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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,

FOML has some exciting news. We have two new board members. Joe David is President of the Friends of Cascade, Kent District Library and Johnnie Roquemore is President of the Friends of West Bloomfield Township Public Library. We welcome them both and look forward to the expertise that they bring. Be sure to read about Joe in "Meet the FOML Board."

We have been working on our web pages especially our "Members Only" page. We are going to have a new section called "Ask your Friends." This will allow any member to pose a question to the group and get feedback. Cindy McKinnon did this recently when she wanted information on pricing alternatives for book sales. She got a wealth of responses, and we thought others might like to do the same. We plan to have a form you can fill out online and we will send out your request to the FOML members.

If you are a fairly new Friends group or restarting an existing Friends group, please consider putting in an application for the Harriet Larson Founders Award. Applications are due September 30th. Pontiac used their award of \$400 for marketing material to get their name out in their community.

We love to hear from you. Send emails to friendsofmichiganlibraries@gmail.com

Sue Johnson
FOML President



Meet the FOML Board

Joe David, President of Friends of Cascade Branch of Kent District Library



Joe David has always had a deep respect for the power of the written word. That "calling" led him to graduate from Michigan State University with degrees in pre-law and journalism and a secondary teaching certificate.

After four years in the Navy during the Vietnam War, Joe spent a couple years as a journalist before launching a 40-year career in marketing, sales and management in the insurance industry for companies based in Grand Rapids, MI and Cincinnati, OH.

Playing professional baseball and writing the great American novel were among his earliest dreams. But, they were soon replaced with more practical goals like raising two daughters, trying to hit a golf ball straight and developing marketing campaigns.

It wasn't until his retirement at the end of 2014 that he got the golf ball thing figured out. But, more importantly, it freed him to take a more active interest in the local Cascade library and in the Friends group that had helped make it one of the best branches in the Kent District Library system.

The Cascade Friends have a fine-tuned and multi-faceted process for the sorting and reselling of used books in an eBay store, a physical store in the library, and at four sales events spread throughout the year. Joe got involved supporting this process and was then recruited as Marketing and Membership Chair on the group's board.

As is the case with many things in life, one thing led to another; and, when the long-time president of the board decided it was time to step down, Joe was enlisted to fill her rather large shoes. He is in the sixth and, most likely, final year of his role as president and feels that getting involved with the Friends of Michigan Libraries is a logical next step that will allow him to continue to support the needs of his local library as well as those of other libraries across the state...at a time when that support is more critical than ever.

Joe lives with his wife of 52 years, Linda, on a small lake east of Grand Rapids. When not searching for his golf ball, he does woodworking and tries to keep up with two young grandsons.

He looks forward to working with FOML in its mission to help local Friends groups not only survive but thrive in an evolving world.

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





Richland Community Library Murder Mystery Party



On July 22, 2023 Richland Community Library held their first Murder Mystery Party at their library and it went great!

They created the mystery from scratch and called it Murder in the Stacks. They recruited volunteers with community theatre experience to be the suspects and let the attendees play detective and interview all of them. There was a puzzle element for each suspect which made it similar to an escape room.

They had around 30 attendees and hosted it on a Saturday, after close, for about 2 hours. Pre-event registration allowed them to have personalized detective badges for all attendees, as well as completion certificates at the end. They offered appetizers and lemonade. Having the entire library free allowed them to use the whole space and spread out the suspects.

They worked so hard on the event that they want to share it with other libraries! If they had to change one thing, they would either have made the program a bit longer (2.5 hours) or reduced the puzzles/suspects to 4 or 5 rather than 6.

They worked so hard on the event that they want to share it with other libraries!

Here is the link for Google Drive folder featuring everything you need to host your own Murder in the Stacks! Please take a look.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_ENFoQt0IO-EXAZxCwYbs8w35Sv_Lat1?usp=sharing

Feel free to email amerritt@richlandlibrary.org for any specific questions.

FOML Harriet Larson Founders Grant

FOML awards up to two grants annually to help new or reorganizing Friends groups in their efforts to support, enhance and showcase their local library. Each grant is worth up to \$400. The deadline for Harriet Larson Founders Grant applications is September 30. Submissions will be considered at the October FOML Board meeting.

For more information visit

<https://foml.org/harriet-larson-founders-grant-2/>



The next Talk About Friends meeting will be on October 6 at 9:00 am at the Alpena Public Library. This program offers the opportunity for Friends to meet, share information about their Friends group, and learn important information about managing a successful library Friends organization. There will be a presentation by the Library of Michigan about the best practices for Friends.

This event is open to all Michigan Friends. The cost for members is \$10 and \$15 for non-members. Register at the link below:

<https://fomlevents.org/events/talk-about-friends-october-6/>