

INSIDE:

Book Page News goes digital, Page 4

Great Michigan Reads, Page 5

Scholarship winner is 'awesome'

Mia Ceaser has a standard one-word reply whenever she was asked by the Friends to commit to a voluntary task to help the cause: "Awesome."

In the difficult first years of the COVID pandemic, volunteer opportunities were scarce. So were volunteers themselves. That never let Mia slow her down. As youth liaison to the Library Board her perspective proved invaluable.

"The most impactful time I've spent at the library has been during my time as a member of the Library Board. It makes me incredibly happy to help serve patrons of the library so that they can come to love it as much as I do."

With no book sales scheduled, two summers ago, the Friends decided to do a book giveaway at the pool. What was needed was a volunteer or two to help. When asked Mia gave her standard answer. The "awesome" process was underway. Friends volunteers loaded a truck full of books and that giveaway turned into a memorable experience for Mia.

"While standing outside the pool I met a ton of kids who were excited to take new books home to their



Mia Ceaser: "It makes me incredibly happy to help serve patrons of the library."

families," she said. "I remember one boy in particular who wanted to pick a book for everyone in his family. He gleamed as he dug through the tub of picture books, and told me all about his brother who loved dinosaurs, his mother who liked mystery novels, and his father who liked "old stuff."

For the Friends it was wonderful to have such a volunteer, for Mia it was great to share her love of the library. Mia is a 2022 graduate of Berkley High and a Huntington Woods resident. She currently attends the University of Michigan.

About the Friends' annual scholarship

A \$1000 scholarship is awarded yearly to a graduating senior from the library service area, Huntington Woods, Pleasant Ridge. A committee of Friends members make the decision based on the applications submitted. Qualifications include a student who has provided service to the Huntington Woods/Pleasant Ridge library and Friends group. Past recipients have volunteered time by helping at Friends Book sales, Friends-sponsored events and Library events.

Friends' finances improved last year

Compared to the past few years, 2022 was a good year financially, all things considered.

Income from memberships and donations for the year totaled \$4,400, and we made over

2022 Treasurer report

\$6,000 from book sales, and \$1,800 from the book cart (now bookshelves). Major expenses include \$1,000 scholarship and \$4,000 in direct program support, and we paid another \$2,000 for the new shelves and other activities, such as a going away / appreciation party for Anne Hage, ice cream for the August concert, and expenses incurred in book sales. Including commitments that have not yet cleared, we have managed to support the library and library activities while staying constant financially. In fact, in 2022 we saw a net gain of over \$5,000 and are well positioned for 2023.

*Marty Ferman, FOTL
Treasurer*



No kiddin': Free books

Children attending the end-of-the-school-year at the Burton School Fair were offered free books by Friends members. They were given info on the Oceans of Possibility summer reading program and reminded of the importance of reading during the warm months. Many thanks to Bernadette Borla for organizing the books by levels and Annemarie Sanderson and Judy Schram for helping with the distribution.

Resident's CD sales will help library

Jacob Robbins, Huntington Woods resident and retired DSO member has gifted the Friends with several copies of a CD he made. The music is "Ferdinand David Bunt Reihe, 24 Pieces for Violin and Piano."

Robbins came to the library with an offer of the CDs in the spring of 2022. It was his first visit to the library since the start of the COVID

pandemic. He had wanted to contribute to the library that he has used over the years. Robbins is accompanied by Mary Siciliano on the piano. You'll find the CD on the new book shelf sale area in the library lobby. Thanks to Mr. Robbins for his donation. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the library.

Bye-bye cart, hello bookshelves

As you enter the lobby of the library you'll find something new. The sale book cart has been replaced with bookshelves. The Friends added the shelves in the fall. With that addition over 200 books can be displayed. The shelf has been a great success and there has been a significant increase in sales.

You'll find non-fiction, children's books, trade, mass market and hard-cover fiction. The books selected for the shelf are generally in excellent condition and culled from the most recent donations. While prices may vary, generally you can catch a great bargain with book prices ranging from 50 cents to \$2.

Donations are accepted when the library is open. We accept books in good condition. Please, no encyclopedias, magazines, law books, textbooks, DVDs, CDs, or non-fiction published before 2016. Please limit the donations to two boxes or bags at a time. Should you have questions contact the library at 248-543-9720 or email the Friends at hwfotl@gmail.com.



Lobby bookshelves have sparked increases in sales.

If it's February, it must be fiction

It's Fiction February. The Friends have scheduled a BOGO Pop-up sale at the library in the Knox Room in the basement. Sale dates are Thursday February 2 from 4-8 p.m., Friday, February 3 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday

February 4 from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Hardcover fiction will be featured. The price is \$1 for two books. Look for other specials during the sale.

The big sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th from

10- a.m.-4 p.m. Children's books, adult fiction and non-fiction will be available. Prices range from \$2-50 cents, unless otherwise marked. There will be a preview hour for Friends members from 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Kids come first!

Youth services coordinator Rourke makes priorities clear

It's all about kids and it has always been that way for the library's new youth services coordinator, Shannon Rourke. Shannon's work experience reflects that. When asked for a quick summary, Shannon elaborated on her background. "I have over 30 years of experience working with children of all ages. I was a summer camp director, classroom teacher, K-8 assessment coordinator, tutoring director, reading specialist K-12 and a literacy teacher/coach. Every job I have ever had centered around children." The breadth of her experience will serve the youth of Huntington Woods and Pleasant Ridge well.

