Renew the Okemos Library - It’s Overdue!

“Renew the Okemos Library—It’s Overdue” is the slogan for the fundraising campaign to renovate our Okemos Library. The Meridian Township Board, which owns the Library building, has recognized the need for a complete revamping of the interior of the Okemos Library to accommodate the number of patrons who use the Library seven days a week. Using circulation figures as an indication, some months of the year our Okemos Library has more usage than any other branch in the 13-library CADL system. We have over 75 visitors per hour at our facility!

“Our residents love their library and we hope to offer an updated facility that will more readily meet their needs,” said Jerry Richards, Meridian Township Superintendent. The Meridian Township Board has earmarked $200,000 of township funds toward the building update, with the expectation that the community, recognizing the value of the Library as a key gathering place that defines Okemos as a great place to live and work, will step up and contribute the $100,000 needed to complete the total budget and make this dream a reality. Says Richards, “I think we can do a very credible job of giving the public what they need with help from local patrons.”

After the renovations are complete, the public will enter the building from the west side of the Library. Once in the Library they will appreciate an enlarged quiet adult reading area, a new expanded children's area, a new teen space, a brand new international languages and tutoring space, additional outlets for plugging in laptops, and entirely new and bathroom facilities; and we get all of these benefits without changing the footprint of the building! Where does all this new and expanded space originate? The last quarter of the building will be brought into use to serve the public. “By expanding into unused areas within the Library, we can gain the ability to offer more and better services to our patrons,” enthused Betsy Hull, Head Librarian. “No longer will our adult reading area chairs be jammed in a dark corner or other patrons disturbed by the language and student tutoring.”

What does this mean to you as a supporter of the Library and all of its programs? We need your help as we kick off the “Library Renovation” fundraising project on December 1st. If we can’t raise the $100,000 in the community over the next six months, this project will not happen. Please consider making a donation to the project by writing a check to Friends of the Okemos Library, a 501(c)(3) entity, and flag it as “Library Renovation”. We have an envelope in this Newsletter. Feel free to mail it or drop it off. Every contribution counts! Let’s make OUR Library better for all of us!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Selection</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JANUARY</td>
<td>Work Song by Ivan Doig</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Catherine The Great: Portrait of a Woman by Robert Massie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>The Weird Sisters by Eleanor Brown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Librarians are like Janus, the Roman god of doorways: We can look backwards and forwards at the same time.

I’ve been researching Okemos history and have learned a library has functioned in Okemos since 1849, when it was created as part of a school located near Clinton and Cherry Streets. Records show that purchases for books, a table and book case were not to exceed $5.00. Now, that’s a tight library budget. Unlike today, books were scarce then but people knew the importance of pooling their money to fund a community space where information could be shared.

The library never moved more than a few blocks from that original spot until it moved in 2001 to its present location at Okemos and Science Parkway roads. It’s a 12,000 square foot building with staff using about 3,000 feet of that space. It’s great space to work in and to store stuff. I like my office window. But that does not leave much room for the 223,269 people who have visited the library since January 2012.

That generous staff space can be converted to public use, which is why a library renovation is needed. It’s needed by parents who read to their children. By teachers who tutor students. By adults who do research. We have five electrical outlets in this building for people to use with their laptops. Two of those plugs come from an extension cord hidden underneath a carpet.

But people do not come here for just electrical outlets or Wi-Fi. They come here to educate their children, to entertain their families and to enrich their lives. They come to the library for a sense of place and identity. The library is a community space where their lives can be shared.

Some folks will be disappointed that we are not building a new and larger Okemos library. Let’s not look back but look forward. We can find more space and make a larger library with the footprint we have. It’s hiding in plain sight. I can go outside if I want a view of the parking lot.

Betsy Hull
Head Librarian
Sometimes an amazing opportunity comes along and we are seeing one now. The stars over the Okemos Library have aligned themselves to present us with a marvelous chance to rehab and update our library facilities.

As you are aware, our library is a cooperative effort between the Capital Area District Library (CADL) that provides the books, materials, staff and programs, and Meridian Township, which provides the building.

After 11 years at our Okemos Road location, the growing number of patrons and their widely diverse library needs have strained the current facility. We are literally bursting at the seams. Recognizing the extraordinary space needs of our library, Meridian Township has stepped up to the plate to provide $200,000 dollars for a renovation and CADL will provide additional furnishings. But, another $100,000 is needed from the community to make this a reality. This is where the Friends of the Hope Borbas Okemos Library come in. The Friends have agreed to help the community raise the additional $100,000 dollars.

