



# Among Michigan Friends

INFORMATION • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

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www.foml.org

## Message from the President

Charles Hanson,  
Kettering University

The American essayist and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote to Walt Whitman on the publication of *Leaves of Grass*, "I greet you at the beginning of a great career." I want to extend my greetings to you, a FOML Friend, as I begin my term as FOML president and extend my support for your contributions to a great American institution, the library.

My experiences as a director of various types of libraries continue to reinforce my faith in the library's value and its capacity to enrich lives over and over again. It is through your love and support as a Library Friend that the library can continue to offer its numerous services. And, like all organizations that continue to grow and change, I will be implementing in the days ahead some changes in the Friends of Michigan Libraries organization that will improve communication and connections between FOML and its membership.

Meanwhile, continue to love your library and remember the words from Stevie Wonder's song, *That's What Friends Are For*: "In good times/ And bad times/I'll be on your side forever more/ That's what friends are for."

## Exciting Changes Ahead for FOML

### *Rethinking—and Enhancing—the Benefits of Your Membership*

Change. The word can either signal a call to something new and different or it can set off an alarm about the possible consequences of not continuing past practices and procedures.

The FOML board has recently begun discussing a number of proposed changes to the kinds of information we provide our members as well as to the ways in which we deliver that information. Our first major decision on that score was to approve the website development firm, Trilobite Media, to maintain and develop the FOML website ([www.foml.org](http://www.foml.org)).

The revised and updated website was launched in May with some new content, including contact information for anyone who has questions about FOML or who might be seeking answers to Friends' concerns or issues. The FOML board welcomes your input as we continue to improve and enhance the FOML website. Is there some content you would like to see? Please let us know!

We also encourage you to send us your digital photos (along with a description) for our expanded Photo Galleries. This section includes not only pictures of FOML member libraries but also a Gallery of Gifts featuring the various kinds of gifts that Michigan Friends have made to their libraries. Help us make the FOML website a source of information about the great work of Michigan Friends!

In addition to improving the website, members of the FOML board are considering a change in how we distribute the FOML newsletter. Over the next year FOML will be going more and more digital; that is, the newsletter you may now receive in the mail will soon be delivered to you electronically over the web. For some this change will be frightening, and that is why the changeover will not take place immediately (for one thing, we'll need your up-to-date e-mail address). But with electronic publishing, the FOML board can get the newsletter to you faster, provide the link to access the newsletter, and reduce the amount of work (not to mention the monetary and environmental costs) involved in printing, assembling, and mailing a paper copy.

If this particular change sets off an alarm for you, we would like to hear from you about why you are concerned. Remember, though, the current FOML newsletter is available on the FOML website as are archived copies of previous issues. So, we've actually already gone digital, and now we're contemplating our next digital move forward.

In the meantime, we'll keep you posted about other possible changes. And please—do not hesitate to contact us with *your* ideas, comments, and concerns.

### Calendar

- Linking/Workshop  
October 29, 2009  
Malletts Creek Branch,  
Ann Arbor District Library  
(see next issue of *Among Michigan Friends* for more information)
- Deadline for applying for a grant from FOML (see page 6)—now up to \$400!  
September 30, 2009
- Linking/Workshop  
February 10, 2010  
Ypsilanti District Library

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## **"Love Your Library": FOML Visits the Plymouth District Library**

*Ann Ingles  
Genesee District Library*

About sixty Friends from sixteen different libraries attended the FOML linking in February 2009 at the Plymouth District Library. Entitled "Love Your Library," the get-together focused on the topics of fundraising and volunteering.

In the absence of outgoing FOML President Dan Stock, then vice-president Charles Hanson welcomed the group and introduced Wilma Cleveland, president of the Friends of the Plymouth District Library, and Pat Thomas, director of the Plymouth District Library. Both supplemented their welcoming remarks with information concerning the linking and the library.

The first session was on book sales with featured speakers Bob and Nan Cooper, who chair the permanent used book sale for the Friends of the Plymouth District Library. Nan gave the history of the sale, and Bob provided the technical aspects of the organization of the sale. They both inserted plenty of humor

along with their information. Nan and Bob also made themselves available in the Friends Room of the library during the lunchtime tours, answering questions and discussing the physical layout of their space. They shared their expertise during the afternoon Q&A period as well.

