

December 2011

# F·R·I·E·N·D·S



of the TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

FriendsTPL.org  
P.O. Box 4445  
Troy, Michigan 48099

## NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS of the Troy Public Library

Friends promote and support the Troy Public Library.

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## Friends 2.0



In the technology world, 2.0 is a term given to describe a 2nd generation of a product that is improved and focused on a greater ability. Today, we are the Friends 2.0. The Friends over 53 years have created an organization that has helped start our first library in Troy and helped save our library. Over the years, the Friends provided thousands of volunteer hours, thousands of dollars for programming and equipment to the library, assisted with outreach, created the Special Needs Collection and given constant support and community presence for the library.

This past 18 months were unprecedented in our organization's history. Facing closure of the library not once but twice, put the Friends in a unique position and one that was carefully watched by other Friends groups around Michigan. At the Friends of Michigan Libraries conference, the FTPL was seen as an example of excellence in advocating for our library, lauded for our efforts and the precedent that we set for strong leadership and the fact that we carried out that effort with integrity and sound practices. Statewide Friends missions are about fundraising AND advocacy. That advocacy was and will be the key component of all Friends groups going forward in today's economic environment.

It was the leadership of the FTPL that educated residents about the importance of the library to the citizens and its worth economically. We can be very proud that we have raised awareness of the library, made people take notice of this vital civic asset, created a grassroots group of library supporters that kept the pressure on to prove that we were not to be taken lightly. And it paid off.

Now it is time to keep the momentum going. With 2.0 thinking, in addition to providing monetary support for the library, the Friends role is also to find new and innovative ways to keep the community engaged, to continue to show the importance of the library to our city and increase our advocacy role locally and statewide.

We had a difficult fiscal year with our greatest source of revenue forced to close for 5 months. But it is important to remember that 2010-11 is a one year snapshot out of a very robust financial history and we are currently in very good financial shape. With our super successful Book Shop reopening in September, we now are renewing our commitment to the Friends Shop.

Even during the past year, the FTPL did support those programs that the library staff was able to offer. We put a very large financial effort behind the Job Seekers classes to help the under-employed or un-employed re-tool to find work. The classes were always full and users were grateful to the library for providing them in these tough economic times. The scaled back children's summer reading programs, as well as adult summer reading programs were also funded by the Friends.

We continue to work closely with TPL staff on future programs and events. We funded the children's pumpkin and gingerbread house events this holiday season. We purchased a NOOK, Kindle and i-pad, for the technology department so that TPL staff can assist patrons with how to use these new e-readers. The use of e-material is one of the fastest growing aspects of public libraries and this is yet another way to continue our relevance in today's information age.

It is our intent to be an integral part of the city's new Lifelong Learning Committee that is replacing the Library Advisory Board. The Friends commitment to the library for many years makes our participation in this effort important to reaching out to the community to benefit the library and growing the user base.

We are an all-volunteer organization and the tireless efforts of our board and all volunteers is what makes the wheels turn. It is not easy with our busy personal lives, but we do because we believe in what we do; that the library IS the heart of our community and we intend to keep it beating loud and strong. It is very important that we increase our volunteer number and keep the FTPL growing and energized. Let's re-double our efforts to get people to volunteer for the Friends and make a difference in our library and city.

John F. Kennedy said that, "change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." The Friends 2.0 are looking forward, with a healthy respect and acknowledgement of past and present good works. In a constantly changing political, economic and technological world we cannot be static, but must be dynamic if we want to grow as an organization. With your help and support, and with a renewed energy and focused vision for the future, the Friends of the Troy Public Library are ready to improve, achieve and succeed.

~ Rhonda Hendrickson  
FTPL President



## BOOK SHOP BUZZ...

Forest Gump's familiar quote, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get" rings all too true about 2011 and the Book Shop. In a span of about a year the Book Shop went from being open three days down to two days, to ceasing operations altogether, to re-opening back on Fridays & Sundays and now... yet another change! Effective January 1, the Book Shop will be open on **Saturdays 10-1** in lieu of Fridays.

The Book Shop Team is a dynamic and flexible group and simply keeps focused on the Friends' mission of promoting and supporting the TPL and running the Book Shop. This fall, once again, we conducted a survey of similar book stores in the area.

We confirmed that we have a solid reputation as the best organized and well run used book shop and we are also the "low price leader".

Ongoing "tweaks" continue to make the best use of the limited space and allow us to group items for a fun shopping experience. For instance, not able to travel this winter? Check out the "Armchair Traveler" bins in the Travel section and go on a vicarious journey to far corners of the world.

If you haven't discovered it yet — stop by Teen Cart & rack in the back of the shop for a full range of books especially for young adults. In the "Wordplay" section you find graphic

novels, comic books, crossword puzzle books and other non-traditional publications. Explore the Body, Mind & Spirit zone — a perfect place to find help with those New Year's Resolutions!

As always, we welcome new Friends, volunteers, shoppers and donations. And, we thank all those who play a role in making the shop the gem that it is!

Visit the book Shop—you just never know what you're gonna get!

*-Eve Parsons,  
Book Shop Manager*

**Book Shop Hours:  
Sat 10-1 and Sun 1-4**

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

### Gratitude

We often hear that the holidays are a time to reflect on the things in our lives for which we are grateful. I think what I am most grateful for this year is kindness. Given the events of the recent year—the possibility of the library closing; the campaign for the dedicated library millage; and the recent city council election—there has been a lot of unkindness and unpleasantness, not to mention out-and-out lies and misinformation. This behavior makes kindness stand out all the more, because kindness seems to be the exception rather than the norm these days.

