Hello, Friends! We hope this newsletter finds everyone well. As we all know, this time of year can be very hectic with holidays, family commitments, perhaps new adventures ahead. For FOHCL, it is a time to reflect on the past year and celebrate our accomplishments in support of the Hunterdon County Library. Here’s a look at 2019:

**Fund Raising:**
FOHCL holds two fundraisers each year: our annual book sale and tricky tray basket raffle. This year, both of these events were well-attended and extremely successful, generating over $60,000 combined.

**Gifts:** Here are several wonderful and generous gifts given by FOHCL this year:

- $1,000 Books for the College Bound Scholarships to five Hunterdon County high school graduates.
- $500 to “Best in Show” at the 2019 Outdoor Art Show
- $1,000 to each of the seven affiliate libraries throughout Hunterdon County to be used, at their discretion, for additional programming, books, equipment, etc.
- Sound System upgrade and installation in the NCB meeting room (in progress)
- Plant and container in recognition of the North County Branch 40th anniversary
- Plant and container in recognition of the Bunnvale Library 40th anniversary
- Plant and container in recognition of the Frenchtown Library 100th anniversary.
- Training and refreshments for HCL Staff Development Days
- Prizes for the Annual Gingerbread Contest
- Outdoor picnic table for NCB staff and patrons
- Outdoor garden maintenance at NCB and HQ (Photos show the gardens this October.)
- 60 chairs donated and delivered to the Hunterdon County 4H in appreciation for their support of the annual book sale.

**Programs:** FOHCL sponsored many programs for Friends and patrons to enjoy throughout the year.

- Museum Passes to 8 museums: American Museum of Natural History (NY), The Bucks County Children’s Museum (PA), Eastern State Penitentiary (PA), Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum (NY), Grounds for Sculpture, Hunterdon Art Museum, Morven Museum and Garden, and National Liberty Museum (all NJ)
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programming, equipment, tools and materials at all branches
- Materials for the New Jersey Makers Day Programs at NCB and SCB. (Next year, we will support Makers Day at HQ too.)
- Movies at NCB and HQ, including the 2019 MANHATTAN SHORT Film Festival
- Funding to increase Overdrive credit for ebooks and audiobooks
- Summer/Winter Concert Series held at HQ and NCB
- Fred Miller Concerts
- Kitkeeper Software and expansion of the number of HCL Book kits available to book clubs throughout the county

*Continued on the next page*
Community Outreach: FOHCL, along with several members of HCL staff and the Bookmobile, attended several community days this year. It was so enjoyable meeting residents who were unaware of FOHCL as well as the many programs offered by HCL.

- Hunterdon County Community Day in June
- Corn, Tomato and Beer Festival in July
- Raritan Township Community Day in September

Other: There were several other events, both social and strategic, held by FOHCL. They include:

- 2019 Long-Range Planning Assessment Meeting
- 2019 General Meeting – Oscars at the Library
- 2019 Book Sale Volunteer Reunion Dinner
- 2019 Annual Membership Meeting.

At the Annual Membership Meeting, two officers were elected: Cheryl Moran, who was appointed Secretary to fill a vacancy in that position, was elected to her first full 2-year term. Sandra Gong was elected to a full 2-year term as Vice President. Both Cheryl and Sandra have been active volunteers at the book sale for a number of years along with family members.

Special Thank You: We want to extend our appreciation and farewell to Renee Alliegro who has led the Friends’ Book Discussion Group for 14 years! Renee has moved out of the County and is stepping down. (See our Help Wanted column on page 5.) Thank you, Renee.

As you can see, FOHCL had a very successful, productive 2019 thanks to the efforts of not just the FOHCL Board members, but by all you FOHCL members. Your donations, both monetary and time, help FOHCL to make the Hunterdon County Library one of the best library systems in the state.

On behalf of the Board, thank you and have a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to seeing and talking to everyone in 2020!

~ Vickie and Bob ~

Message from our Library Director

While my last newsletter message was all about moving furniture and creating new spaces, we are also engaged in other exciting projects and tasks. We have recently added two new staff members, a Young Adult/STEM Librarian, Maryjean Riou, and an Emerging Technologies Librarian, Cortney Frank. Maryjean is busy setting up teen programs, coordinating a teen volunteer program, scheduling teen focus groups and developing the young adult collection. Cortney has set up collections in Overdrive based on genres to make it easier for patrons to find titles they are interested in, increased the ordering of downloadable materials and worked diligently on developing training materials for the public and staff.

Another focus of the library is the development of the first strategic plan for the library in a decade. The process takes several months as we work to gather feedback from the staff and public which will shape the creation of our goals and objectives to guide the library for the next three to five years. We would appreciate as many FOHCL members and their families as are interested to answer the survey found at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NQJK2QW by the end of 2019. Focus groups from the library staff as well as other community members and an open Community Conversation held on November 16th at North County Branch all contribute to this effort. We hope to have a strategic plan approved in Spring 2020.

