By joining the Friends, you help fund the programs, events, projects, and materials not included in the Library budget.

Consider these "extras" — how much they add to the Library's value and fulfill its potential to serve, enrich, and inspire our community.

Art Workshops (preschoolers to senior citizens)

"Let's Pretend" (ages 6-36 months)

"Telling Tales" (ages 3-6 years)

Summer Reading Game for school-age children

Adult and Children's Book Clubs

"Storylining: Making Maps with Stories" (ages 7-12)

Author Talks

Short Story Reading Group

"Read, Watch, Discuss" film/book series

"Stories That Speak" read-aloud series

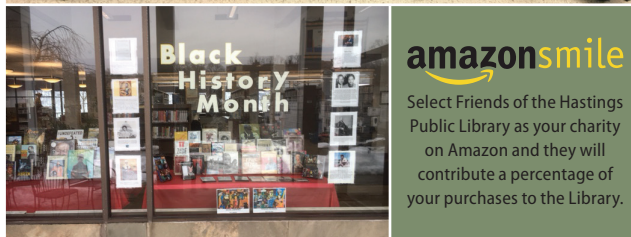"The Gamut" Annual Lecture Series

"Write Now" Creative Writing Workshop

Knitting Groups for Kids & Adults

Corner Book Shop

Used Book Sales

Holiday Giftique

Annual Gala (tba)

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Select Friends of the Hastings Public Library as your charity on Amazon and they will contribute a percentage of your purchases to the Library.

Friends
of the
Hastings Public Library

Every day our dauntless volunteers muster ingenuity and imagination to help the Library fulfill its promise of access, service, and opportunity.

Join us today.

"What other single institution can do so much good?"
— Liz Kidera, Crystal Lake, Ill.

March 2023

Dear Friends:

The above quote is among hundreds of comments received by The New York Times in response to its Feb. 14 "Love Letter to Libraries," a photo essay documenting the vitality and versatility of libraries across the country. The images, along with the accompanying text, unleashed a wellspring of responses from readers; the writers chose this irreducible observation to sum up how libraries better our lives.

In past years, the Friends' spring letter has been one way to trumpet all the outstanding programming and extensive upgrades that the organization supports at the Hastings Library and, on that basis, to appeal for your renewed membership. But the Times article paints the bigger picture, underscoring the universal value of this cultural, educational, and social resource, and why, with a chronic shortage of government funding, your individual support is critical.

In other ways, here in Hastings we have an embarrassment of riches: a superb library director with the calm and management skills befitting a former nursery school teacher, and a remarkable wellspring of resident talent and expertise to draw upon. Recent presentations by local authors and filmmakers have filled the Orr Room to overflowing — a joyous manifestation of the Library as promoter and proud showcase of this community's human capital.

Further expanding the Library's services, of late we have partnered with the Westchester County Board of Elections to become an early voting site. We are thrilled to provide more access to — and hopefully greater participation in — the democratic process.

Visit the Library's website to see the ongoing and upcoming opportunities to engage and explore — everything from book clubs to knitting lessons to story times. Of note: a nascent "New Caregivers Club" and a save-the-date post for the Friends' annual gala (as many of you know from experience, more like a giddy book-lovers' block party), set for Sunday, June 4. Remember that while the Village budget keeps the lights on, the Library's energy is fueled by the Friends — our dedication to an inquisitive, diverse public and institution of "so much good."

Invest with us in the belief that libraries are essential. As the Times put it, "What we borrow from them pales in comparison to what we keep."

Michèle Ankuda

Michèle Ankuda
President
Friends of the Hastings Public Library