
FRIENDS OF THE BERKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY • FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Berkley Public Library,

Every other year elections are held for officers of the Friends of the Berkley Library and during the July meeting elections were held.

Your officers for the next 2 years will be:

President: Colleen Smith
Vice President: Amanda Rohda
Treasurer: Cath Matthews-Pennanen
Recording Secretary: Sandy Rewalt

We would like to thank the outgoing FBL President, Nicole Smithson. She declined to be nominated for another term and her leadership will be missed. Nicole has left the Friends of the Berkley Library in a

FALL BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Berkley Public Library will be hosting our annual fall book sale on

*Friday, October 14 (4 p.m. to 7 p.m.),
Saturday, October 15 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
and Sunday, October 16 (12 p.m. to 4 p.m.)*

The sale will take place at the Berkley Public Library at 3155 Coolidge Highway in Berkley, 48072

strong fiscally and supportive position to aid the Berkley Public Library. We wish Nicole well in her next endeavors and look forward to her further help and ideas with the FBL mission to support the Berkley Library.

During the July meeting we also discussed the need for a Book Sale Chairman. The Book Sales are our major source of income to financially aid the Berkley Public Library. It was determined that the role of Book Sale Chairman was too large and encompassing for one person and have determined it may be best to split that job into several smaller positions.

The new positions are:

1. Book Sale Set-up and Tear down manager & crew- would handle setting up and tearing down for the book sales and arrange for rental of any tables if

necessary. There are normally only two book sales each year. (May & October)

2. FBL Book Room manager & crew- would handle organization of the room, and sorting and boxing.

3. Volunteer Scheduler - find volunteers to fill slots during the book sales and help find volunteers to man the crews for set-up/tear down and Book Room: **Colleen Smith**

4. PR manager - promote book sales

5. Book Donation manager & crew - find locations and arrange for books to be donated or disposed of after book sales: **Shirley Hansen**

If you would like to consider taking on one of these positions Please e-mail friendsofberkeleylibrary@gmail.com or call me at 248-546-9717.

If you would like to help as a volunteer for the Book Sale Set-up & Tear Down Team / Book Room Team / Book Donation Team which will be managed by Shirley Hanson, please e-mail friendsofberkeleylibrary@gmail.com or call 248-546-9717.

Thank you for being a member of the Friends of the Berkley Public Library. Your support is truly appreciated.

Colleen Smith
Friends of the Berkley Public Library
friendsofberkeleylibrary@gmail.com

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR LIBRARY STAFF AND – NICOLE SMITHSON, by Frances Vigeant



Since 2011 the Friends of Berkley Library have had the honor of having an unusually competent leader and president. Nicole Smithson has many strengths, and one is her ability to make people feel confident in themselves and that they can do whatever job or task that she may ask of them. It is hard to say no to her requests but if you do, Nicole accepts it and moves on without unnecessary emotion. And if you do accept a challenge you know she would help with it, willing as she is to do the most menial as well as the most lofty of tasks. She has even enlisted the help of her family. Nicole's reign as president has been not only productive for Berkley's library but enjoyable for those of us who have worked with her and under her light spirited but strong leadership. Matt Church, Director of BPL comments, "It's really been a pleasure working with Nicole over the last couple of years. Her passion for the Friends and the library is evident by the countless hours she has volunteered to make things great

happen." Former VP and new President Colleen Smith said of Nicole, "As I watched and listened to Nicole preside at her last meeting as FBL President I realized how much I was going to miss her humor and laugh. I want to thank her for her years of service and leadership of the Friends of Berkley Library."

Nicole has lived mostly in Berkley for over 30 years. She attended Berkley schools and started to read at the age of 3. Her parents did read to her, but as the oldest of 6 children she often read to the younger ones. She stopped reading for fun in 4th grade but her interest renewed about 6 years ago when she really started enjoying reading again. When she was in 5th grade she decided she wanted to be a politician, something to which she no longer aspires. However she did study law and became a lawyer. She became a Friend of the Library in 2009, but then left for a year.

Beirut became home for a year when her husband, Bill DeGenaro, a professor at University of Michigan, Dearborn, received a scholarship to study at the University of Beirut. They loved experiencing a new culture. Beirut has a good bus system and they traveled extensively throughout the country. Many Lebanese friends were made, they ate Lebanese food and even learned how to cook it. They took Arabic language classes and really immersed themselves in the culture. They found that one's religion determines the law that binds you for such things as what age you get married and how many wives you may have. Because she did not have papers to work in Beirut, Nicole worked on law related studies at an NGO that she found through the American Embassy. One particularly memorable experience they had was when a Lebanese family

invited them for Christmas dinner. They sat down rather late and there was only water to drink on the table. The host yelled at the servant to get that water out of here.

Though Nicole does not drink alcohol they now had only wine to drink. There is a big demand for good house servants there.

DREAMS OF JOY by Lisa See is Nicole's current read. She likes to read some fiction and also professional development and non fiction audio books. Berkley Public Library was a summer destination when she was in high school. Nicole believes that "the future library will still be a place where people may borrow books but in addition (and Berkley Library already does) offer space for quality programming, including a place where teens may go and have their own special programs. Libraries will continue to be important in the community."

