



**FRIENDS** of the  
Plymouth Library  
HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY

# CHECK IT OUT!

## Plymouth Garden Tour 2022

The Friends of the Plymouth Library are excited to invite you to our popular Gorgeous Gardens Tour again this year!



On Sunday, July 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Friends of the Plymouth Library will host a self-guided tour of five of the most beautiful gardens in Plymouth. This is the eighth Gorgeous Garden Tour that the Friends have sponsored and once again, the gardens will delight, inform, amuse, and give pleasure to everyone who visits.

One garden site is described by its owners as a nearly half-acre lot with gardens featuring native and non-native flowering plants that are shade-tolerant and pollinator-friendly. July blooms typically include Hyssop, Salvia, two species of Monarda (Bergamot), Woodland Sunflower, Joe Pye

Weed, Day Lilies, various coneflowers, a dozen varieties of Hosta, and a massive plot of variably colored Garden Phlox. This garden is located near the intersection of Ximines Lane North and 40th Place North.

The second tour site features an 1861 farmhouse with old-fashioned perennial gardens and modern hardscapes. Come see a bit of Plymouth history with a pictorial view of the farmstead over the years. Located near Ximines Lane North and 40th Avenue North.

The owner of the third garden says, “Our garden is a microcosm of what each of us can do to combat global warming. From solar panels on the house roof to a compost bin, pollinator gardens to vegetable gardens, we are trying to make a difference in the way we live and share that outlook with the rest of our community. The waterfall and pond create a soothing space to block out street noise and attract birds and insects.” Located near Northwest Blvd and 44th Avenue North.

For the first time, the garden tour is featuring a vegetable garden. Mount Olivet Lutheran Church is opening its two large Giving Gardens of vegetables and herbs. Produce from the gardens is donated to community partners, ranging from a food shelf to a women’s shelter. The gardens have a unique compostable, easy-to-work top soil that provides over 2,000 pounds of organic vegetables from spring to fall. Garden volunteers will be able to answer questions on vegetable growing. Find the garden near Larch Lane and Old Rockford Road.

The last garden was a big favorite of our tour in 2018. It’s spread out over a very large area with a pond, a grape trellis, many perennials, a water feature and more! It has been recently updated to include a “She Shed” and additional features. Located near Forestview Lane North and Sunset Trail.

Garden Tour tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 on the day of the event and can be purchased at our tour partner, Bachman's in Plymouth. Children ages 12 and under are free. Tickets may also be purchased at individual gardens on the day of the tour. Proceeds from the tour benefit the Plymouth Library.



## OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

Library volunteers are ready and anxious to get back to what they really enjoy doing -- helping at the Plymouth Library. Volunteers come from different places -- they come from the Friends of the Library Board, Friends of the Library, Plymouth Library patrons, and teens from Wayzata High School. Plus we have volunteers who respond to requests on our "Friends of Members" email list and also the Sign Up Genius emails, which make signing up to volunteer very easy.

In 2020, with the closure of the library due to COVID, reopening with reduced hours, and only one book sale, our volunteer hours totaled only 675. In late 2021 we were allowed to have two book sales, one in September and one in October. Our volunteer hours for 2021 totaled 1,020. An interesting statistic is that in the years 2010 to 2021 volunteers put in a total of 15,784 hours!

Volunteers, in addition to book sales, work at the Plymouth Garden Tour, Plymouth Reads events, and assist with programs that are linked to special events. This year we had a very successful booth at the Discover Plymouth event where a number of families joined the Friends of the Plymouth Library. We have volunteers who box up discarded books from the library shelves for the next book sale, help with donations and deliver books to the storage unit, where books reside for the next sale. Two book carts, loaded with used books for sale to library patrons, are located near the entrance to the library. It is kept fully stocked with a variety of used books for all ages. It always looks neat and eye catching. This is all done by volunteers.

Now in 2022 the future looks great with plans for events in the making. That means we can always use more volunteers.

Check it out!!

Who Are We?

The Friends of the Plymouth Library (FPL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to support the Plymouth Library by providing resources, promoting programs and services, and strengthening community. FPL volunteers also assist library staff with many activities throughout the year. Membership is open to all.

Board Members

President: Cathy Fischer

Vice-President: Joshua Velasquez

Treasurer: Katherine Jaeger

Secretary: Barbara Wills

Book Sales: Charlie Knuth, LuAnn Svendsen

Membership: Ellen Griffin

Communications:

Volunteers: Sandy Hoglund

Plymouth READS Chair: LuAnn Svendsen

Newsletter: Charlie Knuth

Nominations: Katherine Jaeger

Directors: Shannon Banks, Margaret Bird,  
Kristin Blomquist, Claudia Hunter, Leslie

Ostrem, Megan Rothke

Library Liaison: Joanna Redman

All members are welcome at Board Meetings, which are held at the Plymouth Library on the second Thursday of each month from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

For more information:

Visit [www.supportthclib.org](http://www.supportthclib.org)

E-mail us at

[plymouth@supportthclib.org](mailto:plymouth@supportthclib.org)

Call (612)543-5825



## Book Sale

The next book sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. for Friends members and 10:00 a.m. for the general public. Our last book sale netted the Friends \$3600. I hope you found good books for the summer.

## LAST PRINT NEWSLETTER

Due to rising costs of postage and printing, the newsletter will cease its print publication after this one. If you are receiving this in print form, please send us your email address at [plymouth@supportthclib.org](mailto:plymouth@supportthclib.org). If you don't have an email address, please call 612-543-5825 and tell us. We will work on a viable solution.

