

President's Notes

I hope all of you had an opportunity to meet Sage and Coombe Architects, who are preparing the conceptual design for the Main Library, at the community forum on April 3 or heard them speak at the Ideas Festival. If you haven't had the chance but would like to offer your ideas and comments, please do so by emailing library@maplewoodlibrary.org.

The Library Building Committee, comprised of representatives from the Library Board of Trustees, the Township, the Library Foundation, the Friends, and the Library Director, have spent many hours working on plans to create a library that will meet the needs of the community for years to come. Please join in the discussion.

Two bills are pending in the New Jersey Assembly (A222) and Senate (S2171) to authorize bonds to finance capital projects at public libraries. The bills would permit a public referendum to be placed on the November 2017 ballot. The last capital construction program for public libraries was funded about 15 years ago, resulting in 68 library projects being completed. Please support these bills by contacting your state representatives and by voting YES for the referendum in November.

During the Children's Book Sale in February, I was re-reading the posters from the Ideas Festivals and was very proud to note that Friends were the first community sponsor of this exhilarating event. When Library Director Sarah Lester proposed it in 2014, Friends were happy to offer their support, never thinking that it would turn into such an extraordinary program.

This year's fourth festival offered yet another diverse view of the talent and reach of our community. Each year I attend programs about subjects and by presenters unknown to me, and each year I am thrilled to learn something new.

- Laura Nial, President



SPRING BOOK SALE: APRIL 22-23

Friends always think of the book sale as a three-pronged community service: people get to donate their books to a good cause, customers get access to wonderful books at great prices, and all the money supports the Library. Of course, there's a fourth prong when books bought at the sale are donated again—a not-uncommon occurrence!

The spring sale begins the circle again for 2017. Donations have been made, thousands of books (plus DVDs, CDs, and

audiobooks) have been sorted. All we need now is for you and your family and friends to do your part by joining us at the sale.

• **Saturday, April 22: 10 - 5**

• **Sunday, April 23: 11 - 5**

(Bag of Books Sale: entry through back door by parking lot only.)

- Laura Nial and Barbara Sanok, Co-Chairs

FROM THE DIRECTOR: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

It has been an exciting year at the Maplewood Library as we continue to plan for our future.

Last December the Board of Trustees contracted with Sage and Coombe Architects to create a conceptual design for the Main Library. Since the beginning of the year, the Sage and Coombe team has met with over a dozen local constituency groups, including the Friends of the Library, and convened a large community forum in April. We were also very fortunate to include Principals Jennifer Sage and Peter Coombe at our Friends-sponsored 2017 Maplewood Ideas Festival. The community has been very impressed with the Sage and Coombe team and appreciate being part of this important process.

Over 60 years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Library Services and Construction Act and said, "Good public libraries must be placed within the reach of all our people. Libraries are not just for the young and curious about an exciting world. They are not just for youth preparing for their careers. They are not just for busy people looking for information to do their jobs. Libraries are for everyone and therein lies their real value...The central fact of our times is this: Books and ideas are the most effective weapons against intolerance and ignorance."

Our world has changed significantly since the 1960s, but President Johnson's words are truer now than ever before. We thank the Friends for supporting a library that's built for the twenty-first century and for the entire Maplewood community.

- Sarah Lester, Director



MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM

Now in its sixth successful year, the Friends of the Maplewood Library have continued to fund the exciting Museum Pass program, which includes passes to the Guggenheim, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Morris Museum, the Montclair Art Museum, the Newark Museum...and, coming soon, the Intrepid!

Passes may be borrowed by adult Maplewood Library cardholders at the Main Library Circulation Desk and may be kept for seven days. The limit for the popular program is one pass per family per month. Checking out the passes requires signing an agreement listing the Museum Pass rules.

Bring your friends and family! Each of the passes allow for multiple admissions, so take advantage of this free, fun and educational program. Questions? Talk to any of the staff at the Information or Circulation Desks.

- Robyn Whalen, Senior Paraprofessional

BIG CHANGES IN THE E-LIBRARY

We all know that the Maplewood Library is about more than just books—but most of us are here because we love, love, love books! When we joined BCCLS, our library collection grew from around 100,000 to a joint collection of over 6 million titles shared among our 77 BCCLS partner libraries, and it is now so much easier to get those books we love.



