



# FRIENDS of the Berkley Library

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH  
2021

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM @FRIENDSOFBERKLIBRARY  
AND FRIENDS OF THE BERKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY ON FACEBOOK



**March is Women's History Month!**  
**Which of these authors have you read?**  
**Who would you add?**

# Membership Renewal

Most likely you're reading this because you've been a Friend of the Berkley Library. We are grateful to you for your willingness to support continued virtual programming. It's time to renew your membership. See inside for details!

# INSIDE Scoop

Need tax forms? The library has federal and state 1040 forms and instructions. We also have the home heating credit booklet for the state. If you need any of these tax forms or need a specific tax form printed, give us a call at the library (248-658-3440) and we'll make arrangements.

There's a new recycling dumpster at the library for newspapers, magazines, paperback books, and hardcover books. The recycling dumpster is the yellow and green dumpster behind the library in the parking lot (closest to Beverly Blvd). Cardboard cannot be placed in the bin, but all other paper products are accepted. You are welcome to deposit items in the recycling dumpster anytime you'd like.



Get connected with Wi-Fi hotspots! Delighted to announce we have 3 Wi-Fi hotspots to loan from the library. These little devices will get you connected to the internet from home or on the road. Give the library a call at 248-658-3440 to check one out or place one on hold.

Calling all family history researchers! The Berkley Public Library now provides access to Ancestry Library Edition for Berkley cardholders. You can access Ancestry's collection of genealogy, family trees, and family history records from home with your library card and PIN. Get started at [www.berkleymich.net/elibrary](http://www.berkleymich.net/elibrary).

## COMING SOON

Pronunciator is a fun and free way to learn any of 163 languages with personalized courses, movies, music, and more.

Access will be available after March 15 at [www.berkleymich.org/elibrary](http://www.berkleymich.org/elibrary).

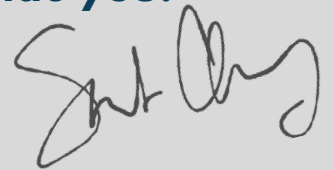
**COMPILED BY MATT CHURCH, LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

# FBL Reflections

by Sarah Clancy, FBL President

In late 2017, I met with Matt Church to volunteer my time in support of the Berkley Library, and he directed me to the Friends. Quickly, I connected with some of the other members who have become "not just library" friends. Over the years, we've shared monthly Monday evenings, Saturday mornings or Thursday afternoons at bake or book sales, ice cream scooping for the Summer Reading kick-off, and countless emails organizing, editing, and brainstorming. Listening to Matt share his reports each month and working alongside him, I feel such pride that the Friends are able to raise money and awareness for programs and issues important to our community. **I am most proud that we raised over \$1,000 in just a few months for anti-bias, anti-racist resources for our library.** For your commitment to the Berkley Library and making it a priority as you consider where to allocate your resources, I thank you.

In June, I will step down as the FBL President, a role I've held since 2018. Friends, thank you for your dedication, patience as I learned how best to navigate my role, the many book recommendations, and your tireless efforts to keep the library a Berkley treasure. Matt, thank you for your partnership. To my "not just library" friends, it's been an honor to serve (ice cream) alongside you.



*Able to renew  
your membership?*

Please **fill out a membership form** and drop off your check in the book drop at the Berkley Library in an envelope marked "FBL dues".

**THANKYOU**

# Five women writers you don't want to miss

**Toni Morrison:** If you've never read Morrison's work, you're missing out. If you've only read *Beloved*, you're STILL missing out. Toni Morrison is known for her evocative writing, mystical narratives, and characters that come to life on the page. Try her third novel, *Song of Solomon*, that Barack Obama has declared to be his favorite book.

**Willa Cather:** Willa Cather's novels of the American great plains are written in spare, straightforward prose that, nonetheless, puts you right into the settings she loves so much. In 1923, she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for *One of Ours*, a novel set during World War I that is a moving story set half in Nebraska, and half on the battlefields of France.

**Amy Tan:** Many fans know Amy Tan for her 1989 novel *The Joy Luck Club*, but may not realize that she has published 6 other novels, 2 children's books, and several works of nonfiction. Try her fascinating memoir, *The Opposite of Fate*, to learn more about her life, family history, time on stage with her authors-only rock band, and some behind-the-scenes stories about her most famous book.

**Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie:** Adichie writes with compassion and a knack for highly readable prose about a variety of themes including race, cultural differences, political strife, and the day-to-day humanity of complex characters. Her most recent novel, *Americanah*, parallels her own life experience of being a Nigerian woman and coming to America for the first time to attend college. The outsider views of American race relations are both insightful and thought-provoking.

**Anne Lamott:** Lamott is an author you can turn to when you're in need of a laugh, inspiration, comfort, or an absorbing story. Her nonfiction is mostly personal in nature, and covers a variety of topics including her struggles with alcoholism, progressive politics, single motherhood, and Christianity, and are full of her trademark self-deprecation and humor. Her novels are peopled with well-rounded characters that are as flawed and as lovable as humans tend to be. Try *Operating Instructions: a Journal of My Son's First Year* for both the laughter and tears involved in bringing home a newborn.

Content by Lindsay Payne

## *Your turn*

Join us at our meeting on March 22 at 7pm on Zoom to share your recent recommendation.