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Title: Chelsea District Library Celebrates 2021 Friend and Volunteer of the Year Award Recipients

After a hiatus in 2020, Chelsea District Library (CDL) staff and volunteers were excited to gather at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party on Saturday, December 4. At this celebration, CDL honors the individuals who have been particularly generous in their service to the library. The awards originated in 1992 as a small way to recognize the enormous gratitude CDL has for those individuals who help to further its mission. These dedicated individuals provide great value to the library by doing work above and beyond the normal scope of the CDL staff, such as running the monthly book sale, scanning materials into CDL's historical databases, creating innovative displays, and so much more. This year CDL celebrates the services of 2021 Friend of the Year Marjorie German and 2021 Volunteer of the Year Dr. Richard E. Burney..

Marjorie, often called Margie, was born in Frankenmuth, Michigan. As a child, she read everything that was age appropriate, because for Marjorie, reading has always been a joy! Whenever Margie and her husband, Bob, moved to different cities in Michigan, she always looked first for the town's library. When they moved to Chelsea they were busy settling into a new home with their children, and she found the library right away. One day the local newspaper, *The Chelsea Standard*, landed on her porch with a job posting for a librarian at the McKune Library. She answered the advertisement and she was hired! From that moment on her heart was permanently attached to the library in Chelsea. She worked with one other person as a librarian, and they did everything from ordering the books to servicing patrons. She still enjoys all that the library offers, but most of all she enjoys meeting people and reading books. She is happy and proud to be part of the Chelsea District Library—which she warmly calls, “My Library.”

This year's Volunteer of the Year recipient is not your traditional library volunteer. His work for the library occurred entirely outside off the library grounds, and only occasionally does he directly interact with library materials. After a 50-year career as a General Surgeon and Professor of Surgery at the University of Michigan, Richard Burney retired on October 31, 2019. One of his goals for retirement was to make use of his Martin D48 guitar a little more often. His daughter Edith Donnell, a Youth & Teen Librarian at the Chelsea District Library, had been joking with him about how they should start singing together again like when she was a child. During the early, confusing weeks of library closure in the pandemic, Edith began working out of her parent's house. Eager to connect with the library's young patrons, Edith started trying to recreate Storytime on Facebook Live, using her father's office space. Dr. Burney showed an interest in helping, and Edith, sensing an opportunity to make Storytimes special (and enjoy

some special time with her dad), invited him to join her and provide musical accompaniment. The first Storytime Live was streamed live on March 25, 2020. Nearly every week for the next 17 months, Dr. Burney and Miss Edith have delighted their young audience online with stories and songs.

The CDL staff thanks Marjorie, Dr. Burney, and all of the Friends and volunteers who help us engage, inspire, and equip our community! For information about volunteering, please contact Linda Ballard at 734-475-8732 x202. For more information on becoming a friend, visit friends.chelseadistrictlibrary.org.

About Us: Chelsea District Library is a not for profit organization whose mission is engage, inspire, and equip through evolving services and resources. The Library currently serves 15,010 residents in the Chelsea area including the City of Chelsea plus Dexter, Lima, Lyndon and Sylvan townships. More than 16,000 individuals visit the Library each month. For more information visit chelseadistrictlibrary.org.

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