



**Friends
of the
Macomb
Public
Library**

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Friends of the
Macomb Public Library



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Winter 2024

DICKENS ON THE SQUARE BOOK SALE

Library Annex - Saturday, December 7

*Becky Parker and Elisa Rasmussen,
book sale coordinators*

Please join us Saturday, December 7 between 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Library Annex (109 E. Jefferson St.) to stock up on some winter reading or get some potential Christmas gifts. We have a nice assortment of Non-Fiction, History/Biography, Cookbooks, Wellness, Religion, Children/Youth books, as well as media and all the oversized books available. Our Fiction and Mysteries/Action Adventure books will be offered at our



February Specialty Books/Media Sale.

We also encourage you to look over your book shelves and consider donating your good condition books and/or media to us for future sales. We will gladly accept your donations at the time of this sale. Just a reminder, we can't accept textbooks or encyclopedia or outdated advice on finances, health, etc.

Stop by the library after the book sale

Tiffany Erickson, Children's Librarian

The Macomb Public Library will be participating in a Magical Holiday for Dickens on the Square. **From 10:00 am to noon** on Saturday, December 7, the library will host a craft time with scratch art, magical snowflake wands, and much more. Children and families are welcome to visit the library, enjoy the decorations, make a craft, and search for holiday books.



From the President

Cindy Cavett



Happy Holidays! Christmas is just around the corner and so is our Friends' Book Sale. Maybe you can find a treasure there to gift. Please consider coming to our first winter social event which is quite noteworthy-commemorating 30 years of our Friends group! Friends' past, present and future are welcome to come and enjoy mingling. More about both activities in this newsletter.

Some Christmas traditions we had as kids I have fond memories of and like to perpetuate as an adult. When we were young, there just weren't such elaborate Christmas decorations and traditions as there are now. Dad would purchase a poinsettia or two, Mom hid the pickle in the tree for a lucky searcher, our very plain wood carved nativity scene was unearthed, and the tree was decorated with large colored lights. One idea I never enjoyed was dressing the tree with tinsel-way too messy for me! And a vacuum does not enjoy an errant strand of tinsel!

Even Christmas themed books were few. My favorite was Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree, (©1963); I have the family copy in my collection and still enjoy it! How the Grinch Stole Christmas (©1957) was one my mother could about recite by memory, which she could do with Horton Hears a Who. And of course, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, the pop-up version! Fairly ratty by the time five kids abused the pop-ups!

I hope you enjoy your holiday traditions this year or create some new ones.

Cindy

Friends Adopt a First Grade Class



Mrs. Teel's check from the Friends and her 1st grade class

Once a month, since September, a member of the Friends' board has gone to Lincoln School and read a book to Mrs. Teel's first grade class. Our organization donated \$250 to the classroom and \$250 so each child can take a book home. For December's reading, we will be taking a giftbag for each kid with a book, crayons, coloring book, and snack. It has been great fun so far promoting reading to active little minds. Contact Desiree desireebdye@gmail.com if you are interested in reading.

Local Author Roundup



Flying Lessons, published in April 2024.

Are you originally from west central Illinois? I was born in southern California, outside of L.A. When I was almost six my parents moved to Carson City, Nevada because the smog was horrific for my childhood asthma. I grew up there, through high school. I got a full ride scholarship from the

University of Nevada in Reno, and did both my undergraduate and two Master's Programs there. I completed a Bachelor's Degree in European History with a minor in world geography, and a Bachelor's in Secondary Education with a minor in creative writing. I taught middle school history for several years before becoming Dean of Discipline at the same school. I then became a middle school assistant principal for five years, a middle school principal for 9 years, and a high school assistant principal for four. For the last 5 years of my career I went back into the classroom but at the high school level, to teach AP world and U.S. history (I had a ball!)

We moved here two years ago and have absolutely loved it!

