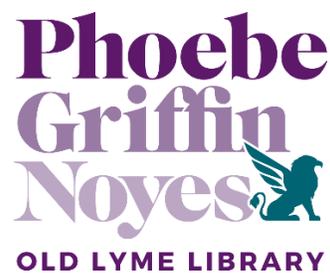


2019 Friends Annual Report



Annual Meeting: Thursday June 6, 2019

10:00 AM

Library Community Room

Agenda

2019 AGENDA Phoebe's Friends of Old Lyme Library

Thursday June 6 at 10 am

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Guest Speaker: local author *Robert Kim Bingham* introduced by *Julie O'Brien*.

Mr. Bingham will speak about his book, **Courageous Dissent: How Harry Bingham Defied His Government to Save Lives.**

Break for refreshments

Business Meeting

1. Greetings from Chair – *Leslie Massa, Co-Chair*
2. Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2018 – *Suzanne McAuliffe, Secretary*
3. Board of Trustees' Report – *Kirsten Sicuranza, Board President*
4. Library Director's Report – *Katie Huffman, presented on her behalf by Linda Alexander*
5. Treasurer's Report – *Steven Ross*
6. Phoebe's BookCellar – *Claudia Condon, Co-Chair*
7. Hospitality Committee – *Cheryl Poirier*
8. The Garden Gang – *Eleanor Hufford*
9. Membership Committee – *Beth Cote*
10. Nominating Committee with vote on slate – *Suzy Bolduc*
11. Friends' questions, comments, suggestions and ideas

Adjourn business portion of meeting

Chairwoman's Annual Report

"This is why I wanted to write this book, to tell about a place I love that doesn't belong to me but feels like it is mine, and how that feels marvelous and exceptional. All the things that are wrong in the world seem conquered by a library's simple unspoken promise: Here I am, please tell me your story; here is my story, please listen."
— Susan Orlean, *The Library Book*

I chose this quote to symbolize how deeply passionate I think everyone in this room feels about our library...how much we love it and feel it is ours...how when we walk through the door, we count on it being here holding its place for us as we reconnect to all that it holds – yes, the wealth of information and stories and books and programs but also the community of staff and friends, the promise of a place that feels like ours.

If you find the time this summer, you might like to read Susan Orlean's book: *The Library Book*. It is an account of the catastrophic fire in the Los Angeles Public Library in 1986. But the book is so much more than the story of that one fire and the investigation that followed. The author weaves her lifelong love of books and reading into a broader story of libraries and librarians. It's fascinating.

At last year's annual meeting, I described our efforts by the words perseverance, passion and collaboration. It was indeed a year of change and flux and growth.

This year, I describe it with these words...Passion combined with action and commitment. I know of friends who come to "work" despite problems at home, personal illness, conflicts with engagements that could possibly be more fun, interesting, pressing or you insert the word that fits. Who cut trips short or are doing their committee work from afar but every bit as present as if they were here. That is passion...that is commitment...and that is the doing...the action...the accountability to the cause. I thank you. We all thank you because by doing what you do, you help each other, your team, and your library in significant and important ways.

This meeting is a recap of last year's progress and accomplishments and a look to our next year. As Co-chairs of the Friends of the Library, Martha Shoemaker and I honor your commitment, dedication and energy to your chosen volunteer work. We are pleased today to share with you a meeting packed full of insight into all the other areas of work and opportunity as a Friend.

We are so glad to have Kirsten Sicuranza here to share the Board of Trustees report. Most exciting and most important is the progress of the building renovation and how we can flexibly support and thrive during it.

Happy congratulations to our director, Katie Huffman. She is a new mom...now of two little girls and she and her husband have just moved into a new home. Don't think she is missing a beat though here at the library. She is nothing short of amazing! Her report will be given by Katie? Linda?

As a council, we continued our path of transformation of the Friends organization by solidifying our mission and vision, defining what it is to be a Friend, overhauling our logos and "look" to be in line with the Library's new look, and house cleaning our database of Friends which will be ongoing, and supporting the committees and volunteers. All of our work continues to be a collaborative effort with

Katie Huffman, the staff and board of the Library so that the time, energy and direction of the Friends best serves the Library, as our mission says, through financial support, service, advocacy and awareness.

