



**Tucker Free Library**  
**2018 NHLTA Library of the Year**  
31 Western Avenue  
PO Box 688  
Henniker, NH 03242  
(603) 428-3471  
[www.tuckerfreelibrary.org](http://www.tuckerfreelibrary.org)

**Name and position of the individual or name of the group nominated:**

We, the Trustees of the Tucker Free Library, nominate the Friends of Tucker Free Library for the Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Support by a "Friends of the Library" Group






**Name and address of library:**

Tucker Free Library, PO Box 688, Henniker, NH 03242

**Name, phone, email and mailing address of the contact person. The contact must be a member of the trustee board:**

Anne Crotti, Secretary and Board Liaison to the Friends of Tucker Free Library  
414 Davison Road  
Henniker, NH 03242  
[viv4sns@aol.com](mailto:viv4sns@aol.com)  
203-598-6112

**List of current board members who support the nomination of the Friends of Tucker Free Library:**

TRUSTEE	SIGNATURE	ENDORSEMENT
John Capuco		"Let's nominate the Friends for all they have done!"
Anne Crotti		"Yes, the Friends truly deserve this nomination!"
Debra Kreutzer		"I'm in - think we should do it."
E. Joseph Petrick		"Sounds like a worthy and prudent investment. I vote yes."
Frances Tain		"Perfect! I agree and the Friends truly do deserve the recognition!"

**Narrative supporting the nomination, limited to four (4) pages of text:**

See pages 2-5

**Additional supporting material, up to 10 pages in length, may be scanned and submitted with the nomination:**

Submission deadline is July 31, 2021

Email to: [nhlibrarytrustees@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:nhlibrarytrustees@nhmunicipal.org)

# SUPPORTING NARRATIVE

## WHY OUR FRIENDS GROUP DESERVES RECOGNITION

The Trustees of the Tucker Free Library are proud to nominate the Friends of Tucker Free Library for the Sue Palmatier Award for Outstanding Support by a "Friends of the Library" Group.

The Friends of Tucker Free Library (FTFL) reconstituted as an organization after many years of dormancy in early 2019. Most of the individuals who attended the first organizational meeting came following open houses the trustees hosted to garner support for a library building project. These individuals came to the meeting knowing that they were going to be asked to do a lot of heavy lifting. Yet, they came and listened and signed on to re-form the FTFL that had been defunct for eight plus years.

Anyone who attended that meeting will recount with a chuckle, the impassioned plea our library director made: please consider serving on the board, "for just six months." It was an ambitious plan that the director had: reconstitute under old by-laws, review and recommend changes to said by-laws to the general members at an annual meeting, elect an executive board at that meeting, and apply for the coveted 501 c 3.

Not only did the Friends achieve all their goals, they also took it upon themselves to co-host gatherings with the Henniker Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce. They offered support to the library staff and trustees at multiple building project community listening sessions. At their Annual Meeting in October of 2019 everyone on the Executive Board agreed to continue serving for a one-year term. So much for the six-month commitment!

And then COVID hit.

# FRIENDS OF TUCKER FREE LIBRARY

## WHO ARE THE FRIENDS

An initial meeting attracted some members of a past Friends group. These Friends hadn't been active for many years. These attendees were surprised at how much the re-formation of the group would entail. For example, the new group would grow from running bake, book and flower sales to dealing with documents for establishing a 501 c 3, updating by-laws and creating a Memorandum of Understanding with the trustees and being accountable for official government documents. They would also be challenged with growing their membership and supporting the director, staff and trustees with an upcoming building project.

It wasn't long before the group was all in. These are busy folks who support the library with time and talent. They use words and deeds to work alongside the trustees, the director and staff to further the vision and mission of the library in our community.

And all this continued during a world-wide pandemic. The group found ways to pivot and re-invent as the months passed. Coming out of the 2020 Pandemic our Friends board is strong with community connections.

# FRIENDS OF TUCKER FREE LIBRARY

## A CORE GROUP OF LIBRARY SUPPORTERS FULFILLING THEIR MISSION

Our director is often heard saying that the Trustees of the Tucker Free Library support the skeletal and muscular foundation of the library but the Friends of Tucker Free Library support the heartbeat and soul of the library. Plain and simple, the Friends get to meet (and have fun doing so), make decision (which always make people happy), raise funds (through a simple ask), and spend money (making the library look great!) Our Friends group does this with kindness, humor, ingenuity and with generosity that promotes the library and satisfies their mission of:

“providing a public organization for the purpose of enhancing the Tucker Free Library’s goal of providing the residents of Henniker with a center for information that stimulates the knowledge, culture and pure enjoyment of reading and learning. “

Growing from a small group of library patrons, the Friends have planted the seed and continue to increase their membership through their highly visible advocacy of all things library.

