

Chelsea District Library
Director's Report
February 2015

Did You Know?

- You can find your next good book through the library – by participating in a book club, asking a librarian for a recommendation or using our NovelList database to match your interests to an author or title.

Questions from Last Board Meeting

- None

Library Board

- Finance Committee
 - The committee will be meeting on February 18 to review quarterly reconciliation reports. In addition, the Library's auditors will be presenting their schedule and plan of work for the 2014 audit.

Budget & Finances

- State Aid Report
 - I completed the 2014 State Aid Report in time to meet the February 1 deadline. I do expect State Aid to libraries to remain unchanged for the next fiscal year.
- 2014 Audit
 - Initial pre-planning documentation for the 2014 audit has been completed. Each year auditors require updates about our governance, financial reporting procedures, technology, and standard operating procedures.
 - Audit will take place during the third and fourth weeks of February.
- 2016 Budget Planning
 - Budget planning for next year's fiscal year is under way. Over the next few weeks I will be conducting planning meetings with my department heads to map out a course of action. The budget planning process is a lengthy one and it takes several months.

Staff

- Staff Member Celebrating an Anniversary
 - Terri Lancaster, 14 years.
 - Jennie Medeiros, 9 years.
 - Patty Roberts, 1 year.
- Midwest Literary Walk
 - The annual spring Midwest Literary Walk will welcome several critically acclaimed authors from all over the country and from various fields of writing, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry and even horror. The festival features readings at venues throughout downtown, such as the Purple Rose Theater, Chelsea Train Depot, Chelsea District Library, and Chelsea Alehouse. The event takes place at 11am on Saturday, April 25 and is free and open to the public.
 - We are proud to present this year's lineup, which includes Edward Hirsch, Davy Rothbart, Clayton Eshleman, Angela Flournoy, Josh Malerman, Annie Martin, Rebecca Scherm, and others to be determined.
 - **Edward Hirsch** is a celebrated poet. He has received numerous awards and fellowships, including a MacArthur Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, an Ingram Merrill Foundation Award, a Pablo Neruda Presidential Medal of Honor, the Prix de Rome, and an Academy of Arts and Letters Award. In 2008, he was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets. He is now president of the [John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation](#).
 - **Josh Malerman's** breathtaking debut novel *Bird Box* has received universal acclaim with starred reviews from the publishing industry's leading taste makers. It is a horrific and gripping snapshot of a world unraveled that will leave you racing to the final page. Written with the narrative tension of *The Road* and the exquisite terror of class Stephen King, *Bird Box* is an edge-of-your-seat horror thriller set in an apocalyptic near-future world. Mr. Malerman is no

- stranger to Chelsea. When he's not writing horror novels, he is the lead singer of the rock band the High Strung, who have performed many times in Chelsea, including the library.
- **Davy Rothbart** is the author of the national bestseller *Found*, and creator of the magazine of the same name. A contributor to public radio's *This American Life*, he is also the author of the story collection *The Lone Surfer of Montana, Kansas*. He lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
 - **Clayton Eshleman** is one of America's foremost translators and poets, noted in particular for his translations of César Vallejo and his studies of cave paintings. Eshleman also founded and edited two of the most innovative poetry journals of the later part of the 20th century: *Caterpillar* (20 issues, 1967-1973) and *Sulfur* (46 issues, 1981-2000). Among his recognitions and awards are a Guggenheim Fellowship in Poetry, The National Book Award in Translation, two grants from the NEA, two grants from the NEH, two Landon Translation Prizes from the Academy of American Poets, and a Rockefeller Study Center residency in Bellagio, Italy.
 - In 2005, **Annie Martin** developed the award-winning "Made in Michigan Writers Series," which is devoted to highlighting the works of distinguished statewide writers to showcase our region's diverse voices. She is also a brilliant playwright. Martin wrote "Completing Dahlia," which was performed in 2001 by the Purple Rose Theatre Co.
 - **Angela Flournoy** is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she received a Dean's Fellowship. She has taught writing at the University of Iowa and Trinity Washington University, and has worked for the Washington, D.C. Public Library. Her debut novel *The Turner House* brings us a colorful, complicated brood full of love and pride, sacrifice and unlikely inheritances. It's a striking examination of the price we pay for our dreams and futures, and the ways in which our families bring us home.
 - **Rebecca Scherm** is the author of *Unbecoming*, a novel. She received her MFA from the University of Michigan, where she was also a postgraduate Zell Fellow. She lives in Michigan, where she is working on her second novel, *Beta*.
 - The Midwest Literary Walk is a joint venture of the Chelsea District Library, the Purple Rose Theatre, and Chelsea Alehouse, with support from the Friends of the Chelsea District Library. The featured authors' books will be available for checkout in a display at the library during the month of April, prior to the event.
- 5H Community Read 2015
 - Our collaboration with the Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation, community coalitions, and libraries in the five healthy towns of Dexter, Grass Lake, Stockbridge, and Manchester will be completed in 2015.
 - This year's event will tie in with the Wellness Foundation's aim of "avoiding unhealthy substances." In addition to working with the Chelsea Community Coalition, we will also work collaboratively with libraries and wellness coalitions in the other four healthy towns to plan programs, events, and determine the appropriate reading materials to tie into this aim.
 - Highlights from the 2014 program included:
 - Nearly 600 copies of *Fault in Our Stars* by John Green were distributed in Chelsea. Over 2500 copies were distributed in total to the communities of Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, Stockbridge, and Grass Lake.
 - About 1000 people attended the programs that were developed and facilitated for Chelsea residents. Key programs include: Teen Read Week Festival, Healing Harvest, Scrabble display in library lobby.
 - Professional Exchange Program
 - Although this project has been nearly two years in the process, I am hopeful that we will follow through and make this program a reality in the summer of 2015. The professional exchange program will be with the Masiphumelele Community Library in Cape Town, South Africa. Masiphumelele was one of the libraries that I visited during my trip to South Africa last spring, as a delegate to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Conference on libraries and their future. I hope to have dates confirmed in the next couple of weeks.
 - Authors in Chelsea 2015
 - The 6th Annual Authors in Chelsea Wednesday–Thursday, Mar. 25–26. Authors in Chelsea is a 2-day long celebration of three nationally known authors invited to Chelsea by the library to give writing workshops and assemblies in Chelsea schools for all 1st through 6th graders during the day. In the evening, meet and greet the authors at a special event in Room 100 at the Washington Street Education Center (512 Washington Street). Hear a brief presentation from each author, ask questions, and then get your book signed. Books by each author will be

