Coming Soon: *The Daily Tribune* on the Web

The library is pleased to announce that the library’s 146-year-old collection of *The Daily Tribune* will soon be available in a digital format for the first time. The project, made possible by a donation in memory of local teacher Jane Carpenter, will make it much easier to access the rich treasure of the *Tribune* back to 1877. Genealogists, history buffs and other interested parties will be able to get 24/7 online access to obituaries, news stories and other items of local interest. Also, an index will be available to make searching much easier. The project began in September 2019 and is expected to take several months. The library will train users once the new database is completed. Stay tuned for the debut of this exciting and much-anticipated new service in 2020.

Senior and Elder Resources

In an effort to further our commitment to seniors, the library is planning to offer “Memory Care Kits” so caregivers can enrich the lives of seniors with memory problems. The themed kits have a variety of items, including music and memorabilia, designed to trigger memories that will help seniors and caregivers connect. The library has also scheduled a 4-week series of computer essential courses for older adults and an adaptive technology presentation in May for persons with disabilities. These additions follow the library’s launch of its outreach service delivering items to the homebound and the related increased selections to the Large Print collection. The library also offers a monthly senior book club at the Salter Community Center. In addition, ROPL is exploring new partnerships with senior facilities and non-profit organizations to better serve our older patrons. And, of course, seniors are welcome to take advantage of the wide variety of author/book, music, local history, and informational programs we offer to all patrons.

Spring into Spring with Your Seed Library

As you plan your spring garden, do not forget the amazing offerings of the library’s free seed collection. The service is going strong and is housed in an attractive nook near the library’s newly re-opened Eleven Mile Road entrance. All community members are welcome to take the vegetable, herb and flower seeds curated with the help of generous donors. And we hope that seed library patrons return some seeds from their harvest to make the Seed Library self-sustaining. Thanks to the following companies for their generous donations: **High Mowing Organic Seeds, Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, Hudson Valley Seed Company, Nature & Nurture Seeds, and Seed Savers Exchange,** whose generous support helps to make the Seed Library happen.
Independent Film Series

Showings are on select Saturdays at 2:00 pm in the Friends Auditorium and are appropriate for ages 18 and older. No registration required.

January 25 - Storm Boy (1947)
Michael Kingley, a successful retired businessman and grandfather, recounts to his granddaughter the story of how, as a boy, he rescued and raised an extraordinary orphaned pelican, Mr. Percival. Based on the beloved book, Storm Boy is a timeless story of an unusual and unconditional friendship.

February 29 - Pawn Sacrifice (2015)
In a gripping true story set during the height of the Cold War, American chess prodigy Bobby Fischer finds himself caught between two superpowers when he challenges the Soviet Empire. Pawn Sacrifice chronicles Fischer's terrifying struggles with genius and madness, and the rise and fall of a kid from Brooklyn who captured the imagination of the world.

March 14 - A Man Called Ove (2016)
Ove, an ill-tempered, isolated retiree who spends his days enforcing block association rules and visiting his wife's grave, has finally given up on life just as an unlikely friendship develops with his boisterous new neighbors. Based on the bestselling novel.

April 25 - Murder on the Orient Express (1974)
Famous detective Hercule Poirot is on the Orient Express, but the train is caught in the snow. When one of the passengers is discovered murdered, Poirot immediately starts investigating.

Single mom Juana can slice and dice anything with great speed and precision. After working at a fruit-vending cart for years, she decides to take a job at a local Japanese restaurant. Intrigued by the food, she learns to make a multitude of sushi on her own. Eventually she attempts to become a sushi chef, but is unable to because she is the “wrong” race and gender. Against all odds, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery, determined to not let anyone stop her from achieving her dream.

Book Discussion Groups

Salter Center Book Discussion Group

Join us for engaging book discussions of the titles below. This group meets at the Salter Community Center, 1545 East Lincoln, on the third Monday of each month at 10:00 am unless there's a holiday or inclement weather. Borrowed books are provided upon registration for each session. For further information please contact Matthew Day at 248-246-3732 or matthew@ropl.org. The selection of titles is subject to change without notice depending on availability of copies.

January 27: Born a Crime by Trevor Noah
February 17: News of the World by Paulette Jiles
March 16: Monk of Mokha by Dave Eggers
April 20: The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck
May 18: Bootstrapper: From Broke to Badass on a Northern Michigan Farm by Mardi Jo Link

Third–Thursday Book Discussion Group

Join us for spirited discussions of novels and non-fiction titles on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in meeting room C-D at the library. Books are provided upon request for each session. For further information, please contact Rosemary Mirsky at 248-246-3715 or rosemary@ropl.org.

January 16: The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers by Maxwell King
February 20: The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness by Sy Montgomery
March 19: The Friend by Sigrid Nunez
April 16: The Stowaway: A Young Man’s Extraordinary Adventure to Antarctica by Laurie Gwen Shapiro
May 21: TBA

Royal Oak Writers Group Meeting

A writers group continues to meet the second and fourth Mondays of the month in Rooms C-D, 2:00-3:30 pm. The purpose of this new group at the library is to give writers a supportive place where they can work with others to achieve their personal goals. The regular meetings are open to the public. For information, contact Deborah Lobring at 248-288-5325, or librarian Rosemary Mirsky at 248-246-3715 or rosemary@ropl.org.
Springing to Mind: Three Evenings with DWW Authors

Let Detroit Working Writers (DWW) and President Roberta Brown help you welcome spring with a series of evenings with their authors. DWW was founded in 1900 and has boasted such members as Joyce Carol Oates, Judith Guest, and Naomi Long Madgett. The following sessions will be held on select Mondays at 7:00 pm:

March 16: Fantasy and Sci Fi
The first session’s focus will be Fantasy and Sci Fi writing. Featured author will be Amy Sevan from Troy with her novels, Pledge of Ashes and Curse of Ashes. She will discuss the fantasy genre, her road to publishing, and read from her books. Then other DWW writers of this genre, including Veronica Dale, Annemarie Schiavi Pedersen, and R.L. Herron, will share their works. The evening will end with book sales and signings.

April 27: Middle Grade and Young Adult Novels
The second evening will focus on Middle Grade and Young Adult novels. Royal Oak’s own Kristin Bartley Lenz, author of The Art of Holding On and Letting Go will talk about the YA genre, how she published, and read from her novel. DWW authors Jean Alicia Elster, Barbara J. Rebbeck, Theresa Nielsen, and Diane Mager will also read. Again, books will be available for purchase and signing.

May 18: Memoir
The third evening will feature Grosse Pointe author, Nancy Solak speaking about the genre of Memoir. She will share her journey to publishing and read from her memoirs, Welcome to Here: A Reluctant Traveler Goes to China and A Footpath in Umbria: Learning, Loving, and Laughing in Italy. Following her, DWW authors Angela Rochon, Elizabeth King, Myroslava Stefaniuk, and Nancy Owen Nelson will read from their memoirs. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

WROK will be filming the sessions for cable TV. DWW membership is open to any Michigan writer who meets their requirements. Check out DWW at detroitworkingwriters.org.

Live Music Series

Enjoy live music at the Royal Oak Public Library! Join us in the Friends Auditorium for these free performances. Performances run about 90 minutes. Perfect for all ages!

Saturday, January 4 at 2:00 pm
Leonardo Live
Leonardo knows why so many people enjoy songs written during the 1920s and 1930s - the Golden Age of American songwriting. Specializing in acoustic Delta Blues, Leonardo slaps a fresh coat of paint on these rarely heard classics using slide and open tunings on reso-phonics. With music influenced by Robert Johnson, Son House, Charley Patton, “Blind” Willie Johnson, and Skip James, Leonardo has toured with “Honeyboy” Edwards, is a member of The Detroit Blues Society, and is endorsed by the National Reso-Phonic Guitar Company.

Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 pm
St. Patrick’s Day Irish Concert
In celebration of St. Patrick’s Day, the musical group the Dugouts – consisting of Paul Balogh, Tom Dooley and Marilyn Hotaling – will perform traditional Irish music on the fiddle, drum, keyboard and guitar. Come and celebrate all things Celtic.

Saturday, April 18 at 3:00 pm
Tony by Tony: the Tony Camilletti Quartet
This special presentation of Tony by Tony by the Tony Camilletti Quartet, features a collection of iconic songs associated with the distinctive voice of Tony Bennett. Tony Camilletti is a native Detroiter whose vocals were influenced by jazz masters such as Tony Bennett. His velvety, soulful style has been compared to Mathis, Vandross, Torne, Cole, Darin and Sinatra. Tony’s musical tastes are fully based in the American Songbook, as he is determined to keep the classics alive. Joining him for this special tribute are some of Detroit’s seasoned musicians: Harvey Reed (piano), Rich Kowlewski (bass) and Eric Lundquist (winds).

Sunday, April 19 at 3:00 pm
Wind and Rhythm
Join us at the Royal Oak Public Library for an afternoon of varied chamber music selections including classical and romantic-era pieces as well as jazz and popular selections. Winds and Rhythm is being presented by Quintet Cantabile and the Motor City Saxophone Quartet. Robin Myers, Lillian Dean, Walter Dean, Kristine Krapp and Arleigh Helfer will be performing in the former while Craig Schley, Judy Peters, Lynne Henry and Greg Smith will be playing in the latter.

Remember, you can also borrow and enjoy FREE eBooks, audiobooks, movies, music and more using apps like OverDrive and Hoopla. All you need is an internet connection and a ROPL library card. Go to ropl.org for details.
Spring Gardening

Facts of Light
There is a plant for every spot in your home, so come learn about plants for different light levels and trouble spots in your dwelling. On **Monday, February 3 at 7:00 pm**, join Lisa Eldred Steinkopf, AKA the Houseplant Guru, author of *Houseplants and Glow in the Dark* as she shares the knowledge she’s gained tending to her own personal jungle of over 1,000 houseplants.

Landscaping with Native Plants
Successful native plantings depend on good design, installation, and management. This talk on **Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 pm** will focus on these three stages and examine some unique features of ecologically rich, human-centered native landscapes. **Drew Lathin** owns Creating Sustainable Landscapes where he uses native plants to create beautiful and ecologically restorative landscapes for residential, commercial and public spaces.

Pollinator’s Garden
Urban beekeeper **Brian Peterson-Roest** of Bees in the D returns to ROPL on **Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 pm** for a presentation in which you can learn how to grow plants in your yards and gardens that help benefit pollinators. Participants will then use recycled paper to make “flower bombs” that they can plant in their yards.

Seed Saving with Ben Cohen
On **Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 pm** seed saver expert, **Ben Cohen**, will explain the ins and outs and joys of seed saving. Ben is an author, poet, herbalist, gardener, seed saver and wanderer. He lives and works at Small House Farm with his wife, Heather, and their two sons, Elijah and Anakin, on their family homestead in Sanford, Michigan.

DIY Hypertufa Pots Workshop
Hypertufa pot? What in the world is that? Well, it is simply Portland cement, peat moss, and perlite that when mixed together make durable, lightweight, versatile pots. Join us on **Monday, April 6 at 7:00 pm** for this hands-on workshop and design your own Hypertufa pot just in time for spring gardening! All materials provided, so just come prepared to get your hands, and more than likely, your clothes, a little dirty. **Registration is required; limit 20.**

Spring Beauties– Native Wildflowers with Cheryl English
Tired of tulips? Find daffodils dull? How about trying out Spring ephemerals! From trout lilies to trillium, from the exotic to the familiar, Advanced Master Gardener Cheryl English will be here on **Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 pm** to help us explore some native alternatives for the Spring garden.

DIY Hanging Cone Planters Workshop
Need another hanging planter for your ever-growing plant collection? ROPL has you covered! In this workshop on **Monday, May 11 at 7:00 pm**, we will use wire mesh, burlap, and twine to build a beautiful cone-shaped hanging basket. We will be mixing up some soilless potting mix as well! **Registration is required; limit 15.**

Butterfly Garden: Call for Volunteers
The Royal Oak Public Library Butterfly Garden needs volunteers to help maintain the garden throughout the spring and summer. Master Gardener and Butterfly Garden coordinator **Crystal Castle** welcomes volunteers ages 4 and up (ages 4 through 11 must have caregiver present) who want to help take care of the garden. **Saturday, May 2** is the first official day for volunteer work in the butterfly garden.

For a detailed spring schedule, please contact Adrienne Breznau at 248-246-3714 or adrienne@ropl.org. **No registration required.**

Eat, Drink & Be Merry!

Root Vegetables: A Three-Part Series
Root vegetables have long been relegated as a side dish, but these days they are finding a place on the center of the plate. Join **Chef Jake Williams** for a culinary demonstration series showing techniques to transform root vegetables from side dishes to centerpieces of your meal. **Registration is required; limit 25 per session.**

- **Part I:** Saturday, January 18 at 1:00 pm
- **Part II:** Saturday, February 15 at 1:00 pm
- **Part III:** Saturday, March 28 at 1:00 pm

Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat Cookbook Club
ROPL’s Cookbook Club returns! On **Monday, February 24 at 7:00 pm** prepare a dish from *Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat* by Samin Nosrat to bring to the library and share potluck style. Try a new recipe to bring and sample a new recipe in this tasty event. **Registration is required; limit 50.**
Caring for the Planet
A Sunday Series from the Royal Oak Environmental Advisory Board

Recycling Demystified
On Sunday, March 1 at 2:00 pm, join Recycling Education Specialist, Tracy Purrenhage, for an interactive and informative presentation that tells the story of trash and how recycling helps reduce the environmental impact of waste. Learn best practices for how to recycle more and recycle right. What happens to recycling after it gets collected? Can this be recycled and why? Get these answers and more.

Residential Stormwater Project
On Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 pm Royal Oak homeowner Andrew Sarpolis from the Sierra Club will join Oakland Water Resources Commissioner, Jim Nash, and native plant expert, Drew Lathin of Creating Sustainable Landscapes LLC. Together, they’ll walk through a recent project to reduce stormwater and increase butterflies, pollinators, and wildlife here in Royal Oak. Join us to learn simple things that can be done to turn your home into an oasis for wildlife while saving on your water and lawn bills.

Timing is Everything: Bees, Plants & Climate Change
Bees are the most important group of pollinators and are vital to the health of our planet; yet, populations have been declining significantly for a variety of reasons worldwide. This presentation on Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 pm will examine how climate change is impacting honey bees at different levels, including how changes in the timing and distribution of flowering plants can directly affect a honey bee’s colony foraging activity and development. Join Melissa M. Bobowski, a biologist, Environmental Science professor at Macomb Community College, and active Board Member of Detroit-based non-profit, Bees in the D, to learn about the impacts of climate change on bees and the conservation measures that are needed to prevent a further decline in their populations.

Reduce Energy Consumption & Save Money
Energy efficiency plays a significant role in reducing energy use and expenditures in buildings. On Sunday, March 29 at 2:00 pm, learn about the utility efficiency programs and how they can mitigate your residential energy waste. DTE and Consumers Gas have several programs for residential customers to maximize efficiency upgrades through assessments, discounted LED lighting, and rebates for efficient upgrade products. This workshop will provide participants with knowledge about the current utility programs and their benefits, where to find the program details, and how to take advantage of the no-cost residential rebates. Take charge of your energy expenditures!

