



Friends of the Macomb Public Library

**Inside**

From the President.....pg 2  
Winter Social and Book Sale .pg 2  
Membership ...pg 3  
Summer Reading .....pg 4  
Adult Services .pg 4

# the Bookmark

follow us on



Friends of the Macomb Public Library



macomblibraryfriends.org

Spring 2026

## Local Author, Tiffany Erikson, gives the Annual Dinner talk

### *Growing up on Paper: How I went from reader to librarian to author*

Tiffany Erikson was a reader from birth, a hobby that only intensified when she started working at a library in high school. Plenty has changed in libraries over the past 20 or so years, including the addition of Tiffany's own book, *The Snack Thief*. Be prepared to hear some wacky stories as Tiffany takes you through her library career and her path to becoming an author.



The evening starts at 5:30pm with a social hour prior to the business meeting scheduled to start at 6pm.

The times are slightly different than previous years due to a conflict in scheduling.

The business meeting will include the election of representatives to fill the two-year terms on the FOMPL Board of Directors which expire in 2026, a report from the FOMPL Board President, and adoption of the 2026-2027 budget. Dinner will be served at 6:15pm with the program following the meal.

### *Annual Dinner Program*

Thursday, April 16, 2026 • Macomb Country Club

- 5:30 Socializing
- 6:00 Business meeting - Treasurer's yearly report and elections
- 6:15 Dinner
- Program to follow

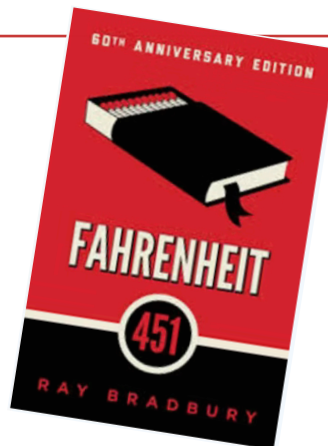
#### MENU

- Caesar Salad
- Choice of Prime Rib or Chicken Picatta Buffet
- Vegetarian Pasta
- Potato, Roll, Dessert
- Water, Coffee, Tea

## one book one community festival 2026

[www.1book1communitymacomb.net/](http://www.1book1communitymacomb.net/)

We'll be exploring the text and themes of Ray Bradbury's well-known 1953 dystopian novel *Fahrenheit 451* with adults this year. It contrasts markedly with the fire themes of the books for kids and 'tweens and pushes the



theme of fire beyond the destruction of homes. Both protagonist and antagonist are firefighters and, rather than save homes, they destroy them, the books they conceal, and the shared history, wisdom, and speculations of generations of writers, scholars, and artists. The images of flames consuming books and homes are dramatic, but the revolution that Clarisse quietly sparks in Guy Montag's mind is revelatory. The quiet removal of books from library shelves today echoes Bradbury's concern.

## from the President

*Cindy Cavett*

Greetings, Friends!

It is that time of year to enjoy a night at the Macomb Country Club for our annual meeting.

Please consider coming out on April 16 to consume a beverage, hear brief details of our last year along with a short meeting, enjoy a nice dinner and listen to an entertaining speaker!

I finished a book last week by Michael Connelly. He has written 42 novels! Connelly writes detective novels and other crime fiction. Fairly easy to read and enjoyable for me. At the end of the book as I was flipping through the Author's Notes there was a page titled RAISING READERS. What caught my eye was this statement in bold: Did you know that reading for enjoyment is the single biggest predictor of a child's future happiness and success? Followed by how reading impacts a child's future and some stats (in the box).

We all know that kids spend a lot of their free time on screens. It can be mesmerizing!

It makes me a bit sad to think about, as I have always enjoyed a good story and usually reading is the best part of my day. We all recognize the value of reading.

It makes me glad that the Friends are doing some outreach in terms of getting books into children's hands through our support of local school programs. Books can enrich a life so much!

I am getting off my high horse-enjoy spring!

Cindy



*Studies show that kids reading for enjoyment in the US is in rapid decline:*

- In 2012, 53% of 9-year-olds read almost every day. Just 10 years later, in 2022, the number has fallen to 39%.
- In 2012, 27% of 15-year-olds read for fun daily. By 2023, that number was just 14%

## Winter Social



*Becky Parker, Book Sale Co-Chair*

Pictured above, Illinois Representative Dan Swanson, was one of many who attended our Friends of the Library Winter Social and selected a "blind date with a book." This free gift to all attending featured a history or non fiction book to kick off the McDonough County bi-centennial. Members attending enjoyed a reprieve from the winter weather with a warm and welcoming opportunity to socialize and share some "book talk."

