



Among Michigan Friends

INFORMATION • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

Volume 15, Issue # 2 January 2008

www.foml.org

Message from the President

Dan Stock,
Robert J. Parks Library

After a slight delay for which I apologize, the 2007 edition of our “Directory of Library Friends” is now at the printer’s and will be mailed soon to all FOML members in good standing through December 31, 2007.

The Directory contains information about the activities of over 200 Friends organizations in the state. This represents more than 60 percent of the Friends groups we know about, and we will be working to increase that percentage in our next edition.

We trust that you will find this publication helpful in linking you with other Friends organizations and sharing ideas and resources.

We know that all libraries have friends, and it is one of our objectives to help those libraries currently without an organized Friends group to attain official status.

To that end we recently sent letters to over 120 libraries in the state thought not to have an organized Friends group

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Message from the President *continued from page 1*

and invited them to consider forming such a group. Please let us know if you have an

“Making Lemonade...”:

A Linking at the Rochester Hills Public Library

Turning Challenges into Opportunities

Michigan’s public libraries—and, by extension, the Friends groups that support them—face challenges on many fronts these days. Please join FOML at the Rochester Hills Public Library for a look at two areas in particular: the past, present, and future of library co-ops, and the steps one community is taking to make its facilities more eco-friendly.

As important as they are to the efficient operation of many libraries, co-ops are often “invisible” to patrons and therefore remain a mystery to many. Roger Mendel, the director of the Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative, will explain where the co-ops are in Michigan and who belongs to them, what co-ops do for libraries, how co-ops are funded, and how Friends can help ensure the survival of co-ops in light of the state’s budget woes.

In a presentation entitled “Going Green: Building a Sustainable Future,” Josie Parker, director of the Ann Arbor Public Library, will discuss her system’s “green” building projects, including a new branch that is making extensive use of lumber from trees that were destroyed by the emerald ash borer. After her talk, attendees will have a chance to share green ideas from their own libraries.

“Table Talks” Return in the Afternoon

Following a very successful debut at FOML’s Chelsea linking, “Table Talks” will once again be on the agenda in Rochester Hills. These casual, fast-paced, and informative small-group discussions focus on a variety of subjects. We invite you to attend up to three, thirty-minute-long sessions—you choose what interests you the most. Table Talk topics in Rochester Hills will include a one-on-one session with Roger Mendel as well as chats with FOML’s Dan Stock on administrative issues, Marcia Barker on programming ideas, and Harriet Larson on book sales. The day will end with the entire group coming together again for a recap of what went on in all of the individual Table Talk sessions.

This linking will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. It will include a brief annual meeting to elect FOML officers for 2008.

See page 7 for registration and travel information.

Calendar

- Time to renew your FOML membership (see page 6) January 2008
- Deadline for applying for a grant from FOML (see page 6) March 31, 2008
- A Linking May 1, 2008 Charlevoix Public Library For more information, see a future

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FOML Officers Speak at Inaugural St. Clair County Friends Workshop

*Dan A. Stock,
Robert J. Parks Library*

“We must, indeed, all hang together, or, most assuredly, we shall all hang separately.”
—*Benjamin Franklin, after signing the Declaration of Independence*

* * *

With that sentiment in mind, Jim Warwick, director of the St. Clair County Library, kicked off the first-ever meeting of Friends from the system’s eleven branches to discuss ways they can interact, particularly on issues of importance to the entire system. The get-together was held on September 22, 2007, at the main library in Port Huron. FOML President Dan A. Stock was one of the guest speakers, and FOML Treasurer Harriet Larson attended as an FOML resource.

In his talk, Warwick stressed that the vagaries of library funding in Michigan make it essential not only for Friends at branch libraries to develop goals and plans to meet the needs of their *own* communities but also to work together for the benefit of the system as a whole. It’s all about politics at the local, county, and state levels, he observed, and therefore it is vital for Friends to make themselves known to library board representatives, county commissioners, legislators, and so on who make or at least influence the decisions that impact libraries. According to Warwick, this kind of citizen involvement and the cultivation of personal relationships with those in power carry considerably more weight than the efforts of library staff to shape policy. He therefore thinks it would be very helpful to compile an e-mail list of Friends who are willing to receive and act on library-related “issue alerts.”