Our treasurer, Steven Ross will share our financial status and prepare us to meet our future pledges to the Library.

We'll hear from Eleanor Hufford who with her green thumb and the dedicated efforts of the Garden Gang, tend to the garden, the grounds and the festive and ever-changing entrance planters of the Library.

In Phoebe's BookCellar, we continue to see great dedication, passion and progress made by the volunteers and leaders. Claudia Condron and Joan Overfield are a dynamic duo and "our Hidden Treasures" as Co-chairs of the BookCellarr. The BookCellar continues to thrive under their passionate and creative leadership. Claudia will report on the success and future of the BookCellar which runs on the energy, creativity, passion and pleasure of 70 volunteers and currently accounts for all the funding that the Friends provides the Library. Our pride and gratitude run very deep for this hometown treasure.

With the creative efforts of the Hospitality Team, led by Cheryl, you will hear about the Hospitality Team's role in transforming the Library into a place of celebration, honor, or recruitment. Cheryl, to you and your team today...thank you for your delicious and decorative work today.

Beth, Suzanne and Katie B. have been at work updating our mailing list and contact list; called our database of Friends. Beth Cote share the results and will continue to lead the ongoing effort.

Our Nominating Committee will be represented by Suzy Bolduc, and she will present our slate of council members and officers for the next year.

Yes, it has been a year of passion combined with commitment and action. Hard work does indeed pay off. We are here to celebrate that and to celebrate YOU. YOU who offer your time, creativity, innovation, energy and passion as you love and serve this Library.

Thank you to Katie Balocca and Suzanne and Martha for all the work done to prepare for this meeting. And to Julie for hosting Mr. Bingham. And to the Library Staff who are forever gracious and helpful even as they are spinning plates!

Forever grateful,

Leslie Massa

THE FRIENDS OF THE OLD LYME PHOEBE GRIFFIN NOYES LIBRARY

Annual Meeting - Thursday, June 7th, 2018

10 A.M. in the Community Room

In attendance: Council Members Leslie Massa, Steven Ross, Mary Seidner, Janet Olsen, Cheryl Poirer, Martha Shoemaker, Anne Roy, Marsha Bansavage, Suzy Bolduc, Julie O'Brien, Tammy Kaye. Also in attendance were BookCellar Co-Chairs, Claudia Condon and Joan Overfield; staff representatives, Katie Huffman and Katie Balocca; Board of Trustees representatives, Mary Dangremond and Kristen Sicuranza; and members of the Friends of the OL-PGN Library.

1. **Welcome, Speaker and Poem:** Leslie welcomed all to The Friends of the OL PGN Library Annual Meeting. Janet Olsen introduced the guest speaker, Sydney Williams. Sydney, an Old Lyme resident for 25 years, has been a longtime supporter of the library. He has written two books, both a collection of essays reflecting on events – past and present. He spoke of his book, *Notes from Old Lyme, Life on the Marsh and Other Essays*, and about the importance of recording family history and of his deep love of books. Sydney generously offered his books for \$25 each with full proceeds donated to the library. Anne Roy read her poem, “Let’s Toast Lyme and Old Lyme!”
2. **Chair Report (attached):** Leslie thanked all who have contributed to the work of The Friends this past year. “We are here to celebrate the hard work that has taken place. You will hear this morning reports that reflect perseverance, passion, and collaboration.” Leslie commended the Friends Council for their work this year which included defining what it is to be a Friend, the creation of a new membership packet, the success of the BookCellar, and changes to the by-laws. “Hard work does indeed pay off. We are here to celebrate you – all who volunteer your time, creativity and passion.”
3. **Board of Trustee’s Report (attached):** Lynne Fairfield-Sonn was unable to attend the meeting. Kristen Sicuranza, Vice President of the Trustees, represented the board. She thanked The Friends for their contributions and spoke of the Trustee’s hard work on the building renovation and encouraged all to lend their support by attending public town meetings. The slate for next year’s board has been created and will be voted upon very soon.
4. **Library Director’s Report (attached):** Katie Huffman also expressed her gratitude for the work of all The Friends. She too encouraged all library patrons to show their support for the building renovation by attending all public town meetings. The Selectmen have voted in favor of bringing this initiative to a vote. Pending approval by the town’s Board of Finance, a vote at a special town meeting will take place. Katie reported that the library was proud to celebrate 120 years of service with a Founders Day Celebration. Details can be found on the library’s website. There is a desire to improve communications regarding library programming. Events, such as the holiday book sale, are taking place in the Reading Room making them more visible to the public. A new branding project and a newsletter will help make the library’s activities more inviting and transparent. Katie thanked The Friends for their financial support this past year. The \$22,000 helped to fund collections such as adult fiction, programming, databases and museum passes.
5. **Treasurer’s Report (attached):** Steven Ross felt the financial report was encouraging. He noted over seventy volunteers contribute their time to The Friends’ efforts. Steven recognized the work of Claudia Condon and Joan Overfield in the BookCellar. Ninety-eight percent of The Friends’

