

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

MAPPING

WISCONSIN'S HISTORY

with Felipe Avila, GIS Coordinator
Wisconsin Historical Society

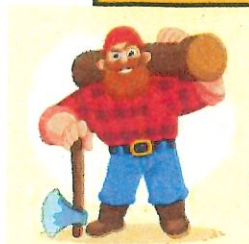
March 13 6 p.m.

Large Conference Room

Frances L. Simek Library

Archaeology like every other job or profession has been impacted by technology. GPS, aerial photography, laser scanning has all been added to the toolbox for researchers to use, but there is still no replacement for boots on the ground to verify sites. This talk will explore how research, technology, and field work are all used together in the office and in the real world to map and record archaeological sites to help improve our understanding of and knowledge of Wisconsin's past.

PROGRAMS FOR ALL THIS SPRING



LUMBERJACK LEGENDS & LORE

May 6 6 p.m.

Broadway Theater

Author Chad Lewis will be returning to Medford to share Lumberjack traditions, superstitions and legends. This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Medford Public Library. Everyone is welcome to attend!



2 SALES - 1 DAY ONLY

May 17 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

PLANT SALE & VINTAGE BOOK SALE

Now that we are into March, who isn't thinking about spring planting? If you are starting plants for your own garden, why not plant a few extra seeds so that you can donate to our annual sale? Donations can be brought to the library on May 15 and 16 during library hours.

We have been accumulating vintage books for several years now. For a while we had a Friends of the Library member that spent a good amount of their time researching many of these books to try to sell them online for us.

With these books taking up so much valuable space it was decided it was time to try something new. So get ready for our first ever VINTAGE BOOK SALE! Maybe you will find that 1 book you have been on the lookout for for years. Or perhaps you just must have a book from your childhood. Stop by the library for books and plants on May 17 and take home a treasure!





Medford Free Public Library

Photo from the WI Historical Society website.

Our Library History

1903 – 1916 – 1998

by Joanne Wolf

These three years mark milestones for the public library we know as the Frances L. Simek Memorial Library. I grew-up in Medford in the 60's and 70's and always had the library available. I took it for granted because it had always been there. But that's the point...it hasn't always been there.

The idea of a free public library was brought up at a Medford

Women's Club meeting in 1901. A library board was established and rooms were donated by the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) in the Temperance Hall located in back of the Medford Cooperative building on Whelen Ave. The library board members actively called upon the citizens of Medford "to rally to the support of this good cause." A 1903 Taylor County Star-News article stated, "Several persons have promised to give \$5.00 each" as "money was needed for several essentials before the rooms can be opened." Books were donated by the WCTU, a Medford businessman, area families, the joint school district and a church in Philadelphia. The library opened to the public February 23, 1903 with about 1000 volumes and a librarian who was paid a salary of \$30 a month.

The library became very popular and the library board began looking for a new site in 1913. The price for the lot on the south end of Main Street was \$100. A \$6000 grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation was obtained with the provision that the city make an appropriation of \$600 for the upkeep. This got the building project going and the new library opened to the public on April 29, 1916 and served as the Medford Public Library for the next 82 years.

Over the years, the library's collection was expanded to include films, record albums, small art prints, government documents, periodicals, sheet music and video cassettes.

The Medford Public Library joined the Wisconsin Valley Library System in 1961, allowing readers access to materials at all the libraries in this system.

Shirley Lemke became the library's 12th head librarian in 1984.

By 1989, the library was beginning to show its age and was overcrowded. To be continued...

Information for this article was taken from the library's scrapbook and historical Star News articles.



**Drawn to
the Library**
National Library Week
April 6-12, 2025



THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!



The Book Nook by Pat Hovi "The Women"

