



LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday—Thursday
10 a.m.—6:30 p.m.

Friday

10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Saturday

10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Sunday—Monday

CLOSED

Ph: 989.855.3414

Please Join Us!

- Friends of the Library meet the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the library.
- Our writing group, the Word Gatherers, meets every Thursday from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.
- The Bridge Street Bookies meets the fourth Monday of every month at 10:30 a.m. for a book discussion.

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Friends of the Library Found “Guilty”

By Judy Rich



Earlier today, a decision was handed down against the Lyons Town-

ship District Library’s Friends group. A spokesperson read the verdict: “We find the Friends of the Library guilty on all counts of aiding and abetting the library in its endeavors to better serve their community.”

Have you heard of the Friends of the Library? Have you ever wondered what their purpose is? What they do? What they have accomplished? Or how you could help? This is an article to answer those questions.

The Friends is a group of people who utilize the li-

brary and appreciate its importance in our community. They meet once a month to share ideas, and to plan and put on fundraising activities.

The purpose of these fundraisers is to support the library with needed purchases not included in the library’s budget. This is extremely important now, with the state cutting their funds to libraries. The aim of the Friends of the Library is to assist the library in better serving its patrons.

Through the years, the Friends have purchased several items for the library such as: the fax machine, binding machine, telephones, water cooler, canopy, folding tables and some of the shelving for the Michigan section. For the

Children’s section, they have purchased the oak table, magazine holder and easel with felt board and dry erase board. These are just a few of the items that the Friends have purchased, and there are always more needs.

Now the Friends are in need. Our numbers are few; and we ask that, if you can, you extend a helping hand. We would love to see a renewed interest in our group. Please join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the library board room.

If you cannot join us at this time, please extend a hand through sharing your ideas and contributing to or supporting our fundraisers.

Hope to see you at our next meeting on August 4th.

**A word is dead
When it is said,
Some say.**

**I say it just
Begins to live
That day.**



— Emily Dickinson, poet (1830-1886)

Come Write With Us Thursday Mornings!

“A good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them.”

— *Lemony Snicket*

The Word Gatherers of Mid-Michigan, a weekly writing group at the Lyons Library, has met since October 2008.

We come together on Thursday mornings to write and then share what we’ve written. No experience necessary! Everyone has a story to tell.

The group begins at 9:00 a.m. with a poetry prompt (something to jumpstart the creative juices), and then continues with other prompts that help us practice both fiction and non-fiction. We end at 12 noon.

The group is open and anyone can join us — whether you come weekly

or just drop in when you can. For more information, contact Karen Bota at kdbota@aol.com or Vicki Reinhardt at the library, 989.855.3414.

Here’s what some of our members have to say about the writing group:

“I actually write rather than just let scenarios and conversations float around in my head. I’m also more aware of snippets of conversation I hear or mannerisms to use in my writing. I use more description. I have submitted a couple of pieces and plan to submit more. I am working on a couple of novels and a couple of longer short stories.

“How has my life

changed? I have several new friends.” — *Loretta Rolison*

“The Word Gatherers have influenced my writing in many ways; the most significant being that they have encouraged me to think outside the box ... I love creating the unusual perspective and being amazed and intrigued by others’ perspectives.”

— *Judy Rich*

“I think my writing has improved tremendously in the past year, and my confidence in myself as a writer, poet, songster, and editor has risen as well — especially as an editor of my own writings.”

The Old Barn by Judi Vander Veen

I must have driven past it
hundreds of times,
Since it’s just a bit down
from my place.
It’s just an old barn, and it’s
stood there alone,
With some faded letters on
its face.

But this day it seemed to
call out to me, “Stop!
“I’ve a story to tell, if you’ll
listen.
“I once was brand new,
with a family, too,
And a paint job that truly
did glisten!”

So I pulled my car off on
what seemed to be tracks
of vehicles long since
turned to rust;
I shut off the motor, got out
of the seat,

And followed faint trails in
the dust.
They ended, it seemed, at
what must have been,
once,
a foundation of original
stone.
’Twas the only evidence
that now remained
Of a young family’s newly
built home.

I pictured them there, a
young man and his bride,
Their hearts filled with love
and with dreams,
As they toiled together, built
house and built barn,
Added family, laughter and
schemes.

