



NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS of BIG RAPIDS COMMUNITY LIBRARY



March is Reading Month

Grab a cozy blanket and a comfy chair and get lost in a book, join a book club, or meet with a friend over hot chocolate to share your last favorite read. Another idea: take a technology break and gather the family around a good book!

Other ways to celebrate reading:

- Take a tour of the library to find out about all the great programs and resources
- Bring your children or grandkids to Story Time on Mondays and Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 AM and Tiny Tots Tinker Lab on Fridays from 10:30-11:30 AM
- Join one of the library's book clubs: Mary's Book Club, Going Global Book Club, and/or True Story! Non-Fiction Book Club (see descriptions on next page)

Friends 2019 Annual Meeting

The community gathered at Big Rapids City Hall on a snowy, January 9th evening for the Friend's Annual Meeting. Following the business section which included our new Library Director's report, and the election of the new 2019 Board members (listed below), the group was treated to a poetry reading of her work by Deirdre Fagan, D.A., Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Ferris State University. You may read more of her work at <http://deirdrefagan.com/>

New Board Members

President: Lynn Anderson
Vice President: Suzanne Finney
Treasurer: Jerena Keyes
Secretary: Karen Motawi/ Ena Dakkuri

Literacy Playground



The Big Rapids Library and the City of Big Rapids are designing and building a literacy playground on the north side of the library. This project, which will encourage movement, playing outside and reading, is a great opportunity for our children. To learn more about the project and to donate go to

<https://www.bigrapids.lib.mi.us/playground>

Library Hours

Sunday:	Closed
Monday, Wednesday, Friday:	10 am – 5 pm
Tuesday & Thursday:	11 am – 7 pm
Saturday:	9 am – 12 pm

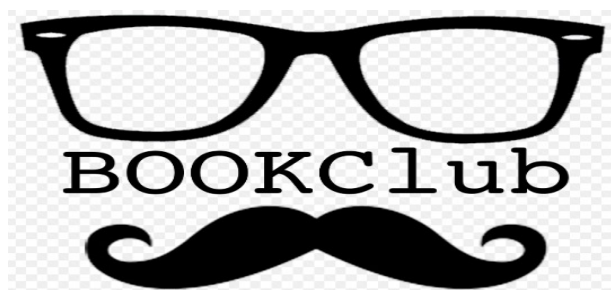
New Library Director

Welcome to Our New Library Director, Lauren Moran

Originally from Michigan, our new Library Director, Lauren Moran joins us after spending over a decade in Queens, NY, where she began her career in 2006 as a Children's Librarian. Ms. Moran worked in Youth Services for many years in the diverse neighborhoods of the Queens Borough Public Library System before moving into management. Ms. Moran is a graduate of Wayne State University with a Bachelor's in English and a MLIS, Master of Library and Information Science, with a concentration in Public Library Service to Children and Young Adults. Ms. Moran is a member of the American Library Association, Association for Library Service to Children, Library Leadership and Management Association, and the Public Library Association. Ms. Moran enjoys reading,

cooking, and traveling. The most recent adventure before starting the position as Big Rapids Community Library Director was a trip to Morocco to tour Casablanca and Marrakech, followed by a journey by sailboat from Agadir, Morocco to Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the Canary Islands. Ms. Moran looks forward to working with the Friends of the Big Rapids Community Library to improve our service to the community and expand our impact as a source of lifelong learning, curiosity, and entertainment.

The Friends are continuing to accept gently used books for our September book sale. Please no textbooks or magazines.



Mary 's Book Club

3rd Friday of the Month @ 12 PM (Noon) Literacy Room on the 2nd floor of the Library
March's Book: *Educated, A Memoir* - Tara Westover
April's Book: *Circe* - Madeline Miller
May's Book: *Born a Crime* - Trevor Noah

Going Global Book Club

March 19th @ 6 PM: Literacy Room on the 2nd floor
The Hundred Secret Senses - Amy Tan

TRUE STORY! NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

March 28th @ 6 PM: Literacy Room on the 2nd floor
Women & Power - Mary Beard
April 25th @ 6pm: Literacy Room on 2nd floor
Deaths of the Poets by Michael Symmons Roberts & Paul Farley