Sharon Pignanelli, president of the Friends of the Chelsea District Library, continued the discussion with a PowerPoint presentation describing the very successful rolling cart system used by her group to sell books. The title of her talk was "Fundraising and Volunteers—You Can't Have One Without the Other!" and she included a variety of other fundraising efforts by her group as well as tips on attracting and retaining volunteers.

Susan Stoney, the public relations specialist for the Plymouth District Library, built on that theme in her talk about "Finding New Friends" and then introduced several members of the Plymouth staff who explained the many ways their programs are helped by Friends.

As the morning drew to a close, the group listened to Carol Perrin's walk-through of the FOML website, [www.foml.org](http://www.foml.org). Many attendees expressed their appreciation for the overview, noting that they had learned a lot and now know more about FOML itself.

Afternoon sessions included some open discussions on the topics of online sales, how to manage volunteers, and teen volunteers. There was also some interest in the topic of relationships among Friends, staff, administrators, and volunteers. All of these may well surface again on the agendas of future linkings.

Friends of the Plymouth District Library were very gracious hosts indeed! In addition to a delicious luncheon of chicken salad, croissants, and fresh fruit, they provided a wonderful dessert table and refreshments throughout the day. Information, directions, and the fulfillment of special requests, plus the very well-organized noontime tours of the library, were all a part of their friendly service. Thanks, Friends!

### **MLA Workshop on Philanthropy Stresses Importance of Friends**

On April 22, 2009, FOML President Charles Hanson attended a Michigan Library Association (MLA) workshop entitled, "Building Philanthropy in Your Community." Several of the speakers emphasized the value of a Friends group in identifying and cultivating volunteers and potential donors to the library.

Tom Moore, dean of libraries at Central Michigan University, encouraged workshop participants to become actively involved in fundraising, pointing

out how making friends for your library and raising funds for your library are related and enjoyable. The title of his presentation, "Fundraising for Librarians: From Fear to Fun," emphasized the work *and* the fun involved in accomplishing goals.

Melissa Huisman, director of the Gary Byker Memorial Library in Hudsonville, shared many examples of how she was able to turn her Friends group into a veritable fundraising machine.

All in all, the MLA workshop gave positive evidence of the strength and power of Friends to commit time, energy, and dollars in support of library services and programs.

### **FOLUSA + ALTA = ALTAFF**

Say again? On February 1, 2009, Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) and the Association for Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA) joined forces to become a new division of the American Library Association (ALA). The new entity was christened the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF).

According to Sally Reed, the former head of FOLUSA and now the executive director of ALTAFF, the merger will bring together "all formalized citizen groups that support and govern libraries" in order to "maximize their effectiveness on behalf of all types of libraries everywhere, including their ability to be excellent library governors, fundraisers, and especially advocates."

# Meet Your New FOML Board

## *New Officers Bring Fresh Perspectives As They Look at 2009 and Beyond*

At FOML's annual meeting in February 2009 (held in conjunction with the linking at the Plymouth District Library), a new slate of candidates for board positions stepped up to the plate and received unanimous approval from those present.

For those of you who were not in attendance that day, here's your chance to become acquainted with FOML's new president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

### **President**



Assuming the role of FOML president is Dr. Charles Hanson, director of library services at Kettering University. Hanson has been actively involved in libraries and the promotion of library services as a "Friends Ambassador" for much of his career. He has served in various types of libraries—school, public, academic, and special—and his library experiences continue to impress him with the value of Friends as support groups for libraries.

Hanson has extended his library ambassador relationships to include service on international relations committees of the American Library Association (ALA), and he attended the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) Conferences in South Africa, Norway, Germany, and other countries as an ALA U.S. delegate.

In 2009 Hanson will begin serving on the ALTAFF board of directors, an ALA division that includes the former Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA) organization. (See related article on page 2.) As president of FOML, he welcomes the opportunity to be a spokesperson for libraries *and* Friends.

An avid runner, Hanson has often participated in race events that support nonprofit organizations; in 2008 he finished first in the 5K Run Wild (for the Detroit Zoo) event. So if anyone is considering a Friends 5K

Run fundraiser event, please send him an invitation to participate!

