

Please visit our **Ebay Store** soon to shop for special items: signed, collectible, antiquarian, first editions, coffee table, books on local interest, and so much more! Your purchases help support our East Grand Rapids Library!



SCAN ME

<https://www.ebay.com/str/friendsofthelibraryofegr>

EGR Fish for All: A Catch, Watch, Learn and Release Program

In August of 2006 the East Grand Rapids Library had its grand reopening after being expanded and renovated. The library grew in size from approximately 11,000 square feet to 28,000 square feet! This was a wonderful realization of years of fundraising and planning by the Friends of the Library and our whole community.



When folks stepped into the newly fashioned library they were greeted by turtles and fish!

During the fifteen months it took to redo the library, there was a fundraising campaign project, separate from the voter approved library expansion vote. This “EGR Fish for All” campaign consisted of private donations aimed directly at bringing a 240-gallon freshwater aquarium and a 150-gallon turtle tank into the children’s area of the new library. The cost of the project also included cabinetry to hold the tanks and plumbing. Final cost for the project was \$18,000. Collection of

Turtle and Fish Tanks were the result of a *Friends* community campaign!

donations from individuals, groups and corporations began in the spring of 2005.

The major faction of the fundraising was a “Kids’ \$1 Campaign,” held in conjunction with local EGR elementary schools. We involved the children of the community in this venture. All who donated during this campaign were acknowledged in Friends of the Library literature and on the special plaque on the aquariums.

The aquariums, adorned with handmade donated Pewabic tiles from the Matheson family, (*Fish* cont. on p. 5)

Grow with Us at the Library!

Getting creative during Covid has been a fun challenge, and librarians have been constantly working on ways to provide patrons with safe activities to enjoy in-branch. Luckily, our Lab space (whose creation was sponsored by the Friends) has wraparound glass walls. This makes it easy for patrons to peer inside and watch things happen. We’ve already featured a seek-and-find Mouse House and a Keva Planks diorama – now, to keep the STEAM ball rolling, EGR librarians have created an indoor “Growing Garden.”

With seeds from the KDL Seed Library, a new grow light, and diligent watering, little sprouts have started to emerge! Basil, Swiss chard, green beans and thyme are just a few of the vegetables and herbs currently growing in our windowsill pots. Growing vegetables indoors is tricky, and our results may not be one hundred percent successful. However, we know patrons will enjoy watching the process... and maybe even will learn from our “scientific” mistakes. Stop by the KDL Lab downstairs next time you visit the library. You never know what you might see! View time-lapse video on our Facebook page.

—Holly Goulet, Branch Librarian



Glass KDL Lab Garden

Book Sale News

MAY BOOK SALE CANCELED

The **Friends of the EGR Library** is closely following COVID cases in Michigan and Kent County. Please check on the Friends’ website for up-to-date information on book sales and other fundraising activities. We appreciate your continued support! Stay tuned for upcoming sales!

Your membership helps support the


EGR Library.


THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2021 MEMBERS!


As of mid-April, we have 280 active Individual and Family Memberships. Your membership fees, in conjunction with our used book sales and sales from the Corner Book Shop, provide invaluable support to our little Library by the Lake. Do you have a friend or neighbor who is new to East Grand Rapids? Tell them about the financial support a membership provides, including guest speakers, library facility improvements, summer reading programs, staff appreciation luncheons, and more.

—Heather Lewis, Membership

For more information:

 www.friendsoftheegrlibrary.org

 www.facebook.com/FriendsoftheEGRLibrary/

 www.ebay.com/str/friendsofthelibraryofegr

FRIENDS OF THE EAST GRAND RAPIDS LIBRARY

Kent District Library, East Grand Rapids Branch

 746 Lakeside Drive SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506, 616-784-2007

Name _____ Date: _____

 Address _____

 City, State, Zip _____

 Telephone _____ Email _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

☐ **INDIVIDUAL** \$15.00

☐ **FAMILY** \$25.00

☐ **SUPPORTER** \$50.00

☐ **PATRON** \$75.00

☐ **BENEFACTOR** \$100.00 or more

☐ Save the paper - I prefer to receive communications by email when possible.

 Please make checks payable to:

Friends of the EGR Library

 You may also pay via Paypal by visiting our website

www.friendsoftheegrlibrary.org

Endowment Fund Gift \$ _____

 Do you wish to give an extra \$2.00 or more to support the library's fish and turtles? \$ _____

\$ _____ TOTAL



Greetings from the Board President

Dear Friends of the EGR Library, thank you so much for your continued support throughout this extraordinary and unprecedented last year. Your generosity, together with the continued efforts and commitment of the Kent District Library staff, have kept the EGR Library and the entire KDL system moving forward despite the intermittent shutdowns, re-openings, surges and other challenges we have collectively faced since March 2020.

From a purely financial perspective, your generosity helped buoy the Friends' balance sheet as we closed out 2020. While we still have room to improve our overall membership count, the increased per-member giving we experienced toward the end of 2020 has put the Friends of the EGR Library in an excellent position to support our Library staff as they begin to plan for an

eventual return to in-person programming and more regular, heavier traffic in the Library.

We know that many community members have increased their use of online and virtual KDL resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this is an area where your membership contributions will also help support an ideal mix of in-person resources, programming and activities as well as technological enhancements that make the Library accessible to even more patrons, including those who may have continued challenges in accessing the Library's physical facilities.