# FRIENDS OF TUCKER FREE LIBRARY

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Especially during this difficult time of fear and uncertainty due to the COVID 19 pandemic, we appreciate the way that our Friends group has stepped up to help the Tucker Free Library continue to reach out to the Henniker community. Examples of their impact include:

- **Motivational messaging initiative in the early days of the pandemic closures.** During the early days of the COVID shutdown, the Friends decided to put out positive messages to our community. After many humorous emails, the Friends came up with a list of positive messages that they regularly updated and posted on a sign on the front steps of the library.
- **A steady supply of cookies** to library staff members who were struggling to keep their spirits up and their heads above the pandemic tsunami.
- **Decking the halls for the first annual Holiday Decorating contest.** In support of our new Town Administrator our director asked the Friends to fund and help decorate the library for the first ever “Henniker Holiday Decorating” contest. While we didn’t win a prize, we definitely felt the holiday spirit during what was a bleak time... You can see the video of Friends having fun decorating at: <https://youtu.be/lwhxL6ah5fM>
- **“Friends helping Friends” raffle.** During the summer of 2020, when most of us were sheltering in place and our Henniker businesses were struggling, the Friends came up with the plan to help our patrons and local eateries with weekly gift certificate drawings. For twelve weeks, staff had the pleasure of making someone’s day with a Saturday morning call proclaiming them winners!
- **“Mud Season” raffle.** To boost the spirits of our library patrons while they waited patiently for COVID restrictions to be lifted, the Friends had us change our thinking from winter to spring. They sponsored another raffle, this time to local garden supply centers. Again, their thought was to help patrons and local businesses struggling through the pandemic.

- **“Take and Make”** activity bags originating in the Children’s Department were supported by the Friends.
- **8 virtual Sundays** at the Library, hosted by the Friends, helped put Tucker Free Library back on the map in Henniker and well beyond.

As we emerge from pandemic restrictions, the Friends have been very quick to support activities and library visibility and re-introduction to the entire Henniker community. Their support includes:

- Pledged to fund the **2021 Summer Reading Reward** program, including reimbursing local businesses who participate in the Token Reward program and funding the **“Checkin and Checkout” raffle** for adults. This raffle helps celebrate the return to normal library services and invites patrons to see what the Tucker Free Library is all about!
- The Friends are integral partners in the **Library Ambassador** initiative. When the director shared that Tucker Free would be receiving ARPA funds from the State Library, in the nature of true library ambassadors, the Friends asked how the money could be spent. The director floated two ideas, one for a marketing/public relations campaign and the other was a STEAM kit project. The Friends replied, “Let’s do both!” At their meeting, they endorsed the marketing/public relations campaign as the ARPA project and agreed to use Friends’ money to create STEAM kits for checkout! They attended a trustee meeting to show their support for both projects which were then endorsed by the board!
- **They funded over \$800 in STEAM engagers**, allowing for the creation of 30 circulating kits ranging in content from bongos to art supplies, from microscopes to architect tools, from yoga mats to coding mice! The complete list of STEAM engagers can be seen [here](#).
- They stepped in as integral partners in the **Outdoor Programming Space Exploration Team**. When the director shared information about the Round 1 ARPA sub grants, there was also discussion about the money available in a competitive Round 2 for ARPA funds. The director said, “wouldn’t it be great if we could create an outdoor programming space in the front of the building.” The Friends endorsed this idea with two members volunteering to work with the director to lay the groundwork for this project.

## FRIENDS OF TUCKER FREE LIBRARY

### DESERVING THE RECOGNITION

Throughout the pandemic the Friends buoyed our director, providing relief from the grind of managing a library during the crisis and allowed for moments to dream bigger, to think outside of the (ab)normal box, and to just have a virtual cuppa Joe early on a Saturday morning with a group of like-minded individuals, who love the Tucker Free Library as much as the director, the staff, and the trustees! The Friends all have a great sense of humor, and through the pandemic ordeal they helped the director and staff find the strength and fresh perspective to keep moving forward.

Mary Corsetti and Sylvia Lennox were members of the original Friends group. They were joined by newcomers Rob Reno, Ellen Chase-Lucard, and Naomi Praul. When our treasurer resigned early this year, we put out a call for a replacement and Gwen Airgood sent a letter expressing her interest. She joined the Friends in 2021 and has already made significant contributions to the group. There were members at large who have also contributed including Frances Tain (who is now a Board member), Bethany Newcomb, and Patricia Ball. Anne Crotti has served as Board Liaison since the beginning. These individuals have worked together to create something special in Henniker, growing their membership with each activity, newsletter release, and visible act. As a demonstrable testament to their significant impact, during the membership initiative of 2020, sixty-six percent of all new members contributed more than the suggested donation of \$20.00.

