



## OUR FORGOTTEN PRESIDENTS: THE UNFORTUNATE TWELVE

Presented by Annette and Jim McConnell  
Sunday, February 12, 2017 2:00 p.m.  
Livonia Civic Center Library

While George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and both Teddy and Franklin Roosevelt are highly rated and well-known American Presidents, there are many others who have been almost completely forgotten. Join us for a look back at the Presidents history and what has been left behind. Discover some unique trivia, key achievements, and failures of the leaders we often forget or, perhaps, never knew. With the exceptions of Polk, Lincoln, and Grant, the Presidents between 1841 and 1897 are not household names. Learn about these twelve leaders who governed the United States during most of the 19th century.

Our presenters, Annette and Jim McConnell were both born in Detroit and raised Downriver, graduating from Wyandotte Roosevelt High School. They have visited the birthplaces, homes and grave sites of every American President of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, also having visited all of the presidential libraries of the individuals. Educated at Albion College (B.A.) and Wayne State University (M.A. and Ed.D.), Jim spent most of his career in the Dearborn Public Schools. He has also taught as adjunct at several area universities and served the State of Michigan as a coordinator of historical celebrations. He chairs the History & Archives Committee at Nardin Park United Methodist Church. Annette earned a B.S. and M.A. from Southern Connecticut State University and is now a retired elementary school teacher. She was a curriculum development leader in her school district and a volunteer at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. Together, they have co-authored several small historical books, newsletters, and other publications. They are volunteers for the Detroit Historical Society, the Historical Society of Michigan, Friends of the Livonia Library, and other groups. They received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Historical Society of Michigan in 2012.

Please join us to find out what has been forgotten. Refreshments will be offered in the Michigan Room of the Library following the program.

## CATALOG and KIT HOUSES of Michigan

Sunday, March 12, 2017 2:00 p.m.  
Livonia Civic Center Library



Andrew and Wendy Mutch will give a talk on Kit Houses--houses that were introduced in the first decade of the 20th century. The homes were sold by catalog with all materials shipped by rail: lumber, nails, screws, paint, pre-build building parts (such as staircases) along with building plans, specifications and a manual. The Mutchs became interested in kit houses after they began researching their historic bungalow in Novi--a Sears Roebuck "Hamilton" kit house. You don't discover that your home is a kit house by finding a label on the doorstep indicating its origin. It takes research and sleuthing but our speakers are just the people who are able to do this. Wendy is head of Adult Services at the Northville District Library and Andrew is a librarian systems technician for Waterford Township Public Library and a member of the Novi City Council. The Mutchs have presented their program to numerous groups both locally and in surrounding communities. The reviews have been enthusiastic. You will learn that their house is not the only kit house in the area, but also, you will learn that the kit house had its beginnings in Michigan.

Come join the Friends of the Livonia Library for a free and an enlightening afternoon followed by refreshments in the Michigan Room of the library.

## President's Corner

After six years of faithful service, Harvey Devins has retired as Treasurer of the Friends, but not from "regular duty" with ongoing activities in the basement each week. He will also continue with V.P. Don Lynch to collect, tally and deposit monies received during each sale. Harvey, thank you for a job well done as our Treasurer!

The October Book Sale figures is **\$25,454**. That included the book sale, book shop and online sales. Thank you, VOLUNTEERS, for all your hard work. We couldn't have done it without you!

Dick Zimmerman

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Is it time to renew your membership? If you receive your newsletter by postal mail, the top of the address label lists your membership expiration date. If your renewal date is near or has passed, it will be highlighted in green. Current members receiving a Friends newsletter by email will receive an email notice to renew before your membership expires. To renew your membership, please use the form on the back of this newsletter and mail it to the library.

We appreciate your support of the Friends and remember – all membership dues and donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

For any questions, concerns, and/or change of address, please contact Diane Bergendahl at [248-486-9676](tel:248-486-9676) or [dbergend@gmail.com](mailto:dbergend@gmail.com).

## How to Dismantle Your Personal Library (continued from Summer Newsletter)

**Enlisting the aid of a book dealer.** My worry was that I would throw away or donate a very valuable book (Mom would haunt me if I did). A friend of my mother recommended a book dealer who worked out very well. He came to the house and looked at almost every book! He found tiny pamphlets, slim volumes, and ratty books that I would have thrown away. Unfortunately, he did not have the space/money to buy the whole collection. We worked out a solution. He selected several boxes of books that he could sell easily and paid me for them. He was generous with his time and expertise. He showed me the selling prices of the books online and explained how he came up with a retail price. His advice was invaluable. Finally, I was comfortable that I had the valuable books set aside.

**Put your valuable books in one place** (one room, bookshelf or corner). Valuable is a relative term, in my case I limited these books to those worth over \$100. You may use different criteria or benchmark.

**Group the valuable books according to subject:** Michigan history, literature, cookbooks, biographies, etc. It will be easier to give away or to sell these books if they are still on shelves, organized by different categories. Buyers may be interested in purchasing several books on the same subject.

**Sell your books yourself on eBay.** As an experiment, I tried to do this with ten nice, collectable books. In three months, I didn't sell one! You need a large presence (like an online storefront) to get others to peruse the books you have for sale. The only way

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

at the

## FRIENDS' Library Used Book Store

The FRIENDS Used Book Store could use one or two volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Shifts are 3 hours ea. during the week. Saturday shifts are from 11-1 and 1-3 p.m. Full training will be provided. Call Barbara at 734-612-9207.

