

FRIEND TO FRIEND



East Lansing Public Library

Lanette Van Wagenen

President's Message

It's September and this month we will celebrate our library's 90th birthday which made me think about libraries. Particularly about how I have used and still use libraries over half that same number of years, 50!

My earliest library memory was during the 60s in a suburb of Chicago. I remember searching for books, feeling the incredible quiet, inhaling the old and new book smells, and leaving with a stack of books. I left with *Little Women*, *Mary Poppins* and *Heidi* books, to name a few. It was a coup to discover continued stories of these well loved characters: *Heidi Grows Up* and *Heidi's Children*. *Jo's Boys* and *Little Men*. *Mary Poppins Comes Back* and *Mary Poppins Opens the Door*. I escaped into these worlds, and at the same time learned about different cultures, civility, morality, family structures and much more.

While a young adult of the 70s, libraries were where I went to check out many different topics of

study. I searched different aisles of the libraries, still leaving with piles of books. There was always a feeling of largesse; celebrating what I found, what was accessible and what I was to learn!

In the 80s I had a young family. Some may remember a world before cell phones, DVD players and television on-demand with DVRs. For fun, and for next-to-nothing, our family could check out a (very large) VHS player and VHS tapes from the downtown

Lansing library for the weekend. This large item had to be reserved, lugged and then installed to our television, which was not a 60 inch High Definition model. But we felt cutting edge and enjoyed family movie weekends! This was a library changing with and responding to the needs of times.

The 90s brought a different library usage back to me. I

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Annual Used Book Sale Oct. 26-27

The annual used book sale organized by the Friends of the East Lansing Public Library is scheduled for Oct. 26-27 at the library. Sale hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday.

A major fundraising event staged by the Friends for the library for many years, more than \$4,000 was raised last year. Proceeds from the sale are used to buy items above and beyond the library's budget. This includes books, computers, furniture, music, programming and other materials.

The Friends offers a popular selection of used fiction and non-fiction books for readers of all ages. The sale also features VHS movies, DVD movies, music CDs and books on CDs, LP records and more. Chair of the sale is Marsha Bristor, a member of the Friends' Board of Directors.

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Annual Used Book Sale Oct. 26-27

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The event requires many hours of organizing in advance, promoting and then setting up tables, unpacking and organizing donations. If you would like to volunteer, contact Marsha at 351-3608.

For those who want a head start on Saturday, shoppers can pay \$3 to enter from 9 to 10 a.m. Friends will be allowed to enter early at no extra charge. On the second day, Sunday, between 1 and 3 p.m., buyers can buy a bag of books and other items for \$4.

This is a great time to buy gifts, fill your shelves or start a library for a grandchild or a classroom. The variety is amazing and the bargains even more so. We have had customers stock their new book store and gather books for non-profit centers in need of books for children and adults.



President's Message

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was living in Dimondale, and I remember library trips with my two children and each leaving with many books. My children grew past the kids section and began roaming more aisles of the tiny Dimondale library. From sports and hobbies, to young adult fiction, they, too, learned to use and love books and libraries. I trailed behind them grabbing a few escape fictions to read when I could!

During the 21st century, libraries really evolved. I became a member of the Delta Township Library, as it was conveniently located near my job. I had not lost my love of books, but took advantage of the new book formats available. From books on CD (I missed the books on cassette tape period, somehow), to books on MP3, I could take my books on the road with me, whether I was walk-

ing or driving. When walking CDs sometimes skipped in my portable player, but it was still worth it. MP3s were a vast improvement!

Moving here in 2008 I found the East Lansing Public Library and have continued my usage of books and digital media. And I have spent my share in the Friendship; personally and for very well-received gift giving. Additionally, in 2010, I joined the Friends Board. Through this deeper involvement I have been educated about the complexity of running a library; from budgets to cuts, from donor to programming; more than I ever dreamed was happening behind the scenes at my beloved libraries. I am excited and proud to be part of a group such as the Friends, who have been so instrumental in the success of our community fixture.

A 2012 Pew Research Center's survey of Americans aged 16

and up strongly indicates the direction that libraries need to take:

- Coordinating more closely with local schools: 85% said definitely!
- Offering free literacy programs to help young children: 82% said YES!
- More comfortable spaces for reading, working, and relaxing: 59% agreed!
- Offering a broader selection of e-books: 53% were in favor!

How different these ideas are from the old "place to go to check out books." And yet how forward thinking and alive with possibility. Whether these become our choices for our library or not, the message is clear, change is necessary to provide what our community needs. The Friends, with your help and support, will continue to play an important role in the future of our library!

Library works to remain integral part of community

It's not your grandfather's library any more. Sure, there are plenty of books, magazines and movies. But digital technology is changing the way libraries do business throughout the country.

"We're challenged every day to show our relevance -- why communities should put their money into libraries. We're still an education business, but we're no

longer just books," said Kristin Shelley, director of the East Lansing Public Library.

Shelley, who has overseen the library since January 2011, is moving the library into the digital age while maintaining and streamlining traditional services. She is assisted by staff, including Lauren Douglass, head of Technology Services.

