



FOCUS ON FRIENDS MONTHLY BULLETIN

November 2024

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Issue 38



Note from the President:

Some people enjoy the spontaneity of driving without a destination, but at FOML, we believe in having a clear plan to achieve our goals. In mid-October, seven of our board members met at the Delta Township Library near Lansing to begin developing a long-range strategic plan. We reviewed our mission, vision, and values, ensuring they aligned with the expectations expressed in a recent member survey. We also identified five key strategies focused on improving communication, providing useful tools, and expanding services—like the recently introduced Consult-A-Friend program.

Our next steps involve prioritizing these strategies and determining the best tactics to achieve our goals. As the plan takes shape, we'll share our roadmap with you because we want everyone to be part of this journey toward a successful future. Thank you for your continued support, and have a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. Remember, FOML is here when you need us.

Jill Sodd

President, Friends of Michigan Libraries

happy holidays



Connect with FOML online! Be sure to like and follow Friends of Michigan Libraries, FOML, on Facebook.

You can get the latest news about other Library Friends groups around the state and helpful reminders or resources useful for your own group.

facebook.com/FOMLLibraries

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Highlights from Talk About Friends at Clinton-Macomb Library

Larry Neal, Clinton-Macomb Library Director, and Marylyn Lucaora, Friends President, hosted the recent Talk About Friends event, providing insights on their library's history and Friends group structure. Fourteen attendees from seven libraries—including Flint, Novi, and Grosse Pointe—participated. Clare Membiela from the Library of Michigan shared best practices on topics like Memorandums of Understanding, 501(c)(3) regulations, and Directors and Officers insurance, earning high praise for her valuable insights.

Sue Johnson, FOML Vice President, introduced the new Consult-A-Friend mentoring program, which supports Friends groups through consultations. The event featured table discussions on membership and fundraising ideas, such as permanent Friends displays, community sponsorships, and unique fundraising events like a "Brew & Browse." Attendees later discussed defining success and overcoming challenges, emphasizing the importance of member engagement and communication. Evaluations were highly positive, with attendees appreciating the opportunity to exchange ideas and solutions. Special thanks to Larry and Marylyn for their hospitality and the engaging library tour!





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FOML Launches 'Consult-A-Friend' Program for Enhanced Member Support



At the October "Talk About Friends" workshop, FOML introduced Consult-A-Friend (CAF), a new program designed to provide members with personalized support. FOML President Jill Sordt described the program as a significant enhancement, offering three levels of assistance to meet diverse needs.

The Self-Service tier allows members to access tools and resources on the FOML website for quick, independent solutions. For more personalized help, the Assisted Service tier lets members submit requests for guidance, with responses provided within 48 hours.

For complex needs, the Consultative Service tier offers in-depth consultations to identify opportunities, improve efficiencies, and develop strategic plans. Board Director Joe David emphasized that this unique level of support is especially beneficial for groups seeking expert insights or fresh perspectives. "We believe CAF will be invaluable for members, whether they need business advice or simply want a new approach," he said. To learn more about Consult-A-Friend and how it can benefit your group, visit FOML.org.

FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN LIBRARIES HAPPENINGS:

Grosse Pointe Public Library

Supporting Literacy and Community

As 2024 winds down, the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library (GPPL) are proud to continue supporting library programs and fostering a love of reading. For 76 years, the Friends' mission has been guided by community engagement and successful used book sales, made possible by the support of nearly 400 members annually. Membership benefits include early access to used book sales, discounted tickets to signature events, and exclusive Meet & Greet, ensuring both new and returning members feel connected and valued.

Funds raised through used book sales, held at all three library branches, provide vital support for library initiatives. Popular events like the \$5 Bag Sale and bi-annual used purse sales draw eager shoppers, with inventory constantly refreshed through donations. The Friends also sponsor key programs, including author events such as Books on the Lake and Authors to the Pointe, as well as the highly successful Summer Reading Program, which drew over 2,200 participants this year. As we look ahead to 2025, the Friends remain deeply grateful to our members and the community for their continued support and dedication.

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