They may be a relatively “new” Friends group but they have made a huge impact. They continue in the tradition of the previous Friends group (circa 1976). Their name implies a certain level of comradery but the Friends truly give so much more.



(L-R: Ellen Chase-Lucard, Mary Corsetti, Naomi Praul, Sylvia Lennox, Rob Reno after they were affirmed as members of the Executive Board during the 2019 Annual Meeting in November)

# FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS!

A special program sponsored by the Friends of Tucker

**TIMES HAVE BEEN TOUGH SO... THE TUCKER FREE FRIENDS DECIDED TO HELP OUR LOCAL EATERIES, AWARD WINNING LIBRARY, AND LIBRARY PATRONS!**



LET'S HAVE  
SOME SUMMER  
FUN ADULT  
LIBRARY USERS!



**ADULT PATRONS ARE AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED IN THE WEEKLY DRAWING WHEN THEY CHECK OUT ITEMS FROM THE MAIN FLOOR.**

- Small print... The more visits to the library when you check out an adult item, the greater your chance to win but, only one win per summer.
- Winner's Choice. Weekly winners will select one gift card from a local eatery of choice until all the gift cards are spoken for.
- Winners will be notified on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 PM. If the prize is not claimed by the next Saturday at 1:30 PM the win is forfeited.
- This promotion will begin **July 6th** and continue throughout the summer and end when all the gift cards have been claimed!

## SPONSORS

Colby Hill Inn  
Daniel's Restaurant & Pub  
Intervale Pancake House  
Intervale Ice Cream  
Western Ave Pizzeria

## FRIENDS

Abby's Café  
All-In-One Market  
Gin Gin  
Pat' Peak Sun Pub  
Sonny's Main St Restaurant

PSST! YES, YOU...

**The Friends of Tucker Free Library need your help.**

**It will only involve a few minutes. We promise.**

**Please attend our Annual Meeting!**



**Because you are a member, you can help us:**

- Elect our officers for 2021
- Reaffirm our By-Laws
- Learn about all we have accomplished in 2020

**You don't even have to leave your comfy chair!**

Sunday, December 6, 2020 AT 2 PM Via ZOOM

Login details on the Friends' page of the library website:

<http://www.tuckerfreelibrary.org/join-the-friends/>

**THANKS FOR BEING A FRIEND OF TUCKER FREE LIBRARY**

# Friends of Tucker Free Library—Annual Report 2020

## A message from our Chair, Sylvia Lennox

I feel so honored to have worked with the dedicated board members in reviving The Friends of Tucker Free Library this past year. I also want to thank the TFL Board of Trustees and the TFL Library staff, especially Lynn Piotrowicz who has been an inspiration to us all.

And a big thank you to all of our new "Friends of TFL" for your love and support of Tucker Free Library!

I now pass the baton to our new chair, Naomi Praul. May your tenure be successful!

## Financial Overview from our Treasurer

501 (c)(3) Status obtained June 14, 2019

Membership statistics as of 11/12/2020

	Bank Account Balance	Pay Pal Balance	Expenditures	
As of 1/1/2020	\$565.10	\$0	Kid's Summer Craft Supplies	\$86.00
As of 11/12/2020	\$2,691.93	\$822.92	Adult Summer Raffle	\$150.00
			Membership Materials	\$ 91.58
			Henniker Holiday Spirit Supplies	\$240.84

### 2020 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sylvia Lennox	Chair
Naomi Praul	Vice Chair
Rob Reno	Secretary
Ellen Chase Lucard	Treasurer
Mary Corsetti	Chair, Emeritus
Fran Tain	Member-at-Large
Bethany Newcomb	Member-at-Large

Percent	Membership Type	# of Members	Memberships Received	Donations received through PayPal minus service fee	Donations
100.00%	All Members	48	\$2,097.95	\$932.95	\$1,165.00
33.33%	Basic Member (gave the minimum donation of \$20.00)	16	\$320.00	\$319.12	\$0.00
66.67%	Contributing Member (gave in amounts over the minimum donation of \$20.00)	32	\$640.00	\$613.83	\$1,165.00