\$22,000 donation came from used book sales. He noted a new category for hospitality has been added to the budget. The goal, he said, is not to show a profit, but to take in money and then give it back to the library. Steven handed Katie Huffman a check for \$5,500 to fulfill The Friends' pledge. Steven made a motion to pledge \$22,000 for the 2018-19 fiscal year for the purposes that Katie Huffman has been using. The motion was seconded and the group voted unanimously to pledge \$22,000.

6. **Garden Report (attached)**: Nan Strola, with great joy, announced that new, and younger, members have recently joined the Garden Committee. She noted the collaborative efforts of volunteers and library staff. Nan will continue to be part of the Garden Committee, and Eleanor Hufford will chair the committee next year.
7. **BookCellar Report (attached)**: Claudia Condon felt there was much to be excited about this year. New promotional techniques have made an impact and sales are up. New signage in and around the library have encouraged new customers. June, July and August will include expanded BookCellar hours. The back entryway was painted and new artwork and rugs have added a welcoming touch. The BookCellar's greatest challenge is finding new customers. Therefore, she was overjoyed to report that a local online magazine called "The E-List," which has 23,000 subscribers, ran a fantastic article about our BookCellar. Equally exciting is an award the BookCellar is receiving this year. The Friends of Connecticut Libraries will recognize the work and success of our BookCellar at their yearly awards ceremony. The chairpersons and some library volunteers will receive their recognition when they attend the award ceremony in Middletown. Claudia thanked The Friends for nominating the BookCellar for this award.
8. **Membership and Hospitality Committee Report (attached)**: With gratitude, Chairperson Cheryl Poirer said that many hands make light work. The council and membership committee worked to define the question, "What is a Friend?" in regards to The Friends of the Library. The committee created a new membership packet and helped to update the The Friends' data base of personal information. Volunteers worked together to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for Ann DeSelding's farewell, the Holiday Book Sale and today's meeting. The council will, next year, discuss making Membership a permanent committee in order to recruit and orient new members.
9. **By-Laws Task Force (attached)**: Mary Seidner presented the work of the task force. The changes were discussed. It was noted that there needs to be consistency with the capitalization of the term, "The Friends." Mary made a motion to accept the by-law changes as written with the addition of the item noted regarding consistency. The motion was seconded and all approved of the revised by-laws.
10. **Nominating Committee Report (attached)**: Reporting for Jen Harvill, Mary Seidner presented the slate of proposed officers. As there were no nominations from the floor, the motion to accept the slate of officers was seconded and unanimously approved.
11. **Recognition**: Leslie recognized and thanked departing council members Janet Olsen, Tammy Kaye, and Marsha Bansavage for their service to The Friends.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Olsen, Secretary

Board of Trustees Annual Report

This year the OLPGN Library Board of Trustees has primarily focused on the Renewal Project and all of its many moving pieces. As you know, we received a \$1 million grant from the State of Connecticut last spring, and this past July we secured an additional \$1.75 million in funding from the Town of Old Lyme. Construction and furnishings are still on budget to come in around \$3 million, and the remaining \$300 thousand required to finish the project will come from the library's own fundraising. Because we want to be able to maintain our newly refurbished building and also enhance our offerings, we opted to raise more than just the remaining \$300 thousand needed to complete construction. The Board tasked Roger Smith to lead our Renewal Campaign, a fundraising effort separate and distinct from our \$130,000 Annual Fund Drive. Roger and his team endeavored to raise an additional \$900 thousand through private, leadership-level donations. As of our last board meeting (May 14th), Roger and his team have raised \$1,000,080! At this point we know we can both deliver a quality renovation and have some additional dollars to support it. Nonetheless, the Renewal Campaign team efforts will continue and shift its focus a public rollout of the campaign and create some buzz about the library. More to come soon.

