



Friends
of the
Macomb
Public
Library

Inside

From the
President.....pg 2
Adult Reading.pg 2
Book Club.....pg 2
Local
Authorpg 3
Nightstand.....pg4

the Bookmark Better Books Sale

follow us on



Friends of the
Macomb Public Library



macomblibraryfriends.org

Fall 2026



Becky Parker and Elisa Rasmussen, book sale coordinators

Join us Saturday, September 12 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*)

- 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
- 10:00 am - noon, noon - 2:00, 2:00- 4 pm Sell and straighten books.
- 4pm - close boxes, load trucks, and unload at Annex *This is a fair weather sale only and will be canceled if there is rain.*

HD Book Sale a success!

Hot weather did not deter the enthusiasm of book lovers and bargain hunters OR of book sales volunteers! We sold a significant percentage of our books. Our members-only-preview sale seemed busier than ever with a significant increase of memberships and donations during the sale. We sold a significant number of our books and surpassed our goal taking in over \$6,000. This fund-raising activity was very successful, made many customers happy, and recycled good books back into the community.



Heritage Days Book Sale

From the President

Cindy Cavett

Hello, Friends!

Life is busy in retirement! One of my goals is to read more during the day, because when I read at night:

1. I forget what I read
2. I fall asleep after reading about three pages

Much to my dismay if I do sit down to read a few chapters in the daylight it seems a nap is soon to follow. There is evidence that a power nap is productive, but that does not help increase my book time! Oh, well!

Our only grandchild, so far, celebrated his first birthday in early August. We were very excited to host his party at our house with 22 in attendance. I loved the theme the kids chose for Quinn's party- "One for the Books". He loves books and nowadays, it seems, a themed party is the rage. The banners were covers of classic children's books, the food named for different stories, board books were scattered about as décor for tables, etc. It was great fun! Quinn was the star of the show and did a wonderful job with his "smash cake" another popular idea. Well, he enjoyed his first taste of chocolate cake and frosting, and by the time he was done smashing he had a light blue caste over his entire self (glad we kept the bathtub when we remodeled!). And the kicker-he had no interest in bedtime, maybe too much fun and/or sugar! Will he remember this milestone, the first chapter of his life? Thank goodness for pictures!

Mark your calendar for our fair-weather book sale on September 12.

Cindy



Page Turners Book Club

September 9 **Wild Dark Shore**

Charlotte McConaghy

October 14

This is Happiness Niall Williams

November 11

My Friends Frederik Backman

December 9 **HOLIDAY PARTY**

2027 book list discussion



Face-painted cuties at the Better Books sale.

Adult Summer Reading

Sharon Sample, Adult Services

The theme this year was "Plant a Seed, Read". There were 94 registered for the Adult Summer reading Program. 43 participants finished, for a 48% completion rate. Adults are defined as individuals who are 16 years of age and older.

The grand prize was a gardening starter kit: Organic salad seeds pack [grow in 5 days], 120 pot starter trays

(2) with grow lights in air controlled matching lids.

Other prizes included, themed farm-to-table apron, ceramic mugs, vacuum-insulated food Thermos, farm-to-table canvas book tote bags, reusable book tote bags, gardening knee pads, sun hats, kneeling pads, and aprons. These prizes were 100% donated by some people, who were excited about the theme and wanted

to inspire others to get started with growing their own salad greens inside, any time of the year, as well as help others enjoy outdoor gardening more.

The themed prizes were incentives purchased through iRead, and while cost effective, were very good quality. These rewards will inspire/reinforce lifelong learning while reading. Each year, an iRead team has done

continued page 4

Local Author Roundup

Ron Morrow



I was born in Macomb on May 3, 1950. Other than three years at college (Illinois Wesleyan University, 1968-1971) and a brief summer (1972) in Boston, MA, I've lived my entire life in McDonough county—Macomb, Tennessee, Colchester, Bushnell, out in the country in several places, and finally now in Good Hope.

My sister-in-law, Joyce Hempstead (Dorchester, MA) suggested binding the stories into a book after I'd read them to her and my brother Jerry over a period lasting

approximately one year in our bi-weekly FaceTime sessions. She had worked at Roxbury Latin School for Boys in Boston as their graphic designer and publicist for many years, and was familiar with the entire process of putting a book together and publishing it. It was she who encouraged me when I was thinking, "But who the hell would actually read it?". She also did the layout, font choice, cover design, and as an incredible gift, paid for the first 100 books.

I've literally thought about writing this book for decades! Intermittently, I'd think of stories of my youth that might possibly be interesting, but then my confidence would desert me. Many of the stories, I'd reason, just seemed so ORDINARY!

Over ten years ago, I wrote what would eventually become a chapter (Fred's), but after reading it to my brother and SIL at that time, it sat alone for the next eight years, even though they'd coaxed me to continue. Finally, during COVID, I got the inspiration to write another story, and all of a sudden the dam burst and the rest came pouring out. At last, in the groove, I continued writing, and then reading them to my relatives and Therese until Joyce remarked one day, "You know, I think you have enough of your stories to actually publish a book!" Really?! Up to that point, I hadn't even entertained that thought. She, Jerry, and Therese soon convinced me that it would be possible. Then the editing began....

Although I've written more since, no more publishable (in my mind, anyway) books have emerged. My brother, a retired Episcopal priest, requested that I write about my 'faith journey', which I did. I read it in segments to the three of them over another year. It did turn out to be quite long, but I'm pretty sure it'll never see the light of day in published form.

For me, that answer is twofold: the first hard part was just getting up the gumption to WRITE the damned thing! The second was the editing. That text was edited, first by me, then Therese, then by my SIL, then by my brother. Then it was the nit-picky-back-and-forth over a period of three months between us before the proof was published, at last. Then came the final editing.

I'd say if you have an idea, put it down on paper, or capture it digitally, before it escapes you. I've been blessed (cursed) with a pretty good memory for facts, but I turned 76 this year, and I'm well aware of what aging does to even the best memory. I was lucky to have caught the stories on paper before losing them to the sands of time. And, trust your gut! My SIL told me that, as important as the material is, HOW IT'S TOLD—your personal voice—is every bit as important. And, after all was said and done, I actually came to believe her.



Summer Reading

Aris Moore, Adult Services

Summer Reading 2026, "Plant a Seed, Read!" has come and gone. We had two hundred and thirty one people sign up this year, with just over half of them signing up through the online form we tried out this year! If you ask me, that

seems like a successful experiment. We held some amazing programs the likes of which we've never done before, like a hands-on experience with the Western Illinois Museum, and hosting a preview of the Western Illinois University musical "Seussical." It's been a fast-paced couple of months, but now we're ready to slow things down and reset before we can get into our next big season.

Friends of the Macomb Public Library

c/o Macomb Public Library

235 S. Lafayette

Macomb, IL 61455

What's on your nightstand?



Daughter of Egypt

by Marie Benedict

The book follows two women: Lady Evelyn Herbert in the 1920s and the ancient Egyptian pharaoh, Hatshepsut. The book covers both ancient Egyptian history and early days of 1920s archaeology.

Kelly Gradert, Friends Board

Page Turner Book Club

meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month
from

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the
Macomb Public Library
Meeting Room.

The public is invited to attend.

Adult Summer Reading

from page 2

a tremendous job selecting surprisingly good quality products for gifts and incentives at reduced prices, which promotes libraries every time those items are used in the presence of others.

VOLUNTEER!

There is always room for another volunteer at book sales, writing a book review, stocking the Train Station Rack, Adopt-A-Shelf, the flower gardens, and many other activities.

Please check out the website for contact information!

macomblibraryfriends.org