



of the Rochester Hills Public Library

DEDICATED TO PROMOTING A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LIBRARY & ITS CONSTITUENTS

GM Heritage Center Tour

After last year's GM Heritage Center Tour sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library, many of you said "let's do this again". You also said, "I sure wish my friends could see this". Well, you spoke and we listened. The Friends have been able to arrange another tour for your viewing pleasure on May 14, 2014. **So come again and bring your friends.**



The GM Heritage Center, which is not open to the public, showcases the vehicles that have made General Motors a leader in the automotive industry for over 100 years. The "Heritage Collection" is made up of approximately 600 cars and trucks which are rotated in and out of the facility regularly to allow them all to be appreciated. About 200 are on display in the Heritage Center at any given time.



This year we were also able to obtain 4 VIP tickets for a private tour of the Corvette Assembly Plant in Bowling Green, KY, along with 4 tickets to tour the Corvette Museum across the street from the plant. These tickets are valued at \$200 and we will have a silent auction for the tickets during the Heritage Center Tour, so sharpen up your bidding skills.

Come see the amazing vehicles and support the Library at the same time. All proceeds are used to fund Library programs. *(Continued on the next page)*

SAVE THE DATES: **2014 Holiday Home Tour** is going to be Sunday **November 16th**. The preview party will be held on Wednesday **November 12th**. Watch for ticket information.

GM Heritage Center - CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

GM Heritage Center is located at 6400 Center,
Sterling Heights, Michigan, 48312

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2014
Time: 9:00 am to 11:00 am
Location: GM Heritage Center, Sterling Heights
Cost: \$25 per person

To reserve your place, go to www.rhpl.org/friends-of-rhpl/special-events to download the reservation form. Instructions for payment and mailing are included on the form. Please make your reservation by 5-7-14. *We certainly hope you can join us this year for this unique event.*

FRIENDS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE FRIENDS OF THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY IS AN ALL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION. ITS HEARTBEAT IS THE HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS AND THOUSANDS OF HOURS EACH YEAR TO PLAN, ORGANIZE, CONDUCT, AND COMMUNICATE A WIDE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES AND FUND RAISING EVENTS TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARY. THIS LIST IS MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITIES. IN EVERY CASE, TRAINING IS PROVIDED. YOUR SERVICE CAN BE A FEW HOURS PER YEAR OR SEVERAL HOURS WEEKLY.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING, STOP BY THE LIBRARY INFORMATION DESK FOR AN APPLICATION.

- **FRIENDS LIBRARY STORE:** Stop in to get an application. Job includes sales, assisting customers, housekeeping, opening and closing tasks.
- **BOOK CART:** Spend a 2 hour shift with a cart of books by the information desk, straighten shelves, collect cash, and answer questions. Work as often as you like within a schedule.
- **USED BOOK SORTING:** Sort donations from patrons, as well as library discards, and prepare them for the book sales. Work a few hours a week in the book room.
- **USED BOOK SALES:** Volunteer before the sales to set up the sales room, or for a shift on one of the sale days as cashier, bagger, or book arranger. You could even be the chairperson for a shift. Large sales occur 3 times a year, as well as additional smaller sales.
- **HOLIDAY HOME TOUR:** Annual event the second Sunday in November. Help with obtaining homes for the walk, arrange for sponsors, publicity, ticket sales, docent captain at a home, or be a docent yourself.
- **MAILING:** Label and sort mail to go out to all members 2 to 3 times a year.

From the Friends President...

.....RON MEEGAN



First let me say that it is an honor to have been selected as the President of the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library for 2014. It's great to work with such a dedicated group

of volunteers. Speaking of volunteers.....

VOLUNTEER Webster's defines a volunteer as "a person who chooses freely to do something".

The Friends of the Library defines volunteers as the heart and soul of our operation. Volunteers are the reason our activity is able to function and flourish. Our volunteers are male and female, short and tall, computer literate or not, and span ages from high school student to senior citizen. Some are in school, some work, and others are retired.



Some volunteer daily, some weekly, some monthly, and some only once a year, but all are valuable.

Here are some of the areas that get handled by our volunteers: working in the Friends Library Store, staffing the Used Book Cart in the Library lobby area, sorting used books to get them prepared for our various Used Book Sales, working a Used Book Sale, volunteering at the annual Holiday Home Tour and other fund raisers, creating and mailing the bi-annual Friends Newsletter, and serving on the Friends Board of Directors. There are many tasks involved in each of the areas

mentioned, and elsewhere in this issue is a more detailed listing of what's involved in each area and how you can get involved. We are anxious to have you join us.

Your Friends Board of Directors consists of nine individuals elected by you at the Annual Meeting in October. We meet monthly along with the Library Director and the heads of our various departments (store, used book sales, etc.) to plan the fund raising events that the Friends conduct each year. And we've been pretty successful. For the last 3 years we've been able to give the Library a gift of at least \$125,000 each year to fund various events and purchase needed equipment. This year, in addition to our \$125,000 pledge, we have given an additional \$50,000 to support the Library expansion mentioned in the Director's report.