Library construction is scheduled to begin right after Labor Day, although you may see some preliminary work in our parking lot in late August. We've hired TSKP Studio (Hartford) as our architect. They've done several library projects including a very recent award-winning renovation of the Wilton, CT library. We were impressed with their ideas, their grasp of what we were trying to achieve, and most importantly their listening skills. We also hired Burlington Construction (Torrington, CT) as our construction manager. They've already brought forth impressive cost-savings ideas stemming from numerous successful library and school projects like ours, where renovations occurred while the facilities remained open for business.

While the architect and construction manager are preparing our construction bid packages, TSKP's interior designer is working with our staff to narrow down vast choices of furniture and fixtures. Fortunately we did much of this preliminary work while we still had Katie Huffman on site. In anticipation of her maternity leave, Katie has done a superb job planning and delegating her responsibilities. I've taken on some of her duties on the PR side of her shop, but we are so fortunate that our highly-skilled staff can collectively fill Katie's shoes, at least temporarily, which saved us the cost of hiring a substitute director. We'll look forward to having Katie back on a part-time basis in the fall and hopefully full-time in December. Meantime don't hesitate to reach out to me or any other Trustee with any library issues you'd normally discuss with Katie.

Although the Renewal Project has been our primary focus, business as usual continues within the Board. Our Public Relations committee worked hard to bring forth and gain Board approval for our new, beautiful logo featuring historic teal and purple colors, just in time for all of the Renewal communications. We were gifted a stunning Gil Boro sculpture for our grounds entitled "Coming Together" by library patron Bob Regan in memory of his wife. We have formed a new Garden Committee that reports directly to the Board, co-chaired by Sondra Griswold and Eleanor Hufford, which will help shape our new commemorative outdoor garden space. We have two retiring Board members this year, Jennifer Fallon and David Preston, and we have nominated local businessman Thomas Britt as a new trustee to begin his first term in September. We will vote at our upcoming June Board meeting to elect Tom and re-elect our current slate of officers: Joe Cipparone, Secretary; David Stanland, Treasurer; Patrick Gingras, Vice President; and myself as President.

It's been a very busy year thus far, and FY20 will continue to be just as busy but even more exciting as our Renewal plans take shape. Thank you, Friends, for your steadfast support of our beloved library during these changing times. We could not do any of this without you! THANK YOU.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Sicuranza

President, OLPGN Board of Trustees

Library Directors Annual Report

Dear Friends:

2018-2019 has been another very busy year at the Library. As I'm sure you know, our primary focus has continued to be the Renewal Project. Early in the fiscal year we successfully garnered public support to secure \$1,750,000 in funding from the Town of Old Lyme. We couldn't have achieved this milestone without the support of dedicated people like you—thank you! In December, the Connecticut State Bond Commission voted to forward our project, and in March we officially signed a contract with the State of Connecticut to receive the \$1,000,000 grant. Behind the scenes we've been working with TSKP Studio, our architectural firm, to finalize the design plans. In late April we began developing the final Construction Documents and selecting furnishings and finishes. We have also started strategizing with Burlington Construction, our construction management firm, to identify our timeline and how best to maintain Library operations during construction. At this point, we anticipate beginning work on the building in September and will be completing the project by next summer.

In addition to the exciting plans for the building, we've continued to expand our program offerings. In October, Children's Librarian Julie Bartley and Young Adult Librarian Nike Desis hosted the 2nd Annual Haunted BookCellar; more than 500 people toured the spooky cellar! This winter, Nike unveiled a new Friday afternoon Pub Club geared for grades 5 to 9. The "Pub" in Pub Club is short for publishing, and it's all about the wide range of acts, actions, and activities associated with storytelling, communicating, and sharing. Successful adult programs included collaborations with the Mentoring Corps for Community Development on organ donation and with Audubon Connecticut on the benefits of birds and other wildlife in the Lyme Forest Block.