A few years ago it looked like e-books and e-audiobooks might supplant printed books in popularity. That hasn't happened yet, but e-books continue to be the fastest-growing segment of our library circulation. Reading and listening on e-book readers and portable devices offer a lot in the way of convenience and comfort. Many people are still surprised to learn that the library loans e-books and e-audiobooks, but we have been doing that for a long time now, and BCCLS makes it all the easier.

You can find our e-book/e-audiobook collection by clicking on the “Digital Resources” link to the left of the library homepage, www.maplewoodlibrary.org.

However, there is a big change coming to the BCCLS e-book/e-audiobook program. For the last few years, BCCLS has subscribed to two different e-book providers, Overdrive and Cloud Library (also known as 3M Cloud). There were a lot more books in the Overdrive collection, so our e-book users are generally most familiar with that one.

Starting in mid-May 2017, BCCLS will cancel Overdrive and offer only the Cloud Library. The vast majority of the eBCCLS collection, which is currently in Overdrive, will be moved over to Cloud Library, and all new e-books are being purchased through Cloud Library.

Benefits will include a single, easier-to-use e-book platform, more user-friendly apps, and better integration with the BCCLS catalog, including checkouts. Cloud Library is less expensive, and will free up money to buy more copies of popular e-books and reduce waiting times.

There is one downside to this move: **Cloud Library requires use of an app and does not work with Kindle “e-ink” devices such as the Kindle Paperwhite; it does work with the Kindle Fire and other devices that are able to download apps.** This is a cause of concern for many of us librarians, since we appreciate that Kindle users are among our most dedicated e-book readers. The hope is that most Kindle users at this point own other devices such as tablets or smartphones that can be used for e-book reading—so we hope you will stick with us! Watch for more information as this transition moves closer.

By the way—if you find yourself challenged by this technology, we have help to offer. There is a **Digital Device Clinic every Tuesday from 5-7 pm at our Hilton Branch Create Space**, where you can get free one-on-one support for using your e-reader, tablet, smartphone, or other device.

- Barbara Laub, Head of Technology and Adult Services

The Main Library’s top 10 circulating adult books of 2016:

1. *The Girl on the Train*, by Paula Hawkins
2. *My Name is Lucy Barton*, by Elizabeth Strout
3. *My Brilliant Friend*, by Elena Ferrante
4. *The Nest*, by Cynthia D’Aprix Sweeney
5. *The Nightingale*, by Kristin Hannah
6. *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates
7. *In the Unlikely Event*, by Judy Blume
8. *Go Set a Watchman*, by Harper Lee
9. *Rogue Lawyer*, by John Grisham
10. *Miller’s Valley*, by Anna Quindlen

ANNUAL MEETING: OUTER SPACE/INNER PLACE

Artist, Nancy Jackson, a Maplewood resident, will be guest speaker at the Friends of Maplewood Library Annual Meeting on **Monday, April 17, 7:30 pm, at the Main Library.**

Nancy was born in 1956 and raised in Chicago. She attended Carnegie-Mellon School of Fine Arts and Oberlin College.

Her work, finely detailed paintings and sculpture, has been exhibited at galleries and museums in Los Angeles and New York since 2000.

Nancy started a decorative painting business in 1988. She has worked broadly in homes and businesses, as well as doing restoration work on older outdoor murals in the Los Angeles area.

Nancy's decorated 1988 Honda can be seen driving around our area. Unlike most "art cars," the car looks almost normal on the outside...it is the inside that's extensively altered by art. She continues to add and replace parts and enjoys sharing her public/private car space with others.

- Bernadette Albertson, Program Committee



AMANDA EIGEN: HEAD OF CIRCULATION AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

Amanda Eigen came to the Maplewood Library in 2002 as a part-time reference librarian in the Adult Department. Since then, she has served as Media Coordinator and Senior Adult Librarian at the Hilton Branch. In her new role as Head of Circulation and Technical Services, Amanda supervises all circulation activities and cataloging, collaborates on collection development, and serves at the public desks.

One of Amanda's recent achievements is especially noteworthy: she was the chief architect of a \$72,500 grant from the New Jersey Department of Labor awarded to the library for the development of the very popular ESOL classes at Hilton Branch.

