



Among Michigan Friends

INFORMATION • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY

Message from the President

Dan Stock,
Robert J. Parks Library

We are currently in the process of updating our "Directory of Library Friends" for mailing to FOML members this fall. Many Friends groups have found the Directory to be helpful when considering the possibility of participating in a new activity. The Directory includes a listing of the projects and programs of the listed groups along with the contact information.

As one of our planning objectives is to increase the number of organizations listed, we asked the Library of Michigan to have libraries indicate if they have an active Friends group on their annual report. When the results are available, we will be contacting those organizations not currently listed in the Directory to encourage them to complete a survey.

Being listed in the Directory is not restricted to members of FOML. We encourage *all* Friends organizations in the state to complete and submit the survey form found on our web site, www.foml.org, to ensure they will be listed in future issues of the Directory.

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www.foml.org

Libraries on the Move: A Linking in Chelsea at the McKune Memorial Library

Innovative Solutions to Common Library Problems

Libraries today must deal with a wide array of issues as they strive to fulfill their mission to the public. One area of particular concern is accessibility—that is, accommodating patrons with disabilities. How does *your* library stack up? Are there things it could (and should) be doing to make a visit to the library a pleasurable and rewarding experience for all? Hear Susan Odgers of Grand Valley State University discuss this important topic and the implications it has for Friends.

Also on the schedule is a talk by Stan Staffeld of the Friends of Chelsea District Library that addresses a problem many Friends groups face: just where can you hold a book sale when library space is at a premium? Staffeld will explain how his organization came up with a movable book cart design that can be adapted by others to suit their own situations.

"Table Talks" Debut in the Afternoon

The afternoon marks the debut of FOML's "Table Talks," a series of casual, fast-paced, and informative small-group discussions 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 Chelsea will include one-on-one sessions with the two morning speakers as well as chats with FOML's Dan Stock on administrative issues, Marcia Barker on programming ideas, Marie Brooks on volunteers in the library, and Harriet Larson on book sales. Pick your three favorites, or come with a colleague and take information back to your group from all *six* sessions.

**This linking will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007,
from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.**

See page 5 for registration and travel information.

Calendar

- Deadline for applying for a grant
from FOML (see page 4)
September 30, 2007
- A Linking
February 13, 2008
Rochester Hills Public Library
For more information, please see a
future issue of *Among Michigan
Friends*

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Best Practices from Your Colleagues

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).

Beulah

From Patricia Jehle of the **Friends of the Beulah Public Library** comes word of her group's inspiring story of success, which is all the more remarkable considering the town's population is less than 500 in a county of about 17,000 residents. Writes Jehle: "[We] had a membership drive, organized a fund-raising campaign and had the kick-off in August 2005. Twenty months later we had achieved our financial goal with gifts and pledges and had a building in operation. We had an additional \$100,000 naming gift to invest for income to run a larger facility. [We also had] a new name, Darcy Library of Beulah." According to Jehle, the name honors a therapy dog who had a 17-year-long career, first visiting the sick and elderly and later working with children who wanted to practice their reading. Naming the facility after Darcy was intended to remind people about the importance of volunteers everywhere.

Continues Jehle: "We did not use a professional fund-raiser. We built a 3,000-square-foot building to replace a less than 700-square-foot library space. We had a goal of \$500,000. We stayed within our budget and have \$70,000 invested for extra income plus about \$40,000 in pledges from funds or foundations still to come within 2-5 years." Jehle estimates that more than 400 people donated to the Friends during their big drive, a number she finds truly astounding. "The group of people in Benzie County have been fantastic and driven to success," she says. "It is a pleasure...to work with such devoted people and to have such an amazing project come to fruition." And they're not done yet! The summer of 2007 saw the Friends hold a book sale and an evening musical event. On tap for December is a combination cookie and gift-quality book sale, and in February 2008 is an art/chocolate/champagne party at which they hope to top the nearly \$6,000 they made at the 2007 event. "Needless to say, I am very proud of our success," declares Jehle.

East Jordan

The **Jordan Valley Library Friends** take an active role in sponsoring family-friendly "party and a movie" events at their facility during National Children's Book Week every November. In 2006, for instance, they teamed up with East Jordan High School to present the film "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." Everyone was invited to come to a pre-movie party dressed as their favorite character. The second movie featured that week was "Charlotte's Web." Attendees at both events enjoyed refreshments, activities, and door prizes for an admission fee of \$1.00 per person.

