

ADAPTING & IMPROVING

Libraries are resourceful and ever-changing. The Ypsilanti District Library found many ways to adapt to the challenges of 2020, and because they improve access for everyone, most of these changes are here to stay.

We now offer even more streaming and downloadable books and media. Library storytimes, computer classes, and other events are available virtually. You can get or renew your library card online. We're publishing this newsletter more frequently, have expanded our wireless Internet access, and are providing mobile hotspots. We're podcasting. And every day, we're bringing books, movies, music, print-outs, and kits to you curbside.

None of this changes the fact that we all miss the busy hum of a well-loved library. **We miss you!**

Everything inside the library—our books, DVDs, newspapers, magazines, CDs, kits, and computers—is meant to be shared. However, sharing means many people touch these items, a real concern during the pandemic. Though we want to welcome you back, we want to do so safely. We do not want to risk exposing anyone to COVID-19.

When Michigan's stay home order was lifted in June, YDL developed a Reopening Plan which you can view at [ypsilibrary.org/phased-opening](https://www.ypsilibrary.org/phased-opening). We established criteria for entering Stage 4: a rolling 2-week average reduction in the number of COVID cases in the 48197 and 48198 zip codes. Sadly, this hasn't happened, so YDL has remained in Stage 3. We continue to monitor the situation carefully.

While we wait, we're excited to share that Needlepoint Bi-Polar Ionization Systems (NPBI) are being installed at YDL-Whittaker and Michigan Avenue. NPBI works to safely clean indoor air and surfaces by releasing high concentrations of ions into the air stream through a building's ventilation system. This process deactivates harmful substances like airborne mold, bacteria, allergens, and viruses. Read more about NPBI's effectiveness with the virus that causes COVID-19 and watch a fascinating 3-minute video on the



technology here: [ypsilibrary.org/help-ydl-prepare-for-reopening](https://www.ypsilibrary.org/help-ydl-prepare-for-reopening).

Installation of NPBI will add an additional layer of confidence that we can all return to the libraries we love and stay safe. Since the Library Board of Trustees approved the project in November, our wonderful donors have been very generous in helping us foot the \$70,000 bill. Recently, we also received a grant for \$12,000 from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation and Ypsilanti Area Community Fund to cover the entire Michigan Avenue installation. Thank you, AAACF and YACF!

We are very grateful to our loyal patrons, who continue to use the library for enrichment, education, and entertainment during this time of isolation and uncertainty. We appreciate the care and concern you've expressed for our staff and their families, and can't wait until it is safe to welcome you back. Thank you for your patience. Stay safe! Here's to a happy and healthy 2021!

Lisa Hoenig, *Director*

**Ypsilanti Area
Community Fund**



**Ann Arbor Area
Community Foundation**

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COMMITTING TO COMPASSION

Last year brought challenges. It also brought opportunities for compassion, community, and patience. In addition to the pandemic, racial unrest throughout the country forced us to

think about how we make a community work for everyone.

This year, renew your commitment to personal and community growth. In the spirit of spreading

knowledge, here are some tools and tips for achieving your resolutions and becoming a more informed and engaged citizen.

2021

Talk to your family about race

Research from the American Psychological Association shows some preschoolers may have already developed racist beliefs well before adults start talking about race with them. Infants can even start to notice racial differences. This can lead children to form preconceptions about race that are sometimes damaging, according to psychologists. Parents play a significant role in shaping kids' values and helping kids embrace diversity. For tips about starting these conversations, check out "Talking to your Kids about Race and Racism" on our Race Relations page.

But don't stop there! Teaching involves many small moments where parents are consistent and intentional. To help with these teachable moments, we'll be adding to our race relations resources for families. Our February 6 Saturday Afternoon Adventure will focus on music and include how people in the US have used music as protest. February 13 will demonstrate the ripple effects of kindness and how kids can build empathy and compassion for others.

Additionally, our Garden to Table series will focus on local food justice, with activities and videos available February 20 to help families talk about who has fair access to fresh, healthy, affordable food and learn about fair wages and treatment of those who harvest, prepare, and serve the food we eat. See who is taking action to make a more equal food community in Ypsi. See pages 4-5 for event details.

