

## President's Greetings

Our April book sale provided our community with a wealth of wonderful books in an atmosphere of friendship and creativity. Highlights appear in pictures below.



Lou Doak creates a professional welcome center for the sale and for inviting new members. She recruits 15 new Friends bringing our total membership to 252.



Sanni Schlemmer, Pat Russell and Milli Costantini oversee the outstanding display of books, CDs, games, cards, puzzles and cookies, and plan sale evaluation activities.



Happy bibliophiles pore over a remarkable array of all types of books. The sale is an opportunity for them to find and purchase just what they want and to socialize with each other and the Freedom Friends.

*Photos by Doug Pritchard*

## Focus on Freedom

Our new Freedom Friends PowerPoint presentation sends several important messages to the community groups that see it. It explains that the Friends of Freedom Public Library is a nonprofit charity registered with the IRS. It states our mission, shows ways we accomplish that mission, and encourages people to join our group. It also encourages donations for library programs and projects via contributions to the Freedom Friends.

The presentation can also put us in a slightly awkward position. When our team takes it to a group, some viewers assume that we Friends are employees of the library. Even when we make it clear that we are volunteer members of a charity that **supports** the library, some viewers ask us questions about library policy and procedures that can and should be answered by library staff only. And sometimes when we state that fact, it seems to viewers that we are not being very helpful. This kind of awkwardness runs counter to everything we are trying to do—make Friends for the library.

Several of us on the presentation team talked through this issue with Freedom's supervisor Ellie Goodwin and Karen Jensen, our liaison with the library system. Together we came up with a solution—the addition of a library staff member to our community presentation team. Given plenty of advance notice of our presentations, Ellie will select a staff member to go with us and be the person who answers questions that arise about library policies and procedures.

The first use of this expanded team took place on our April 8 presentation to the 200 Coalition with librarian Mary Thompson as the library representative. It was a delight to have her with us. Her presence lent a sense of professionalism to our efforts and demonstrated what we value most as Friends—we are in partnership with library staff in a shared goal to serve our community.

As Karen said when we met to work out this approach, "This takes us all to a new level."

## On the Horizon

The merry month of May is here and with it an opportunity to become aware of some of the major projects, events and activities the Friends will implement during the remainder of 2019. Our largest project consists of events celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. JR Smith hopes to add a music component to these events and Sherry Dauer will be adding her expertise to the children's component.

Coming up on May 23 is a Best Practices conference presented by the Friends Council. Jaye Baillie, Executive Director of the Marion Cultural Alliance, will be the conference keynote speaker. Each Friends group will send 2-4 members to the conference and each group will describe a successful practice they've carried out. For the Freedom Friends, JR will present the story of our marketing videos.

This summer, the Freedom Friends will participate in a tent event in Sholom Park sponsored by On Top of the World. We will purchase a smaller canopy to house our presentation and Ellie Cyr will coordinate.

On September 11, we will take our PowerPoint presentation to the Cherrywood women's luncheon. Librarian Mary Thompson plans to go with us as representative of the library.

On December 11, mystery writer Sue Ann Jaffarian will delight with both an author talk and a tour of her traveling home. Pat Mac is coordinating Sue Ann's visit.

Each of these events promises to appeal to a wide range of people in the library community and introduce those who attend to the Friends of Freedom Public Library. The success of these events will depend upon our active involvement. Please talk with the Friends who are coordinating each event to determine which is a fit with your creativity and energy, then select at least one to work on. If you are a new member, join a project so we can get to know you!