

# *Just Between Friends*

*Friends of the Hope Borbas Okemos Library  
4321 Okemos Road, Okemos Michigan 48864*

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

WINTER 2015

## LIBRARY HOURS

**SUNDAY**  
1 - 6 PM

**MONDAY**  
9 AM - 9 PM

**TUESDAY**  
9 AM - 9 PM

**WEDNESDAY**  
9 AM - 9 PM

**THURSDAY**  
9 AM - 9 PM

**FRIDAY**  
9 AM - 7 PM

**SATURDAY**  
9 AM - 7 PM

## Capital Area District Library Upcoming Closings:

December 24 & 25, 2014  
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

December 31 & January 1, 2015  
New Year's Eve & New Year's Day

January 19, 2015  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## *Ventures into the Outback*

Australia, which has provided us with big-name stars like Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman, and top-notch directors like Peter Weir, never seems to get enough recognition for the high-quality films it consistently produces. Film buffs, of course, are aware of them, but the general public, far too often, is not.

The Friends of Okemos Library are about to change that. In February, we are presenting an Outback theme at our annual Film Festival. We will travel Down Under to view three films, "Picnic at Hanging Rock", "Walkabout" and "My Brilliant Career." Set against



Australia's richly diverse and primitive landscape, both are exploration films which unravel challenging and thought-provoking plots.

The festival runs **February 16, 17 and 18**. Showings start at **6:30 pm in the Library Community Room**. Admission is free. No reservations required. The Friends will offer free popcorn and pop to complete your movie experience.

**"Picnic at Hanging Rock" (1975)** (Showing **Monday, February 16**) – "Picnic" leaves its audience mystified. What starts with 19 college girls looking forward to a frolicsome day at a rock garden, turns into something else entirely. They disappear without a trace, as those left behind – including a dazed audience – struggle with an eerie sense of "*what-just-happened here?*" The music, the Victorian setting, and the unyielding terrain, all add to this unsettling impression.

Continued on page 5

## Friends Book Group Reading

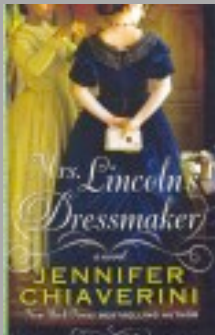
Group meets 1st Thursday of the month at 12 pm in the Library Community Room. Casual discussion.

### DECEMBER

Holiday Party

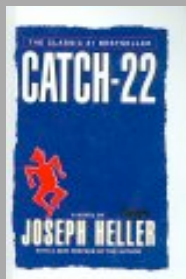
No book Discussion

### JANUARY



Mrs Lincoln's Dressmaker  
by Jennifer Chiaverini

### FEBRUARY



Catch 22  
by Joseph Heller

## From the Librarian's Desk



I am looking for a few good artists to share their work at the Okemos Library. The Okemos Friends have long sponsored a monthly art show at the library that highlights local artists. The former coordinator for the show worked with members of the Mid-Michigan Art Guild, which provided her with a pool of talent. However, she has retired from wrangling artists. I am a librarian, not a curator, and I was going to drop the show as I figured the stored house art we had would suffice. However, we have trained our patrons too well and they came in looking for new art.



Consequently, I am now pursuing talent for 2015 to include artists outside the Guild who are just beginning to put together a body of work. Or developed artists who have not been Guild members. I am open to individual or group shows.

### These are the general guidelines:

- ♦ These are 2-month shows
- ♦ The library takes no commission and handles no sales. Buyers are referred back to artist.
- ♦ Library handles all promotion to print media, local cable TV, and through the library website and social media.
- ♦ First Sunday Gallery Walk reception provided by Friends of the Library.
- ♦ Artist is responsible for printing and sending postcards to client list.
- ♦ Artist is responsible for installation and take down.
- ♦ Framed art and fabric art acceptable.
- ♦ Sculpture cannot be accepted as we have no secure display cases.

Betsy Hull  
Head Librarian

---

## ***Renew your Friends' Membership!***

**Look for your individual renewal date on the address label.**

# From the Friends President



*Cecelia Kramer, Friends' President*

## *In Remembrance of Joan C. Smith*

At the end of September, the Friends of the Okemos Library were saddened to learn of the passing of our former librarian, Joan C. Smith.