Allison Arnold, assistant director of the St. Clair County Library, then gave an overview of the county library organization and provided insights and contact information on how the branch Friends could work more closely with the library staff and trustee board members.

Following Arnold’s talk, guest speaker Dan A. Stock, president of FOML, presented a summary of the purpose and resources of the Friends of Michigan Libraries. He also discussed specific critical areas of responsibility for trustees, directors, and friends relating to policy, funding, administration, and advocacy.

JoAnne Haveman, Past President of the Friends of the Public Libraries of Saginaw, started her portion of the program with an overview of her umbrella organization. It is governed by a 21-member board, including the presidents of the branch friends groups who serve as ex-officio members. This arrangement, plus the fact that directors attend branch friends meetings, ensures a free flow of information among the various groups.

Haveman then turned her attention to recruiting members. She recommended an aggressive approach, suggesting that Friends set up a table within each branch of the library system at every book sale and also at other special library and community events. (The Saginaw Friends have a custom-designed tablecloth they use at these times.) The Saginaw Friends also actively publicize their book sales and their organization in brochures and flyers distributed to senior centers, schools, and stores and by advertising on the Charter Cable Billboard service. Haveman emphasized that once you have attracted new members, make certain you give them a task to do.

The workshop drew to a close with a focus on branch Friends. Representatives from each group gave a presentation about their organization, including a summary of projects they’ve completed and ones that are still in progress.

The workshop was well received by all and will hopefully be just the first of many future annual workshops in St. Clair County.

Please visit our website at www.foml.org to read and/or download the handouts provided by Jim Warwick and JoAnne Haveman.

Chelsea Friends Help Make Linking An Unqualified Success

Marcia Barker,
Canton Public Library

Seldom has FOML experienced such a warm welcome and efficient Friends as we did in Chelsea at the McKune Memorial Library on October 18, 2007, for our linking “Libraries on the Move.”

The Friends were attentive, skilled and did everything we asked and more. The morning began with Jennifer Kundak, Friends’ president, and Joan Elmouchi, library director, welcoming us to their lovely remodeled building, which began its life as a single residence in the 1800s. With much planning and work, it is now a wonderful facility in the heart of a charming town.

Stan Staffeld of the Chelsea Friends entertained and amazed us with the unique solution of their “Movable Book Carts.” Chelsea Friends solved the problem of moving their used books from their sorting area in the basement to the second floor of the library for their monthly sales. Through some very clever planning and building, the Friends were able to turn book stacks, plywood and some retrieved grocery carts into a most unique and usable system for successful sales with little stress and strain on volunteers’ backs. Kudos to the Chelsea Friends!

Our next speaker was Susan Odgers of Grand Valley State University, who enlightened us on “Accommodating Patrons with Disabilities.” Susan espouses the belief that people who love libraries change the world. She, therefore, thinks that *everyone* should

have open and easy access.

She pointed out several little things that would make library visits easier for many patrons, including having bags available for them to collect materials, having long-handled grabbers available to reach items up high, keeping the entrances and aisles clear of excess items and so much more. Susan was down-to-earth, entertaining, knowledgeable and a hit with the audience.

After a terrific lunch prepared by the Chelsea High food service students, we tried a new format for the afternoon gathering. We provided six table-top discussions that the attendees could rotate through in half-hour sessions. Each person chose three sessions from the following list: one-on-one with Susan Odgers; one-on-one with Stan Staffeld; “Administrative Issues” with Dan Stock; “Programming Ideas” with Marcia Barker; “Volunteers in the Library” with Marie Brooks; and “All about Book Sales” with Harriet Larson. This format—which we’re calling “Table Talks”—seemed to be well received, and we will do it again at a future linking.

Thank you again to Chelsea Friends for a fabulous, fun and informative day!

Spam Alert!

Some FOML board members have recently received e-mail—ostensibly from foml.org—with subject lines such as “Urgent Equity Alert” and the like.

Our technical expert has informed us that this is a type of spam and should NOT be opened. Nor should you download any attachments associated with such e-mail. “Spammers long ago realized that fake e-mail with a real person’s address is more likely to be delivered,” he explains. “They now use several techniques to find real e-mail addresses and then send forged e-mail that seems to originate from a real person.”