THANKS FOR BEING A **FRIEND** OF TUCKER FREE LIBRARY



## 2020 has been a miserable year, yet we had some significant accomplishments!

### January & February

- Finalized the Memo of Understanding between the Trustees and the Friends
- Collaborated with the Trustees on the Capital Campaign for the Building Project and the preparation for Town Meeting
- Continued to acquire new memberships

### March & April

- Membership roster continued to grow
- Treasurer filed 1099 to IRS for the annual 501-C3 reporting and prepared to file the annual report with the NH Secretary of State Charitable Trust Division
- The Friends continued to meet via Zoom and actively supported the Director and Trustees as the uncertainty of the Coronavirus Pandemic evolved

### May & June

- As the library continued to respond to the restrictions put in place during this time, the Friends monitored front porch signage to promote the "virtual" services, the library web site, and offer words of inspiration to our community
- In May, board members attended a "United for Libraries" webinar review, taking ideas for organizational growth to the group
- Members of the Friends' board offered to assist with home deliveries for patrons who could not take advantage of curbside service

### July & August

- In July the Friends began preparation for the second Annual Meeting (via Zoom) to vote in the officers
- The Friends provided financial support for the TFL Kids Summer Program
- The Friends provided financial support for the popular Library Summer Gift Card raffle for patrons
- The Friends also began to discuss and investigate the possibility of acquiring the NH Humanities for Library programming

### September to Present

- Finally, plans for re-opening the building began
- The Chair of the Friends attended a walk-through pre-opening
- At this point, the Friends of the Tucker Free Library membership continues to grow and the Friends continue to welcome new members and ideas for moving forward
- Participated in the Henniker Holiday Spirit initiative, purchasing and decorating the exterior of the library

## Looking forward to 2021...

### OUR GOALS

- Conduct a 2021 membership drive & exceed 2020!
- Work with library staff to produce a monthly newsletter
- Host virtual Sunday programs Sunday afternoons



Thank you for attending our  
Annual Meeting!

## THE CONNECTICUT: New England's Great River

Presented Virtually by Adair Mulligan and Hosted by the Friends of the Library



Virtual Sundays at the Library

January 10 @ 2 PM



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
humanities

## Oil, Ice and Bone: Arctic Whaler Nathaniel Ransom

Presented Virtually by Helen Frink and Hosted by the Friends of the Library



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
humanities

Tucker Free Library's Virtual  
Sundays at the Library

January 31 @ 2 PM



## LIFE DOWNSTAIRS BRITISH SERVANT CULTURE IN FACT, FICTION, AND FILM

Presented Virtually by Prof. Ann McClellan and  
Hosted by the Friends of the Library

SUNDAYS AT THE LIBRARY  
FEBRUARY 7TH @ 2 PM



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
humanities

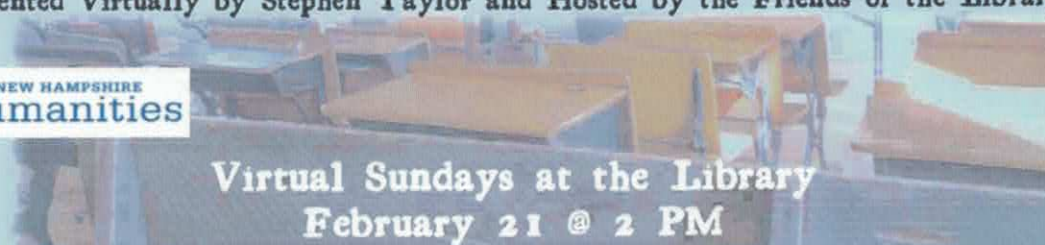
## New Hampshire's One-Room Rural Schools:

The Romance and the Reality

Presented Virtually by Stephen Taylor and Hosted by the Friends of the Library



Virtual Sundays at the Library  
February 21 @ 2 PM



## The Founding Fathers: What Were They Thinking?

Presented Virtually by Richard Hesse and Hosted by the Friends of the Library



Tucker Free Library  
Sundays at the Library  
March 7th at 2 PM

## The History of Agriculture as Told by Barns

Presented Virtually by John C. Porter and Hosted by the Friends of the Library

March 28th @ 2 PM

Tucker Free Library  
Sundays at the Library

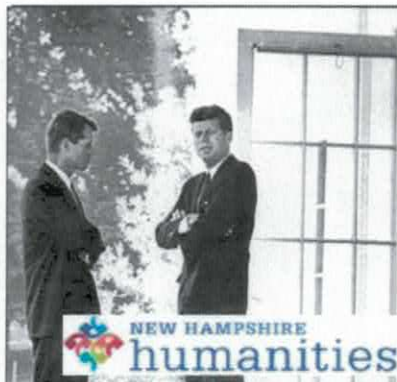


## (Not So) Elementary, My Dear Watson: The Popularity of SHERLOCK HOLMES

Presented Virtually by Ann McClellan  
and Hosted by the Friends of the Library



Tucker Free Library  
Sundays at the Library  
April 11 @ 2 PM



## THIRTEEN DAYS IN OCTOBER: The Untold Cuban Missile Crisis Story

Presented Virtually by Michael Tougias  
and Hosted by the Friends of the Library



