



Library Update

Greetings Friends! Wow, what can you say about a year like this? No one could have predicted where we would be now, but here we are and we're continuing on as best as possible.

During the closure of the building, a reopening plan was formed to safely bring staff, volunteers, and patrons back into the library in a careful manner that reflected what was happening in the state. To this end, the board, department heads, and I created a plan that utilized the MI Safe Start Plan and used its stages to guide the library's stages of reopening.

We are currently in Phase 3 of the library's reopening, the Contactless Pickup Phase. When the state moves to its own stage 5, then we can look to reopening to the public. We are all looking forward to this, as we dearly miss our patrons!

While the plan states that volunteers are not allowed back into the building until Phase 5, the Friends are working closely with the board to come up with ways to once again collect and sell donated materials. The Friends Trustees continue to meet every month as we communicate about future plans and look ahead to what lies before us. I wanted to thank the Friends for sticking with us during such a difficult period, and eagerly await the day that we can safely return to normal operations and see all of you again!

Emily Dumas, Library Director



Summer Reading Program Recap 2020



Summer Reading Program 2020 was among the many library events that saw major changes this year. The season-long program typically has the goal of getting as many people to the library as possible, so obviously that wouldn't work during a pandemic!

Instead, the librarians took the program completely virtual, offering the reading log component online and all programs live-streamed instead of in-person. Considering that the staff had already planned the entire Summer Reading Program by the time the library closed, they were left with short notice to completely overhaul everything. They pulled it off splendidly, and ROPL was able to present a full lineup of events to keep readers busy all summer. Thousands of participants filled out reading logs, attended programs, and collected prizes, so while it may not have been the ideal situation it was still a successful summer!

Friends Annual Meeting: Online for the First Time



A completely virtual Friends Annual Meeting occurred Monday September 21, 2020. It was broadcast live on WROK. If you missed it, you can watch the recording here - <https://youtu.be/rufm7NhUFs8>

Friends Membership Expired? Renewal is easy!

Simply fill out the form at the bottom of this newsletter or here

<https://www.romi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1574> and return with payment to the library.



2019–2020 FRIENDS SUPPORT AT ROPL



The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in March has severely impacted the Friends' ability to earn money to fund library programming. The Friends' ledger looked a little different to end the 2019–2020 fiscal year, but we were able to support our favorite library for much of the past year before the health crisis shut us down.

During the 2019–2020 fiscal year, which ended August 31, the Friends spent nearly **\$22,000 supporting library materials and over 500 programs for all ages**. Much of the Friends' revenue is generated from sales in the Friends Shop (we miss having all our browsers in the shop; hopefully we'll be back sometime in 2021) and special book sales. The Shop earned just under \$11,000 this past fiscal year. The combined earnings of the two-day October book sale and the four-day annual book sale (which we managed to get in just before the pandemic hit!) netted nearly \$3,800. Unfortunately, because the Summer Reading program was all virtual this year, we weren't able to have our mini one-day Opening Day book sale.

A major portion of the Friends' revenue stream continues to be from online sales of donated books. (Due to safety concerns, the Friends are unable to accept donations during the pandemic, but we hope to resume that soon.) Working with third-party dealers, Friends volunteers scan donated books and media from the community to check for potential sales to book buyers across the country. Buyers include organizations and companies such as Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley, Powell's, SellBack, Bookstores.com, and Textbook Rush. Again, because the library has been closed during the pandemic, volunteers have not been able to be in the building to scan books. In 2019–20, the total outside sales revenue via scanning totaled just over \$6,100.

We've also ramped up sales of "special" donated books (e.g., out-of-print, antiquarian, signed copies) on eBay, which brought in just over \$2,300 this past year. Many thanks to Friends Board alums George Barry and Ann Barbour—George provides his expertise on older books (having run a book store in Royal Oak for a long time), and Ann writes up and lists these books on eBay and then ships them after they're sold.

Another source of revenue is the sale of **City of Royal Oak merchandise (T-shirts, hats, and tote bags)**. The Friends are the exclusive distributor! In normal times, they're available in the shop or at the circulation desk. But email the Friends at friends@ropl.org if you're interested in purchasing any of them while the library is closed.