## Specialty Book Sale



*Becky Parker, Book Sale Co-Chair*

We had a large turnout of happy book lovers for our annual winter specialty book sale featuring fiction and mystery books. In three hours we sold just under \$700 worth of books at bargain prices. It was a win/win situation for those purchasing books, for recycling affordable good reads into the community and for contributing to our financial support of special needs for the Macomb Public Library.

### Page Turners Book Club 2026

4:30-5:30 • Macomb Public Library  
2nd Wednesday of each month

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

April 8  
**One Book One Community**  
**Fahrenheit 451**  
Ray Bradbury

May 13  
**Who is Government? The**  
**Untold Story of Public Service**  
Michael Lewis

June 10  
**The Folly of Realism:**  
**How the West**  
**Deceived Itself About**  
**Russia and Betrayed**  
**Ukraine**  
Alexander Vindman

# 2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Levels

- Individual \$10.00
- Family \$15.00
- Supporting \$25.00
- Sustaining \$50.00
- Patron \$100.00

## I would like to be involved with:

- Fundraising/Donations/Gifts
- Friends' Board
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Book Sales
- Adopt-A-Shelf
- Adopt-A-Classroom
- I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To save time, money and resources, *The Bookmark* is emailed to each member 4 times a year. If you require a hard copy, please INDICATE HERE:

- I would like to receive a newsletter by mail

*Membership runs May 1 to April 30. Make checks payable to: Friends of the Macomb Public Library*

## Make your Annual Dinner Reservation Due by April 9! April 16, 2026 • Macomb Country Club

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prime Rib & Lemon Chicken Picatta Buffet # \_\_\_\_\_

Veggie Pasta # \_\_\_\_\_

Total Dinners \_\_\_\_\_ at \$35 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(membership/reservation)

**WRITE ONE CHECK!  
for the annual dinner and your membership dues!**

Send your check to  
Friends of the Macomb Public Library  
c/o Macomb Public Library  
235 S. Lafayette  
Macomb, IL 61455  
or drop off at the library.

**RESERVATIONS DUE  
BY April 9**

## Friends of the Macomb Public Library

c/o Macomb Public Library

235 S. Lafayette

Macomb, IL 61455

## ***Annual Dinner Reservations are due April 9!***

### **Children's Library is Busy!**

*Aris Moore, Children's Services*

Summer Reading 2026 is coming up fast! This year's theme, "Plant A Seed, Read", will be centered around nature, gardening, and farming and will run from June 1st until July 31st.

Our usual programming will proceed as normal (and possibly even increase for some of our less frequent events) but we will also have plenty of special, one-off events thrown in, such as the return of Little Lunchers.

We've got plenty of other special events coming up in the meantime to keep yourselves busy until Summer. During the month of April, we'll be running our second ever Youth Creative Writing Contest, "The Cosmic Odyssey". This contest will be about Science Fiction, and is open to all our patrons ages 18 and under. April will also feature our special collaborative Storytime with the "One Book, One Community" program on April 15th.

We've also introduced some new annual programming to the department! The Teens Camp; Tweens Creative Writing Club happens every Thursday at 10:30AM, led by Melissa, and again at 3:30PM, led by Aris. Teen Board Game Club, happens the second and fourth Friday of every month, and is geared to our teenage patrons.

### **Winter Reading for Adults**

*Sharon Sample, Adult Services*

This year's theme was Open a Book Grow Your Mind. Forty adults signed up to participate and twenty-three finished, which was approximately fifty-eight percent completion. The Grand Prize was a ceramic Book Lover planter and leather bookmarks set. Also, wipe-off (laminated) book review/book list bookmark (Read Across America bookmarks) with Macomb Public Library District address stamped on it at the top with a colored tassel and a New Copperfield's Book Store gift certificate accompanied. All other adult winter reading program finishers received a wipe-off (laminated) book review/book list bookmark with Macomb Public Library district address stamped on the top with a colored tassel.

We have three Herstory displays, as well as the ongoing Social Justice display. April is National Poetry Month and May is National Mental Health Awareness Month.

We are excitedly preparing for the Summer Reading Program, Plant a Seed Read. Many materials have already been ordered and received. We are all abuzz with as spring has sprung and likely to stay this time(?).