Book Reviews by Olive Mullet



Mysteries

Jussi Adler-Olsen's *Department Q* series—This Danish writer is addictive. He sets his half detective-half thriller books in Copenhagen, and the dark crimes are balanced out by the well-developed characters surrounding Merck, the main detective at the police station. The crimes have real villains wanting revenge but the police station Department Q's investigations of cold cases is run by an eccentric, mysterious, amusing crew which lightens the books considerably and divert during the usual slump in the middle of murder mysteries. The reader should read the series in order because there are progressive revelations into the Department Q's characters. The library has Books 1, 2 and 4 of the seven out in print: 1) **Keeper of Lost Causes**, 2) **Absent One** and 4) **Purity of Vengeance**. The others -- 3) **A Conspiracy of Faith**, 5) **The Marco Effect**, 6) **The Hanging Girl** and 7) **The Scarred Woman** --can be attained through Mel-Cat or encourage Big Rapids Community to get them. Of the three the library does have the crimes do veer towards the extreme—a woman imprisoned with a very real threat of death, a woman damaged by her school fellow villains, and a woman bent on reaping vengeance on those who hurt her in childhood. The reader just like the victim doesn't know the motive for the vengeance until late, and since the crimes are cold cases from years ago but continuing into the present, the victim(s) still must be saved. The eccentric Department Q crime solvers include a mysterious Syrian (?) who knows more about solving crimes than a novice starting work as an office cleaner and who massacres the language and a woman who comically changes her appearance and identity.

Daniel Silva has a long series of murder thrillers. *The Confessor* has at its center the secrecy of the Vatican in the Crux Vera (the True Cross), an Opus Dei type organization though perhaps more murderous. It is mostly centered in Rome with a Bellini restorer who has another life which comes alive with the murder of a scholar writing up Papal killings of the Jews during WWII. The power of the Church is fought between the Crux Vera and the Pope who wants to make amends with the Jews. A contractor killer is also a major player in this gripping page turner.

White Nights by Ann Cleeves is part of a mystery series set in the Shetland Islands. For those who like the British Vera video series, this is the same author and setting but without Vera. The time of year in this novel is summer during which time sunlight lasts night and day on the islands. The disorienting effects of that phenomenon plus the exact description of sections of the island are the novel's strong points. As far as the crime, it evolves slowly and with the usual complexity until its surprise ending. It's not really a thriller but a mystery solved by a local policeman aided in part by others, since part of the clues are found in England. The characters of police, potential killers and victims are very well developed.

Short Stories

The Purple Swamp Hen and Other Stories by Penelope Lively. The library has this in audible form which is good because the writing is so lovely, and you can hear the structure skillfully laid out in each story. The overriding theme is Point of View, which means that the stories have an unusual, surprising perspective (often coming out at the end in terms of a person not in the limelight so far in the story). The first story "The Purple Swamp Hen" sets off this theme by being from the point of view of an ornamental bird living in a rich Roman household, so that like all the stories the bird shows the ironies involved in the display of wealth and the general bad behavior of humans. It ends with a surprising catastrophe from which the bird alone escapes. Another story "License to Kill" is about a young woman helping an old woman with her

shopping and thinking the stereotypes of the old, then discovering the woman had an atypical and important role in her life. The last story "The Third Wife" is probably the most ironic and surprising told from the perspective of a husband of three wives whom he has robbed and then abandoned. However, because of his blindness about women, he suffers his comeuppance.

Nonfiction

The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben is a fascinating book about how trees communicate with each other, helping each other as one large community. Scent is involved, and though this example is not in the book it is indicative of this communication: Giraffes love Acacia trees and would like to nibble them to death. The first tree attacked might have no recourse but by the time the Giraffe moves on to the next, the word is out, and the trees emit an odor that repels the attacker. Roots and fungi are also part of the communication and/or nourishment. After reading this book, you will certainly look at trees differently.

At Home by Bill Bryson is a focused history on the development of Homes, encyclopedic but entertaining throughout (with Bryson's humorous observations). He centers it from his home in Yorkshire, England which was originally a parsonage. He moves from room to room to trace the room's function historically but also spans out to include related facts which are in turn amazing, humorous, horrific and illustrative of recognizable human behavior. Some of my favorite revelations are the complicated evolution of the word "toilet," that most dangerous part of the house being the stairs, the room most associated with tragedy being the bedroom, and the original discomfort of both dwelling and chairs in their earliest manifestations. From etymology of common phrases to objects we take for granted, nothing seems mundane after reading this deliciously informative book.

Child Reading Storybook

In Honor of Mary Ryan

18x42 Mural, Motawi

Tileworks, motawi.com



Based on a piece originally produced by Tropico Potteries of California in 1927, our version was originally commissioned by the Washington Square Public Library in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and has since been commissioned in custom sizes for several other installations, including one at Disneyland.

Polychrome tiles have many colors separated by a tiny ridge of clay. This particular style is known as *cuenca*. Polychrome tiles are made by pooling the glazes with bulb syringes into the areas delineated by the tiny ridges of clay.

