

VIEWS

The Newsletter of the

Friends of the Michigan Tech Library

Michigan Tech University

1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931

—<http://lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/>—

October 2022 Volume 27, No. 2

Friends Annual Meeting Scheduled for October 27

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library (FMTL) will hold their 27th annual meeting at 5:00 pm on October 27, 2022 on Zoom.

The meeting will include a recap of the Friends' fiscal year 2022 sales, grants, and fundraising, the approval of renewing and new board members, and the approval of officers to serve for the coming year. All are encouraged to attend.

Join us by Zoom

link: <https://michigantech.zoom.us/j/84575791738> Or by
Telephone: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 876 9923 or +1 646
931 3860 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 309 205 3325

We hope to return to having a face-to-face annual meeting in October 2023.

Friends' Book Sales planned in 2023

The Friends annual Winter Carnival book sale and free hot chocolate and cookies event is scheduled to be held in the lobby of the Van Pelt and Opie Library of Michigan Technological University on Saturday, February 11, 2023. In our next newsletter, we'll report on the first-time fall book sale, which took place Friday, October 7, 2022.

Our annual Spring book sale is scheduled to be held in the Ballroom of the Memorial Union Building the evening of Thursday, March 30, 2023 for members of the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library. The sale is open to everyone on Friday, March 31, 2023.



All campus health and safety practices will be followed for the book sales and all Friends events.

Please check the Friends web site for news on these events:
<http://lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/news/>.

Update from the Archives

by Lindsay Hiltunen, University Archivist

The Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections have had a busy summer and early fall is off to the races! We had a banner year for summer researchers, including genealogists from across the country, professional researchers, and students. The reference team facilitated over one hundred research appointments from June through August, with the average researcher visiting for well over three hours.

The reading room also welcomed two travel grant recipients as part of the Archives Travel Grant Program, generously funded by the Friends. Dr. Camden Burd from Eastern Illinois University and Dr. Brian Forist from Indiana University School of Public Health-Bloomington were both with us for a week each in early summer. The Michigan Tech Archives is working with our travel grant recipients to rekindle the Travel Grant Speaker Series this fall. Dates are being confirmed so stay tuned to the Archives social media for an announcement on presentation dates, which will be held virtually on Zoom in late October and early November.

In addition to research and reference services, Archives staff have been participating in public programming as part of the Great Michigan Read. Emily Schwiebert and I have done outreach with various public libraries across the State to present on topics related to the 1913 Copper Strike, women in the Copper Country, and archival resources that relate to Mary Doria Russell's novel, *The Women of the Copper Country*. In other outreach news, the department has been holding improvement discussions for our social media platforms, which has sparked a renewal of our Instagram page and brought in many new followers to the platform. Be sure to follow us on social media to see all the great things happening in the archives up front and behind the scenes! Twitter: @mtuarchives, Instagram: michigantecharchives, and Facebook, mtuarchives.

The reading room remains on a by-appointment basis. Appointments are available from 1-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and remote research remains robust. Appointments

may be requested by calling (906) 487-2505 or by filling out the request form on the archives website: <https://www.mtu.edu/library/archives/>. If you have any questions regarding archives services and collections, please reach out to (906) 487-2505 or e-mail us at copper@mtu.edu.

Real Books Still Desired by Readers

by Steven A. Walton, FMTL Board Member

“The report of my death was an exaggeration,” said Twain, and the same may be said of books—good old physical dead trees bound on one edge—much to booklovers’ relief. Despite expectations, independent bookstores have not succumbed to online sales, and at the same time, physical books have not been supplanted by e-readers. These were the topics of “The Fine Print,” the September 16 “On the Media” podcast from WNYC.

You may remember the Meg Ryan/Tom Hanks vehicle “You’ve Got Mail” (1998, dir. Nora Ephron), where Hanks was the big bad superstore book chain owner and Ryan was the little independent book seller. Of course (spoiler:) love won the day via their anonymous internet flirtations, but that movie was just a little bit too early to see how Amazon and other online retailing (but, let’s be honest, it’s really just Amazon) nearly killed off both types of bookstores. But the good news is that in the last five years, and even during the pandemic, hundreds of new independent retailers have opened in America. Further, many of those are being opened by women and people of color to reach wider audiences, though the podcast notes that the vast majority of ‘big’ authors are still white and male. And although Borders is gone, Barnes & Noble is turning its chain stores into more locally responsive quasi-independent-like stores to respond to community personalities. All this points to the enduring material joy (or at least that’s what I would call it!) of having a good book in your hand, whether reading on the sofa, in bed, or in a chair on the deck.

The other interesting topic covered in the episode is that despite e-books growing in sales until 2012 or 2013, since then their sales have stayed flat or declined. Some categories of books basically never appeared in e-book form at all, such as children’s books or cookbooks. Sales are really only strong in mass-market fiction like romance, mystery, and sci-fi, as those are the kind of books people read once and have less interest in having on their shelves. But real physical books remain strongly coveted by many readers, so much so that even before the pandemic, large print runs of blockbusters (they mention Michelle Obama’s memoir) would eat up the entire printing capacity in the country!

Despite the ongoing and at times increasing demand for physical books, the publishing industry still faces various headwinds. Shipping physical books from overseas printing houses is slow and increasingly expensive (possibly by a factor of 10!). Consolidation and a head towards *monopsony*

(your vocabulary word of the newsletter: a market with only one buyer, in this case the publishing house buying authors’ manuscripts) in publishing continues, currently being decided in an anti-trust lawsuit. Many literary giants—Stephen King was the one that got the attention—testified against the current proposed merger of Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster (King’s own publisher!) as bad for authors and bad for the publishing ecosystem.