Jerry Richards, Meridian Township Superintendent, has stepped forward to guide our fundraising committee. Representatives from the Friends, CADL, and the general public have volunteered to be on the Committee. Our fundraising campaign will roll out December 1st.

You will see the Friends of the Library and other library supporters at many events around the community. We will bring our fundraising request to local service organizations, neighborhood gatherings, and coffee klatches to meet the fundraising goal.

If you are interested in making a more substantial financial gift to help us reach our goal, or need additional information on the project, please call me at 349-3297. We are also seeking library supporters interested in hosting small in-home parties.

Our newsletter readers can participate too! Simply mail or drop off a check made out to the “Friends of the Okemos Library” earmarked for the “Library Renovation.” If this is done before the end of the year, the donation can be treated as a contribution to a non-profit organization and credited on your 2012 federal tax filing. A convenient envelope is provided in the printed version of this newsletter.

I am enthusiastic that our fundraising efforts will bring the whole community together as we work to achieve our goal of a renewed Okemos Public Library!

Next Friends’ Book Sale: February 23 & 24
1. Steve Wilson, Sommelier, liked to refer to himself as the “Grape Juice Man.” 2. Friends President Cecelia Kramer and Former Okemos Head Librarian Joan Smith review some selections for purchase. 3. Marla Holle and artist Joy Schroeder enjoy the event. 4. Juanita Baldwin and Peggy Lovejoy both artists at the opening reception. 5. Sharon Emrick, local fiber arts artist, was a Blue Ribbon winner for her weavings. 6. Art Show Judge Donna Randall and Red Ribbon Winner Sue Preis. 7. Betty Hagberg and Francie Dittrich enjoy looking at the artwork. 8. Joel Ellis stands next to his First Place Winning painting. 9. Artist Thomas Harpstead and Ginger Jobson enjoy the show.
Local Artists Honored at 41st Art Show Reception

The “Land of Lakes and Art” was the theme of the 41st Annual Friends Art Show and Sale on display from November 3rd through 25th at the Library. The opening reception held on Saturday, November 3, was enjoyed by many artists, their guests and the Friends. Many expressed their appreciation for the work that the Friends do each year to put this show together. This year, the Friends involved many volunteers from the art community in the planning and hanging.

Donna Randall of 1212 Gallery in Lansing, was the judge of the show and commented on the overall quality of the entries and the difficulty in making decisions for the ribbon awards with “so many marvelous entries of such high caliber.” The award winners are listed below. The Friends also thank Gretchen Foster for her delightful sailboat picture to use as a logo for the show. The sailboats appeared everywhere on posters, bookmarks, and even the buffet table. A grateful Friends’ thank you also to Juanita Baldwin who is credited with handling the hanging of the show. Special thanks also to C. V. Hampton for assisting with taking the photographs at the event and creating the poster graphics and the accompanying photomontage. Finally, without acknowledgement of the Art Patrons who supplied the money to support the awards, the Friends would not have been able to offer monetary awards along with the ribbons. A list of those contributing is included in this newsletter.

2012 Art Show Award Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan Fernholz</td>
<td>Muskrat Lake</td>
<td>Pastel</td>
<td>Best of Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Ochberg</td>
<td>Hidden Lake</td>
<td>Embroidery</td>
<td>Theme Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Keller</td>
<td>Synchronized Flight</td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Ellis</td>
<td>Sand Waves</td>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug DeLind</td>
<td>Dancing Figure</td>
<td>3-D Pottery</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Emirch</td>
<td>Flap Long Hanging &amp; All Weavings</td>
<td>Fiber</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Preiss</td>
<td>Sante Fe Adobes</td>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Wolnosky</td>
<td>Boblicity</td>
<td>3-D Wood</td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Teoh</td>
<td>Flight of the Orchids</td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Keresztes</td>
<td>Edward the Owl &amp; All Jewelry</td>
<td>Recycled Metal</td>
<td>Honorable Mention</td>
</tr>
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Okemos Library Events

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Baby Storytime (Ages 0-2)
Stories, songs, and activities for little ones; 20-25 minutes long
Wednesdays • 3:00 PM

Toddler Storytime (Ages 2-3)
Monday • 10:30 AM
Wednesdays • 10:30 AM
Thursdays • 10:30 AM

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3½-6)
Mondays • 2:00 PM
Tuesdays • 10:30 AM

Weekend Storytime (Ages 2 & up)
Saturday, January 12 • 2:30 PM

Evening Storytime
Wednesday, January 23 • 6:30 PM

FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

Pizza & Pages Book Discussion (Grade 3 & up)
2nd Wednesdays • 4:30 PM
A theme-based book discussion group for children going into 3rd grade. Snacks and activities included. Registration required. Call 347-2021, ext. 3 to register
Jan. 9: Enchanted Beings

Kids Reading to Dogs
Mondays, Dec. 17, Jan. 21 & Feb. 18 • 4:00 PM
Sign up for a 15-minute session reading to a registered therapy dog.