Whether or not you are a current Friend of the EGR Library, we hope you will consider taking this opportunity to join us (safely, of course). Please bring a mask and reacquaint yourself with your Library by the Lake and consider supporting the Friends of the Library through a new or continued membership. Thank you!

—Erik Daly, Board President



Behind the Scenes at EGR Library

The Library staff members are so happy to see you! It is rewarding to help people in-person find what they are looking for in books, DVDs, music or on a computer or device. We are glad to be able to do that again! However, if Curbside works for you, please continue to use it. Curbside service will continue as a service the library provides. We understand it can be simpler to stay in the car for a quick pick-up and we are happy to help!

The library will also continue to provide free printing up to 50 pages a week until the end of 2021. You may come in to print, print wirelessly, or order prints from curbside. Pick the method that works best for you! KDL.org has more information or call 616-784-2007 for assistance.

Many online programs are available at the KDL.org website; programs for all ages. Take a few moments to check out the many opportunities to stay engaged with learning opportunities and fun activities. Stay tuned for the possibility of in-person programs. Guidelines and rules permitting, we are hoping to be able to offer some in-person programs outside this summer. Check the website for updates in June.

Thank you all for your patience and support through this last year. Don't hesitate to stop by and see us!

—Dawn Lewis, EGR Library Manager



A Sampling of Recent Friends of the EGR Library Funded Projects

- New glass room for KDL Lab activities and study room use
- Author Hena Khan visit (October 2020)
- Teen Zone activity supplies
- Make and Take supplies for children's activities
- Support for the Yule Ball (February 2021)
- Windows and Mirrors Book Club Prizes (in December 2021)
- New fish in the aquarium!

Friends Board Members

Erik Daly— President	Dawn Lewis— Library Manager	Mimi Martin
Patty Sienstra— Vice President	Shellie Adamy	Dave Padula
Mike Reid— Treasurer	Meghan Cai	Amanda Tabata
Carole McDonald— Rec. Secretary	Mary Dersch	Kathy Tyron
	Leigh Eicke	Cheryl VanTil
	Pamela Grudzien	David Westphal
	Heather Lewis	Andrea Williams
	Chris Linabury	Tracy Wolford

Staff Spotlight: Mimi Martin

I am pleased to spotlight Mimi Martin, an Assistant Branch Librarian. You will see her working at the information desks helping people find materials or answering computer questions. She also checks in books from the book drop and those items arriving from other libraries to fill patrons' requests. Also added to her duties this past year has been delivering books via Curbside Service.

Mimi has worked at the EGR Library for 9 years. Her mother was a librarian. It was her mother's interest in libraries that led Mimi to getting her Master's Degree in Library Science forty years ago. Over the years, she has worked or volunteered in public, academic and school libraries.

Mimi enjoys helping people and being surrounded by books. Our community members have such a variety of reading interests and reasons to come by the library, that every day is different. She especially loves seeing the little kids choose their books. They get very excited and have a way of holding their books tightly as if hugging them. It makes Mimi smile.

Working at the library, Mimi sees a flow of books being checked out and returned. When she starts seeing the same title over and over, she often decides to read it. So, now she is reading *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley. She just finished *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity In A World Made For Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown. With the hopes of a family vacation later this year, she is reading travel books about Cape Cod.

On a personal note, Mimi has been married to her husband Rodney for 44 years. They have two grown kids, a daughter-in-law, two grandsons, and soon a son-in-law.

Mimi is also the Coordinator for the **Corner Book Shop**, located on the upper level of the Library. We are very lucky to have so many generous people donate their used books. Mimi



Mimi Martin

oversees the process from the time the donations arrive at the library, to the time they go on the shelves in the Corner Book Shop. She is very organized and is always looking for more volunteers. Because of the pandemic we have had to cancel book sales and sorts, but she is looking forward to more community volunteer involvement in the next few months. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mimi at mmartin@kdl.org.

The **Corner Book Shop** is open during the EGR Library hours. Please stop by and shop. Books of every subject for adults, teens, and children are continuously stocked, so make sure you come by and check it out! Sales support the mission of the Friends of the EGR Library.

—Patty Sienstra, Vice President

Fish, cont. from p. 1 have provided a chance for science class field trips and school projects. This is a catch, watch, learn and release program. Young fish and turtles are caught in the lake, observed for a time and released back into the lake when grown. New fish and turtles replace them.

The aquariums have created a wonderful educational, cultural and entertainment hub for the library. Many children will remember in years to come their library on Reeds Lake with the fish and turtles.

—Mary Dersch, Aquarium Campaign Manager

Updated Membership Terms

Notice: Membership follows the calendar year (January to December).

Join us today via mail (clip and mail the card to the right) or via our website: www.friendsoftheegrlibrary.org

Thank you for supporting the East Grand Rapids Library!



Thank you for becoming a member of the Friends.
May we call on you to help with any of our library activities?

- ☐ Help at the Used Book Sales and/or Friends Book Corner
- ☐ Help at the monthly book sorts
- ☐ Serve on the Friends of the Library Board of Directors
- ☐ Do you have a special talent you could share? (Explain below)

Comments or Suggestions _____