

## President's Greetings

The Friends of the Freedom Public Library are the most remarkable group of people I have ever worked with. And why is that the case? I believe it is because they share four vital characteristics. They are creative, optimistic, energetic and conscientious.

Freedom Friends live creative personal lives and bring the spirit of that creativity to accomplishing our mission of support to the library. They conceptualize, then actualize crafts, kits and packages, social media strategies, special holiday sales, art work, communications. While they use these creations to raise money, they are at the same time forging friendship bonds.

The optimism our members continually display is both heartwarming as we age and sustaining in the extraordinary times in which we live. There is just no sense of defeat when the Freedom Friends meet. "Can do" is the watch word. No wonder our meetings are so well attended.

Our Friends have amazing energy. I believe this is because they commit to good health in a variety of ways. Increasingly, scientific studies are finding that regular mental and physical activity can slow the aging process and help people in their 60's, 70's and older function in many ways as if they were in their 30's or 40's. Being a Freedom Friend takes energy, but builds energy too.

When it comes to being conscientious, the Freedom Friends take first place. They plan thoroughly and implement smoothly. Every project participant knows what to do and does it. When all is concluded, participants automatically take a penetrating look at what worked, what didn't and why, and use their findings to reshape, improve and sometimes discontinue the project, event or activity. This formative evaluation contributes greatly to the Friends success.

It is an abiding pleasure to be a part of such a group and I give thanks to every one of you for making our group such a success, for helping make my retirement years truly meaningful and for being my friends!

*Florence Pritchard*

## Focus on Freedom

It is a fact that the more books we display in the library lobby, the more books we sell. And lobby books sell well. In December, sales brought in over \$900 and in January, over \$700. Given these facts, Pat MacMurray and Pat Russell, co-chairs of the Lobby Book Sales Committee, met with regular book sorters Ellie Cyr and Florence and Doug Pritchard to explore ways to increase our book display space. Surprisingly, the group came up with six possibilities:

- Add a shelf to one of the two taller existing bookcases.
- Place both carts against the front glass and add a half shelf under the fire alarm.
- Add a half shelf to the end cap of the right angle book case.
- Move paperbacks to two freestanding shelves and free up four shelves.
- Add a short shelf between the two doors with book bundles on top and books beneath.
- Replace the table with a polygon console with shelves on three sides and storage underneath.

These possibilities are hard to visualize from verbal description alone, so Doug has developed a concept drawing of them as additions to the existing shelves. The drawing will be shown at the Friends regular membership meeting on April 2. It will also be the centerpiece in a short proposal to the MCPLS administration requesting additional shelves. Hopefully this will result in the addition of all the shelves envisioned. If, however, only one or two additions are approved, even that will be a step forward. Also a small step forward has already been taken. The group found an additional shelf board in the lobby closet and installed it in the central taller bookcase. This has added more space to that case and is, of course, already full. Let's hope this continues the trend in strong lobby book sales!



## On the Horizon

On February 28, the New York Times published an astonishing article by Annie Correal titled *Once It Was Overdue Books. Now Librarians Fight Overdoses*. The article describes how librarians in some high drug areas are being trained to recognize symptoms of fentanyl overdose and administer the antidote, naloxone. The article points out that libraries are centers where homeless and troubled people come for refuge and some bring opioid addictions with them.

Begun in Philadelphia, the idea is being picked up by municipalities across the country. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney of New York has introduced a Lifesaving Librarian's Act in Washington which he hopes will become part of the battle against opioids. The bill would provide librarians with training in overdose awareness and administration of naloxone. What an amazing addition to the many responsibilities of librarians!

Closer to home, an article in the March 8 Star Banner by Joe Callahan reveals the future for thousand-acre Winding Oaks Farm. Owner Eugene Melnyk plans to create a village-like development with a commercial area of boutiques and fine dining establishments threaded with paths and scenic landscapes centered around a recently approved Jaguar/Land Rover dealership. One to two hundred acres will be devoted to horse training and breeding, and 865 acres "will include all types of residential development, including acreage for multifamily homes, residential homes and high-end neighborhoods." Plans for the residential development have not been submitted to the county, but Melnyk says that once the four-lane 42<sup>nd</sup> street flyover cuts through the farm, residential planning will begin. Perhaps this new housing will in some way free up lower cost housing to make up for the 9500 units at that level that Marion County lacks. The impact of this development on the library could be significant.