In other news, we unveiled our new logo, designed by OverAbove, and began to revamp all of our publicity materials. Inspired by the new logo, we worked collaboratively to develop a new look for the Friends of the Library and BookCellar this fall.

The Library staff and I are so very grateful for all of the many ways you have supported all of these projects and so many more. In addition to lending frontline support, the Friends have provided significant financial support to the Library again this year (see below for details).

And last, but by no means least, thank you! Your helping hands, friendly smiles, and steadfast support continue to inspire us to dream big and keep on keeping on.

Again, thank you, from all of us!



Katie Huffman
Library Director

2019-2019 Library Budget: Friends of the Library Funds	
Income	
FY19 Pledge	\$ 20,000
Carryover from FY18	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 20,000
Expenses (As of May 1st)	
Books	
Adult Fiction	\$ 9,355
Adult Non-Fiction	\$ 403
Young Adult Books	\$ 1,137
Newspapers and Magazines	\$ 1,699
Online Resources (including eBooks, databases, and online learning)	\$ 3,725
Museum Passes	\$ 175
Programs	\$ 255
Total Expenditures	\$ 16,749
Balance Remaining	\$ 3,251

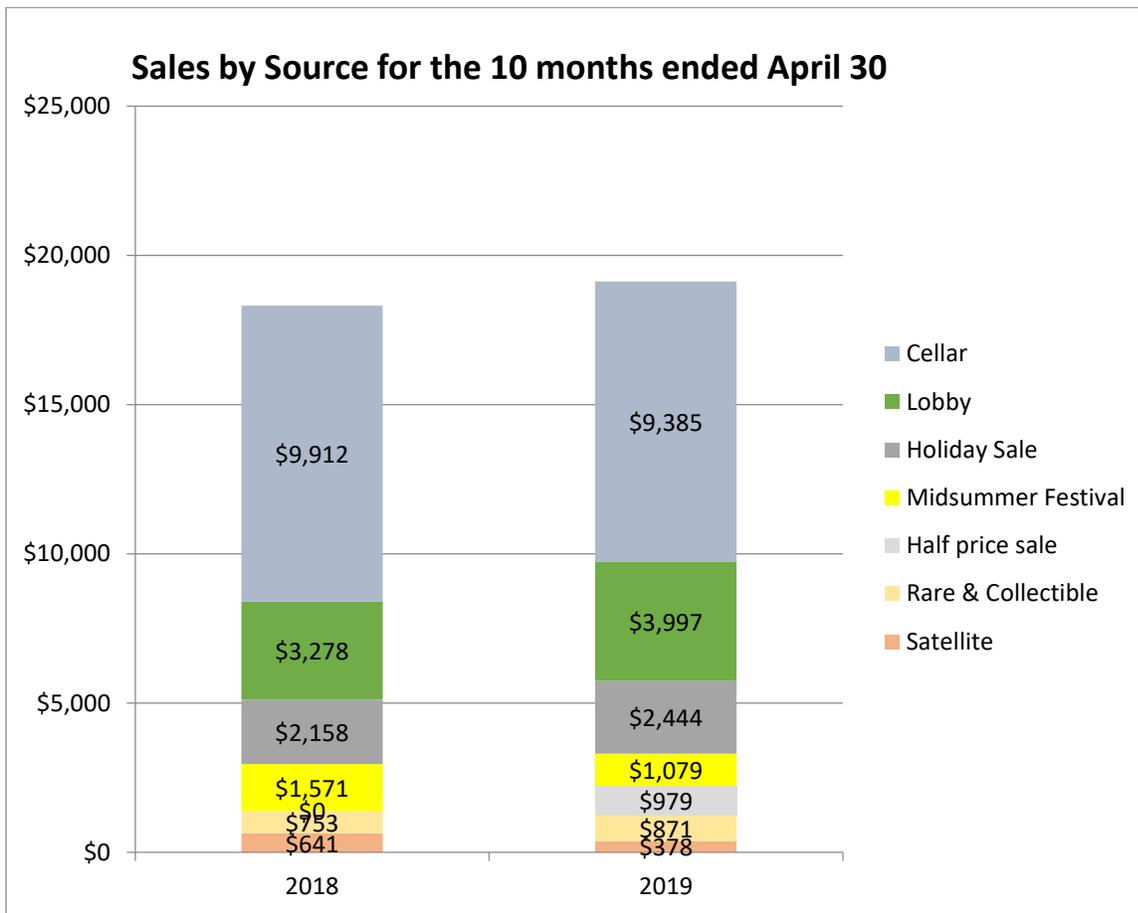
Treasurer's Annual Report

Fiscal year 2016-2019													
Friends Income & Expense Report													
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Year To date
INCOME													
Cellar sales:	\$ 1,060.25	\$ 1,146.00	\$ 989.25	\$ 982.50	\$ 522.00	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 1,233.50	\$ 1,019.00	\$ 689.50	\$ 717.50	\$ 572.00	\$ 572.00	\$ 8,958.50
Lobby sales	\$ 349.00	\$ 273.00	\$ 263.00	\$ 348.00	\$ 303.00	\$ 518.00	\$ 410.00	\$ 419.00	\$ 669.00	\$ 439.00	\$ 390.00	\$ 390.00	\$ 4,411.00
Rare & Collectible sales	\$ 100.00	\$ 195.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 86.50		\$ 75.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 105.00		\$ 42.00	\$ 845.50
South Lyme sales	\$ 185.00	\$ 890.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 50.00						\$ 30.00	\$ 42.00		\$ 420.00
Online sales													\$ -
Midsummer, Holiday Sales & 1/2 Price Sales	\$ 1,078.50					\$ 2,444.00				\$ 978.75			\$ 4,501.25
Total Book Sales	\$ 2,782.75	\$ 1,694.00	\$ 1,355.25	\$ 1,525.50	\$ 870.00	\$ 4,113.10	\$ 1,643.50	\$ 1,515.00	\$ 1,383.50	\$ 2,270.25	\$ 1,004.00	\$ -	\$ 20,134.85
Dues/Donations	\$ 115.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00		\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 55.00			\$ 300.00		\$ 415.00
Misc Income													\$ 300.00
