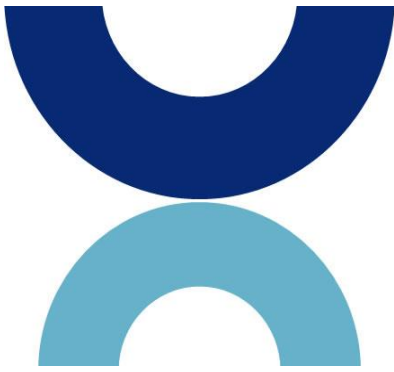




Focus on Friends Monthly Bulletin

September 2020
Volume 1, Issue 1

A Message from Jill Mason, FOML President

FOML is happy to bring you the first issue of Focus on Friends which is dedicated to helping you become better Friends as you work to improve library services in your community.

We plan to publish Focus on Friends frequently to provide timely information that will be helpful for Friends groups.

Along the way we want this bulletin to be an interactive format where you share ideas about your fundraising projects and other types of activities that other Friends can use at their libraries.

Share Your Stories

If you have a story for the Focus on Friends bulletin you would like to share with Friends, please email it to janet@foml.org.

FOML to End Trustee Service

At its meeting on Wednesday, September 2, the FOML Board voted to discontinue service to trustees, effective December 31, 2020. The decision to end the structure developed for trustees in 2010, known as the Trustee Alliance, was a strategic decision following a review of financial and leadership support for sustaining the Alliance. Moving forward

the board strategy for growth and development of the FOML organization will focus solely on the mission, business operations, and services of the Friends of Michigan Libraries. A FOML Restructuring Task Force will review and investigate the steps that need to be taken to discontinue the service to trustees.

Cancellation of FOML Outstanding Library Award

It's unfortunate that COVID-19 has had such a powerful impact on our lives and on our libraries, and we continue to live in a time of great uncertainty for library services and for Friends support of libraries. As a result,

FOML has decided that it will not carry out its annual application process for the Outstanding Friends of the Library Award 2020. We live in hope that in 2021 Friends groups will be able to carry out

a project that would qualify for this award.

“Have you hosted any online training programs? Please share your experience”

Virtual Training

FOML is investigating possible online (virtual) options for training and education of Friends. The Program Committee will be meeting to discuss how to carry out online training and

Information sharing. It's a new challenge for all of us, and we need to develop a strategy for development of this service option.

If any of your Friends groups have

experience in hosting virtual training programs or participating in online learning programs, please provide us with the details.

Follow us on Facebook

Connect with FOML online! Be sure to like and follow Friends of Michigan Libraries, FOML on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/FOMLibraries>.

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



October 18-24, 2020 is National Friends of Libraries Week

Find resources to help celebrate and promote here
http://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek Some promotion and celebration ideas your Friends group can use can be found here

http://www.ala.org/united/events_conferences/folweek/friends



Inside Friends of the Novi Library – Book Nook re-opening

The Novi Library opened for patrons July 6, 2020 for what was termed “Grab & Go” allowing 30-minute visits. We opened the Book Nook, our used book room, for used book sales on July 6. We were only selling from our existing stock, as we were not accepting donations at that time. Four volunteers went into the library to restock books and collect the money from the Honor Box. They entered through the staff entrance and took their temperature and signed a document saying they were not sick etc. The first few weeks we were averaging \$200 per week.



On August 13, 2020 we began accepting book/DVD/CD donations. People could drop off donations only on Thursday. Items were quarantined until the following Monday. We then had Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday to sort items. We were one of the few libraries accepting donations, so we were getting items from a wide area. It was a massive job for 5 retired people. We continued to get a high volume of donations, so we have changed to accepting donations every 2nd and 4th Thursday. Last week we made \$466. We would have considered this a good week before the pandemic.

Friends of Novi Library – September Songfest

Julie Farkas, Novi Library Director, came up with the idea of an outdoor venue for a series of music nights in September. When she presented this idea at the Friends tele-meeting in June, the Board agreed it was a great idea and voted to sponsor the event for \$1000. Julie contacted four local performers. Each were paid \$250 for the evening.

The songfests were held on the four Thursday evenings in September from 7:00-8:30 pm. It was co-hosted by Paradise Park, Novi in their outdoor pavilion. There was no charge for the event. Safety guidelines were followed. We had 50-65 people each night.



Friends of Michigan Libraries is a nonprofit, 501c3 organization dedicated to support and advocacy for Michigan library Friends groups.

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