



Among Michigan Friends

INFORMATION • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

Volume 15, Issue # 3 April 2008

www.foml.org

Message from the President

Dan Stock,
Robert J. Parks Library

As reported in our article on the February linking in Rochester Hills (see page 3), Roger Mendel advised us that significant changes are proposed in the way library cooperatives are organized and funded. Although cooperatives provide services to all libraries, these services are vital to smaller libraries that otherwise could not afford them. Therefore, major changes of the type and extent proposed should be a concern to us all.

Cooperatives are currently able to supply services to smaller libraries at reasonable rates because most of the cooperative overhead is covered by state aid. If, as proposed, the cost of these overhead services is transferred to the public libraries, even with an increase in direct state aid it would put the price for services furnished by the cooperatives out of the range of smaller library systems.

I do not have a blog and I do not normally visit those written by others, but I felt the significance of this issue dictated that I make an exception to this practice. Therefore, I have visited State Librarian Nancy Robertson's blog several times where she has invited

(continued on page 2)

Money Matters: A Linking at the Charlevoix Public Library

Financing and Fundraising

Money—not love—makes the world go ‘round for most Friends groups, and as such, it is one of the most vital (and often most vexing) issues we struggle with on a regular basis. Join FOML for a panel discussion on financing and fundraising as seen through the eyes of several library supporters who have tackled money matters from a variety of perspectives.

Our guests are Mary McCormack, a trustee of the Petoskey Public Library; JoEllen Rudolph, a friend of the Charlevoix Public Library; and Cindy Poquette, the director of the Indian River Area Library. Each panelist will discuss her own experiences in the financial arena, including how money matters affect her specific position, what limits she faces in carrying out her job, and what has proven to be especially successful in her situation.

There is often a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding about the very different roles and responsibilities of key members of the library community, and this linking aims to clarify just what it is that each player brings to the table in support of her library. Come and join us for what is sure to be a morning full of insights *and* inspiration.

“Table Talks” Take Center Stage in the Afternoon

After lunch and a group sharing session, FOML’s “Table Talks” will round out our day in Charlevoix. These casual, fast-paced, and informative small-group discussions focus on a variety of subjects. We invite you to attend two, thirty-minute-long sessions—you choose what interests you the most. Table Talk topics in Charlevoix will include a segment on money matters with our morning panel participants as well as chats with FOML’s Dan Stock on administrative issues, Marcia Barker on programming ideas, and Harriet Larson on book sales. Bring another Friend and attend all four talks—just think of the wealth of ideas you’ll be able to take back to your organization!

**This linking will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2008,
from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.**

See page 7 for registration and travel information.

Calendar

- It’s not too late! Renew your FOML membership today (see page 6)
- Deadline for applying for a grant from FOML (see page 6)
September 30, 2008
- A Linking
October 2008
Hastings Public Library
For more information, see a future issue of *Among Michigan Friends*

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The Incredible, Edible...*Book*???

“Eat Your Words” Takes on a Whole New Meaning at Annual Event

Even though this may *sound* like an April Fool’s Day joke, it’s not. Every year on April 1, the International Edible Books Foundation sponsors a truly unique celebration that combines three delicious elements—books, art, and food. This tasty event is the brainchild of Judith A. Hoffberg, a librarian, archivist, and writer on art, and Béatrice Coron, an artist, illustrator, and animator. Hoffberg got the idea for this so-called “ephemeral global banquet” in 1999 while dining on Thanksgiving turkey with a group of book artists. Their conversation turned to fun ways they might be able to mesh their common interests, and before long Hoffberg and Coron had begun contacting friends and colleagues to stage the first-ever International Edible Books Festival in 2000.

The festival pays homage to French gastronome Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (born April 1, 1755), author of a witty meditation on food entitled *Physiologie du goût*. Participants include food lovers, book artists, and bibliophiles in more than sixteen different countries who fashion their inventive and often whimsical tomes out of a wide variety of edible materials. They then post pictures on the Internet to “immortalize” their masterpieces before consuming them.

There is no fee to register, and there are no prizes. But Hoffberg reports that some Friends organizations, schools, and other groups have used the festival as a fundraiser, either by charging an entry fee for participants or auctioning off the “books.”

For more information and to browse through a photo gallery of past entries, go to www.books2eat.com, or Google “International Edible Books Foundation.” *Bon appétit!*

Message from the President

continued from Page 1

comments on the proposed model for state support of public libraries (December 2007). The site is at <http://statelibrarianofmichigan.blogspot.com>.

