

# FRIENDS OF THE MENOMINEE COUNTY LIBRARY

Winter 2015

## Pajama Story Time

This year's Pajama Story Time will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at 6:30 PM. Stephenson's National Honor Society students will read stories to students in a round-robin event that proves to be a delightful celebration of literacy. We welcome a return visit from the Honor Society students!

**Come to the Pajama Party at  
Menominee County Library.  
March 10, 2015, 6:30-7:30 PM  
Hear stories read by  
National Honor Society members.  
Wear your pj's and bring your  
favorite stuffed animal to show!  
Snacks to follow.**



Last year's Pajama Story Time and the Halloween Story Time were both successful, thanks to Stephenson National Honor Society students, the library staff, and Friends of the Library who attended to help. Many children gathered to listen to the N.H.S. students read stories, enjoy donuts and juice, and carry good memories home. What a wonderful time we had!

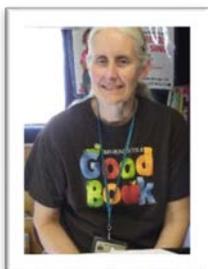
We hope to see even more students this year—and even more Friends out to help. Slip on your pajamas, robe, or any comfortable clothing and join us for story time.

## Staff Appreciation Reception

Friends of Menominee County Library will hold a staff appreciation reception on Thursday, April 23, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Stephenson and 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Hermansville. Visitors are encouraged to come to the library to express their thanks to our wonderful library staff members. Punch and snacks will be available.



*Pat Cheski  
Library Director*



*Ann Best  
Bookmobile Assistant*



*Carolyn Laurin  
Cataloger/  
Technical Services*



*Sally Harris  
Outreach Coordinator*



*Linda Cooley  
Hermansville*

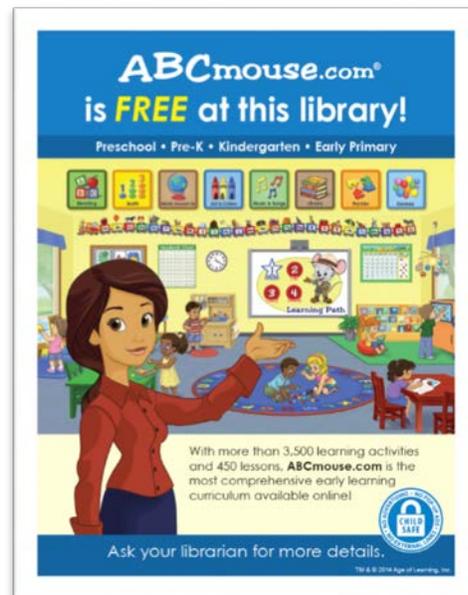


*Mike Zemba  
Custodian*

## Early Learning Site: Abcmouse.com

Abcmouse.com, a free early learning web site for children ages 2-7, is now available at Menominee County Library. The site has six academic levels, more than 450 lessons, and over 5000 individual learning activities.

Website choice areas include Reading, Books, Art, Songs, Puzzles, Games, Printables, Math, World Around Us, Music and Songs, and Art and Colors. Parents may use a lesson builder feature, progress tracking, and a tickets and rewards system. A customizable avatar, interactive zoo and farm, an aquarium, and a record-a-book feature are also available.



## Friends' Funds

The Friends of Menominee County Library tend to be quiet folk who don't like to do much back patting, but sometimes the result is that people don't know what we do. Since our mission is to support the library, all of our funds go to library-related projects. All of our events are public, and all of our purchases focus on the library in some way.

The Friends' fiscal year begins in May, usually coming at the same time as the election of officers. In the fiscal years 2013-14, and so far in 2014-15, the Friends have funded a number of useful purchases for the library. Each year, for example, the Friends contribute \$500 for DVDs or downloadable books. One of the areas in which Friends' funds are most apparent is technology. We have spent over \$5,000 on computers, software, and printers since the beginning of the fiscal year 2013-14. Operational expenses such as paper, stamps, and envelopes have totaled just a bit over \$800 during that same time.