Read to become anti-racist

Browse our comprehensive reading lists both by and about people of color. From *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram Kendi, to *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, you can find opportunities to learn from experiences that may not be familiar. Many are available on Overdrive or Hoopla. Visit ypsilibrary.org/race-relations for reading lists to pick from.

Make your reading lists more colorful

According to the latest stats, 50% of 2018's children's books featured white characters. Only 10% featured African/African American characters; 7% featured Asian/Pacific Islanders, 5% featured Latinx characters, and only 1% featured American Indians/First Nation characters. Courtesy of Black Men Read, assess your reading list to make it more diverse by asking yourself things like:

- How many of your book selections feature a character of color?
- How many are authored or illustrated by a person of color?
- If the story features a character of color, does the story talk about hardships or oppression, or does it talk about joy and create a whole, relatable person?

Visit ypsilibrary.org/race-relations to find our Power of Stories section with more thought-provoking activities and advice. Additionally, to celebrate Black History Month, all of our storytimes in February will highlight black authors.



Plug into and share community news and resources

Many people and organizations in our community work tirelessly to make a difference. Perhaps you saw the Concentrate story about Kallista Walker, a local woman who started a video series featuring leaders of color reading books. It's wonderful to see these local stories in the media. Organizations like the Washtenaw County Health Department, Corner Health, United Way, EMU Engage, and the Office of Community and Economic Development provide tons of services for people in need, from food to housing help and beyond. Follow their social media to stay informed. Commit to finding and sharing great local news stories and resources that paint a more lively and positive picture of our community.



Participate in programs about race

Check out YDL's upcoming virtual events that support and highlight people of color. See pages 4-5 for more details.

Jan 17 & Feb 21

SAFELY TALK ABOUT RACE & RACISM WITH LA'RON WILLIAMS

2:00 PM

Jan 25

COMMUNITY FORUM: RACE, RACISM, AND INJUSTICE IN SCHOOLS

4:00PM

Jan 26 & Feb 23

AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

7:00 PM

Jan 27

STRATEGIES AND CELEBRATIONS FOR MINORITY BUSINESS OWNERS: PANEL DISCUSSION

6:00 PM

Feb 5 & 6

AMERICA WITHOUT RACISM: MAKING THE VISION A REALITY

Feb 5 | 6:00-9:00 PM

Feb 6 | 1:00-4:00 PM

Feb 13

OPENING OUR HEARTS THROUGH WRITING—CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN POETS

11:00 AM

WASHTENAW READS

We are pleased to announce the 2021 Washtenaw Read! The title is: *All American Boys*, written in tandem by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. A 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor book, and recipient of the Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children’s Literature, this *New York Times* bestselling novel explores how two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