The barn housed their liveli-
hood within its walls,

Withstanding the season’s
extremes,
Providing the family much
of its needs
As they grew up and grew
old ’neath its beams.

The house no longer stands
sturdy and strong,
Its walls are but memories
and air.
But the barn soldiers on,
standing silvery gray,
Waiting patiently for some-
one who’ll care.

Care enough to see beauty
in still stalwart walls
And loveliness in silvery
gray,
And see it as useful as it
might be again,
And fill it with purpose once
more.



An Interview with Author Sue Harrison

by Leslie Canterbury

I was privileged to have e-mailed the Michigan writer Sue Harrison. A few of Ms. Harrison's books are *Mother Earth Father Sky*, *My Sister the Moon*, and *Brother Wind*. Ms. Harrison was born in Lansing, Michigan, and raised in the town of Pickford in the Upper Peninsula. I sent her a list of questions, which she answered.

Ms. Harrison fell in love with words from a book her grandmother gave her called *Little House In the Big Woods*. It was then she decided she wanted to write books. Her goal, which she has achieved, was to become a novelist. Her family is very supportive of her writing. In fact, they help with reading her manuscripts and suggest improvements.

Ms. Harrison writes mostly adult books but has two that are for middle readers, grades four to six. The first book Ms. Harrison began research on was when

she was 27 years old. She finished it nine years later.

Ms. Harrison's opinion of what makes a good story is this: "A good story consists of strong, unusual characters who change for the good or for the bad during the story because some circumstance threatens or destroys their concept of whom they are. I think the very best stories to read are those that are beautifully written, with words carefully chosen, and those wherein characters rise above difficult circumstances to change their own lives and the lives of others for the better."

To create the characters for her own stories, Ms. Harrison carries them in her head so she gets to know them before she begins to write. She also does a character sketch and then puts them in interesting and difficult situations in which they grow and come out of their mess.

Depending upon the type of book she writes, it can take one to two years including research.

Ms. Harrison tries to write every morning for three to four hours. In the afternoon she works on e-mails and book work involved in the "business" of writing, edits her work, or does research. Her research information comes from books, interviews, hands-on experience, and travel. Ms. Harrison has seven books published and has six more that are not published.

Sue Harrison loves to hear from her readers by e-mail or letters. In her down time she loves to read, garden, do needlework, knit, travel with her husband, volunteer in her community, and walk with her dog; and she is a certified scuba instructor.

You can check out her books at the library, as well as visit her website at SueHarrison.com.



Sue Harrison

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life."

— Henry Ward Beecher

Book Discussion Group Meets Monthly at Lyons Library

If you enjoy notable books, fun people and great conversation, join the Bridge Street Bookies! The Lyons Library book discussion group meets at the library the fourth Monday of each month, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

"I have read books all my life and I am 73. They have taught me so much about living!" said Judith Reynolds, one of the Bookies. "They are like friends, counselors, guides, and a source of

much entertainment and joy. When I started going over to the Lyons Library for the Bridge Street Bookies book study group, I learned so much more about writing and reading, and it's great to be able to share it with others."

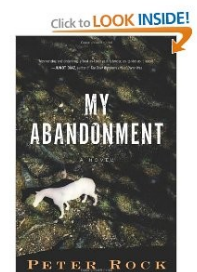
The Bridge Street Bookies choose titles — fiction and non-fiction — from a variety of categories.

"I wanted to get out and enjoy different genres from what I normally read," said

Judy Rich. "Coming to the book group forces me to read books I might not normally pick up. It broadens my perspective."

"It's interesting to see how everyone reads the same book and each individual seems to get something different out of it," Bookie Deb Brainard said.

All are welcome! For more information, contact Vicki Reinhardt at the library, 989.855.3414.



The next discussion book is *My Abandonment* by Peter Rock. There are plenty of interloans for everyone, including large print and audio books. Come and join us August! 23rd!

“Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy, neither warm nor cold, light nor dark.... In any library in the world, I am at home, unselfconscious, still and absorbed

— *Germaine Greer*



Divination by Judith Reynolds

Asking and questing
from mystery wresting.
Dipping into the flowing
stream
we seek pictures from the
dream.

