



Friends
of the
Macomb
Public
Library

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Friends of the
Macomb Public Library



macomblibraryfriends.org

Winter 2025

Book Sale During Dickens On the Square December 6



Becky Parker, Book Sale Coordinator

Join us on Saturday, December 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Library Annex, 109 E. Jefferson St. when the Friends of the Library will hold a Specialty Book & Media Sale in conjunction with Dickens On the Square. This sale features Non Fiction, History/Biography, Cookbooks, Religion, Wellness, oversized books, as well as Children/Youth books, CDs, DVDs and audio books. Our fiction/mystery specialty sale will be in February.

Feel free to bring any good conditioned books or media that you would like to donate for future sales. All proceeds are invested in the Macomb Public Library.

Library Receives One of 1280 Carnegie Grants

Dennis Danowski, Library Director

Macomb Public Library is one of 1280 Carnegie Libraries still in existence across the United States receiving a \$10,000 gift from Carnegie Corporation of New York in celebration of America's 250th Anniversary. Andrew Carnegie championed the free public library movement in the late 19th century

and viewed libraries as cradles of democracy that strengthen the democratic values.

Macomb Public Library was built in 1904 with the first Carnegie grant of \$15,000. The two-story library has remained a library since 1904 with several improvements: installation of a handicapped ramp and doors, an elevator, energy efficient windows,

new HVAC system, upgrade of electrical and internet, and a new children's library.

More than a century after philanthropist Andrew Carnegie helped fund the construction of 1,681 libraries nationwide, the Macomb Public Library is still serving our community. To date, the community investment has been over \$4,000,000.

From the President

Cindy Cavett

Happy Holidays!

We are entering a busy season, and it can be overwhelming sometimes with all the activities, but it is rewarding to get out and participate.

Speaking of getting out, the Friends of the Library are once again planning a winter gathering. So save the date of Saturday, January 17, from 1:00-3:00pm at The Wine Sellers. We have a few ideas that have been tossed about but no definite theme for the event or snazzy name. But as members you will receive an update via email. I can guarantee that it will have great food provided by the Friend's Board, a fun theme, and some fine drinks to be purchased at either Sullivan Taylor or The Wine Sellers. Please relieve your cabin fever and join us!

Well, I have my first grandchild! So excited about this and I know many of you have experienced the same feelings! This nudged me into the depths of my basement looking for board books. I figured I had saved these books (and many toys) for over 25 years! I found some classics and some plain old favorites of my boys. Along with a home library I liked to visit the MPL. I would load the kids up (strollers and/or bikes) and trek to the library. It took more work to prepare to go than to walk the 6 blocks!

Enjoy the season ahead and mark your calendar for January 17! - Cindy



Page Turners Book Club

Cindy Amundsen

December 11 Holiday gathering and next book selections discussion. Join us at the Wine Sellers at 4:30. We will go to whenever the party ends!

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

Everyone welcome!

What are you reading?

Suzanne and Gertrude

by Jeb Loy Nichols

This short, gentle read speaks to the fullness of the arc of life and the calling to place, or to cause, or to person. Suzanne writes to her husband Hillman about Gertrude, "I seem to have a visitor. A lodger." "The visitor is a she and she is a donkey and she turned up out of nowhere." "I'll let you know how we get on, my visitor and me."

Hillman, writing home from a refugee crisis center in France relates the story of Japanese gardens where "they placed paving stones...so that anyone walking too fast would stumble. They wanted people to slow down, to take a look around." - an invitation that is hard to refuse. *Kathy Ganyard, Yoga Instructor*
Send joswickkate@gmail.com a book review (just like this one). Reviews appear in the *Community News Brief*.

IRC Announces Illinois Reads Books for 2026

Illinois Reads.org

The Illinois Reading Council (IRC) has just released the list of Illinois Reads books for 2026. Illinois Reads is a statewide program that promotes reading for all Illinois citizens. The program promotes six books in six different age bands by authors and illustrators who have ties to Illinois. The books range from read-to books for infants to books for adult readers. Bookmarks and posters highlighting the Illinois Reads books will be

available in early 2026. Order early as supplies are limited!

The Illinois Reads Program will be featured at the annual IRC Conference at the Bank of Springfield Center in Springfield, Illinois on March 12-13, 2026. Conference registration is now open for educators, librarians, and others interested in promoting literacy.

Visit IllinoisReads.org to find out about other upcoming Illinois Reads events.

