Focus on Friends
Friends of Michigan Libraries

Focus on Friends Monthly Bulletin

December 2020
Volume 1, Issue 4

Happy Holidays from the FOML Board!

And Best Wishes for the New Year and happiness in 2021.

Annual Membership Renewal

Most of you should have received a recent email notification indicating that it's time for your Friends group to submit their membership renewal for 2021. We appreciate your continued support for FOML and your commitment to helping us carry out our services to Michigan Friends. Renewal can be completed online by going to www.foml.org/membership.

In addition to your Friends group membership, this year we would like to encourage your Friends to take out an individual membership for one of your board officers and the library director. These memberships help to strengthen our communication connections with your library and ensure that all of our service offerings (the Focus on Friends Bulletin, webinars, etc.) are reaching your library in a timely manner.

Thank you for your membership that helps the Friends of Michigan Libraries connect and assist Michigan Friends.

Novi Public Library Vera Bradley Fundraiser

The Friends of the Novi Library was asked by the Vera Bradley store in our Twelve Oaks Mall to participate in a fundraiser with them. They elected Saturday, October 24, 2020. We staffed a table from 11:00 to 6:00. For a donation of $5 to the Novi Friends, an individual received a coupon for $20 off a purchase of $75 or more. In addition, the individual entered their name into a drawing for a Vera Bradley tote in their new Christmas pattern. The Friends also provided a basket of items for a second winner.
If the store made over $600 for the day, Vera Bradley gave the Friends an item for them to use in a future fundraiser.

We made $137.00 in donations for the day. The store met their $600 sales goal for the day and in return gave the Friends a Harry Potter tote worth $150. The Friends put together a basket of Harry Potter items. We had a box set of the first four Harry Potter books and a set of the Harry Potter DVDs from our used book/DVD donations which we included. We added a Harry Potter puzzle, set of UNO cards and a chocolate wand. A staffer used the library's 3D printer to make a 3D wand to include. Anyone could enter into a 6-week drawing by making a $10 donation to the Friends.

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Tiny used book store supports Friends of the Montague Library

When the Friends of the Montague Library canceled their three used book sales this year because of COVID-19 concerns, City Manager Jeff Auch came to the rescue. He offered free rent on a new tiny shop in the city's Artisan Market Village, plus assistance moving the Friends' heavy boxes of books stored at City Hall. His teenage daughter offered to run the operation, and the Itty Bitty Bookstore was born!

The well-stocked shop was open through mid-November. Residents and vacationers, all wearing face masks, loved the selection of used books and great prices. More than $550.00 was raised for the Friends!

For more information, write to susanjnewhof@gmail.com

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Friends of Bayliss Public Library Silent Auction

This year has been like no other in my experience working in libraries since 1983. And this was especially true for our many Friends of the Library groups around the State of Michigan. With COVID-19 restrictions limiting normal fundraising activities, many groups had to get creative in order to continue to support our libraries. The Friends of Bayliss Public Library holds an annual Silent Auction, which is one of its bigger money makers for the year. But this year, they had to go way outside the box and come up with a new way to raise funds. I contacted the Friends of Bayliss Public Library President, Jeanne Wellington, and asked her to share just how they facilitated this year's Silent Auction, despite COVID-19.

"Normally our Friends group holds three major book sales during the year as our primary fundraisers but because of COVID-19, this year's book sales were cancelled. Our Friends Board of Directors met to discuss other options for fundraising and decided to hold our usual Fall Silent Auction in December. We decided to make it an online event as well as our usual bidding in person at the Library. Our Silent Auction committee drew up a list of local businesses and divided the list among the members to contact the shops/stores and request donations. We also asked that the business or artist suggest a minimum bid amount for their item. We received over 40 items from local businesses, artists and others which were then photographed with a brief description card for each item. A Friends member posted these photos on our Facebook page with instructions for how to bid (by phone call to the Library, by email to our Friends email address or in person at the Library). The items are also displayed at the Library in the lobby entrance display case. We update the bid sheet that lists all the items, current high bid and name of the bidder daily. Our Auction began Dec. 1 and runs to Dec. 15 with bids closing at 6:00 p.m. that day. We have a few more days to go before the Auction ends but so far, it is exceeding our expectations as a fundraiser!"

Jeanne is just being modest. The Friends had hoped to raise $1,000 this year to help offset book storage costs that are normally covered in their Brew and Browse, an ongoing book sale and coffee bar located in the Bayliss Public Library. As of Dec. 11, they had already raised over $1,100 with four days to go in the auction. I haven't seen the final tally, but we will count this one as a great success. If you would like to get in touch with Jeanne Wellington, you can reach her by email at: jeannewellington@yahoo.com

Jeanne Wellington, Pres. of the Bayliss FOL
Lisa Waskin, Director of Superior District Library

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