

Just Between Friends

Friends of the Hope Borbas Okemos Library Newsletter • Vol. 19 • Issue 2
4321 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864

Spring 2024

Save the Date!

Exhale Worry, Inhale Confidence

May is Mental Health Month. To honor that theme, the Friends of the Library are putting a slightly different spin on their upcoming Spring gathering. The Friends will host a book discussion and workshop revolving around the Mental Health topic on **Saturday, May 11 at 3:30 p.m.**, where noted author Christine Webb will discuss her Young Adult book, *The Art of Insanity*.



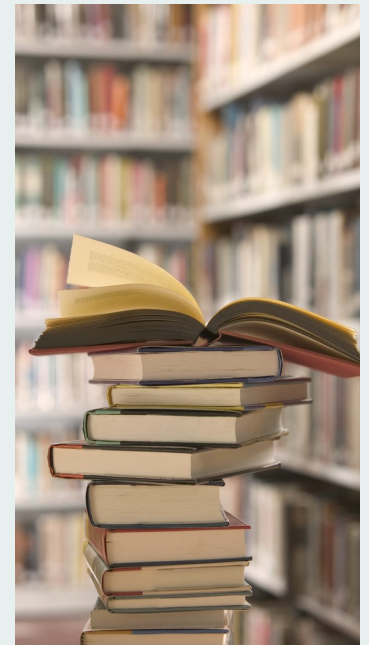
Author Christine Webb

In her presentation, Ms. Webb will explore the stigma surrounding mental illness in teens and the heavy anxieties they are left to cope with. The author brings these intangibles to life through the struggles of her main character Natalie.

As a high school senior, Natalie's artwork has just been accepted in a prestigious show, but her recent bipolar disorder diagnosis makes this even more difficult. Further complicating things, she believes her prescribed medication is making things worse. She is consumed with trying to keep this "secret" from all who matter in her life, including friends and family. Without anyone she can confide in, she turns to her journal.

All teens struggle with anxiety and social awkwardness, *but most do not have the additional burden of a serious bipolar condition they must balance with their everyday worries of life.* Natalie tries to hide her mental illness from everyone. She works to create a carefree impression, while barely being able to keep it together. A heavy burden indeed.

Join us for the author's open and frank discussion on the topic of mental health. Materials will be provided. Teens and adults are welcome. Reservations are requested. Please stop by, or call the Library Information Desk at 517-347-2021, ext 3, to put your name on the list.



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

- March 31, 2024
Easter
- May 27-29, 2024
Memorial Day Weekend

**FRIENDS BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
2023-2024**

President

Cecelia Kramer

Vice President

Linda Minter

Secretary

Lynn Hildebrandt

Treasurer

Karen Fraser

**Meridian Township
CADL Representative**

Sandy Drake

Friends Meetings

Second Thursday of each month

September through May

6:00 p.m. Social

6:20 p.m. Business Meeting

Friends Membership

Annual dues are:

Individual \$10.00

Family \$15.00

Patron \$25.00

Business \$50.00

Lifetime \$300.00

Donations gratefully received and accepted.

Memberships and Donations may be sent to the Friends of the Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864. The Friends is a 501 (c)(3) corporation. Gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CECELIA KRAMER

What Your Dues Purchase

Many folks wonder what the Friends do with all the membership fees collected. Well, wonder no more. On your next trip to the library, stop near the circulation desk to view the newly refurbished Children's Area. This is the exciting result of the many Used Book Sales, membership dues, and donations to our Friends' organization. A contribution of just over \$27,000 from the Friends has helped to bring about new flooring, paint, updated active toys, cabinetry, bookshelves, and furniture to achieve a fresh, clean look for the Children's Area.

Gone is the well-worn seating and broken toy equipment. The new look is light and bright. Note also that the bookcases are shorter in height. All that new "air space" above them opens the area to more air and light and makes the space seem larger. That's the 'plus' component in the equation, though the *actual* reason the bookcases were shortened was to enable the youngest readers to reach the full selection of children's literature, even on the top shelf. Being able to make their own book selections off the shelf gives them a sense of power and excitement, which further piques the young reader's interest in books and reading.



New lower book shelves

Note the new bookcase divider that separates the incoming patron's 'Hold' Volumes Shelves from the Children's Area. The outside of the divider is a series of display cases which can feature books or be outfitted with glass doors to facilitate the display of precious objects. Meanwhile, the back of the display cases has seating that invites adults to take the opportunity to sit with a child and read a book. Tom Moore, the Head Librarian, reports that the hands-on toy units are all being renovated, upgraded, or replaced, allowing these items that get such hard use to be back in tip-top condition.

As a bonus, while you are wandering around the library, take a look at the floor below the captivating art display in the Community Room to see the new fresh carpet. The Community Room gets intense use from the library's many programs, events and meetings several times each day. New carpeting replaced the stained and worn old carpet, and now the whole area look fresh and inviting.

