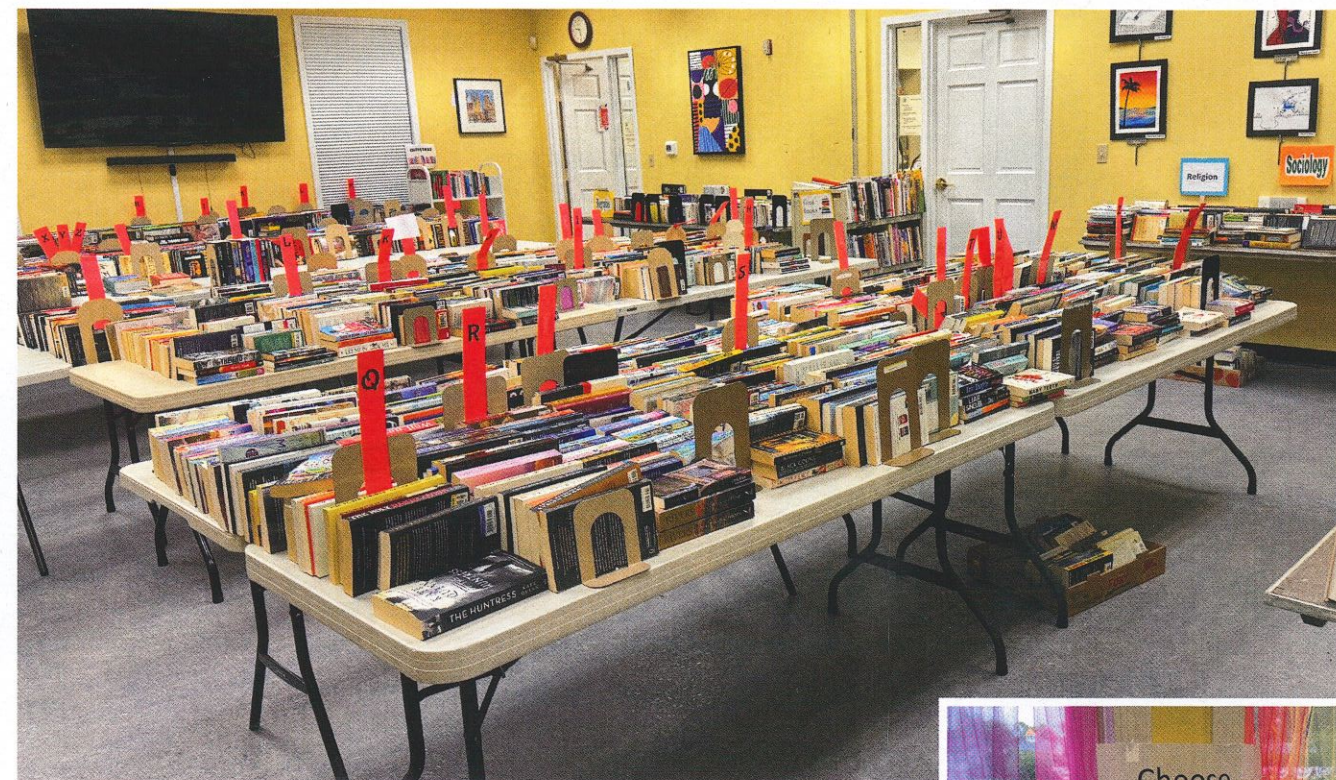
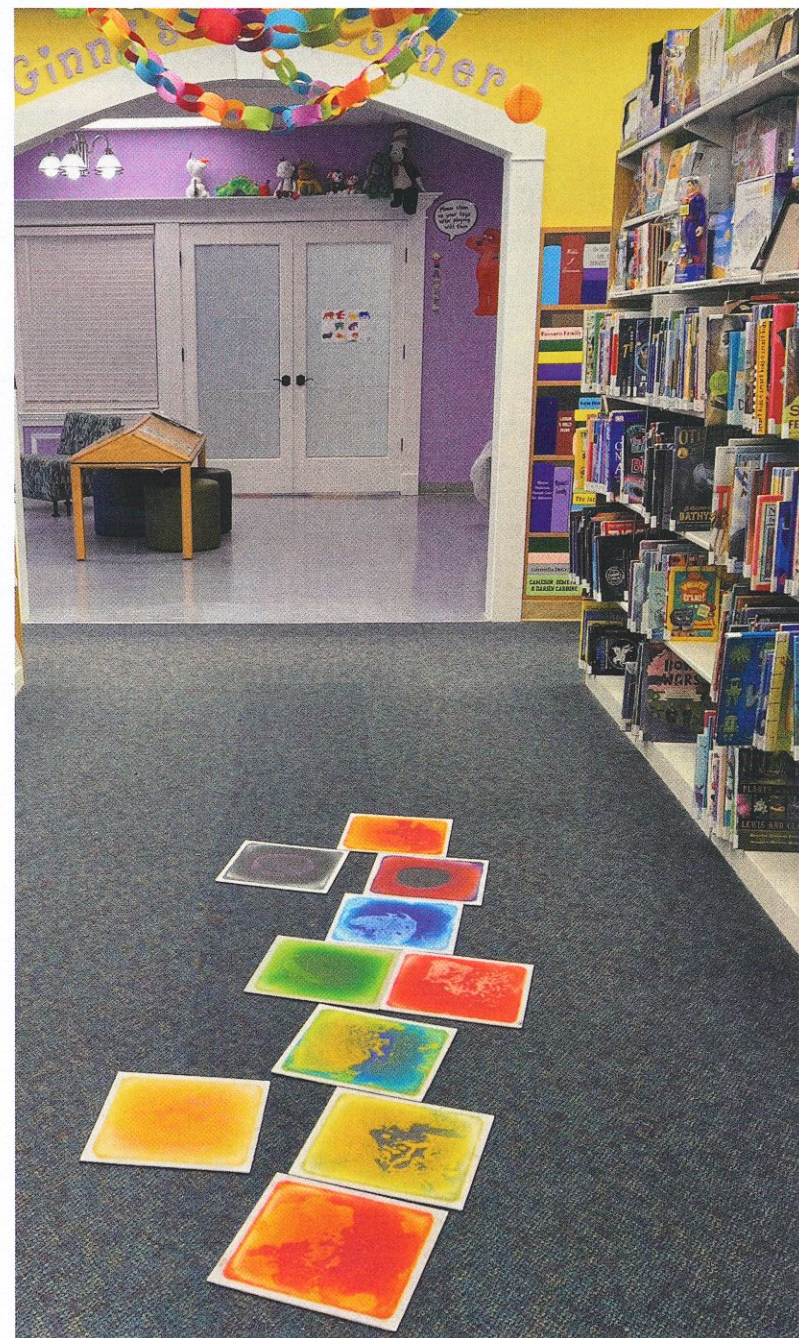
INTERVIEW WITH
FRIENDS OF PEQUANNOCK LIBRARY

