



FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

Join us in the Friends Auditorium for refreshments starting at 6:30pm, followed at 7:00 pm with the presentation of the Joyce Ann Maierle Award, and the Friends annual update. September Friends Board meeting to follow.

KAREN THOMSON RECEIVES THE JOYCE ANN MAIERLE AWARD

It is the Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library's privilege to present this award to Karen Thomson. Karen has been volunteering with the Friends for over 20 years and is an invaluable asset to the Friends and the Library. It is Karen's passion for books and reading that keeps her involved with the Library. She spends countless hours volunteering her time and talents working in the shop, stocking the shop, and helping at special events such as the concerts, the Annual Friends Booksale and the garage sale. Since Karen's retirement from full-time paid employment, she is always one of the first to offer to sub for someone and is willing to fill in at the last minute. She has been supportive of trying new ideas to keep things with the Friends Shop running smoothly, and volunteers extra time to help transitions go smoothly. Karen's dedication goes above and beyond, she truly embodies all that the Joyce Ann Maierle Award stands for.



NEW SUMMER FUNDRAISING

This summer we took part in five fundraising ventures, raising over \$500 and increasing awareness of the Friends and our support of the library. Our July shop sales were the best since 2010! Volunteers staffed all of these events. Most were our regular volunteers who already work at least one shift a month in the shop or sorting room. We want to thank all the volunteers for generously giving of their time and for their commitment to the library and the Friends!

- **Crime Prevention Block Party** - In June, we joined with the library and participated in the first citywide block party. Many regular shop customers visited us and we also met many members of the community who learned about library resources and the Friends.
- **Royal Oak Garage Sale** - the Friends participated for the first time. We were there both days selling books and water, meeting lots of great people. Many did not know about the Friends or the Friends Shop. We met staff and volunteers from other libraries and heard about their activities.
- **Tuesday Evening Shop Hours** - This year we coordinated with the library and opened the shop on the Tuesday evenings that had big family events scheduled. This gave program participants and other library patrons a chance to learn about the shop and do some shopping. Look for announcements on future special openings on our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsROPLibrary>
- **Concerts** - This year "the Friends" was one of the sponsors of the new Summer Concert Series. On three Thursdays we had a table where attendees could learn about the Friends, and purchase books and water. We found many who attended were not aware of the shop inside the library.
- **Royal Oak Noodles & Company** - on July 17, diners who mentioned the Friends sent 25% of their purchase price directly to our organization. Thank you to all who came out and supported this event.



2013 FRIENDS SUPPORT AT ROPL

The Friends fiscal year ends August 31st. Through July, the Friends have spent just under \$50,000 supporting library programs and materials. The Friends have extended their support over and above funding the 500+ programs for all ages presented at the library annually to also funding some of the library's electronic databases including Ancestry Library Edition; and significantly supplemented the library's selection of e-book titles in OverDrive. The Friends also made a large contribution for library technology which included equipment replacements and upgrades as well as a new self check-out machine at the circulation desk.

Two Shard Mosaics created in 2012 were completed and hung on the west wall in Youth Services. Yearly since 2010, two mosaic panels have been created from broken pieces of pottery and glass by people attending the Chamber of Commerce's Clay, Glass, and Metal Festival. These beautiful examples of community art brighten the space and inspire children and adults alike. The Friends have facilitated this ongoing project by providing funding for the frames and the installation of the finished mosaic panels. Make it a point to visit the lower level of the library and see all six panels. The panels created in 2013 are awaiting some finishing touches and grouting before they join the display.

The Friends were recipients of two grants, both written by Youth Services Librarian, Melissa Smith. The Ronald McDonald House Foundation provided very generous funding for four AWE Early Learning Centers which provide a large selection of pre-loaded computer games that help young children learn early literacy and math skills. These are a popular addition to the library.

The second grant was from Target and funded a new reading club, The Book Buddies, for emergent readers ages 5 - 8. Through the grant, participants pick up a free copy of the book club book (to keep) in advance of the meeting. They read it and come to the book club meeting for activities and discussions about the books. A wide variety of genres have been chosen as book club selections including picture books, non-fiction books, chapter books, etc. There were six meetings during the year. Two of the meetings were so popular that a second session was added! A grant has been submitted to Target this year in hopes of continuing this popular book group. We should hear in August if it has been approved. Melissa Smith not only wrote the grant, but also organized the book group and led the sessions.

The many thousands of donated books, DVDs, and CDs sold online and in the Friends Shop and annual March Book Sale along with Friends annual dues, monetary donations, grants, and fundraisers translated into over \$50,000 of much needed and varied support to the library. As Friends you have helped raise this money, be sure to make use of the materials and programs that we fund!

