

Friendly Banter

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*Social Networking
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*Membership &
Communication*

Open
Programs

Bill Harmer
Library Liaison

The Friends of the Chelsea District Library meet the first Saturday of each month at 10:15 a.m. Join us at the Women's Club table on the 2nd level of the Library.

Visit us at:
Chelsea.lib.mi.us/friends.htm

Used Book Sale Finds New Home

Sharon Pignanelli, past Friends president and book sale coordinator, is pleased to share that the book sale committee recently approved the move of the Used Book Sale from the McKune room to the library basement. Friendly Banter (FB) interviewed Sharon about the change.

FB—What was the motivation behind the move?

SP "We have known for some time that using McKune for the book sale was not a sustainable model. It simply requires too much physical effort for set up and clean up. Additionally, while it was initially adequate, the size of the room cannot accommodate the larger number of donations we are currently receiving so many items are not displayed."

FB - What do you see as the benefits of the move?

"I believe it is a "win-win-win" all the way around.

Since there will be a limited amount of physical work required on behalf of the Friends and volunteers to set up and clean up each time, it should be easier to recruit the necessary help for each sale.

Since we will be able to display more of the inventory, this will hopefully lead to increased sales which will directly benefit the library itself.

And there are benefits for the book sale patrons also. More space to move around in should make it feel less crowded and enable patrons to more easily find what they are looking for."

FB—How will the public access the basement?

"Since the elevator holds a limited number of people, book sale patrons will be directed to use the north stairwell at the end of the children's section to access the basement. This should enable the 20-30 indi-

viduals that are "queued" up at the start of each sale to move quickly to the sale area in the basement. Of course, any individual who cannot manage the stairs is welcome to take the elevator. Once the purchases have been made, patrons will be directed to take the elevator back up to the lobby level. Help moving large quantities of items out to vehicles will be available as usual."

FB—Final thoughts?

"Just that I am really excited about the potential that this move represents. It should be well worth the initial effort it will take to reorganize the basement. We will have floor maps and new signage to help patrons get used to the new arrangement of categories. And, we will still have the Friends preview on Friday night before the book sale from 4:30-5:30 PM as usual."

The May 14th book sale will take place in the basement.

Volunteers Prepare Basement for Book Sale

Thanks to the efforts of loyal volunteers who overhauled the library basement. Friends President, Cynthia Silveri, said, "A big thank you to members Thomas & Claudette Snyder, who built new railings and installed some partitions, as well, Kerry Ballard who gathered materials and worked with Bill Harmer to hang "curtains" at various

areas in the basement. Thank you so much to these dedicated volunteers who worked along side me: Nancy Neff, Jan & Marshall Carr, Elsie Swanberg, Diane Tesin, Sandra Shapiro, Avalina & Don Bui-kema, Laura Goderis, Linda & Kerry Ballard, Bill Harmer, Jane Wilhelm, Mary Budzinski, Pat Crean & Sharon Pignanelli."



Looking for night owls willing to work 6-10 p.m. and 10 p.m.-2 a.m. shifts twice per year representing the Friends at Charity Poker Nights. Contact Cynthia Silveri at cynthia@silveri.com or Bill Harmer at bharmer@chelseadistrictlibrary.org.

May Book Sale

Saturday

May 14, 2011

10:00–3:00

Basement

Chelsea District
Library



Book Sale Volunteer,
Bill Coelius



**Become our Friend
on Facebook!
Search for “Friends
of Chelsea District
Library”,
then click “Like”!**

Kim Verardi Named “Friend of the Year”

At the April 16th Open House, Friends President, Cynthia Silveri, announced Kim Verardi as the recipient of the 2011 Friend of the Year Award.

According to Silveri, “As treasurer, Kim performs perhaps the most important function of our organization—keeping our financial house in order, and she does an outstanding job of it. In addition, she’s been highly committed to the Friends these



Verardi, left, accepts the award as Silveri relates her service for the Friends of Chelsea District Library

past three years, not missing a single book sale (where she is

the cashier) or board meeting to my recollection.”

“Being a part of the Friends group is a blessing. To have the opportunity to utilize my talents and then to be recognized for those talents is very humbling”, says Verardi.

Kim lives in Chelsea with her husband Tony and their two cats, Pooh Bear and PJ.

Volunteer Spotlight on Bill Coelius *By Angela Berent*

Listening to Bill Coelius talk about his favorite book of all time, *The Princess Bride*, is quite a treat. The details. The wonder. The conflict of good and evil. It's no surprise that this storyteller and avid reader donates his time to the Friends book sale.

First introduced to the book sale by his wife, Pat, Bill is a member of the set-up team as well as a helper during the sales. Bill credits Sharon Pignanelli with creating an organized environment, which makes him willing to help on Friday nights and Saturday sale days. "Sharon's feel for organization has enabled it to be more than a typical book sale," he says. Further, he appreciates her "determination to make it a success." There is a tremendous amount of work in preparing a sale. "Books aren't light," he chuckles.

Bill oversees the media section including videos, DVDs, CDs, vintage records, computer games and audiobooks. “The library is exceptional in the quality of donations”, he explains. “The selection matches a variety of interests. Grandparents might visit for the purpose of expanding their Disney collection (Bill points out that, while the Disney company rotates its availability on a 7-year basis, the sale has many of its

titles most of the time). Teenagers descend upon his area to gobble up the latest technology. And, whether a fiction or non-fiction reader, anyone would appreciate the extensive offerings of the audiobook selection - noteworthy is the fact that audiobooks range from \$40-\$70 each, yet most are just \$1 at the Friends sale.

As community members renovate their home libraries and donate books and other media, Bill likes to see the connection between the sale and the community. People donate their items, Friends volunteers organize and conduct the sale, local visitors, as well as, out-of-towners buy at the sale, and the profits are put right back into the library for the benefit of our community.

For forty years, Bill taught at Chelsea High School. He taught speech, drama, debate and radio/television broadcasting. He estimates that he taught over 10,000 students. Although he mainly taught 10th, 11th, and 12th graders, he did have a freshman English class one year. In the course of that year, he began reading for the last ten minutes of class. As the year came to a close, it was evident that he would not finish reading the book aloud by the last bell on the last day. To his surprise,

over thirty students and their friends showed up after that last bell on the last day to hear the conclusion of *The Princess Bride*. Only someone truly passionate about reading could entice high schoolers on the last day to stay to learn the ending of a story. As a volunteer, Bill sees his former students and their families. He explains that that is one of the benefits he receives from participating in the sales.

Sharing his love of reading are Bill's two sons, Bill and Robert. A very proud father, Bill recalls reading to and sometimes devising his own creative story for his sons when they were little. Today, Bill is an actor in Los Angeles and Robert has a video production business in Pinckney.

As a retiree, Bill operates his own business, Hometown Media, which is broadcasting his DVDs at fourteen Chelsea locations. The DVDs provide notifications such as library events and community information. Always community-minded, Bill has found a way to keep up his love of media in his own business and at the library.

Bill feels that "all Chelsea residents can be so proud" of our library. How fortunate we are Bill is willing to share his time and expertise.