Most of the money we raise is from the Used Book Sales, but our other fund raisers provide money as well. This year we held a new event for us in March called Wine, Wit & Wisdom. Be sure to read about it in another part of the

newsletter. We hold a Friends Membership Drive at the Library every April, and upcoming events include our second GM Heritage Center tour in May and our Holiday Home Tour in November. We also have 2 or 3 other events in the planning stages, so stay tuned.

The focus of the Friends of the Library is to do whatever it takes to help make the Rochester Hills Public Library be the best it can be for you and our community. So far we've been doing a very good job thanks to our volunteers, but there is always more to do. Remember, whatever your skills, abilities or desires, we have a position you can fill.

"Awesome, I really enjoyed it." I hope you do this again." "Bravo!"

These were only a few of the comments expressed by those who attended **Wine, Wit, & Wisdom**. The

Friends of RHPL hosted this

brand new fund raising activity the evening of March 8 at the library and were

thrilled with the numbers who attended, as well as by the obvious enjoyment of the participants.

Interesting topics and thoughtful speakers anchored the evening. There were six speakers set up in various areas of the Library who presented their topic two times in half hour sessions (see sidebar with the speakers and

their topics). Guests were able to select two sessions they wished to attend during the evening. Before, during and after the sessions guests enjoyed wine, beer, soft drinks, delicious appetizers and dessert. Donations of a variety of



items from local businesses for a silent auction contributed to the funds raised at this event.

Christine Hage, Director of RHPL, noted, "I am so impressed with the Friends of RHPL and their fund raising effort. The evening was very



pleasurable. I believe it is an event the Friends should host again in 2015!"

The Wine, Wit, & Wisdom Committee appreciates all the effort that went into pulling this event together, and thanks the members of the AAUW and the students from Lutheran High North that volunteered to help the night of the event.

THE SPEAKERS AT WINE WIT & WISDOM

Paul Haig - Buying & Selling Antiques Today

James Lentini - The Arts Today: Strumming from Stem to Steam

Alex Lucier - A Day in the Life of a Restaurant Chef

Paul Hage - An Insider's View of Detroit's Bankruptcy

Travis Walter - The Art of Knowing Your Audience

Sean Mankowski - The Journey of Wine



Friends of RHPL



Friends New Board Members

Tom Asmus is the newest Friends Board Member and has lived in Oakland Township for 18 years. Tom spent 30 years at Chrysler Engineering, in both Highland Park and Auburn Hills, as a scientist and engineer involved in reducing engine exhaust emissions and fuel consumption. Following his Chrysler retirement, he accepted a professorial position at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he taught an advanced engineering course. After 5 years of teaching, he retired again as the 65-mile commute started to become too much.

He and his wife Mary became involved in the Oakland Township Historical Society and participated in the move and rebuild of the Flumerfelt barn now located at the Cranberry Lake Farm on Predmore Rd (one of the homes on last years Holiday Home Tour). He was recruited to rebuild the historic logging wheels in front of the Paint Creek Cider Mill in Goodison, and then to repair the water wheel at the Mill. When not involved in Oakland Township projects, he worked with The Detroit Science Center (now The Michigan Science Center), Habitat for Humanity, and First Robotics at Wayne State University. As a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the Society of Automotive Engineers, he has occasionally been involved in studies related to energy usage.

Looking back, Tom concludes that his experience as an early Peace Corps Volunteer in a very remote village in Honduras helped him to accept risks and see them as adventures. He is looking forward to more adventures working with the Friends to support the library.

2013

BANNER YEAR

FOR USED BOOK SALES

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and the outstanding contributions from the county the Used book Sales had another record year!

Winter Used Book Sale	\$17,034.82
Spring Used Book Sale	\$14,803.09
Summer Used Book Sale	\$5,749.61
Fall Used book Sale	\$16,913.76
3 Mini-sales	\$4,804.03
Book Cart	\$23,067.91
On-line Sales	\$15,350.00
Misc	\$726.72



Total profit for 2013
\$98,449.94

Kimberly Matis

recently joined the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library. She has had a lifetime passion for libraries and is one of the most active users of the RHPL. Kimberly is very involved in the Rochester area community and frequently volunteers for and supports programs at the library, as well as for Rochester Area Youth Assistance. She is also an adult literacy tutor with the Oakland Literacy Council and regularly tutors students at the Rochester Hills Public Library.



Kimberly has been working in various legal positions since 1992 and currently works as a legal assistant at a law firm in Birmingham supporting civil litigation in all state and federal courts. She attended Macomb Community College working full time while going to school.

Kimberly lives in Rochester with her husband Jeff, who is vice-chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.



Whenever I think of the Friends the first thing that comes to my mind is "Thank You!" I know I say it over and over; but we just couldn't be the kind of library we are without your support.

As you probably know, the library will be doing some major construction this year.