Interest	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.24	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.27	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.29	\$ 0.29	\$ 2.92
Fundraising													\$ -
Income Total	\$ 2,878.01	\$ 1,794.29	\$ 1,405.49	\$ 1,545.77	\$ 870.27	\$ 4,138.35	\$ 1,693.77	\$ 1,568.27	\$ 1,383.75	\$ 2,270.51	\$ 1,304.29	\$ -	\$ 20,652.77
EXPENSES													
Donations to OLPGN			\$ 5,500.00			\$ 5,500.00							\$ 16,500.00
Hospitality						33.88				\$ 57.39			\$ 91.27
Misc Exp.	\$ 100.00		\$ 60.00										\$ 160.00
Bookcellar	\$ 33.14	\$ 26.42			\$ 30.12	\$ 49.12				\$ 29.90			\$ 168.70
Gardening				\$ 28.20		\$ 61.17							\$ 89.37
Expense Total	\$ 133.14	\$ 26.42	\$ 5,560.00	\$ 28.20	\$ 30.12	\$ 5,644.17	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 87.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,009.34
Profits/loss	\$ 2,744.87	\$ 1,767.87	\$ (4,154.51)	\$ 1,517.57	\$ 840.15	\$ (1,505.82)	\$ 1,693.77	\$ 1,568.27	\$ (4,116.25)	\$ 2,183.22	\$ 1,304.29	\$ -	\$ 3,643.43
Bank Reconciliation													
Beginning balance in bank	\$ 13,844.63	\$ 14,653.93	\$ 18,353.05	\$ 14,171.54	\$ 15,655.11	\$ 16,406.26	\$ 14,962.64	\$ 16,781.33	\$ 18,000.60	\$ 14,050.23	\$ 16,449.45	\$ 17,582.74	
Monthly Profits/loss	\$ 2,744.87	\$ 1,767.87	\$ (4,154.51)	\$ 1,517.57	\$ 840.15	\$ (1,505.82)	\$ 1,693.77	\$ 1,568.27	\$ (4,116.25)	\$ 2,183.22	\$ 1,304.29	\$ -	
Current mo. sales deposited in next (or future) mo.	(977.75)	(90.00)	(117.00)	(131.00)			(82.00)	(431.00)	(216.00)		(171.00)		
Mid-Summer, Holiday & Other Sales deposited in next month	(1,078.50)												
Current mo. Credit Card sales dep. in next mo.													
Outstanding Checks													
Prior mo. Sales & dues deposited in current mo.	\$ 281.00	\$ 1,756.25	\$ 90.00	\$ 117.00	\$ 131.00	\$ 240.80	\$ 240.80	\$ 62.00	\$ 431.00	\$ 216.00	\$ 171.00	\$ 171.00	
Plus prior mo Credit Card sales deposited in current mo.													
Change withdrawn	\$ (265.00)	\$ 285.00			\$ (220.00)	\$ 220.00				\$ (49.12)			
Outstanding checks cleared this month	(145.32)												
Month end bal. in bank	\$ 14,653.93	\$ 18,953.05	\$ 14,171.54	\$ 15,655.11	\$ 16,406.26	\$ 14,962.64	\$ 16,781.33	\$ 18,000.60	\$ 14,050.23	\$ 16,449.45	\$ 17,582.74	\$ 17,582.74	\$ 13,844.63
plus Cash in boxes	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Total Bank + Cash boxes	\$ 14,728.93	\$ 18,428.05	\$ 14,246.54	\$ 15,730.11	\$ 16,481.26	\$ 15,037.64	\$ 16,856.33	\$ 18,075.60	\$ 14,125.23	\$ 16,524.45	\$ 17,657.74	\$ 17,657.74	
Misc Exp-Gift cert for Alan & Claudia \$100.00													
BC Eva Mays \$33.14													
BC advertising for Mid-summer sale \$25.42													
FOCL Memb renewal in Sept \$60													
Dec \$48.12 bookmarks													