Why did you decide to write this book? Out of all the stories I have in my head, *Flying Lessons* was the one that my brain kept returning to time and time again. I think that was because both of my grandfathers had recently passed away and they were of the WWII generation (true, my maternal grandfather was a B-24 pilot in the Pacific Theater). I also think it was because I had traveled recently in Europe, most notably to Normandy and the D-Day beaches on the 75th anniversary of the invasion. I wanted to write the story to honor my grandparents' generation because they are truly leaving us at an alarming pace now. I also had the "feeling" of Normandy in my mind and bones and wanted to put that down on paper as well.

Have you written other books? Titles? *Flying Lessons* was my first book. I have several other stories that I now intend to write, all of them in different genres. I'm at work on my next book, which is a science fiction/psychological thriller. I'm hoping to have it completed and published by next summer.

What is the best/hardest part of writing? I think the best advice I could give an aspiring writer, with my limited experience at this point, would be to JUST DO IT! No, it's not a shoe commercial, it's just good advice. In reality, it took me 35+ years to put my ideas down and write this book. I wasn't ready to write it when I was younger, but when I realized I WAS ready, I finally did it. NO story gets out there if you don't write it down, and it is so much easier to publish your work now there is no excuse. We can always say, "I don't have time," or "I don't know how to do it." NO! Find the time, look up how to do it, and write. Yes, it's difficult. I have a lot more respect for authors now than I did before, even authors whose work is less than stellar. It still takes a certain gumption to create a story and get it down, to put yourself out there for the public to scrutinize. If you've got something to say and you're proud of it, write it!



Scott Grange

Book Your Escape! *Tiffany Erickson, Children's Librarian*

This winter the library is going to the beach! At least in our imagination. Our Winter Reading theme is Book Your Escape and we are leaning into the tropical vibes. Winter Reading starts Monday, January 13 and run through Friday, February 28.

Children will track their time and when they reach a goal of 250 minutes of reading they will receive a free book, shark tooth candy necklace, brag tag and completion certificate. Book Your Escape to anywhere this winter!

Friends of the Macomb Public Library

c/o Macomb Public Library

235 S. Lafayette

Macomb, IL 61455



What's on your nightstand?

*Cindy Cavett,
Friends Board President*

I have a couple of books
by my favorite authors,
Robert Galbraith and Karin

Slaughter, sitting on my nightstand. *The Running Grave* by Galbraith is a Cormoran Strike mystery, the seventh in the series and weighs in at 954 pages. I enjoy the characters so am really looking forward to another installment!

This is Why We Lied by Slaughter, is the 12th Will Trent book. I have read and enjoyed all her previous books, though some can be quite gritty. Both authors have a touch of humor in their writing, which is always good for me!

Adult Activities

Sharon Sample, Adult Services

Happy Thanksgiving! Rachel will be leaving us in a few days. Becky, our newbie, just started with us this week. Please come by and help us send Rachel out with much gratitude and welcome Becky warmly!

Adult Coloring is the 1st Thursday of each month, August through May, from 2-4 pm. Drop in or stay the entire time and listen to relaxation music while you create and socialize. There will be a holiday/winter themed craft for the December 5th gathering. Stitchin' Time meets the 1st Saturday of each month, August-November, January-May. December is Dickens on the Square.

Adult Winter Reading Program will run January 13-February 28, 2025. The theme is: Book Your Escape! It will be tropical and a really great time. We are only requiring any 3 books, audiobooks on CD, eBooks, or eAudiobooks. Adult Winter Reading logs will be available on January 13th and there will be a Grand Prize Drawing.

Hope to see you soon!
Rachel, Becky, and Sharon

Celebrate 30 Years of Friends With a Winter Social!

Saturday, January 18, 2025 @ The Wine Sellers

1:00-3:00pm • Program at 2:00pm

Members past, present and future are invited to mix and mingle as we commemorate 30 years of supporting our local library. The Friends' board will provide some nibbles, water and coffee.

Wine Seller beverages will be available for purchase.

Bring a book for the book swap. Books that do not enjoy the swap will be donated to the Book Sale.

An RSVP to cindyamundsen@comcast.net with the number attending would be greatly appreciated but not required.