TOYS FOR TOTS BOOK DRIVE
THE DONATIONS

Janet Cornell spearheaded a book drive among Lakeland staff and any libraries willing to donate books. The Lakeland staff pooled some money together and were able to purchase 125 books. Some individual donations also came in for a final donation of about 135 books for Toys for Tots. They were delivered to WZZM December 18th. We would like to thank everyone who donated and we’re excited about the first attempt at a Toys for Tots book drive. THANK YOU!

READ ACROSS AMERICA
MARCH 2, 2020

Click the image for information and resources to plan your programs!

Best viewed online for hyperlinks - www.llcoop.org/newsletter.shtml
At the Kent District Library Board Meeting on January 16, the KDL Service & Meeting Center Board Room was renamed to the Bruursema Board Room in honor of long-time Board member Shirley Bruursema. The renaming pays homage to Ms. Bruursema’s outstanding legacy for future generations of KDL patrons, staff, leadership and board.

Executive Director Lance Werner said, “Everyone here loves Shirley Bruursema so, so much. Shirley has inspired libraries for decades, and has really challenged us all to be better. She’s been the matriarch of the board, has always been the leader and has led us through the most difficult of times. And because of all of her contributions to KDL and to libraries everywhere, we strongly felt it was important to recognize Shirley by naming the board room the Bruursema Board Room, and from now on, that’s what it will be – she’ll always be here with us watching over everything.”

Shirley Bruursema has been a member of the Kent District Library Board of Trustees for 25 years, and is currently serving as Board Chair for the second time. She has also been a Lakeland Library Cooperative Board member for 35 years. She has been dubbed the “Millage Queen” for coaching libraries through millage campaigns and helping pass over 80 successful library millage elections since 2000. She planned and presented numerous workshops for the education and training of library trustees and supported the Michigan Library Association with countless hours of legislative advocacy efforts.

PUPPETS

Every now and then, we get unique items to catalog. Jean Zabielski has been with Lakeland (or its previous names) for a total of almost 45 years - about 30 of which has been in cataloging, so she has seen some interesting things come through. Our favorite items are the puppets that Jean sometimes gets. They are adorable and bring cheer to Jean’s office space. Jean liked the owl best because it hoots.

“At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.” – Albert Schweitzer
**Fremont Area District Library:** Did you know that the Fremont Area District Library has a replacement audio collection called RAC? A volunteer at our library manages a large collection of CDs from audiobooks (no tapes) that have been partially damaged or lost. The remaining discs can be used to replace your own missing/damaged discs if you request to have them delivered to your library. We’re also considering doing this with DVDs from TV series, and have a very small collection of those at this time. You can also send your partial audiobooks or TV series to us so that we can add to the collection with a note that it is for the RAC. When you’d like to request any discs, please e-mail abecker@ncats.net. This contact info is also on our homepage at fremontlibrary.net.

**Fruitport District Library:** From Dec. 27 to Jan. 3, we sponsored our second annual Life-Sized Candy Land event. Over 300 minors and caretakers from all over the Muskegon area, and beyond West Michigan, participated over all five days. Everyone, regardless of age, had a great time walking through Candy Land to King Candy’s Castle and sitting on his throne. We are immensely thankful to the Fruitport Community Schools National Honor Society for doing an excellent job assisting the staff, to the Friends of the Fruitport Library for their support, and to the Allendale Township Library for loaning some of their supplies. This event could not have been such a success without the support we received.

**Grand Rapids Public Library:** One Book, One City for Kids is a GRPL reading program that encourages all Grand Rapids Public Schools 5th graders to read the same book. The 2019 selection is ‘Harbor Me’ by Jacqueline Woodson. Jacqueline Woodson’s first middle-grade novel since National Book Award winner ‘Brown Girl Dreaming’ celebrates the healing that can occur when a group of students share their stories. GRPL will host Taste of Soul Sunday on February 16, 2020 from 1-4:30 pm at the Main Library - 111 Library St NE. The annual event celebrates African American culture and heritage in our community. The event is free and sponsored by the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation.

(Continued on page 4)
Grand Rapids Public Library Continued: The 52nd Annual Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition will begin accepting submissions starting February 1, 2020. Click the image to earn more about eligibility and how to submit your poem. GRPL received a $15,000 grant from the Wege Foundation of Grand Rapids to support the library’s diversity and outreach programming. GRPL also received $152,000 in grants from the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) to use to support library programming and collections.

Howard Miller Public Library: We are now offering a special holds service - curbside pickup! This complimentary service is designed to make your life easier. There’s no need to wake sleeping children, battle for a parking spot, or navigate an icy lot with our new Curbside Holds Pickup service! Also, the library has partnered with the City of Zeeland to provide free ice skate rentals for anyone with an active library card! The city has a synthetic ice rink downtown, but invites the renters to use the skates on other rinks as well. The hockey skates come in a variety of sizes ranging from youth size 9 thru adult size 7. Patrons must be 18 years or older to check out the skates, but can check out multiple pairs. Skates are checked out for 2 business days and need to be handed to a staff member when returned. Many of the skates are returned after a fun afternoon of skating! Pictured is one of the first happy patrons to take home the skates.