During the months of November and December, the **Friends of Cadillac Wexford Public Library** make arrangements with the library to accept

donations of canned food, new toys, and new children's books in lieu of cash payments for overdue fines. The Friends then distribute the donated goods to local charities to assist community members in need.

Over the years, the **Friends of Helena Township Public Library** dutifully collected newspaper articles, pictures, and other memorabilia related to their many activities. Actually *organizing* the collection was quite another matter, however. The solution? A scrap-booking party! Members were invited to bring a brown-bag lunch, with the Friends providing coffee and dessert.

The **Friends of the Onaway Branch of the Presque Isle District Library** have set up a "Friends Recommend" table in their facility featuring 10-15 books they select each month to reflect a different theme. Some of the themes have included "Interesting People," "Issues Around the Globe," "American Events," "Sports," "Mysteries," "History," and "Michigan: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Place You Live."

As part of their community outreach efforts, the **Friends of the Charlevoix Public Library** have developed a program to assist people who have difficulty getting to the library. Working with the staff at their facility, the Friends arrange to deliver books and other materials and services to homebound residents. They also pick up and return the borrowed items to the library.

The **Friends of the Allen Park Public Library** have made it their mission to help fund the purchase of books for local public school media centers. In one particular instance, a gift to Allen Park High School made it possible for media center personnel to buy 69 fiction books—the first new print materials they had received in two and a half years.

One of the most unusual programs ever to take place in a library has to be one sponsored by the **Friends of the Library, Dearborn**. In April of this year, they hosted speaker Anthony Panepucci for an event titled "Keeper of the Past: Tales from the Privy Historian." Panepucci specializes in searching for abandoned outhouses, which were often used by families as a place to throw away unwanted items. Since beginning his quest in 1982, he has discovered many old glass bottles, dishes, and even Indian artifacts.

The **Friends of the Crooked Tree District Library** have launched a truly "puzzling" fund-raiser—a pair of two-sided jigsaw puzzles depicting scenes around Walloon Lake. The puzzles feature photographs by a local resident and are priced at \$35 each. The group also plans to sell Christmas cards for the second year in a row. A local artist created an original watercolor of a familiar Walloon Lake winter scene to grace the front of the card.

Cadillac

Alden

Onaway

Charlevoix

Allen Park

Dearborn

Walloon Lake

Three Friends Groups Receive FOML Grants

FOML offers grants of \$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. In the past, 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 spring of 2007 were Friends groups from the communities of Eaton Rapids, Perry, and Wayland.

In Eaton Rapids, the Friends intend to use their grant money to print brochures and purchase plastic holders to hold those brochures so that they can be placed at businesses and other places around town. They also plan to print bookmarks to be distributed in the library.

The Friends of the Edna Bentley Memorial Library in Perry want to design and print flyers to raise their profile in the community.

And in Wayland, the Friends of the Henika District Library have re-formed after a ten-year hiatus and intend to place an advertisement and an insert in their local paper explaining the purpose of their group and inviting members of the community to join.

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

Libraries on the Move: Innovative Solutions to Common Library Problems Thursday, October 18, 2007, 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

(Please see page 1 for program information)

McKune Memorial Library (also known as Chelsea District Library)

221 South Main St.
Chelsea, MI 48118

<http://www.chelsea.lib.mi.us>

Telephone (734) 475-8732

Travel Information

From the east or west via I-94:

Take I-94 to Exit 159/M-52. Go north toward Chelsea about 1.5 miles. M-52 is Main Street. The library is located at 221 South Main Street at the intersection of Main and Orchard.

From the north or south via M-52:

M-52 becomes Main Street in Chelsea. The library is located at 221 South Main Street at the intersection of Main and Orchard.

Parking

The library's lot is accessible from Orchard

Street. Turn east (right if coming from the south; left if coming from the north) from Main Street onto Orchard and immediately turn left past the library building. Handicapped parking is located in this lot.

Please note that there is limited parking available in the library lot. Several alternative lots are located just north of the library on South Park Street, both east and west of Main Street. Consult the library's website for a map of the area that shows the locations of these lots.

Seating is limited to 75 people—sign up now to ensure your spot!

Linking Program Registration
Thursday, October 18, 2007, 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
McKune Memorial Library
Chelsea, Michigan

Registration Deadline: October 12, 2007
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 = _____



**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

Get Your Copy of the Updated FOML Manual Today!

The latest edition of the FOML manual, published in 2006 and re-titled *A Manual for Michigan Friends: A Guide to Creating and Nurturing an Effective Friends of the Library Organization*, 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!