If you receive any unsolicited e-mail that appears to be from FOML but has a suspicious-sounding subject line, please **DO NOT OPEN IT OR ANY ATTACHMENTS**. Decide whether the message looks right first, and only open attachments you expect to receive.

Unfortunately, because these e-mails are forgeries, there is nothing that can be done from FOML’s server to prevent them from being sent out in our name.

Please scrutinize any FOML-generated e-mail carefully and contact us with any questions or concerns you have *before* opening it.

Best Practices from Your Colleagues



News Around the State

FRIENDS OF
MICHIGAN
LIBRARIES
INFORMATION . SUPPORT . ADVOCACY

Tawas City

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).

Tara Western of the **Tawas City Library Friends** tells FOML about a unique pairing for her group—books and *vegetables*. (Yes, you read that right.) Shortly after forming in October 2006, the Friends were mulling over ways to raise money when they settled on an unusual venue for a summer book sale—a Farmers' Market. "In the Tawas area, a Farmers' Market is held every Saturday from May through October," explains Tara. "On June 30, 2007, we held our second traveling book sale at the Market.

"We tried to lower our expectations; at our first sale on May 19 at a Quota Club perennial exchange, we had made \$525 in four hours. We were thrilled. We didn't know what to expect from the Farmers' Market, although we had an inkling that gardeners and books were a good match.

"The sale started out slowly at 8:00 a.m., but by 9:30 we were cooking! In the hours from eight o'clock to 1:00 p.m we took in just shy of \$760! We have no set prices; donations only. Our slogan is, 'You pick the book, you pick the price.'

Continues Tara: "Besides the considerable profit (our only expense was \$6 in plastic drop cloths for a ten-minute rainstorm), book sales are incredibly fun. People are so excited to find books for their cottage, for their grandchildren, at such bargain prices. Our voracious reading members share titles with shoppers, leading to more sales. Some say, "The book is dead"; our sales seem to say different.

"Since our first sale at the Market, people have asked when we're coming back. They thought we'd be there every week! We plan to return on August 11, when the antiques festival is in town, and on September 8, when a huge women's softball tournament is held.

"The Northeast Michigan Regional Farm Market allows one nonprofit to set up per weekend at no charge. They have started a second sale in the AuSable/Oscoda area on Wednesdays, but we don't know if we'll go there. We'll see. But even if we don't make much money," concludes Tara, "we know we'll have fun!

Stephenson

To show their support for U.S. troops serving overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan, the **Friends of the Menominee County Library** recently coordinated a "Cards for Troops" drive. They asked people in their community to submit the names and addresses of family members or friends in the military, then solicited donations of cards and money for postage. Everyone was then invited to stop by the library and sign the cards.

The Menominee Friends are also sponsoring a 100 Book Reading Challenge over the winter, with a drawing for prizes to be held during National Library Week in April 2008.

The **Friends of the Lewiston Library** have turned an open space adjacent to their building into a Reading Garden. Still a work in progress, it was home to the group's "My Favorite Scarecrow" contest entry in the fall featuring a farmer scarecrow sowing the seeds of knowledge with a "crop" of books. The Friends also created a garden display for the "Light Up Lewiston" event around the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Lewiston

Ideas for a couple of interesting and informative programs come from the **Friends of the Berkley Public Library**. In one instance, they invited the director of the Sladen Library at Henry Ford Hospital to come and talk about finding and evaluating health information on the Internet, the place increasing numbers of people turn to first when illness strikes. On another occasion, the Friends hosted the Investor Education@Your Library Seminar, presented by the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Services. Individual counseling sessions followed the 90-minute presentation, which was focused strictly on education (no sales pitches).

Berkley

Congratulations to the **Friends of the Livonia Library**, who recently achieved a truly remarkable milestone: \$1,000,000 in total book sales! The Friends held their very first sale in February 1989 and made just under \$8,000. Since then, they have held three book sales every year, posting record-breaking sales of \$30,554 at their May 2007 event.

To help celebrate their 25th anniversary, the **Friends of the Traverse Area District Library** sponsored a visit by James Bradley, author of *Flags of Our Fathers*, a nonfiction account of the six men who raised the U.S. flag during World War II at the Battle of Iwo Jima. Tickets were \$10.00 each, but all World War II veterans and their spouses were admitted to the program free of charge.