More good news, the Hunterdon County Library System has joined the New Jersey Open Borrowing agreement. As of November 4th, our library card holders are able to check out materials from Warren County Library locations, libraries in the Morris Automated Information Network (M.A.I.N.), Sussex County Library locations, Sparta Library, libraries in the Libraries of Middlesex Automation Consortium (LMXAC) and libraries in the Passaic and Essex Consortium (PALS Plus).

If you want to participate, first visit your local Hunterdon County Library to get a green Open Borrowing sticker. Each library/consortium has their own separate rules about their participation in Open Borrowing, therefore we encourage you to call the library ahead of time if you are looking to borrow a specific item. More information is available at: http://openborrowing.org.

I hope everyone is having a great autumn, and as always, I want to thank you all for your support of our library.

~ James K. Keehbler ~
Our 4th Annual Tricky Tray Basket Raffle on Saturday, October 26, 2019, at the Flemington Elks Lodge was the most successful one yet (both in revenue, which topped $10,000 for the first time, and preparation).

It takes a lot of work to pull together a successful event and we thank all of the FOHCL volunteers as well as employees of the Hunterdon County Library and Support Services who helped make it happen.

Under the capable leadership of Hollie Annatone who created and led the Tricky Tray Event for the last 3 years and new co-chair this year Kathy Cummins, 150 attendees spent the afternoon vying for the baskets and participating in a very successful 50/50 raffle. It was great seeing so many FOHCL members participating and winning baskets along with community attendees, all of whom we hope will return next year!

Nearly 200 baskets including the 3 Grand Prizes were offered, having a variety of themes: holiday, kitchen, seasonal, small appliances, wine, coffee and tea, decorative, sports and household items to name a few.

The response from local businesses and restaurants in the Hunterdon County community was great and the success of our event is a direct result of their support. Many FOHCL volunteers also donated baskets adding to the rich assortment of offerings to the attendees, contributing to the successful outcome.

We thank all our 2019 FOHCL Sponsors, Business Sponsors and FOHCL members, who are too numerous to name here. You know who you are and please know how much we appreciate each and every one of you for your contributions.

Funds raised will be used to provide sponsorship of a variety of library events including the Museum Pass Program, movie nights, musical programs, “Maker’s Day,” youth services and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programs.

**Co-Chairs: Hollie Annatone (left) and Kathy Cummins**

Emily Gunia (pictured below), is a 2015 Delaware Valley H.S. graduate and a recipient of the FOHCL Books for the College Bound Scholarship that year. She graduated from Rutgers School of Nursing in May 2019 with a BS. As soon as she graduated, Emily began spending hours a day for almost six weeks in the Headquarters Library studying to pass the Boards for her RN which she accomplished in July 2019. She is now employed by Capital Health Medical Center, Pediatric Emergency Department, in Hopewell, NJ. Emily won several baskets at this year’s TT. Among the prizes she won was one of the three Grand Prizes for 2019: dinner for two and one mid-week overnight stay at Caesars Resort in Atlantic City which she plans to use for her birthday next year.

At right is Jason Annatone, 2008 Hunterdon Central H.S. graduate and a recipient of the Books for the College Bound Scholarship the same year, with his fiancée Shanna at the 2019 TT. The couple are engaged and plan to be married in September 2020. Both Jason and Shanna have volunteered at all four FOHCL TT events. Jason graduated from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania and is currently working at Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, LLC, which has several locations in Pennsylvania. Photo by JJs Photography

**Helen Brown (above left), FOHCL member, and her friend Ellen Erck have tickets ready to win prizes.**
HCL’s first Makers Days were held at the North and South County Branches in 2015. Our own Library Director James Keehbler, while Director at Piscataway Public Library, was instrumental in founding the NJ Makers Day in 2015 and under his leadership created the first Makers Space in a public library in New Jersey. FOHCL can be very proud that much of Makers Day and STEM programming and tools have been funded by FOHCL events with additional funds coming from various grants.

The South County Branch (SCB) has focused on programs to balance all aspects of STEM/STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, Math). Programs started modestly in 2015 at the first NJ Makers Day with a handful of presenters and activities. This year more than 20 demonstrations, workshops and activities for all ages, from toddler to adult, were offered to the more than 100 members of the public who participated. Four summer STEM afternoons, with various themes tied into the Summer Reading Program, have been offered at SCB annually since 2017. During these afternoons children can hear (and read) stories, learn a bit of science and build a project to take home.

The North County Branch (NCB) Library STEM programming has expanded from its annual Makers Day event and monthly LEGO clubs to add coding clubs, summer STEM for 6-8th graders, family STEM events and 3D printing classes in 2019.

Adding coding clubs is responding to the American Library Association (ALA) initiative, Ready to Code, which recognizes that children need to learn computational thinking skills for 21st Century jobs. Classes in micro:bits teach patrons how to code the microprocessors, then allow them to take them home for additional learning. HCL is the first public library in New Jersey to circulate micro:bits.

Families participated in Leap Into Science Workshops developed by the Franklin Institute that combine a story time with hands-on experiments all focused on teaching a science theme. During NCB’s Mooniversary this year in July, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on July 16, 1969, families designed space suits, constructed newspaper lunar homes and ate moon pies.

