



October 20, 2021

On behalf of the Executive Board and membership of the Friends of Tucker Free Library I am very pleased and honored to accept the NHLTA Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Support by a “Friends of the Library” Group. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Trustees of the Tucker Free Library for nominating us for this award. The nomination package was extensive, thoughtfully prepared, and represents a significant investment of time and collaboration by the Trustees. It’s wonderful to feel so appreciated.

Some time ago (maybe late 2018?) I remember attending an event about the library building project, along with handful of other people. Some of us wrote our names on a clipboard expressing an interest in helping – and before we knew it, the new Friends of Tucker Free Library were “a thing.” We were assigned roles with formal titles of Chair, Vice Chair, Past Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. We even had a liaison to the Board of Trustees. Personally, I thought “helping” might involve some gardening, baking a few cookies, and possibly volunteering at a book sale (which may yet come to be!) I don’t think any of us anticipated our group would be so official and would have done so much in two short years – or that we’d have so much fun doing it. We certainly never dreamed we’d be receiving State-wide recognition.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic was an abrupt shift into isolation and a sudden end of so many things we’ve all come to rely on and take for granted in our daily lives. However, it also sparked creativity and inspired us to connect with each other in new ways. Indefinite closure of the library building challenged the Friends to find ways to maintain support of the library presence in our community. It wasn’t until reading the nomination document that I realized just how many ways the Friends made a difference and achieved that objective. It’s important to recognize and acknowledge that none of those achievements would have been possible without the financial support and volunteer efforts of our membership. THANK YOU. The nomination refers to the Friends as “a group of like-minded individuals, who love the Tucker Free Library as much as the director, the staff, and the trustees” who “helped the director and staff find the strength and fresh perspective to keep moving forward” throughout the pandemic. This was - and is - unquestionably a reciprocal relationship. Lynn encouraged us to continue to hold our monthly Executive Board meetings in spite of the world grinding to a halt. In fact, Lynn choreographed the technology to make these meetings happen virtually. Throughout the pandemic building closure, the Tucker Free Library staff were very much present and hard at work, albeit behind closed doors, makeshift shower curtain protective shields, and masks. The energy and dedication of Lynn and the library staff inspired us to continue our mission.

As part of the Library Ambassador initiative, many of us have signs in our front yards that start off saying: “Yep – books, but so much more”. Tucker Free Library is assuredly much more than just a building full of books.

- It’s an escape, a new adventure, or a mystery to solve in a work of fiction.
- It’s a place to check out the latest issue of Yankee Magazine, or other favorite periodical.
- It’s a refuge to catch up on correspondence away from the everyday chaos.
- It’s the start of a new job search on the computer.
- It’s an array of movie entertainment choices for the weekend.
- It’s a quiet safe place to do homework after school – or play a game with friends.
- It’s a venue for an interesting talk by a local writer or historian.
- It’s a fun destination with young children for story time and crafts.
- It’s the connection with a friend while perusing the shelf of new materials.

- It's a comfortable chair in which to catch up on the latest news of the world - or even have a surreptitious nap!

So, yes, Tucker Free Library is all of these tangible things, but it is also the people who love it. It is ALL of us. It's the heart of our community.

We look forward to seeing membership growth and more positive impact in our community as the Friends continue to partner with and provide "outstanding support" to the Tucker Free Library projects and programs. I encourage anyone who may not yet be a "Friend" to join us. Together we can accomplish great things.

Thank you for your appreciation, your encouragement, and for honoring us with this award.

Naomi Praul
Chair

CELEBRATING OUR FRIENDS



Naomi Praul, Chair



Sylvia Lennox, Vice Chair



Rob Reno, Secretary



Mary Corsetti, Past Chair & Friend Emeritus



Ellen Chase-Lucard, Past Treasurer



Gwen Airgood, Treasurer



Anne Crotti, Trustee/Friend Liaison



FRIENDS OF TUCKER FREE
SUPPORTING A QUALITY LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

WINNERS OF THE
SUE PALMATIER AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT BY A
"FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY" GROUP, BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
LIBRARY TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS