



Focus on Friends Monthly Bulletin

November 2020
Volume 1, Issue 3

Friends Finding Our Way Forward: Through and Beyond the Pandemic

Hello FOML Family,

On Thursday, November 14th, FOML held a successful virtual event, ***Friends Finding Our Way Forward: Through and Beyond the Pandemic***. Many FOML friends from around the state joined together to share ideas, questions, and concerns in a lively, open discussion.



We held two sessions, a large group joined us in the morning and a smaller group in the evening. It was interesting to experience the differing dynamics of the two groups. The large session was exciting because so many perspectives were shared; the smaller session allowed for more intimate and in-depth conversations. Both were rewarding. Response to the event has been 100% positive, and we hope to hold additional virtual discussions in the future. We look forward to seeing you then! As we all find our way forward, enjoy this month's *Focus on Friends* bulletin, which features information from and inspired by the recent virtual discussions.

Take care and stay safe,

Jill Marie Mason

FOML President

Where can we sell all of these books?

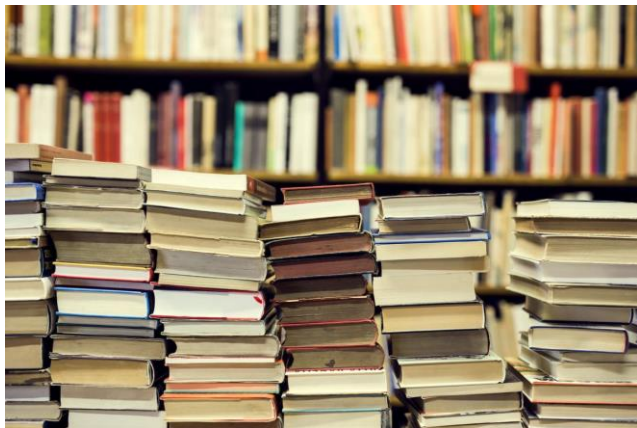


Photo: Adobe Photos

During the virtual discussion, we invited friends to share the online platform(s) they use for selling books. Here is what we came up with (with the addition of a few more).

[Amazon](#)

[Better World Books](#)

[Ebay](#)

[Goodwill Books](#)

[SellBackYourBook](#)

[Sustainable Shelves Program \(Baker and Taylor\)](#)

[ThriftBooks](#)

[Ziffit](#)

Helpful hint: Search 30+ buyback vendors at one time using [BookScouter](#).

Where can we store all of these books?

One friends group purchased an enclosed trailer and accepts donations at scheduled times. Without storage concerns, they quickly paid off the trailer by selling the donated books.

Multiple friends groups rent a storage unit and report that it is well worth the monthly investment.



Easy Online Fundraising Tools

[Amazon Smile](#)

Go to org.amazon.com to learn how to register your organization to receive donations.

[Kroger Community Rewards](#)

[Click here](#) to set up your organization.

[PayPal](#)

[SpartanNash Direct Your Dollars](#)

How long should we quarantine donations?

The general consensus of those in attendance seemed to be 3-5 days. For more detailed information about how long COVID-19 lasts on different materials, check out the [REALM project](#) (REopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums).

Featured Fundraising Idea

Friends of Brandon Township Library held a *pawsitively* popular [pet photo contest](#). Patrons paid \$5 to submit a pet photo and enter their pet into the competition. The photos were displayed and a vote was held. The winner received a gift certificate to Tractor Supply Co. (and bragging rights, of course). They got the idea from the **Friends of the Oxford Library**. This fundraiser could easily be done online in the event of a library closure.

Featured Friends—In Their Words

Susan Beal

Friends of the DeAngeli Library

[On attending the virtual discussion] The Zoom meeting was full of useful ideas! In some ways it was more fun than a real meeting, in that we were able to hear from the Friends of many more libraries than usual. But we often have similar problems, whether the library is large or small. We are blessed in Lapeer, in that it has been easy to deal with donations. We have a trailer that we can park in the library parking lot on a Saturday, twice a month. We can even quarantine the donations inside it!



Amy Shamroe

Friends of the Traverse Area District Library

[Sharing some event ideas] In October we hosted a Walk-A-Thon. People paid \$23 to walk (or run, bike, or whatever) 23 miles throughout the month- 23 for years we have been in our "new" library. While not book related, we wanted to encourage people to be outdoors and safely interacting before the cold months set in. It also got us featured in the paper's "Outdoor" section and gave us some free publicity because it was a little different.

We are currently doing pre-sales for a Holiday Bag Sale. We are selling 10 books, CDs, or DVDs for \$5. The selections are a mystery to buyers, but they can pick different genres. This allows us to do a sale safely. Volunteers sort and bag observing safe distancing measures, and our library is giving us space to organize while they are doing curbside only with the public. We will be doing curbside pick up to buyers December 5th.

www.tadl.org/friends

We are planning a Read A Thon, like the Walk A Thon, in February to keep Friends and the Library in the public mind and giving people something to feel connected to in the quiet, post-holiday wintertime. It will again have a low registration fee to be accessible to more people.

Thank You!

Thanks for reading this issue of Focus on Friends and thanks for being an FOML member. We appreciate you and hope to provide you with helpful services. If you were unable to attend *Friends Finding Our Way Forward: Through and Beyond the Pandemic*, know that we plan to offer similar virtual programming in the future. Please take a minute to [complete this brief survey](#) to let us know if you would be interested in attending such events and any topics of interest to you.

Happy Holidays and stay safe!

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