

The Friends of the South Burlington Public Library contribute significantly to library programs and services across the board. We are so grateful to you for your support and for your presence in the library. Having you here as our partner in library service is a gift to library staff and patrons alike.

What exactly do the Friends do? They allow us to make popular eBook and eAudiobook titles available more quickly to South Burlington residents who have library cards.

The Friends make our Winter Concert series possible, bringing outstanding performers such as the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Sarah Evans, the Sky Blue Boys, and Eclectica to audiences for free Saturday concerts. This support has also enabled the library to host free summer recitals by the Craftsbury Chamber Players, the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival, and Mikahely.

The Friends secure funding for library programs throughout the year – including local history, a jigsaw puzzle race, and writing workshops in addition to our winter and summer musical events.

Just as the Friends of the Library support Summer Reading 2024 for children, the Friends gave financial support to five themed prize bundles for teen readers and three themed prize bundles for adults who participate in summer reading, as well as one free book each for adult English Language Learning adults who participate. SBPL encourages readers of all ages through summer reading. For adults, this is a time to “read by example”: when the children in your life see you reading, they will want to read too. And when they see their grownups excited about visiting the library, they will be excited about visiting the library too!

Teen crafts – some in the building and some “Grab and Go” to work on at home or on family vacations – are keeping teens aged 13-18 engage with the library through the summer. This means more teens are reading, more teens are in contact with library staff and one another, and teens are supported in their educational goals every month of the year.

Last but not least, the Friends are invested in staff training and development, having supported staff participation in our day-long all-staff retreat, and sending many library staff members to this year’s Vermont Library Association meeting. In both settings, library staff had the opportunity to meet and share professional resources with one another, and to grow their capacity to serve as resources for our community.

Thank you for all you do to support the South Burlington Public Library and its staff.

Mira Geffner, Adult Services Librarian
June 20, 2024