

Date: July 26, 2018

To: Brett Spencer, LHRT News and Notes Editor
Thun Library, Reading, Pennsylvania

From: Mary McDaniels, President
Friends of Hornell Public Library

Re: 150th Celebration of the Hornell Library Association / Hornell
Public Library

In the summer of 2016 I started to have conversations with Alice Taychert, our Hornell Library Director, regarding celebrating the 150th anniversary in June 2018. Alice shared some historical information she had on file. I asked about geneological research to locate descendents of the original Library Association members. Alice responded that this research had been done with no positive results. We did some continued research, placed articles in our local newspaper and also placed an article in the May 2017 and May 2018 editions of the Hornell High School (HHS) Journal, our yearly HHS newsletter (magazine), seeking descendents of any past library board members and inviting people to become involved in our celebration; however, we received no positive responses. In November of 2016, I spoke to Linda Walter who is the 6th grade Middle School Computer & Technology teacher. She has three classes each school year, and each class creates a theme video. I requested that her Spring class of 2018 do a video in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Library Association to be presented at the Spotlight Theater in June 2018. She agreed to place us on her Spring 2018 class schedule.

In the fall of 2017 we were still attempting to visualize what our celebration was going to consist of, a possible celebration dinner, the video, a basket raffle as a fundraising element, and library presentations, and since the library doesn't exist in a bubble, invite others in the community to join the celebration.

The Hornell community consisting of residents, elected officials, businesses, professionals, city services, churches and others have been very supportive of the library over the years, so we decided to invite businesses, churches and others who have served Hornell for 100 years or more to join in our celebration. We started to research this and I called some businesses and

churches that I knew were over 100 years old in Hornell to see how interested they would be in the project with positive results. We started researching other businesses and others and worked on creating a timeline document with the assistance of Judy Pease, our newly elected Secretary, and Rick Barone, our volunteer Advertising and Marketing Coordinator, our Treasurer, Jeanette Reed who printed some of the letters going out to businesses and elected officials, and others who are on our mailing list. Friends Board member Sue Knapp did return address labels. Rick and Judy also assisted me in creating documents we needed to be included in the mailing. Our Library Director, Alice, other library staff, Friends board members and volunteers were also helpful in getting this project off the ground. As I am also a member of the Board of Trustees, I kept the board members informed of all of our plans for the celebration at our monthly board meetings.

Alice and I met with Linda Walter in the early spring of 2018 to discuss the video. Alice was very helpful to Linda during the whole process. Soon after the interviews with students were scheduled among Library Board of Trustees members, the Library Director, Friends of the Library board members, business owners, church pastors or representatives, elected officials and others.

In the meantime, Jeanette, Judy, Rick, Sue and I completed the mailing that went to businesses, churches and others that we were inviting to be part of the celebration because of their 100 or more years of service to the Hornell community. We also did a second mailing going to businesses, elected officials, professionals and others regarding our basket raffle, celebration dinner and other events requesting donations.

In the first mailing, we invited 25 businesses, churches and others to be part of the celebration. This mailing also included everything that was sent in the second mailing to the 120 businesses, elected officials, professionals and others on our mailing list requesting donations and explaining our events, encouraging dinner ticket sales at \$25 per ticket and table sponsors at \$200 for 8 seats which included a 1/3 page ad in our program. Also advertising options in the program were made available. I followed up with telephone calls to all who received our mailing, answering questions and promoting participation. Jeanette and Rick were very helpful in picking up basket raffle items from the community which Jeanette gratefully stored in her home. Rick started work on the program for the dinner and he also put

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together a tri-fold brochure describing the celebration. Rick coordinated articles in local newspapers describing our events.

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The Celebration Dinner was held on Sunday evening, May 20, with 84 reservations. The dinner served as the kickoff for the entire celebration with a history presentation of the Library and the Library Association by Alice Taychert, our Library Director, and history presentations by businesses, churches and others in the community (see program). Our newly elected Hornell Mayor John Buckley opened the celebration and gave welcoming remarks. Shawn Hogan, our former mayor for 32 years and an avid library supporter, served as master of ceremonies. Katherine Griffis, the pastor of United Presbyterian Church in Hornell, gave the benediction. We kicked off the traveling basket raffle with ticket sales and gave away several door prizes donated by businesses and others. The basket raffle went on for the following six weeks at the Library with one week of ticket sales at the YMCA and one day of ticket sales outside of the Hornell Walmart.

The video produced by the students of Linda Walter's 6th grade computer technology class was shown at the Spotlight Theater on Saturday, June 9th in Hornell. The showing of the video was free to the public. The YMCA in Hornell, one-half block from the theater, hosted a reception after the show with refreshments prepared by Board members of the Friends of the Library.

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On June 20, Jeanette Reed representing the United Presbyterian Church spoke about her trip to Limones, Mexico to assist with translating at a clean water project which is supported by the church.

On June 28, Father Stan of our Lady of the Valley gave a presentation of the history of the St. Ann Catholic Church in Hornell.

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Other businesses and churches that participated in the video and in the celebration dinner were unable to schedule June events at the Library. However, they have been invited to do presentations at the Library later in the year.

On Friday, June 29, we did our celebration wrap up party at the Library with presentation by Mike Palmesano of a Proclamation by the New York State Legislature, both the House and the Senate, in celebration of our 150th anniversary of the Hornell Library Association (now known as the Board of Trustees). Mr. Palmesano is a legislative aide to Assemblyman Joseph

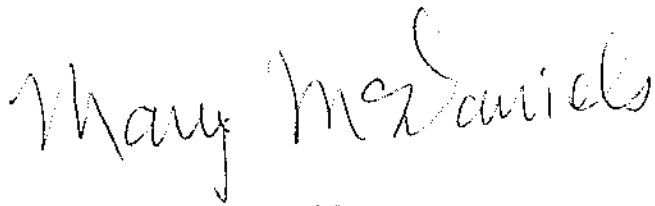
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Errigo. The Proclamation was originated by Senator Thomas O'Mara, who brought it before the Legislature and was supported by Assemblyman Phil Palmesano and Assemblyman Errigo.

Refreshments were served that had been prepared by the board members of the Friends of the Hornell Library. We drew the winners of basket raffle items and also gave away door prizes donated by local businesses and our board members.

Our celebration and all of the events were well publicized in the community, both in newspapers and on the radio, thanks to Rick Barone, our Marketing and Advertising Coordinator. April Case, one of our Friends board members, handled our Facebook presence; she also is our 50/50 ticket sales queen and sold our 50/50 tickets at the dinner. She also assisted in the sales of basket raffle tickets along with board members Diane Lisi, Jeanette Reed, Sue Knapp, Leah Bolt, Andy Greeley, volunteers Debbie Greeley and Jon (Bushie) Bush, and myself. Our Vice Chairman Andy Greeley and Rick Barone were a big help with transportation and organization along with volunteer Joe Duffy. Leah Bolt also made decorations for the tables at the Celebration Dinner.

Our sincere thanks goes out to all our board members, Library staff, other volunteers and to the Board of Trustees and our Director Alice Taychert for everything they did to make our celebration a success.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary McDaniels". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary McDaniels, President
Friends of the Hornell Library