I encourage you to visit her blog to become better informed and to develop your own opinion about this issue of vital importance to all public libraries in Michigan.

Almost all of the comments submitted through March 1 of this year have come from librarians. As is the case with any complex issue, some agree with the proposal and many disagree, with some of the latter expressing their belief that the issue deserves further study. The process will be ongoing for a considerable period given that action by

the legislature will be required to revise the proposal extensively.

Robertson’s response to date has indicated that “much of the argument against sustaining state aid funding these past couple of years has focused on the fact that libraries in Michigan are established and funded locally.” In any given year, there is no guarantee of state aid for public libraries as this funding depends on both the amount of money available and the confidence the legislature has that the money provided directly to libraries will be well used.

The state librarian also noted in her response to the comments submitted to the blog that “the intent of this entire process is to arrive at a model that will instill confidence in the Legislature that their appropriations would be well-placed, with definable outcomes....”

Unfortunately, the window of opportunity for submitting comments to Robertson’s blog may be closed by the time this newsletter reaches you. However, the comments already submitted will remain available for review beyond that date.

If you inform yourself on this issue, you will be able to provide input to your librarian, your library board, and your representatives on how the support of library services by the state should work for you when the issue is submitted to the legislature.

For my part, I would like to see a fair share of the state’s resources used efficiently to allow me access to resources I want to use but neither I nor my smaller library can afford to own.

Turning Challenges into Opportunities in Rochester Hills

*Marcia Barker,
Canton Public Library*

Our day began a little late due to the challenges of this long, snowy Michigan winter. We turned that challenge into the opportunity of talking to each other, enjoying the fabulous treats from the Rochester Friends and sharing our groups' successes. Eventually, all the hearty Friends arrived and our morning began with a warm welcome from Christine Hage, Rochester Hills director, and Grace Preston, Friends president.

Roger Mendel, director of the Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative, gave us an overview of the services provided by co-ops in Michigan and the possible bleak future of co-ops. At present, there are twelve co-ops in Michigan covering the entire state, including ten in the Lower Peninsula (among them the Detroit Public Library) and two in the Upper Peninsula.

The co-ops were formed in 1977 under Public Act 89 to assist and equalize in providing cost-effective services to their residents. There are some inconsistencies in the description of services that lead to problems, such as the fact that some co-ops call their delivery services "resource sharing" while others use the term "interlibrary loans." Despite the differences in terminology, this is perhaps the single most important service that co-ops offer members. Another major service furnished by co-ops is group discounts for books, AV materials, office supplies, computers, etc. They also provide continuing education and workshops, technology support, and advocacy for their member libraries.

A new model was proposed for co-ops in December 2007 that would require them to be self-sustaining without state aid. This would likely lead to the demise of co-ops and their much-needed services to medium and small libraries. Roger encouraged us to talk with our local library personnel and contact State

Librarian Nancy Robertson to show our support for co-ops and all they do to equalize library service throughout the state.

Our morning continued with an outstanding talk by Josie Parker, director of the Ann Arbor Public Libraries. Their philosophy of applying "sustainability" to everything they do has given Ann Arbor some amazing results, including a usage rate that has quadrupled in the past four years as the community demonstrates its wholehearted support for their efforts to "go green."

The sustainability principle has been applied to staff, buildings, materials, finances, and more. For instance, staff no longer keeps paper binders of their tasks—everything is maintained electronically. In 2002, they decided to look seriously at the architecture being used to build new branches. They have since built two branches of over 16,000 square feet each, and a third is under construction.

The initial costs may be slightly higher but are soon recovered in savings in heating, cooling, and lighting these new buildings. The buildings sport "green" roofs, windows that automatically open and close, cork floors for sound absorption, and bookshelves made out of reclaimed wood.

At the new Traverwood Branch, trees that had been infested by the emerald ash borer were recycled for use in the building. For instance, the floors are made out of the ash trees that were cut while preparing the site. Some of the trees are also used for very attractive supports for the building. If you ever find yourself near Ann Arbor, please take time to visit the Mallet's Creek, Pittsfield, or Traverwood branches of the Ann Arbor Public Library. They're truly inspiring.

During lunch, we were invited by Director Hage to tour their lovely facility, one of the busiest in Southeast Michigan.