--- and on the frame itself, the plaque reads:

"As you read this know that I did my best. Now it is your turn to bear the torch of literacy and allow libraries to enlighten the world for generations to come."

Mary Balestra Ryan, 1946-2018



ALA Midwinter Conference, Seattle, January 2019
– by Chris Cook

With the support of the Friends of the Library, I was able to attend this conference, where I had the opportunity to network with fellow information and library colleagues (mostly new friends); meet the vendors that provide software and hardware for libraries (see demonstrations and have opportunities to be hands-on with their products); attend author panels, learning not only about their new books but hearing the details that influenced their writing or career as authors. So many great books were discussed that you have to decide which ones to purchase for the library collection

and which ones, for sure, you have to read yourself. Additionally, panels and sessions provided programming ideas and discussions that included financial literacy, the value of YouTube, homelessness in America and its impact on public libraries, how to get authors to visit your library and make the most of them, how to podcast, to name a few topics.

Besides getting signed copies of books, prepublication copies of upcoming books, and free samples of marketing materials (bookmarks, pens, posters, and marketing materials), the special keynote and guest speakers bring the conference into focus with their messages and inspiration. I listened to so many articulate and fascinating speakers. Here are some of the highlights.

- Melinda Gates ("Moments of Lift, How Empowering Women Changes the World")
- Rick Steves ("Travel As a Political Act")
- Isha Sesay ("Beneath the Tamarind Tree")
- Sylvia Acevedo ("Path to the Stars")
- "The Public", film by Emilio Estevez – focused on homelessness and public library as public space

From these speakers (journalists, scientists, activists), I brought back these themes and ideas to ponder:

- Stand up; act; empower people. Nothing happens unless we do something. (Melinda Gates, Sylvia Acevedo)
- Power of nonfiction; power of story
- All of us need to choose a side (Isha Seshay)
- Carbonate our outlook—needs a little explanation (Rick Steves)
 - You can learn a lot about your country when you travel beyond your borders. How can we carbonate the lives of children and adults with the joy of getting out of their comfort zone, where we can learn faster, take more and smarter risks, and generally enjoy life more.



Friends of the Big Rapids Community Library Endowment Fund

Why Do an Endowment?

The Friends of the Big Rapids Community Library established an Endowment Fund in the Spring of 1997*. Endowed funds are never touched. The interest returned in the form of grants can only be used to provide support for the library well into the future for programs that promote literacy and to purchase reading materials and equipment, which are not part of the library's normal annual budget.

PROGRAMS:

Catch 'em in the Cradle

Board books are distributed to every baby born at Spectrum Health Big Rapids Hospital to stress the importance of early reading.

Share the Gift of Reading

Books are donated to Head Start and other programs.

Summer Reading

Funds are provided for library programs that reach infants, children, adolescents, and parents.

Literacy Tutor Training

Volunteer tutors are trained to provide their services to anyone requesting help with improving their reading skills.

Speakers

Book Discussions

*An Agency Endowment Fund within the Mecosta County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Solicitation License #MICS/CT1884.



Endowment funds raised by The Friends of the Library (placed with the Mecosta County Community Foundation) will be invested to generate tax-free income maximizing the value of the donor contributions. You may also donate to the Fund through your will and estate planning.

Celebrating 20 Years

After a year of fund-raising events to reach our goal of \$5,000, the Friends of the Big Rapids Community Library established an Endowment Fund in May of 1997 with the Mecosta County Community Foundation, a component of the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

As the fund has grown since 1997, the Friends have applied for grants from this fund that have totaled \$55,500 to support Catch 'em in the Cradle (books for babies), Summer Reading Programs, prize incentives for achieving reading goals, books for the library collection, library renovation and library equipment.

This fund can only be used to meet the needs of the Big Rapids Community Library.

Thank you for building a legacy!

Yes! I want to support the effort to build a legacy for reading and the Library.

Enclosed is my contribution of _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: **Mecosta County Community Foundation**
And mail to: **Friends of the Big Rapids Community Library**
426 S. Michigan, Big Rapids, MI 49307

Friends Membership Form

The Friends of the Big Rapids Community Library invite you to join. Your membership is important.

Name _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Today's Date _____

Annual Membership category

Individual	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Book Lover	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business/Corporate	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benefactor	\$150	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Contributions are tax deductible.)