Phoebe's BookCellar – Annual Report

Co-Managers: Claudia Condon and Joan Overfield

Sales: Total Sales for the 10 months ended April 30, 2019 were \$19,131 compared to \$18,313 in the prior year. It should be noted that the Spring half price sale is included in the April numbers this year and was in May last year. As depicted in the chart below, the mix of sales by source has changed. The Cellar continues to account for about half of all sales dollars. However, this year we have seen an increase in Lobby sales (\$719), which has offset decreases from Midsummer Festival (\$492) and the South Lyme Satellite (\$263).



Major Accomplishments:

Lobby Sales: New flexible shelving, obtained at no cost, has been added to the Library's Lobby since December. This has allowed us to sell more books when the Library is open and the Cellar is closed.

Puzzles: This year we began offering jigsaw puzzles for sale, which has proven to be very popular. Since December 2018 we have sold more than 150 puzzles.

Special Sales: During the year we held 3 half-price sales, the ever-popular Holiday sale in the Reading Room, and a sale on the Library lawn during Old Lyme's Midsummer Festival.

New Volunteers: We have added 11 new volunteers to our group bringing the total number of active BookCellar volunteers to 64. Ages range from 14 to 93!

Monday Hours: This year, for the first time, we expanded our hours during the summer months to stay open on Mondays from 10 am to 2 pm. The summer months and Mondays, in particular, are the busiest for the Library. We intend to continue this practice in 2019.

Social Media: Our Facebook presence is growing steadily. Please "like" us! We also advertise sales on Lymeline, the Lyme-Old Lyme Patch, Bookfinder.com and via the Town of Old Lyme News & Announcements.

Other Activity:

Neighbors Magazine Article: We enjoyed some nice publicity in the May issue of the Neighbors Magazine sent to homes in Lyme and Old Lyme.

Blind Date With A Book: This initiative was well-received by Library patrons and allowed us to reduce our overstock of duplicate books.

Attendance at FOCL meetings: We continue to attend quarterly FOCL meetings to share ideas and best practices with other CT Friends groups.

Rebranding: In keeping with the Library's rebranding, we have a new logo and updated bookmarks.

Local Area Map Prints: Although sales of the map prints have slowed down since we began selling them in 2017, we continue to sell them both upstairs and downstairs at the Library.

Volunteer Recognition Tea: A Tea was held in the Library Community Room to recognize our BookCellar volunteers. Special guests included Katie Huffman, Kirsten Sicuranza from the Library Board, and Leslie Massa representing the Friends Council. Wonderful refreshments were provided by the Hospitality Committee of the Friends Council.