We began the afternoon with a short annual meeting of the Friends of Michigan Libraries. The slate of officers was confirmed for 2008 as follows:

- President**
Dan Stock, Robert J. Parks Library in Oscoda
- Vice President**
Charles Hanson, Kettering Library in Flint
- Treasurer**
Harriet Larson, Livonia Civic Center Library
- Secretary**
Marcia Barker, Canton Public Library
- Linking Chair**
Marie Brooks, Chelsea District Library
- Historian/Grants Administer**
Betty Newton, Livonia Civic Center Library
- Registrar**
Carol Perrin, Helena Township Library
- Archivist**
Jim Doyle, Livonia Civic Center Library
- Newsletter Editor**
Debbie Straub, Cascade Branch of the Kent District Library
- Emeritus Members**
Annie Brewer, Dearborn Public Library
Mary McCormack, Petoskey Public Library

We then broke into smaller groups for afternoon table talks. Roger Mendel elaborated on co-ops; Charles Hanson gave FOLUSA Facts; Harriet Larson talked All About Book Sales; and Marcia Barker shared program ideas. This sharing of ideas is always the best part of our linkings. The Rochester Friends warmed up the afternoon table talks with homemade cookies and smiles.

A special "thank you" to the Rochester Hills Friends. They were enthusiastic, warm, and great bakers. The special breads in the morning were YUM!

Our next linking is May 1, 2008, in the lovely new Charlevoix Public Library. Hope to see many of you there. With any luck, spring will be well on its way by then!



Best Practices from Your Colleagues



News Around the State

FRIENDS OF
MICHIGAN
LIBRARIES
INFORMATION . SUPPORT . ADVOCACY

Don't see news about your Friends group here? It might be because we haven't received a copy of your newsletter. If you publish a newsletter—or if your library publishes one containing information about the Friends—please send it to FOML, c/o Debbie Straub, 9700 Grand River Dr. SE, Lowell, MI 49331. You can also send it via e-mail to EditorDAS@aol.com (please put "FOML news" in the subject line).

Eaton Rapids

In the inaugural issue of their newsletter, the **Friends of the Eaton Rapids Public Library** reported on their very busy (and successful) first year of existence. Determined to hit the ground running, they held several fundraisers, including a romance book sale and a mystery book sale, a Scholastic Book sale, an appraisal fair/bake sale, and a yard sale. They also found time to apply for 501 (c)(3) status, which they received in the fall of 2007. For the Christmas holidays, they worked to raise their profile in the community by participating in the Eaton Rapids Hometown Family Christmas Silent Auction, sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce. The Friends created a "Clifford the Big Red Dog" gift basket filled with books, stickers, toys, and four donated gift certificates for use at Celebration Cinema in Lansing.

Roseville

To celebrate National Library Week, the **Friends of the Roseville Public Library** sponsor a bookmark contest for children and teens. The Friends select the winners from among hundreds of entries, and the prize-winning creations are then put on display in the library. The Friends also hold drawings to award books to two lucky readers each day. (P.S.—Did you know that there is also a National *Friends of Libraries Week*, held annually in October? It began in 2006 to honor and celebrate Friends. The 2008 celebration is scheduled for October 19-25.)

Fremont

If there is a community foundation in your area, you might want to explore the possibility of how it could help your Friends group. In 2007, for example, the **Friends of the Fremont Area District Library** received a matching grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation. For every membership renewal or additional gift, the Friends will receive twice the amount up to \$3,000 total.

Hastings

Susan Smith, the president of the **Friends of Hastings Public Library**, e-mailed FOML to say that her members are "proud of their part in the opening in June 2007 of the new, GREEN 20,000-square-foot library." She continues: "The Friends' \$25,000 contribution was part of the \$5.2 million building totally built with private funds and grants. This generous contribution granted us space in the new library for a first-ever Friends store. Open 14 hours a week with 44 volunteers, the store is a favorite place with its used books, note cards and eco-friendly book bags. In addition to seven years of fundraising with duck races and book sales, the Friends give back to the community. Some of our projects include the 'Buck a Book' at the Commission on Aging and donation of used books to the county jail. For newborn babies at Pennock Hospital, the Friends also fund 400 gift bags and fill them with activity booklets, a 'Read to Me' bib, bookmark and beginning reader." Smith proudly notes in conclusion that "the Friends membership increased by 40 members in 2007, and their endowed fund at the Barry Community Foundation contains more than \$16,000."