### **Vice-President**

FOML's new vice-president is Shelley Gach-Droz, who retired as director of the Huntington Woods Public Library in late 2007 after serving in the position for 27 years. She has maintained an active role in the Friends of the Huntington Woods Library throughout her career and now in retirement. Her role as program chair for many years has given her the opportunity to bring quality entertainment and activities to the library.



While director, Gach-Droz served on many Michigan Library Association (MLA) committees, was program chair for a MLA state conference, worked as marketing and public relations chairperson, and assisted with many groups of The Library Network (TLN) cooperative. She speaks almost yearly to a number of statewide cooperatives on marketing and public relations strategies.

Gach-Droz devotes her free time in retirement to volunteering for many nonprofits, including Oakland County Literacy, JARC (individuals with developmental disabilities), Detroit Book and Author, Bookstock, Huntington Woods Study Club, and her local Friends group. Besides volunteering, much of her quality time is spent with her three grandchildren. Traveling throughout the year with her husband and her children are also top priorities. Lastly, participating in a few monthly book clubs and daily hour-long walks keep Gach-Droz going.

### **Secretary**

Ann Ingles comes to FOML from the field of education. She is a former high school French teacher who has been teaching French and German for the past 30 years through community education programs and private tutoring to students from preschool age through senior citizens. During

that time she served on the Fenton Board of Education for 16 years, the Fenton Library Board, the Genesee District Library Foundation Board, the Midwestern Michigan Library Cooperative Board, and other local boards. She is currently finishing her second term on the Genesee District Library Board.

Ingles's life-long love of libraries prompted her to volunteer in her local Fenton Library for the past 20 years, "pretending to be a real librarian one or two days a week," as she puts it. According to Ingles, "Joining the Friends of Michigan Libraries board gives me the opportunity to continue a connection with libraries as I leave Fenton and move back to the family homestead in Petoskey."

### **Treasurer**

Overseeing money matters for FOML is Sandra Brown Gellis, a historian who has taught at Purdue University and at Oglala Lakota He-Sapa College in South Dakota. She currently works in the writing lab at Kettering University.



An avid reader and library patron, Brown Gellis joined the Friends of the Flushing Area Library upon moving to Michigan in 1998 and has since served as the group's secretary and president. She is also past president of the Genesee District Library Foundation Board and currently is a director and treasurer of the Kettering University Friends of the Library and Archives.

"I welcome participation in FOML because the group links all lovers of libraries," says Brown Gellis. "A public library is distinctively American and is a foundation of democracy."

Congratulations to these new board members! Please wish them well as they chart a course that strives to make FOML even more helpful to Friends in years to come. And don't hesitate to contact them with your questions and concerns. They're just a few clicks away when you visit [www.foml.org](http://www.foml.org).

# 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 your newsletter or individual news items via e-mail to [newslettereditor@foml.org](mailto:newslettereditor@foml.org).** On behalf of FOML and Friends everywhere, thanks for sharing!*

### North Muskegon

From Darnell Gundy-Reed of the **Friends of the Walker Memorial Library** comes news of a quilt-related event at their library that they plan to turn into an annual fundraiser. "The Friends...teamed with North Shore Books, Patchers Around the Lakeshore (PALs), and Creative Memories to present an exhibit entitled, 'Quilts: Get in Touch with Textiles,' September 8-October 11, 2008," writes Gundy-Reed. "This exhibit encompassed quilts (old and new), crocheted pieces, bead work, handmade dolls, and embroidery. September 23 saw an open-air 'clothesline quilt' exhibit. Quilts were displayed on clotheslines in the park next to the library, creating an awesome display of color and texture flying free in the breeze and drawing many passersby to stop and then end their visit at the exhibit within the library itself.... This exhibit was provided free to the public as one vehicle to increase awareness of the library and its resources."

### Gladwin

One of the main activities of the **Friends of the Gladwin County District Libraries** centers around the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Project. Some of the group's book sale proceeds as well as sales of donated quilts and fine crafts available at the local Carriage Days Festival every August help fund this endeavor, as do monetary donations from other local service groups and individuals. The project—a partnership of the Friends and the Clare-Gladwin Regional Education District with assistance from Parton's organization—puts one free book every month into the hands of area children from newborns through age five. Nearly 900 children were enrolled in the program as of the end of 2008.