Health & Wellness

Plant Therapy
Horticulture Therapy or Plant Therapy connects people to plants in a therapeutic way! This class on Saturday, January 11 at 1:00 pm will engage you with the earth and give you even more encouraging ideas to take with you. Antoinette Maggio’s goal is for you to go home and create a green environment that will have a ripple effect on your family and friends. A small pot (3-4 inches) will be available, but please feel free to bring one with you if you want something more personalized. We will supply the rest! Registration is required; limit 20.

The Alexander Technique
On Thursday, January 16 at 7:00 pm, Carol Strozier, a certified and registered Alexander Technique teacher, returns to explain and demonstrate how to achieve a balanced body and mind for better health and positive well-being. The Alexander Technique works by helping to identify and prevent the harmful postural habits that can cause or aggravate pain or dysfunction. Learn to release tension and rediscover balance of mind and body. Wear comfortable clothing. Registration is required; limit 20.

Understanding Infertility
Join us during National Infertility Awareness Week to learn more about infertility and how it affects 1 in 8 couples struggling to conceive. On Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 pm, a panel of experts, including Dr. Carole Kowalczyk MD and Claire Hogan MA, LPC, NCC, from Michigan Center for Fertility and Women’s Health, will discuss what causes infertility, what options exist for medical treatment and adoption, and how to support friends and family coping with infertility. This program will include adult content and is for ages 18 and older. Registration is encouraged.

The A,B,Cs and Ds of Medicare - an Educational Seminar
On Saturday, May 2 at 10:30 am, David Banet, a licensed insurance counselor, will present an educational seminar to give people turning 65 and older a safe place to ask questions and get information without being pressured by insurance companies. The seminar is focused on Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D, and how Medicare Supplemental plans work. This allows people to get general answers concerning the moving parts of Medicare, thus simplifying a complicated process for persons faced with these important life decisions.

Assistive Technology
Assistive Technology (AT) is any item, product, system or equipment that improves life for people with disabilities. AT includes everything from walkers, reachers, grab bars, hospital beds, power scooters, custom vans, Braille machines, and computer screen-reading software. On Tuesday, May 12 at 6:00 pm, come and find out about the AT you need and the resources to pay for it. Find out how AT can greatly improve the quality of your life in this outreach presentation from Disability Network Oakland & Macomb.
Local History

The Burned-over District: Revival, Reform and the Migration to Michigan, 1820-1850

Most people with an interest in local history are aware that settlers to Michigan during the territorial and early statehood period (1820-1850) came primarily from western New York. What few realize is that during this period western New York (aka the Burned-over District) was the epicenter of the religious revival known as the Second Great Awakening and the social and political reform that significantly impacted the course of American History throughout the 19th and well into the 20th Century. Join speaker Jim Craft on Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00 pm to hear about this fascinating and little known piece of Michigan’s rich history.

Book Talk: The History of Oakland County

The History of Oakland County was published in 1877 and is a favorite work of local history in many area libraries. However, the original copies are very fragile due to their age and libraries must take special care with them.

As a part of the 2020 Oakland County Bicentennial commemoration, the Oakland County Historical Commission is donating reprints of the Everts book in sturdy library-quality binding to libraries in the county.

On Saturday, February 8 at 2:00 pm, in addition to the formal presentation of the book, Jim Craft of the Oakland County Historical Commission will deliver a talk on its background, content and value as historical literature. He will address a problem inherent with local histories: such books provide detailed information about local people, conditions and events but often fail to place them in the proper context. Mr. Craft will bring greater understanding to the book and life in 19th Century Oakland County by making connections to the broader sweep of American history occurring at the time of publication.


On Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 pm, Jim Craft relates how the Chautauqua Movement began at Lake Chautauqua in western New York in 1874. Initially, it was a two-week encampment for training Sunday school teachers and was built on the pillars of Religion, Education, Arts and Recreation.

Hear how the movement grew and expanded its reach as educational and religious pillars, and how they were central in spreading the debate over Progressive Era reforms ranging from women’s suffrage to prohibition to trust busting to child labor and other issues that divided the public opinion.

The Detroit Public Library: An American Classic

For the last century, the Detroit Public Library has ranked as one of the most beautiful buildings in Detroit – an important landmark as well as an institution that served multiple generations of Detroiters. On Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 pm, Barbara Cohn will highlight the conception and building of the 1921 Woodward Avenue Library, the 1963 Cass Avenue addition, and the library as it is today. The building is filled with historic murals, ornate ceilings inspired by palaces and churches from Italy, Pewabic tile and fireplace, mosaics, Italian paintings, a double-grand marble staircase with barrel vaulted ceiling, wrought iron gate, and painted windows. The lecture unites the interests of art history buffs, art enthusiasts, library lovers, and Detroit-area locals with a tribute to one of the city’s most impressive structures.

The Good Roads Movement in Michigan, 1888-1926

In 1890, the United States perhaps had the worst road system of any developed country in the world. Impassable three or four months a year due to muddy conditions, the balance of the early roads in America were dusty, rutted and disjointed, serving only very local functions. While the story is national in scope, the presentation will focus on Michigan to answer three key questions: Why were roads in America so bad in 1890? What caused the change? What steps were taken?

On Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 pm, Jim Craft will discuss the importance of the bicycle, the Model T and the Liberty truck. Among other things he will explain why Van Dyke is named the Earle Memorial Highway, the origins of the Dixie Highway, and the central, though often negative, role American farmers played in the Good Roads Movement.

Book Talk: The Saginaw Trail

The Saginaw Trail led from the frontier town of Detroit into the wilderness, weaving through towering trees and swamps to distant Native American villages. Presenting a forbidding landscape that was also a settlers’ paradise, the road promised great riches in natural resources like lumber and agriculture, and a future of wheeled vehicles that would make Michigan the center of a global industry. On Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 pm, author Leslie Pielack tells the story of the ancient path that transformed early Michigan and of the people whose lives intertwined with the iconic road.
Book Talk: *Detroit: An Illustrated Timeline*

On **Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 pm**, author **Paul Vachon** will take us on a walk – a long walk, back over three centuries. At the dawn of the eighteenth-century Detroit was established as simply an outpost for the French to take advantage of the fur trade while keeping the British at bay. Over the next 300 years this small settlement advanced to become a regional hub of commerce, a focal point of nineteenth century industrial strength, and ultimately the nexus of the auto business. *Detroit: An Illustrated Timeline* tells these stories plus a host of others. Triumphant sports teams, the contributions of religious leaders, and the courage of civil rights leaders are all brought to life, completing this chronological sketch of America's city of the straits.

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**75th Anniversary of End of WWII**

**Book Talk: Detroit in World War II**

When President Roosevelt called for the country to be the great "Arsenal of Democracy" Detroit helped turn the tide against fascism with its industrial might. Locals were committed to the cause, putting careers and personal ambitions on hold. Factories were retooled from the ground up. Industrialist Henry Ford, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, aviator Charles Lindbergh, legendary boxer Joe Louis, future baseball Hall of Famer Hank Greenberg and the real-life Rosie the Riveters all helped drive the city that was "forging thunderbolts" for the front lines. With a panoramic narrative, join author **Gregory D. Sumner** on **Thursday, February 27 at 6:30 pm** as he chronicles the sacrifices, contributions and everyday life of the Motor City during wartime.

**Book Talk: Michigan POW Camps in World War II**

During World War II Michigan became a temporary home to 6,000 German and Italian POWs. At a time of Homefront labor shortages, they picked fruit in Berrien County, harvested sugar beets in the Thumb, cut pulpwood in the Upper Peninsula, and maintained parks and other public spaces in Detroit. The work programs were not flawless and not all of the prisoners were cooperative, but many of the men established enduring friendships with their captors. On **Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 pm**, author **Gregory D. Sumner** tells the story of these detainees and the ordinary Americans who embodied our highest ideals, even amid a global war.