Show me, Oh Spirit of the
Dark
which answers do I need to
hark?
All the ways of knowing
What I already know.
Ways of finding out
what the invisibles can
show.

Numbers, cards, stones
and bone,
Even, odd, placed or
thrown.

Water, Fire, Earth or Air!
Come aid us in our questing
prayer.

We pick and choose and
choose once more
Return to first choice from
before.
Take it out to the field of
grass,
Peer intently into the glass
Put it up in the notch of the
tree
Run it by the bird and the
bee.

You knew your answer all
along.
It was hidden there within
your song.

New Poet Laureate Announced

On July 1 Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced the appointment of W.S. Merwin as the Library’s 17th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry for 2010-2011.

Merwin will take up his duties in the fall, opening the library’s annual literary series on October 25 with a reading of his work.

“William Merwin’s poems are often profound and, at the same time, accessible to a vast audience,” Billington said. “He leads us upstream from the flow of everyday things in life to half-hidden headwaters of wisdom about life itself.”

William Stanley Merwin succeeds Kay Ryan as Poet Laureate and joins a long line of distinguished poets who have served in the position, including Charles Simic, Donald Hall, Ted Kooser, Louise Glück, Billy Collins, Stanley Kunitz, Robert Pinsky, Robert Hass, Rita Dove and Richard Wilbur.

During a 60-year writing career, Merwin has received nearly every major literary award. He is a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

Morning Quest by Loretta Rolison

Bird lovers watch,
With searching eyes,
For glittering wings,
In azure skies.
Listening closely,
“Whose call is that?”
Holding their breath,
'Neath their shady hat.

A pheasant struts by,
He chortles loud,
They whisper softly,
“My, is he proud”.

A shadow falls,
Above a hawk glides,
Rustling noises,
Little creatures hide.

A Cardinal whistles,
Morning doves coo,
Robins “cheer-up”,
“Look!” A flash of blue.
The Lark in the field,
Lets forth and sings
Mallard’s fly in,
Quacking, “It’s spring!”

Book Reviewers Needed!

Do you read a lot? Would you like to write a book review for this newsletter?

We’d like to include short book reviews in upcoming issues.

If you are interested in submitting a review of a book you’ve read, contact Vicki at 989.855.3414.

Water Gardens: A Place for Quiet Reflection

by Nikki Sue May

These resources about water gardens are available at the Lyons Library:

- *Stonescaping by Andrew Wormer*
- *Watergardens by Elenore Lewis*

and many more.



Whether you have acres of land or a quaint little spot, there is a water garden design just right for you.

Water gardens vary in size according to the style, the smallest being done in a container such as a cement or plastic flower pot. These container gardens are a compact way to display an assortment of water plants such as water lilies, dwarf cattails, chameleon plants, etc. They can be placed anywhere — in a flower bed, as an accent under a tree, or on your deck. Use at least a 24 inch-diameter pot.

If you yearn for something a bit larger, a water trough makes a good container and will hold several species of floating plants. It can be an attractive addition to your garden area by planting ornamental grasses and flowers around it.

If you have the space and don't mind doing a little digging, there is an array of shapes and sizes of preformed polyethylene pond liners. These can be buried at ground level; and by placing stones and plantings strategically around the top edge, they can be made to look like a natural space in your surroundings. Small fountains can be added, as long as you have electricity available.

To create a larger pond or one that has your own



Nikki May's koi pond. "My angel came from a flea market. On sunny days you can see her staring at her reflection in the water, so I call it my Reflection Pond."

unique shape, you will want to use flexible pond liner material, which can be bought by the yard. Although this style is the most work, it gives you unlimited options for creativity. You still start by using string or a garden hose to map out the desired space and shape for your pond. You will want to make sure all rocks and stones are removed, then put a layer of sand over the bed area. The liner, 25-45 mil thick, is then stretched over the area, using rocks to hold it in place on top of the hole.

If you intend to put koi or goldfish in your pond, the water needs to have a depth of at least two and one-half feet for the fish to winter over. You will also want to use plants and/or

moving water by means of a pump/filter system to keep algae at bay.

Fish add color to a pond, and they will learn to come to the surface to greet you if fed on a regular basis. In the late fall as the water temperature drops, they become more dormant and should not be fed.