FREE BOOKS! Free museum passes!
Free concerts!

If you love the word free, thank a member of the Friends of the Pequannock Library. This group of volunteers works tirelessly to provide support for the library. A chat with former and current officers revealed more about the organization.

When did Friends of the Pequannock Library form?

The group formed in 1962, which is the same year that the library was officially dedicated as part of the Municipal Building. With a formal constitution and by-laws, Friends of the Library was in business. Its purpose is to support the library with services that are outside the regular operating budget.



Opposite page: Copresidents Nancy McMahon and Georgette Braga prepare a meeting agenda. Other officers (not pictured) are corresponding secretary Sue Breznak, recording secretary Martin Corso, and treasurer Wilma Falduto. **This page:** Hundreds of books organized and ready to sell. This year's Book Sale brought in nearly \$5,000!

Who are the members?

Currently, there are 88 members representing a cross-section of our community. Anyone is welcome, and encouraged, to join. Applications are at the library and on the website. Dues are \$25 per family or \$10 for senior citizens. Meetings are held quarterly and whenever projects are underway.

What does Friends of the Pequannock Library do?

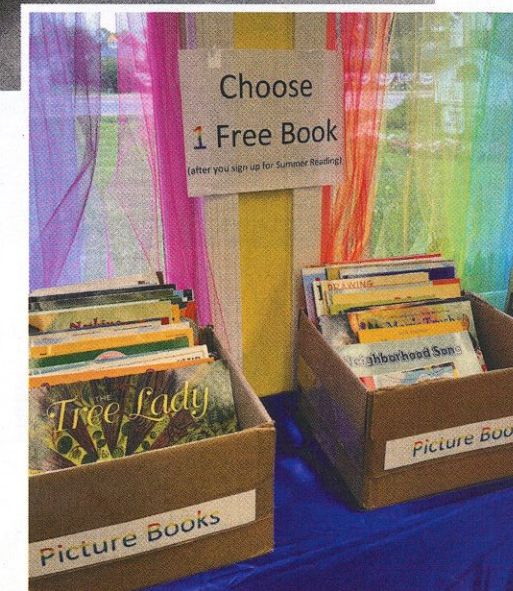
Examples of enrichment projects are two flat-screen TVs in the meeting rooms, the museum passes, and materials for the summer reading program. We've provided community concerts, art classes, historical presentations, and children's programs. Staff members are invited to create "wish lists;" those go into our agendas for meetings, where we discuss them and vote on the projects.

How are your efforts supported financially?

Our fundraisers are effective! We recently held a successful Tricky Tray, and we'll soon have a dine-in event, and plans are already under way for our annual Book Sale, scheduled for June 26, 2026. Membership dues also help our efforts to offer special programs.

How can residents help?

Join Friends of the Library! Donations of books and puzzles are accepted all year! Support our fundraisers! Next is our weekly dine-in at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza in Wayne, which is every Tuesday in November. Whether eating there or grabbing take-out, tell your server you're supporting our library: A percentage of each order goes to Friends of



the Library. We emphasize that every penny we raise goes directly back into library services and programs. Pequannock is thankful for the Friends that support our treasured library.

Mary Shumeyko is a retired Pequannock teacher who volunteers at her church and the Pequannock Public Library. Traveling, running, reading, and spending time with her family fill her free time.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARY SHUMEYKO