

Just Between Friends

Friends of the Okemos Library Newsletter • Vol. 18 • Issue 1

HOLIDAY SHOPPING PROBLEMS SOLVED

We're fast-moving toward the time of year when people focus on the ritual of holiday gift-giving. We join all those excited shoppers who scurry around looking for just the right gifts for those special people on their list.

But when the gift-hunts that began with an energetic *bang* end in a frustrated *whimper*, well, we may be searching in all the wrong places. The solution could be as close as the Okemos Library. If the persons on your gift list seem to already have everything, the Friends of the Okemos Library Book Group lined up the answer for you: their **Annual Holiday Book Talk** given by **Jessica Trotter**, the Fiction Selection Staff, and **Cheryl Lindemann**, the Non-Fiction Selection Staff of the Capital Area District Library.



Jessica Trotter

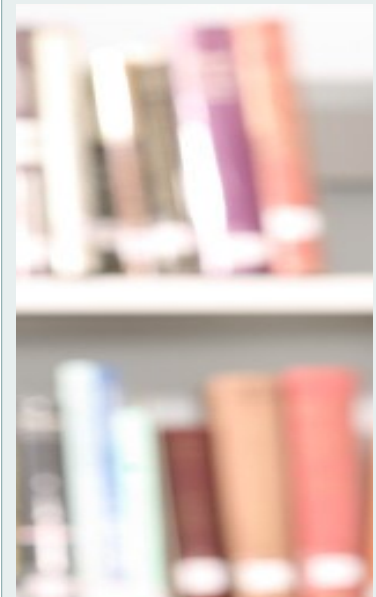


Cheryl Lindemann

Jessica and Cheryl will be at the Okemos Library to feature recommendations from this year's 'New-Book' publications. There is almost a 100% guarantee that one of the books in their presentation will dovetail with your holiday shopping wish-list.

Please put **Thursday, December 1 at Noon** at the **Okemos Library** on your calendar. Call the Library Information Desk 517-247-2021 Ext 3, to reserve your place and make sure that we have enough Holiday Cookies and Cider for everyone. This should be a fun event and you may even find a couple of titles to ask from Santa for yourself.

Happy Holidays!



LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday	12 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tuesday	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursday	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY UPCOMING CLOSURES

- December 23-26, 2022
- December 30, 2022—January 2, 2023

**FRIENDS BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
2022-2023**

President

Cecelia Kramer

Vice President

Linda Minter

Secretary

Lynn Hildebrandt

Treasurer

Karen Fraser

**Meridian Township
CADL Representative**

Sandy Drake

Friends Committees

Book Sale

Electronic
Communications

Hospitality

Membership

Program Development

Friends Meetings

Second Thursday of each
month

September through May

6:00 p.m. Social

6:20 p.m. Business Meeting

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CECELIA KRAMER



It is often unclear to some that the Friends of the Okemos Library organization is separate and distinct from the Capital Area District Library (CADL). It bridges the gap between the CADL, which supplies programs, materials and personnel, and Meridian Township, which provides the building. The Friends of the Okemos Library is Okemos Library's official support group and assists with both its building and its programs.

Because so many residents recognize the value of their library and want to do more for it than just own a library card, they thankfully step up and join the volunteers who comprise the Friends of the Okemos Library.

Volunteers are the backbone of this Friends organization. It has no paid staff to do the work. Every Friend is driven by a love of the library and a desire to continue improving it. They all realize that despite what taxpayers contribute toward the library's operation, there are needs that go beyond public tax support.

Those needs involve "people power" to carry out the Library's many programs. Friends assist library staff by supplying materials for programs. They create the magic that enhances library programs and events. They put out the newsletter you are reading. They also raise money to help with needs such as library furniture.

The Friends' biggest fundraiser is perhaps its most popular: The Used-Book Sale. Friends do the manual labor to sort, move, display, and sell almost 10,000 books at each of these quarterly book sales. They add a warm touch to the community's spirited participation of such events, making them not only successful, but memorable.

Joining the Friends of the Okemos Library is the first step. Then, if you have a couple of extra hours per month, consider becoming more active through the Friends' Board of Directors. It's a fun group! We meet once a month during the school year. For an investment of limited volunteer time, you reap the benefit of showing your commitment to a community facility you value.

While dues and donations are an important part of the budget, we realize that "there is strength in numbers." If you have questions about how to join or be more active, please contact me at (517) 349-3297.

Here it is! A new look for our newsletter! As we get back in the groove from Covid, we thought a complete remodel of format would refresh our publication. After 17 Volumes of the magenta-colored banner, we are going to try a new look and new format. Further, we are moving to a 6-page newsletter. You should be getting the same information about the upcoming Friends events and Library happenings but wrapped in a new package. Do let me know what you think.

FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK



December is upon us once again bringing not only the frantic holiday season and first real cold days of the season, but also a promise of hope for the new year. We look back on the past 12 months and celebrate the highs and recognize the lows, and in doing so we can build a picture of what we want to see in the year ahead. What do we want to accomplish? Where do we want to be at the end of 2023? Do we see ourselves/our lives so much different after another 12 months? We set resolutions and goals and maybe even a plan to accomplish them.

At the library, we spend this month doing much of the same planning. We don't set New Year's Resolutions, but we do ask ourselves where we would like to see the library go in 2023? What services should we focus on? What areas do we need to improve? How can we continue improving and evolving to better serve our community? And in what ways can we strengthen our individual Haslett and Okemos Libraries and find ways for our two Meridian Township branches to be stronger together?

Helping us answer those questions is our new Public Services Head Annie Gordon, who started at Okemos in October. Annie has been the Public Services Librarian at CADL's Holt Branch since 2019 and brings more than 20 years of library experience to her new role. Before joining CADL, she served as Adult Services Librarian at the East Lansing Public Library from 2014-2018. Prior to that position, she was a Library Specialist at Davenport University's Lansing Campus from 2011-2014 as well as a Library Clerk at the South Lansing Branch from 2010-2014. She also served as the head research librarian and archivist at a private research library from 2007-2009.

I am excited for the challenges and opportunities ahead, and I know that Annie will do a great job in helping to lead our team.

Tom Moore

Regional Head Librarian, CADL Haslett | Okemos

IN OUR COMMUNITY



Did you know that we are often reaching outside our library walls to build partnerships and take our services to community members who may otherwise not be able to visit the library? Here are just a few of our outreach efforts over the past month. We are always looking for opportunities to work with other groups and schools. Please reach out if you would like to collaborate.

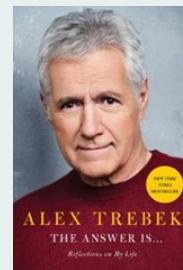
Continued on page 4

FRIENDS BOOK GROUP

Join the group for casual discussion on adult fiction and non-fiction titles.

First Thursdays, 12–1:30 p.m.

January 5



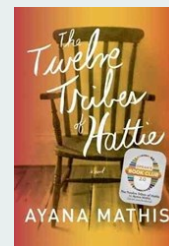
The Answer is: Reflections on My Life by Alex Trebek

February 2



This Tender Land by William Kent Kruger

March 2



The Twelve Tribes of Hattie by Ayana Mathis

BOOK SALES

December 3– 4, 2022



March 4-5, 2023



June 3-4, 2023



July 23-24, 2023



September 9-10,
2023



December 2-3, 2023



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, 2175 Hamilton Road, Okemos. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July sale to be held at the Old Farmers Market Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. Friends' early-buying privileges run for a half hour prior to the opening of each sale.

IN OUR COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

Here are a few of our community outreach efforts ~

Haslett Beautification Association Members arranged for Ralya 5th Grade students to help in cleaning up the landscaping

Haslett Childhood Development Center

Twice monthly visits for storytimes.

Little Lambs Preschool

Twice monthly visits for storytimes.

Marsh Pointe

Book Nook location supported by Outreach Services

Medilodge of Campus Area

Book Nook location supported by Outreach Services

Spartan Chinese School

Planning conversations for 2023 Lunar New Year Celebrations

Wilkshire Early Childhood Center

Hosted field trips to the library for all Kindergarteners



FILM MOVEMENT

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 schedule:

Note: our film screenings have moved to a new time, 6:00 pm.

A Tramway in Jerusalem (Israel - Multiple Languages) • Thursday, December 15 at 6:00 pm

The Light Rail Red Line of Jerusalem's tramway connects the city from east to west, from the Palestinian neighborhoods of Shuafat and Beit Hanina to Mount Herzl—a journey that comprises the culturally complex makeup of the city. This humorous and touching film, whose cast includes Mathieu Amalric and Hana Laslo, hinges on a series of encounters along the line: simple, mundane interactions that reveal the diverse mosaic of humanity that exists in the spiritual center of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Beneath the clashes and grievances among its population that the world sees, Jerusalem is a city teeming with everyday life; the small conflicts and reconciliations depicted in *A Tramway in Jerusalem* offer a kernel of hope in a society torn by political strife.

Complicity (Japan – Japanese & Mandarin) • Thursday, January 19 at 6:00 pm

Chen Liang, a young Chinese immigrant illegally living in Japan, buys a fake ID and cell phone on the black market. When he receives a call about a job, he blindly accepts the offer. Chen, now assuming the identity of Liu Wei, ends up working as an apprentice in a family-run soba restaurant. As he acclimates to his new life, he forms a strong bond with his sagely mentor and finds happiness in a budding romance with a local artist, but the constant threat of deportation looms large over him.