Amanda grew up in Manhattan and moved to New Jersey in 1998. She lives in her fourth house in South Orange with her husband Rich and their teenage children. In her spare time, Amanda enjoys reading, going to the movies, leisurely bike rides, and taking hikes in the South Mountain Reservation with her family and their two dogs.



INDIE NEW JERSEY

Are you an aspiring author who would like to publish your own book?

The library has a new program to help local “Indie” authors create and submit books to be published online and shared with local readers. We now offer a tool to format and create your online manuscript, and another tool called SELF-e to publish it. These self-published e-books can be read in an online Indie New Jersey collection that’s shared statewide, with the best submissions potentially gaining a nationwide audience.

Get more information at www.maplewoodlibrary.org/publish-your-ebook/.

- *Barbara Laub, Head of Technology and Adult Services*



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HILTON BRANCH WELCOMES A NEW CHILDREN’S LIBRARIAN

We are excited to announce that on February 27, 2017, Rachael Robson joined the staff as Children’s Librarian at the Hilton Branch!

Rachael just moved to Maplewood from Rhode Island. She has been working in public libraries for five years in circulation, reference, and youth services departments, and so far children’s services is definitely her favorite. She is currently earning her MLIS from Kent State University in Ohio.

“Maplewood is already special to me because it’s where my mother grew up and where my grandparents live,” she says. “I’m excited to serve a community that already holds so many good memories for me.”

Rachael didn’t waste any time—pre-school and baby story times are back in action at Hilton, and she is planning more art and STEAM programming.

Please drop by the Hilton Branch and meet Rachael!

- *Irene Langlois, Hilton Branch Manager*



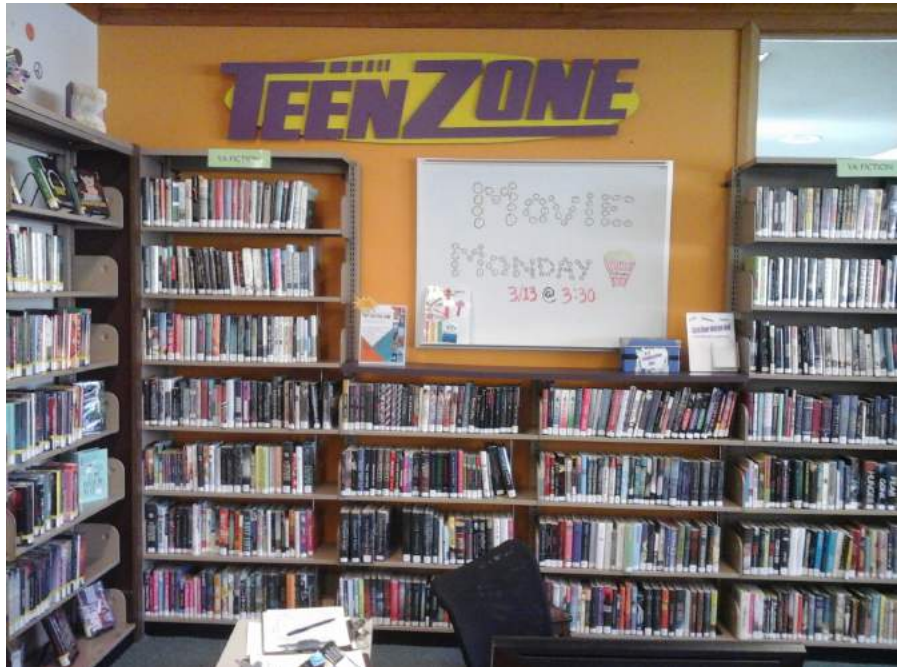
CHECKING IN WITH THE TEEN ZONE

Though I have now worked in Maplewood for just over two years and feel fairly familiar with the town and the library, as the new teen librarian I now have to familiarize myself with the teens!

To get to know their names and faces, one of the first programs I invited teens to join me in was a Teen Zone Check-In. This will be a regular monthly program where I invite teens to come and enjoy a snack while we discuss what types of programs they would like me to offer at the library, how I can help support their school work, and a variety of other topics important to them.

