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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 Friend groups around the state and helpful reminders of resources useful for your own group.

www.facebook.com/FOMLLibraries



From the President,

Talk About Friends, hosted by Joe and Linda David at the Cascade Branch of the Kent District Library, was a great success. Friends from eleven libraries attended. Everyone enjoyed the Table Talk. I was at a table with a Friend from Saugatuck, a small community that is also a tourist town. They have an arrangement with rental agencies to put their Friends flyers in each rental. This really increases their summer used books sales. What a great idea!

It is not too early to think about applying for the grants that FOML offers. We just awarded a Harriet Larson Founders Grant of \$400 to the Pontiac Friends to help restart their group. Applications for a second grant are due in September. If your group is new or restarting, consider applying. (visit: <https://foml.org/harriet-larson-founders-grant-2>) The FOML Merit Award is for a project in 2023 with the application due in January, 2024. I know that many of you have projects going on that would be a perfect fit, and what group can't use \$400. There are two grants based on the size of the library. (visit: <https://foml.org/foml-merit-award>)

Our next Focus on Friends will highlight Friends newsletters. We would appreciate it if you would send a copy of one of your newsletters to friendsofmichiganlibraries@gmail.com

Sue Johnson
FOML President



FOML Harriet Larson Founders Grant Winner Pontiac Public Library

The Pontiac Public Library is the winner of the first Harriet Larson Founders Grant for 2023.

Library Director Kevin Brown, new Director of the Pontiac Public Library, stated in the application that the library Friends group had been inactive for four to five years. This is what he wrote after receiving the good news.

Thanks so much, Friends of Michigan Libraries. This is awesome news!

So ironic that I met Monday with a few community folks to discuss strategies for redeveloping the Friends of the Pontiac Library. Since Monday, I have heard from two other active community members who have interest.

I also just communicated with Chase at Orion Township Public Library about scheduling a meeting to tour and discuss the library and friends group.

I just visited Lawrence at Auburn Hills last week. Both communities seem to have greatly benefited from their Friends groups.

A vibrant FOPL is essential to recreating a new Pontiac Public Library and, in turn, a more profound literacy love in our city.

Harriet Larson Founders Grant

FOML awards up to two \$400 grants annually to help new or reorganizing Friends groups support and enhance their local library. The deadline for Harriet Larson Founders Grant applications is Sept. 30. [Click here](#) for more details.



TALK ABOUT FRIENDS

When Charles Hanson, Treasurer of FOML, asked me in March if we would be willing to host the spring session of “Talk About Friends,” my initial reaction was an equal blend of “Oh great, one more thing to worry about” and “Of course, we would be honored.” Fortunately, the latter won out. Because on May 19 the Friends of the Cascade Library hosted the event in our suburban Grand Rapids library, and it proved even more rewarding than expected.

If you've ever thrown a party and want to ensure that everyone will have a good time, you know how we felt in preparing for the event. A dedicated team like ours not only made preparation easy...it made it fun!

We believe in the mission of FOML and every one of the Friends groups that comprise its membership. So, it gave us great satisfaction to support that mission and give those Friends groups an opportunity to share their ideas, knowledge and friendship in a welcoming and collegial environment.

Of course, I wouldn't be entirely candid if I didn't mention that we were also thrilled to have a chance to share with others the amazing facilities, processes, volunteers and results that we have been blessed with in Cascade. We are just a tad proud—as I hope all Friends groups are-- of what our team can do, and I'm pretty sure our passion was on full display for all to see.

As for the event itself, I think virtually everyone involved would say that it accomplished its goals while helping to forge new relationships and strengthen existing ones that will work to the benefit of all Friends groups who seek to keep libraries relevant and thriving well into the future.

If you're ever fortunate enough to have Charles tap you on the shoulder, I suggest you jump at the opportunity to host a “Talk About Friends” event. Because when you support a good cause like FOML, you generally do a whole lot of good.



Meet the Friends of the Cadillac Wexford Public Library

The Friends of the Cadillac Wexford Public Library was founded in April 2000. It's easy to keep track as we have had a newsletter from the beginning and it is now at Volume 24. The Newsletter has also helped us track our activities from the beginning - authors, naturalists, photographers, writing workshops, afternoon tea, harpist, Idlewild documentary, Seward Johnson sculpture exhibits, pianist, sharing seeds, pumpkin carving. Numerous talks including the art of framing art, home decor, travel, herbs. Fundraisers have included used book sales, silent auctions, chocolate night, coffee club card and progressive dinner.