Joan was an exuberant individual, perfect for the role of head librarian for our little library. She had a vision for our Okemos Library and the leadership qualities to carry it through. She worked to gain support of the "right people" in both township government and at Capital Area District Library that helped move the library from the tiny out-moded building on Ardmore Street in downtown Okemos. She directed all phases of the move to our current location on Okemos Road. During the fundraising phase of the recent renovation of the library, she offered many behind-the-scenes suggestions and ideas to help raise needed funds. She attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and was thrilled to see the outcome of the renovation project.



She reached out to the local school district to offer more diverse programs both at the library and in classrooms. The month-long display of the K-12 children's calendar art in conjunction with the Okemos Art Patrons brought in many new, young faces to the library, along with their parents. She reached out to the arts community through her work to establish a First Sunday Gallery Walk presentation each month at the library.

She reached out to the business community through her membership in Rotary and MABA (Meridian Area Business Association). She saw a need and developed the original library location of the MARC (Meridian Area Resource Center), offering local businesses library resources and programs to assist those businesses to grow. A boundless source of ideas of her own, she was willing to provide the resources for programs and events that would promote the library and educate the community.

The consummate planner, she always had a file, clippings and/or resources at hand. She started planning the Okemos Library Golden Anniversary long before the thought crossed our minds. Under her guidance, we planned a week-long event in celebration of our first 50 years. She encouraged and helped find resources for another Library Friend to research and publish a small book about the history of our organization.

Joan always maintained a positive, can-do attitude as she kept things upbeat, entertaining and saw the job accomplished in fine style. During her tenure as head librarian, Joan was instrumental in increasing our library's profile in circulation, programs, and public outreach. She truly saw the library as the center of our Okemos community. When she discovered a need, she moved in to fulfill it. She gathered people around her who had that same vision and energy.

*Continued on page 6*

## 2014-2015 OFFICERS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT**  
CECELIA KRAMER

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
KAREN SPOTTS

**TREASURER**  
MARNA WILSON

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
QUENDA STORY

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP  
CADL REPRESENTATIVE**  
QUENDA STORY

## COMMITTEES

Book Sale

Communications

Grounds & Gardens

Hospitality

Membership

Program Development

## FRIENDS MEETINGS

Second Thursday of each month  
September through May

6:30 p.m. Social

7:00 p.m. Business meeting

# We're Ba-a-a-ck!

## Popular Community Conversation Series Returns

By popular demand, we are launching another Community Conversations Series! Watch for the start date for this series which will be the first Thursday of every month for this educational and entertaining program with local experts on a variety of subjects. Each month at 7 p.m. the Okemos Public Library will give our audience an opportunity to exchange ideas with the experts making the presentations. These forums are designed for adults who want a stronger understanding of a topic that intrigues them. Even people who are fairly familiar with a subject but want to learn more will find the sessions fascinating. Bring your questions for consideration -- and prepare to be enlightened!

We are lining up speakers now. The teaser below gives you a peek at the diverse array of speakers and topics proposed.

**Dianne Holman, Director of Working Bugs, LLC.** -- Diane heads a company with an amusing name but a serious commitment to spreading the use of bio-based specialty chemical alternatives for petrochemicals. In short, Working Bugs creates green methods to eliminate the use of petrochemicals in the chemical, agricultural, food, personal care and health industries through fermentation processes.



**Randy Bell from the MSU Regional Food Systems.** -- Randy has a vision to make Michigan the center of food related information. Everything food related is "on the table" for discussion -- from farming methods, to local marketing strategies, to bringing local food, food processing and food distribution back to the local level. We will talk about the popular trend producing "locavores" (i.e., people interested in eating food that is locally produced and not moved long distances to market), and also discuss food distributed through school lunch programs and at local food shelters. Also for discussion will be how we utilize local food stuffs to provide better nutrition; creating jobs at a fair wage; and those growing food and processing it in their home kitchens. Randy explains the Good Food Forum and how it exchanges ideas on maintaining a local food system based on equity, sustainability and creating a thriving economy.