The Friends of the Troy Public Library are shining examples of kindness. From the campaign to save the Troy Library last year to "Staff Appreciation Days" during the time leading up to the millage; from the hundreds of different ways the Friends improve the lives of the community of library users and staff to the generosity of volunteers on the Friends Board, and in the Book Shop and Gift Shop, the Friends have gone above and beyond to show that kind people really do exist. Friends members come to work with a team approach, a positive attitude, and a spirit of good cheer. This inspires me, and the rest of the library staff, every day.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "you must be the change you want to see in the world." And so I would like to thank the Friends for helping me to remember what this time of year is all about—friendship, thanksgiving, kindness, and gratitude for the blessings in my life.

On behalf of the library staff, I would like to thank the Friends of the Troy Public Library for all of your contributions to the library and the community this year. May 2012 bring all of you many blessings!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

*~ Cathy Russ, Library Director*

Join our enthusiastic group of Friends! The Friends of the Troy Public Library promote and support the Troy Public Library and provide extra programs, which are not included the TPL budget.

Support our award-winning library with your dues, volunteering and donations of materials to the Book Shop. Become a Friend today! Go to **[www.friendstpl.org](http://www.friendstpl.org)**.

## FRIENDS SHOP—BACK TO BUSINESS

After 2 years of uncertainty, the Friends have committed to making the Friends Shop all that it can be. The shop is now ready for you with new merchandise including bookmarks, stationery, jewelry, gift dishes, scarves and fun and interesting children's items. We carry an assortment of office supplies for busy patrons and students. Shopping and supporting the library has never been easier. Drop in the Friends Shop in the lobby near circulation and see what's new.

Starting in January, the Friends Shop hours of operation will be Monday through Thursday 12-6, Saturday 10:30 to 1:30 and Sunday 1-4pm. The library will be closed on Friday beginning in January per City Council resolution.

Proceeds from the Friends Shop are used to support the library via programming, Job Seeker classes, maintaining the Special Needs Collection, providing digital e-readers for staff demonstration and a myriad of other ways of helping the Troy Public Library best serve library users.

The shop has an all-volunteer staff. If you are interested volunteering for the Friends and helping the library, we would love to have you. Stop by the shop or go to the Friends website at [friendstpl.org](http://friendstpl.org) for an application.

### Troy Public Library - Points of Pride

- #1 in Michigan in 2004 among Class VI libraries per Hennen's Rating Index
- #2 in 2005 and 2006 due to expansion of West Bloomfield Library
- 2004 received the Library of Michigan Citation of Excellence for diversity
- 2005 honored with the Voice of the People Award for Excellence in Library Services
- 2005 top 1% - #13 in the nation
- Attracts approximately 15,000 visitors a week
- *Most popular place in Troy!*

COULD NOT HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS!

## NEW YEAR FRESH START

If getting rid of clutter is your New Year's resolution, free up some space at home by clearing off your bookshelves. Please gather up books, movies, CDs, games and puzzles you no longer use & drop them off at the Donations Area in the library lobby (by the Circulation Desk). By the bag, box or truckload—in good and clean condition—we always welcome your donations!

Proceeds support the TPL programs and are tax deductible.

**Support Your Library— Support Your Community!**

## ALL ABOUT EBOOKS AND EREADERS

Electronic books and readers – more popularly known as eBooks and eReaders – have generated a lot of news lately, as the sales of these portable reading devices have skyrocketed. More and more people are showing interest in these lightweight, inexpensive, and convenient alternatives to printed books and magazines.

Do you have a Kindle, Sony eReader, Barnes and Noble nook, or another eReader? Are you thinking about purchasing one for yourself or a family member or friend? Did you know that the Troy Public Library has eBooks available free-of-charge for you to download to your eReader or smartphone, if you have a library card?

If you are interested in the eBook revolution, attend **All eBooks and eReaders** sponsored by the Troy Library on **Wednesday, January 11, at 6:30 pm**. The two-hour session will answer all of your questions, and show you what resources are available to you from the Library. We will demonstrate some of the more popular eReaders, purchased courtesy of the Friends of the Troy Library. And if you have a new eReader, bring it, and we will show you how to set up an account.

Register for **All about eBooks and eReaders** by going to [troypublib.info](http://troypublib.info), and clicking on the Programs Calendar link on the left, or calling the Technology Center at 248.524.3542. Questions? Call us or email us at [techroom@troymi.gov](mailto:techroom@troymi.gov).

Wishing You a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



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of the TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Troy Public Library *promote and support* the Troy Public Library!

Save 20% on one purchase

--- Friends Book Shop ---

Good books at great prices!

Located on the Lower Level of the TPL

Open Saturday 10-1, Sunday 1-4

VISIT THE FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK OR AT [WWW.FRIENDSTPL.ORG](http://WWW.FRIENDSTPL.ORG)

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NEW HOURS! Effective January 1, 2012.

<b>Book Shop Hours</b>	<b>Friends Shop Hours</b>
Monday	12 - 6 pm
Tuesday	12 - 6 pm
Wednesday	12 - 6 pm
Thursday	12- 6 pm
Friday <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
Saturday    10 am - 1 pm	10:30 am-1:30 pm
Sunday      1 pm - 4 pm	1 pm - 4p m