We have just completed our new terrazzo stairs and work will begin in May on the expansion in the drive-up book return area.

The first part of the project will be the construction of a two-story addition that will greatly improve the functionality of the drive-up. I promise you will be able to pick up and return materials without hitting the building, scratching your car or getting out of your car. It has taken us 22 years to get around to fixing the problem, but the time is here at last! The second floor of the new addition will be finished thanks to a \$50,000 gift from you, the Friends of the Library. The space will be used for book sale online sales and storage. The large space will allow us to consolidate all of this activity into one area and to provide safe and secure storage.

The second part of the project is the installation of an automated materials handling system. This conveyor driven system will accept returned materials from the outside drive-up area, and will automatically check them in and sort them into bins for re-shelving. This should shorten the turnaround time on returned materials from 24 - 48 hours and will allow us to get more use out of our books. The sooner materials are checked in and re-shelved, the sooner people can borrow them.

The third part of the construction project involves major repairs on the south parking lot. The black top will be removed and the aggregate layer or rock base material will be compressed and supplemented where necessary before the lot is re-surfaced. I think we can promise that there will be no pot holes in our parking lot next year!

So there is a lot of change coming, but the one thing that does not change is our deep appreciation for all that you do for the library. Whether you are here volunteering five days a week, working on special events or paying your Friends' membership dues, you make a real difference in what this library can do. Thank you!

2014 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Ron Meegan
Vice President	Bill Kroger
Secretary	Karen Calavenna
Treasurer	Elaine Shenkosky
Asst. Treasurer	Jac Caldwell

Board Members

Tom Asmus
Kathy Dorn
Kimberly Matis
Robin Moore

Ex Officio

Library Director - Christine Hage
Membership - Connie Livingston
Friends Store Manager - Darlene Tomczyk
Used Book Cart - Sharon Muir
Used Book Sale - Ann Gruenewald
On Line Sales - Chris Wilder

Phone Numbers

Friends Membership	248-650-7160
Friends Events	248-650-7176
Friends Store	248-650-7179
Used Book Sale	248-650-7178
Main Library	248-656-2900

Newsletter: *Published Spring and Winter*

Editor/Publisher - Kristin Pitcairn

Mailing Coordinator - Karen Calavenna

Website: www.rhpl.org/friends-of-rhpl

FRIENDS LIBRARY STORE

- MADE IN MICHIGAN UNIQUE PRODUCTS
- MADE IN AMERICA DIVERSE PRODUCTS
- FASHION HANDBAGS
- LADIES NOVELTY TOPS
- ELECTRIC LAMPS



Our Made in Michigan products range from tasty jams and salsa to artisan jewelry, books and puzzles. Along with American Spoon and Cherry Republic for foodies, we have added the Blueberry Shop food products - including blueberry syrup. The novelty jewelry is made by local artisans, as well as a unique line from the Michigan Upper Peninsula with a birch tree motif. The Made in Michigan selection continues with boxed note cards, puzzles, Pewabic Pottery and items made from the state Petoskey stone.

The diverse Made in America products feature a cross-category assortment of home decor, fashion accessories, ladies apparel, gifts and educational items. All the products come together to stimulate your curiosity. The Michigan theme totes, home decor pillows, and oven mitts are a hit already.

The unique and special assortment of Spring Handbags will add to your style and flair. The fashion handbags are in many shapes and sizes and boast a range of colors. The black with red trim and the handbags within a handbag are of special interest.

Our Ladies Novelty Tops are whimsical as well as functional. The colorful jackets and tops will add a punch to your spring wardrobe. The lightweight jackets are made in Florida. The tops paired with our jewelry or scarves are a great combination.

The Electric Lamp collection will add ambience to your home or office. The diverse lamps or decor pillows will surely refresh your home or office. We have whimsical lamps with bunny bases as well as geometric patterned shades. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT US! SOON!

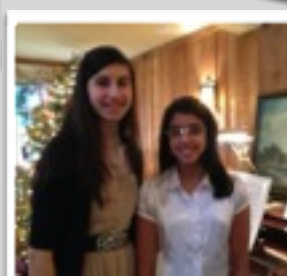
ENTERTAINERS FROM THE



Lauren Aiello, harpist since 2010;
Carol Mason and the Classic Winds;
piano students from Kay Ellen Wilkins
Rochester Conservatory of Music. (Not
shown violin students of Colleen King.)



**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ENTERTAINERS
ENHANCING THE HOLIDAY HOME TOUR
WITH YOUR BEAUTIFUL MUSIC.**



2013 HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

Friends now has a new membership category, Senior Couple. The dues are \$20.00 (or \$10.00 each). We have many Senior Couples and felt adding this category would be more convenient for them.

Membership Fees:

FAMILY \$35.00

INDIVIDUAL \$20.00

STUDENT/SENIOR \$10.00

SENIOR COUPLE \$20.00

Dues are now paid on a yearly basis and you will receive a reminder letter to let you know that your membership is about to expire. Thanks to all our loyal Friends Members.



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OF THE
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