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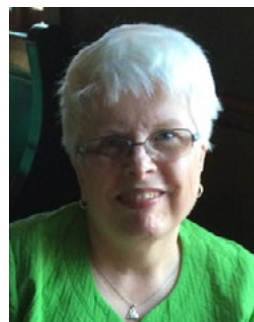
Contact
friendsofmichiganlibraries@gmail.com
734-506-8410



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



Hello FOML Family,

The United For Libraries Division of the American Library Association has revised access to its content, including the Resources/Tip Sheets for Friends groups.

If you have not registered recently for access, you will need to do so. The process takes a few minutes, but it is well worth your time! Thanks to funding from the Library of Michigan, access is free.

Follow this link to sign up to the new site:

<https://www.ala.org/united/login-request/michigan>

Content is excellent, and covers five major areas: Friends Group Basics; Governance and Succession Planning; Fundraising, Events, and Supporting the Library; Advocacy & Public Awareness; When Issues Arise.

We wish all our Friends a safe, successful summer. See you at the Library!

Pat Orr
FOML President





connect WITH FRIENDS

We had great attendance at our Connect with Friends events on April 21. Both the 10:00 am and the 6:00 pm sessions were well attended. Many of the Friends groups shared what they were doing. Some events focused on increasing visibility in the community. Here are some of the ideas shared on **increasing visibility**.

- Shelby Friends - Asked Board members to attend library programs and classes and give a short overview of the Friends to acquaint the attendees with what the Friends do. They focused on events that young families attended to try and attract younger people to the Friends. They made sure to wear lanyards with Friends names to identify them and distinguish them from library staff.

- Novi Friends - Sponsor a Summer Songfest on selected Thursdays June - September at 6:30 at a local amusement park that has a covered pavilion. The Friends pay the musicians - typically \$200-\$300. They have a table with flyers on library events and membership envelopes. The park is a corporate sponsor and they donate the venue. Food and drink is available for purchase.



- Roscommon Friends - Place two gift baskets (one adult, one child focused) in the library monthly. A patron earns tickets by coming into the library, attending meetings and other library events. They chose a different theme for the baskets each month. April was gardening, May was Mother's Day. Baskets are on display all month with a live drawing on Facebook the last Friday of month. Members donate items; books come from donations. Items donated are stored to use in future baskets. They regift items and include a gift certificate from a local restaurant or shop in each basket. The Friends have a good time putting the baskets together. The baskets are very popular with the community and bring many people into the library. Note: They do not sell tickets due to a restriction in their library prohibiting this.

- Westland Friends - During the summer they are given a booth at the local farmers market and give away children's books.

- Albion Friends - In an effort to increase their visibility in the community, they are developing their own website. Once a quarter they mail out Newsletters. They believe that this gets more visibility than an electronic communication. They have a large project around replacing wooden shelves in the library history room with metal ones. Their goal is to get members engaged in activities other than sending in their memberships and attending book sales.

- Montague Friends - The city gave them a booth at the local Artisan Market. They staffed it one day a week and sold books. They needed volunteers to staff the booth and refresh the books. This did a lot to increase visibility.

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 friendsofmichiganlibraries@gmail.com



connect WITH FRIENDS

At the Connect with Friends on April 21st there were many ideas discussed regarding fundraising that were either planned or things groups had done in the past. Here is a summary of **fundraising ideas**.

- Roscommon Friends - Had a winetasting in conjunction with local wine merchant - they had baskets for raffle and made \$1800 just from the baskets.

- Shelby Friends - Free Plant Giveaway - A garden is maintained by Friends. Once a year they have a plant give-away. Local garden art is donated- items are not priced, people take what they want and leave a donation. Friends are there to encourage donations. They made \$600 in one morning. What is not sold is left by the road.



- Baldwin Friends in Birmingham - Popup book sale - Allowed the first 10 shoppers that applied to shop for one hour prior to the sale opening. They each paid a \$10 fee. They made \$700 in just that one hour. They do not price the books available in the lobby of their library. A patron takes the books that they want and leaves a donation. They typically make \$750 a week.

- Gladwin - Participates in a Farmers Market during the summer. They ask for a donation instead of pricing the books. They have installed donation boxes in 3 sites in library including Friends bookstore. They take in \$500 per month.

- Novi Friends - Participated with the Vera Bradley store in our Twelve Oaks Mall in a fundraiser. Friends gave out discount coupons for a donation. As a result, the store donated a Harry Potter tote which was used in a basket drawing - made \$652 from both.



- Albion Friends - For several years held a Non-Ball. Instead of the Friends actually holding a dress-up event, they asked individuals to send in a donation and stay home and read a book. They had a theme and actually sent out invitations.

- Westland Friends - Westland holds Blues, Brews and BBQ. The Friends received \$500 in return for members volunteering at the event.

- Grosse Pointe - Books, Bags and Bagels - Asked for donation of purses and wallets. Books and Bags were sold. The Friends purchased Bagels.

- Adrian Friends - First Friday. They put books in bags by category (mystery, romance, history) and write only the category on the bag and staple it shut. Bags sell for \$5. They sold 60 bags first day. People were intrigued by not knowing what was in the bags.

- Shelby Friends - Little Chair-ity fundraiser idea - Not only is "A Little Chair-ity" a unique way to raise money for the Friends of the Library, but it is a great way to involve the community in an artsy, crafty display of repurposed children's furniture!