"We had some technology in place but when Kristin came along we put resources toward making technology easier to use," Douglass said.



"This was a good solid library when I got here but technology is changing faster and faster so Lauren and I got together and devised about 20 years of upgrades in two years," said Shelley.

Among the new services are self-checkout machines, e-books, and the library has started making some periodicals available on line.

All this makes it more important to help patrons use the technology.

Said Shelley, "We provide in-person training, instructions on our website and trained staff to walk patrons through the system."

The library is working with 3M Cloud library and Overdrive, an innovative ways to browse, borrow and read popular fiction and non-fiction.

The library also provides instructional software for about 75 languages a person can learn from home.

But Shelley wants to do much more to make the East Lans-

East Lansing Public Library

Wish List

Money for additional e-books (average cost of an e-book title is \$70)

Money for additional digital magazines (average cost of an e-book magazine is \$60)

Money for materials (books, DVDs, CDs)

Digital lab equipment:

- Mac computers (2) \$5,000
- Desktop publishing software (2) \$1,500
- 3-D printer and startup supplies \$4,000
- Digital imaging equipment \$3,000

Surface tablets for library catalog browsing (5) \$700

iPads for technology training lab (\$500 per iPad)

Study chairs (current ones are breaking and falling apart—average cost of one chair is \$200)

Upgraded monitors for the self checkout machines \$2,500 per monitor

Research and Early Childhood Literacy Databases (average cost \$3,000 per database)

Computer tables (average cost \$1,800)

Display units (average cost \$1,500-\$3,000)

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ing library an even more integral part of the community.

Even though the community passed a millage to keep the library in operation, there is little money for future growth without additional fund raising and resources, including donations, said Shelley.

“We know our profession is moving quickly into a new technical world, and we don’t have all the resources we need to do as much as we’d like, but we’ve been marshaling our resources to get the most from staff and volunteers,” she said.

The library’s computers are in constant use because there are still patrons who don’t have computers and access to the internet at home.

Beyond computers, e-books, digital magazines and a knowledgeable staff, the library has been working hard to provide other services.

The trend is toward creating “maker spaces,” which means that a library offers space and resources for community members to come to the library and create things via a 3-D printer, a digital lab and more.

An example was a program this past summer at which children aged 7 to 11 learned about computer code, simple circuits and how to build moving robots. In October the library will partner with Impression 5 museum for several Saturdays to create a Techno City. Kristin said Impression 5 does not have the books, DVDs and other resources



Robots were the order of the day when kids learned to construct circuits at library

to do the research on creating a city that the library has.

“You no longer need a librarian to find out the capitol of Venezuela, but you need library staff to help you use a 3 D printer so you can grow your business,” said Douglass.

Though the library doesn’t yet have a 3 D printer, that item, along with high end Macintosh computers for desktop publishing, are sought.

“Libraries across the country are changing the way they do business because they have seen how fast people are going from print books to e-books, know the need for technology training and simply need to keep up with societal changes,” said Shelley.

“We’re moving from the model of how to help people get information to helping people produce materials,” said Douglass.

The library is focusing its resources, on children particularly as it joins other organizations in emphasizing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or STEM,

and have added arts and reading as an emphasis (STEAM)

Shelley said she plans to use the resources of MSU including finding professors who can mentor children and other patrons in the library’s “maker space.”

“We have resources people can use for free,” said Shelley. “We have Demographics Now which businesses can use from home to explore the area they are thinking about coming or expanding into.”

Shelley is getting word out about the library’s resources through a number of venues. This includes the Technology Innovation Center in the old downtown Jacobsen’s store where businesses can start up and operate at a low cost for a few years until they’re able to go out on their own.

“We want to be the community’s classroom. We want people to understand that whatever they need they can find here,” said Shelley.

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Library works to become integral part of community

The library partners with All Saints Episcopal Church to provide a drop-in center for high school students. Future plans call for tutoring and after-school programming.

“My goal is to make sure everyone is welcome and has equal access to information,” she said. “The beauty of developing programs for the entire community is that it brings all generations together for inter-generational programming. A young person can showing an older person how to use a 3-D printer.”

Said Shelley: “While there are cuts, cuts and cuts, we made it through the Great Depression and recent recessions and never closed our doors. We are resourceful.”

Looking back 90 years to beginning of EL Public Library

(The article below came from information gathered and compiled by staff of the East Lansing Public Library)

The East Lansing Public Library celebrates its 90th birthday this year.

The idea of a library originated among the mothers of the Child Study Club. In 1923 a traveling library was borrowed from the State of Michigan library and kept in the old People’s Church.

A larger and more permanent collection was established in April, 1929, when a community “Library Week” garnered donations of books and magazines from area citizens.

The expanding library moved to larger temporary quarters above the East Lansing State Bank in 1925 and back to even roomier accommodations in the newly constructed People’s Church in 1926.

The experiment proved so successful that the following fall the club borrowed another collection of books from the state library, purchased a few books and

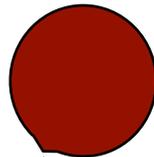
opened the library two afternoons a week.