In our first meeting, we discussed additional ideas to share with the architects about how the teens would like to see the library and, in particular, their Teen Zone space.

We also discussed what we can do now to get them more excited about the Teen Zone, and it seemed like all of the teens agreed that a little facelift was needed. Many teens commented on a slightly dated looking decor—in particular our Teen Zone sign (which I believe the Friends generously funded a few years back!) that I thought we could easily freshen up in the interim before a rebuild. I brought some ideas of aesthetics that could appeal to as many teens as possible based on the conversations the teens had with the architects, got their feedback, and we decided to paint some canvases for the ends of the reference stacks inspired by the ones featured in the adult reading area done by Mikel Frank and Gerard Ansellem (aka, the Visual Passion Duo). We will also be finding some ways to incorporate Maplewood school spirit as we redecorate. I have purchased the canvases and look forward to painting with the kids after school.



Thank you as always to the Friends of the Library, who continue to support our mission of making the library a cool and inviting place through helping us offer unique services, and by continuing to rethink our aesthetics and providing a warm and welcoming space that excites the teens after school.

- Emily Witkowski, Teen Librarian

TRIBUTES

Friends' Tribute Cards make wonderful gifts to honor a lover of books or the Library.
Stop by the front desk at Main or Hilton for more info.

AMALIA E. BUTLER: THE MAIN BRANCH'S NEW CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

Amalia E. Butler is the new Senior Librarian in the Children's Room at the Main Library. She recently sat down with Jane Folger, Head of Children's Services, to answer some questions and to tell us a little about herself.



How did you come to be a librarian?

I've always had a strong love of books. My parents always read with me and to me. We subscribed to monthly book subscriptions before they were a big thing. We lived overseas so we would receive books each month, and they always encouraged me to read anything of theirs as well. As an adult, I want to share that excitement with young readers and their families.

Where did you grow up?

Since my father was in the military, I grew up in quite a few different places. From kindergarten through ninth grade, I attended nine different schools. We spent almost six years in Italy, and then we spent another seven or so years in New Mexico, and then I rounded out middle school, high school, and college in Texas. After that I moved to New York.

What were you doing before you moved to Maplewood?

Just before coming to Maplewood, I was Senior Children's Librarian at the Muhlenberg Branch of

the New York Public Library in Chelsea, where I worked mostly with babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and caregivers doing early literacy programs. Before that I worked in two other branches, working with children, teens, and seniors.

What are some of the children's programs you've done?

The programs I've done most often were baby, toddler, and preschool story times. In the story times, differentiated by physical and developmental stages, we read, sang, and danced. I usually sing the books because it is easier for the children to listen, and it helps them to learn how to form words and make different sounds. With the very young children, we try to build relationships, give them a positive experience at the library, teach them how books work, and invite them to get library cards.

What are you passionate about?

I'm very passionate about literacy and equity of access for all. Without it you're very limited in what you can do in life.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are making mixed-media collage and reading. I read a lot of adult thrillers; my Goodreads goal for 2017 is 150 books! I'm also interested in eating a wide range of cultural foods.

What drew you to Maplewood, and what do you like about being here?

The library here is deeply committed to civic engagement and meeting the needs of the community by eliminating hurdles to information access. I am excited to be on a team that is so knowledgeable and open to information sharing. In my first few days in Maplewood I have found the patrons to be true stewards of the library.

What inspires you?

Watching the sunrise every morning inspires me. It reminds me not to take the everyday routine for granted. There is always something new and beautiful to be found if we take a moment to pause.

BOOK REVIEWS

***The Last Days of Night*
by Graham Moore**

The Last Days of Night is historical fiction about the feud between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse in the late 1800s. The story is told through the eyes of a lawyer, Paul Cravath, who was hired by Westinghouse to represent him in a legal battle with Edison.

Litigation over patents had become a constant in these early days of technological inventions, with Edison far and away the most prolific when it came to filing lawsuits. He sued Alexander Graham Bell repeatedly, insisting that he had advanced his telegraph to produce sound waves first. As newer and



improved versions of the light bulb evolved, lawsuits and counter-suits propagated to either defend or defeat Edison's patent. The book follows Cravath as he enlists the help of former and current colleagues of Edison, the eccentric genius Nikola Tesla, Alexander Bell, J.P. Morgan, singer Agnes Huntington, and a group of law students whose ambitions

remind the lawyer of himself.

