




Friends of the Macomb Public Library

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 Friends of the Macomb Public Library

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Fall 2023

Friends of the Library Thank Clock Tower Bank



pictured above Becky Parker, Laura Leezer Senior Vice President of Marketing and Todd Lester, President of The Clock Tower Community Bank, and Elisa Rasmussen

Thank you to the Clock Tower Community Bank for their financial support of our Heritage Days Friends of the Library Book Sale. Because of their support we are more able to directly supplement the Macomb Public Library. The Friends cover the cost of the children and youth summer reading programs. In addition, the Friends purchase extra copies of popular books, audio books, plus specialty items such as the new book and media drop box.

Becky Parker and Elisa Rasmussen, Book Sales Coordinators.

Better Book Sale to be held September 9

Join us Saturday, September 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Chandler Park for our annual “Better Books Sale” which is held in conjunction with the Gazebo Arts Festival! It is a fun, outdoor sale with a lot of socializing between the art and book people. We again will have hundreds of good condition adult and children/youth books displayed in subject order plus a large selection of media. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the sale, email Becky at parkers@macomb.com. This is a fair weather sale only and will be canceled if there is rain.



Shoppers enjoy finding the perfect book at the 2022 sale.

from the President

Paula Wise

It's nearly fall as I write this column. As a person who always either went to school or worked in a school, fall has a way of making me think of new beginnings, new chances to make a first impression, new leaves to turn over and so on. And who doesn't like new school supplies (other than those who have to pay for them)? As a professor, I enjoyed the first class rituals of going over the syllabus with students and talking about what we would be covering that semester.

As a retiree, I enjoy seeing the first day of school photos on Facebook. I like knowing the students are returning to campus even though admittedly I steer clear of campus on move in days. I like seeing little kids with backpacks on getting on the bus.

So here we are, ready for fall. Groups start meeting regularly again. Days are getting shorter and it's time to start planning for winter. One of my favorite weekends in Macomb is the second weekend in September when we have the Macomb Balloon Rally, Gazebo Art Festival, and of course the BETTER BOOK SALE sponsored by the Friends of the Macomb Public Library. What better way to wander around, meet up with old friends, look at the lovely artwork, and pick out enough reading material to get through the cold winter months! I hope to see many of you at these events. Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and productive autumn! HAPPY READING!!!



September 13th

The Personal Librarian
by Marie Benedict and
Victoria Murray

October 11th

The Last Thing You Surrender
by Leonard Pitts

November 8th

House of Sticks
by Ly Tran

December 13th

Birnam Wood
by Eleanor Catton

January 10th

The Covenant of Water
by Abraham Verghese



Page Turner's Group Meet on the Square

Kelly Gradert

The Page Turners book club had their social at The Small Towner venue on the square. We had a great discussion on the book list that we will be voting on through an online survey. The Page Turners meet the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30 at the Macomb Public Library.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 13th.

DID YOU KNOW? When the storm came through on June 29, staff held an impromptu storytime in the basement featuring some hilarious books by Bob Shea to keep a sense of normalcy for our youngest patrons. Each child received a mini flashlight and a book to take home.

Local Author Roundup

Tim Roberts

This Infernal War: The Civil War Letters of William and Jane Standard
(Kent State University Press, 2018)

This is an edited collection of letters exchanged between a Union soldier campaigning in the Deep South and his wife in Lewistown, Illinois, from the fall of 1862 through the summer of 1865. The letters illuminate how the Civil War affected marriages and families, and the relationship between homefront and battlefield.

Are you originally from west central Illinois? No, I grew up in Tallahassee, Florida.

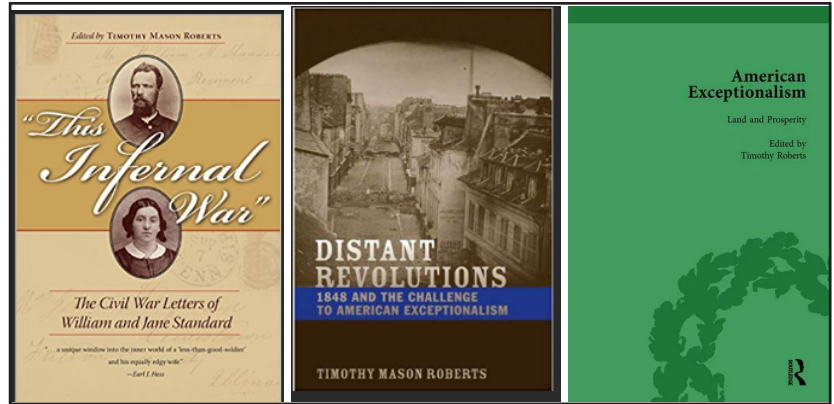
Who inspired/encouraged you to write? My 9th grade English teacher! I wrote a review of Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* that she read aloud to the whole class. Wow.

