

Just Between Friends

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

VOLUME 17 ISSUE II

Spring 2022

LIBRARY HOURS

SUNDAY

12 PM - 6 PM

MONDAY

10 AM - 7 PM

TUESDAY

9 AM - 8 PM

WEDNESDAY

9 AM - 8 PM

THURSDAY

9 AM - 8 PM

FRIDAY

9 AM - 8 PM

SATURDAY

9 AM - 7 PM

Capital Area District Library Upcoming Closings:

April 17, 2022
Easter

May 28-30, 2022
Memorial Day Weekend

July 4, 2022
Independence Day



Tip of the Hat

Susan Bissonnette, Okemos Library Assistant, received a major accolade of the Director's Award from CADL Executive Director, Scott Duimstra.

To steal his words: "Susan has done a tremendous job of offering services and opportunities for young adults at Okemos. She partnered with area schools to promote the Student Success Initiative and themed-book boxes that she created for teens. Along with these initiatives, Susan leads the highly successful TAB (Teen Advisory Board) at Okemos. I'm so impressed with the TAB group because they're always volunteering at Okemos events. They're a highly engaged group, and that points back to Susan's leadership."

Scott also relayed to us a serious story demonstrating Susan's great work. He told us that a couple of weeks ago, a library patron collapsed at the Okemos Branch while working on the public computers. Susan quickly checked on the patron, then applied chest compressions while staff members Eric Stanton and Christ Potts worked to get first responders to the library. Susan's quick thinking and action helped to save the patron's life.

We couldn't have said this better, Scott. The Friends would like to add their acknowledgement of this honor to the tribute.



For her outstanding service to our Okemos Library patrons, not only did Susan receive a gift-card from CADL, she also was given a Tribute Luncheon from the Friends of the Okemos Library. But perhaps most fittingly, she got a hand-drawn trophy from Okemos Library Page, Riley Johnson. In all these areas, Susan Bissonnette truly captures the Okemos spirit!

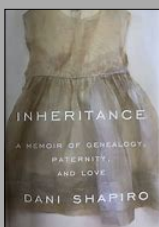


Okemos Thursday Book Group

Visit cadl.org/events for activities in the system.

1st Thursdays • 12-1:30 p.m.
Enjoy casual discussion about listed books.

March 3rd



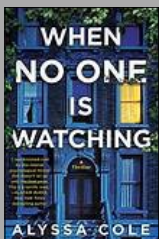
The Fallen Architect
by Charles Belafoure

April 7th



The Library Book
by Susan Orlean

May 5th



When No One is Watching
by Alyssa Cole

From the Librarian's Desk



As the Carole King song goes ... "Winter, spring summer or fall all you have to do is call..." Or these days it's text, or email or visit a website, a Facebook page or a Twitter account. Or talk with your family on ZOOM, FaceTime or Skype.

There are so many ways to keep in touch it's almost too much. How many times have you said to yourself, "Did I see it in an email? And which one? Or was it a text? Or an Instant Message from"

But that's the way it has become in our personal lives and the way it is in school and business. As the past two years have proven, we can make the technology work for us to help us feel connected with the outside world. It's both a blessing and curse, especially when your internet crashes!

One of the main purposes of the library is to help people connect with the world outside their door. Some folks do it with books, music, or movies. Others come to the library to use the public computers, or some bring their own laptops to use the internet.

Some people use the library as a space to be a part of community. More than ever people are looking for a sense of their place in the world, and the library's walls can provide that. Some patrons use the library just to come for programs or to pick up tax forms once in a year.

In any case, walk-in, text, call or email - - let the library help you connect with the outside world.

Betsy Hull
Head Librarian



From the Friends President

Cecelia Kramer, Friends' President

Curses - Foiled Again!

Each month COVID drags on, it gets more and more challenging to maintain the strong forward momentum the Friends have built in support of our beloved Okemos Library. Case in point: because of this virus, the Friends once again are unable to hold their Spring luncheon with its large following and expert speaker in May.

Still, being a hopeful and adaptive lot, the Friends are nonetheless fancying new ways to keep this popular event on our books.... like calling for an *Outdoor* Emergency Spring Luncheon gathering? Or perhaps, since May is still three months away, simply hoping the virus takes a deep downward turn and the gathering could commence after all? *Who knows?* Do stay closely tuned, we will keep you posted!

Despite that gray cloud, the sun has shone brightly in one area. Throughout this tough past year, Friends' membership numbers have remained steady. So have donations. We are all very grateful to those who made this happen. It is heart-warming to know that, despite a long period of being unable to use the Library's full services (i.e., getting into the building to browse, or do computer work), our patrons remained steadfast and loyal. That shows a level of support and trust few organizations can claim.

We are also grateful that, though the pandemic has changed much, the Friends have brought some real brightness to dreary skies. We worked at creating another golden opportunity so vital to our ability to support the Library: we have added a FIFTH BOOK SALE EVENT! In addition to finally returning to our regularly scheduled four annual book sale dates, this Fifth book sale is a real boon.

It is at a different--but convenient-- location, it is *outside* in mid-summer, and takes place in the fresh open air of the Old Farmer's Market Pavilion at Meridian Township Hall. Of course, this sale will continue to follow any mask mandates of Meridian Township facilities, but that didn't stop the masses of masked people who showed up last summer to make it a very successful event!

This summer the Friends will again be back at the Pavilion on Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31. So mark your calendar and come enjoy the opportunity to refresh your summer reading selections with new material.