**Liz Homer, author of "Pioneers, Reformers and Millionaires."** -- Liz exploits the information she learned through her many years as director of the Michigan Women's Historical Museum, as well as Director of the Turner Dodge House, to bring our local history to life. Her insights provide a review of the founding of Lansing and the location of the State Capitol through the history of two of our state's most influential families. Told through many first hand legal documents, personal scrapbooks, newspaper articles and personal letters, Liz takes us through the founding of the Michigan capital and original Republican party, played out through the major influence of the Turner and Dodge families as they settled and thrived in Lansing. She reviews generations of movers and shakers who took on the issues of their day: the Vanderbilts and the Grand Trunk Railroad, the fight for abolition, women's rights, workers' rights, education, progressive reform of corporations and politics, and more. Her tales of heroes and villains and vengeance and corruption as our Capital City takes form are spellbinding. Liz has a wealth of knowledge about the historical period from 1830s through the 1920s, and always presents our local history in riveting style.



We will announce more series speakers as we move to our first session. The Community Conversation Series is a program offered by the Friends of the Okemos Library and is open to the public free of charge. Suggestions for future topics or speakers that would be of general interest are welcome. Please contact the Community Conversations at [FOHBOL@gmail.com](mailto:FOHBOL@gmail.com) Questions about the events should be directed to Cecelia Kramer at 517-349-3297.



# Okemos Library Events

## FOR ADULTS

### **Friends Book Group**

Thursdays, Dec. 4, Jan. 8 & Feb. 5 • 12 p.m.

Our group meets first Thursday of each month for a lively discussion about books we've read. New members always welcome.

Dec. 4: *Holiday Party: No book discussion*

Jan. 8: *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* by Jennifer Chiaverini

Feb. 5: *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller

### **ESOL Reading Group (Adults)**

Wednesdays, Jan. 7 - Feb. 25 • 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Practice your English reading and speaking skills by reading articles, books and short stories aloud.

FOR ALL AGES

### **Cooking with Chef Michelle Bommarito**

Saturday, February 7 • 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

### **Film Movement Series (Adults & mature teens)**

View a recently released, award-winning, foreign or independent film.

3rd Thursdays • 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 15: *2 Autumns, 3 Winters* (France)

Feb 19: *In the Name Of* (Poland)

COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY

### **eBook Basics**

Friday, Jan. 9 • 10-11 a.m. (eReaders); 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (Tablets, iPad & Android)

Friday, Feb. 6 • 1-2 p.m. (eReaders); 2-3 p.m. (Tablets, iPad & Android)

Learn how to download CADL's free eBooks to your PC, laptop, smartphone or mobile device.

### **Downloading CADL Magazines**

Friday, January 16 • 10 a.m. -12 p.m.

Learn how to download CADL's free digital magazines to your PC, laptop, smartphone or mobile device.

### **iPad/iPhone Tips & Tricks**

Saturday, January 24 • 2 p.m.

Your iPad/iPhone can be anything from a dietician to a guitar amp. Bring yours to this session and learn some tips and shortcuts to help you make the most of its capabilities.

### **Digitization Lab**

Saturday, February 21 • 2 p.m.

Never used a scanner before? Interested in digitizing old family photos? Get help with saving, sharing, and printing these files. LIMITED Photoshop help available. Scanners and computers available.

\*Registration required; call 517-347-2021 x 3.

### ***Friends Film Festival continued...***

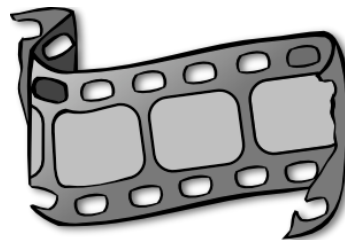
**"Walkabout" (1971)** (Showing **Tuesday, February 17**) – This film, about the intensity of loss, features two schoolchildren, left alone deep in the Outback, who luckily encounter an aboriginal man-boy wise to survival methods. But, as they discover, he often hinders as much as helps. The message here goes beyond contrasting civilization with wilderness, and the audience is asked to sift through its unfolding events for deeper applications of its meaning.

**"My Brilliant Career" (1979)** (Showing **Wednesday, February 18**) - An independent young woman arrives in Australia to live with her grandmother and refuses to marry in order to pursue a writing career.

Join the Friends to explore these top quality cinematic adventures from Australia. If you have questions, please contact Cecelia Kramer, 349-3297.

