

January 2023 Newsletter
Happy New Year!

THANK YOU for being a FRIEND!

You helped us raise \$17,000 in 2022 to support the Stoughton Public Library. Your membership dues, donations, and volunteerism at fundraising events made this possible. Additionally, the support of Stoughton businesses, service clubs, community individuals and library staff contributed to our success.

At our Jan. 10, 2023 board meeting, we were pleased to present Library Director Jim Ramsey with the 2022 gift of \$17,000! It is our largest gift to date. Funding will go towards child, teen and adult programming, events, book collections, Kanopy, Lucky Day and large print books and more!

Thank you Friends of the Library members.
We could not have done it without all of you.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Friends of the Stoughton Public Library, Inc. is to promote library services to the Stoughton community; to solicit gifts and bequests to the library; to provide support for library programs; and to encourage the broadest possible use of the library's facilities, materials, and services.



Welcome new Friends members



To date: 8 new members have joined. We've got an exciting 2023 planned! You choose your level of involvement, from paying your membership dues to volunteering at events, to becoming a member of the Friends board. Welcome!

2022 Friend of the Year

We're pleased to announce that **Lynn Perez-Hewitt** has been named our 2022 Friend of the Year! Her name plate is added to the Friends of the Library plaque located near the library entrance. Lynn served on our board of directors from 2021-2022 as communications chair person and as an integral fundraising member.

You've heard of our Book Lover's Journal? That's Lynn's idea coming to fruition as one of our successful fundraising tools. Originally from Illinois, Lynn has worked in public relations and served on non-profit boards in Arizona, Colorado and Wisconsin. She and her husband Jim Hewitt moved to Stoughton in late 2020.

Lynn is also a novelist and her second book was released in August. Book 1 is called Measured Time and book 2 is Of Secrets and Spirits. Both are available in the library and are for sale in print at Kismet Bookshop in Verona, and in either digital or print through Amazon or Barnes & Noble online.

You can also find Lynn at the Stoughton High School as a popular substitute teacher and volunteering at the Stoughton Senior Center. Congratulations Lynn!



It's a new year and a new membership renewal



Membership renewals went out last month and about 80% of you sent in your 2023 renewal dues. Thank you!

We encourage 2022 members who have not yet renewed to please do so. You don't want to miss future newsletters to keep you in touch with your Friends. We need you!

We remember members Ann Nelson and Lois Craig who passed away recently. Our sympathies to their families and friends.





Chris Phillips (on the left) and **Sybil Pressprich** (on the right) are new members of the Board of Directors.

Sybil Pressprich: Sybil retired in 2020 after working 24 years at UW-Madison as a career and academic counselor for returning adult students and community members. She now spends much of her time raising raspberries with her husband, dabbling in art, and exploring ways to become involved in the community. Sybil has always loved books and libraries.



As a child in rural Maine, the highlight of her summer was when the bookmobile stopped in town. It was a big disappointment to learn that she could not live on the bookmobile. She is excited to be part of the Friends of the Stoughton Public Library board and looks forward to supporting our wonderful library.

Chris Phillips: I am happy to be a part of the Friends of the Library Board. My husband and I moved to Stoughton in July of 2019 pretty much just in time for the pandemic. We have lived in Iowa and Minnesota but Virginia is where we consider to be home.

Libraries have always been one of my favorite places so in 1986 I obtained my Masters degree in Library Science from the University of Maryland. I have worked in both public, school and private/corporate libraries. Mysteries are my favorite genre but I will read almost anything! My favorite author is Madeleine L'Engle for both her adult and young adult fiction.



Author Q and A with member Mona R. Semerau



Tell us about your book and why you wrote it.

In writing *Forces*, I wanted to have a certain creative tension, a tone, to be evident that would provide an added dimension to the plot and characters of the story. My solution was to adopt a literary approach which would allow me to weave easily in and out of narrative and verse, making full use not only of wordcraft, but physical spacing to accomplish the effect I wanted. This is evident in the formatting of the text and the introduction in places of outsized words and spatters, screaming sparrows and strutting Suns (*Me!*) to lend a hint of the graphic novel into what fundamentally has become an epic poem.

So it is not exactly a novel. I have described it as *poetic narrative* for lack of a better word, and can be defined as 'a mildly lyric, less snooty form of elevated prose.' As such, it comes with its own mythology, and even a riddle or two.

What part of the book was the most fun to write? This may seem odd, but discovering what it was about. And then discovering through trial and error how to achieve the multi-dimensional quality of the writing style. That was both fun and difficult, and grossly inefficient. Not the way to write a book, but it worked this time.

Which of the characters do you relate to the most and why? The principal character of course, because through her eyes I discovered the wonder that she felt. Each character had their strengths and charm. The most difficult were the Scorch'dlanders. They were more akin to a collective intelligence, and AI of sorts, and yet I had to force myself to flesh them out somehow to make them believable.

