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Fall 2025



## Better Books Sale



*Becky Parker and Elisa Rasmussen, book sale coordinators*

Join us Saturday, September 6 from 9am-4pm in Chandler Park for our annual “Better Books Sale”, 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. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** (*contact parkers@macomb.com*) at 10am to noon, noon to 2pm, 2 to 4 pm.

- 8:00am Annex - Load small boxes of books (a few trucks also needed)
- 8:15am Chandler Park - unload, open boxes, 9am sales persons are in place, cashier/sell & straighten
- 4pm - close boxes, load trucks, and unload at Annex *This is a fair weather sale only and will be canceled if there is rain.*

## Heritage Days Book Sale Results!

Hot weather did not deter the enthusiasm of book lovers and bargain hunters OR of book sales volunteers! The most unusual aspect of this year's sales was, thanks to the large number of enthusiastic volunteers, everything was removed from the 2 tents and put in place in the Annex in 15 minutes. It also helped as we sold a significant percentage of our books. We sold just over \$6,330.00. Our Members-Only-Preview sales seemed busier than before with approximately \$1,000 in sales and over \$600 in membership and donations. This fund-raising activity was very successful, made many customers happy, and recycled good books back into the community.



*FOMPL Treasurer Desiree Walton is counting up sales*



## From the President

Cindy Cavett

Hopefully these dog days of summer will be done by the Gazebo Air Fair and the Friends of the Library Booksale! We are certainly lucky to have the energy of Elisa and Becky spearheading the book sales. They also have an amazing group of volunteers; at the Heritage Days Book Sale, which ended at 4pm, the entire area was packed away and the sides of the big tent were being let down by 4:15pm!

I met up with my high school friend, Jane, who was home from New York for a visit. Well, we did not go to the same high school, but we worked at the Burlington Public Library together. More specifically we worked part-time in the Children's Department. Oh, boy, did we have fun! Especially as we had a very creative and entertaining coworker (another high schooler), Marc.

I wondered why we did not get fired; we worked hard but all I remember was the shenanigans! The Toga parties on Saturdays in the courtyard, the pizza lunches after cleaning the fish tank, the cheerleading stunts (and I was no cheerleader!). We would put on plays written by Marc and performed around the rotunda and for summer reading we would turn the indoor gazebo into a spaceship and dress up (I was Princess Leia wearing my prom dress). On Thursday afternoons during the summer, we showed a movie where tons of kids would attend, it was crazy (fun). This was 1978, so movies were kind of a special thing!

If only all jobs provided so much amusement! This was my first job in a library (I had four other experiences) but none compared to this. And the nice thing was, all the library employees seemed to enjoy the diversion, too. Or at least tolerated it. Here's to how work can be fun! Cindy



## Page Turners Book Club meets

Cindy Amundsen

On August 13 we had a wonderful discussion about *Table for Two* by Amor Towles. I think the general consensus was "We loved it!"

Here is the remaining schedule:

**September 10** *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon (led by Becky Parker)

**October 8** *The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War* by Erik Larson (led by TBD)

**November 12** *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger (led by Cindy Amundsen)

**December 10** Holiday gathering and next book selections discussion

Page Turners meets at the Macomb Public Library at 4:30 p.m. every 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Everyone welcome!



Volunteers help straighten up the tables during the Better Books sale.

## Adult Activities & new Ebooks

Sharon Sample, Adult Services

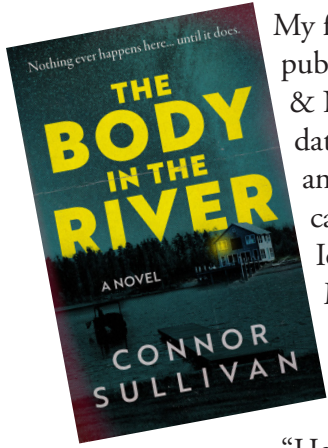
Adult Coloring started back up as of August 7. Stitch'n Time has also been made available from 10:30am to noon on the first Saturday of each month. The Silent Book Club is available all year on the Second Monday and second Saturday of each month.

We deeply appreciate Patti Bloom,

who helps keep the Adult Collections in order. Our collections have been heavily used this past two weeks.

32 new eBooks and eAudiobooks were just added this week. Please be sure to check Libby out for what's new to borrow. You can now binge read *The Thursday Murder Club*!