## 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 at 517-247-2021 ext. 2029. Here is our upcoming Winter 2015 schedule:

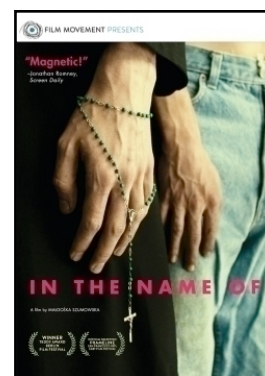


### **2 Autumns 3 Winters (France) - January 15**

Arman is 33 and ready to make a change, starting with a run in the park. When he literally bumps into Amélie - slightly cynical but nevertheless lovely - on the jogging path, he's dead-set on making a connection with her. As a bit of contrived fate brings them together, Arman's best friend Benjamin suffers an unexpected stroke, relegating him to the hospital for weeks where he falls for his doting young physical therapist. Over the course of two autumns and three winters, Arman, Amélie and Benjamin share the incidental moments, unexpected accidents, unconventional love stories and unforgettable memories that will define who they are.

### **In The Name of (Poland) - February 19**

Adam is a Catholic priest who discovered his calling as a servant of God at the relatively late age of 21. He now lives in a village in rural Poland where he works with teenagers with behavioral problems who fight and yell abuse. He declines the advances of a young brunette named Ewa, saying he is already spoken for. However, celibacy is not the only reason for his rejection. Adam knows that he desires men and that his embrace of the priesthood has been a flight from his own sexuality. When he meets Dynia, the strange and taciturn son of a simple rural family, Adam's self-imposed abstinence becomes a heavy burden.



#### **Joan Smith, continued...**



Joan continued with that same up-beat attitude right up to the end. Though her illness caused her to retire from her beloved position as head librarian, Joan continued to take her enthusiasm and ideas into other venues. In spite of her limited energy, she identified the need in the transplant community for a support group and established one, creating a positive experience for so many others. She spent hours at Secretary of State offices, fairs, and countless other locations, signing people up to be organ and tissue donors. How sad it was that she was unable to avail herself of the opportunity for a transplant. The Friends of the Okemos Library like all other library locations participated in the Capital Area District Library's annual drive for organ and tissue donation registration in her memory.

I will miss her friendship, counsel and guidance.

The Friends of the Library and the Haslett-Okemos Rotary are collaborating to create a "living memorial" to Joan in the form of a seating area with plantings outside the library front door.



## Celebrating Fall, Costumes & Pumpkins



Jennifer & Emma Micell



Over 325 children enjoyed the library's Halloween festivities with many wearing costumes. Librarian Tom Shilts prepares pumpkin-colored balloons to decorate at the event.



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Individual	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10.00
Family	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15.00
Patron	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00
Business	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50.00
Lifetime	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$300.00
Contribution	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$_____

I would like to **VOLUNTEER** for : ☐ Book Sale ☐ Board of Directors ☐ Hospitality

☐ Communications ☐ Membership ☐ Grounds & Gardens ☐ Programs

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am providing an extra **DONATION** for: ☐ Framing & Artwork ☐ Teen Furnishings

☐ Community Room Chair Upgrades ☐ Any Friends' Project ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Okemos Library. Return to the 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.

## Support the Friends with your Gift or Membership

You may have noticed the self-addressed envelope included in this newsletter. The Friends are providing this courtesy to encourage members to renew their memberships in the Friends of the Library organization.

Without the faithful support of our Friends, we cannot accommodate the increases to our postage to bring you this newsletter, give additional program support to augment the regular library program offerings, or provide for refreshments at children/teen programs and the Sunday Gallery Walks. In addition to these “regular” assists, the Friends, in the last two years, have purchased new furnishings for the children’s area, furnishings in the adult reading room and desk/chairs in the main library atrium. Our next targeted gifts are for additional furnishings in the teen area and upgrade the chairs in the community room.

How do you know if your **membership** needs to be renewed? Look at the address label on this newsletter. If the date above the name on the label has expired, it’s time to renew. Use the Membership Fee renewal box on the inside of the last page. Those who receive this newsletter by e-mail, will receive a notice at the appropriate time by “snail mail.”

If your membership does not need to be renewed at this time – you can still use the enclosed envelope to make a **contribution** to the Friends of the Library. The Friends are a 501 (c)(3) corporation. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. A generous gift in addition to your regular membership dues can be made at any time during the year to count as a tax deduction. Whether you help update the teen sitting area with your contribution or direct it toward any of the Friend’s other projects, your spontaneous acts of charity are always welcome, and always appreciated.

*2015  
Friends Book Sale Dates  
February 21 & 22 , 2015  
May 2 & 3, 2015*

*Friends of the Hope Borbas  
Okemos Library  
4321 Okemos Road  
Okemos, MI 48864*