The years 1925 and 1926 marked the most critical period in the life of the library. There was no income; rent had to be paid; new books had to be acquired to maintain patron interest; all the work, including janitorial, had to be done by committee members.

Club members raised money by holding bake sales and dances, and by selling vanilla extract and spices. At the dedication of Michigan State University’s new stadium in October, 1924, they raised \$145 by serving hot lunches.

In 1926, the club sponsored a financial drive which netted more than \$1,000 as well as advertising which awakened the interest of the community.

Lansing business owners donated support which allowed the appointment of a librarian, Mrs. E.T. Crossman. A “vertical



A birthday party!

The East Lansing Public Library will celebrate its 90th birthday, Sept. 28 from noon to 2 p.m. Cupcakes donated by Bake ‘n Cakes will be served. Activities will be held for children. A short presentation will be held at 12:30 p.m. Patrons are being asked to wish the library a happy birthday via video. A wish list presented in this newsletter will tell patrons what might be donated.

file” of reference materials from newspapers and periodicals was started.

By 1928 the City of East Lansing appropriated \$1,500 for support of the library. By 1929 (Continued on page 6)

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Looking back 90 years to beginning of EL Public Library

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circulation was running about 1,000 books per month.

In 1931 the library was moved into the new municipal building on Abbot Road. But space was limited and a story hour for children was held in the council chambers on Saturdays.

In 1937 the Child Study Club placed the library under the city's control and a board of trustees was appointed to govern it.

In 1961 voters approved \$350,000 to build a library on Abbot Road, its current location.

Local officials and Gov. and Mrs. George Romney dedicated the facility.

In 1975 voters approved a bond issue of \$550,000 to finance a 9,000 square foot expansion. It provided growth of popular children's programs, enlarged staff work space and added a new community meeting room.

In 1993, with the help of a special technology budget of \$230,000, library functions became computerized.

In 1995 voters approved a bond of \$2 million to make capital improvements. In 2002 remote access to the catalog and databases began.

Under the leadership of Library Director Kristin Shelley, voters approved a 1 mill levy in 2012 to continue operation for the next 10 years. The library was removed as a line item in the City of East Lansing budget.

Thank you from The Friends

The play time station at right was purchased by the Friends in honor of Marny Figenshau and Chris Korest for their many years guiding the Friends' Board of Directors.



Thanks to Volunteers

- Sarah Boling
- Marsha Bristor
- Liesel and Lilly Carlson
- Carole Dodgson
- Joan Fairy
- Sandi Farrel
- Marny Figenshau
- Maribeth Foltz

- Lori Gruner
- Jan Hines
- Deborah Smith
- Lanette VanWagenen

visit us on Facebook,

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-the-East-Lansing-Public-Library/102386504201>

Welcome and Welcome Back

Dr. Walter and Mrs. Marilyn Baird (Correction)
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 Judy Kransz
 Gail Light
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 Keith and Sarah Phillips
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 Maureen McCabe-Power
 Diane and John Revitte
 Rebecca Grumet and Jim Smith
 Barbara Schmidt
 William and Michael Sawyer-Todd
 Rosemary Young
 Miriam Winnig
 William and Ellen Zuckschwerdt

Your help and support keep our numbers growing. Spread the word to encourage others to support the library with a Friends' membership.

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Newsletter

In the North Gallery

August Artist

Joan Holtgreive, at right, with two of her pieces featured in the North Gallery, was the August artist. In September, Sharon Griffes Tarr, an award winning artist in Michigan and nationally, will be presenting a show of "plein aire," painting stunning natural scenes outdoors. Watercolor is her media.

In October, the Greater Lansing Weaving Guild will be the guest artists. In November, the show will feature Francie Dittrick who specializes in an Asian approach and in December, the Elementary Art Show will end the year.



**Friends of the
East Lansing
Public Library**

950 Abbott Rd., East Lansing, Michigan 48823
Phone: (517) 351-2074
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Our work
supports
your library.
Join us in
the fun!

BECOME A FRIEND!

I wish to be a member of the Friends of the East Lansing Public Library. I have circled my membership choice.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership New/ Renewal (Circle One)

Membership dues are not tax deductible

Donations over and above membership dues are tax-deductible.

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the East Lansing Public Library.

Detach and mail to: Friends' Treasurer,
C/O East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd.,
East Lansing, MI 48823

The Friendshop accepts donations of books, magazines, music CDs, DVDs and LPs. These donations are tax-deductible; ask for a receipt at the circulation desk. Note: Items must be clean, dry and without mold. We can no longer accept VHS or cassette tapes.

Annual Membership Dues (Circle or type in amount)

- Senior 65+ or Student\$ 5.00
- Individual\$10.00
- Family\$15.00
- Lifetime\$50.00
- Business Gift\$100.00
- Other\$ _____

Interested in volunteering?

Yes / No Phone Number _____

Contact us at FriendsELlibrary@gmail.com

Circle Area(s) of Interest

Big Book Sale - Ongoing Book Sale - Serving on the Board - Membership - Gallery Shows - Publicity - Mailings

**Friends of the East Lansing
Public Library**

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