We try to have at least one program a month geared toward adults, although during summer months, we realize people are less likely to want to spend time in the library - too many other opportunities in our wonderful up-north location. Our Library does a fantastic job with children's programming and needs no help there, except for monetary donations; which we gratefully provide, especially in supporting the Children's Summer Reading program. In the last few years, the Friends has also helped to fund the Adult Summer Reading program.

We have purchased outdoor signs (building and ground), a sculpture, and furniture for the Library, as well as providing treats at the Library's all-staff meetings and training. Five or 6 Free Little Libraries in the community are well stocked with our help from donated books.

In 2020 we were tested like everyone else and embraced the use of Zoom to keep in touch. Best thing ever, as now during winter months, January - March, we continue to use Zoom for our meetings to overcome winter weather and early nights. 2020 also gave us a chance to be out in the community. We had outdoor book sales in June and July at our local Cadillac Farmers' Market. Again. It was actually a blessing, as many more people were introduced to the Friends for the first time, as well as a reminder that the Cadillac Wexford Public Library was open and there for their use.

Friends membership has remained fluid from the very beginning. People coming and going. There are maybe 2 or 3 of us who have been here from the very beginning. But so glad to see it is still here and new people are always willing to help out, especially when there's work to be done (three day book sales)!

In 2023, our main project for the year is to bring Doug Taurel and his one-man performance "The American Soldier" to the Cadillac area at the Elenbaas Performing Arts Center in McBain. Mr. Taurel dramatizes the life of an American Soldier from 1775 to 2014. Tickets will be \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door on Friday, October 20 at 7pm and Saturday, October 21 at 2pm. This is his first performance in Michigan. <https://www.theamericansoldiersoloshow.com>



Share Your Stories

If you have a story for Focus on Friends to share with Friends, please email it to friendsofmichiganlibraries@gmail.com



FOML Workshop and Event Attendance Policy

Friends of Michigan Libraries is committed to hosting events that are beneficial and free from discrimination to all attendees. Any public space where other people are present holds an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. By attending this event, attendees agree to voluntarily assume all risk related to exposure and agree to not hold Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML), or any of their affiliates including partners and sponsors, directors, officers, employees, agents, contractors, volunteers, or sponsored venues, liable for illness. Attendees will be encouraged to take necessary precautions while at the event as recommended at that time by federal, state and local health authorities. Attendees agree to not attend any FOML event if they feel ill or had recent exposure to a COVID-19 case, or other communicable diseases.

Registrants are encouraged to use caution when registering for events. It is the policy of Friends of Michigan Libraries to offer no refunds once the online registration process is complete, except as listed below.

- If a registrant is no longer able to attend an event, they may transfer their registration to another person. To transfer a registration to another person, the registrant must contact Friends of Michigan Libraries via email detailing the new registrant's name and contact information. Friends of Michigan Libraries will respond by email to the original registrant, and the new registrant, confirming the change.
- Should circumstances arise that result in the postponement of an event, registrants will have the option to either receive a full refund or transfer registration to the same event at the new, future date.

- Friends of Michigan Libraries reserves the right to cancel a workshop or event due to low enrollment, extreme weather, natural disasters, or other circumstances which would make the event non-viable. If FOML cancels an event, registrants will be notified at least 24 hours before the event and will be offered a full refund.
- In the event of extenuating circumstances, such as a medical emergency, and where sufficient funds make it possible to issue a refund, a contact person for the event will be listed so that registrants have a person to contact about their situation. Should funds for the event already be encumbered, a refund may not be possible. A refund of the registration fee for extenuating circumstances is at the discretion of the FOML Executive Committee.
- Refunds will not be available for registrants who choose not to attend an event.

Refund Process

- Refunds for workshops and events shall be accomplished through Friends of Michigan Libraries' online payment portal. Attendees will receive an email confirming the cancellation of their attendance.
- A record of any workshop or event refunds shall be included in the annual Retention file.

(Approved by the FOML Board May 2023)

Thank You!

Thanks for reading this issue of Focus on Friends and thanks for being a FOML member. We appreciate you and hope to provide you with helpful services and events.