

# Friends of the Agawam Public Library



**Spring, 2020  
Volume 16, Number 1**

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

President  
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Louis Russo

Treasurer  
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Jean Clark  
Donald Cook  
Gerald Davis  
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Linda Hayes  
Robert Kadis  
Mary Alice McQuade  
Nancy Spagnoli

## **MEMBER MEETINGS**

Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. in the  
Peirce Conference Room the first  
Thursday of each month,  
except July and August.

The Annual Board Meeting immediately  
follows February's monthly meeting.

## **BE IN TOUCH**

### **Participate:**

At a monthly meeting or  
at any of our events.

### **Send us an Email:**

[friendsapl@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsapl@yahoo.com)

### **Visit our web page:**

[www.agawamlibrary.org/  
about/friends](http://www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends)

### **Drop us a note:**

Friends of  
the Agawam Public Library  
P. O. Box 478  
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

## **MAINTAIN MEMBERSHIP**

The membership form is available at the  
Friends' Information Stand in the  
Library. Gallery and online at our web  
page, above.



## **A Word from the Editor:**

"May you live in interesting times" is a curse that seems to have struck us all. Who could ever imagine that we would see everything, including the library, be shut down for so long? It certainly is teaching us what is important in life. Thank goodness we have books to help us get through this! Included in the newsletter is a list of some of the Friends' favorite books, and a number of quotes related to books and libraries-a kind of love letter to reading. Without books this would be a much more difficult time.

On a lighter note, we had impressive shows this winter. The Eleventh Annual Art Show attracted sixty-six artists, and forty-two photographers participated in the Tenth Annual Photography Show. This show included students from the Agawam High School's Photography Club, and it was a real treat to have them participate. The receptions for both shows were very well-attended and informative. Our Basket Raffle in December continued to attract a lot of attention, and is now our most successful fundraiser.

We welcomed two new Board members-Gerald Davis and Paula Figella. Paula is now our Treasurer, and I'd like to thank Jean Clark, on behalf of all the Friends for her many, many dedicated years as Treasurer.

Wishing you all safe travels through this horrific pandemic. Stay healthy my friends!

Mary Alice McQuade

## **The Friends Thank Our Generous Supporters**

Agawam Cultural Council

Budget Cabinet Sales

Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home

Dave's Soda & Pet City

Parthenon Restaurant

U.B.U. Hair Design

John's Trucking of Agawam

Main Street Deli

Mary Ann Studio of Dance

Geissler's Supermarkets

GFWC Agawam Junior

Women's Club

*Thank you!*



# Meet Jerome Walczak

## Reference Librarian

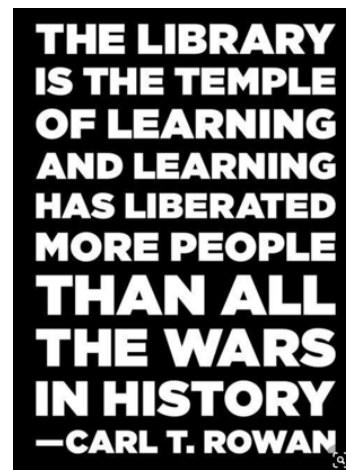
Jerome was kind enough to be "interviewed" by email, which I greatly appreciated. While he was an undergraduate he worked at his college library, and then after graduation he did technical support and computer work. When he discovered that the University of Rhode Island had an affordable Masters program in library and information science, he "jumped at the chance". While he was studying at URI full time and working at another library part time, he heard that the Agawam library had an opening. He came to interview and thought "the place was way too cool and the people way too nice" to hire him. He was wrong! He switched to working full time and going to school part time. It took a little longer to get his degree, but he was very happy to be in Agawam.

Like everyone at the library, he has a number of responsibilities. Primarily he answers questions from patrons. He also provides technical support to the entire library-now that's a real challenge! In addition, Jerome is responsible for maintaining the Local History collection and for maintaining and up-dating the library's website. His favorite part of the job is that he never knows what kinds of questions he'll be asked. He enjoys helping "every patron who comes to the library" and being able to either answer their questions, or tell them where they can find an answer.

Jerome wanted us all to know that the library has a subscription to the Rosetta Stone programs. These enable you to learn a new language relatively easily, and very conveniently. He would like to see more people taking advantage of it.

For his own reading, Jerome reads mostly classics and non-fiction. His favorite author is John Steinbeck, but he said that may be only because he just read East of Eden for the second time!

Many, many thanks to Jerome for all of his hard work, and for being willing to take time to share his story with us.





# Book suggestions

These are books and authors that are favorites of some of the Friends members. Maybe they will help you find something new to enjoy.

