



Friends of the Dartmouth Libraries (FODL) Annual Report, June 9, 2026

FODL is a **non-profit volunteer organization** dedicated to **enhancing the community's use and enjoyment of our town's Libraries**. We focus attention on Library services and needs to **encourage community support**. We help **fund Library resources** and **sponsor programs** for area residents of all ages. We **raise funds** through our annual membership drive, book and fabric sales, and generous donations from fellow library enthusiasts.

Our work is only possible through the dedication of our volunteer board of directors, whose members graciously share their time and talents to raise funds and run our programs. I thank each of them for their work. They are named at the end of this report.

We are fortunate to include the Director of Dartmouth Libraries, Dina St. Pierre, and Board of Dartmouth Public Libraries Trustee Joan Menard at our monthly meetings. Joan took over for Trustee Joan-Marie Proulx this spring. The FODL board benefits from their contributions and advice on providing support to the Libraries where it is needed most.

We begin with our **Treasury Report** for our operating and events year, July 1, 2025 to date, June 2026.

Sources		
	Book Sales	\$ 18,778
	Fabric/Fiber Sale	\$ 8,021
	Membership	\$ 6,024
	Donations	\$ 9,233
	Other	\$ 64
	Total	\$ 42,120
Uses		
	Museum Passes	\$ 8,855
	Library Programs	\$ 19,891
	Administration	\$ 3,566
	Other	\$ 1,145
	Total	\$ 33,456
Assets on Hand		\$ 43,360

Our two book sales during the year, along with the continuing book sales at both Library sites, continue to be our main source of income, allowing us to support the Library programs listed below. This year, we sponsored a Fabric and Fiber sale in February which was wildly successful and generated over \$8,000 in proceeds. A special thanks goes out to board member Sandy Zekan and her team for introducing the event to the Friends' calendar.

Our surplus of income over expenses this season will help us in the coming season to explore with our Library Director new avenues for special contributions to the Library's needs. Our last major special contribution was \$15,000 in 2024 to support the purchase of new computers for Southworth staff and patrons.

Library Director Dina St.Pierre's Report on the Use of Friends-Sponsored Programs, June 2025 - present

Patron Select:

104 titles were offered between the two locations with a total circulation of 2,013 (5/23/2025 - 5/23/2026). We really worked on developing Patron Selects this year, focusing not just on demand from Dartmouth patrons through holds but also including NYTimes Bestsellers that have been well received.

Museum and Park Passes:

1,002 passes were borrowed (6/1/2025 - 5/26/2026).

AuthorsLive:

38 events were held (6/1/2025 - 5/26/2026) with 14,454 views.

Some of the most popular events this past year featured Katherine Applegate, Jefferson Fisher, Gabe Henry, Lisa Jewell, Raul the Third and Malala Yousafzai.

Incentive Programs:

FODL sponsored the 2025 Scratch to Win Game for teens and adults, in addition to the ever-popular Blind Date with a Book. This year, 117 books were borrowed from the two displays.

Summer Reading Programs 2025:

26 FODL sponsored programs, including special performers and crafts, had a total attendance of 1,250.

Pumpkin Decorating 2025: This day included a scavenger hunt and Halloween themed games such as bean bag toss, paper cup bowling and a mini foam pumpkin sweep activity.

Annual Cupcake Decorating Contest 2025:

14 children participated in this FODL sponsored holiday event.

February Vacation Programs 2026:

6 FODL sponsored programs had a total attendance of 341.

April Vacation Programs 2026:

3 FODL sponsored programs had a total attendance of 105.

Membership in Friends of the Dartmouth Libraries

2026 Active Membership (as of May 24)

LIFETIME	162
IND	125
FAM	44
SPEC	11
	342

Membership dipped in the beginning of 2026 but recovered mostly because of marketing at the spring book sale. Face-to-face interaction at the entry table is valuable as it gives us a chance to clarify that a library card is *not* membership in FODL and that Friends' events often require financial support from the public. Renewals were once again brisk.

Board member Sandy Zekan took over as membership coordinator this year, and in partnership with board member Marcy Wintrub accomplished the following milestones:

- Our membership tracking system was moved from Excel to Google Sheets, allowing us to better automate our processes and clean up our data during the conversion. Benefits include greatly simplified data entry and reporting, elimination of the need to maintain a separate email database, and improved access to member data and history.
- **We made online payment available this year** for those who prefer that method to using checks and cash. Since it became available in September of 2025, 62 members (nearly 1 in 5) renewed or joined online, and 11 online donations have been received.

The board convened a subcommittee to review and clarify our membership categories. The committee reported that the concept of "joining" an organization may be a barrier to participation as it connotes required action. The board agreed to move to "friendlier"(!) approaches such as "Be a Friend" or "Support the Friends". We will retain the membership model but use the new wording in our revised brochure for fall 2026.

Friends-Sponsored Events

Our events year was active and well received by Library patrons. Presentations included several local authors as well as other speakers covering topics ranging from natural disasters, to the effects of screen time on kids' brains and health, to the long-forgotten sinking of the SS *Larchmont* off Watch Hill, RI in February 1907. We heard the fascinating story behind the U.S. penny - from the mint to the cash register - including how its appearance changed over time, and about its retirement after 230 years. The Friends continued the ever-popular winter Molly Little film series, this season with lectures on Post-Impressionism. Here are a few other highlights:

September 2025

The Friends hosted a Members' field trip to the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, MA



November 2025

Well-known landscape horticulturist and author Warren Leach joined us for a celebration of the winter garden. Haskell Hall was SRO.



December 2025

A trio from the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra once again provided a festive afternoon of holiday music, which included light classic selections and seasonal favorites.



February 2026

The Friends hosted our first Fabric & Fiber Sale, an innovative program that offered shoppers an opportunity to stock up on fabric, yarn, and supplies used in sewing, knitting, and crocheting. There were bargains galore in an array of curated materials that were donated by community members.



April 2026

Massachusetts-based aerialist Elizabeth Nelson and her partner perform as the duo *Small But Mighty*.

They brought aerial silks, hula hoop acrobatics, circus jeopardy with prizes and aerial hoops to Dartmouth kids on April vacation.



Respectfully submitted,
Margaret R Hollister
President, Friends of the Dartmouth Libraries

Board of Directors 2026-2027

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