Tucker Free Library  
Sundays at the Library  
April 18 @ 2 PM

# FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS!

The Friends of Tucker Free want to help our local garden supply shops and library patrons beat the winter doldrums by thinking **SPRING!**



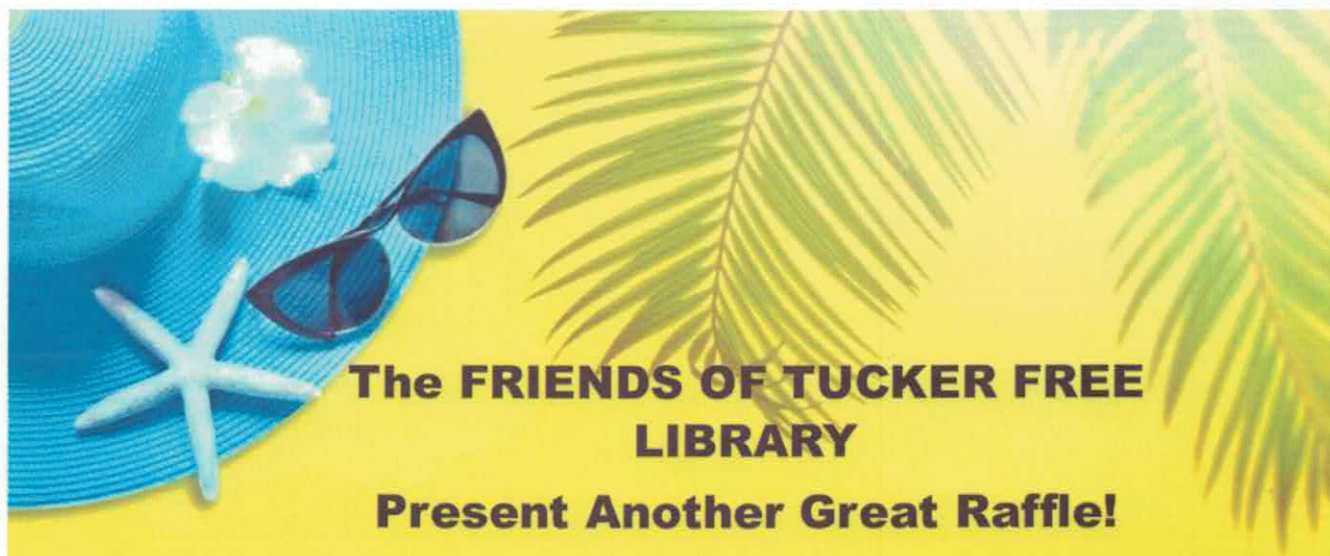
**ADULT PATRONS ARE AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED IN THE WEEKLY DRAWING WHEN THEY CHECK OUT ITEMS FROM THE MAIN FLOOR.**

- This promotion will begin **March 21st** and continue for 6 weeks.
- Winners will be notified each week on Saturday. If the prize is not claimed by the next Saturday at 10:00 AM the win is forfeited.
- Winner's Choice. Weekly winners may select one gift card until all the gift cards are spoken for.
- Small print. The more visits to the library when you check out an adult item, the greater your chance to win but, you can only win once.

## Gift Cards

Edmunds Ace Hardware  
StoneFalls Gardens  
Henniker Farm & Country





**The FRIENDS OF TUCKER FREE  
LIBRARY**

**Present Another Great Raffle!**

**CHECK IN**

**Climb the stairs...  
Cross the threshold...  
Peek beyond the stacks...**



**and CHECK OUT**

**All the reason WE Love Tucker Free Library!**

**Gift Cards from our Friendly Neighbors:**

**SuperScoops of Henniker**

**Daniels Restaurant & Pub**

**Country Spirit Restaurant & Tavern**

**ADULT PATRONS ARE AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED IN THE WEEKLY DRAWING WHEN THEY CHECK OUT ITEMS FROM THE MAIN FLOOR.**

- Small print... The more visits to the library when you check out an adult item, the greater your chance to win but, only one win per summer. Weekly winners will select one gift card of choice until all the gift cards are spoken for.
- Drawings every Saturday morning starting June 26st.