



2026 FRIENDS FALL NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Friends! We are using a new format for your Friends Newsletter. Almost all of us use our email daily, and we hope you will find this email version of the Friends Newsletter and enjoy it. This version allows us to include an interview of a Friends member and to add some additional material that the space limitations of the postcard format prevented. You can download, print and fasten this to your refrigerator if you wish.

Concerning our Friends business, switching to this format is in line with our goal of contributing more directly to the library. To that end, beyond saving printing and postage costs for this newsletter, we have a couple of ways to save on our programs so that we can direct more funds to the library. We are limiting our community musical events to one a month, beginning in January 2027. We are continuing the Giving Tuesday program for a fourth year. Instead of mailing your newest Membership cards, we ask you to pick them up at the Friendshop.

FRIENDS PROFILE

Every week, almost every day, we Friends receive an email from Judy Suter. Who is she? Why is she sending us notices? Here to answer that question is a profile of this very industrious lady. She gives us her time and energy very generously, and we are grateful for all she has done for the Friends and for the West Bloomfield Library.



MEET JUDY SUTER – VOLUNTEERING AND MAKING FRIENDS!

I joined the Board of the Friends of the West Bloomfield Township Library early in 2021. It was toward the end of the pandemic, and the world was starting to come alive again. One day I opened my mailbox and found a copy of the quarterly newsletter distributed by our library. As I flipped through it, I noticed a page dedicated to the Friends. There weren't any activities planned, but the Friends were looking for volunteers. There were several openings, but the one that interested me most was membership chair. I had some customer service experience, organizational and people skills, database management, and a lot of time on my hands. After working full time for so many years in various jobs including legal secretary and paralegal for both big and small law firms, retail manager and district manager for a national computer

software retailer, and VP provider relations and credentialing for a national school-based mobile dental provider caring for underserved populations, it was time to find my next adventure. And so began my career as a volunteer!

Currently, I am Chair of Membership and Marketing focused on sharing the Friends message and mission to provide financial support for our library. In addition, I am Chair of our annual Giving Tuesday campaign working to raise funds each year for a specific library request or project. In 2023 it was Playaway Audio Books for the Youth Services Department. In 2024 it was virtual reality headsets now used at both the library and the middle school. In 2025 it was indoor playscapes and a light wall for the Youth Services Department. And in 2026, with your help our goal is to fund outdoor musical playscapes as part of the patio renovation and landscaping project at the Westacres Branch.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, I moved with my family to West Bloomfield in 1992 after accepting a job promotion. I am the proud mom to 4 grown children, and loving Bubbe to 7 grandchildren. When not working on Friends projects, you will find me lifting weights and working out at the gym, acrylic pour painting on ceramic tile in my backyard or garage, or at the dog park with my dog, Tory, who always makes me smile.

2026 BIG FALL BOOK SALE Join us for the Big Fall Book sale and discover a treasure trove of books & media!		EDUCATORS: Show your Teacher's ID at check out and enjoy 50% off your purchase of educational materials all weekend
Preview Night – Members Only! Friday, October 9th 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Friends members get the first choice of all books and media! You can join the Friends at the door. There will be CD's, DVD's, games, puzzles, and more. You'll get your usual 10% discount, and we pay the sales tax.	
Saturday, October 10th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Open to the public.	
Sunday, October 11th Noon - 3:00 pm	\$5 Bag Day - Open to the public.	
2026 GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN – SUPPORTING LITERACY IN OUR COMMUNITY		
	Giving Tuesday is a nationally recognized opportunity for people to support non-profit organizations and the work they do. Each year, the Friends use Giving Tuesday as an opportunity to raise funds for things our library would like beyond their given budget.	
In 2023 we raised \$11,000 for Playaway audio books. In 2024 we raised \$15,000 for virtual reality headsets and programs. And in 2025 we raised \$22,000 for two indoor playscapes for the children's area and contributed to the very popular light wall in the ante room to the children's area.		
In 2026, with your help, our goal is to raise \$15,000 to fund outdoor musical playscapes, including Harmony Bells, Sunflower Petal Drums and Liberty Bells, as part of the patio renovation and landscaping project at the West Bloomfield Township Library - Westacres Branch. The Giving Tuesday Campaign will run from November 1st through December 31st.		
 MELODY, HARMONY, AND RHYTHM BECOME PART OF THE STORY.	 ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION IN CREATIVE STORYTELLING.	 STORYTELLING WITH MUSIC BLOSSOMS INTO ACTIVE PLAY.
CALLING ALL MAH JONGG PLAYERS!		
 CLICK HERE TO PRE-ORDER YOUR 2027 MAH JONGG CARDS	Pre-order your 2027 National Mah Jongg League card through the Friends and help us raise funds for our library. The pre-sale of Mah Jongg cards will start the first week of October. Follow the link below to learn more. Order online or at the Friendship. Your card order will be mailed directly to you from the League in early April 2027.	

A LITTLE FRIENDS HISTORY

Kay Kirsh celebrated her 100th Birthday! Kay was an active member of the Friends for many years, beginning in the 1990's. She was a co-chair with Alice Matonic for BOOKTalk. She headed the Hospitality Committee. She still lives in West Bloomfield. Her niece contacted us asking if we had some photographs we could share with Kay on the momentous occasion. Happily, our archives provided quite a few good pictures of Kay in action.

DATES TO REMEMBER

BOOKTalk

The Afterlife of Malcolm X, by Mark Whitaker

Thursday, October 8, 7 pm

Friday, October 9, 10 am

Facilitator: Ann Finn

Mona's Eyes by Thomas Schlessner

Thursday November 12, 7 pm

Friday, November 13, 10 am

Facilitator: Naomi Frenkel

Wild Dark Shore, by Charlotte McConaghy

Thursday, December 10, 7 pm

Friday, December 11, 10 am

Facilitator: Diane Henderson

Culpability, by Bruce Holsinger

Thursday, January 14, 2027, 7 pm

Friday, January 15, 10 am

Facilitator: Jaema Berman

London Falling: A Mysterious Death in a Gilded City and a Family's Search for Truth

Thursday, February 11, 2027, 7 pm

Friday, February 12, 10 am

Facilitator: Cathy Russ

The Sisters of Book Row, by Shelly Noble

Thursday, March 11, 2027, 7 pm

Friday, March 12, 10 am

Facilitator: Naomi Frenkel

TALKIN' BROADWAY

Phantom of the Opera, October 18, 2 pm

Carousel, November 15, 2 pm

Operation Mincemeat, January 17, 2027, 2 pm

South Pacific, March 21, 2027, 2 Pm

MUSIC@MAIN

Jill Jack, October 4, 2 pm

Peter Madcat Ruth, November 8, 2 pm

WHAT'S COOKING will resume in 2027



STOP IN AND BROWSE AT THE FRIENDSHOP!

Located in the lobby of the main library.

M, T, Fr 9:15-5:00, W 11:30-5

Th 11:00-5:00, Closed Sat & Sun



[CLICK HERE to shop the Friendship on eBay](#)

24 hours a day/7 days a week

THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND!