

## THE FRIENDS OF THE OIL CITY LIBRARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2009

Once again, The Friends of the Oil City Library supported the Oil City Library in many ways in 2009. Fund raisers were held that included several bake sales and raffles, as well as 2 used book sales.

With the money raised, as well as the money raised through the annual membership to the Friends, the Friends provided the following contributions to the Library for the following:

- \$2,550 (\$1550 from the Friends and \$1,000 from a contribution obtained from the National Fuel Gas Company Foundation) for the 2009 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Opportunity Online Hardware Grant that helped meet the Library's matching fund requirement of \$5,200 to receive another \$5,200 from the Gates Foundation for new public access computers, other technology and software. With the \$10,400 in grant funding received, the Library purchased 9 new public access computers, which included one laptop computer, a data projector, and 9 licenses of the Microsoft Office Suite.
- A \$15,000 grant obtained from the Praxair Foundation for the upgrade of the Library's Integrated Library System, which handles the cataloging, circulation, and online catalog functions of the Library.
- \$375 for **DrumTrails**, a program conducted during the 2009 Summer Reading Program. Bill Pate, a noted percussionist, gave children a musical extravaganza of drum rhythms and beats. The program was successful drawing over a hundred children and their parents.
- \$365 for vinyl library card covers for National Library Card Month in September. The card covers were given out to patrons during September, and beyond to use up the card covers purchased. This was successful and the card covers had the advantage of being able to have library cards remain in the cover, rather than taken out, when scanned with the bar code reader for checking out items.

Also, the Friends conducted some important programs at the Library in 2009. First, in April, was hosting of a Chamber of Commerce Mixer that included both the Venango County and City of Franklin Chambers of Commerce. The mixer was to support the public libraries of Venango County having a county-wide **Big Read** (a program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture) of Jack London's classic novel "The Call of the Wild." The mixer was a very successful event. And, in November of 2009, another successful program was conducted in conjunction with the Community Playhouse. The Community Playhouse performed a scene for the classic play, "I Remember Mama," which was followed by seeing the classic movie of the same title.