

The Best of Michigan Friends Fundraising

(from the FOML Archives)

The **Friends of the Sterling Heights Public Library** purchased a movie license for their facility and then launched a new series, "Read It, Watch It, and Talk about It." Participants gather at the library to watch a film that is based on a book, then stay after the movie ends for a discussion. There is no charge for the event, but refreshments are sold for a nominal fee as a fundraiser for the Friends.

Giving trees have proven to be popular fundraisers through the years, but a *book wall*? That's the clever twist on an old idea that the **Friends of the Lewiston Library** came up with in support of their facility. A local artist painted a mural of shelves of books behind the circulation desk. (The artist donated her time, and the Friends paid for her materials, which amounted to less than \$100.) The names of those who donate \$200 or more appear on the books. The Friends also put up a memorial plaque in the library. For a \$100 donation, a small brass plate can be inscribed in honor or in memory of someone.

The **Friends of the Interlochen Public Library** defray part of the cost of magazine subscriptions at their facility by holding an annual fund drive that involves sending solicitation letters to local businesses and organizations as well as individual library supporters. In 2004, they raised over half the money needed to maintain the library's magazine subscriptions.

In conjunction with a program they held on how to begin researching your genealogy, the **Friends of the Cadillac-Wexford County Public Library** sold family-tree prints suitable for framing.

The **Friends of the Bayliss Public Library** hold a Silent Auction every fall. Items donated by local artists and businesses go on the block, including paintings, ceramics, baby afghans, dried flower arrangements, wood crafts, holiday decorations, and gift certificates. Interested bidders filled out bid slips at the library's circulation desk; high bids on each item are posted daily after 5:00 p.m. Bidders are encouraged to place as many bids as they like on as many items as they choose over the course of the auction, which runs approximately ten days.

Just in time for Thanksgiving, the **Friends of the Waldron District Library** hold an annual apple pie sale. Members bake three 9-inch varieties: regular two-crust, Dutch (crumb topping), and low sugar, all of which sell for \$5.00 each. Interested buyers are asked to call in their orders in early November for pick-up just before the holiday.

The **Friends of the Interlochen Public Library** hold a plant sale every spring featuring a wide variety of annuals, hanging baskets, and perennials. They work hand-in-hand with a local business to help make the sale a success. The Friends receive a donation of \$6.00 for every hour a member volunteers to work at the Interlochen Perennial Farms. In addition, 25 percent of the total of each plant sold at the group's annual plant sale from the Interlochen Perennial Farms is donated to the Friends.

Every Memorial Day weekend, the **Friends of the Crooked Tree District Library** hold a Geranium Sale that has proven to be a very popular fundraiser and a springtime bargain for the community. (Each plant sells for just over \$3.00.) Those interested in purchasing a geranium can either place a prepaid order that can be picked up the Friday before the holiday, or they can take their chances and stop by on Saturday, the actual day of the sale.

The **Friends of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library** offer a special service to the community called "Search-a-Book." For a \$2.00 fee (paid in advance), they will check through the book donations they receive throughout the year to find a specific book or set of books, magazine, video, or CD. They also try to help out the occasional patron who accidentally donates a book he or she really didn't intend to give away. "Misdonation" forms are available at the library's circulation desk for patrons to fill out as soon as they realize their error, and the Friends do their best to recover the lost treasure.

The **Friends of the Grandville Library** (part of the Kent District Library system) have capitalized on their fame as dessert-makers to produce several cookbooks: *Just Desserts*, *Rich Rewards*, and *Cookies and Bars*.

As part of Marquette's 1999 sesquicentennial celebration, supporters of the **Peter White Public Library** created a set of 24 "Historic Marquette Architecture Trading Cards." Each card featured a sepia-toned photograph of a historic city building on the front with a short history of the structure on the reverse side. One thousand sets of cards were printed. While some were given away free of charge, more than 700 sets were sold for \$5.00 per set.