Like many libraries across the state, the **Howell Carnegie District Library** celebrates the holiday season by sponsoring a Mitten Tree. Patrons are invited to place new hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens on the tree, and the Friends make sure that they are distributed to those in need in their area by working in partnership with an agency that assists the underprivileged.

The **Friends of the Cadillac Wexford Public Library** sponsored a Scrabble tournament at their facility that ran from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on a Saturday in January. Open to ages 12 and up, the tournament cost \$5.00 to enter (which included lunch), and participants were matched up by twos via a random drawing. They played two games with different partners for each, and following the afternoon game, scores of both games were tallied up and the top scorer for the day won a \$50 cash prize.

In a bid to counter the winter doldrums, the **Friends of the East Tawas Library** hold a “Cabin Fever Series” from January through April in partnership with a local coffeehouse. Featuring visiting authors and other presenters, the series is free and open to the public.

As part of the state’s one-book, one-state reading initiative, “The Great Michigan Read,” the **Friends of the Sterling Heights Public Library** sponsored a special evening focused on the 2008 selection, *The Nick Adams Stories*, by Ernest Hemingway. Attendees enjoyed dinner while viewing a short movie about the celebrated author, then sat back and listened to Michigan outdoor recreation expert and Hemingway aficionado Thomas Carny give a talk entitled, “Hemingway Was a ‘Fudgie,’ and I’m Glad.”

Congratulations to the **Friends of the Traverse Area District Library**, recognized by *The Unabashed Librarian* as a “model Friends group.” *The Unabashed Librarian* is a national subscription newsletter produced by and for library professionals.

And from out of state...

Comedian Paula Poundstone has been named national spokesperson for Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA). Her job will be to use her name, voice, and humor to help Friends groups all over the country promote themselves and their libraries. She has already recorded two public service announcements (one audio, one video) and will partner with local Friends groups wherever she performs to make tickets available for fundraising and promotional purposes. She has also agreed to hold book-signings after her performances, with a portion of the proceeds going to local Friends. FOLUSA is making additional publicity materials available free of charge, all featuring Poundstone’s witty observation, “If you haven’t been to your library lately, you’re overdue.”

Howell

Cadillac

East Tawas

Sterling Heights

Traverse City

Out-of-State

VOLUNTEES

What's missing?

U-R!

That's right, FOML needs *you* to serve on our all-volunteer board of directors!

We know you're devoted to *your* Friends group, but we'd love to have you spend a little time with us, too. Being on the FOML board will keep you current with library issues across the state and provide an opportunity for you to share your local information with others. This is your chance to help in our quest to make Michigan's libraries the best in the country.

FOML holds one board meeting per month, and every other one of those is a conference call that you can tie into from the comfort of your own home. (FOML picks up the tab for the connection.)

Join us and infuse your group with a new level of energy and commitment while ensuring that Friends continue to prosper throughout Michigan.

For more information, contact FOML President Dan Stock via e-mail at dstock4239@charter.net, by telephone at (989) 739-4239, or by regular mail at 6571 Loud Dr., Oscoda, MI 48750.

Could *Your* Group Use a Grant?

Applying for an FOML grant is easy! There are two different ways to obtain the necessary form: you can download it from the FOML website (www.foml.org), or you can request a copy by mail by contacting Betty Newton, FOML, c/o Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48154.

Once you have filled out your grant application, submit it along with a brief explanation of how you intend to make use of any money you might receive. Be sure to keep in mind that the purpose of an FOML grant is to assist new or revived Friends groups become more effective.

Also, please note that applicants must agree to join FOML prior to receiving the grant if selected and to report on their grant-related activities periodically following receipt of a grant.

Applications received by September 30 will be considered for the fall grant cycle, and those received by March 31 will be considered for the spring cycle.