Future Activities:

Hours of Operation: We will again open the BookCellar on Mondays between 10 am and 2 pm during June, July and August.

Library Renovation: The BookCellar is included in the Library's renovation plan. We are working closely with Library staff and the Board of Trustees to minimize disruption during the renovation.

Hospitality Friends Annual Report

The Hospitality Friends had a wonderful time supporting four events this year in conjunction with the BookCellar Friends and the Library Staff. During the BookCellar's Holiday Sale in December, the Hospitality Friends again provided a wide array of hors d'oeuvres and desserts for shoppers at the Book Sale. It added to the festive occasion created by the BookCellar team, a busy fun evening! We were happy to work with the BookCellar managers again in the spring as they celebrated the dedicated BookCellar team at their Volunteer Recognition Tea.

The Hospitality Friends provided support to the library staff as it presented the very successful Luanne Rice event. This event was catered by the terrific Olive Oyl's and Hospitality provided assistance in setup and cleanup. And as always we provided the refreshments for the Annual Meeting of the Friends.

Special thanks go to all the Hospitality Friends who purchased items, baked, assembled, set the serving table, stacked chairs, cleaned up and provided great hospitality to our guests!

Garden Gang's Annual Report

Our garden has begun the shift to pre-renovation status. After discussions with the renovation committee about the inevitable removal of the circle, we came up with our action plan, a careful consideration of the plants and their removal.

We wanted to offer the plants to our dedicated group of volunteers, as a way of thanking them for years of hard work. In April a number of us removed the portable plants for relocation in our volunteers gardens. The thought being they will be lovingly cared for in the years to come. The beautiful maple tree will be relocated on the library grounds. Our circle will be maintained until the time comes for renovation to begin.

The pots at the main entrance to the library will be changed seasonally as usual.

I want to thank all of our volunteers. The gardens enhance the library and the efforts by our volunteers are greatly appreciated.

The garden renovation gives us the opportunity to re envision the gardens. They will be visually beautiful. They will be environmentally responsible. They will provide an educational platform. It's very exciting!

Membership Committee Report

An ad-hoc committee was formed in 2017 to review and advise the Friends' Council on all aspects of membership, including recruiting new members, maintaining a list of current members, membership dues, and defining what a Friend of the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library means.

At the beginning of this year we started with a list of over 300 people that made their way into our database from various avenues. Following the culmination of the list, we identified those who volunteer with Phoebe's Book Cellar, in the gardens, or in supporting the functions of the Friends through hospitality. An email was sent to all parties requesting that the annual form be filled out and submitted. Following that email, we ended with approximately 100 contacts that didn't have a reply on record. Our current lists include approximately 65 Book Cellar, 40 Lifetime, and 100 hospitality. Our goal is to have the list fully cleaned up by 5/31/2019.

A discussion of how a new digital Membership Form could be developed to help with the annual correspondences. Our goal is to have easy, annual, communications with all volunteers to engage them all of our Friends' activities, and to have those interested in continuing their support communicate that by filling out our membership form on an annual basis.

The Membership Committee thanks you all for your dedication to the Library and the work of the Friends - we encourage those that haven't filled out our form this year to do so now!

Nominating Committee Report

Nominations for the Friends Council

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate for the election at the
2019 Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Library:

Name	Position	Term
Martha Shoemaker	Chair	2019-2020 (entering second year of term on council)
Suzy Bolduc	Vice Chair	2019-2020 (entering second year of term on council)
Beth Cote	Member at Large	2019-2021
Claudia Condron	BookCellar Co-Chair	2019-2021
Joan Overfield	BookCellar Co-Chair	2019-2021

Thank you to the following Council Members as they enter their second year of the two year term:

Steven Ross	Treasurer	2018-2020
Suzanne McAuliffe	Secretary	2018-2020
Jennifer Harvill	Member at Large	2018-2020
Julie O'Brien	Member at Large	2018-2020
Eleanor Huffman	Member at Large	2018-2020
Mary Seidner	Member at Large	2018-2020

The following council members are retiring from the Friends Council and we thank them for their years of service:

Leslie Massa

Cheryl Poirier

Anne Roy