Another area of great importance to all Friends is the promotion of library-related activities. Friends' funds have, in the time period mentioned above, totaled over \$2,900 devoted to reading and library-related activities at the library such as summer reading, reading promotions, story times, public receptions, and other Friends' activities. Equipment purchases such as CD cabinets and a refrigerator totaled over \$1,500.

If you have enjoyed the garden and its seasonal displays, much of that pleasure derives from Friends of the Library funds and work hours (hours not totaled, but considerable). Friends' funds paid for re-landscaping the front of the library and establishment of the attractive retaining walls for the gardens. In the fiscal years 2013-14 and 2014-15 garden expenditures have totaled over \$2,900.



As we move into our more active time of year, anticipating our plant sale, the annual raffle, and the book sale, we can look with pride as we walk around in the library and think of the additions our volunteer hours have brought to Menominee County Library.

# Upcoming Events

Now that we've reflected on where the last few years have taken us in our donation capability, it seems to be a good time to pause to think of what's on our horizon. With the advent of spring, we enter our busiest season as members of the Friends of the Library organization.

Our annual Pajama Story Time is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 7:30. Join the fun as Stephenson High School National Honor Society students read to eager groups of children. Snacks and juice will follow. We can always use more help registering families as they arrive, supervising the active young people, setting out the food, and cleaning up.

On April 23 we will host a staff appreciation at the library from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you are free during that time, please stop in and convey your good wishes to our library staff members. Their assistance, their good humor, their friendly greetings spark our library visits with the magical addition of good will.

Our annual spring plant sale is always on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. This has been growing each year into a very popular event. We invite you to think of gardening items you might donate to the sale—for example, that spare trowel that just doesn't fit your hand or the extra tomato cages that never seem to make their way to the garden before the tomatoes threaten to take over the planet. Your stray garden ornaments, tools, watering cans, etc., are often just the item someone else might need.



Also, if you have the room and the inclination, consider planting a few vegetable or flower seeds to nurture into plants that someone else might appreciate. Your donations are welcome!



The summer is never complete without our annual book sale. You may have books, DVDs, magazines, even old yearbooks, etc., that others would enjoy. Consider browsing through your shelves to weed out the items you probably liked but will most likely not read again. The book sale will thrive as a result of your donations—and your purchases—before you manage to make your way out of the door!

We are in the early stages of raffle preparation, working on the quilt as one of the prizes, buying the license, and thinking of what to put on the tickets. Save a few spare dollars for tickets yourself and begin thinking of which of your friends to approach to sell your tickets.

## Membership—New or Renewal

Use this short membership form, the renewal form you received in the mail, or any paper with your name and the type of membership you'd like. Mail it to the library or drop it off whenever you're at the library. *Friends of the Menominee County Library is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Your donation may be tax deductible.*

- Individual or Family     \$10
- Business                     \$50
- Individual Life             \$100



Menominee County Library  
P.O. Box 128  
S319 Railroad Street  
Stephenson, MI 49887

**I want to be a Friend of Menominee County Library.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Receiving the newsletter by e-mail is free.)

**Circle one:**     **Individual or Family: \$10**     **Business: \$50**     **Individual Life: \$100**

# Friendly Focus: Joan Brown

Our friendly focus turns to our dear president, Joan Brown, for this issue. Many of us know Joan well from her active role in the Friends organization or perhaps from book club or her involvement in church activities. What we might not be aware of, though, are the events that brought this delightful lady to us at this stage of her life.



Joan graduated from Stephenson High School and attended Northern Michigan University and Central Michigan University. She is retired from the Marinette School District after 24 years as a library assistant in the elementary schools. She also worked as a floral designer a number of years. The library, the Friends group, and book club all have deeply appreciated the artistic skills she shares with us in our projects.

