

Peter and Mary Aduskevich

We honor Peter and Mary Aduskevich today for their many years of service. Both Peter and Mary served on the Board of Trustees and Mary was President of the Friends of BML for over 20 years.

Marijean Conrad, President of the BML Board of Trustees said that Mary and Peter worked tirelessly to build the addition to the library. Peter helped create library financial stability through his business acumen. Mary has led the Friends volunteers through many years of service and generosity to the Brainerd Memorial Library.

Betsy Clifford, a BML Friend and a former board member credits Peter, a long-term board member, as the memory of the board at board meetings. She credits Mary with sustaining the Friends for decades-- she and Dee Link keeping the group viable through times of low participation.

Helen Deag who wishes she could be with today, wrote about how Mary was her youngest daughter's teacher at Haddam Elementary School. Years later Helen joined the Friends and worked with Mary on many events and through moving the books to storage at the school and files to Helen's house when the floor in the community room was being replaced. As secretary of the Friends, Helen was in awe of her knowledge and energy. She and Dee Link were a dynamic duo.

Joan Brick, who also was unable to attend, made these remarks. "I volunteered with Mary for many, many years and enjoyed every minute of it. I learned a lot from her. We have seen many changes from having to stack boxes of books on the floor because we had no place to put them, to the beautiful "Friends "space we have now."

Judy Norton, another long-time Friend, said Mary has a good memory. She can remember things the Friends did in the past with such clarity it amazes her. She is very well organized and runs the meetings with precision and humour making them a real pleasure to attend. She's not afraid of hard work and has spent many hours trudging up to the attic or over to the Haddam Neck Fair, not to mention the hours spent saving and moving the bricks. Her dedication to the library is unsurpassed.

Roe Dennis speaks about Mary's time tutoring her son Kevin in math. She and her son took to her calm, patient and understanding ways. After each session, they would share conversation ranging from family, travel and plans. (Mary's myrtle is still blooming in her garden after all these years.) Their paths crossed at many BML book sales. Mary was always there dedicating many hours and days to help raise funds for the library. She was great organizer, hard working person with positive energy. Even though her volunteering was limited, she always made her feel appreciated for the time she could put in. She has encouraged Roe to continue to be involved, whether it is the library or a community event no matter how much time or little time she could give.

Hillary Russell also spoke about Mary as an excellent tutor for Charles as well as her niece.

Sandy Nightingale has known Mary since Mary taught her horseback riding lessons, perhaps over 40 years. Mary's leadership inspired Sandy to remain a Friend for over 30 years. One year when Mary and Peter left for their annual stay in New Mexico, Sandy felt equipped, by Mary's example, to serve as President for 4 months. She describes Mary as very thoughtful and kind. Also, Mary is a terrific soup maker and baker.

Janet English wrote that Mary was always willing to pitch in, always with a smile and to give praise freely and thoughtfully towards others.

Cherry Czuba, VP of Friends and a BML Board member speaks about Mary as her first introduction to the

Friends. Mary publicized a need for volunteers to staff the book sale at the Haddam Neck Fair. Cherry did. Then when she retired, she joined the Friends. Immediately, she was impressed with Mary's ability to conduct the monthly meetings, organize tasks for Friends on Thursdays and share her significant knowledge of the library and the community. If there was a question, the Friends could be sure that Mary researched it; for example, the difference between a trade paperback and a paperback.

Joan Cadrain, a Friend, said that Mary is a fantastically wonderful person. She is so smart, a glue to the Friends. She was an absolute joy to work with.