As you have gathered by now, I am a bit sentimental. The holidays and the end of the year are always a time where I reflect, make lists, and then kick into action-figure mode to try to make the best of every situation, finish things up, and get ready for what’s ahead.

The existential question is: how do we really know what’s ahead? The truthful answer is that we simply don’t know what awaits us on any given day, week, month or year. All we do know is what we have in our back pocket, our heart, plus our toolkit to help us get through things, make things better, and move forward.

Many of you have shared your recent personal and professional successes, challenges, as well as your hopes and concerns for the future. There have been so many changes just in this past year and I applaud all of you for your grace under pressure, your efforts to look at all sides and not just your side before you make a decision, plus your willingness to work together in regards to Lakeland. Thank you so very much.

I’m going to share a conversation that I had with myself the other day. The following is an excerpt. Names have been changed to protect… oh wait. Never mind.

“How in the hell am I going to do this?”

“Ignore the negative. Think about it with humility. Say it with kindness. Do it with empathy. And, always, always be grateful.”

I hope we can continue to do our best, together.
Best wishes for the season.
Carol
TOYS FOR TOTS BOOK DRIVE
BY JANET CORNELL

The Lakeland staff is joining forces to donate children’s books to Toys for Tots as a holiday event this year. Because this service project will help to put books in the hands of disadvantaged kids, we thought we would extend an invite for staff at our member libraries to join us. The books will be collected at Lakeland until December 17, 2019 so they can be dropped off at the Kent County collection location before the deadline. There are drop off locations in other counties, but we will only be delivering them to the Kent County location. The books must be new, unused, and not wrapped. Think how much joy it would bring to those kids receiving a book of their own for the holidays. If you would like to donate books, you can put them in the bins or a bag marked for delivery to the Lakeland office. Please indicate they are for the Toys for Tots drive. We will take some photos of this project and share the results in the next newsletter. If you would like more information about Toys for Tots, go to their website.

“So many books, so little time.” -Frank Zappa

VOX BOOKS GROUP ORDER
BY JANET CORNELL

VOX books were a big hit with the libraries that ordered last year, so Lakeland will be putting another group order together this month. If you weren’t able to get in the order last year, you are welcome to join us this time around! The books cost between $38-43 each but if we have more than 50 books on the order they are discounted $3 per book and no shipping is charged. Details are still being worked out with the vendor, so ordering information will be sent out to the directors and youth service email lists. A tentative due date for orders will be December 16th so that we can place the order before Christmas. More information about the books may be found on their website. If you have any questions or are interested in ordering, contact Janet Cornell at janet@llcoop.org for more information.

LIBRARY DIRECTORS
WELCOME

Fremont Area District Library - Jackilyn Roseberry

Jackilyn’s background includes leadership roles in public libraries, with her most recent position being the Branch Operations Manager at Muskegon Area District Library. She was quoted as saying, “For the past ten years I have been working in libraries in some capacity and couldn’t imagine doing anything else as a career.”

ILS IMPORTANT DATES & INFO
BY SHERYL VANDERWAGEN

Remember to submit your 2020 Holiday forms by December 13. If you did not receive a copy in email, please contact me at sheryl@llcoop.org for another copy. Otherwise, I cannot guarantee that your due dates and holdshelf pickups will bypass your holiday closures next year.

The Non-Resident Policy form is also due by December 13, if your library plans to extend the ability for your non-resident borrowers to place their own holds on your local materials. The AdobeSign email was sent by Kelly Schroeder on November 20 to ILS Council directors. Please remember to complete and sign the form and submit it if you want your library’s holds configuration updated when the other non-resident software changes go into effect on January 1st.

UPDATED MANUALS
LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

“The Financial Management Guide has already been posted at www.michigan.gov/librarymanuals and the Michigan Public Library Trustee Manual will be posted soon. Later this winter, the Library of Michigan will be mailing hard copies of both manuals to public libraries throughout the state.”
**Georgetown Township Public Library:** The new Georgetown Township Public Library is officially open! The new 31,000 square foot building includes a quiet reading room, study and meeting rooms, teen game room, local history room, coffee/snack area, and a lot more space everywhere! Parking and landscaping will be completed in the spring.