This article is not intended to be a full instructional manual for you to build your water garden but merely something to whet your appetite and encourage you to get your feet wet. There are resources available at the Lyons Library that will teach you everything you need to know — for free! Please come and check them out.

Book Review: *Wicked* by Gregory Maguire

by Sharon Schulz-Elsing

When I was a child in the early '70s, one of the Big Three networks aired the classic movie "The Wizard of Oz" with some regularity, about once a year or so. I watched it every time it was on, captivated again and again by the struggle between Dorothy's innocent "good" (ironic, given Judy Garland's eventual reputation) and the absolute "evil" of the green-skinned Wicked Witch of the West.

A few years ago, I picked up a brand-new hardcover by Gregory Maguire called *Wicked*, purely on the basis of its subtitle: "The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West." I started reading and honestly could not stop, enchanted by Oz once again, and this time from a vastly different point of view and of sympathy.

Wicked's flavor is the gothic freakishness of Carson McCullers and Flannery O'Connor blended with liberal amounts of dark humor

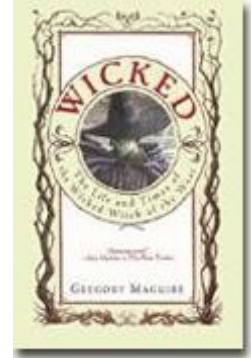
and socio-political satire *a la* Kurt Vonnegut and Tom Robbins, seasoned with honesty, sympathy and earnestness. It is the heretofore untold story of the Wicked Witch of the West. In it we learn about:

- her name (Elphaba)
- her childhood (really weird parents and unfortunate skin)
- her sister (Nessarose, an armless conservative zealot who will become Wicked Witch of the East and who will die when Dorothy's Kansas house lands on her)
- her schoolgirl days (where she and Glinda the "Good" will become reluctant pals)
- her politics (she becomes a freedom fighter, working with an underground resistance movement to bring social rights to the thinking Animals, among other things)
- her life's great sorrow, the loss of her one true love.

The infamous Dorothy is seen briefly in the prologue, but doesn't appear in the story proper until the fifth and final part of the book. Dorothy is depicted as a large-boned farm girl, a dull-witted but well-intentioned sort; Toto is "merely annoying." If you rewatch the movie, you'll grudgingly admit that this seemingly cruel characterization is actually pretty on-the-mark as far as the motion picture Dorothy goes.

Kirkus Reviews said "Save a place on the shelf between *Alice* and *The Hobbit* — that spot is well-deserved." *Wicked* does earn a spot on the shelves of classic fantasy, but so does it earn a niche alongside the best modern literary fiction. Maguire has created a truly great — and flawed — heroine in a novel that is a psychological analysis on one of the most "evil" characters of the 20th century.

— www.curlledup.com



Wicked was the June selection of the Bridge Street Bookies.

Want to write a book review for this newsletter?

Contact Vicki Reinhardt at the Lyons Library, 989.855.3414.

Support Lyons Township Library ... in a Delicious Way!

Here are just a couple of tasty examples from the soon-to-be-printed Lyons Library's *The Overdue Cookbook*. Proceeds of cookbook sales will support the library. Recipes were contributed by library patrons and illustrated by local area students.

TURTLE CAKE

German Chocolate Cake Mix
14-oz pkg. Kraft Caramels
1 stick margarine

1 can Eagle brand milk
1 pkg. chocolate chips
1 c. pecans (optional)

Mix cake as directed on package, pour half into pan, and bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Melt caramels with the stick of margarine, then add milk. Pour mixture over baked cake and add remaining cake batter on caramel mixture. Sprinkle chips and nuts on top and bake for 20-25 minutes.

— Leslie Canterbury

DIJON-BACON DIP

1 c. mayonnaise
1/2 Dijon mustard
1-3 tsp. prepared horseradish
1/4 c. real bacon bits or crumbled cooked bacon

In a small bowl combine all ingredients. Cover and chill until serving. Serve with pretzels. Makes 1 1/2 cups.

— Julie Marsh



Easy and yummy Turtle Cake — the recipe is in the soon-to-be-printed *The Overdue Cookbook*, supporting the Lyons Library.