

Friends of the



OFFICERS

Silvia Gans
President

Kelly Kehl
Vice President

Cynthia Greig
Secretary

Linda Szarkowski
Patty Noftz
Co-Treasurers

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

With 2025 in the rearview mirror it's time to welcome in 2026, The Year of Volunteerism. We want to congratulate Erin Connolly for becoming the Library's full time program coordinator. She has incredible energy, enthusiasm and creative ideas for young and old alike. Check out her article in this newsletter.

Since we now have a program coordinator, the Friends group will be transitioning to provide volunteer support for all library activities. Of course we will continue with the well-established Friend events: Robert Burns Supper, Poetry Month, Used Book Sale, Summer Writers' Series and Clifford Book Giveaway. We are a wonderful group of volunteers that support the Library anyway we can. With this in mind, please notice the volunteer opportunities posted in this newsletter and become a more active participant.

This year we will celebrate National Library Week April 19-25 with the theme "Find Your Joy". An invitation for people of all backgrounds to explore and discover what sparks joy in them at the library. It would be great to incorporate this theme into our poetry that month.

I want to end with a big thank you for your generous financial support to the Friends this past year and to mention that this coming year holds promises for some potentially wonderful surprises for the community. Stay tuned!

Yours in books,
Silvia Gans

WANT TO JOIN THE
FRIENDS?
WE ARE ALWAYS
LOOKING FOR MORE
MEMBERS AND
VOLUNTEERS.
EMAIL US:

RIENDSLTLIB@GMAIL.COM

Images from 2025 - Summer Writers' Series, Dog Parade, Banned Books Trivia



A Letter from Erin Connolly / Program Coordinator

The holidays were full of fun at the library. We had our big holiday event on tree lighting day after Thanksgiving and saw about 50 children come in for craft activities including stocking decoration, candle holders, ornaments, letters to Santa and more! We had many children turn in Santa letters to our magical mailbox and helped make sure that Santa's individual responses made it back to our young patrons. Additionally in December we had special holiday themed Wrigglers story time, continued with Bilingual storytime and also held *Cocoa, Cookies & Crafts* during three December craft afternoons. Kids had the opportunity to come in and enjoy cookies with hot cocoa and marshmallows and work on craft activities. We had a nice morning for *Merry Music*, which welcomed Village Voices members to the library. We didn't have a lot of children due to some poor weather on that day, but we had a festive time with a lot of merry making with all the adults and a few children decorating donuts.

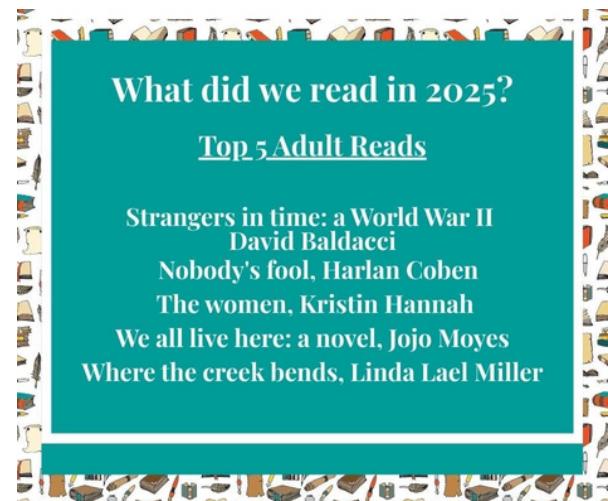
The long winter months will offer some fun activities. The Friends of the library will be holding January events.

For adults: On February 1, we will be welcoming Marlie Cross, a positive energy coach from Soulhouse Healing, for a guided session focused on visualization and practical goal-setting to help turn your dreams into reality. No art experience or supplies needed — Marlie will lead the group through simple exercises using imagination, intention, and focus. Come curious and leave inspired with your own personal vision board that will support your goals for the year ahead! We will also be hosting a drop-in Valentine workshop on February 11. All are welcome anytime from 2-5:45pm. Supplies and snacks provided. The library will be hosting *Great Decisions* on Tuesdays at 1:30pm in January and February. The book group will be reading *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, in January, *The Art of Vanishing* for February and *English Creek* in March. Stay tuned for information in the coming weeks about a few potential daytime events as well as a finalized date and information for a Soup Potluck!

For kids: Wrigglers will continue to happen every Thursday morning at 10:30am. Always a new craft and new stories. We have only had one storytime that did not have children since September, which is SO exciting. Encourage any families with young children to join us, there are usually friends present! Wednesday afternoons continue with Kids Craft Afternoon, which will also host a Valentine making session on February 11. We are continuing with Bilingual storytime, which involves one or two stories a week, which are read by Elizabeth Rutila in Spanish and Erin in English. Children then get words of the day, and work on a craft project. Students are out of school on January 19 and we will host a MLK Jr. Day storytime and activities.