Listen to the whole podcast (51 min.) at <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/otm/episodes/on-the-media-fine-print>.

Donor Hall of Fame (October 2022 Edition)

The books for the Friends book sale come from generous donors, and we are grateful for their contributions. We seek to thank them by name, with the list below indicating those whose books were donated since the last newsletter. (If we missed you, we’re sorry! We’d like to make amends; please let us know.) For the many, **many** donors of years past, thank you too for your generosity and for your support of the library.

Tom Co
Margaret Gale
Christopher Gale
Faith Morrison

Tech Friends of the Library Seeks Board Members

How does the magic get done? Well, in so many settings, the magic happens when a great group of people step forward and say “I’ll help!”

For more than 25 years the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library have put on book sales, sponsored readings and events, and financed special materials, hardware, interns, and travel grants to benefit the Michigan Tech Community. The group is led by a board of about 10 volunteers, and we’re looking to add a few members. Would you join us?

We meet monthly (currently on the first Wednesday) and usually for an hour or less. We support the heart of the campus – the Van Pelt and Opie Library at Michigan Tech – through fundraising book sales and other projects. We interact with the professionals who run the library to make their great ideas come to life for our library.

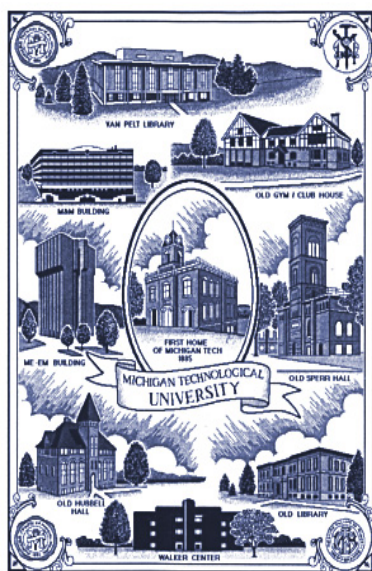
If you’re interested to join us, please check us out at our next meeting, November 2 in Library 103; you may also attend by Zoom. If you have questions (or need Zoom credentials), please email our chair, Amy Hughes (alughes@mtu.edu) or one of the other board members (<http://lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/about/board/>). We’re looking forward to meeting you!

Looking for a Good Book? Come Check out the Bargains!

In addition to our various book sales, the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library maintain an honor-system sale shelf near the service desk in the library. The shelf is stocked with many high-quality books, most of which are priced at \$1 (paperback) or \$2 (hardback). All proceeds benefit the Michigan Tech Library. Check out the shelf when you are in the library—books are added regularly, and you will be sure to find something you would like. Many thanks to Friends board member Holly Nemiroff, who keeps the shelf in order and stocked.

Friends' Blankets Make Great Gifts

You can renew your membership in the Friends online and you can also buy Friends notecards and the beautiful Friends Michigan Tech blanket. All this with a few clicks beginning at <http://lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/>. Each pack of Friends notecards contains 12 distinct historical cards. The 4 foot by 5



To purchase a blanket, go to the Merchandise tab on the Friends' website: <http://lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/>. Only \$65 plus shipping and handling.

foot cotton blanket in navy and white features historic buildings from the Michigan Tech campus and sells for \$65 plus tax and shipping/handling. All items make great gifts for Michigan Tech graduating seniors (*hint, hint*), alumni, and friends. All proceeds of items for sale benefit the Michigan Tech Library.

Book Donations Welcome Year Round

The Friends of the Michigan Tech Library are always seeking donations for our used book sales. There is a need for gently used books, paperbacks, CDs and DVDs. Make room for new books by donating your old books to the Friends. All proceeds go to help the Library. Bring your donations to the drop box in the library front vestibule or bring larger quantities to the loading dock (follow instructions posted there to obtain help).



2022 Winter Carnival Book Sale volunteers Pat Martin, Steve Walton, and Dana Richter are shown here, eager for customers. Friends volunteers are what keep FMTL going year round. Thanks guys!

Friends' Calendar

2022 Oct 7	Fall book sale, 10am – 5pm Library
2022 Oct 22	Make a Difference Day Book Sorting 10am
2022 Oct 27	Friends Annual Meeting , 5pm, Zoom
2022 Nov 2	FMTL Board Meeting, 3pm Library 103
2023 Feb 11	Winter Carnival Booksale, with Hot Chocolate and Cookies
2023 Mar 30	Friends Book Sale Members Pre-Sale Day
2023 Mar 31	Friends Book Sale—open to all!

RENEW ONLINE:

<http://lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/join/>

Friends of the Michigan Tech Library
Van Pelt and Opie Library
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-11295
Website: lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/

It is time to renew your membership in the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library.

Membership Categories

Friend	\$20-49
Family Member	\$50-99
Benefactor	\$100-249
Book Sponsor	\$250-999
Best Friend	\$1000+

Senior Citizens (65+) and Students may join for \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Donation Amount: _____

To renew your membership in the Friends, please go to lib.sites.mtu.edu/friends/ or send your contribution with this form to:

Friends of the Michigan Tech Library
c/o the Michigan Tech Fund
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, MI 49931-1295

Send us your email and receive our newsletter electronically. Email fmorriso@mtu.edu.

Please make all checks payable to the Michigan Tech Fund-FMTL. All contributions to the FMTL are tax deductible on your federal return. **THANK YOU for your support of the Michigan Tech Library.**