Holiday Break Family Film
Thursday, January 3 • 2:00 PM Film to be announced.

Kids’ ESOL Discussion Group (Grade 3 & up)
Tuesdays, January 22 & 29 • 4:30 PM
Practice speaking and reading English, with a different theme each week. Refreshments provided. Registration required. Call 347-2021, ext. 3 to register.

FOR TEENS & TWEENS

Teen Advisory Board
Tuesday, January 15 6:00-7:00 PM. Help plan events, suggest titles for the Young Adult collection, create displays, write reviews for the library’s teen blog and more. Registration required. Call 347-2021, ext. 3 to register.

FOR ADULTS

ESOL Reading Group
Wednesdays, January 9, 16, 23 & 30 • 12:00-1:30 PM
Practice your English reading and speaking skills by reading articles, books and short stories aloud.

Friends Book Discussion Group
Thursday, January 3 • 12:00-1:30 PM

First Sunday Gallery Walk
Sunday, January 6 • 2:00 - 4:00 PM

eBook Basics: Library Digital Downloads
Drop in and learn how to download CADL’s free eBooks and eAudiobooks to your PC, laptop, Smartphone or mobile device. Bring your device, if possible.
Thursday, January 10 • 1:00-3:00 PM

Tai Chi Instruction
Saturdays, January 19 - March 23 • 9:15 AM
Tai Chi is an excellent way to promote health and reduce stress. This free 10-session class will introduce the basic principles of Tai Chi practice. Registration is required. Call 347-2021, ext. 3 to register.

COMPUTER CLASSES

Computer instruction is available on selected Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. Except where noted, all classes require experience with a mouse and Windows.

Beginning Computing
Friday, January 18 • 10:00-11:30 AM
No prior experience needed.

Microsoft Word Basics
Friday, January 25 • 10:00-11:30 AM
Modify, cut and paste text; open, close and save documents

Introduction to the Internet
Tuesday, January 22 • 6:30-8:00 PM
Basic components of the Internet and how to do a simple search.

Technology Tutoring
Free, one-on-one technology help is available by appointment. Bring your questions about computers, tablets, and how to download eBooks and eAudiobooks. Call 517-347-2021, ext. 3 to schedule an appointment.
Special Thanks to Our 2012 Art Show Donors!

Anonymous
Laura Baird & George Zulakis
Sheri & William Beecroft
Carol Chapman
Geraldine & Harold Hart
Marla Holle
Betsy Hull
Margaret Kelly
Cecelia Kramer & Rick Beaderstadt
Gioanna Lammers
Joan & Habib Salehi
Janet & Michael Shields
Karen & Lowell Spotts
Joan C. Smith
Quenda Story
Marna & Steve Wilson

FRIENDS’ WINTER FILM FESTIVAL
Gangster Classics Featuring James Cagney

The Friends of the Library are offering their 2013 Winter Film Festival. Mark your calendars for Monday and Tuesday, February 25 & 26 at 6:30 pm in the Community Room. This duo of films stars James Cagney at his best as a gangster only a mother could love. First rate supporting actors and terrific storylines will keep you riveted to your seats.

The Public Enemy (1931)

James Cagney, Jean Harlow

As a young hoodlum rising through the ranks of the Chicago underworld bootlegging during Prohibition, a gangster’s accidental death threatens to spark a bloody mob war. Tom Powers is raw and ruthless. He becomes more and more brazen in what he is willing to do as he becomes more obstinate and violent against those who either disagree with him or cross him. Never has a man treated a grapefruit -- nor the woman whose face receives it -- so roughly. James Cagney bursts onto the screen in this great film that holds up well cinematically -- both technically and aesthetically. The final homecoming scene is not to be missed!

White Heat (1949)

James Cagney, Edmond O’Brien, Virginia Mayo

Cody Jarrett is the sadistic leader of a ruthless gang of thieves. Afflicted by terrible headaches and fiercely devoted to his “Ma”, Cody Jarrett is a volatile, violent, and eccentric leader. As Cody makes a daring escape from prison, an undercover cop is set up to escape with him and infiltrate his gang. Twists and turns abound as the cop tries to avoid being exposed as Cody leads his old gang in a chemical plant payroll heist. This film is fascinating and engaging right to the end “at the top of the world”!