Erin is looking for programming suggestions and proposals. There is a link on the website under programs to submit or you can verbally tell Erin at the Library or Email programs@leelanau townshiplibrary.org. Erin would love to know what ideas you have that you would like to see!



Stay up to date regarding all events & information by visiting the Leelanau Township Library Website.



Friends' meetings are held on the last Monday of April and September, with additional meeting dates to be announced by postings and in the Leelanau Enterprise community calendar. The annual meeting is in June and is open to the public.

Cynthia Greig joins the Board of FOLTL as Secretary by way of being a longtime member and patron of the library since relocating to Northport, as well as a participating artist in the Art in the Corner program, and friend of Library members and staff. Cynthia is a visual artist working primarily in photography and video, exhibiting her work in museums and galleries throughout the US and abroad. Prior to her graduate studies in photography at University of Michigan, she taught photography, served on the board of the Detroit Artists Market, organized numerous exhibitions and published curatorial essays as an Independent Curator. Cynthia worked as the curator of Exhibitions at Artrain, a mobile art museum housed in a series of train cars based in Detroit, bringing changing art exhibitions and educational programs to rural and urban communities throughout Michigan and the rest of the country. She left her position as curator to pursue her graduate degree in Art History at the University of Iowa, where she also worked in the curatorial departments of the University of Iowa Museum of Art, and studied filmmaking while writing her MA thesis. During this time she worked on various films from production assistant to set design, including the Merchant Ivory production of *Mr. and Mrs. Bridges* with Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. In fact, Cynthia met her husband Richard, a film editor, while both served on the Ann Arbor Film Festival's selection committee, with whom they screened 300+ 16 mm films, to choose those experimental, animated, documentary and narrative films to be viewed by the public during the festival and award competition. After completing her graduate studies, Cynthia co-authored the book of 19th and early 20th-century photographs, *Women in Pants: Manly Maidens, Cowgirls and other Renegades* (Harry N. Abrams, 2003), exploring the practice of women wearing trousers long before it became an accepted fashion choice. Cynthia is delighted to be part of the community and to serve on the Friends of Leelanau Township Library Board.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

In 2025, we expanded book giveaways beyond the Clifford Books at the Dog Parade. We have given away books at the Easter Egg Hunt and the community Halloween event, with plans to add Christmas giveaways. We are looking for someone who would be willing to take on book giveaways as a chaired position on our executive board.

Volunteers For Friday July 3rd 2026 Annual Book Sale - Email the Friends!

Images from 2025 Halloween / MAD LIBS was a hit!



The mission of the Friends is to promote the Leelanau Township Library and provide direct financial assistance.

UPCOMING WINTER EVENTS



Robert Burns Night Soup Supper and Poetry

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Leelanau Township Library

Menu: Cock-a-leekie soup (please bring your own mug & spoon) Bread Rolls
Shortbread desserts

Bring your favorite poem to share or just come and enjoy.

This is a free event, donations are welcomed.

You may also sign up to bring soup or bread by calling the library at 231-386-5131.



Sponsored by the Friends of the Leelanau Township Library



**SUNDAY 2/22 1:30-3:00PM
BLACK HISTORY**

**SUNDAY 3/22 3:00-4:30PM
WOMEN'S HISTORY**

**FREE TO THE PUBLIC!
Prizes for the top 3 teams.
Bring a friend, group, and thinking caps!**

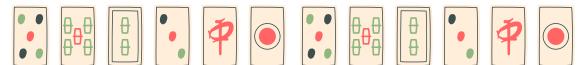
**SAVE THE DATES:
SUMMER WRITERS' SERIES
JULY 7, 14, 21, 28**

CALENDAR EVENTS

(Programs are held at the Library unless otherwise indicated)

- Great Decisions Discussion Program, Tuesdays 1/6 - 2/24 1:30-3:00pm
- Crafternoon Wednesdays 3:00-5:45pm
- Wiggles Storytime, Thursdays at 10:30am
- Bilingual Storytime Fridays at 4pm
- Black History Month February
- MLK Jr. Day Story time & Activities 1/19 at 10:30am
- Robert Burns Night 1/27 6:00-8:30pm
- Book Discussion Group 1/28, 2/25, 3/18, 4/22 at 1:30pm
- Vision Boards with Marlie Cross 2/1 at 1:30pm
- Black History Trivia 2/22
- Women's History Trivia 3/22

**FREE AMERICAN MAH JONGG CLASSES
CONTINUE TO BE OFFERED BY FOLTL ON
SATURDAY AFTERNOONS. SIGN UP IN
THE LIBRARY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION**



Poetry month 2025



**April Poetry Month
2 tentative events:**

1. Poetry workshop & open mic at Northport School
2. Open mic at library

Students, parents & community members all welcome
Dates TBD

Friends since 1962

FRIENDSLTLIB@GMAIL.COM

FACEBOOK : FOLTL

INSTAGRAM : @FOLTL231