Friends is a 501c3 tax exempt organization

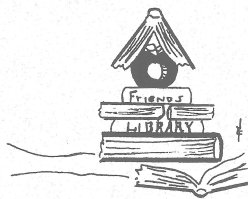
Please check the appropriate membership category, enclose a check with this form, and mail to:

**Friends of the Big Rapids Library
426 South Michigan Avenue
Big Rapids, MI 49307**

If you are interested in any of these areas, please check one or more boxes.

- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Fund-raising/Used book sales
- ☐ Summer reading program & activities
- ☐ Adult literacy tutors
- ☐ Holiday Book Collection
- ☐ Newsletters, Facebook and/or the website
- ☐ Catch 'em in the Cradle
- ☐ Endowment
- ☐ Pre-school story time
- ☐ Volunteer hours to assist the Staff
- ☐ Lunch Break Book Discussion
- ☐ Serve as an officer or board member

Thank you for your support.



Note Cards

Note cards designed by Phillip Sterling can be purchased for \$2 a package. These are available in four individual designs or in an assorted pack.

Tote Bags

The Library has special designed tote book bags that can be purchased at the circulation desk for \$5.00.

This Newsletter is made possible by volunteers of the Friends of the Big Rapids Community Library.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many volunteer opportunities at the Big Rapids Community Library:

- **Children's Story Time**
- **Shelving, displays, dusting shelves**
- **Delivering books to homebound patrons**
- **Assistance at Friends' events and fundraisers**
- **Helping out at the Friends Labor Day Book Sale**

Contact Info:

231-796-5234

librarian@bigrapids.lib.mi.us

E-Newsletter

If you travel south for the winter, like the idea of saving a few trees, or would just prefer to receive your newsletters by email, all you have to do is let us know!! Just send your request to:
librarian@bigrapids.lib.mi.us



Upcoming Events

Every Mon & Wed Story Hour

10:30-11:30 AM

Every Tues.

Computer Class

9:30-10:30 AM

Every Fri.

Tiny Tots Tinker Lab

10:30-11:30 AM

MARCH

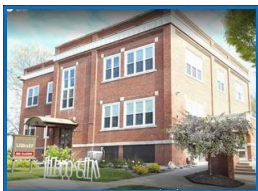
5	Elisa M. Camara Book Tour	5:00-6:00 PM
6	Friends of Library Board Mtg.	4:00-5:00 PM
7	Computer Class – Coding #2	9:30-10:30 AM
7	Knit Night	6:30-8:30 PM
9	Foreign Films	7:00-11:00 PM
14	Library Board Mtg.	5:30-6:30 PM
14	Camera Club	
	Lifestyle Portraiture	6:00-8:00 PM
15	Mary's Book Club	12:00-1:00 PM
19	Going Global Book Club	6:00-7:00 PM
21	Birdwatching vs. Birding	
	w/ Greg Bodker	6:00-7:00 PM
21	Knit Night	6:30-8:30 PM
28	True Story! Book Club	6:00-7:00 PM
30	Open Sew	9:00 AM-12:00 PM

APRIL

4	Friends of Library Board Mtg.	4:00-5:00 PM
7	Knit Night	6:30-8:30 PM
11	Library Board Mtg.	5:30-6:30 PM
11	Camera Club	
	Shooting Waterfowl	6:00-8:00 PM
13	Foreign Films	7:00-11:00 PM
16	Going Global Book Club	6:00-7:00 PM
15	Young Adult Lit Book Club	5:30-7:00 PM
18	Knit Night	6:30-8:30 PM
19-20	Library Closed	
25	Biking Cross-Country	
	w/Robert Downes	7:00-8:00 PM
26	Mary's Book Club	12:00-1:00 PM

May

1	Friends of Library Board Mtg.	4:00-5:00 PM
2	Knit Night	6:30-8:30 PM
9	Library Board Mtg.	5:30-6:30 PM
9	Camera Club- Positive Photo	6:00-8:00 PM
10	Traditional Folk songs of the Great Lakes	7:00-8:30 PM
	Free Concert	
16	Knit Night	6:30-8:30 PM
17	Mary's Book Club	12:00-1:00 PM
21	Going Global Book Club	6:00-7:00 PM
27	Library Closed	
30	True Story! Book Club	6:00-7:00 PM



Friends of the Big Rapids Community Library
426 S. Michigan Ave.
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Big Rapids Community Library celebrates “March is Reading” Month

Dr. Seuss's birthday celebration was Wednesday, 3/6 at story time. The Friends of the Library provided a birthday cake as well giving the children their own Dr. Seuss book to take home. As always, Mr. Howard read stories, everyone had their own Dr. Seuss hat, and with musical instruments as accompaniment, everyone sang several choruses of “Happy Birthday” as they marched around the library.