As the story progresses, scientific concepts are explained in an easy-to-follow manner that still accurately describes the fundamentals behind the various scientific discoveries of the 1880s and 1890s.

Moore also manages to convey what the advent of electric light meant to society—factories and business were no longer bound by when the sun rose and set, crime was diminished in public areas at night, and day and night were no longer so distinct.

~ Bill Donovan

Special Gifts

November 2016 through March 2017

We appreciate the generous gifts contributed by the following donors. Thank you all.

Jeanne Bausmith
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Marilyn & Weston White

~ Rae Paltiel, Membership Chair

BOOKBAGS!

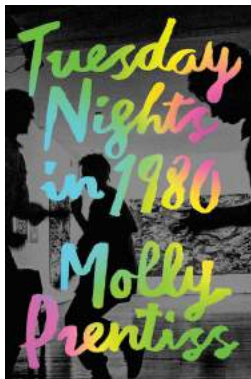
Did you know we have
Friends of the Maplewood Library
tote bags available for only \$3 each?

Stop by the front desk at
Main or Hilton and pick one up
for your books.

BOOK REVIEWS

***Tuesday Nights in 1980*
by Molly Prentiss**

Tuesday Nights in 1980 is an exciting debut novel by Molly Prentiss. The book takes place mainly in New York over the course of a single year. It begins in Argentina during the Dirty War, a period of state terrorism when countless socialists and political dissidents were executed or among the disappeared; it then moves to New York where emerging and avant garde artists in SoHo (before it became known as SoHo) are scrambling to become known.



The story revolves around three individuals whose lives become entwined through circumstance. James Bennett is a well-respected art critic and art collector who has a rare condition called synesthesia, in which his senses mingle—if he hears a certain sound or smells a certain aroma, he visualizes a color. Raul Engales is an artist

who leaves Argentina for the New York art world; in the process, he abandons his sister Franca, who becomes one of the casualties of the Dirty War, and his nephew Julian, who is orphaned as a result. Lucy is a young woman from Idaho who comes to New York looking for a new life; she becomes involved with both Raul and James with unhappy results.

Swirling around these three are many outrageous and likable artists and art lovers. A great deal happens during the year, much of it thrilling. But there are also terrible and horrifying events that impact the three main characters and change their lives forever.

The language is vibrant and colorful, much like the artists' works. At times, the book is over-the-top in its descriptions, and some events seem out of place, as if the writer is trying to pull in as much of 1980 as possible. For example, allusions to the Etan Patz case that gripped and terrified New York seem gratuitous, even though they loosely connect to events in Argentina and to Julian.

These drawbacks aside, the novel is an easy read and vividly depicts the art world at the time. It also presents the unifying nature of art—how it can pull people together in emotionally satisfying ways, despite the tragedies they face. As one of the characters notes, “You’ll have to lose everything this year in order to make something beautiful.”

- Rae Paltiel

***This Is How It Always Is*
by Laurie Frankel**

This Is How It Always Is, Laurie Frankel’s third novel, is a story of family, secrets, parenting, acceptance, and transformations.