ADULT PROGRAMS FALL 2013

Registration requested either by phone (248) 246 -3727 or online at <http://ropl.org/>

Area Agency on Aging 1B Series Thursdays, 2-3 pm

- Sept 12, Welcome to Medicare 101
- Sept 19, Protect Yourself from Medicare/Medicaid Fraud
- Sept 26, Medicare Part D: Prescription Drug Assistance
- Oct 3, Long Term Care Options



Paul Vondiziano

- Dec 7, 3pm, The Dulcimer Strings

Saturday Music Series

- Sept 28, 3pm, Broadway's Best
- Oct 26, 2pm, Vintage Strings of Michigan
- Nov 13, 3pm, Classical Guitarist

Evening Programs, Begin at 7pm

- Sept 16, **Henry Ford: His Life and Times**, presented by Automotive History Writer Russell Doré
- Sept 30, **Shaykhet Self-Defense Fitness Training Workshop**
- Oct 7, **Into No Man's Land: A Historical Memoir** by Local Author/Holocaust Survivor Irene Miller
- Oct 10, **Is Climate Change Real?** presented by Mary Janet Dunn
- Nov 4, **The Swing Era: A Big Band Count Down** presented by Stu Johnson
- Nov 25, **Billy Durant: Founder of General Motors** presented by Russell Doré

Youth and Teen Summer Reading 2013

Almost 200 families stopped by ROPL on June 8 to sign up for Dig into Reading and Beneath the Surface, the 2013 youth and teen summer reading programs. They enjoyed crafts, popcorn, and up-close encounters with Oakey Dokey (the kids' mascot from OUR Credit Union), farm animals from Bowers School Farm, and some examples of Lego Robotics along with registering for the multitude of events that make up the summer reading program.

By the time Dig into Reading wrapped up with the Summer Readers' Fair on July 26, 545 families with 951 preschool and elementary-aged children had participated in summer reading. 220 middle and high school students had been part of the teen activities which included craft sessions, books discussions, volunteer opportunities, and video games. 80 different youth events and 21 teen events were held including science, math, astronomy, Lego Robotics, music, dance and theater activities, puppet shows, book clubs, craft activities, magic shows, and live animal programs all designed to keep children reading, writing, and learning during the summer vacation. Overall attendance at the youth and teen programs was close to 4,500!



This year we also partnered with the Desert Angels to solicit donations and prepare Miracle Boxes that are delivered (often dropped by helicopter) to active military personnel serving in remote locations. This gave summer reading participants a way of "giving back" and thinking globally about people who are making sacrifices to help our country. Many people donated items and we had a marvelous turn out of volunteers who packed 68 boxes of food, clothing, and entertainment items to be distributed to military service personnel. TCF Bank partnered in this effort.

The Friends of ROPL provides almost all of the money for these programs, and through the Friends we have also applied for grants to supplement our program monies. OUR Credit Union has sponsored summer reading opening day for many years. Trader Joe's has provided snacks for those attending Summer Readers' Fair for the last two years. Through the solid support provided by the Friends we were able to present a vibrant, exciting, and educationally important summer reading program for the Royal Oak community.

The Friends and the State of the City Address

In his state of the city address July 23rd, Royal Oak Mayor Jim Ellison recognized the Friends' contributions to the library and the city's obligation to look seriously at options for funding of public services like the library.

"In particular, in addition to funding library programs, the Friends of the Library are now paying for a variety of library resources as well. And even still, the library is projected to have to tap into its fund balance this next year to pay its operating expenses. I don't need to tell you that that is unsustainable.

The Library's dedicated millage works against it since it means their operating costs aren't paid through the general fund. So for that reason we thank all of our citizens and especially the Friends of the Library for contributing to keeping this shared space open for everyone. More discussion will be needed going forward as to how to better address the needs of the Library and those of our citizens who rely upon it for access to information and entertainment."



New Faces at the Reference Desks

There are some staff changes at ROPL. Anna Vidal, Head of Adult Services, retired on August third after working here for 21 years. Mary Ann DeKane will be taking over as Head of Public Services, which will include supervision of both adult and youth services. As a result of those staff changes, two new part-time librarians will be hired. One will be in adult services and one in youth services. By the time this newsletter comes out, the new people may already be staffing the reference desks and available to assist you.



Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library

Membership Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

___ Life \$200

___ Single \$10 annual

___ Patron \$100 annual

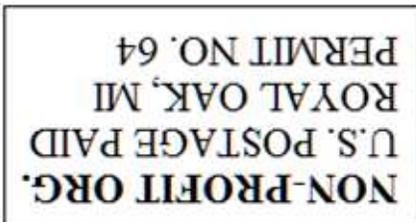
___ Family \$20 annual

___ Business/Organization \$50 annual

___ 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

Please check the date on the address label of this newsletter. If it says 8/2013 or before, your membership has expired!



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