The Friends routinely donate books to Little Free Libraries that are sprinkled around our city as well as to such local organizations as senior centers, jails, school groups, and other groups. Along with **membership dues (\$1,700)** and generous **donations (\$3,900)**, Friends' total revenue in 2019–2020 was nearly **\$29,000**. As Friends, you have helped raise this money—be sure to make use of the materials and programs we fund—even virtually!

Keep your eye on Facebook, Instagram, and the library's web site for updates on Friends activities during these difficult times. We hope to be back to providing support to the library real soon!

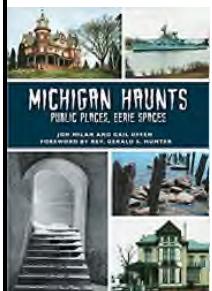


Are you on Facebook? Do you have a birthday in the next 12 months?

Now you can set up a Facebook birthday fundraiser for the Friends! Let your friends celebrate your birthday by donating to the Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library!

When Facebook asks you if you want to **set up a birthday fundraiser, choose Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library as your charity** – We are a charity, so your friends' **donations will be tax deductible** if they itemize and qualify! You can also set up a fundraiser anytime of the year – like Giving Tuesday (The Tuesday after Thanksgiving – December 3, 2020, this year) – by following this link:





Happy Halloween!

Michigan Haunts

This Halloween walk the path less traveled of Michigan's hauntings – including ghost towns, theaters, and eateries – with Gail Offen and John Milan, authors of *Michigan Haunts: Public Places, Eerie Spaces*. Have a Spooky story? Be sure to share it. **Thursday, October 22 at 7:00 PM. Please register [HERE](#)**



The Art of Forensic Science

Are you a fan of TV shows such as *Bones* or *Forensic Files*? Are you interested in how police solve missing person cases? If so, plan on attending this online program as we welcome Michigan State Police Lieutenant Sarah Krebs to discuss her career as a forensic artist. Lt. Krebs will explain how her evidence-based drawings aid in the apprehension of criminals and how her three-dimensional skull reconstructions and postmortem sketches assist in the investigation of unidentified remains and often end in the resolution of missing person cases across the country. **Monday, October 26 at 6:30 PM. Please register [HERE](#)**

Prisoner #4578: A Michigan True Crime Story

January 1889: detectives track a savage killer who murdered a middle-aged woman in her sleep. They follow a trail from Jackson to Detroit's underworld revealing a shocking truth that would stun the entire community and lead to a murder trial that made national headlines. Join author Tobin Buhk for an in-depth discussion of the case. **Thursday, October 29 at 7:00 PM. Please register [HERE](#)**



Kroger Rewards

This is a very generous program that has the potential to help the Friends significantly.

Follow these easy steps to register:

Step 1: Get a Kroger Plus Card and register online at

<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

Step 2: Link your Kroger Plus Card with group #GH685 - Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library

Step 3: Shop at Kroger, use your Kroger Plus Card and earn money for the Friends of the ROPL!

Purchases will not count for the Friends until after you have registered your card and linked it to the Friends group. You must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card (or use the alternate ID that is associated with your registered Kroger Plus card) when shopping for each purchase to count.

* This needs to be renewed yearly. Check and make sure that your election is still active! *

What's Cooking?

Cooking Demonstration: Fall Bounty

Chef Jake Williams is back to show you new techniques to help turn Michigan's fall bounty into delicious meals. **Saturday, October 3 at 1:00 PM. Please register [HERE](#)**



Cooking Demonstration: Thanksgiving Sides

Chef Jake Williams is here to help you dress up your Thanksgiving sides! **Saturday, November 14 at 1:00 PM. Please register [HERE](#)**



Get Festive with Holiday Market Zoom Cooking Class

Royal Oak Public Library is partnering with Holiday Market to offer patrons a wonderful cooking experience with Chef Robert. Join him on Zoom to prepare and enjoy the results for dinner. The menu will feature Italian cuisine, including stuffed pasta shells, garlic bread and homemade tomato basil sauce, with zabaglione and fresh berries for dessert. Upon registering, participants will receive a grocery list of the ingredients used to prepare this delicious meal. Registration is required and is limited to 20 households. Only one registration per household is necessary. For more information, contact: Susan Sheiner at susan@ropl.org. **Wednesday, December 2, 5:30-7:00 PM. Please register [HERE](#)**



Did you know that you can contribute to the Friends of the ROPL at the same time at no additional cost to you?

