

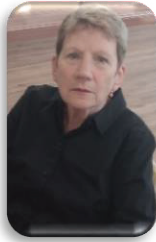
FRIENDS OF THE HUDSON LIBRARY



President's Message

The New Year: Reflections and Resolutions

By Dr. Lynn L. Remly, President



Once again, it's that time: the time for New Year's resolutions. Every year, we swear solemnly to lose 15 pounds, spend less time on social media, and work for world peace. Our good intentions, however, are frequently doomed to an early end, just 3 or 4 days after New Year's.

Yet, as individuals we often use the New Year as a spur to reflection, thinking over the goods and bads of the previous year, and just as often we resolve to bring about realistic changes that in fact make life better.

We do much the same thing as a group (well, not the weight loss). Looking back over 2024, just 4 years past the COVID pandemic, the Friends once again racked up some impressive numbers. For starts, we were able to offer the library \$39,000, or \$2000 more than in 2023. An important step in the right direction.

This past year, our contribution went to programming and materials, as usual, but also toward the purchase of a new vehicle to be used for various library purposes, such as deliveries to homebound patrons, meetings, retirement communities, and trips that once had to be done in private vehicles. It's especially exciting to look forward to such a tangible result of the Friends' donations, one parked right outside the door.

None of this would be possible without our silent partners, the patrons who so generously give us the materials that we sell in our bookstore and online. A particular thanks to these folks, who so kindly offered 1500 donations in 2024, each comprising many boxes of books.

Likewise, no donation to the library—no sales, in fact-- would be possible without the 30 loyal volunteers who organize and shelve the books, creating an accessible and attractive sales room for our patrons. In 2024, our volunteers logged over 3000 hours (!!) of time making the bookstore the beauty it is. Patrons comment all the time on how nice everything looks, how well organized, how extensive our offerings. It's all thanks to the volunteers.

While our volunteer sellers manned the store 3 days a week, our 2 dedicated Amazon sellers logged impressive statistics as well. They sold a total of 334 books online for almost \$8500 net intake-- after postage and fees, both of which had gone up dramatically. Once again, this was pure gravy, since most of our Amazon books could never be sold in the bookstore. How many people are storming the door to purchase a brand-new copy of the 1996 hit "Taking Care of Your Lambs and Her Ewes"? Someone aspiring shepherd out there in the electronic world thought it was worth \$400, and we were happy to agree.

And, it's a fun place to work. Being among people who value books and reading, who care about passing their love onto others, especially the next generations, is a great way to spend one's time. Our Friends Board members—Vice-President Rosanne Thomas, Secretary Katherine Szerdy, Treasurer Mary Keidel, Volunteer Co-Ordinator Bev Dorson, Membership/Publicity Chair Denise Gibson, and At-Large Member Marilyn Orr—are all true believers, and offer their time and talents in support of this good cause.

Now that the New Year is here, we feel that we did well in 2024. We resolve to do even better in 2025, and we invite you to join us.