Illinois Reads Adult List:

Amity Nathan Harris

Death of the Author Nnedi Okorafor

Fagin the Thief Allison Epstein

Remember You Will Die Eden Robins

The Ex-Girlfriend Murder Club

Gloria Chao

Tractor Wars: John Deere, Henry Ford, International Harvester, and the Birth of Modern Agriculture Neil Dahlstrom

Local Author Roundup



Sweet & Bitter Rivals (Saddlehill Academy #1)
Simon & Schuster, 2023 Middle grade contemporary

Abby St. Clair can't wait to start another season with her elite riding team at her boarding school. She has something to prove after literally falling on her face during the biggest competition of the year the previous season. And she could really use a win after her mom left her family, her dad remarried, and Abby's new stepsister, Emery, proved to be a strong rider and stiff competition.

Abby tries to put on blinders and have the perfect meet with her horse, Beau, but she's about to find out the hard way that secrets don't make friends at Saddlehill Academy.

Are you originally from west central Illinois?

I'm not, but my parents grew up in northern Illinois, and I've had family living in Macomb for the past 40-something years. It's such a welcoming community, and I love living here.

Who inspired/encouraged you to write?

Growing up, I was a huge reader. I devoured every single horse book I could get my hands on, from The Saddle Club series to The Black Stallion books. My parents, grandparents, and teachers encouraged my love of reading, and visiting the bookstore was my favorite activity.

Why did you decide to write this book?

I was an equestrian as a kid, but at 14, I had a spinal fusion for severe scoliosis. The recovery period prevented me from riding horses, and all I wanted to do was ride. I thought I would be a professional equestrian, but that was no longer in the cards for me after surgery. So, I needed to put my passion for horses into something else. In college, I decided to go for it and write a horse book for kids/tweens, and that became my debut novel, *Take the Reins*. It was published by Simon & Schuster in 2009, and it was the first in the Canterwood Crest series of 20 books. Recently, I spun that series off into the Saddlehill Academy series and four of those books were published in the past couple of years. They're a love letter to horse-obsessed kids who love a little drama on the side!

Have you written other books?

I have 30 books currently out with Simon & Schuster and Bloomsbury, and an upcoming (secret for now!) title scheduled for 2027. For middle schoolers, I have the Canterwood Crest and Saddlehill Academy series. For young kids, I have a four-book fantasy chapter book series called Unicorn Magic. In the young adult space, I've got a contemporary romance—Wild Hearts—and Life Inside My Mind: 31 Authors Share Their Struggles—an anthology on mental health that I edited. Collectively, 1.5 million copies of my books are in print, and they've been published in multiple languages.

What is the best/hardest part of writing?

The best part for me is getting to entertain people. The highest compliment I can receive is, "I hated reading until I read your books." That means so much to me, and I hope I can help other kids and teens fall in love with reading, too. I'd say the hardest part is the waiting! There's a lot of that in the publishing business, so I love to have as many projects going as possible to keep me busy.

What advice would you give to an aspiring writer?

Read! Read a lot and then read some more. You'll probably learn more from reading than you will from craft books that teach writing. Use social media to find a community of writers who share your same goals and make friends. Treat people well because this business is small.



Jessica Burkhardt

Friends of the Macomb Public Library

c/o Macomb Public Library

235 S. Lafayette

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What's on your nightstand?



North Woods by Daniel Mason

A friend suggested this book as it was their book club pick. It seemed familiar and lo and behold, I had bought it at a Friend's book sale, and it was waiting for me on my nightstand!

Another book on my bedside table is *Heartwood*, by Amity Gage. I reserved this book from the library because the premise appealed to me: A hiker vanishes on the Appalachian Trail and the mysterious circumstances surrounding her disappearance. Cindy Cavett

Adult Services

Sharon Sample, Adult Services

Palace Project eBooks and eAudiobooks app will be available for download December 2nd and collections will also be available at that time. This service replaces Baker & Taylor's Boundless service.

The Winter Reading Program will be held from Monday, January 12 through Friday, February 27, 2026! The theme this year is, "Open a Book, Grow Your Mind."

We are in need of Adult Adopt-A-Shelf folks to help us keep Adult and Young Adult shelves in order as much as possible. Our collections are being utilized more and more each day, which is awesome!

We are so very grateful for our Friends of the Library!

Save the Date!

Saturday, January 17 • 1:00pm-3:00 pm • The Wine Sellers

Friends, Friends, Friends

Stop by to visit, have some fun food, purchase a fine beverage and leave with a "blind date".

Guess you better show up to find out what that is all about!