She loves doing crafts, especially sewing and quilting, and enjoys trying new craft projects. She also volunteers at her church doing floral decorations and seasonal banners, among other activities. Joan loves reading and enjoys a good mystery, and her Kindle goes with her at all times.

Joan’s role as president of the Friends group keeps her actively involved in working on all the activities. She says she especially enjoys the great group that are Friends members and how well they work together.

Joan and her husband, Don, live in Greenwoods on Co Rd 338, one half mile from the farm she was raised on. They moved back to the area after 15 years of being away. They have three children: Caryn and family of Portland, OR; Liane and family of Beloit, WI; and Christopher of Denver, CO. She has lived in Lower Michigan, Wisconsin, and now back in the U.P., all related to her husband’s job. She says their return was especially nice for their children, as they loved being around their grandparents and being able to have their horse, Star.

She is a past member of the Menominee County Library Board and currently represents the M.C. Library on the Superiorland Library Cooperative Board, which she has done for over 20 years. The Coop administers funds from the state and pass-through money from the library members. It covers all of the Upper Peninsula and some northern Michigan counties.

Joan thinks our county library is a wonderful place and enjoys supporting it any way she can by helping raise funds to support programs, volunteering at events, and working in the new landscaped area. She views it as “a wonderful place with great people.” The Friends are certainly glad to have her as one of those great people supporting the library!



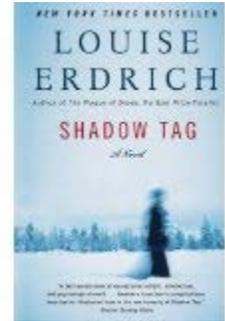
# Winter Reading

Ruth Kranberg

*“Irene was an undisciplined reader and kept a mess of half-read books beside her bed, as well as on the coffee tables and in the bathroom. Gil’s reading was more careful. If he began a book, he’d finish it. Gil never laid a book on the floor. He always put a magazine, some paper, even a kitchen towel underneath so as not to scratch the cover. Therefore, the talus slopes of books on Irene’s side of the bed offended him.”*

– Louise Erdrich, *Shadow Tag*

A February gift came in finding Louise Erdrich’s recent novel waiting for me on the NEW FICTION shelf at the library. As with those of Ruth Rendell, Elizabeth George, Anita Shreve, Chris Bohjolian, Elizabeth Berg, Isabel Allende, Anne Tyler, and Ian McEwen I await the next volume to come from Louise Erdrich’s publisher. These writers represent an addition to their themes, plots, and characters only satisfied by reading the latest book, although finding a previously published work can suffice until the next one becomes available.

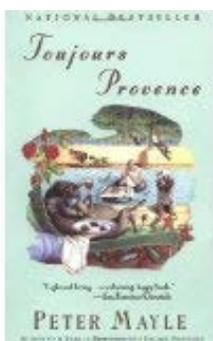
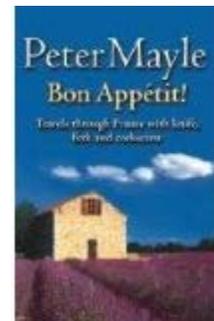


Louise Erdrich brings her special talents to current fiction as she weaves in the culture of contemporary Native Americans, giving the reader an insight into living with issues tribal members and relatives who do not qualify as tribal members encounter. The characters in *Shadow Tag* live in the Minneapolis area, making it easy to relate to the upper Midwest area.