**Herrick District Library:** We launch our HDL Things Library on December 2! Watch this space for the link to go live. Things will be available for HDL cardholders with a one week checkout. We’re using LibCal as our platform, so cardholders will be able to reserve items for specific dates. We are one of the first public libraries to use this LibCal functionality for a library of things, so we’re rolling it out as a pilot, hoping to learn and adjust our process as we go. Staff is excited that we can finally get everything from solar panels to ukuleles to graphics tablets into the hands of our patrons. We’re grateful to the other libraries who have so generously shared their time and expertise to get us started.

**Loutit District Library:** Library Loans T-Mobile Hotspots

“This fall, Ottawa County Libraries were awarded a grant for mobile broadband hotspots for checkout. Library cardholders can checkout a T-Mobile hotspot and get the Internet connectivity needed for mobile devices from virtually anywhere. Checking out a hotspot is easy! Present a valid library card at the Reference and Information Desk and get connectivity for a week! All startup instructions are included and technical assistance is available, but getting connected is so easy, we don’t think you’ll need our help.”

(Continued on page 4)
MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

(Continued from page 3)

Salem Township Library: We hosted our 2nd Annual Bed Turning Quilt Night on November 7, 2019. To set up here at the Salem Twp Library, we placed chairs around our cozy fire and put two tables together to symbolize a bed. Quilters from our community brought in 32 quilts and we laid them over the tables, one on top of the other. As we held each one up for all to see, the quilter/patron who brought it in shared the date, pattern and story of the quilt. Some were antiques, dating up to 150 years ago. The stories behind the quilts were just as beautiful as the quilts! There was a wonderful variety, showcasing the talents & love of local quilters and families who received them from mothers or grandmothers.

Laura Rodriguez (NC), Jennifer Salgat (IL), LaVonne Marshall (OC), and Virginia DeMumbrum (SW) attended the Small and Rural Library Leadership Academy in October. The academy "hand-selected 25 library leaders from Michigan’s Class I – III libraries for an series of professional growth events held around the state. In our work together, we’ll gather to will gather at various locations around the state to ponder the big questions of small and rural library impact. We’ll work together on issues including identifying community needs and partners, creating summer reading programs that have more impact for less effort, strategic planning, effective practices with social media, and more."

Jennifer said, "It was a LOT of incredible information on grant writing. The most amazing part was connecting with directors from other libraries that are experiencing the same issues as I am. We are all excited (and maybe overwhelmed a tad bit) for the next few conferences. Northern Michigan was full of color and it was beautiful! Our next meeting is in Frankenmuth in December, then Coopersville in February, and Traverse City in April. Our final session is in Ann Arbor in May."

LAKELAND LIKES

BY LAKELAND STAFF

The following are holiday resources I use a lot, but I’m sure as librarians you are a lot more adept at resources than me. I’m pretty mundane in what I use.
Smitten Kitchen (Blog and website)
Food-52 (Blog Website)
Joy of Cooking (The actual cookbook)
Etsy (The app)
Headspace (The app)
Rebel (Great store in Grand Rapids for gifts for that special someone)
- Carol Dawe, Cooperative Director

I read The Jesus Cow by Michael Perry on the recommendation of a friend. It was a great read about a calf born with the image of Jesus imprinted on its side. The book, based in rural Wisconsin, deals with the fall-out of the media storm descending on the townspeople in response to the remarkable bovine. Lots of quirky characters and funny events kept me chuckling all the way through. Great light read and surprise ending. Recommended for those who like to laugh a bit at the absurd and can relate to rural Midwestern living.
- Janet Cornell, Finance & HR Assistant

MI CENTER FOR THE BOOK

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

"The Michigan Center for the Book is the Michigan affiliate of the National Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. Our mission is to promote an awareness of books, reading, literacy, authors and Michigan’s rich literary heritage. The Center draws from the Library of Michigan and its affiliate institutions to encourage and produce local and statewide programs and resources that promote the culture of books. Affiliates join to invest in local and statewide library services."
OTHER EVENTS

www.llcoop.org/cedlinks.shtml

DECEMBER 4
FOML BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 5
PLA FOSTERING CREATIVE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS WEBINAR

DECEMBER 18
LM LIBRARY LAW SPOTLIGHT WEBINAR

DECEMBER 20
PLA 2020 MEMBERS EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT DEADLINE

JANUARY 7
LM IMAGINE YOUR STORY: IDEAS AND TIPS...

JANUARY 12
FOML MERIT AWARD DEADLINE

JANUARY 15
LM STARTING A SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM FROM SCRATCH...

JANUARY 17
LM SMALL & RURAL LIBRARY CONFERENCE AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE

JANUARY 21
LM STEPPING GENTLY OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE!

JANUARY 24-28
ALA MIDWINTER MEETING & EXHIBITS

ALa Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits
January 24-28, 2020

"Event Highlights:
- Three days of exploring the many futures of academic, public, school, and special libraries for the Symposium on the Future of Libraries
- Innovation-spurring preconferences and institutes
- Books, media, and 100s of authors 400+ expert exhibitors, new products, services, and titles
- Award announcements and celebrations"

PLA 2020
February 25-29, 2020

"With a record-breaking number of program submissions, the PLA 2020 Conference is sure to leave you with the knowledge, confidence, resources, support, and inspiration to bring change back to your library. That’s in addition to the new people you’ll meet and variety of entertainment you’ll enjoy— it’s in Music City after all! Most conference events will take place in the heart of downtown, just steps from famous honky-tonks, award-winning music venues, museums, and Nashville’s much-lauded culinary scene. Join us in Nashville to do more than develop new skills and talk about how far our libraries have come— be a part of inventing what comes next."

NCompass Live

"The Nebraska Library Commission hosts the weekly series, NCompass Live, with fantastic production by Christa Porter and wonderful presenters from around the country. The Commission also hosts the annual Big Talk from Small Libraries online conference, and one of the recordings added is from this year’s conference. Certificates of completion are made available to all learners after completing any course or webinar enrolled in from the catalog. With additional webinar recordings from TechSoup, Infopeople, OCLC, ALCTS, and other state library agencies and organizations, we’re pleased to bring you, your colleagues and volunteers more learning opportunities on topics relevant to the important work you do for your communities."
"Through the generosity of philanthropist David M. Rubenstein, the Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program honors nonprofit organizations that have made outstanding contributions to increasing literacy in the United States or abroad. The awards also encourage the continuing development of innovative methods for promoting literacy and the wide dissemination of the most effective practices. They are intended to draw public attention to the importance of literacy, and the need to promote literacy and encourage reading."

**FOML MERIT AWARD**
**BY JANUARY 12, 2020**

"Did your Friends of the Library carry out an outstanding project or a number of successful activities in your community during 2019 that had a significant impact on your library’s services to the community? The Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML) invites Michigan Friends groups to apply for this award. There are two $400 award categories: a Friends group serving a population under 12,000, and a Friends group serving a population of 12,000 and higher... Applications must be postmarked or emailed by Sunday, January 12, 2020."

**LOC LITERACY AWARDS**
**OPENS JANUARY 13, 2020**

**THE LEMONY SNICKET PRIZE**
**FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

"About the The Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced With Adversity It is of the opinion of Lemony Snicket, author, reader, and alleged malcontent, that librarians have suffered enough. Therefore he is establishing an annual prize honoring a librarian who has faced adversity with integrity and dignity intact. The prize will be a generous amount of cash from Mr. Snicket’s disreputable gains, along with an odd, symbolic object from his private stash, and a certificate, which may or may not be suitable for framing. It is Mr. Snicket’s hope, and the ALA’s, that the Snicket Prize will remind readers everywhere of the joyous importance of librarians and the trouble that is all too frequently unleashed upon them."

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS BIG READ**
**JANUARY 29, 2020**

"...a partnership with Arts Midwest, broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. Showcasing a diverse range of contemporary books that reflect many different voices and perspectives, the NEA Big Read aims to inspire conversation and discovery. The NEA Big Read annually supports approximately 75 dynamic community reading programs, each designed around a single NEA Big Read book. Selected organizations receive a grant, access to online training resources and opportunities, digital resources, and promotional materials designed to support widespread community involvement. NEA Big Read applicants submit proposals to host a series of community events presented at a variety of locations over the course of one month or longer. Events use the same NEA Big Read book as a point of departure and encourage participants to engage both with the book and fellow community members."