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**The American Army in Normandy from Omaha Beach to the Falasie Gap**

June 6, 1944 was one of the single most important days in western history. Failure of the Normandy landings could have resulted in a very different world than we know today. However, D-Day did not end the Battle for France, much less the Second World War. On **Wednesday, May 27 at 7:00 pm**, come hear the story of how the success on June 6 was just the beginning of the 11-week Battle of Normandy that opened the door to the defeat of Germany.

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**Celebrating Black History Month**

**Black Bottom & Paradise Valley**

From the 1800s to the 1950s, a small section on the lower east side of Detroit would be the neighborhood with the most concentrated population of African Americans in the city known as Black Bottom. Close to the neighborhood was a business and entertainment district containing hundreds of black-owned businesses from the 1920s-1950s known as Paradise Valley. Connecting the two areas was a street that was rich in history and significance to the African American and Jewish communities called Hastings Street. On **Thursday, February 6 at 6:30 pm**, join historian, educator and tour leader of Black Scroll Network History & Tours, **Jamon Jordan**, as he discusses the origins of Black Bottom and Paradise Valley, and their connection to the Underground Railroad, Housing Segregation, and the federal, state and local policies that helped to create the area, and ultimately led to its destruction.

**In Our Own Voice: African-American Art**

On **Thursday, February 13 at 7:00 pm**, enhance your awareness of the creative contributions of African Americans from the 19th century through the present day. This talk provides a lens to examine issues of race, gender, politics and culture. This engrossing lecture and accompanying photos of art work are courtesy of the **Detroit Institute of Arts**.
### Express! Create!

**Springfed Writers & Music Series**

The **Springfed Writers & Music Series** will take place every fourth Wednesday, January through April. Organized and hosted by **John D. Lamb**, a Royal Oak resident and founder/director of Springfed Arts, a nonprofit arts organization. Springfed Arts’ mission since its founding over 20 years ago is, “To educate and inspire folks in the craft of writing, be it prose or song, the performance of works, spoken or sung.” Each month Lamb will present a variety of poets, writers and songwriters. He hopes to attract a diverse audience from teens to older adults.

Springfed Arts also produces literary and songwriting retreats in Northern Michigan and administers poetry and creative writing classes in the Metro Detroit area. To read more about events produced by Lamb and Springfed Arts, visit springfed.org.

**Wednesday, January 22, at 7:00 pm**, featuring poets **Dunya Mikhail**, **Lamees El Ethari**, and **Alise Alousi**; author **Weam Namou**; and songwriter **Luti Erbeznik**.

**Wednesday, February 26, at 7:00 pm**, featuring poets **M.L. Liebler** and **Alex Morgan**; founder of The Detroit Writing Room/reporter/editor **Stephanie Steinberg**; and senior writer at American Greetings, songwriter **Joe Shields**.

**Wednesday, March 25, at 7:00 pm**, featuring poets **Zilka Joseph**, **Christine Rhein**, and **Dennis Hinrichsen**; author **Linda Sienkiewicz**; and songwriter **Amy Petty**.

**Wednesday, April 22, at 7:00 pm**, featuring novelist **Michael Zadoorian**; authors **Bill Vlasic** and **Susan Whitall**; and songwriter **Jim Bizer**.

### A Night of Poetry with Michigan Poets

On **Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 pm**, please join **Dennis Hinrichsen**, **Keith Taylor** and **Anne-Marie Oomen** for a celebration of National Poetry Month and hear the creative works of these outstanding Michigan poets. A book signing will follow the readings.

**Dennis Hinrichsen**’s most recent works include *q/lear* and *Skin Music*, winner of the 2014 Michael Waters Poetry Prize. He served as the first Poet Laureate of Greater Lansing (MI) area from May 2017-April 2019.

**Keith Taylor**’s recent publications include *Ecstatic Destinations* and *The Bird-while*, the latter of which won the Bronze medal for the Foreword / Indies Poetry Book of the Year.

**Anne-Marie Oomen** co-authored *Lake Michigan Mermaid: A Tale in Poems* (with poet Linda Nemec Foster), a 2019 Michigan Notable Book. She wrote *Love, Sex and 4-H* (Next Generation Indie Award for memoir) and *Pulling Down the Barn*, as well as *House of Fields* (both Michigan Notable Books). Oomen is the founding editor of Dunes Review, and former president of Michigan Writers, Inc.

### Jewish Senior Theater Ensemble: The Invisible Man

On **Sunday, May 17 at 2:00 pm**, join the **Jewish Senior Theatre Ensemble**, a group of ordinary seniors in their sixties to eighties, with a passion for performance. Using a unique style of drama with a “through-line” that holds the parts and characters in sync, the actors listen and respond to each other to tell a story that you won’t forget!

### Women’s History Month

**Rosie the Riveter (Revised and expanded)**

On **Saturday, March 21 at 11:00 am** learn about “the Rosies” from **Donnaleen Lanktree**, president of the Rosie the Riveter Association. Over the years Donnaleen has collected stories from the women who replaced men in many factory and construction jobs during World War II including such women as Lillian who operated a milling machine to make airplane engine gears, Kathleen, a parachute assembly line worker, and Betty, a welder on “Liberty” ships. Come and hear new stories and pay homage to a little known segment of American history.
Enrich Your Life

Angel Card Reading
Angel cards are used in readings to provide guidance and comfort for those who seek answers. On **Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 pm**, Nancy Morrison, a psychotherapist, will share her knowledge of the practice and explain how she has worked the readings into her psychotherapy career over the past 30 years.

Body Language
Experts say only 7% of our face-to-face communication comes from spoken words, and that two people in a 30-minute conversation can send as many as 800 different signals. Body language has the power to convey a completely different message from words alone. The human face is the most expressive part of our body and also the least honest. On **Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 pm**, join Linda Klasson who will share real-time videos of body language signals and scientifically-based results that you can easily and accurately understand and apply.

Animal Communication 101
Have you ever wondered what your pet was thinking? Do you wish that you could ask your pet a question? Do you wonder if they are feeling okay or if they are hurt? Do you wish you could connect with your pets after they cross over the Rainbow Bridge? Leslie Cirinesi is an animal communicator who can have conversations with any animal, living or in spirit, using only a photo. On **Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 pm**, join Leslie to learn what animal communication is, how it works, how she started down this path and what it is like to be an animal communicator. The presentation will include a question and answer session.

The World in Your Mailbox: the Postcard Era, Collecting Postcards, and Some Favorites
Fascination with postcards began in Europe and traveled across the Atlantic Ocean in the early 1900s. By 1910, Americans were mailing two billion postcards per year and collecting even more of them in albums and boxes. On **Sunday, May 3 at 1:00 pm**, join Doug Aikenhead, photographer and vintage postcard collector/dealer, as he shares his expertise on the subject. He will discuss the postcard phenomenon, present examples that reveal the wide range of postcards that were produced during different periods, and end with some favorites from his own collection.

Your Money, Your Life

Money Smart: Developing Your Spending and Savings Plan
Presented by Citizens Bank, this seminar will focus on teaching basic budgeting and savings principles to create healthy financial habits. Kickstart your New Year’s savings resolution with their easy, practical tips! The workshop will include a guide for participants to take home.

On **Saturday, February 1 at 10:30 am**, join licensed banker Erica Johnson and bank manager Brianne Vandette from the downtown Royal Oak Citizens Bank who have more than 12 years of combined banking and financial management experience. As a team, their goal is to educate customers to help them achieve their full potential.

