INSIDE
Membership Update
Donation Thanks
February Book Sale
Heart of Livonia
Membership Renewal
Note from the Library Director
President’s Corner
Kids and Tween Book Clubs

FRIENDS OF THE LIVONIA LIBRARY
UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 11, 2024
MADELYN PORTER: THE GREAT MIGRATION

Our program on February 11 will feature the performance artist Madelyn Porter in “The Great Migration.” Her presentation will focus on the issues and concerns of African Americans as they moved to the North for job opportunities.

Madelyn Porter has worked as a professional storyteller and actor for the past 40 years. She is a recipient of the 2019 Kresge Arts in Detroit - Creative Non-Fiction - Literary Arts Award. She works as performer and advisory board member for Detroit Puppet Company, performs historical reenactments and storyliving at the Detroit Historical Museum, the Henry Ford/Greenfield Village, and Troy Historical Village, and provides Cultural Awareness through the Arts programs for school districts, and organizations. Porter also writes and creates stories on commission.

Please join us for this storytelling performance on Sunday, February 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Bennett library auditorium.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS!
May 5, 2024 - Friends of the Library Annual Meeting, followed by Bailey Sisoy Isgro: Prohibition in Detroit
October 13, 2024 Fashion & the Automobile

The mission of the Friends is to provide support for the services and programs of the Livonia Public Library.
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

My name is Mary Kay Heidtke and I am very excited to be the new Membership Chairperson.

Since moving to Livonia in 2019, I have been looking for ways to become more involved in the community. Volunteering is a passion for me. I have been a member of the Livonia Friends of Library since 2022.

Combining my love for reading and commitment to volunteerism seemed like a perfect fit. My parents instilled my love for books since my first book Pat the Bunny. (I still have the well-read copy of the book!)

In 1997 I became an active member of the American Chemical Society, and have served in several roles within the organization. Since 1999 I have served as a co-chair for the Kids & Chemistry Outreach Program with the American Chemical Society. In this capacity, I have organized both large and small events in the Metropolitan Detroit Area.

I am also on the Board of Directors for the Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision for the past several years. I received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Michigan Technological University in 1993. For almost 25 years I have been employed as an Environmental, Health, and Safety Manager for Magni Industries in Detroit. I am looking forward to meeting everyone!

THANK YOU!

The Friends of the Livonia Library would like to thank Busch’s Market and BJ’s Wholesale Club for their generous donation of treats for our fundraiser to help Livonia’s First Responders Foundation and the Livonia Library. Your donations were much appreciated. Thank you!

HEART OF LIVONIA

On October 10, 2023, the City of Livonia hosted a Service Recognition Breakfast, to honor certain groups and individuals in Livonia. The “Heart of Livonia Award” was given to the Friends of the Livonia Library, recognizing us for 45 years of service to the community.

Pictured, from left to right, are Patti Schultz, Charlotte Hobart, Maureen Brosnan, Jim Hobart, Diane Bergendahl and Darlene Scarcelli.
A NOTE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Library,

Thank you for your continued support of the Livonia Public Library. I want you all to know how much the work that you do to support the library is appreciated.

The largest project that I have on my plate at the moment is the Strategic Plan. There is still time for you to be a part of our strategic planning process by filling out the Community Survey. Your input will provide the library with insight into our community’s needs and chart a path forward for the library. For those of you who have signed up for a focus group or completed the survey, I thank you!

A few updates from my last Library Commission meeting:

Vest Pocket library is now open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. A new printer was installed and unused computers were removed to make room for more shelf space.

The library’s atrium roof replacement is on hold. I am working with DPW and the architects to include some smaller capital investments into the current package. The hope is to be less disruptive to the public and be open for the 2024 Summer Reading program. The library may still have to close for a time, but the goal is to continue to be open to the public during the project.

Thank you,

Kristen Edson
Library Director
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER
A NOTE FROM JIM HOBART

Our purpose is to support the Livonia Public Library. We do this in several ways.

Most of the money we give to the library is used for “circulation materials,” whether it be printed materials or electronic media. We help fund the library’s Summer Reading Program, and the Kids and Tween Book Clubs. We also sponsor three programs each year, free and open to the public.

Our total income since the May book sale is just under $40,000.00. We will give the proceeds from this income to the library.

Thank you all, volunteers, members, and patrons, for your support of the Friends of the Library! See you at the February sale, February 2-4, 2024, and of course the pre-sale for members and teachers, on February 1.

FRIENDS SPONSOR KIDS AND TWEEN BOOK CLUBS

The library currently hosts five book clubs for kids and tweens: Tween Graphic Novel Book Club, Kids and Comics, My First Book Club, Don’t Read this Book!, and Empower Hour. Run in collaboration with Children’s Librarians Kristen Jayska, Jennifer Schultz, and Teen Librarian Cathy Moeller, these book clubs introduce young readers to new genres and formats and encourage reading for pleasure. In addition, they improve critical thinking skills, social interaction, and expressing one's opinion in a safe space. My First Book Club and Empower Hour foster bonding through a shared reading experience with a trusted adult.

The clubs meet four times a year, September through May, and are gaining in popularity. One Tween Graphic Novel Book Club member told Miss Kristen and Miss Cathy that if she didn't register, they should call 911 because “something would be terribly wrong!”

The Friends of the Library has agreed to give the Children’s Department $1050 to purchase the book club selections with the books being given to the participants, thus helping them build their personal libraries. The Children’s Department is truly grateful to the Friends for supporting these worthwhile reading programs and helping us to foster positive library experiences for our young patrons.

Contributed by Karen M. Smith