Over 100 6th-8th graders participated in a 7 class summer series using NASA engineering in the classroom curriculum. Team projects included parachute design, water filtration challenge, DVD hovercraft and pasta rovers.

Classes in 3D printing walk participants through the entire process so they design, learn how to “slice” and finally print a name tag on the library’s Prusa printer. From replacement game pieces to assistive devices for a speech therapist, a wide range of over 50 items have been printed at NCB this year.

Headquarters library recently received two maker items: a sewing machine and button maker. With a growing collection of Maker Tools at each of the three locations, patrons of all ages have the chance to learn a new skill, whether it be hi-tech with programming and robotics, or lo-tech with sewing, crafting or cooking.

The 2020 Makers Days at the North and South County Branches will be Saturday, March 21, and, for the first time, Makers Day will be offered at HQ on Saturday, March 28. Details will be announced early next year.

Thank you to Hunterdon County Librarians Maryjean Riou and Sandy Janosik and Library Assistant Marianne Sievers for this description of HCL Makers Days and the Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) programs being offered at the three branches.
Have you ever wondered....

Another year will soon be coming to a close and you realize that your plans to make new friends, to become more involved in your community, or to offer your talents to help a worthy non-profit organization never came to fruition. Perhaps you didn’t know where to start, or didn’t have the time or desire to attend weekly meetings.

If you are reading this publication then you are probably a user and supporter of libraries and know that the Friends of the Hunterdon County Library is a non-profit organization whose goal is to promote and enhance services that our libraries offer.

Over the years the Friends annual book sale has raised over $1,000,000! Money has been used for summer concerts and movie nights, art shows and STEM initiatives, a grand piano and sound system, and for carpeting and moving expenses. This is possible due to the generosity of this community, and people willing to donate both their time and talents.

The Friends understand that people want to become involved but are not sure how. Today we are here to say if you have the time and desire to help, we will help you to find a role in this organization!

Currently we are looking to create a committee that will help with press releases, promote the organization via social media, take photos at events that we sponsor, create displays for the Annual Book Sale and/or Tricky Tray, and create posters and flyers to publicize events. A long list of options for sure but they do not require weekly or monthly meetings 😊.

Here are some additional areas that FOHCL welcomes support with:

- Committee Chair for Museum Passes Program
- Committee Chair for Programs
- FOHCL Book Discussion Club Leader

If you want to be involved with FOHCL but prefer not to chair a committee, please reserve some days in April 2020 to volunteer with the annual book sale. This is our largest fundraiser and we can always use your support and time. There is no minimum number of hours to volunteer... 2 hours or everyday all month ... your time is appreciated. Please feel free to contact Vickie Volyn at fohelbooksale@gmail.com to see how you can help support the book sale.

To learn more about FOHCL, visit us at webpage, www.hclibrary.us. If you would like to share in the work and enjoy some comradery along the way, please contact us at fohelfriends@gmail.com or call 908-788-1434. We will be happy to describe the work and put you together with the previous lead person for orientation.

Maryann Isham
### Meeting Dates

**2020 Winter/Spring**

HQ = Headquarters Library; NCB = North County Branch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>HQ, 6:45 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>HQ, 9:30 am</td>
<td>Collate Newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>NCB, 6:45 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>HQ, 6:45 pm</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Book Sale Lease at South County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(begins and ends Wednesday, April 28)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11 &amp; 18</td>
<td>Book Drives at South County Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Preview Sale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25 &amp; 26</td>
<td>Book Sale Days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Bag Sale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### More FOHCL

**Here’s a quote we like:** “I got my first chapter book from the Library Bookmobile,” said a woman stopping by the FOHCL display at the Hunterdon County Library Bookmobile at the Raritan Township Community Day.

**24th Annual Book Sale Dates Announced:** We are pleased to announce that the dates of our 24th annual book sale are April 24-27, 2020. The location remains the same - The Grange at South County Park.

Information about volunteering, donating books and book sale hours will be featured in our Winter Newsletter coming out in February.

### FOHCL Membership Application

**Sign up for:**

- Individual Membership $8.00
- Family Membership $15.00
- Student Membership $4.00
- Senior Membership (62 or over) $4.00
- Patron $35.00
- Sustaining Member $100.00

**Total Enclosed:** __________

**Are you a:**

- [ ] New Member
- [ ] Renewing Member

**Method of Payment:**

- [ ] Check enclosed. Make check payable to FOHCL.

**Name**

**Address**

**City/State/Zip**

**Phone**

**Email**

If you can help with a committee, please check those matching your interest. The committee chairperson will contact you.

- [ ] Book Sale
- [ ] Program/Hospitality
- [ ] Membership
- [ ] Newsletter/Publicity
- [ ] Outreach
- [ ] Textbook Scholarship

Please print and drop off this application at any of our libraries (see p. 5) or mail to:

The Friends of the Hunterdon County Library, 314 State Route 12, Building # 3, Flemington, NJ 08822