## FAVORITE AUTHORS

Erskine Caldwell  
Erik Larson  
James Patterson  
Penny Vincenzi

## FAVORITE BOOKS

Nineteenth Christmas by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro  
5-Ingredient Family Favorites by Gooseberry Patch  
Inside the O'Briens by Lisa Genova  
Still Alice by Lisa Genova  
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens  
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr  
The Shoemaker's Wife by Adriana Trigiani  
Rage of Angels by Sidney Sheldon  
Tobacco Road by Erskine Caldwell  
God's Little Acre by Erskine Caldwell  
The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson  
An Army at Dawn, the Day of the Battle and The Guns at Last Light,  
a trilogy by Rick Atkinson  
The River of Doubt by Candice Millard  
Citizen Soldiers by Stephen Ambrose  
The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand  
The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy



Also, check out the new Friends area on the right as you enter the library. Many thanks to Nancy Siegel and Wendy McAnanama for all the work they did to set up this beautiful area!





## SAVE THE DATES

**June 15, 2020**  
**Eat at EB's and support the library**

**November 2-27, 2020**  
**Twelfth Open Juried Art Show**  
**On display**

**November 13, 2020**  
**Art show reception and awards**

**November 16-December 12, 2020**  
**Basket raffle**

**December 12, 2020**  
**Basket raffle drawing**

## *What we **love** about our library:*

"Knowledgeable, helpful and friendly staff."

"I am always greeted with a smile. The staff is friendly, knowledgeable and very helpful. The library is clean and brightly decorated, and there are often flowers on the counter. The children's room usually has something fun going on."

"The library is my 'safe haven'. It has a warm, welcoming atmosphere. On days when I may be a little downcast, I like to go to the library, get a cup of coffee, and read the current newspapers and magazines. On sunny days, I'll sit in front of the windows and soak up the rays. I always find that chatting with the staff just lifts my spirits!"

"Our library is the most outgoing and caring library in the area, bar none!"

"The warm, smart, and helpful staff and the clean, pleasant surroundings."

  
**A BOOK  
A DAY  
KEEPS  
REALITY  
AWAY**

Reading won't solve your  
problems. But then again,  
neither will housework.





# Looking for angels!

Please consider supporting the local art community and the library by sponsoring our art and photography shows. Our next art show will be from November 2 to the 27<sup>th</sup>, and our next photography show will be in February, 2021. Sponsorship provides an opportunity for individuals, businesses and families to participate in encouraging local artists to share their work, and for the community to recognize the immense talent in our area. A contribution of \$50.00 allows us to continue to increase both the participation and the quality of our highly respected shows. Please consider this opportunity to support two very worthwhile causes.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Friends would like to extend a special thank you to the following people and groups, who sponsored past shows:

Agawam Cultural Council  
Nancy Chagnon  
Judith Clini  
Bruce and Carolyn Cortis  
Patrick Decoteau  
Robert (Bob) Kadis  
Jonathan and Marcella Kratovil

J.H. Miller Picture Framing Company  
Linda and Peter Parrotta  
Parthenon Restaurant  
Alice D. Smith  
Nancy Spagnoli  
Marilyn Sullivan

## Art/Photo Show Sponsorship

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes. I would like to be a sponsor of the \_\_\_\_ Art Show \_\_\_\_ Photography Show

May we acknowledge you as a Sponsor by including your name in the catalog? Yes\_\_ No\_\_

Please send this, with your contribution of \$50 to:

Friends of the Agawam Public Library

P.O. Box 478

Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0478



## ***Become a Friend of the Agawam Public Library***

***If you like what the Friends do for the library, find your category, below, and join us!***

### **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (Membership is for a calendar year. Please check one.)**

\_\_\_ Individual \$15      \_\_\_ Senior Citizen (65 & over) \$10      \_\_\_ Senior Citizen Couple \$15  
\_\_\_ Family \$20      \_\_\_ Organization/Business \$50      \_\_\_ Patron \$75  
\_\_\_ I enclose an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address\* \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ New Member    ☐ Renewing Member    \* For newsletters & occasional communications distributed electronically among the Friends.

I am interested in volunteer opportunities. Please call \_\_\_ or email me \_\_\_ (check one)  
May we acknowledge you as a Friend by including your name in our newsletter? Yes\_\_\_No\_\_.

*Please send your completed application and check to:*

**FRIENDS of the AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PO Box 478  
Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0478**

Membership fees and contributions are tax-deductible, subject to IRS limits. The Friends of the Agawam Public Library is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Friends of the Agawam Public Library  
P.O. Box 478  
Feeding Hills MA 01030-0478

***TO:***



Remember a loved one. Honor a special friend. Give a gift that will last forever. Consider a memorial donation in someone's name to the Friends of the Agawam Public Library.

Email: [friendsapl@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsapl@yahoo.com)

Website: <http://www.agawamlibrary.org>