Miss Shannon, as the kids know, provides welcoming spaces for them. Children can find the ever-changing Scavenger Hunts for Pre-school-2nd grades and another for 3+grades. In February there is a Black History hunt and a Valentine's Day hunt. The hunts are seasonal so look for more.

One of the more popular programs was the Teddy Bear Sleepover, though not all participants turned out



New youth services coordinator, Shannon Rourke: "Every job I have ever had centered around children."

to be Teddy Bears. More programs are in the works. Kids can sign up for STEAM Saturday scheduled for February 11. Celebrate March is Reading Month on March 11 at the Dynamic West – Rockin' Roll Reading Month at 1 p.m. The Summer Reading Kickoff will return on June 2 at 1:00 p.m.

There will be plenty for children to participate in. Of course, the most important thing is to keep kids reading. Shannon provided a bit of advice for

parents who want to "raise a reader.": "Even more important than teaching your child to read is to teach them to LOVE to read."

And how to do that?

"Read with them. Read to them. Let them see you reading, too! Talk about stories, words and letters everywhere you go."

The Friends wish Miss Shannon great success in her new role.

Book Page News goes digital

The library will never run out of copies of the monthly Book Page News. Book Page is now available in digital format through the library-home page. For many years the Friends have paid for copies of the Book Page which are available as you walk in. As an additional gift to library patrons the Friends are now paying for the digital subscription.

What you'll find on the webpage is the current copy of Book Page. The issue has suggestions for readers providing columns on several genres, a book club section and author interviews. The digital version also contains back issues. If you are looking for reading suggestions this is a great source to check out.

The UP's Striking history

The Women of the Copper Country by Mary Doria Russell
Atria Books, 2019

The struggles of the copper miners of Calumet County in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan is given a voice in the book, "The Women of the Copper Country" by Mary Doria Russell. A selection of the

Great
Michigan
Reads

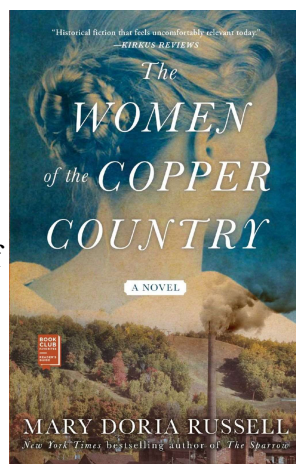
Michigan Humanities Council for the "Great Michigan Read" project of 2021-22, this is a good choice for

those interested in learning more about labor history and Michigan history.

Annie Klobachur Clements lived her entire life near Calumet County. Her family and community were mostly copper miners, living in company houses, shopping in company stores, dying in company mines. When the workers decided to strike in 1913, Annie spearheaded the formation of the Women's Auxiliary No. 15 of the Western Federation of Miners in Calumet. Her support for the copper miners seeded a growing independence much to the displeasure of her husband.

The perspective of the miners is portrayed as is that of the mine

owner, Mr. McNaughton. Russell explains this. "History is never just one person's story. I have come to think of events like the strike as existing in the center of a dark place; each point of view shines a different kind of light from a different direction. You get a more complete understanding of history when you see it from multiple perspectives."



Annemarie Sanderson and son Emmett at the 2022 4th of July parade.

Friends love a parade

Bubbles, beads, an artist's palette and a very cool convertible were all part of the Friends' section of last year's Huntington Woods 4th of July parade. Residents enthusiastically lined the streets to cheer on participants. Bubbles filled the air with a clean sweep of the wand by Huntington Woods Library director, Deb Hemmeyer. Friends members and library staff joined in. Many thanks to Matt and Sharon Abramsky for providing the convertible. And for those interested in a sweet ride in a wonderful car you can make a bid for a seat in this year's open-air vehicle at the Men's Club Auction.

Much has been written about the copper miner's strike. Russell's research included trips to Calumet, plenty of reading and research using the extensive online archive at Michigan Tech University. But her job as a novelist was different. "The copper strike has been studied and written about by historians and legal experts, but those accounts are not meant to engage the emotions of the reader. That's the novelist's job; to combine imagination and empathy with research."

The blend of fact and fiction makes the book an interesting and fast-paced read. *The next Great Michigan Read will be announced soon. Stay tuned.*

Staff Meet & Greet: A very cool event

Who doesn't like ice cream? The question was answered at the Library Staff Meet and Greet held outside the Huntington Woods Recreation Center this past August. The Friends hired an ice cream truck to celebrate the event. The event was the official introduction to the new library staff director, Deb Hemmeyer. Following the event music by the folk duo Andy and Judy was provided in the Rec Center.



The Massachusetts-based folk duo Andy and Judy provided musical entertainment following last August's Library Staff Meet and Greet held in and around the Huntington Woods Recreation Center.



Friends members and patrons enjoy free ice cream at the Library Staff Meet and Greet last August.



Contact the Friends

Ideas? Suggestions? Complaints? The Friends of the Huntington Woods and Pleasant Ridge Libraries are always interested in your ideas to make our library a better and more user-friendly place. Please email us at hwfotl@gmail.com

Friends of the Library Newsletter

Friends of the Library Newsletter is a publication of the Friends of the Huntington Woods and Pleasant Ridge Library. ©2023

Co-Presidents: Lucille Evans, Judy Schram

Vice-President: Beth Applebaum

Treasurer: Marty Ferman

Secretary: Amanda Alberts

For membership information contact: hwfotl@gmail.com