

FOL January 2020 Newsletter “Between Friends”

2019.. a brief reflection. FOL provided about \$9,000 in financial support to the library purchasing items and supporting programs from the annual Wish List. We hosted 3 big book sales and began using the Susie Stafford room as a second location and for all Saturday sales. We began to dream of opening a used bookstore. Carol Volkers was named our meeting Welcome Ambassador. In July, an FOL-sponsored book club, Chapter Chat, was launched. Open to the public the second Thursday of the month from 1-3 pm, it has been a tremendous success from day one. Resigning their volunteer duties, we sincerely thank and appreciate the loyalty and creativity of Hospitality co-chairs, Bonnie Kellem and Lorie Krygier and their team and also Clete Leverett who served as Vice President and Board member.

2020...Dream team! At the January 6 FOL meeting, Jamie Phillips was nominated and accepted the position as Treasurer and Sue Williamson was nominated and accepted the position of Vice President. Both automatically become Board members with Carol Noll, Linda Campbell, Norma Stiegel, Bree Robinson, Merri Bottorff, and Robin Fosnaugh, non-voting Moderator/Liaison. Board meetings will now take place at 12:30 on meeting days. A requested event-only volunteer Hospitality committee offering their services were Shelly Heckert, Sue Williamson, and Carol Volkers. Others are welcome to join this informal group and help with planning. Three events have currently been identified. The April Volunteer Luncheon, Library Worker's Day April 21st during National Library Week, and National Friends of the Library Week, October 18-24.

Dreams do come true! **STORY EMPORIUM** is the name selected for our bookstore. With Administrative approval for projects which in any way change the inside of the room or hallway and Board approval for FOL expenditures, Lake City Awning erected a colorful awning over the doorway of the Susie Stafford room on December 27. Ann Werk's husband, Allen, who specializes in woodworking as a hobby, is making a hinged sign which will be installed on the right side of the doorway. Professional painting in the room will done in February by Jeff France. Selected paint colors were approved Monday, January 13. Bree Robinson has laboriously worked on a Policy and Procedure Manual and will be hosting mandatory orientation sessions for volunteers working in the bookstore, even as a substitute. The first one is Monday, February 3rd, directly following the FOL meeting. The second opportunity is at 11:30 before Chapter Chat Thursday, February 13th. An evening orientation will also be scheduled. The open dates for the bookstore have been established for the year, bookmarks and Educator cards are ready, and marketing plan details are in progress. All top book shelves have been emptied in preparation for painting, donations and library-weeded material continues to come in unabated, several carts a day! The room is often a bit of organized chaos, yet visitors often stop by wanting a book and wondering when it will be open.

The **Mission of Story Emporium**. **Story Emporium** will be a successful alternative to multiple large book sales and mini sales. It will provide an organized array of quality books of all genres, music CDs, DVDs, and other materials at affordable prices. FOL will raise public awareness of a clean, friendly, engaging environment that is welcoming and encourages browsing, reading, gathering and sharing while selecting favorite items for purchase. **Story Emporium** officially opens at 10 am Tuesday, March 3rd with a celebration. Watch for details.