

Focus On Friends

February 2025



A Greeting from FOML President Jill Sadt



As we step into March, I want to take a moment to recognize the dedication of our Friends groups across Michigan.

Your hard work and commitment continue to make a difference in your communities, whether through fundraising efforts, program support or advocacy for your libraries.

With exciting events like our upcoming **Annual Membership Meeting in April** and the launch of **Consult-A-Friend**, 2025 is already shaping up to be a great year for FOML and our members.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to stay engaged, share ideas, and take advantage of the resources we offer. If you haven't already, be sure to **renew your membership** and explore how FOML can support your Friends group.

Thank you for all you do to strengthen Michigan libraries—I look forward to seeing the impact we'll make together this year!

FOML Annual Membership Drive



Now is the perfect time to join or renew your membership with Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML)!

Membership provides access to exclusive benefits, including workshops, resources, and our new **Consult-A-Friend** program launching in 2025. Your support helps strengthen Friends groups and enhance library services across Michigan.

Visit foml.org/membership to explore benefits and renew or join today. Together, we can make a difference for Michigan libraries!

Congratulations to Our Merit Award Winners

Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) is thrilled to congratulate **Friends of Pentwater Township Library** and **Friends of Hamburg Township Library** as our 2024 Merit Award winners!

The **Friends of Pentwater Township Library** were recognized for their **Haunted Library event**, which transformed the library into a thrilling pirate adventure for local children. With growing attendance each year, the event has become a community favorite, providing a fun and safe way to celebrate Halloween.

The **Friends of Hamburg Township Library** were honored for their **successful fundraising initiatives**, including book sales, an upscale rummage sale, and a new garden series fundraiser. Their efforts have significantly increased financial support for library programs, allowing them to fully fund popular events like **Little Yogis Preschool Yoga, cooking demonstrations, and music programs**.

Congratulations to both groups for their outstanding dedication and impact on their communities!



Introducing 'Consult-A-Friend' A New Resource for Friends Groups



[Click Here For More Information](#)

Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) is excited to offer **Consult-A-Friend (CAF)**, a new program designed to support Friends groups by providing guidance, resources, and expert advice. Whether you need quick answers, personalized assistance, or in-depth consultation, CAF offers three levels of support tailored to your needs.

- **Self-Service:** Access in-depth information and tools on the FOML website.
- **Assisted Service:** Submit a request for direct support from FOML.
- **Consultative Service:** Receive personalized consultation to help your Friends group grow and succeed.

CAF is a valuable resource for Friends groups of all sizes, offering flexibility and expert insights to help you navigate challenges and opportunities. **Learn more and take advantage of this great program today!**

Register Now for the 2025 FOML Annual Membership Meeting!



Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) invites you to join us for the **2025 Annual Membership Meeting** on **Friday, April 11th, at 9:30 AM** at the **Library of Michigan in Lansing**. The program begins at 10 AM, and for those unable to attend in person, a virtual option via Zoom is available.

This year, we are excited to welcome **Cordelia Anderson**, a renowned library marketing and communications consultant, as our featured speaker. She previously presented via Zoom in 2022, and now you have the chance to meet her in person!



Funding for this event is provided in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan.

Register today!

On-Site Registration: [Click here](#)

Virtual Registration: [Click here](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Friends of Shelby Area District Library (SADL) Announce New Seed Library and Garden Workshop in March



The Friends of Shelby Area District Library (SADL) are planning for warmer weather by launching a new project this Spring, a “Seed Library!” This popular service is offered by libraries all over the country including many here in West Michigan.

Beginning March 7, library card holders can stop by the Shelby Library and check out up to 10 seed packets to plant this year. Each packet contains from 5 to 20 seeds with selection limited to no more than two packets per variety. Over 25 varieties of vegetable, herb, and flower seeds are available.

Gardeners are also encouraged to donate extra seeds of their own for the Seed Library. Convenient envelopes for seed collection can be picked up at the display near the front desk and dropped off there after labeling.

A Gardening Workshop is also being offered on Wednesday, March 26 at 5:00 pm. Gary McKeen, Advanced Extension Master Gardener and Board member of the Oceana Conservation District, will discuss selecting a vegetable garden site, soils, fertilizing, water usage, composting, mulching, invasive species, building a rain garden, and tree health. MSU Extension informational handouts and book marks will be available free of charge.

Register for this workshop by calling the Shelby Library at 231-861-4565 or sign up at the circulation desk. Space is limited so early registration is encouraged.

Attention all Friends of the Library groups! Your hard work deserves recognition, and The Friends of Michigan Libraries newsletter wants to feature you! Send us images and a short article highlighting a project you're proud of, and we'll showcase it in our newsletter. Let's celebrate the incredible efforts of Friends of the library groups across Michigan and inspire others with your accomplishments. Email us today to be part of our next issue!

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