Membership or Renewal Application

- YES!** We want to JOIN Friends of Michigan Libraries
 YES! We want to RENEW our membership

Contact Person's Name

Contact Person's Phone Number and E-mail Address

Contact Person's Street Address

City/State

Zip

Library Name

Library phone number

Membership Fees (please check one; all are tax deductible)

- Individual \$ 10.00
 Friends Group \$ 25.00
 Patron \$ 100.00
 Benefactor \$ 500.00
 Corporate Sponsor \$ 1,000.00

Make checks payable to: **Friends of Michigan Libraries**

Send completed application form and check to:

Harriet Larson, FOML
c/o Livonia Civic Center Library
32777 Five Mile Rd.
Livonia, MI 48154

Linking Travel Information and Registration

**Money Matters:
Financing and Fundraising
Thursday, May 1, 2008, 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.**

(Please see page 1 for program information)

Charlevoix Public Library

220 West Clinton St.
Charlevoix, MI 49720

[http://www.charlevoix.lib.mi.us/
index.htm](http://www.charlevoix.lib.mi.us/index.htm)

Telephone (231) 547-2651

Parking

Ample parking is available in a lot at the front of the library inside the "L" shape formed by the building, in an adjacent lot to the east of the library (enter off Mason Street), or on nearby streets.

Travel Information

From the south via US-31:

Entering Charlevoix from the south on US-

31 (Bridge Street), turn left onto either Mason Street or at the traffic light one block north at Clinton Street. The library is in the second block, between Mason and Clinton streets.

From the north via US-31:

Entering Charlevoix from the north on US -31 (Bridge Street), turn right onto either Clinton Street at the traffic light or one block south at Mason Street. The library is in the second block, between Clinton and Mason streets.

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• **Linking Program Registration**
• **Thursday, May 1, 2008, 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.**
• **Charlevoix Public Library**
• **Charlevoix, Michigan**

• **Registration Deadline: April 26, 2008**
• Registration includes lunch.

• **Make checks payable to: Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML)**

• Send your check and the completed registration form below to:

• FOML
• c/o Carol Perrin
• 12319 SW Torch Lake Dr.
• Rapid City, MI 49676
• Questions? Telephone: (231) 322-6122; e-mail: carolper@charter.net

• Name _____ Phone _____

• Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

• Library Affiliation _____

• Number Attending _____ x \$20.00. Total Amount Enclosed = _____

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Friends of Michigan Libraries
Livonia Civic Center Library
32777 Five Mile Rd.
Livonia, MI 48154

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TO: Friends of the Library

Friends of Michigan Libraries Board of Directors

President	Dan Stock, Robert J. Parks Library, Oscoda
Vice President/ FOLUSA Representative	Charles Hanson, Kettering University
Secretary	Marcia Barker, Canton Public Library
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Linking Chair	Marie Brooks, McKune Memorial Library, Chelsea
Newsletter Editor	Debbie Straub, Cascade Branch, Kent District Library
Historian/ Grants Administrator	Betty Newton, Livonia Civic Center Library
Past President/ Registrar	Carol Perrin, Helena Township Library
Archivist	Jim Doyle, Centerline Public Library and Livonia Civic Center Library
Emeritus Member	Annie Brewer, Dearborn Public Library
Emeritus Member	Mary McCormack, Petoskey Public Library

The mission of the Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) is to support Friends working on behalf of Michigan libraries, to serve as an information resource for Friends groups, and to be advocates for libraries at the state level.

Among Michigan Friends is published three times a year as part of membership in the Friends of Michigan Libraries. FOML would like to thank The Gale Group for its support in helping to print and mail copies of this newsletter to every public library (including their branches) in the State of Michigan.

Editorial contributions to the publication are welcome and should be sent to:

Debbie Straub, FOML
 9700 Grand River Dr. SE
 Lowell, MI 49331
 E-mail: EditorDAS@aol.com

Get Your Copy of the FOML Manual Today!

The latest edition of the FOML manual, *A Manual for Michigan Friends: A Guide to Creating and Nurturing an Effective Friends of the Library Organization* (published in 2006), is a must-have for every Friends group in search of information on how to operate successfully. The contents have been updated and clarified throughout.

Among the new or expanded chapters are "Getting and Keeping Friends," "Bookstores, Gift Shops and Cafes," "Book Sales" (including a new section on Internet selling), "Communications," and "Marketing and Public Relations" (including new information on preparing media releases).

The manual is priced at \$15.00 plus a \$5.00 mailing fee for a total of \$20.00.

To get your copy, visit www.foml.org to download an order form and send a check made payable to Friends of Michigan Libraries to:

FOML
 c/o Canton Public Library
 1200 South Canton Center Rd.
 Canton, MI 48188

Or, to save on mailing costs, simply purchase a copy at our next linking.

Either way, your group will reap the benefits of this invaluable resource!