### Books recommended by the Board:

I Was Told It Would Get Easier by Abbi Waxman

Writers & Lovers by Lily King

Becoming Trader Joe by Joe Coulombe

The Voyage Out by Virginia Woolf

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

Decisions at Chatanooga by Lawrence K. Peterson

Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

The Hourglass Throne by K.D. Edwards

Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams

The Paris Apartment by Lucy Foley

The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Harmel

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

Three Sisters by Heather Morris

Persuasion by Jane Austen

Smile by Sarah Ruhl

The Last Bookseller by Gary Goodman

Count the Ways by Joyce Maynard

The Good Hand by Michael Patrick Smith

HAPPY READING!!!!

**Plymouth Library Hours of  
Operation**

The library is open Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 9:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m., and Sun. Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Another way of helping the library is through your purchases at smile.amazon.com. Using this access to Amazon sends a donation from Amazon to the charity of your choice, at no cost to you. Search for Friends of the Plymouth Community Library & Mobile Sers Comm Group.

**Bits and Bobs**

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Book donations are back. Please donate your books for the library book sales. The next three donation days are: Saturday, July 2nd; Saturday, August 6th; and Saturday, September 3rd. Donation hours are from 10:30 a.m. to Noon.

No encyclopedias or text books, please.

**Thank You**

Thank you to the Library Staff, who continue to work relentlessly to serve all of the library patrons. Also, thank you to all the volunteers, who so freely give their time to help the Plymouth Library and the Friends of the Plymouth Library.

We appreciate all of you!

FROM: Friends of the Plymouth  
Library  
PO BOX 46232  
Plymouth, MN 55446

TO

# Beloved Librarian Retires

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Retiring Plymouth Librarian, Laurie Simenson, tells us about her interesting career. We will miss her.

I have always loved libraries. I hung around my hometown library so much that they gave me a job when I turned 14. They called me a Student Librarian and allowed me to learn every facet of the job: helping patrons with reference work at the circulation desk, shelving, managing the magazine and vertical file collections, and displays. I loved it all.

I toggled between Bush Memorial Library at Hamline University in a work/study program during the university school term and the Buffalo Public Library in the summers throughout my college years. I then attended graduate school at the University of Minnesota. Minneapolis Public Library (MPL) had a pre-professional program that I was hired into which started my employment with MPL. I worked as a substitute librarian from 1980-2001 for Minneapolis and from 1991 for Hennepin County.

In the midst of all this, I got married (to Bob), moved three times, and had two children (Steve and Erin.)

Michael Boe, Library Services Manager, and Janelle Zuniga, Associate Librarian and bookmobile driver extraordinaire, taught me how to drive the book mobile. I loved it and was terrified at the same time. I remember bumping over curbs and having every book on board fly off the shelves to the floor. One winter Janelle and I were crawling along on a snow-covered city street. "That's it," she says, "we won't make this curve, we'll have to back up." While I stood at the back window yelling "Left! Right!" Janelle backed the bookmobile down an incredibly curvy street, requiring everyone behind us to back down as well. Good times.

In 2001 my husband was working in the travel industry with clients in New York City and Canada. The events of 9/11 impacted that work and he lost his job. I applied for and got a part time job at Southeast (now Arvonne Fraser) Library as the children's librarian. One of my favorite memories is when I had a group of teens called a READ Team and it was like a mini-United Nations of girls. We had representatives from the US, Mexico, Ukraine, India and Mongolia. We screen printed tie-dyed t-shirts for the READ Team kids from all of the libraries. It felt authentic and impactful to me at the time and still does to this day. The icing on the cake was this was all fun.

I got a full-time job at North Regional Library and became the Youth Services Coordinator for the North region. All that meant was that I was a go-between from the administration to the children's librarians in our region – communicating in both directions. In 2004 I got laid off – I think I was the last Librarian hired. That was a painful time but I got hired back within a matter of weeks and have moved steadily forward since that time. By the time MPL merged with Hennepin County (2008) I was a supervisor at Nokomis Library. I think I was one of the first MPL employees to be given an opportunity to supervise in a suburban library, so in 2009 I became the Senior Librarian at Augsburg Park Library. It's a beautiful library set right next to Augsburg Park. It was the least urban of the libraries I've worked.

I know some people in both library systems were unhappy about the merger. Even though I know I am change-resistant, I thought the merge was good for MPL. I thought the support we had from the city of Minneapolis was tenuous and knew HCL could not be worse. Still, I went into a phase of deep mourning for MPL, internally, for a time after the merger. I was correct in my thinking that HCL would be better for us. As far as I can tell all of the city libraries have been upgraded, repaired or replaced. Staff were integrated with as much care as possible, and technologically HCL was way ahead of MPL. I think it took longer to merge

two very distinct philosophies (reference library vs popular library) to create what we have today.

Since 2009, I have hopscotched around to different libraries. From Augsburg Park (26 miles from my home) to Northeast (16 miles) to Brookdale (10 miles) to Plymouth (5 miles from my home) lasting 3-4 years at each library. While part of one system, each of these libraries has their own personality or culture. Their communities have different needs. When I moved to Plymouth Library in 2018, I thought that it would be my last library.

Every day is different at the library. Each person you encounter at the library is an opportunity to impact someone's life. Being a supervisor has offered other challenges and I have appreciated that work as well, especially when I intersperse it with work on the service desk or with the staff.

I am not sure what I will be doing in retirement. I have no real plans, at the moment, other than to see what it feels like not to be an employee after being one for 52 years. Maybe I should write a book that draws you in, makes you laugh and cry, and want to share, particularly at the Friends of Plymouth Library monthly meeting "What I'm Reading" roundtable!