

Friends of the Meriden Public Library

In January of 1984 a dedicated group of Library supporters formed and incorporated a not for profit organizations called the Friends of the Meriden Public Library, Inc. It was formed to: “maintain an association of persons and organizations interested in the Library; to focus public attention on the Library; to stimulate use of the Library’s resources and services; to receive and encourage gifts, endowments and bequests to the Library; to cooperate with the Library in developing Library services and facilities for the community; to support freedom to read; and to do all other things consistent with law” (taken from Certificate of Incorporation dated January 27, 1984).

During the past 35 years the group has raised and given to the Meriden Public Library over \$250,000.00. They have operated a used bookstore (beginning in 1994) in several downtown locations and are now housed in the Library. This bookstore is staffed and run totally by volunteers and operates six days a week .Other activities through the years have included: book signings, garden tours, operating a gift shop, operating a coffee shop, hosting a cable T.V. show, selling books on the internet and participating in numerous civic events.

They have also secured grants from several foundations for the support of the Meriden Library.

The Friends have supplied the funds for most children and adult programs held at the Library during the past 35 years. They also pay for museum passes that are used by Library patrons and have participated in the “Books for Babies” Program (an American Library Association Program) in conjunction with Midstate Medical Center.

The Friends have also given several large gifts to the Library including: a new information desk and audiovisual system for the Griffin Room.

In 2017, when the Library Building Review Committee was formed by the Meriden City Council, the Friends were designated as the fund raising body for this venture. They set up a designated fund with the Community Foundation of Central Connecticut and have been raising funds through special events during

the past two years. Once plans are adopted by the city for a renovated Library, they will begin major fund raising.

Early in 2019, the Friends received a large gift from Temple B'nai Abraham to create and maintain a Holocaust Collection as a designated area within the Library. The creation of this area is currently underway and the established endowment will enable Meriden residents to learn about the World War II Holocaust and other genocides for generations to come.

The Friends of the Meriden Public Library look forward to many years of continued service to and support of our Library.