Therefore, we offer a special HUGE THANK YOU *and* "Tip of the Hat" to all the Friends of the Okemos Library for your contributions and your memberships that keep our library in prime condition.

FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK



I love seeing a lot happening at the library. From interesting displays to entertaining events and engaging collections, our library is a destination in our community for entertainment, education and connection. This spring the Okemos branch is hosting nearly 150 events in just over 90 days. We are celebrating things like March is Reading Month, National Poetry Month, and Mental Health Awareness.

Many of our staple programs like our storytimes, book groups, home school discoveries, Film Movement, beading and Reading to Dogs are complimented by special events like a Who Would Win? themed spring break event (March 26), an Eclipse Viewing Party (April 8) and The Great Teen Bake Off (April 20). We will have interesting speakers on topics like the Solar Eclipse (March 28), Introduction to Gardening (April 23), Meridian Township Development Update (April 24), history of the Grand Hotel (April 30), Author Visit from Christine Webb, and NAMI's In Our Own Voice presentation on Mental Illness.

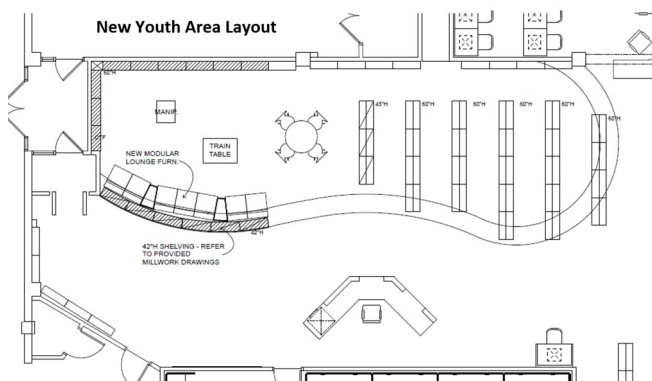
You can also engage in our different passive events like voting in our "Who Would Win?" bracket during March is Reading Month inspired by the work of Jerry Pollatta, shredding your worries away during Mental Health Awareness Month in May, or picking up a packet of seeds from our Seed Library starting in April. For a full listing of activities, visit cadl.org.

It should be a fun spring! We hope you stop in to share in the fun.

Tom Moore

Regional Head Librarian, CADL Haslett | Okemos

See photos of the newly remodeled Children's Area on Page 6.



FRIENDS BOOK GROUP

Join the group for casual discussion of adult fiction and non-fiction titles. First Thursdays, 12–1:30 p.m.

April 4



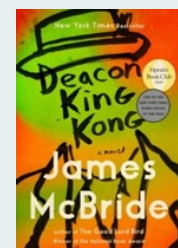
I invented the Modern Age: The Rise of Henry Ford by Richard Snow

May 2



Furiously Happy: A funny Book About Horrible Things by Jenny Lawson

June 6



Deacon King Kong: by James McBride

BOOK SALES



June 1 & 2, 2024



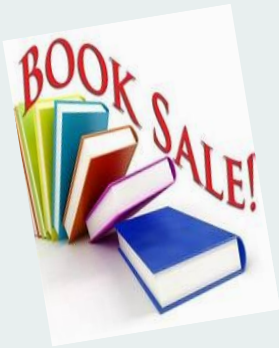
July 29 & 30, 2024
(Outdoor Sale at Central
Park Pavillion)



September 7 & 8, 2024



December 6 & 7, 2024



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.

Friends' early-buying privileges run for a half hour prior to the opening of each sale.

“Who says you cannot teach an old dog new tricks?”

The Friends of the Okemos Library are now be able to accept debit and credit cards as payment at our Used Book Sales. Responding to the many requests for this service, the Friends have added this convenience to help our Used Book Sale customers.



FILM MOVEMENT SERIES

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) 272-9901. Here is our upcoming schedule:



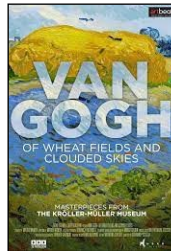
Wildland (Danish - Denmark) • Thursday, March 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Following a car accident, which kills her mother, 17-year-old Ida moves in with her estranged aunt and her aunt's grown sons. The home is filled with physical tenderness and love, but outside of the home, the family leads a violent and criminal life. When an unforeseen murder pressures the family and their loyalty to each other, tension builds as love and violence become impossible to separate. Ida is faced with the same question her mother faced before her: What are you willing to sacrifice for your family?



The Road to Mandalay (Burmese – Myanmar) • Thursday, April 18 at 6:00 p.m.

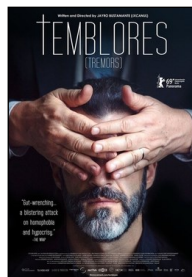
Two Burmese immigrants flee their country's civil war in search of a new life in Thailand. Finding work, they focus their efforts on acquiring Thai ID cards. However, when one achieves this goal, their relationship is doomed.