## NEXT BOOK SALE DATES:

Friday, Feb. 3, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017

Bag Sale: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.



*Book Sale help needed. Please call  
Diane Bergendahl at  
248-486-9676.*

Any questions or concerns about the Newsletter, please email [P.Chernow@yahoo.com](mailto:P.Chernow@yahoo.com) or call 734-425-3544

buyers would find my books was if they were looking for my particular author or title. In order to sell on eBay, you need a PayPal account, a photo of each book, and you need to type in the title, author, publisher, and publishing date, content description and to describe the condition of the book. All of this will take time, but for some this is an excellent way to get rid of books and to make money.

**Sell your books at a rummage sale.** paperbacks 50 cents, hardbacks \$1-2 and up. Sets of books, art, biography, cookbooks and history sell well, but I have often seen whole tables of books remain unsold at an otherwise successful rummage sale. This could be due to overpricing, lack of interest, low traffic, weather, a general decline in book collecting etc. After your sale, donate your leftover books to the library, or to anyone willing to cart them away.

**Sell your books at an estate sale.** Because I had so many books, I decided to sell any books valued at less than \$100 at my mother's estate sale. The standard rate for an estate sale is to withhold 30% of the sale in exchange for setting up, running the sale, and some clean up. This turned out to be a mistake. The estate saleswomen were not able to dispose of a high-class library filled with valuable books and I know I did not accrue the true value of many of the books. However, they were very helpful in clearing out the lesser valued books. They even put me in touch with a woman who would purchase all of the leftover books for \$500 and remove them in two days. Frankly, I needed to get these books out of the house, or I would have to pay someone to box up the books and deliver them to the library for a donation. I could not sell the house until the books were removed.

### **Sell your books to a book dealer**

1. Call your local book dealers (look online for their contact information) and ask them if they are currently buying used books, and if so what kind. Send them a list, email photos of your collection, offer them a home cooked meal, or whatever you can to entice them to come to your house and bid on your books. Alternatively, put your special books in a box or two and bring them to the store at a pre-arranged day and time. Have a general idea of what wholesale prices you are willing to accept. Remember that the book dealer needs to make a profit on what he/she buys from you. They have bills to pay: rent, utilities, and help, and cannot give you retail price and expect to stay in business. You may be offered cash or in-trade (in-trade may be the better value if you are seeking to upgrade your collection).
2. John King Books, Detroit, MI 313-961-0622 John King buys used books. In early 2014 his website indicted that ordinary books go for \$1/foot, however his revised website doesn't mention this. The regular books are not online at this time and email or letters are needed to obtain pricing. The rare books are online at rarebooklink.com and prices are listed with these books.
3. If your books have an ISBN number, you may choose to sell them online. bookScouter.com makes it easy. They will give you a bid for each book and a shipping label to print up. You pack your books, attach the shipping label, take them to the post office or UPS and they will send you the money after they receive the books. You should compare several sites to make sure the price they offer is acceptable.
4. There are many other online book buyers (refer to the previous list of sites).
5. zupalbooks.com Cleveland OH, 216-241-7640 will buy books in bulk and pay for shipping. I saw them unpacking huge crates filled with books.

**Donate what you cannot sell to the local library book sale.** Pack these books in sturdy boxes that are easy to carry: they will be heavy! Call first to see if the library can accept your books (sometimes they run out of space to store them or are short of volunteers to sort them). The library does not have the volunteer staff to pack up your books and deliver them to the library. You will need to do this yourself. Perhaps a Boy Scout group would be willing to pack and deliver your books as a service project. Maybe you could ask friends or relatives to help you donate your extra books. If you are packing and hauling your books yourself, I suggest breaking this down to a weekly project, donating 3-4 boxes at a time.

**Final thoughts.** Regretfully, I never found the elusive valuable book that shows up on "Antiques Roadshow." Out of 5,000 books I kept 200. The books I kept had to fit on one bookcase, be of good quality, and of subjects that interested me. My mother had defined herself as an "amasser of books" not a "collector of books." Her interests were so wide that her collection contained a little bit of everything. She did have a good eye and didn't collect junk, but her books were not really rare. She did not buy and sell books to upgrade her collection. Most could be easily found at book sales, or from used book stores. Mom usually paid a few dollars for each book (I never saw her purchase a book for over \$25). She loved each and every one of her books, so much so that it was impossible for her to downsize.

If you have a library to dismantle, be decisive. Decide which books to keep, give away, and sell. Make a plan, break the process down to manageable steps. Give yourself a deadline. Get yourself some help and get it done. Think how wonderful it will be to have this job crossed off your "to do" list. Now you can really relax, check out some books from the library and read to your heart's content.

Written by Lori Rariden, daughter of Harriet Larsen after her Mother's passing



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**FRIENDS OF THE LIVONIA LIBRARY  
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Your membership in the Friends supports the Livonia Libraries

- by purchasing special books and other library needs
- by sponsoring cultural events
- by enlarging public support, understanding and use of the library

**Renew your membership...be a Friend again!**

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**I would like to volunteer in some way with the book sale process or staffing the Library Store.**