This program started in 2013 to offer shoppers a simple way to support their favorite charity by donating 0.5% of your purchase total to the charity of your choice every time you shop. Just [log in to Amazon via smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) sign in with your current Amazon account, and **select Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library to support** before shopping from countless eligible products. Amazon remembers, you only need to do this once!

LOVE OUR ROYAL OAK PUBLIC LIBRARY? READY TO LEND A HAND? NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO SUPPORT A CAUSE YOU LOVE BY BECOMING A FRIENDS OF THE ROPL BOARD MEMBER!

WHO WE ARE/WHAT WE DO



The Friends of the ROPL is an active organization that supports the Royal Oak Public Library. We raise funds through sales of books, memberships, and donations. **These monies directly fund library programs (500+/year), materials, and technology.**

Currently, you can support ROPL through the Friends by [donating or fundraising on Facebook](#), [becoming a member](#), designating the Friends through [Kroger Rewards](#) and [Amazon Smile](#). See articles in this newsletter for details on all of these options! When the library reopens you can shop the Friends Shop, which has a regularly updated selection, or volunteer with us at the library. **ALL of the Friends efforts (including Board positions) are fulfilled by Volunteers!**

BOARD MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

We're excited to announce the Friends have multiple openings on its 12-member Board, offering the chance for new members to join and share new ideas on how to keep our library thriving!

What can you expect as a Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library Board Member:

- Monthly meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month from 7 to ~8:30 p.m., excluding July and December. **This meeting is currently being conducted virtually until further notice.**
- A Board Member's term is three years
- Volunteer opportunities within the Board (book sales, Friends newsletter, Friends membership, etc.)
- You do not need to be a Royal Oak resident.
- You do need to be a current Friends of the ROPL Member (membership options as low as \$10/year).
- Most importantly, you must have the **desire to support the ROPL!**

JOIN US! Ready to get on "board" and play a small part in helping to keep our library moving forward? Contact friends@ropl.org. Our next virtual meeting is Monday, October 19th at 7pm and we'd love to see you there! Please share this Friends of the ROPL Board Volunteer opportunity with anyone you feel may be interested!



Virtual Music Programs

Popular Music of the Roaring 20s, 1920-1929 - Monday, October 19 at 7:00 PM

During the 20s, music in particular underwent drastic changes that represented the cultural evolution that was occurring. This resulted in many important changes in song form, dance music, popular taste, and production that still effect music to this day. Follow Stu Johnson as he narrates the musical history. Please register [HERE](#)

Leonardo Virtually Live - Saturday, November 7 at 2:00 PM

Specializing in acoustic Delta Blues, Leonardo slaps a fresh coat of paint on rarely heard classics of the 20s and 30s using slide and open tunings on reso-phonic guitars. Please register [HERE](#)



Matthew Ball Holiday - Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 PM

Join Matthew Ball, aka the Boogie Woogie Kid, on Facebook LIVE for a holiday program of seasonal tunes and Sunday songs with a New Orleans and Swing Dance Era! Get link [HERE](#)



More ways to support the Friends of the ROPL...

- Share this newsletter. Ask a friend to join a growing organization – **121** strong – dedicated to supporting the Royal Oak Public Library!
- Renew your Friends Membership.
- Make a Monetary Donation.
- Run a Friends Facebook Fundraiser.
- Shop using Kroger Rewards or Amazon Smile.
- Leave a legacy by naming the Friends of the ROPL in your estate.
- **SAVE** your gently-used books, CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, games, and puzzles until we are once again able to accept them at ROPL!

Friends of the ROPL BOARD MEMBERS

- Mitzi Hoffman, President (9/2021)
- Margaret Blount, Vice President (9/2021)
- Larry Baker, Treasurer (9/2022)
- Joan Koelsch, Recording Secretary (9/2021)
- John Pelegrino, Corresponding Secretary (9/2023)
- Deb Ballard (9/2022)
- Mary Beer (9/2023)
- Pam Lindell (9/2023)
- Nina Walker (9/2022)
- Open (9/2021)
- Open (9/2022)
- Open (9/2023)

Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library

Membership Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Life \$200 Single \$10 annual

Patron \$100 annual Family \$20 annual

Business/Organization \$50 annual

Yes, I've included a one-time donation of \$_____

Yes, I want to be an active member. Please contact me.

Drop this form and your check off at the ROPL Circulation Desk, or mail it to:
Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library, 222 East 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI 48067