

Friends of the Lodi Public Library Bookstore Annual Report - December 2018

It's been a busy year in the Friends Bookstore with plentiful donations, eager customers, new volunteers, and lots of special displays and events. Here's a brief summary:

DISPLAYS FEATURED IN 2018 included the following: From Russia with Love, Vintage Children's Books, Cookbooks, Health, Fitness, and Self-Help, Classic Literature, Military History, Christian Fiction, Movies on DVD, Sports, and Children's' Holiday Books.



We also participated in the **GREAT AMERICAN READ** with a large display from the list of America's favorite novels, about 80 of the 100 titles. Episodes of the program and other features are still available here:

<https://www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read/home/>

Customers also seem to enjoy our many regular sections of items such as children's books, memoirs, fantasy and science fiction, puzzles, greeting cards, audiobooks, CDs and DVDs, large print books, classics, teen books, and every category of non-fiction you can name!

HALLWAY AND LOBBY RE-ORGANIZED

The shelving in the hallway outside the bookstore has provided much needed space for fiction. Non-fiction in the lobby has been organized by subjects similar to those in the bookstore. The shelves are labeled to make it easier for customers to find specific types of books. We're working to improve the overall quality of offerings in the lobby and, thanks to abundant donations, we can be more selective.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT ALL WORK! This year we've added seven new volunteers to our roster of active bookstore workers, which now totals 59 hard-working folks. As Sharon Seegmiller retires from scheduling duties, we are moving to a system with mostly regularly assigned shifts. Debbie George will be taking over scheduling duties beginning in January the year. And we couldn't manage without the tireless efforts of volunteers who work primarily in the back room sorting donations, restocking the lobby, and assisting with all sorts of projects to enhance the bookstore's appearance and operation. Friends volunteers worked a total of 4,532 hours in 2018. Thank you all!

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES: In February we started offering "rewards cards" to members of the Friends of the Library. Each paid-up member received a card in the mail that entitles them to a \$1 discount after \$10 in purchases.

In May we initiated a new promotion, "**Thrifty Thursday**," with EVERYTHING 50% off in the bookstore, lobby, and hallway on the 2nd Thursday of each month. This has been very popular and we typically earn over \$200 each month, in addition to regular bookstore sales on those days.



BOOK SALES have been terrific this year, with an average month's earnings over \$2,500. The special sales help, of course, as well as publicity on Facebook and elsewhere. Please take a look and "Like Us" here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Lodi-Public-Library-Bookstore-1375156339460167/>

Special thanks to the Lodi Library staff, who assist us in every way possible and graciously accommodate our presence in their workspace. We're looking forward to a successful 2019 in the Friends of the Library Bookstore! *Diane Freggiaro and Deborah Westler, Co-Managers*