Looking forward to seeing you all!

2021-2022 OFFICERS

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COMMITTEES

Book Sale

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History of Okemos Collections

Hospitality

Membership

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FRIENDS MEETINGS

Second Thursday of each month
September through May

7:00 p.m. Business meeting. Board meetings are now held via Zoom. To register contact Cecelia Kramer, 517-349-3297.

Okemos Library Events

Okemos Book Group

1st Thursdays • 12 p.m.

Enjoy a casual discussion about listed books. Registration is required by emailing stantone@cadl.org.

You will receive a link for the ZOOM session.

March 3: *The Fallen Architect* by Charles Belfoure

April 7: *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean

May 5: *When No One is Watching* by Alyssa Cole

Virtual ESOL Reading Group for Adults

Wednesdays, March 9 – May 11 • 9:30 -11 a.m.

No session March 30. Join us online to practice your English reading and speaking skills by reading articles, books and stories. This group is not formal English instruction. Registration is required by emailing Eric Stanton at stantone@cadl.org. You will receive a link to join the ZOOM session.

Virtual Mind Benders (Adults)

2nd Thursdays, March 19 & May 12 • 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Join us online for word games and puzzles to stimulate your brain and help you to remain sharp and alert.

Registration required by emailing: stantone@cadl.org.

You will receive instructions on joining our Zoom session. This program is a collaboration between CADL Okemos and The Meridian Senior Center.

Virtual U.S. Citizenship Test Practice (Adults)

Make an appointment to meet online to practice for the U.S. Citizenship / Naturalization Test. Call

517-347-2021 x2029 or email stantone@cadl.org for more information.

Virtual Book Sharing Group (Adults)

Wednesdays, March 9 – May 11 • 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Join us online each month to share your book titles with others. This is a great way to learn about different authors and titles that may be of interest to you.

*Registration is required by emailing

stantone@cadl.org. You will receive instructions on joining our Microsoft Teams session. No session March 31.

Poem in a Pocket

Friday, April 29 • Open hours

April is National Poetry Month! We're celebrating by giving away a free poem to everyone who picks up library items or just stops by today.

Virtual Conversational Spanish for Adults

Thursdays, March 3 – May 19 • 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Interested in enhancing a career, planning a trip to a Spanish-speaking country, or just want to learn about the culture? Refresh and practice the Spanish you know with native Spanish-speakers and a different theme each session. Not a formal Spanish class. Registration required by emailing your name to sanchezp@cadl.org. Limited to 8 participants. No session March 31.

Celebrate Pi Day

Monday, March 14 • Open Hours

Celebrate Pi, 3.14159265359..., otherwise known as the number that goes on forever. Is it magic or is it math?

Maybe a bit of each! Stop by on March 14 and enter to win a gift card for a free pie from Grand Traverse Pie Company. One gift card will be awarded per branch.



CADL Adventurer's Club – Tabletop Games (Teens & Adults)

Saturday, May 21 • 1–4 p.m.

Looking for a place to get together and play Dungeons & Dragons, Magic: The Gathering, or Ticket to Ride? Need a little bit more space than your kitchen table provides for Warhammer? Join us on the third Saturday of the month to play a new RPG led by library staff and meet players from your community!

Beaded Bracelets 101

2nd Fridays: April 8 & May 13 • 1–2:30 p.m.

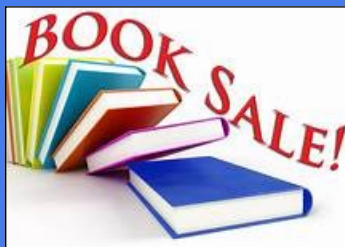
We'll provide memory wire, beads and elastic cords - you provide the creativity! Limited to the first 8 to arrive. Get a green ticket at the info desk up to one hour prior to the start time.

Saturday Beading 101 (Teens & Adults)

Saturday, April 9 • 2:30 – 4 p.m.

We'll provide supplies, you provide the creativity! Limited to the first 8 to arrive. Get a green ticket at the info desk up to one hour prior to the program.

Upcoming Book Sales:



March 5 & 6, 2022

June 11 & 12, 2022

July 30 & 31, 2022 *

September 10 & 11, 2022

December 3 & 4, 2022

Mark your calendar for the Friends Used Book Sales dates. Each Book Sale is a two-day event, Saturday and Sunday, and held at the Okemos Masonic Center from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. * July sale to be held at the Old Farmers Market Pavilion. COVID masking requirements at Friends' events will mirror those of Meridian Township.

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 _____

Email _____ Phone _____

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 support the Friends with an extra **DONATION** for (please indicate)

Framing & Artwork, Staff Kitchen Project, Books & Display Shelving, Any Friends' Project, or

Other _____ Amount \$ _____

I would like to support the Friends by **VOLUNTEERING** for: (please circle) *Book Sale

*Hospitality *Grounds & Gardens *Programs *Membership *Communications

*Curatorial & Decorations *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.

Winter Happenings at the Okemos Library



Above: The U.S. Marines picked up 8 boxes of Toys for Tots gifts from the Okemos library as part of its holiday gift drive.



Left: Generous Okemos members donated hats and scarves, gloves and mittens to the Lansing Refugee Center.

Right: Okemos high school students handed out cocoa and gift bags during our RoofTop Reindeer event held in the parking lot.



Left: The Okemos Teen Advisory Board created giant snowflakes to help decorate the library for the winter.