Livonia

As part of their ongoing support for genealogy researchers who use their facility, the **Friends of the Charlevoix Public Library** have agreed to donate \$5,000 to hire a contractual librarian who will be responsible for completing and updating the cataloguing of materials in the library's genealogy collection. It is housed in a special section of the library known as the Michigan Room.

Traverse City

And from out of state...

The **Friends of the Adamstown (Pennsylvania) Area Library** found a clever way to market their plentiful supply of romance novels: beginning February 1, they hold a "Glance at Romance Book Sale." To entice patrons to make a purchase, the Friends decorate and fill gift bags with eight paperback romance novels by a variety of authors.

Charlevoix

Out-of-State

Three Friends Groups Receive FOML Grants

FOML offers grants of up to \$250 twice a year to Friends groups whose applications meet the necessary criteria and the deadline requirement. The grants are intended to help new or revived Friends organizations in their efforts to become more effective. This typically includes developing materials that explain who the Friends are and what they do. FOML grants have enabled deserving Friends groups to design and print brochures, create new logos, and purchase banners to display at Friends events.

Awarded grants in the fall of 2007 were Friends groups from the communities of Cheboygan, Fenton, and Presque Isle.

The Friends of the Cheboygan Area Public Library intend to use their grant (\$250) to help fund the printing and distribution of brochures about their organization. They have targeted 6,100 homes in their community to receive copies of the brochure.

In Fenton, the Friends of the Library are taking a somewhat different route to promote their brand-new group. They are using their grant (also \$250) to purchase bookmark magnifiers and self-adhesive scratch pads inscribed with their name.

Finally, the Friends of the Grand Lake Branch of the Presque Isle District Library will be using their \$100 grant to purchase a banner to promote themselves and their activities at community events.

Congratulations and good luck to all three recipients!

Could *Your* Group Use a Grant, Too?

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

**“Making Lemonade...”:
Turning Challenges into Opportunities
Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.**

(Please see page 1 for program information)

Rochester Hills Public Library

500 Olde Towne Rd.
Rochester, MI 48307-2043

<http://www.rhpl.org>

Telephone (248) 656-2900

Parking

Ample parking is available in a lot on the south side of the library.

Travel Information

From the east/west via M-59:

From the east, take M-59 and turn right onto S. Rochester Rd., which becomes Main St. as you enter downtown Rochester. Just north of University Dr., turn right onto Olde Towne Rd.

From the west, take M-59 to Crooks Rd. and turn left. Turn right onto W. Avon Rd. and then left onto S. Rochester Rd., which becomes Main St. as you enter downtown Rochester. Just north of University Dr., turn right onto Olde Towne Rd.

From the south/north via I-75:

From the south, take the Rochester Rd. exit (Exit 67) and turn right onto Rochester Rd., which becomes Main St. as you enter downtown Rochester. Just north of University Dr., turn right onto Old Towne Rd.

From the north, take the I-75 Business Loop South exit (Exit 81) toward Pontiac. Merge onto Lapeer Road/I-75 BL S. Turn slightly left onto N. Opdyke Rd. Turn left onto E. Walton Blvd., which first becomes E. Walton Dr. and then Walton Blvd. Continue straight to go onto University Dr. Turn left onto Olde Towne Rd. just past Main St.

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Linking Program Registration
Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
Rochester Hills Public Library
Rochester, Michigan

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Registration Deadline: February 7, 2008
Registration includes lunch.

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

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Send your check and the completed registration form below to:

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

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Name _____ Phone _____

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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

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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

existing Friends group that was omitted from your library's 2006 annual report. Also, if you have not received one of these letters and are interested in forming a Friends of the Library organization, we encourage you to contact us through our website at www.foml.org. One or more of our board members will either be able to provide assistance or put you in touch with a neighboring Friends group willing to help.

While the start-up process is not particularly difficult, it does involve a number of steps that can seem intimidating. At such times, advice from others who have gone through the experience can be comforting and beneficial.

This is an age of transition for libraries and having Friends is always comforting at such times. On behalf of the Board, I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.