Scrap booking, card making and cross stitching are hobbies that help Nicole relax. With her new job she has little spare time right now. She has taken a job working for a client based credit union and is involved with negotiations in bankruptcy claims. Previously she worked with defendants in criminal law, and so is now enjoying the challenge of learning new aspects of the Law. Nicole is excited about the new FOL Board. Colleen Smith has been VP of the FOL for a long time and will do an excellent job as president. She and the rest of the Board members, old and new, have already proven themselves. Nicole says that Matt Church, Director of Berkley Library has added a lot of vitality. During her tenure as president, Nicole added a FB page "on her own terms," as well as emails to FOL. Shirley Hanson worked hard with others for Little Free Libraries in Berkley. And a FOL calendar keeps everyone on track.

As she steps down from her role as President of the Friends of Berkley Public Library, Nicole Smithson sends good luck wishes to the new Board; she knows they will do a great job.

MESSAGE FROM OUR LIBRARY DIRECTOR

It's been a busy couple of months at the library! We said farewell to several employees: Mary-Catherine, Maureen, Annette, Molly, Suzanne, Taffy, and Sulie. We're grateful to the service they've provided the Library and City over the years. We also welcomed aboard: Lauren, Kathryn, Rebecca, and Emily. Stop in and say hello!

Don't forget, we've got new hours at the library! The year round hours are Monday through Thursday (10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.), Friday (10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.), and Saturday (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). You have an extra evening to visit the library and Saturdays year round!

We're happy to announce that our new fiction titles now check out for three weeks. This longer period of time will give you more time to enjoy our new fiction titles!

The library now accepts credit and debit cards as a form of payment at the Circulation Desk. Visa, Mastercard, and Discover are accepted. A 5% service fee is added to card transactions to cover the cost of providing the service.

Many thanks to the Friends for your continued support!
Matt Church
Library Director

New Baby Kits at Berkley Public Library

If you live in Berkley and have had a new baby since January 2016, we'd like to provide a new baby kit to you and your new baby! Stop by the library to pick up your free congratulations pack.

We wanted to encourage shopping local so the kit includes a sippy cup from Our Greentopia and a board book from Book Beat!

If you know someone who has had a baby or is expecting one, please tell them about this opportunity.

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MEET REBECCA STOUT, NEW CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

Hello, Berkley!

My name is Rebecca Stout and I am excited to be the new children's librarian here at Berkley Public Library! I recently graduated from Wayne State University with a master's degree in Library and Information Science, focusing on public library services to children and young adults. I love children's literature, and I would be delighted to help you find books you will love too right here at your own public library.

This year's Summer Reading Program was a huge success! Many thanks to the Friends of the Berkley Public Library for generously sponsoring the program. The performers we were able to bring in with their help were well received, and the prizes they provided, including two Kindles, one for the children and one for teens, kept kids excited about reading and motivated

them to read at least a little every single day during the summer. 340 kids signed up for the Summer Reading Program this summer, and they combined to read an incredible 9,320 days from June 20 to August 6. Thanks again to the Friends of the Library and Vibe Credit Union for their support, as well as thanks to the local businesses that donated prizes: Clark's Ice Cream, Hungry Howie's, Edible Arrangements, and The Doll Hospital and Toy Soldier Shop. The reading program wouldn't have been the same without their help!

Summer reading might be over, but there's still plenty to get excited about here at Berkley this fall. Storytimes will be starting again the second full week of September, and registration is no longer required. Just come and enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, and crafts! Lapsit storytime for 6-18 months and a caregiver will be Mondays at 10:30 a.m., Preschool storytime for 3-6 year olds without an adult will be Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., and Parent-Toddler storytime for 18 months-3 year olds with a caregiver will be Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Storytimes will be offered every week until mid-November.

Can't come to storytime? There are also activities for the whole family! Saturday, September 17, we'll be celebrating **Batman Day**, Monday, September 26, we're kicking off **Tale on the Trail** at the Tot Lot, and Tuesday, September 27, we'll be **crafting fairies and fairy doors**. In October, we'll have an all-ages showing of the original **Ghostbusters** movie on Saturday the 1st, a **family game night** on Tuesday the 4th, a **fall leaves candle holder craft** Wednesday the 19th, and a **Halloween party** Saturday the 29th. You can register for all these programs at the children's desk, by phone, or through our website, <http://www.berkley.lib.mi.us/>

Teens, starting in September, be sure to check out the board in the Young Adult Room. Every month there will be something new posted there with the opportunity for you to contribute or participate in some way. In September, let us know the coolest Pokémon you caught at the library!

I look forward to serving you and your families through the library!

Rebecca Stout
Children's Librarian

Here's information on the city-wide Fairy Doors of Berkley project being coordinated by the Berkley Chamber: <http://www.berkleychamber.com/fairy-doors-of-berkley/>

The Library is participating in this project. Come to the Library and check out the Fairy Door!



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