

## **Prison Books**

### **2019 Annual Report**

The Prison Books Program delivers books for use by prisoners in Michigan prisons, respecting the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, and fostering justice, compassion and equity in human relations. We contact prison librarians to determine the type and quantity of books wanted. Adult books are for recreational reading, self-help, literacy, and art and writing programs. Children's books are provided in waiting rooms at the jail and Huron Valley Women's prison.

In 2018-2019 we collected over 14,00 books from area public libraries (Saline, Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Ypsilanti, and Rochester Hills); AAUW sales in Ann Arbor and Birmingham; Ann Arbor Kiwanis; individual donations; and some area bookstores. We sorted books into requested categories and delivered to several Jackson prisons, Marquette Prisons (through the drop-ship warehouse in Jackson); Woodland; the Washtenaw County Jail; and Huron Valley Women's Prison. We currently deliver to fewer prisons than in the past because of changes in wardens and policies of the prisons. The librarians in the remaining prisons we serve have told us that we are their only source of books.

People who worked on the program this year include: Dick Barber, Diane and Tom Bauld, Janis Beard, Lee Boeke Burke, Cassandra and Michael Caverhill, Chuck Dunlap, Shelley Ferguson, Jim Gallas, Anne Garcia, Barb and Dave Hall, Emily Harpe, Bob Heinold, Mike Muha, Meghan Musolff, Quincy Northrup, Dave Purcell, Audrey Salas, Dave Schwab, Carey and Zoe Swanson, Phyllis Valentine and Tadd Rosa, Anne Vanden Belt and Debbie Zivan. A Chalice Circle helped sort books as their service project.

This year we began phasing in new leadership and dividing responsibilities to allow long serving members to retire to advisory roles. We also sought and continue to seek new, younger members.

Submitted by Bob Heinold and Phyllis Valentine