How to Invest in a Volatile Future or Uncertain Stock Market
The economy and stock market have continued to recover over the past 10 years. What can investors expect in the future? On **Monday, March 9 at 7:30 pm**, join Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor Jonathan Strong and learn how to invest in the late stages of the stock market – using conservative, balanced income producing investments. Strategies to protect your gains and investments from a future stock market correction or decline and methods to continue using long-term investment opportunities to build a dividend growth portfolio will also be covered. Portfolio examples, as well as economic and market updates, will be provided with a question and answer period.

Retirement Income Planning
On **Monday, March 23 at 7:30 pm**, Jonathan Strong reveals how to create a monthly income program for retirement needs and to supplement Social Security and other retirement savings. Included are investments using conservative, predictable investment strategies in an uncertain market, strategies for tax-deferred investment programs, and methods to pass money to family members. Learn how to earn higher interest rates on cash now at your local bank, the benefits of tax-free bonds to provide income, how to create a monthly income program for retirement needs, and how to supplement social security and other savings in an uncertain economy and stock market.

Saving for Education
Funding the cost of college tuition and related expenses for children is a common source of concern for parents and grandparents who worry about the ever-increasing costs of a college education in the United States. Join us on **Tuesday, May 26 at 7:00 pm** to learn more from Certified Financial Planner David Deller on developing a college funding strategy.
**Adulting 101**  
**A Series for Young Adults (Ages 16-26)**

Becoming a grown up isn't easy, but we’re here to help! Learn some practical skills and get advice from the experts on a variety of topics that are all part of the adulting experience. **Registration requested.** The following programs are held on **select Thursdays at 6:30 pm:**

- **January 9:** **How to Do Taxes** with CPA Tom Hill  
- **January 23:** **Managing Your Money** with OUR Credit Union  
- **January 30:** **Mental and Physical Self-Care** with Beaumont Hospital  
- **February 6:** **Simple Healthy Eating** with Beaumont Hospital  
- **February 20:** **First Time Home Buying** with Kim Nagy Realty Partners  
- **April 9:** **Entering the Workforce and Resume Building** with MI Works  
- **April 30:** **Applying for College and Financial Aid** with Oakland Community College  
- **May 7:** **Healthy Relationships** with Oakland County Health Division

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**Learn a New Skill**  
**Free Introductory Coding Workshops**

Partnering with Grand Circus in Detroit, ROPL continues to offer introductory workshops on coding repeated on a monthly basis for adults wishing to explore a new high-demand career in technology. This free workshop introduces you to basics of programming through hands-on exercises. If you have little-to-no coding experience, or want to get acquainted with the GC learning environment, this is a great place to start! The workshops are offered on **Wednesdays, January 8; February 12; March 11; April 8; and May 13 at 6:30 pm.** Participants are asked to bring their own laptops as the library only has a limited number for class use. **Registration with Grand Circus is required.**

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**English as a Second Language Conversation Club**

ROPL is partnering with Oakland Community College in Royal Oak to offer an opportunity for English as a Second Language (ESL) speakers to converse in a friendly and informal environment. Participants 18 years and older with some basic conversation skills are invited to join the group on the **fourth Thursday of every month, 7:00-8:00 PM, January through May 2020.**

ESL learners and volunteer English speakers who enjoy meeting friends from various ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to attend. The program is coordinated by **Susan Sheiner,** Royal Oak Adult Services Librarian, and **Kate Liggett,** ESL Program Coordinator at Oakland Community College, Royal Oak Campus. No registration is required, just drop in. For questions contact Susan Sheiner at susan@ropl.org

**January 23:** Kate Liggett, ESL Coordinator at OCC Royal Oak  
**February 27 and March 26:** Sheila Kohn, ESL instructor  
**April 23 and May 28:** Jane Goldsmith, ESL Instructor

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**Senior’s Computer College:**  
**Free 4-Week Computer Essentials Course**

The following workshops take place on **select Thursdays at 10:00 am:**

- **May 7:** **An Everything Computer Workshop**  
  Mike Wilson has you covered. This workshop will include such topics as common computer terms; Windows 10 and apps; the basics of word processing; using email, websites, and the Internet; and transferring cell phone pictures. **(Prerequisite: know how to use a mouse/touchpad.)**

- **May 14:** **Home Computer Safety & Security for Older Adults**  
  Mike will cover online safety and scams to know about, as well as malware protection and free pop-up blockers. Learn about frustrating and suspicious things that occur, friendly Windows 10 notifications, advertisements, e-mail ads and links. All of these will be defined, demonstrated and discussed in this “senior-friendly” environment.

- **May 21:** **Using Browsers, Exploring Websites, and Getting the Most Out of Searching the Web**  
  Learn about browsers and how to use them. The topics covered will include creating and using browser tabs, enlarging web pages, using the “read aloud” function, and searching. Get the most out of search engines such as Google and learn to explore websites for recipes, free games, shopping, earning free stuff, and other practical websites for seniors!

- **May 28:** **Learn Word Processing by Doing Small Projects**  
  Seniors will acquire basic word processing skills as they create invitations, certificates, recipes, and other printed materials. Learn how to copy and paste, change margins, and apply the secret to properly using tabs. Mike will also show you features of your free word processor that came with your computer and will demonstrate features of the popular Microsoft Word program.
Teen Café
Drop by the Youth Activity Room after school for snacks, games, crafts and hanging out with friends. No registration required. No Teen Café January 20, March 2 and April 6.
Mondays, 3:10-4:30 PM
January 6, 13, and 27
February 3, 10, 17, and 24
March 9, 16, 23, and 30
April 13, 20, and 27

TAB (Teen Advisory Board)
Share ideas for teen library programs, services, displays, books and more. TAB meets for 60 minutes once a month and counts toward one hour of community service. Snacks provided. Registration requested.

Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 PM
January 8, February 12, March 11, and April 15

Adulting 101 Series: Ages 16-26
See page 10 for complete listing of programs.

Jumanji Escape Room
After seeing the new sequel in theaters, join us in our version of the Jumanji jungle and try to escape the game like your favorite characters. Teens will work in small groups to beat the game before it beats them! Registration requested.
Thursday, January 16 at 6:30 PM

Teen Valentine’s Day Mason Jars
Get your craft on and make a cute jar in time for Valentine’s Day. Registration requested.
Thursday, February 13 at 6:30 PM

Teen Minecraft for Ages 11-17
For the first time ever at ROPL, teens are invited to play the popular game on one of the library’s PCs. Spots are limited so please sign-up early.
Thursday, February 27 at 6:30 PM

Teen Coding Club
Interested in learning how to code? Or do you know how to code and looking for a place to practice with other coders? Join ROPL’s very own code club and create animations and games using Scratch and HTML. No experience necessary. Space is limited, so please sign-up early. Registration required; limit 8.
Thursday, March 12 at 6:30 PM

Animal Careers with Bowers School Farm
Do you want to work with animals? Here’s the opportunity for hands-on experience with baby goats. Learn the typical health and development of the goats, and pet and feed these little cuties! Registration requested.
Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 PM

Dungeons and Dragons
Love Dungeons and Dragons? Or simply curious about it, but never played before? Come to the library and join other players on an adventure. Registration required; limit 20.
Thursday, March 26 and April 23

Teen Yoga presented by Yoga Shelter
Namaste all day as you learn the basics of yoga practice in a series of beginner poses. Please dress comfortably and bring a yoga mat or towel. Presented by Yoga Shelter of Royal Oak. Registration required and must sign waiver to participate.
Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 PM

Super Smash Bros. Tournament
Think you’ve got skills at Super Smash Bros? Then put them to the test during our Super Smash Bros. tournament and see who is the last man, woman, Pokemon, or whatever standing. Registration requested.
Thursday, April 16 at 6:30 PM

Questions? Call Youth Services at 248.246.3725 or e-mail emilyellison@ropl.org
Noon Year’s Eve Party

It may be too much for your little one to ring in the New Year at midnight, so come celebrate at the library on Monday, December 30 at 11:00 AM with a special preschool party that won’t keep them up past bedtime! Celebrate the holiday with winter stories, a New Year’s craft, and a countdown to noon. A sparkling juice toast, snack, music, and balloon drop will add to the festive spirit. Limit 50.