Van Gogh: Of Wheat Fields and Clouded Skies (English – Italy) • Thursday, May 16 at 6:00 p.m.

A stunning new exploration of the life and work of Van Gogh, through the eyes of his most devoted admirer and owner of the largest private collection of his artworks. This documentary tells the story of the Van Gogh's burning passion for art, bringing together 40 remarkable paintings and 85 drawings from the Kröller-Müller Museum in Holland.

Gain unprecedented access to legendary artistic treasures and experience the rare architectural beauty of the Kröller-Müller Museum. With a special focus on the importance of drawing as part of his artistic technique, be immersed in the life of one of the world's greatest artists as Van Gogh's story reveals itself from Paris to Provence.



Temblores (Spanish – Guatemala) • Thursday, June 20 at 6:00 p.m.

When handsome and charismatic Pablo arrives at his affluent family's house everyone is eagerly awaiting the return of their beloved son, devoted father and caring husband. A seemingly exemplary pillar of Guatemala City's Evangelical Christian community, Pablo's announcement that he intends to leave his wife for another man sends shock waves through the family. As Pablo tries to acclimate to his new life in the city's gay subculture with the liberated Francisco, his ultra-religious family does everything in its power to get their prodigal son back on track, no matter the cost. "If Bustamante's lucid second feature makes it feel as though the world itself is trembling beneath your feet, it's because this mercilessly grounded film keys into the devilishness of Pablo's dilemma: Forcing him to choose between himself and his family is the only way to guarantee that he ultimately loses both" (David Ehrlich, IndieWire).

The movie descriptions are provided through the library's subscription agreement with Film Movement. For more information, visit www.filmmovement.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE OKEMOS LIBRARY

ADULTS

Friends Book Group (Adults)

Join the group for casual discussion of adult fiction and non-fiction titles. See page 3 for descriptions.

First Thursdays, March 7, April 4, and May 2 • 12–1:30 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. No program March 27.

Wednesdays, March 6 - May 8 • 12:30-2 p.m.

Beaded Earrings (Teens & Adults)

Come join us to learn the basics to make beaded pin earrings. We'll provide the materials and you provide the creativity. * Limited to the first 12 to arrive. *Get a green ticket at the info desk before the program.

Friday, May 11 • 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.

Saturdays, March 16, April 20 & May 18 • 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.

Thursdays, March 14– May 9 • 2-3 p.m.

Solar Eclipse Viewing Party (All ages)

Come to the library to participate in activities related to the eclipse. We will be making viewers but will also have the eclipse streaming live. This event will take place outside the library in the parking lot. We will have other outdoor activities going on. Activities are weather dependent.

Monday, April 8 • 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Spice of the Month (Adults)

Spice up your life with some seasonings that may be new to you! Participants will receive a small amount of a different spice each month, plus recipes and reading suggestions. While supplies last.

Available beginning the 1st Monday of each month while supplies last.

Community Conversations

Stay up to date on topics affecting our community from experts in the Township and area organizations. This month learn about the improvements and developments coming to Meridian Township from Neighborhood & Economic Development Director Amber Clark.

Wednesday, April 24 • 6 p.m.

Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel with Mike Fornes (Adults)

Mike takes you up the red carpeted steps, through the doors, back to the past and behind the scenes of the historic Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

Tuesday, April 30 • 1 p.m.



Introduction to Gardening: Growing Food on a Budget (Adults)

Join Garden Project at CADL Okemos for a free workshop covering gardening basics on any budget. Gain insights into soil fertility, garden site prep, seed selection, and more. Walk away with free seeds, educational guides, and the knowledge to start your own thriving garden. Don't miss out on this fun and informative event!

Tuesday, April 23 • 1-2 p.m.

NAMI In Our Own Voice

During Mental Health Awareness Month, gain a personal perspective of mental health conditions from presenters with lived experiences as they talk openly about what it's like to have a mental health condition. Take this opportunity to gain a deeper understanding, clear up misconceptions and ask questions of your own. Presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Wednesday, May 22 • 6 p.m.

VIRTUAL

Mind Benders (Adults)

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.

Thursdays, March 14, April 11, & May 9 • 10:30 a.m.

U.S. Citizenship Test Practice - Online (Adults)

Make an appointment to practice for the U.S. Citizenship / Naturalization Test; Call (517) 347-2021 ext. 2029. or email stantone@cadl.org for more information.

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. *Registration is required by emailing stantone@cadl.org. You will receive instructions on joining our Zoom session.

Wednesdays, March 6—May 8 • 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. (no program 03/27)

Children's Department Renovations



New colorful seating and carpeting in the Children's area



Left: New lower display shelves at remodeled entrance to the Children's area



Above: Updated activity table for our children



517-347-2021
Okemos, MI 48864
4321 Okemos Road

Friends of the Okemos Library