Why did you decide to write this book? It fit my teaching and research interests, and was unusual in that both the husband's and the wife's letters still existed. In most Civil War correspondence only the soldier's letters home survived.

Have you written other books? Titles? Distant Revolutions: 1848 and the Challenge to American Exceptionalism (2009); American Exceptionalism (2014)

What is the best/hardest part of writing? The best part is seeing a narrative take shape bit by bit, and arranging a narrative to solve a dilemma on how to keep the story flow going. The hardest part is starting writing, which requires tuning out lots of distractions, and resisting the urge to multi-task.

What advice would you give to an aspiring writer? Write about something that at some level is about yourself or your personal experience. All writing at some level is autobiographical.



2023 HERITAGE DAYS BOOK SALE RESULTS!

Becky Parker

This year's Heritage Days Book Sale was unique. The big winners were the large number of people that came to the Members-Only-Preview Sale Thursday and got their dozen books at half price. Of the nearly \$7,000 that was taken in during the sale, \$775 of that was from avid readers who either took out new memberships or renewed their previous memberships on Thursday. The weather cooperated Friday and Saturday and there was a steady strain of bargain hunters finding good books.

The Friends of the Library continue to

appreciate your interest in "recycling" your books and providing new merchandise for future sales.

While many took advantage of the opportunity to deliver donated books to the Annex in July, we encourage you to also drop off your book or media donations any time at the front desk in the library during their open hours. Proceeds from the book sales are invested in the public library and support the children's summer reading program, duplicate copies of current popular books, as well as other needs as specified by the library.

Summer Reading

Find your voice!

- 380 children participated
- 198 completed the 500 minute reading goal
- 93 bonus reading logs were returned
- 145,500 minutes (or 2,425 hours, or 101+ days) of reading was logged this summer
- 4,500 minutes (or over 3 days) of reading was logged by the top reader

AND THAT'S NOT ALL!

- 51 programs over 10 weeks with 1,804 people in attendance!

Friends of the Macomb Public Library

c/o Macomb Public Library

235 S. Lafayette

Macomb, IL 61455

Adult Services had Summer Reading, too!

Sharon Sample, Adult Services

Adult Summer Reading Program, also had the iRead theme, Find Your Voice!, which ran from June 1 through July 28th. We had 161 participants and 65 finishers. This year, we also accepted listening to 1 entire album in lieu of the 3 books as a completed log. The grand prize winner took home a karaoke machine with two wireless microphones. She was elated and will be incorporating the new tool into her classroom! We celebrated the end of the summer reading program and ushered in fall with a karaoke party. At least 17 people definitely found their voices and everyone had fun!

Axis 360 app by Baker & Taylor will soon expire. This publisher has launched a new app, Boundless, which training sessions for are currently underway. The Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA) consortium will provide new literature for us to integrate into our brochures for Macomb Public Library cardholders. This is a very robust app, unleashing a tremendous amount of power to the mobile device user. Training sessions are forthcoming!

We have a new staff member, please welcome Rachel!

Busy Fall Ahead in Youth Services

Tiffany Erickson, Children's Librarian

The youth librarians look forward to a calm fall every year after a hectic summer. But this year we may have over booked ourselves! Our favorite programs like Move and Groove and Storytime are back weekly starting September and Messy Makers will move to the first Thursday of the month. We are looking forward to two special programs in September as well. Pete the Cat will visit on Friday, September 15 at 10:30 am and 2:00 pm. This special event is made possible through our cooperation with the Tracey Foundation. Young readers will hear favorite Pete the Cat books, make a craft and meet the coolest cat around. On Wednesday, September 20, the library will partner with the Daughters of the American Revolution to present Fantastic Flags in conjunction with Constitution Week. Participants will hear books, make a craft and learn how to properly fold a flag.

October brings cooler temps and spooky stories starting with Fantastic Friday Slime Spectacular on Friday, October 6 where children will make different types of Halloween slime. Then the library will once again participate in Moon Over Macomb with Dia de los Muertos crafts from 10 am – 12 pm on Saturday, October 21. For all of those in town during Macomb 185 Fall Break, we've got you covered! We will have a special program for Jumpstart Read for the Record on Thursday, October 26 with a craft and snack. Anime Club on Friday, October 27 will be a Cosplay Party and folks are encouraged to dress as their favorite character. Finally, we will wrap up on Monday, October 30 with Spooky Sticker Fun by making, trading, and crafting with stickers.

The youth department is also partnering with local schools and daycares to provide outreach and library tours this fall. To keep up with the librarians, just follow us on Facebook or Instagram.