Preschool/Child Care Information Night

Meet representatives from over 25 area preschools and child care providers at the 21st Annual Preschool/Child Care Information Night on Monday, January 13 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the Royal Oak Farmers Market. The electronic 2020 Royal Oak Area Preschool and Child Care Directory will debut on this day, as well. Come and gather information about area child care and preschool options to help plan for your child’s future. The Royal Oak Farmers Market is located at 316 E. 11 Mile Rd., on the corner of Troy Street and East 11 Mile Rd., directly across from the Royal Oak Public Library. No registration is necessary and parking is free in the Royal Oak Public Library. (Event will be rescheduled in case of weather cancellation.)

Take Your Child to the Library Day

On Saturday, February 1, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, celebrate this international initiative that encourages parents and caregivers to take their child to the local library. The idea behind this day is to raise awareness about the importance of libraries and to introduce children to all of the spectacular services and programs that libraries offer. Drop in for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Party at 10:30 AM (see page 16) and check out the Take Your Child to the Library Day table in the youth room for awesome prizes!
ROPL Celebrates March is Reading Month!

In March the library will coordinate with Royal Oak elementary schools to create displays based around each of their March is Reading Month themes. Be sure to check out the display areas to find your school’s reading suggestions!

Ready to Read Michigan: A Parade of Elephants

Ready to Read Michigan encourages libraries and schools across the state to share a specially selected book by a children’s author. During March is Reading Month, a week of story times will be devoted to the 2020 selection: A Parade of Elephants by Kevin Henkes. Copies of the book will also be available for children to read and then sign the poster.

Spring Break Programs

4th Wall Theatre Company: Theatre Workshop

This lively introduction to musical theatre will teach singing, acting, and dancing. Parents wait outside of the room and will be invited in at the end to watch a performance by the kids. 4th Wall Theatre Company specializes in inclusive performance activities and children of all abilities are invited to participate. It’s sure to be a fun and dramatic time! Registration required; limit 30.

Monday, April 6 at 2:00 PM

Money Smart Week with OUR Credit Union

Join us for a money-themed story followed by finance activities for kids. Shop in an imaginary store, learn to make change, design your own money, and more! All participants will receive their own copy of the featured story. Presented by Janice Quigg of OUR Credit Union. Limit 50.

Wednesday, April 8 at 1:30 PM

Music with Miss Ann

Join Miss Ann and her guitar for songs and musical stories. This is an entertaining way to practice important pre-reading skills by singing, rhyming, and adding to the beat with shakers and other percussion instruments. Limit 40.

Thursday, April 9 at 2:00 PM

Check out the library’s digital book collection just for kids! If you have a ROPL library card, visit the eBook section of ropl.org to access Tumblebook Library and MeL K-8 collection. Or try Overdrive Kids and Hoopla for downloadable books for the family.
Tuesday Evening Family Programs

Bring the whole family and enjoy a variety of evening programs designed for elementary and preschool children. Programs last 45-60 minutes. Registration is requested. You may register online at ropl.org, in person, or by calling 248-246-3725 during library hours. **Registration opens two weeks in advance of the program.**

### Cops and Cookies

In preparation for National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, 
meet and greet with one of ROPD’s finest, learn about their daily 
activities, hear a police officer story, create fun crafts, and, of course, 
enjoy some delicious cookies! Limit 50.

**Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 PM**

### Kira Blue Performs

Join us for a night of song and dance as we 
welcome Kira Blue, our local Royal Oak 
8th grader. This will be an interactive show 
with insightful story telling. Move, groove, 
shake and sing to Kira’s original country 
pop sound with influences from Motown, 
folk and rock. Limit 125.

**Tuesday, January 14 at 7:00 PM**

### Balloon Books: Robot Rescue!

A robot has been launched into space and it’s up to you to bring 
him home while avoiding meteors, black holes, and aliens! A visual 
spectacular that includes a story told with balloons, an interactive 
video game that the audience participates in, and a lesson in balloon 
twisting following the program. Limit 50.

**Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 PM**

### Cameron Zvara Magic Show

Join us for an evening of fun with comedy 
magician and entertainer, Cameron 
Zvara! Cameron’s show is filled with magic, 
comedy, juggling, music, and TONS of 
audience participation. You won’t want to 
miss out! Limit 125.

**Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 PM**

### Valentine’s STEM Night

Robots take over Valentine’s Day as participants get to try out Sphero ™, Makey Makey™, and many more hands-on activities that celebrate the love of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics! Limit 30.

**Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 PM**

### Yoga Story Time: Parts 1 & 2

Join in the fun with a mindful story time that 
incorporates yoga poses, stretches, and relaxation 
exercises with stories and music. Parents stay with 
their child and everyone is encouraged to wear 
comfortable clothing. Please bring a yoga mat or towel. Limit 24 per session.

**Tuesdays, February 18 and March 31 at 7:00 PM**

### Kids’ Book Club Special: Author Visit

In this special Kids’ Book Club event, local author A. Kidd will lead the discussion on 
her book, *The Healing Star*. She will also 
share her experience and inspiration as a writer. Stay for the Meet the Author session at 7:00 PM immediately following the book club 
meeting. Registration required; limit 15.

**Tuesday, January 28, 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

**Book pickup at Youth Services Desk begins Thursday, January 2**

### Meet the Author!

Join us in welcoming local author and 
children's librarian, A. Kidd, as we celebrate 
her debut novel, *The Healing Star*. The author 
will speak, answer questions, and sign books. 
Books will be available for purchase. Limit 50.

**Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00 PM**

### A Visit from the Tooth Fairy:

Celebrate Dental Hygiene Awareness Month with a 
special guest – the Tooth Fairy herself! Learn about 
keeping your smile healthy with toothy stories, 
crafts and games. Limit 50.

**Tuesday, February 25 at 7:00 PM**

### Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!

Celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday and March is Reading Month with 
Seussical crafts, games, activities, and stories. Limit 50.

**Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 PM**
Music with Miss Ann

Join Miss Ann and her guitar for songs and musical stories. This is an entertaining way to practice important pre-reading skills by singing, rhyming, and adding to the beat with shakers and other percussion instruments. Limit 40.

Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 PM

Meet a Lamb & Kid

Spring means new babies on the farm and time for the annual visit from some cute and cuddly friends! Bowers School Farm will bring some live lambs and kids so that you can learn about these interesting animals. Limit 75.

Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 PM

Paw Patrol Party

Calling all ‘paws on deck’ and get ready for some action-packed rescue fun! Celebrate Marshall, Chase and all of your favorite Paw Patrol characters with crafts and activities. Limit 60.

Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00 PM

Trolls World Tour Celebration

Excited about the new movie, Trolls 2: World Tour? Then join in the fun for the biggest, loudest, craziest Trolls party ever! Limit 50.

Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 PM

Earth Day @ the Library

Your family is invited to celebrate the eve of Earth Day with environmental crafts and activities. Limit 50.

Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 PM

Build a Cardboard City

Give new life to old boxes and cardboard pieces by building your dream city! All supplies are provided so you only have to bring your imagination. Limit 50.

Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 PM

Story Times

Story Times are “Drop-In”; no registration required. There are no Story Times March 2-5 due to Friends Book Sale.

Family Story Times

These 30-minute story times for ages 5 and under incorporate many enjoyable pre-reading skills including stories, rhymes, finger plays, movement, and a craft.