The Film Festival is free, and open to the public, with popcorn and soft drinks provided. No reservations required. For further information contact the Information Desk at the Library at 347-2023 or Cecelia Kramer, 349-3297.
**It’s Tea Time**

**Top** - Friends and their guests enjoyed the festive atmosphere.

**Top Right** - Leonora Reisen and friend enjoy the presentation.

**Left** - Antique surveying tools.

**Right** - MSU Professor Morris O. Thomas, featured speaker.

**Bottom Left** - Friends’ President Cecelia Kramer and Marla Hollie sample the tasty treats prepared by Professional Party Planner Caterers.

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**Fall Membership Tea**

Friends of the Library welcomed MSU Department of Geography Professor Morris O. Thomas as the speaker at this year’s Fall Membership Tea.

Professor Thomas’ maps and charts and antique survey equipment enthralled and enlightened all as he untangled how the original surveying strategy changed and defined Michigan’s landscape.
Support Your Friends

Without the faithful support of our Friends members, we cannot hope to provide for the ongoing projects the Friends underwrite at the library, as well as take on the fundraising tasks associated with the 2013 Renovation Project. Renewal of your membership is basic to that equation.

In additional to your basic membership, any year-end contribution that you can make will be put to good use. Please consider an extra contribution to our “Library Renovation” fund. An envelope is included in this newsletter for your contribution.

Your tax-deductible, year-end financial gift would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Your Membership Counts! Annual dues are an important part of the funds that the Friends donate to the Library in the form of books, furniture, programs and services. Please use the coupon below to renew or join.

Be a Friend of the Hope Borbas Okemos Library!

Membership Application: ☐ Renewal ☐ New

Name _____________________________________
Address ____________________________________
City ______________ Zip ______________
Phone ______________ Email ______________

I would like to VOLUNTEER for: ☐ Book Sale ☐ Art Sale ☐ Hospitality ☐ Membership
☐ Communications ☐ Curatorial & Decorations ☐ Grounds & Gardens ☐ History
☐ Programs ☐ Other ________________________

I am providing an extra DONATION for: ☐ 2013 “It’s Overdue” Library Renovation Project
☐ $50 ☐ $75 ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $500 ☐ $1,000 ☐ $2,500

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Okemos Library. Return to library at 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864. Friends of the Okemos Library is a 501 (c)(3) corporation. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.
**Upcoming Films**

**Film Movement Update**

Please join us each month for another award-winning independent film from around the world. For more information contact Eric Stanton, Public Services Librarian, at (517) 347-2021 ext. 2029. Here is our upcoming Winter 2012-2013 schedule:

**Hospitalité** (Japan) – Thursday, December 20 at 6:30 pm
Mikio Kobayashi lives quietly with his wife, daughter, and divorced sister in downtown Tokyo, where xenophobic neighbors insist on them participating in community meetings, and the most exciting thing to happen is the disappearance of a pet parrot. But one day Kagawa appears, claiming to be the son of a financier who once helped Kobayashi’s company. In return for his family’s past help, Kagawa requests to move in, and Kobayashi’s quiet lifestyle is quickly forgotten when Kagawa invites his Brazilian wife and a myriad of eclectic and foreign visitors to join him in the cramped apartment. The Kobayashis are comically tossed about in confusion as Kagawa and his associates run amuck in their home. Kagawa, with the help of his visitors, manages to reveal old secrets of Mikio’s former life.

**Seven Minutes of Heaven** (Israel) – Thursday, January 17 at 6:30 pm
Galia, a young woman from Jerusalem, and her boyfriend Oren board a local bus. The bus explodes, leaving Oren in a coma and Galia with severe burns and memory loss; she lacks memory of the day of the terrorist attack and the days leading up to it. The film begins one year after the attack, upon Oren’s death. As Galia undergoes physical and mental therapy, she attempts to stitch together the shattered fragments of her life and soul. A necklace sent to her from an unidentified source sets her off on a journey to find the missing pieces of the puzzle from that fateful day.

**Foreign Letters** (United States) – Thursday, February 21 at 6:30 pm
Ellie, a 12-year-old immigrant girl from Israel, is lonely and homesick. Life brightens when she meets Thuy, a Vietnamese refugee her age. Trust slowly builds as the two teach each other about life in America. As Ellie and Thuy become inseparable, they eventually hurt and betray each other. Ellie must give up her most prized possession in order to save their friendship. Based on the filmmaker’s own experience, Foreign Letters is a story about prejudice, poverty, shame, and the power of friendship to heal us.