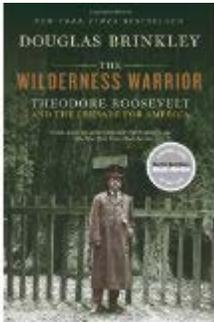
Finding good books to read satisfies at any time of year, but in February when the seasonal doldrums have crept into every corner of one’s being, turning the pages of an engrossing story brings special joy. While reading about Irene’s literary habits, I felt I had found a kindred soul, and it was very interesting to find a bit of philosophy regarding book choices. Actually, Erdrich’s character Gil would be very uncomfortable in my house, since in addition to organized books on neat shelves, the piles of books sometimes make less stable formations than those on his wife’s side of the bed. I cannot agree with Gil regarding finishing every book because it seems a waste of time to plow through something if one’s interest has not been piqued by the second or third chapter. If I come across a book that fails to seem worthwhile, I read the last chapter, and if it proves interesting, I read the book backwards one chapter at a time until I feel committed enough to go back to where I quit. This plan becomes the luxury of those beyond the required reading of student days.

It is inspiring to be carried away with an exciting novel, but nonfiction also has a place in the stacks of books in progress. Irene and I share a trait in wanting to be reading more than one book at a time. One never knows when one will arrive too early for an

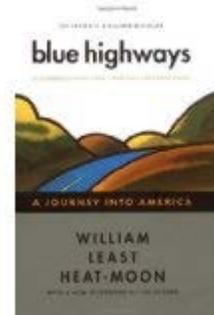
appointment or need to wait for someone in the car, so I keep a book there to read when time allows. Currently, it is a paperback of *Bon Appetit* by Peter Mayle, the British expatriate who writes about his experiences in the south of France. Killing time imagining the tasty beautiful food in small French town festivals makes time fly. The beauty of nonfiction is that one can often put it down and come back whenever time and mood dictate.



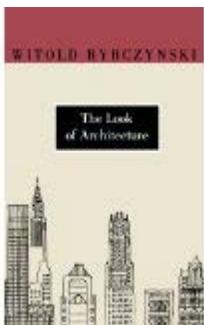
One winter a particularly weighty volume kept my company for nearly two months. The text was so detailed and documented and the subject himself so active that after reading only a few pages one became exhausted from just considering the footsteps. The historian, Douglas Brinkley, has written *Wilderness Warrior*, a long biography of Theodore Roosevelt, emphasizing his interest in studying natural things and his efforts to protect birds, trees, animals, and vast areas of forests and special places while at the same time being a hunter and specimen collector. Dozens of people who were influential throughout his years come to life, and the reader is given a look at the country from the east to the west in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Quoted material as well as Brinkley's writing often made this reader stop and reread passages because of the beauty of the words and phrases.



Another book deep in a stack on a table shelf calls for attention. Readers of William Least-Heat Moon's *Blue Highways* have formed a kind of unorganized cult following and his new words are awaited. His latest review of travels he named *Quoz*. The title alone sounds intriguing. Then there are the books that were too good to pass up at used book sales in April and August that rest on other surfaces.



Erdrich's reference to an architectural term is connected to a short stack of books on a bed headboard shelf. Several of Witold Rybczynski's small volumes live there offering a perfect ten- or fifteen-minute survey of his architectural commentaries before sleep. These slender books are just the right size for tucking in a bag when traveling and reading *The Look of Architecture* once generated an interesting conversation with a fellow traveler somewhere high over Tennessee.



Sometimes these books in the teetering piles tend to become part of the woodwork and usually are secondary in attention to the new works found in the library. Of course, there is the added incentive to read them promptly in order to get the borrowed books back by the due date. This will entail a visit to the library and the inevitable invisible pull of the titles on the new additions shelves. Perhaps Isabel Allende's new work will be there next time, and here in Michigan the end of winter can be long and cold.