Mondays at 10:15 AM
January 6, 13, and 27
February 3, 10, 17, and 24
March 9, 16, 23, and 30
April 6, 13, 20, and 27

Tuesdays at 10:15 AM
January 7, 14, 21, and 28
February 4, 11, 18, and 25
March 10, 17, 24, and 31
April 7, 14, 21, and 28

Little Listeners

This story time is for older toddlers and preschoolers who are ready to sit and listen to a few stories. Books, songs, rhymes, movement activities, and a craft are all part of the fun. Adults remain with their children.

Tuesdays at 10:15 AM
January 7, 14, 21, and 28
February 4, 11, 18, and 25
March 10, 17, 24, and 31
April 7, 14, 21, and 28

Toddler Story Time

Get ready to move, shake, wiggle, sing, and play! Designed for active toddlers, this story time will feature shorter stories, songs, rhymes, music, lots of movement activities, and play time at the end of every session. Adults remain with their children.

Wednesdays at 10:15 AM
January 8, 15, 22, and 29
February 5, 12, 19, and 26
March 11, 18, and 25
April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

Baby Size!

These story times are for the youngest children, infants to 15 months, and their caregivers. Enjoy 30 minutes of literacy building activities for babies including songs, books, rhymes, and play. Older siblings may attend, but these sessions are designed for babies up through 15 months old. Join the fun!

Thursdays at 10:15 AM
January 9, 16, 23, and 30
February 6, 13, 20, and 27
March 12, 19, and 26
April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30
Open Play
Make a playdate at the library! The Youth Activity room will be open and filled with toys for little ones to play with. Parents’ groups are welcome. Drop in any time during Open Play hours. Parents or caregivers must remain in the room and are responsible for their children. **No registration required.**
- Fridays, January 3, February 7, March 13 and April 3, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Mother Goose on the Loose
Based on the award-winning early literacy program of the same name, this unique series incorporates nursery rhymes and utilizes a formula of 80% repetition from week to week. The program integrates best practices from baby story time and includes developmental tips for adults. **No registration required.**
- Mondays, January 6, 13, and 27; February 3, 10, and 17, 6:30-7:15 PM

Minecraft for Ages 7-8
By popular demand, ROPL now offers a Minecraft program for the younger crowd. Seven- and eight-year-olds can play Minecraft in Survival mode on one of our computers. Spots are very limited, so make sure to sign up early! Limit 8 per session.
- Wednesdays, January 8, February 12, March 11 and April 15, 4:00-5:30 PM

Minecraft at the Library for Ages 9-12
Come to the library and play Minecraft in Survival mode on one of our computers. We supply the game accounts and computers. Spots are very limited, so make sure to sign up early! Limit 8.
- Wednesdays, January 15, February 19, March 18 and April 22, 4:00-5:30 PM

Tween Code Club
Join in for monthly adventures in coding by completing fun challenges that explore the basics of different coding languages. No experience required, and you do not need to attend previous sessions to sign up for later sessions. Spots are very limited, so make sure to sign up early! Limit 8 per session.
- Thursdays, January 16, February 13, March 12 and April 16, 4:30-5:30 PM

More Fun Stuff!

Saturday Family Movie
Drop in for a family-friendly movie on **select Saturdays at 2:00 PM** this winter and spring. We’ll provide popcorn but feel free to bring your own snacks, too! Movies may be subject to change. **No registration required.**

- **Toy Story 4** – January 11
- **The Secret Life of Pets 2** - February 8
- **Frozen 2** – April 4

Read to Dogs
Registered therapy dogs are here to listen to children read to them in a one-to-one setting. It is fun and helps improve reading skills because the dog listens attentively and does not judge, laugh, or criticize. Registration is required for this program. Please phone 248-246-3725 or sign up in person at the Youth Services Information Desk for a 20-minute time slot.
- Saturdays, January 18 and March 14, 10:30 AM-12:10 PM

Sensory Play Saturdays
Babies and toddlers are invited to drop-in and play with various sensory activities, toys, and textures in and around the room. It is a great opportunity for children and parents to interact, as well. **No registration required.**
- Saturdays, January 25, February 22, March 28 and April 25, 10:15 AM-12:00 PM

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Party
Whether you’re new to the program and would like more information, or already tracking your books and want to celebrate, stop by for this season’s party! Stories, dancing, play time, and snacks are all part of the fun! Participants who have reached 1,000 books will also be recognized at this event. Limit 75.
- Saturday, February 1 at 10:30 AM
Book Buddies is a book club for ROPL's youngest independent readers, ages 5-8 in grades K-3. Participants will get a copy of the book to keep when they sign up at the Youth Services Information Desk. Book Buddies Book Club meetings include activities, book discussions, and snacks based on the book. Limit 25 per session.

**Catch That Dog Wave (#2 in Magic Bone series)**
*by Nancy E. Krulik*

*Book pickup at Youth Services Desk begins Monday, January 6*
*Meeting on Monday, February 10, 4:30 - 5:30 PM*

With one bite of his magic bone, Sparky lands in Hawaii - where he runs along the beach, makes new friends, and even learns to hula. But when the waves get too high, Sparky has to decide if he should rescue a friend or his magic bone. Because without his bone, he'll never get home! What will Sparky do?

**Curious George Discovers the Ocean**
*by H.A. Rey*

*Book pickup at Youth Services Desk begins Monday, February 10*
*Meeting on Monday, April 10, 4:30 - 5:30 PM*

George gets invited on a submarine trip to help retrieve a satellite that fell from space. He can't wait for his first adventure under the sea! Follow along as George explores the coral reef and discovers the different plants and creatures living near the ocean floor.

**Graphic Novel Book Club**

ROPL has a book club just for kids ages 8-12 who love graphic novels! Lively book discussions, activities, and snack are all part of the fun. Participants will get a copy of the book to keep when they sign up at the Youth Services Information Desk. Limit 25.

**Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth**
*by Judd Winick*

*Book pickup at Youth Services Desk begins Monday, March 23*
*Meeting on Monday, April 13, 4:30 - 5:30 PM*

Funny, full of action, robots and friendship, Hilo’s soon to be friend, D.J., discovers him after seeing and hearing a loud explosion, leaving a gashing hole on the ground. When D.J. gets closer to take a look, he sees Hilo in his silver underwear! And it is there where the adventure begins! Trying to discover who Hilo is and how exactly he got into this hole are the first questions to be tackled. Helping D.J. and Hilo on their quest for answers is D.J.’s good friend, Gina.

**Kids’ Book Club**

ROPL has a book club just for kids ages 9-11 in grades 4-6! Join us for a lively book discussion, activities and a snack centered on the featured book. Participants will get a copy of the book to keep when they sign up at the Youth Services Information Desk. Limit 15 per session.

**Click Here to Start**
*by Denis Markell*

*Book pickup at Youth Services Desk begins Monday, January 6*
*Meeting on Monday, February 17, 4:30 - 5:30 PM*

What if playing video games was prepping you to solve an incredible real-world puzzle and locate a priceless treasure? Twelve-year-old Ted Gerson has spent most of his summer playing video games. So when his great-uncle dies and bequeaths him all the so-called "treasure" in his overstuffed junk shop of an apartment, Ted explores what it’s like to beat another level. And to his shock, he finds that eccentric Great-Uncle Ted actually has set the place up like a real-life escape-the-room game!

**Fish in a Tree**
*by Lynda Hunt*

*Book pickup at Youth Services Desk begins Monday, February 17*
*Meeting on Monday, April 27, 4:30 - 5:30 PM*

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of.

**Kids’ Book Club Special: The Healing Star**
*by A. Kidd*

*Book pickup at Youth Services Desk begins Thursday, January 2*
*Meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 6:00 - 7:00 PM*
*Meet the Author at 7:00 PM (limit 50)*

This intriguing magical novel features a strong feisty heroine in fourth grader Julia. Her quest: to catch a magical healing star to heal her beloved grandmother. When her quest to catch the star fails, she moves on to Plan B. She locates a rumored ladder to the stars, and that’s when her adventures begin in earnest.

