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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/FOMLibraries](http://www.facebook.com/FOMLibraries)



**From the President,**

Thank you all for your 2023 membership. Among other things dues help us fund our website development and speakers for events.

An email went out to all current members with the login information for the Members Only page on foml.org. It includes the FOML Friends Manual - 2023 revision, links to March and April Focus on Friends newsletters and a link to our video archive that includes the MI Right to Read Presentation and the talk by Peter Pearson at our Annual Membership Meeting. Select Member-Login at the top of any page.

I encourage all of you from the western Michigan area to come to the Talk About Friends that is being held at Cascade Branch, Kent District Library and hosted by Joe David, Cascade Friends President. (See the Cascade article on pg. 3.) I am attending and look forward to meeting you for some good table talk. Clare Membiela, Library Law Consultant from Library of Michigan, is the speaker.

Talk About Friends will be held on Friday, May 19 beginning at 9:15 am - 12:30 pm. To register, visit <https://fomlevents.org/events/talk-about-friends-may-19-2023/>

Let us know if you did something special at your library for National Library Week. We love to share your stories.

**Sue Johnson  
FOML President**



### FOML Annual Membership Meeting

On Thursday, April 6, 2023, FOML held its annual membership meeting by Zoom.

Friends members approved the 2023 FOML Board officers and board members.

### FOML Annual Membership Meeting Keynote Speaker Peter Pearson

“What is being a Friend of the Library all about?”



Peter Pearson

The Annual Meeting’s keynote speaker was Peter Pearson, Library Consultant, Library Foundation for Sarasota County who gave his presentation entitled “What is being a Friend of the Library all about?”

Peter was a Friends president in St. Paul Public Library for 25 years and now serves on the board directors of the Library Foundation for Sarasota County. His discussion focused on four topics, all of which are relevant to Friends groups today. Peter’s talk is 45 minutes and well worth the time to listen. Information is provided so that you can go directly to each of these topics.

- The evolution of Friends groups
- Avoiding conflict with the library director and staff
- Strategies for recruiting and retaining Friends Board members
- Friends as advocates

You can view Peter’s video presentation by logging into the FOML Member portal at [foml.org](http://foml.org).

## NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

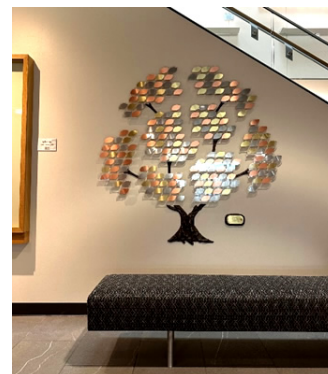
APRIL 23-29, 2023

*There’s More to the Story.*

### Novi Library Giving Tree

The Friends of the Novi Library celebrated National Library Week with the unveiling of their Giving Tree on Sunday, April 23. It is a bronze tree with metallic leaves. Anyone can make a donation and imprint a leaf with their own special message. There are 200 leaves, gold (\$200), silver (\$150) and bronze (\$100). The tree was generously donated by a long-time Friends member.

The Friends sponsored a concert after the unveiling. The Entourage Band played a great selection of oldies and had everyone tapping their feet. Light refreshments were served.



On Tuesday the Friends sponsored a luncheon for the staff and Friends Board. We all introduced ourselves and enjoyed Mediterranean food and our favorite Bundtinis. It is spirit week at the library and staff is having fun dressing up for the theme of the day. For more information on our Friends Giving Tree email [friends@novilibrary.org](mailto:friends@novilibrary.org).

### Share Your Stories

If you have a story for Focus on Friends to share with Friends, please email it to [friendsofmichiganlibraries@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmichiganlibraries@gmail.com)



### Meet the Friends of the Cascade Branch of Kent District Library

The Friends of the Cascade Library was founded more than 45 years ago to help fund special programs, new equipment and building improvements for the Cascade branch of the Kent District Library System, which includes 20 branch libraries throughout West Michigan's Kent County.

We have a very dedicated group of about 50 active volunteers and many others on the waiting list. We have 336 dues-paying members of the Friends, but most of our revenues come from the sale of used books in our Chapter Two bookstore, on eBay and at four book sale events throughout the year, with the biggest over the Fourth of July holidays.

We provide financial support for a wide variety of library needs, especially special programs aimed at educating and entertaining children in the community. For example, at Christmas 1,200 people came out for "Reindeer Night" at the library, with wide-eyed kids galore. But, we are particularly excited about a project underway right now that will extend our library outdoors with the development of a picturesque and functional community space for individual relaxation, family gatherings and community events.

The outdoor park will include perennial garden spaces, seating areas, a fountain, benches, a rain garden, enhanced woodland areas, granite stone trails, picnic areas, sidewalks, woodland play areas, a pavilion, nature trails and much more. Development is scheduled to begin this coming fall and be completed by spring of 2024.

Our Friends group is honored to host the Friends of Michigan Libraries' May 19 "Talk About Friends" meeting. Many of FOML's meetings are

concentrated in the eastern half of the state, where their membership is strongest. So, this is a wonderful opportunity for us in "the west" to learn more about the valuable support the group provides to Friends groups. I know FOML has already invited you to attend, but we would also like to extend a personal invitation to join us for the sharing of some great information and relationship building. (article by Joe David, President)



### FOML Membership Drive is Now Open



FOML's 2023 Membership Campaign is Rebuilding Connections: Creating a Strong Community of Friends. Membership benefits include:

- Access to information exchange about Friends groups throughout Michigan;
- Access to "A FOML Friends Manual" (digital publication on the FOML website);
- The opportunity to participate in FOML events at member rates;
- Eligibility for the Harriet Larsen Founders Award and the annual FOML Award of Merit.

To join, visit <https://foml.org/membership>

### Thank You!

Thanks for reading this issue of Focus on Friends and thanks for being a FOML member. We appreciate you and hope to provide you with helpful services and events.