Also at the Peter White Public Library is a campaign to collect "One Million Pennies" (\$10,000) to be invested in an endowment fund for the purchase of children's books, magazines, and audiovisual materials. Collection containers are

located throughout the library, and patrons are invited to deposit their pennies inside. (Silver coins and folding money are welcome, too, but everything is changed into pennies before tallying.) Once a month or so, volunteers count the donations and put the collected pennies into a huge, see-through box that sits in a corner of the children's department. There is also a contest to predict when the penny collection will reach its goal.

As part of their own "Million Penny Fundraiser," the **Friends of the Shelby Township Library** held a birthday party for Abraham Lincoln. Not surprisingly, pennies were the preferred gift! The party featured a talk by a Lincoln historian as well as refreshments, prizes, and a make-and-take craft.

The **Friends of the Crooked Tree District Library** sold decorative Walloon Lake tiles to local residents at a cost of \$21 per tile. A pair of Charlevoix-based craftspeople made 200 of the tiles, basing their design on an old postcard of the Walloon area. The Friends also published a calendar of old photographs featuring scenes from the Walloon Lake area. So many interesting pictures surfaced during the course of that project that the Friends published a limited-edition pictorial history of Walloon Lake containing not only photos but also postcards, remembrances, and original sketches. The book was a smashing success; several hundred copies were sold upon its debut, and within just six weeks the Friends had sold more than enough copies to pay for the entire project. All subsequent proceeds have been used to benefit the library.

The **Friends of the White Lake Township Library** held a members-only "All Things Chocolate Evening" at which attendees drank hot chocolate, tasted chocolate treats from a local confectionery/caterer, and traded samples of their own favorite chocolate creations. Members were also asked to bring along the recipes for their concoctions so that they could all be assembled into a booklet and sold as a fundraiser.

In partnership with two local schools, the **Friends of the White Lake Community Library** hold an annual Valentine's Day Flower Sale featuring red, white, or pink carnations with a ribbon and a tag for \$1.50 each or four for \$5.00. Orders must be placed in advance and picked up at the library on Valentine's Day.

Valentine treats of a different kind are available from the **Friends of Bayliss Public Library** in Sault Ste. Marie at their annual Sweets Sale on February 14. This tasty event features cookies, bars, cupcakes, pies, cakes, and tea breads.

If you thought people were only interested in your used books, take note: The **Friends of the Public Library of Westland** have begun selling back issues of all the magazines to which their library subscribes. Copies go for 25 cents each, and the Friends report that they sell quickly.

In Cass City, the **Friends of the Rawson Memorial Library** hold an annual *magazine* sale in addition to their regular book sales. They ask for donations in good condition, focusing on subject areas such as decorating, hobbies, hunting, travel, antiques, country living, and crafts. They do not accept old news magazines, *Reader's Digest*, or *National Geographic*.

The **Friends of the Glen Lake Community Library** held a home tour that featured five distinctive residences in the area. Tickets were \$15 per person, and the total number sold was limited to 450.

Every fall, the **Friends of the Saugatuck-Douglas District Library** hold an "Ethnic Dinner" to benefit their facility. At these festive events, attendees gather in a local restaurant to sample a particular cuisine; in 2003, for example, the meal consisted of seven different Spanish *tapas*. Tickets sell for \$55 each, with \$25 earmarked for the Friends to support library programs.

To mark the 2003 Christmas holidays, the **Friends of the Detroit Public Library** surveyed the library's extensive archive of Kate Greenaway material and chose four different illustrations by the Victorian-era artist to grace a set of collectible greeting cards. The authentic reproductions of Greenaway's delicate watercolors were accompanied by Christmas verse from the same period. A set of twelve cards (three each of the four different illustrations) was priced at \$14.

The **Friends of the Caledonia Library** (a branch of the Kent District Library) held a barn dance to raise money for a new facility. A local line-dancing team demonstrated various dances and offered on-the-spot lessons, and refreshments were provided to all attendees. Tickets sold for \$5 each.

To celebrate her 40th birthday, Kellie Beaton's husband threw her a surprise party. He suggested that donations to the Books for Babies program of the **Friends of the Interlochen Public Library** would be the perfect birthday tribute to his wife. (Kellie is the head of the program.) The result: \$655 in contributions!