*See page 14 for more details.*
Back to School After Winter Break!

The beginning of the new semester is a very exciting time full of new opportunities, but can also bring the stress of homework, projects, and tests. Let the library help you to stay on track this year with its many available resources for students. The knowledgeable staff is happy to provide suggestions for reading, whether it be fiction and nonfiction counterparts to align to Common Core standards, leveled reading books for elementary students, research books for projects, or suggestions for quiet reading that will pique students’ interests. For homework help, check out the databases at ropl.org to find reliable sources on a variety of topics. Study rooms are also available for group projects (these rooms are first come, first served basis). Make the library your after-school stop to tackle homework and assignments this year!

Teachers are also encouraged to contact the library for assistance with gathering books and resources for assignments and to arrange class visits.

Story Time Together Bags

ROPL is proud to continue the Story Time Together Bags program, a fun way to make stories come alive for children. Each bag contains numerous books (fiction and nonfiction), CDs, song and rhyme sheets, and puppets that center around a specific theme. The entire bag can be checked out for three weeks and is ideal for parents and teachers to use with preschoolers. Story Time Together Bags are a great way to extend beyond the book and get kids thinking about various topics. Look for the bags in the media kit section.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Royal Oak Public Library is proud to participate in 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. This nationwide initiative encourages reading to newborns, toddlers, and preschoolers to foster a love of books and prepare them for school.

How does it work?
Visit the library to receive a reading log, or download the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten app. Every time you and your child read a book together, check off the log or record it on the app. It doesn’t matter if it’s the same book multiple times. All that matters is that you’re reading! When you reach a hundreds place milestone (100 books, 200 books, etc.), visit the library for a sticker and add a leaf on the reading tree in the Youth Room. At 500 books your child will receive a special book bag. At 1,000 Books your child will get to pick out ten books to keep and will be acknowledged at our seasonal 1,000 Books party.

Who can participate?
All children from birth through the time he or she enters kindergarten. Families are encouraged to participate together, so feel free to sign up multiple children.

How long will it take?
The program is self-paced, so it can take anywhere from a few months to a few years! It’s really up to you and depends on how often you read together.

How do you begin?
Sign-up for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Party on Saturday, February 1 at 10:30 am to get a reading log or learn more about the program. Stories, dancing, play time, and snacks are all part of the fun! Participants who have reached 1,000 books will also be recognized at this event. Limit 75.

Can’t make it to the party? No problem. The program is ongoing, so stop by the Youth Information Desk at any time or download the app and start reading! Also, don’t forget to check out the display in the Youth Room for reading suggestions.
Database Spotlight

**Gale Courses**

Gale Courses offer patrons access to hundreds of instructor-led online courses covering everything from health and wellness to creative writing, computer programming, GED test preparation and much more. These courses are developed by expert instructors, many currently working at universities around the country, and have continuous enrollment dates. Courses run for six weeks with two new lessons being released weekly for a total of 12 lessons. They are entirely Web-based with comprehensive lessons, quizzes, and assignments. This is a wonderful resource which will offer our patrons continuing education opportunities that they can access from their home or the library’s public computers.

**Pronunciator**

With 4000 courses available, Pronunciator gives Royal Oak patrons access to 80 languages. The languages range from Afrikaans to Mongolian to Xhousa (and more in between.) The language courses are available in English as well as many other languages. In addition, Pronunciator also provides ESL courses in 50 different languages to help learn and improve English language skills.

**Consumer Reports Online**

Consumer Reports is the world’s largest independent product testing organization. They provide expert buying advice, recommendations, and ratings on thousands of consumer products each year using their state-of-the-art labs, auto test center, and survey research center.

**Novelist Plus**

Want more books on history, cooking or science? Novelist Plus puts it, and more, all at your fingertips. Search award winners, authors, plots and more. Accessible at home for Royal Oak patrons or in library.

**Novelist K-8 Plus**

Need a book for school or just for fun? With its fun, intuitive interface, and extensive feature content, Novelist K-8 Plus makes it easy. Accessible at home for Royal Oak patrons or in library.

Databases can be accessed using a Royal Oak library card by visiting ropl.org and the Research/eLearning tab.

**Michigan Activity Pass**

Did you know that your library card can be your best travel companion? Discover hundreds of Michigan’s cultural destinations and natural attractions with your Michigan library card! You can “check out” FREE or discounted admission (or other exclusive offers) to hundreds of Michigan state forest campgrounds, parks, museums, trails, arts and cultural destinations, and more. Print out free or discounted one-day passes at home or the library. For more information, visit ropl.org or call the Adult Services desk at 248-246-3727.

**A Word on Parking**

New for the Winter-Spring term, many of our programs - including an environmental series, a theater program, and occasional concerts - have been scheduled for Sunday afternoons when parking is free. Many other programs, including our film series and a new culinary series, have been scheduled on Saturday afternoons when parking at the 11 Mile structure is free for the first two hours before 5:00 pm.
Friends of ROPL
Annual Book Sale:
March 5 - 8

Visit the library for the Friends Annual Book Sale, March 5 - 8. Thousands of gently used and new books and DVDs for all age groups will be on sale. The Friends of ROPL raise money to support library programs for all ages. The Friends Member Preview Night kicks off the sale on Thursday, March 5, 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Memberships, which start as low as $10, can be purchased at the door. Regular sale hours are 10:00 am - 5:00 pm on Friday, March 6; 10:00 am - 3:00 pm on Saturday, March 7; and 1:00 - 4:00 pm on Sunday, March 8.

Thanks to the Friends of ROPL!
The Friends of the Royal Oak Public Library fund over 500 library programs annually along with supporting many other library needs. The Friends raise funds through their used book sales and the sale of used books at the Friends Shop along with the carts of used children's books in the youth area. All of the proceeds from these sales and fundraisers directly support the Royal Oak Public Library.
The Friends Shop is also the exclusive seller of Royal Oak logo wear! Show your Royal Oak pride with t-shirts (adult and youth sizes) and book bags with the city logo. Great gift ideas!

Friends Shop Hours
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am-3:00 pm

ROPL: Your Community Resource

A quality library is part of the foundation for any thriving community. As a Royal Oak resident, you can say with pride that you live in one of the best cities in Michigan with one of the top public libraries in the state.

Will you consider supporting the vital resources we offer our community by making a donation to the library today?

Donations from caring individuals like you help to ensure we continue to offer residents a world-class library system with resources and learning opportunities that benefit all ages. The library, of course, offers books, DVDs, magazines, but with your help, we are also investing in digital resources that help make library use more convenient and accessible, bringing books, movies, music, magazines and more right to your device, at no cost to you. The library also continues to welcome the community in for programs like story times, live music, educational talks, movies and more for all ages. The library hosted 19,480 attendees to 524 programs last year.

When you donate to Royal Oak Public Library, your support stays right here, going to work for residents and helping maintain the city’s status as one of the best places to live in Michigan. Through 2019, contributions of community members have helped the library create new services and opportunities, such as new technology in the form of robots to teach kids about science and engineering, special kits to aid seniors with memory issues, new play area items for young visitors, and so much more!
The ROPL is great because of the ongoing support of people like you, who help to make it not just an educational resource, but a gathering place for our community. Together we level the playing field, making the materials that help us learn and grow – that enhance our lives – accessible to those of all backgrounds, ages, needs and abilities.

Please consider donating generously to the Royal Oak Public Library to help expand and improve our community offerings! Visit ropl.org/donate to make a secure online donation or pick up a donation envelope at the library to support ROPL.

Sincerely,
Stacie Woodward, Library Board of Trustees, President