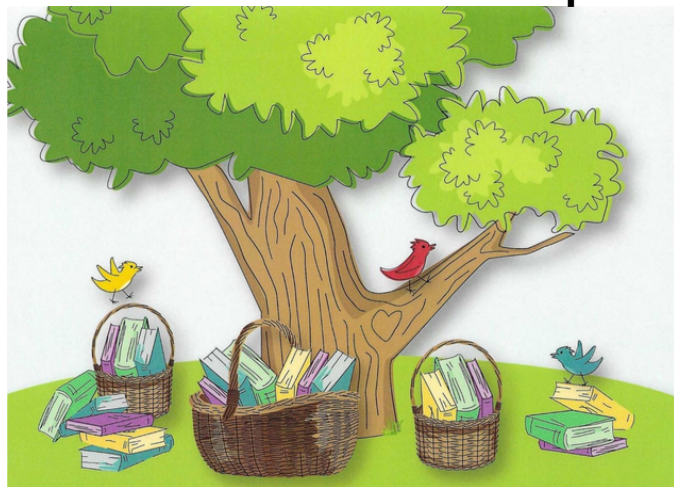
How would you describe your book's ideal reader? The book has been erroneously tagged by reviewers as Young Adult, but in fact an older readership would find greater enjoyment from its imagery. In many ways *Forces* was more 'crafted' than written, immersive fiction intended to be savored, perhaps some parts read through a second or third time, rather than tasked to one's reading list.

If you could spend a day with another author, whom would you choose? As far as I can remember I have always wanted to write, but I think the author that most influenced me in my earlier years was J.R.R. Tolkien. There is a quality in his writing that suggests a different time, a different world, for which he set the trend, and a moral element which is universal.

Author Q and A with member Mona R. Semerau continued from page 4

Where can we find your book *Forces* (published in Sept. 2022)? The Library has a copy, and it's also online i.e. Amazon, Target, or Barnes and Noble. **Thank you Mona!**

Honor and Remember a special person in your life!



The Friends offer In Honor of and In Memory Of cards for recognizing someone special in your life. Make a donation to the Friends in the name of your special person and we provide a card for you to send or we can send it. Your donation will be recognized on the annual giving sign in the Library's entry area. For more information and the donation form click here:

<https://www.stoughtonpubliclibrary.org/honor-and-remember>

December 2022 donations In Memory Of

Karen Morris by Claudette Higgins, Judy Luschen, Kathy Dutilly, and Jeanne Prueher

Marilyn Slagsvold by Terry Marshall & Lesley Johnson

Jerry and Teddy Slusser by Lesley Johnson & Terry Marshall

Jerry Slusser by John and Darlene Arneson



2023 Board of Directors

President: Lesley Johnson

Vice President: Judy Luschen

Secretary: Claudette Higgins

Treasurer: Jeanne Burt

Membership Co-Chairs: Nancy Fuhrman and Sybil Pressprich

Book Nook Co-Chairs: Judy Luschen and Lesley Johnson

Public Relations Interim Chair: Lesley Johnson

Pie Place Chair: Jeanne Burt

Spring Fundraiser: Chris Phillips

Summer Fundraiser Chair: vacant

Fall Raffle Fundraiser Chair: Jeanne Burt

Interested in learning more about becoming a board member?

Contact us: friendsofstoughtonlibrary@gmail.com

Easy Ways to Support the Friends

When the occasion arises, **In Honor Of** and **In Memory Of Cards** for donations are available. **Book Lover's Journals** make great gifts for your family, friends and You!

Visit the Library's mezzanine to buy gently used books at the book nook.



"Like" the Friends of the Stoughton Public Library Facebook Page.

If you are on Facebook, you can keep up to date with the Friends events!

Click on the URL below:

<https://libraryaware.com/2MVBJO?SID=0fece66e-ed81-4bea-9b8a-2bad945f0f3f>

Thrivent: If you're a Thrivent client with membership, you can make an online donation or direct Choice Dollars to the Friends of the Stoughton Public Library.

Click on the URL below:

<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice>. Thrivent covers all the processing fees, so 100% of your donation goes to the Friends.

Amazon smile: if you purchase items from Amazon, part of your purchase could go to the Friends of the Library.

Click on the URL: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1487256> and log into your Amazon account. Select the Friends of the Stoughton Public Library as your chosen charitable organization, and we'll automatically receive donations from your eligible purchases at no cost to you.

Upcoming Events:

Please join us at the April Board of Directors meeting! Board meetings are open to members. Mark your calendar for **April 11, 2023 at 6 pm** in the library's Carnegie Room.

Watch for our **new March mail fundraiser!**



Pie Place is on Saturday May 20 at the library during Syttende Mai.



Fall Raffle Fundraiser in September!



Contact us Email friendsofstoughtonlibrary@gmail.com

Tel 608-873-4050

Mail 2364 Jackson St. #186, Stoughton WI 53589

Like us on Facebook at Friends of the Stoughton Public Library