# Local Author Roundup



My first murder mystery is *The Body in the River*, self-published through Kindle Direct Publishing and Barnes & Noble Press. The official release date was July 17, a date chosen to honor my grandparents' 55th wedding anniversary. *The Body in the River* is set at the Heapville cabins along the Mississippi River, just outside Burlington, Iowa, and the story kicks off when a fisherman discovers Margot Hamilton's body in a side channel. Everyone in the riverside community becomes a suspect, each with a secret and a motive. Part suspenseful whodunit, part heartfelt tribute, this book is also a love letter to my grandparents and our family's "Happy Place" on the river.



**Connor Sullivan**

I have called McDonough County home for all of my life! I grew up in Colchester and graduated from the West Prairie School District in May 2018. I stayed local for college, earning both my bachelor's degree in English Education (May 2021) and my master's degree in English (July 2024) from Western Illinois University in Macomb. Now, I'm back at West Prairie Jr/Sr High School as a full-time English teacher, where I teach 8th grade English, Journalism, and Dual Credit Composition—truly my dream career. Lately, I've also discovered a new passion for writing books, and while I have no plans to leave teaching, I'm excited to make time for both.

I'm inspired to write because I genuinely love reading, especially mysteries and thrillers. In grad school, I focused on Agatha Christie's Poirot series, and for my final project, I read every Poirot mystery in one summer and completed extensive research and writing on them. I loved every second of it! Modern authors who inspire me include Shari Lapena, Riley Sager, Alice Feeney, Ruth Ware, and even Sarah J. Maas (though she's not a mystery writer, I still read everything she publishes). I tend to read with a writer's lens, studying how authors craft their stories and the techniques they use, and I often watch author interviews to learn more about their processes and routines. I also connect deeply with something Louise Penny has said: "I write what I love to read. And for me, writing is more than just storytelling—it's stepping through my own personal rabbit hole into Wonderland. On the page, I can wander through intrigue, meet curious characters, and lose myself in a world that's far removed from real-life stressors. While retreating into that Wonderland might not be the healthiest coping mechanism, it's certainly a productive one!"

While *The Body in the River* is my first published novel, I've previously self-published two poetry collections: *an emotional kaleidoscope* and *Cloud 9*. While I'm grateful for the experience of putting those books out into the world, my creative focus has since shifted toward fiction, which I feel more proud of. In fact, *an emotional kaleidoscope* is no longer in print due to a file corruption issue I decided not to fix, as I've moved in a new creative direction.

My biggest advice for aspiring writers, especially those feeling self-conscious or doubtful, is to write in secret. Don't announce your project until it's finished or nearly finished. This removes pressure and quiets the self-censorship that comes from imagining others' reactions. Give yourself permission to write an awful first draft; drafting is my favorite stage because there's no pressure to be perfect. Just get words on the page! Editing is the most tedious part for me, while promoting can be fun but also scary and nerve-wracking. I used to think mystery/thriller authors had to outline meticulously, but as a proud "pantser," I've learned many writers let the story lead them, and that approach works just fine.

Whether in the classroom or on the page, I'm passionate about storytelling, connecting with people, and exploring the power of words. *The Body in the River* is the start of a new chapter in my creative life, and I'm excited to see where both teaching and writing will take me next. I'm grateful to share my stories—both real and imagined—with the community that has shaped me, and I hope readers enjoy escaping into my little corner of "Wonderland" as much as I enjoy creating it.

## Friends of the Macomb Public Library

c/o Macomb Public Library

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## What's on your nightstand?



I have two books on my bedside table at all times.

One is *Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver*. I read one of her poems each night. When I finish the 440+ pages of her poems, I start again on page 1.

The other is usually a novel. The one I am currently reading is *I'll Be Right Here* by Amy Bloom. One of the reviewers of the book described it as “...a celebration of and lament for the families we create, the legacies we leave, the ways we remember and are remembered.” I think that sums it up perfectly. Paula W.

After reading the prequel, *Half Broke Horses*, I am going to read *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. I am probably one of the only people who hasn't read *The Glass Castle* yet, but I really liked *Half Broke Horses*, so it's time! *Half Broke Horses* was a 10 Best Books of the NYT Book Review pick and I can see why! Definitely a worthwhile read. Lily Casey is a woman you won't forget.

Thanks! Cindy A

*The White Lioness* by Henning Mankell.

I have never read the Inspector Wallander mysteries. I purchased a couple at the Heritage Days book sale. I am enjoying this one from 1993 about South Africa and the machinations of the forces fighting the end of apartheid.

Diane W.