



Annual Report for 2024

It's a longstanding tradition for the Friends of the Jaffrey Library to send members a year-end report, thanking everyone for their support and highlighting the Friends' activities.

Dues, donations and book sales allow the Friends to support the library in many ways that are not always highly visible, but nevertheless important.

We raised roughly \$4,000 in 2024 – money that paid the monthly fees for mobile hot spots that patrons and staff can borrow, passes for the NH State Parks and the Children's Museum in Keene, liability insurance mandated by the town and library trustees, and the very popular Ancestry.com genealogy database. The Friends have also purchased materials for well-attended hands-on programs on felting and other crafts.

In June, a handsome plaque installed in the front entryway marked the library's official designation as a National Register of Historic Places in its own right. The Friends helped support the assessment grant and paid for the plaque.

The Friends produced two free programs: in February, Mae Williams, a historic preservation consultant spoke "Heritage in Stone and Brick: The History of the Clay Memorial Library Building" co-sponsored with the Jaffrey Historical Society. The annual meeting in April featured Harris Center naturalist Susie Spikol who spoke on "Birds on the Mind and in the Air."

Book Sales

Book sales continue to be our major fundraising activity. This effort also provides inexpensive, "gently used" books for readers of all ages. On book donation Saturdays and the summer Farmers Market Fridays, volunteers enjoy talking about books with individuals and recommending favorites from the library's collection.

We have two book sale locations: the one on the main floor and the other on the lower level across from the water fountain. The monthly Saturday donation day works well,

with the majority of books coming in during the winter and early spring months. Limiting the number of books donated per person, and being selective with the content have decreased the number of books discarded each month. In the late spring, the price for hardcover editions increased to \$2, which is more in line with other libraries' book sales. Informal surveys show the increase has had little impact on revenues.

A huge thank you to team leader Nancy Sterling and volunteers Lisa Ramey, Ross Ramey, Ellen Clarke, Morgan Jenkins, and Teresa Sargent for all the work they do to make the book sale run so successfully. They are instrumental in collecting books, refreshing the shelves weekly, and culling unpopular books after two months on the shelves.

Collaboration with Team Jaffrey

At the urging of Tarah Castiglioni, Team's Jaffrey director and a FOL board member, the Friends staffed a table of books, totes, and flyers at the weekly Jaffrey Farmers Market from June through mid-September. Volunteers from the entire membership were recruited to spend Friday afternoon from 3 to 5, talking to people about books and supporting Team Jaffrey. It was fun – and visibly demonstrates the Friends' support for the library community.

Help Wanted: Board Members and volunteers who can develop programs for adults, nurture and grow membership, explore new initiatives to support the library.

The current Executive Board has five members: Nan Beiter, Nancy Clapp, Tarah Castiglioni, Sue Fletcher, and Nancy Sterling.

Julie Perrin, Library Director is an ex officio member. It meets quarterly, either at the library or via Zoom.

Please consider joining the Board!

Time to Renew: Annual dues for the Friends of the Jaffrey Library are \$15. You can leave your payment (cash or check) with the enclosed form at the library, or mail to Friends of the Jaffrey Library, Treasurer, 38 Main Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452. All contributions to the Friends are tax deductible.

Donations are always welcome.