Ulysses & Mona (France - French) • Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 pm

Ulysses is a 55-year-old contemporary artist who ran away from his family and ended his career four years earlier. Now, he spends his days in seclusion hitting tennis balls or listening to horror movies soundtracks. Mona is a 20-year-old art student. Between nude drawing workshops and boring theory classes, her life couldn't be more uneventful. But everything changes when Mona decides to meet Ulysses.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE OKEMOS LIBRARY

ALL AGES

Visit with a Live Reindeer
Join us for an outdoor visit with our special guests from Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm and princesses from Royal Encounters.
Tuesday, December 13 • 4:30-6 p.m.



ADULTS

Friends Book Group (Adults)

Join the group for casual discussion on adult fiction and non-fiction titles. This month's title is *The Answer Is: Reflections on My Life* by Alex Trebek
Thursday, Jan. 5 • 12 p.m.

ESOL Reading Group (Adults)

Practice your English reading and speaking skills by reading articles, books and short stories aloud. Please note that this group is not a formal English instruction.
Wednesdays, December 7 & 14 • 12:30-2 p.m.
Wednesdays, January 11, 18 & 25 • 12:30-2 p.m.

Beaded Bracelets 101 (Teens & Adults)

We'll provide memory wire, beads, and elastic cords--you provide the creativity. *Limited to the first 12 to arrive.
*Get a green ticket at the info desk before the program.
Fridays, Dec 9, Jan 13 • 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Vision Board Planner (Teens & Adults)

A vision board is like your "whole-year resolution." Compared with New Year's resolutions, which you are likely to forget once February comes along, a vision board's physical presence provides a daily visual and tactile reminder of all that you want to manifest in your life. If you need a vision board that can easily be slipped into a planner to take anywhere. Anytime you need to review your goals, it is as easy as taking out your planner and going to the page where you've placed your vision board.
Saturday, December 10 • 2-4 p.m.

Ukulele Strum-n-Sing (Teens & Adults)

Strum-n-sing along with the Michigan Capital Ukulele Players. Bring your own uke. Monthly theme and tunes posted on MICUP Facebook page. If you prefer to join online, contact Jack at jack.nolish@gmail.com for a link.
Saturday, December 17 • 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Fiber Arts Group (Adults)

Meet with your fellow fiber crafters (knitting, crochet, cross stitch, weaving) to work together.
Thursday, January 12 • 2-3 p.m.

Ukulele Strum-n-Sing (Teens & Adults)

Strum-n-sing along with the Michigan Capital Ukulele Players. Bring your own uke. Monthly theme and tunes posted on MICUP Facebook page. If you prefer to join online, contact Jack at jack.nolish@gmail.com for a link.
Saturday, Jan. 21 • 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

***No-Sew Sock Snowman (Teens & Adults)**

Come join us for some fun creating no-sew sock snowmen! We'll provide the white sock. You bring a large striped or patterned sock that can be cut. We'll provide fleece scraps, buttons, or other notions, but feel free bring your own.
*Registration required by visiting our info desk or calling 517-347-2021x3. *Limited to 15 participants.
Wednesday, Jan. 25 • 4:30-6 p.m.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Virtual ESOL Conversation Group for Adults (Online)

Grab your cup of coffee or tea and join us online to practice your English through informal conversation. This group is not formal English instruction.
Wednesdays, December 7 & 14 • 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

ESOL Reading Group (Adults)

Practice your English reading and speaking skills by reading articles, books and short stories aloud. Please note that this group is not a formal English instruction.
Wednesday, December 7 & 14 • 12:30-2 p.m.
Wednesdays, January 11, 18 & 25 • 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Mind Benders

Join us online via Zoom 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.
Thursday, December 8 • 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 12 • 11:00 a.m.

Virtual Ukulele Strum-n-Sing (Teens & Adults)

Strum-n-sing along with the Michigan Capital Ukulele Players. Monthly theme and tunes posted on MICUP Facebook page. Contact Jack at jack.nolish@gmail.com for a link.
Saturday, December 17 • 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 21 • 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Virtual Conversational Spanish (Adults)

This program is not a formal Spanish class. If you would like to practice your Spanish to increase your fluency with no stress and at your own pace, these sessions are for you. You may attend one or all the sessions. There is a different theme each session run by native Spanish-speaker. For more information and to register, send an email to Paola at sanchezp@cadl.org. You will receive a Teams' link in an email to join the group. *LIMITED TO EIGHT PARTICIPANTS.



The Friends are a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation so any gifts given to the Friends are tax deductible to the extent of the law. A generous gift above your regular membership dues can be made at any time during the year and count as a tax deduction, but time is running out for the 2022 charitable-giving year.

Your gift may be undesignated or, should you desire, targeted to one of the Friends' special projects. Help freshen the painted walls or purchase new flooring in the Community Room with your contribution or direct it toward your favorite Friend's on-going project, like Summer Reading Program or this newsletter.

Your tax-deductable, year-end financial gift would be greatly appreciated. We are grateful for your support.



517-347-2021

Okemos, MI 48864

4321 Okemos Road

Friends of the Okemos Library