# NEW ADDITIONS



## Adult Fiction

- Cold Cold Heart* ----- Tami Hoag (Also Audio CD)
- Crash & Burn* ----- Lisa Gardner
- First Frost* ----- Sarah Addison Allen
- Obsession in Death*----- J.D. Robb (Also Audio CD)
- Revival* ----- Stephen King (Also Audio CD)
- The Escape* ----- David Baldacci (Also Audio CD)
- The Nightingale*----- Kristin Hannah (Also Audio CD)
- The Third Target* ----- Joel C. Rosenberg

## Adult Large-Print Fiction

- A Map of Betrayal* ----- Ha Jin
- Die Again* ----- Tess Gerritsen
- Sundance*----- David Fuller

## Adult Non-Fiction

- Chopper Warriors* ----- William E. Peterson
- The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine*----- Hector Tobar
- Furniture Bible* ----- Christophe Pourny
- Being Mortal* ----- Atul Gawande
- America's Bitter Pill* ----- Steven Brill



## Adult Large-Print Non-Fiction

- Then Came Life* ----- Geralyn Lucas
- The Human Age*----- Diane Ackerman
- Wheat Belly Total Health* ----- William Davis

## Juvenile Easy

- First peas to the Table* ----- Susan Grigsby
- The Apple Orchard Riddle* ----- Margaret McNamara

## Juvenile Fiction

- The Terrible Two* ----- Mac Barnett
- Shouldn't You Be in School* --- Lemony Snickett

## Juvenile Non-Fiction

- Writer to Writer*----- Gail C. Levine
- Creature Features* ----- Steve Jenkins
- Enchantments of the World*

## 2015 Michigan Notable Choices—Both Fiction and Non-fiction

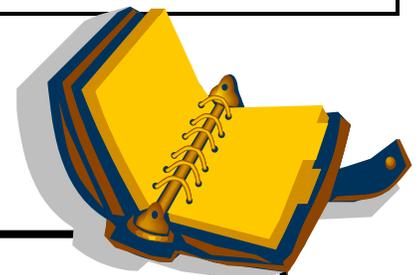


# CALENDAR

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Thursday	Feb. 26, 2015	1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Turning Leaves Book Club ( <i>Phantom of the Opera</i> , Gaston Leroux)	Hayward Room
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 10, 2015</b>	<b>6:30 PM-7:30 PM</b>	<b>Pajama Story Time</b>	<b>Menominee County Library</b>
Thursday	March 26, 2015	1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Turning Leaves Book Club ( <i>Glass Lake</i> , Maeve Binchy)	Hayward Room
<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 3, 2015</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Menominee County Library is closed for Good Friday.</b>	
Thursday	April 23, 2015	1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Turning Leaves Book Club ( <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> , Andrew Doerr)	Hayward Room
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 23, 2015</b>	<b>1:00 PM-3:00 PM</b>	<b>Staff Appreciation Reception</b>	<b>Menominee County Library</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 23, 2015</b>	<b>11:00 AM-1:00 PM</b>	<b>Staff Appreciation Reception</b>	<b>Hermansville Branch</b>
Monday	May 25, 2014	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Menominee County Library is closed for Memorial Day.</b>	
Thursday	May 28, 2015	1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Turning Leaves Book Club ( <i>The Giver</i> , Lois Lowry)	Hayward Room
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 23, 2015</b>	<b>8:00 AM-1:00 PM</b>	<b>Friends of the Library Plant Sale</b>	<b>Library Lawn</b>
Thursday	June 25, 2015	1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Turning Leaves Book Club ( <i>Freakonomics</i> , Steven Levitt)	To be determined.
Thursday	July 23, 2015	1:00 PM-3:00 PM	Turning Leaves Book Club ( <i>The Kitchen House</i> , Kathleen Grissom)	To be determined.

**The Writers' Group is taking a break for the cold weather but will schedule sessions again in the spring. Check with the library if you are interested in attending.**

- The Hayward Room is located in the Menominee County Library \*(MCL).
- The Friends of the Library, the Turning Leaves Book Club, and the Writers' Group all welcome new members.



## LOCATION

### Where to Find Us:

**Menominee County  
Library**  
P.O. Box 128  
S319 Railroad Street  
Stephenson, MI 49887

**Phone**  
906-753-6923  
800-559-8194

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**Website**  
[www.uproc.lib.mi.us/Menominee](http://www.uproc.lib.mi.us/Menominee)