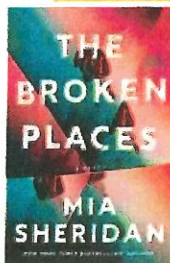
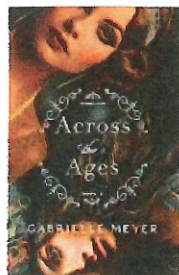
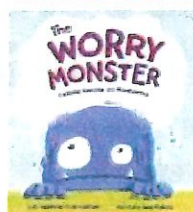
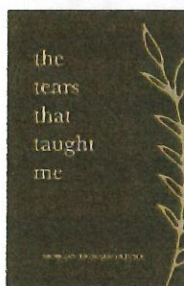
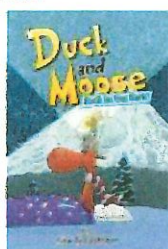
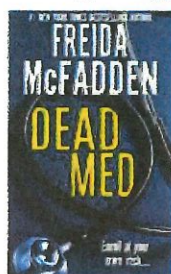
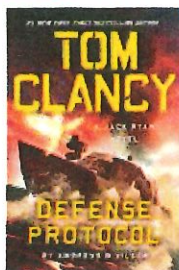
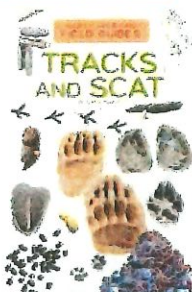
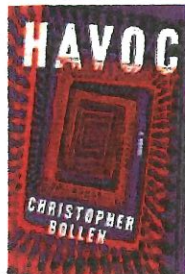
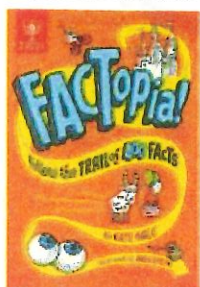
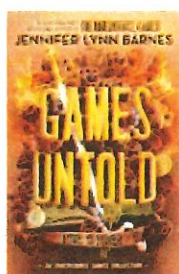
by Kristin Hannah

This novel is the story of a nurse who joins the armed forces to go to Vietnam. She is a woman from a wealthy family and discovers the world of females in combat. Her character is well developed and that makes the pages fly by. Kristin Hannah is an author that is a treat to read. If you have missed any of her novels, this one will have you checking for any of her other works.

Thank you to all of the great staff that work at the library! We appreciate all that you do for the Medford community and beyond. From programs, to book recommendations, to just a friendly, "Hello!", you make such a difference in our lives.
Thanks for keeping our library going!

The mission of the Friends of the Medford Public Library, Inc. is to strengthen relations between the library and the people it serves; to help promote library functions, services, and needs; to stimulate gifts, endowments, and bequests to the library, and to provide volunteer support of various library programs that bring value to the community.

**New Library books from
The Friends' monthly donations.**



Spring Book Sale 2025

Setup Tues. April 22 9 - Noon

Sale Open to the Public

Wed. April 23 9 - 7

Thurs. April 24 9 - 7

Fri. April 25 9 - 5

\$5 Bag Sale

Sat. April 26 9 - 2

Mon. April 28 9 - 7

Tues. April 29 9-5

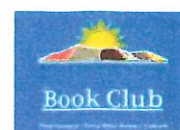
**Donations can be dropped off
at the Library Front Desk.**

Jackie Robinson is the winner of a 1 year membership to the Friends of the Library.

Thank you to everyone who entered the drawing during our Winter Book Sale.

The F.O.L. is sponsoring a new **Teen Craft Program** held the First Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. for ages 12 -18.

The Friends sponsored these winter crafts



Join us for stimulating conversation every other month @ 7:00 pm in the large conference room.

Upcoming discussions:

March 18, 2024-

The Death and Life of the Great Lakes by Dan Egan

Discussion Leader: Ron Schiffler



Card Making
With Cindy Keller every second Tuesday of the month, 6-8 PM. Bring your own supplies or use provided materials.

2024 - 2025 F.O.L Officers

President - April Schmeiser

Vice-President - Sue Breneman

Secretary - Julie Radtke

Treasurer - Kurt Radtke

Members-at-Large -

Karen Block, Joleen Dassow & Jill Dixon

Standing Committees

Garden - Kurt Radtke

Hospitality - Joleen Dassow

Membership, Newsletter & Programs - Julie Radtke

Public Relations - Monelle Johnson

Volunteers & Displays - Judy Pinkston

Our Winter Book Sale in January was a big success! The weather cooperated and people were able to come and stock up on more books and movies. Our sales were \$1276. Thank you to all who participated!

**Friends of the
Medford Public Library
400 N. Main St.
Medford, WI 54451**



**Friends of the Library
Upcoming Events**

F.O.L. Meetings 6:30 p.m. Mar. 31, April 28, & May 19

Adult Crafts 10:00 a.m. April 5 and May 3

Shelf Help Days 9:00 a.m. Mar. 11, April 8, & May 13

March 13 6 p.m. "Mapping WI History" Program

April 23 - 29 Spring Book Sale

May 6 6 p.m. Lumberjack Legends & Lore Program at Broadway Theater

May 17 8:30 a.m. Plant Sale & Vintage Book Sale



**All members are welcome and encouraged to attend the
monthly Friends of the Library meetings held the last Monday of the month at 6:30
p.m. in the Large Conference Room at the Medford Library. (No meetings in June,
July & December and the May meeting is held the Monday before Memorial Day.)**

Contact the Friends of the Library at: medfordwilibraryfol@gmail.com