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AAUW book sale hitting 60-year milestone

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Six Dearborn AAUW book markers and sorters will be celebrating the group's six decades of reading thousands of used books for the AAUW Annual Used Book Sale, coming up this year on Sept. 15-17. From left: Jan Frank, Judy Monroe, 2011 Book Chair Kathy Gapa, 2010 Book Chair Joan Arrick, Betty Davies and Eileen Prinsen.

DEARBORN — Like bargain books? Here they come again.

A milestone will be reached Sept. 15-17 as Dearborn AAUW welcomes the public to its 60th Annual Used Book Sale to benefit scholarships and educational outreach programs for women.

“We launched this as an experiment in 1951, and after six decades of hard work, have probably raised a half-million dollars or more from the rescue and sale of used books to aid education,” said Dearborn AAUW President Anne Gautreau.

To be held again at the Dearborn Ice Skating Center (DISC) on Ford Road, just east of Greenfield, the books are priced at \$1 to \$2, and are gathered and sorted all year from book barrels throughout the community.

Admission is free all three days with the exception of a \$15 “early bird” fee — 9-11 a.m. on opening day, Thursday, Sept. 15, said 2011 Book Chair Kathy Gapa.

Sale hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday; then 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on “Bag Day” Saturday, when book lovers can fill up one grocery bag for \$8, two for \$15.

“We especially love teachers,” said Gapa, noting that teachers (with I.D.) can “select as many books as they want, Saturday 2 to 4 p.m., for their classroom or personal use.”

“Even at the end of the sale, there are always a lot of beautiful books still looking for a good home. We really hate to send them to landfills,” said Gautreau.

Joan Arrick, 2010 sale chair, again called the annual AAUW effort a “labor of love,” citing the hours of work teams of women donate year around to sort and mark thousands of books for the event.

“We do discard some abused books and out-of-date textbooks, said Gapa.

All the books finally offered at the sale are in good condition and, unlike some sales, are carefully sorted into categories for ease in finding one’s area of interest, she explained.

Always in ample supply are a variety of current books in like-new condition, many still selling at book stores for \$15-\$30 each.

Love mystery? Suspense? Or enjoy books on gardening, travel, history, fitness, religion, politics? “You-name-it, the sale probably has them,” said Arrick. She added, “And there are always lots of fiction, cookbooks and children’s books.”

With the sale only a month away, book barrels have now been pulled from all but a few locations. They’ll appear again next spring for new book donations.

Barrels available year-around for book deposits are located at DISC, Dearborn City Hall, First Methodist Church in West Dearborn and Littlefield Presbyterian in East Dearborn.

“Don’t miss out, mark your calendars,” said Gautreau.