



## Friends of the Bergenfield Library — Vol. 4, No. 3, Winter 2011-12

Dear Friends:

Last July the Library Board launched a strategic planning process to set the direction for the library in the next three to five years. We have talked with your elected officials, community leaders and just plain folks to gather their opinions about the programs and services the library offers.

While the strategic planning committee is still hard at work formulating its recommendations, one thing is clear. The library is many things to many people, each person or family using the library in his or her own way. Parents talked about having access to a broader range of books and topics for their children than they could possibly afford to purchase for home use. They felt saving money was important. Seniors talked about the opportunity to attend educational and cultural programming. For them it was a place for community. Other adults talked about research and computers and encouraging reading. For them the library is about lifelong learning. One job seeker commented that he comes to the library every day as if it were his job. For him the library is a means to preserving his dignity in these difficult times.

Whatever you need, or whenever you need it, the library is your personal concierge, a resource for promoting your well-being and personal development. Give a gift to your friends and neighbors. Make sure that they know we are here for them as well.

With all good wishes to you and your loved ones during this holiday season and in the new year.

— Sincerely, Mary Riskind, Library Director

### ***Don't let the urgent crowd out the important.***

All our resources – mental, emotional and financial – are stretched thin as we make our way through the 21st Century. Life often feels like a high-speed obstacle course which we struggle to conquer every day. Being a Friend of the Bergenfield Library means being a partner in making that struggle easier.

We all need access to information that can help us live fulfilled lives. And that becomes harder and harder when we are inundated with muddled facts, half-truths and downright lies that disguise themselves as knowledge.

Access to real knowledge is the only thing that will save us and our children and grandchildren from losing this struggle. Lots of institutions purport to offer this, but free libraries stand virtually alone in accomplishing it.

You have helped create a magical world — a place where you and your children and grandchildren will live and grow and conquer!

— Linda Mohr, Friend of the Bergenfield Library

*Libraries are magical places. There's nothing quite like strolling the hushed aisles, letting your eye rove along dimly lit shelves. Each spine, each title, seems to beckon with a promise of incredible wonders, surprises, and adventures.*

— John Jakes





# “Extra” Conveniences Provided by the Friends



A puppet theater



An educational video system

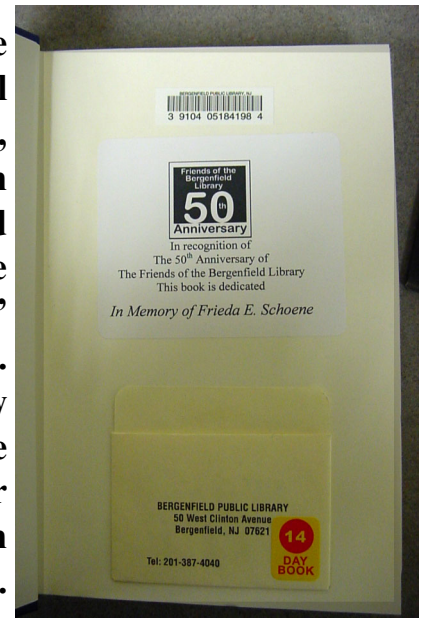


Sturdy bike racks are now in place.

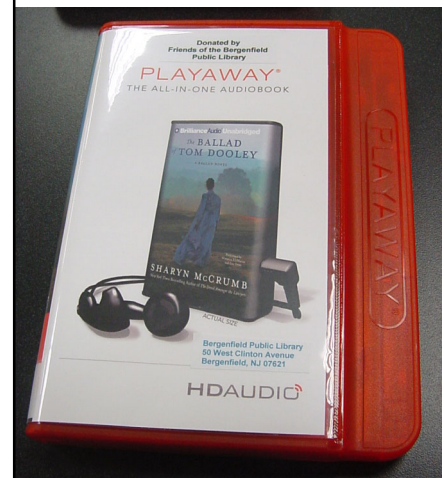
Chairs for the Children's Room.



Commemorative books are still being acquired, but you will soon see more and more of these “dedicated to” bookplates. Over 200 new books were purchased for the Friends’ 50th Anniversary.



Many new Playaways, the most convenient audio book ever invented, are now available at the Library, thanks to you!



Front panels were updated thanks to your generosity.