### Traverse City

In conjunction with the Grand Traverse Area Literacy Council, the **Friends of the Traverse Area District Library** sponsored a Scrabble Challenge at the Woodmere Library in August 2008. Each participant paid \$10 to play with proceeds benefitting the Council. Refreshments were served, and a harpist provided musical entertainment. A local jeweler furnished the grand prize, a \$500 gift certificate, which went to the player with the highest overall score.

### Jackson

Thanks to funding from its Friends group, the **Jackson District Library** has launched a successful summer reading program for *adults*. More than 600 people participated in its very first year (2007) and over 25 local businesses donated prizes, including a

new digital camera.

The **Friends of the Helena Township Public Library** marked the publication of their new cookbook, *Great Expectations*, with a "Family Feast." Samples of food from the cookbook were available for 25 cents a taste and, of course, copies of the cookbook were available for sale.

Of potential interest to Friends is a project undertaken by the **Mardigian Library** at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Staff there recently began creating digital bookplates to draw attention to items in their collection that have been donated directly to the library or purchased for the library with donated funds. According to the library's newsletter, "Each digital bookplate describes the gift/donation and the donors/honorees, with links to the items in the library catalog. In some cases, photos of the donors are included, making their stories come to life, and providing them with something they can show to friends and family." To see some of the bookplates, visit <http://library.umd.umich.edu/eBookplates/>.

September is National Library Card Month, and the **Friends of the Sterling Heights Public Library** sponsor a special drawing at their facility to celebrate. There are three prize categories: new card holders, adults, and children. People who receive a new library card receive a white entry card to be filled out and dropped in an entry box near the circulation desk. Adults who use the library card they already have to check out material receive a blue entry card, and children who use their existing library cards receive a green entry card. Patrons can enter as often as they wish during September—the more they use their cards, the greater their chances of winning. The drawing is held on October 1 and features prizes such as a portable DVD player and an MP3 player.

Congratulations to the **Kingsley Friends of the Library** on the opening of their new branch library in February 2009! A project that was nine years in the making, the attractive new building—complete with a clock tower—is envisioned as the cultural hub of the community. The Friends celebrated this momentous event by donating \$10,000 to establish a new foundation aimed at helping fund their library well into the future. One Friend then stepped forward and pledged to donate \$1,000 to the foundation every year on her birthday as long as either she or her husband is alive.

*And from out of state...*

In a brief news item in *Parade* magazine (December 21, 2008) entitled "Libraries Facing Closures and Cuts," the author notes that libraries across the country are coming up with creative ways to keep their doors open in these tough economic times. In Pennsylvania, for instance, the **Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia** launched a web page where residents can contribute as little as \$10 toward saving 11 branches slated for closure due to budget cuts.

The **Friends of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Public Library** in Tennessee celebrate National Library Week every April by delivering floral arrangements to each of their branches to be placed on or near the circulation desk with a poster reminding patrons about the annual event honoring libraries.

## Alden

## Dearborn

## Sterling Heights

## Kingsley

## Out of State

# FOML Increases Grant Amount to \$400!

*Just When You Need It Most, FOML Is Ready to Help*

**FOML is pleased to announce that, effective immediately, the maximum grant amount awarded to deserving Friends organizations has been increased from \$250 to \$400!**

Now FOML will offer grants of *up to \$400* twice a year to Friends groups whose applications meet the necessary criteria and the deadline requirement. (See below for details.) 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.

Past recipients have used their grant money to design and print brochures, create new logos, purchase banners to display at Friends events, underwrite mailings to potential members, design and distribute bookmarks, pay for newspaper advertisements, launch newsletters, and fund membership drives. Our goal is to help you thrive and grow to become vital members of your community. The possibilities for outreach are limited only by your imagination!



So what are you waiting for? Apply today for your FOML grant!