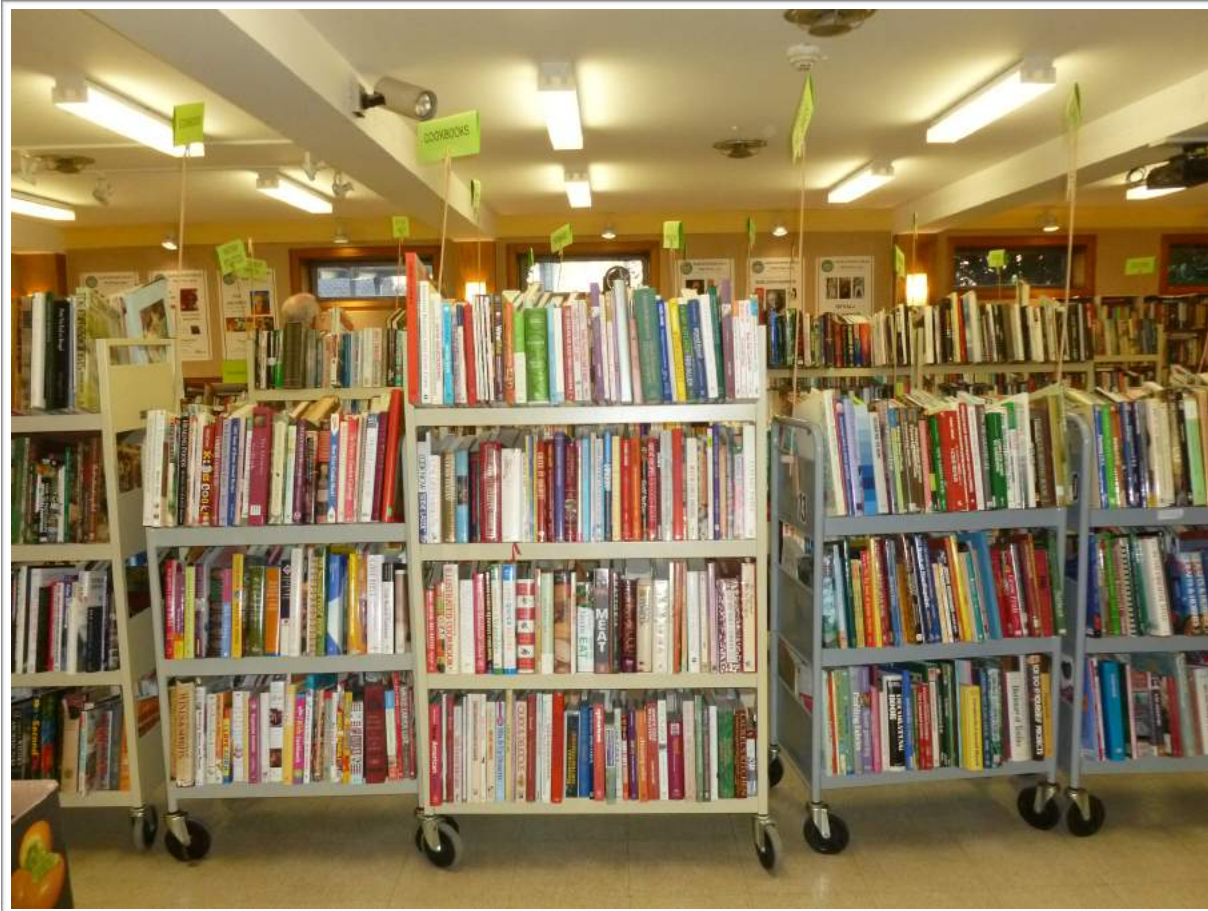
Rosie, a doctor, and her husband Penn, a writer and stay-at-home dad, live in Madison, Wisconsin, with their five young boys. At an early age, their youngest son Claude feels he wants to live life as a girl. As supportive, open-minded parents, Rosie and Penn encourage this, but when an incident at the emergency room where Rosie works leaves her visibly shaken, they move to Seattle to start a new life.

Although the focus of the book is on Claude (now Poppy), all the characters, including the other four sons, are very well developed. By placing Poppy in a big family, Frankel can explore gender identity and sibling interactions. For Rosie and Penn, it is a constant balancing act between allowing their child to be herself and protecting her from those who will not accept her. The rest of the novel examines how a family tries to keep a secret and how that unfolds. Fairy tales, used as metaphors, are woven throughout the book, which adds a playful and powerful touch.

It is a thought-provoking and beautifully written book, and Frankel tackles a complicated subject with honesty, humor, and humanity.

- Nancy Denboltz





JOIN OR RENEW



A 501(c)(3) organization

Friends of the Maplewood Library support many of our wonderful Library's offerings and programs, and we rely on your help to do this! If you are already a member for 2017, thank you so much. If you have not renewed your membership or joined yet, please do so. We need you!

Please make checks payable to Friends of the Maplewood Library.
Mail to: PO Box 183, Maplewood, NJ 07040

Membership for calendar year 2017:

- Individual - \$15
- Family - \$20
- Contributing - \$25
- Special Gift - \$_____

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YES, I would like to help with Friends' Book Sales.