

April, 2024

The Friends File: The Trajectory of Friends-ship

The last line of the title of this column is not a misspelling. It's a deliberate combining of "friends" and "membership", thus "friends-ship". By now our new membership brochure should have reached you. (Actually mine never reached me by mail. I got mine at the library's front desk.

If you didn't get a brochure you can get one when you're next in.) This column is about our membership growth.

Stuart Bauder chaired our successful capital campaign. If you're familiar with the saying "no good deed goes unpunished" – Stuart's "reward" for his good work was to become the Friends' Treasurer. One of the things he's done, which we appreciate, is to track our membership.

Here's the trajectory of friends-ship growth for which we have data:

2022

- Listed names 171
- Paid 51
- New [no data]

2023

- Listed names 206
- Paid 61
- New 35

2024

- Listed names 211 thru 3/08/2024
- Paid 51
- New 5

We are growing. As you can see it is a steady climb. Our hope is that by the end of this calendar year we will have even more new paid Friends than last. If you are wondering about joining our Friends group a great way to get to know what we're up to is to come to a meeting. We meet the second Monday of every month at 6:30pm. Meetings are about an hour. And you don't have to be a member to come attend.

I believe that in many ways a library is the heart of a town, a center around which a local community can gather and thrive. Every Friends group -- our Friends group -- helps support that center. If you are already a Friend's member you know the good work we do. If you are not yet a Friends member please come meet us at a meeting and consider joining.

–David Phreaner, Chair