

Friends of the Kinderhook Memorial Library Book Shop



The Kinderhook Memorial Library in the Village of Kinderhook, serves a population of 7,500 in the Towns of Kinderhook and Stuyvesant. An association library, it receives tax funding from the towns through 414 petitioning. The Friends of the Library, established in 2005 now numbers 200+ members and this year has a budget of 18,000. The Friends support the library through a non-restricted annual donation and restricted funds for the use of the Director. The Friends support the Summer Reading Program and Battle of the Books, provide subscriptions, host supplemental programs, provide funding for the quarterly newsletter, and entirely fund the Museum Pass Program which last year saved patrons over \$12,000 in museum entry fees. We are currently considering a substantial pledge to the recently launched capital campaign. The library, a lovely brick building, has not been expanded since its construction in the 1930's.

Like most library groups, the Friends raise funds through book sales and other fundraising activities. As the library has limited storage space and no public meeting room, all book sales are held under a tent which makes everything weather dependent. We hold 2 lawn sales each year. It takes about 45 volunteers to run a book sale from set-up to breakdown.

Our community is well-educated and affluent. To secure the greatest financial return on our generous book donations, we began educating ourselves about book values, separating better books from donations. We worked with a few book dealers and established a relationship with a start-up on-line seller, Library Consignment. We were then offered the use of an historic building near the library, a former Feed, Seed, and Grain Store, for a holiday book sale event. We began to think about establishing a seasonal book store.

The steps we followed in establishing the bookshop are outlined on the reverse side. If you have further questions about the steps we took or would like to share your book shop experience and expertise with us, please contact Bonnie Shannon by email at friends@kinderhooklibrary.org or call 518-758-9852.

Starting a Book Shop

Initial planning

- Filing 501 (c)3
- Finding a home
- Writing a proposal
- Dealing with the tax man
- Zoning issues

Creating an environment

- Shelving , lighting
- Organization
- Display ideas
- Amenities

Advertising

Volunteers

- Core group-the crazy people
- Scheduling staff

Bookkeeping/Budgeting

- Record keeping
- Operational expenses

Book Donations

- Sorting selections
- On-line sales
- Dealer connections
- Recycling/Donating

Benefits

- Tangible
- Intangible
- Fame

Contingency Plan

- Rent/utilities
- Relocation
- Storage

References:

- NYS Department of Taxation
- Village of Kinderhook Zoning Law