## 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](http://www.foml.org)), or you can request a copy by mail by contacting Betty Newton, FOML Grants Coordinator, 31272 Kendall, 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:  
FOML  
c/o Dr. Charles Hanson  
Kettering University Library  
1700 West University Ave.  
Flint, MI 48504-4898

## **What Friends Can Do for You: FOML at the Loleta Fyan Library Conference**

*Ann Ingles,  
Genesee District Library*

As usual, FOML headed north this spring—but not for a linking. Instead, board members Mary McCormack, Harriet Larson, and Dan Stock accepted an invitation from the organizers of the Rural Libraries Conference to speak at their meeting at the Grand Traverse Resort (April 29-May 1).

“Talk, talk, talk,” McCormack advised the approximately 50 library directors, board members, and Friends who filled the room for the 90-minute FOML presentation on April 30. McCormack was speaking about advocacy as one of the main roles of Friends of libraries.

She opened the session by pointing out that directors, board members, staff, and Friends must all meld together as a “family” in support of their local libraries, recognizing that families sometimes have disagreements. Friends must keep in mind what their responsibilities are and always remember to communicate with the library director.

Advocacy includes staying informed on library-related legislative matters, getting to know local political figures, and educating everyone about the significant role the library plays in the greater good of the community, noted McCormack. Newsletters, columns in local newspapers, speaking to community groups, and presenting programs that bring people into the library are some of the methods used by Friends groups as they advocate for libraries.

Next up was Harriet Larson. A checklist entitled “Consideration

of Responsibilities of Friends of the Library” was the basis of her portion of the program. With tips drawn from her many years of experience as a Friend, she discussed nonprofit status, tax exemptions, state and federal forms, the importance of regular audits, and considerations about banking and bulk mailing. She also provided lists of fundraising ideas used by various Friends groups and tips on making good book sales great.

In addition, Larson emphasized the close connection of Friends to small and rural libraries, noting that large library systems can hire professionals to handle public relations and fundraising while Friends help small libraries help themselves. “We love our libraries,” she said. “That’s what we all have in common.”

Dan Stock rounded out the presentation with information about the FOML website ([www.foml.org](http://www.foml.org)), the *Directory of Michigan Friends*, and the excellent *Manual for Michigan Friends*, which is a valuable tool compiled by FOML to aid in the establishment and development of Friends of the Library groups all over the state.

Like McCormack, he, too, urged Friends to communicate with their library director, saying that one way to help decide the difference between what Friends want and what the library needs is to solicit a list from the director and then choose projects from that list. Input from the listeners suggested that such a list should be updated regularly as needs change over time.

According to Stock, another method of strengthening communication is for the director or a designated staff member to attend Friends meetings and a representative from the Friends to attend library board meetings.

Stock also talked about the merits of identifying the special talents of

individual Friends or their connections and using those talents to bolster fundraising or programs. Partnering with other community groups is another way to be successful in support of your library.

The presentation ended with an open discussion facilitated by Stock. Attendees shared concerns and solutions to common problems such as what to do with leftovers from book sales, how to increase membership, how to get those members to actively participate, and how to raise money other than the book sale.

So, what can Friends do for you? A great deal!

***How can library  
directors work  
more effectively  
with Friends?***

***Here are Dan  
Stock’s three basic  
tips for forging a  
successful  
partnership:***

***—Help the Friends  
decide what they can  
do to help you meet  
your needs.***

***—Help them to  
identify talents that  
can be used to meet  
those needs.***

***—Then step back and  
let them work for you  
in their own way!***



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

**TO: Friends of the Library**

**Friends of Michigan Libraries**  
**Board of Directors**

President and ALA/ ALTAFF Representative	Charles Hanson, Kettering University
Vice President	Shelley Gach-Droz, Huntington Woods Public 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 Gale/Cengage Learning for its support in helping to print and mail copies of this newsletter.

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

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 E-mail: newslettereditor@foml.org

**WE NEED YOUR  
 E-MAIL ADDRESS!!!**



The FOML organization is moving forward with the process of adding electronic records of FOML memberships and future electronic delivery of the FOML newsletter. In order to accomplish this, we need your individual or Friends Group e-mail address.

**Please send  
 your e-mail address  
 with the subject  
 FOML EMAIL to  
 Idifilip@kettering.edu**

***Thanks for your help!***