available for purchase, courtesy of Chelsea's Just Imagine bookstore. In 2015, all our Authors are from Michigan and include Johnathan Rand, Nancy Shaw, and Gary Schmidt.

Friends of the Library

- Highlights from the Friends of the Chelsea District Library Annual Meeting
 - Friends President Marie Brooks provided a 2014 recap:
 - The Friends of the Library has existed since 1949.
 - They provide financial support to the library, approximately \$125,000 in the past four years. Last year they provided \$39,500. The funds support special programs such as Sonic Sundays, Comedy Series, Authors in Chelsea, and the Midwest Literary Walk as well as equipment and materials.
 - Their membership is typically 100 members.
 - The Friends did outreach in the community this year at the Farmer's Market. They also hosted a "Business After Hours" event with the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce.
 - They have a digital presence with a Facebook page and a webpage.
 - A new project this year was the Free Little Libraries, planned for 2015.
 - They provide volunteers to help with library programs. They also held the Star Wars event, working on the Say Yes to Success campaign, Barn Bash, and the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.
 - How can you help out with the Friends? You can volunteer, assist at events and join the board!
 - 2015 Election
 - The Slate of Officers was presented to the general membership:
President – Sue Whitmarsh
President Elect – Vacant
Past President – Marie Brooks
Treasurer – Nancy Neff
Secretary – Mandy Higgims
There were no nominations from the floor.
There was no discussion.
The vote was taken and all present were in favor of the Slate of Officers as presented.

Professional

- Michigan Library Association (MLA) – Advocacy Updates
 - **Budgets and State Aid to Libraries**
MLA budget talks with the administration could be more challenging this year due to shortfalls identified in the latest revenue estimating numbers. The state is looking at \$526 million less than expected for next fiscal year. MLA and its lobbyist GCSI are meeting with legislators now to make sure they understand the libraries' need for this critical funding.
 - **FOIA Changes**
Libraries will need to review their policies to be sure they comply with the changes to the Freedom of Information Act PA 563, which becomes effective July 1, 2015. Not only are procedures and guidelines required due to the amendment **HB 4001 (Rep. Mike Shirkey, R-Clark Lake)**, but a written explanation summarizing those procedures and fees will be required of each public body.

Outreach

- Chamber of Commerce Large Business Leadership Award
 - I am thrilled, honored, and proud to announce that the Chelsea District Library is the recipient of this year's Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce Business Leadership Award!

The award is given annually by the Chamber to a business that demonstrates exemplary vision to advance commerce and establish and maintain Chelsea as a premier community in which to live, work, and recreate.

Chamber Director Bob Pierce and his Board of Directors surprised us all at this morning's staff meeting to present the award. The entire staff was on hand to share the stellar news.

There will be a formal presentation of the Business Leadership Award on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at the Village Conference Center. As the 2014 Business Leadership Award winner, the Library will also have a place of honor in the Chelsea Fair Parade on August 29, 2015.

Winning this award is validation and unquestionable recognition of how 21st Century libraries are providing an anchor and focal point for economic activity and development. It demonstrates the currency we have gained in Chelsea as a key player in economic development, whether it's through information services and support to business, assistance in finding jobs, introduction of new technology to the community, assisting students in achieving academic excellence, providing free materials for patrons to free up personal discretionary income that may be spent on local business, or simply increasing the attractiveness of the community because of the library's cultural and educational assets. The Library has clearly made a broad impact on the community.

All of the credit goes to my staff whose creativity, professionalism, expertise, and skill make all of the magic happen, and to our Board of Trustees as well as our Friends of the Library who give us the resources and the space to do it in.

Meetings/Conferences Attended

- Midwest Literary Walk, 1/8
- Finance Committee Meeting, 1/9
- Rotary Meetings, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3
- Management Meetings, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3
- Purple Rose Theater, 1/15
- Board President, Elizabeth Sensoli, 1/15
- Charlie Taylor, Dexter Township Library Board Trustee, 1/16
- Chelsea Monitors Meeting, 1/16
- MLK Day Program, 1/18
- St. Joes Cancer Center, 1/19
- Board of Trustees Meeting, 1/20
- Detroit Rotary Club Meeting, 1/21
- Keegan Sulecki, 1/22
- Midwest Literary Walk Meetings, 1/23, 2/5
- All Staff Meeting, 1/23
- Chelsea Senior Center, 1/23
- Business Leaders Luncheon, 1/26
- Chelsea Area Wellness Coalition, 1/28, 2/5
- Monthly Meetings with Management Staff, 1/30
- Friends Annual Meeting, 1/31
- SRSLY Meetings, 2/2
- Chelsea State Bank, 2/4
- Community Read Meetings, 2/5, 2/6

Respectfully,

William Harmer