Ionia Community Library: ICL received a $250 award from Michigan One Community Credit Union for its Community Awards Program. This will be used for Summer Reading programs. Also, out of a dozen or so gifts the library received this Christmas season, the above card, and wonderful sentiment within, really made our day. The card is a great recognition of IC staff and how our service makes a difference in Ionia. The cinnamon rolls were top notch, too!

Lake Odessa Community Library: Recently, the library was awarded Non-Profit of the Year by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and cited as a "gem" in the community. I also received the 2019 Community Leadership Award. The above photo shows library staff Kecia Dillon holding the library’s Non-Profit of the Year certificate and me holding the Leadership Award. We also finished a construction project here: we turned an existing storage room into a Quiet Room. This project was funded by our Friends group. The above photo is of students using the room for online Spanish classes through the public school. The room was completed the first week of January and is used every day for study groups, online interviews, computer work, tutoring, and even a new home ownership class through the MSU Extension!

Leighton Township Library: This event was so popular that registration filled up almost immediately, causing us to open up a second session. We had so many people interested that we completely filled both sessions and still had a waiting list, plus even more people coming to the event hoping to get in at the last minute. Everyone loved it!

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Loutit District Library: Loutit worked with the Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging in Grand Haven to prepare a list of books on Aging in Place. This information is valuable to those who wish to remain in their homes in later years. As part of the organization’s 50 year celebration, they purchased this set of recommended books and donated them to area libraries including Coopersville, Spring Lake, and Loutit. The above photo is of John Martin, Library Director at Loutit District Library and LaVonne Marshall, Library Director at Coopersville Area District Library.

Spring Lake District Library: We stopped charging for DVDs & Blu-Rays! Our board game collection is VERY popular and we just started circulating an Xbox One. We are getting ready to circulate a Nintendo Switch Lite and a PlayStation 4. We’ve already begun rolling out video games. Exciting times over here, but we are also learning a lot about Itypes, location codes and how they work together.

MLA SPRING INSTITUTE: PEOPLE FIRST
MARCH 19-20, 2020

If you’ve never been, you should check out this year’s Spring Institute! “Join us March 19-20, 2020 in Ann Arbor for Spring Institute 2020, Michigan’s premier annual education event for youth library professionals. This two-day conference brings together more than 200 children and teen services librarians to share, discover and experience best practices. Formal sessions and vendor exhibits combine with networking and social activities in a fun and collaborative learning environment.

The MLA Spring Institute 2020 theme is People First. By focusing on the needs of our patrons and staff as a top priority and placing a high value on respect, we can empower growth within our own communities regardless of our role within the library. Spring Institute 2020 will aim to educate and honor library staff and patrons through people-first practices in hiring, advocacy, displays, programs and collections."
Ready to Read Michigan 2020
A Parade of Elephants

March is Reading Month! Have you discovered the resources for this year’s chosen title? If not, click the image for more information. “The RTRM program is designed for public librarians to model early literacy skill development directly to families and to assist libraries in engaging in outreach to early childhood centers and daycares throughout their community. Every year YSAC selects a book title for March that encapsulates the 5 practices of early literacy from Every Child Ready to Read®, a parent education initiative from the Public Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children.”

Library 2.020: Wholehearted Libraries
March 10, 2020

If you have the time, please check out this free mini-conference. It is conveniently online – click the image for more details. “This mini-conference will explore the human side of 21st-Century information work. We will define what soft skills are, how and when to use various soft skills, types of training that can improve soft skills, and how to share emotionally engaging stories. Learn what libraries are doing now to extend services, create welcoming spaces, and engage users with soft skills such as compassion, empathy, creativity, curiosity, and finding balance. Sessions will focus on how we can nurture a positive mindset in our employees, use the power of stories to promote understanding, and extend our reach into our global communities. Soft skills are heart skills.”

One Seed, One State
Michigan Seed Libraries

2020 Youth Media Awards
American Library Association

ALA announced the winners for the 2020 Youth Media Awards. Are your favorites on the list? “Each year the American Library Association honors books, videos, and other outstanding materials for children and teens. Recognized worldwide for the high quality they represent, the ALA Youth Media Awards, including the prestigious Newbery, Caldecott, Printz, and Coretta Scott King Book Awards, guide parents, educators, librarians, and others in selecting the best materials for youth. Selected by committees composed of librarians and other literature and media experts, the awards encourage original and creative work in the field of children’s and young adult literature and media.”