



# Friends of the Commerce Township Library

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## Message from the President

Summer is almost over and what a busy summer it has been. The Summer Reading Program and its many activities drew hundreds of patrons and I hope you had an opportunity to attend some of the great offerings.

The Friends are pleased to sponsor some programs for adults during the months of September and October. Several focus on Michigan history and

the schedule is on the third page of this newsletter.

The Fall Used Book Sale will be held October 9-13. We get frequent requests from people wanting to volunteer and this is your chance to do so. The schedule of dates and times is on the last page.

See you at the book sale!

- Pat Hillebrand

## What Happens to All of the Books?

The question we hear most often is "What happens to all of the books left over after the sale is done?" After all, we don't sell everything and we can't keep it all.

We do donate as much as we can. We have provided books to area nursing homes, Packing for the Troops, Little Free Libraries and to area high schools for their art projects. This past winter we were able to provide several boxes of books to the Ewan Library located in the Upper Peninsula. They lost over 1500 books when frozen water pipes burst flooding the first floor of their library.

We receive many items that are too damaged to keep and sell. Those items, along with most of the books left over after the book sales are all recycled.

If you donate books, please remember that libraries are not recycling centers. Dirty, broken, damaged books should be disposed of by you, not donated to any library.

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, in the months between sales our storage area slowly fills with new donations, all sorted and ready for the next sale.

- Pat Hillebrand

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## Book Clubs Made Easy!

An exciting new addition to the Commerce Library are the convenient Book Club Kits. Each kit contains six copies of the title, along with discussion questions and information about the author. The titles have been selected by librarians who specialize in readers' advisory, and are books frequently chosen by readers. The Book Club Kits now available are listed below.

THE ALICE NETWORK by Kate Quinn  
AMERICAN WAR by Omar El Akkad  
BEFORE WE WERE YOURS by Lisa Wingate  
THE HANDMAID'S TALE by Margaret Atwood  
LOVE and OTHER CONSOLATION PRIZES  
by Jamie Ford  
NEXT YEAR in HAVANA by Chanel Cleeton

All Book Club Kits are available on a first come first serve basis. You can place a hold on any kit by selecting one labelled "Book Club Kit".

- Diane Richard



## Librarians go to Washington, D.C.!

In June, we were able to go to Washington, D.C., for the American Library Association's Annual Conference. We spent three days going to information sessions, meeting library vendors, learning about new technology, and networking with colleagues from around the world. When we weren't attending information sessions we were able to experience the organized chaos of the exhibit hall. There were thousands of people walking about and tons of vendors showing off their products. It was interesting to see the people behind the products we use every day. Google, Microsoft, OverDrive, and Baker & Taylor are a few that we were able to visit. Many of them hosted parties later on in the day and passed out swag to anyone they talked to.

We were lucky enough to be invited by a company called Library Ideas to a new technology announcement within the Smithsonian Museum of Art. Not only did we get to meet NASA Astronaut Catherine Coleman, but we learned about a new children's book technology using both Augmented and Virtual Reality. They call this new technology Immersive Reality, and they are using it with picture books! We cannot wait to get this product into our library and on the shelves of the children's department.

Both Ashley and Shane want to express a huge thank you to the Friends of the Library for helping to sponsor them on their trip to this very exciting conference, a first for both librarians!

- Ashley Rosetto

## New Fall Programs

The following programs are being presented at the Library through funding by the Friends of the Commerce Library. Check the Library calendar for exact times.

**Saturday, September 21, 2019 - "Michigan POW Camps in WWII"** - During World War II, Michigan became a temporary home to six thousand German and Italian POWs. At a time of home front labor shortages, they picked fruit in Berrien County, harvested sugar beets in the Thumb, cut pulpwood in the Upper Peninsula and maintained parks and other public spaces in Detroit. Author Gregory Sumner tells the story of this often untold chapter of Michigan history.

**Thursday, September 26, 2019** - Join us for a visit from native Michigan true crime writer Tom Carr. Tom Carr is an independent writer and journalist in Northern Michigan who spent 25 years in daily newspapers, primarily the Traverse City Record-Eagle. He's won journalistic awards for his investigative reporting, feature writing, breaking news and his humor columns. Tom will be discussing his newest book **"MI Bad: Robbers, Cutthroats & Thieves in Michigan's Past & Present"**.

**Thursday, October 17, 2019 - Copper Miners of Michigan** - Author Donna Simons traces the beginning of copper mining in Michigan, starting with Douglas Houghton, and ending with copper mines being shut down permanently in 1968. She will explain dangerous working conditions in a copper mine, and why the miners decided to go out on a labor strike that divided the community. Her presentation will wrap up with a description of the Italian Hall tragedy that took the lives of 73 people on Christmas Eve of 1913, after someone yelled fire in a crowded room.

**Thursday, October 24, 2019 - TAILS FROM THE AFTERLIFE** - Losing a beloved pet is one of the most difficult things to experience, but the unconditional love between you and your pet continues into the afterlife. *Tails from the Afterlife* shares heartwarming and amazing stories of the signs, symbols, and messages that our pets send to us.

**Saturday, October 26, 2019 - "Into No Man's Land"** - Holocaust survivor Irene Miller relates her journey escaping from Poland and takes you on a survival journey that little is written or known about. You will sleep in the winter under an open sky on the no man's land; you will freeze in a Siberian labor camp where the bears come to your door front. In Uzbekistan, you will live on boiled grass or broiled onions, and shiver with malaria. You will spend years in orphanages. When this is over you will wonder how a child with this background grows up to become a positive, creative, accomplished woman with a joy of living and love to share.

## 2019 Fall Used Book Sale

Here's all the information you need for the Fall 2019 Used Book Sale.

**Setup** begins **Wednesday, October 2nd to Friday, October 4th**, beginning at 9:00 am each day. This includes alphabetizing the fiction.

**Friends' Night** will be **TUESDAY, October 8, 2019**, between the hours of **5:30 pm and 7:30 pm**.

**Sale schedule** is Wednesday and Thursday, **October 9th & 10th**, from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm; Friday and Saturday, **October 11th & 12th** from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm, and Sunday, **October 13th**, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

**Fill-a-Bag** days are Saturday and Sunday only.

**Clean-up** will be **Monday, October 14th** at 9:00.

The last day for donations will be September 29th.

**Volunteers** can sign up by calling 248-438-5239, by email at [friends@commercelibrary.info](mailto:friends@commercelibrary.info) or by talking with the Friends' representative when they call.

The 2020 Spring Used Book Sale is scheduled for April 22nd-26th, and Friends' Night will be April 21st, 2020.

## Volunteer Lunch

For the past eight years, we have honored our volunteers at a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. This year the lunch was held on May 8th at the Benstein Grille. Twenty of our volunteers gathered to enjoy great food and the company of all of our volunteers.

Many of our volunteers have been helping out for years, and some are new. This year we also had volunteers from the local TCF Bank who helped

from setup to cleanup. We appreciate the efforts of all of you, no matter how little or how much time you contribute.

To all of our volunteers, past and present, we say *"Thank You!"* for your generosity and continuing support of our community's Library.

- Pat Hillebrand

***"A book is like a garden carried in the pocket"***

***- Chinese Proverb***