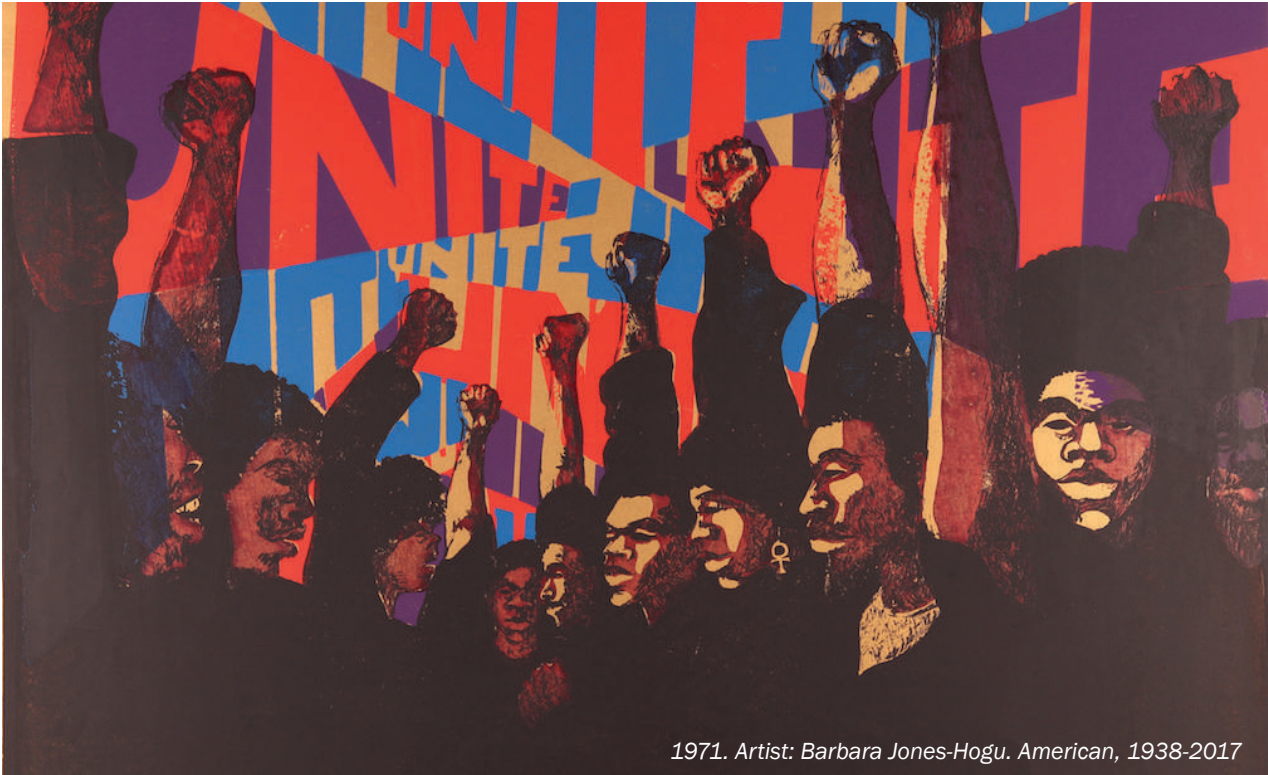
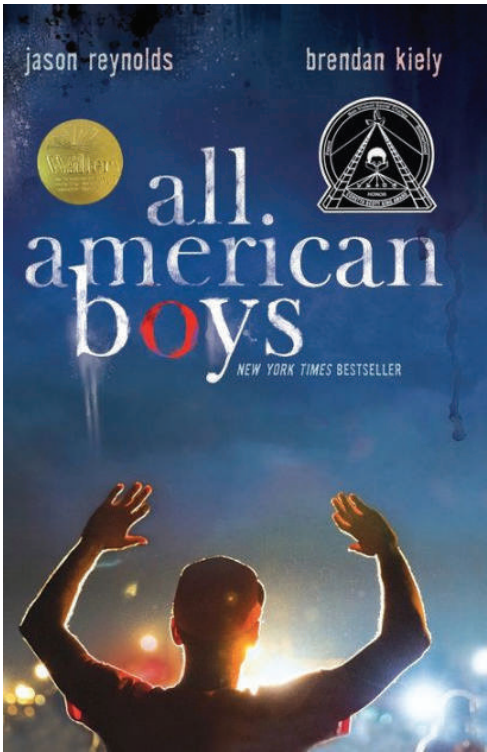
The Reads Committee has scheduled a virtual author discussion on Tuesday, February 16, at 7:00pm. You won't want to miss a chance to hear from Jason Reynolds and Brandon Kieley! Copies of *All American Boys* are ready for you to pick up at curbside!

The Teen Advisory Group (TAG) will include a copy of *All American Boys* in their January social

justice-themed subscription box. Boxes also contain other teen-created items such as a read-alike book list, social justice pins, tips for talking to your family about race, and more. See page 4 for details.

Whether you pick up a subscription box, read the eBook, or just want to be part of a youth-led conversation about race and racism, join the Zoom conversation Friday, February 12, at 4pm. All teens 13–18 are welcome to join the conversation and to join TAG!

Washtenaw Reads is a community initiative to promote reading and civic dialogue through the shared experience of reading and discussing a common book. Begun in 2004 in partnership between YDL and the Ann Arbor District Library, since 2016 the Read has expanded to include libraries in Chelsea, Dexter, Milan, Northfield Township, and Saline.



1971. Artist: Barbara Jones-Hogu. American, 1938-2017

NEH EXHIBIT VIRTUAL TOUR

Experience “For All the World to See”

YDL is pleased to bring you a virtual tour of the NEH-sponsored exhibit "For All the World To See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights." Although the pandemic has closed YDL's physical doors, we remain committed to providing you with quality, timely, and relevant information that enriches your life and stimulates your curiosity. Our virtual tour (www.ypsilibrary.org/exhibits) is no exception.

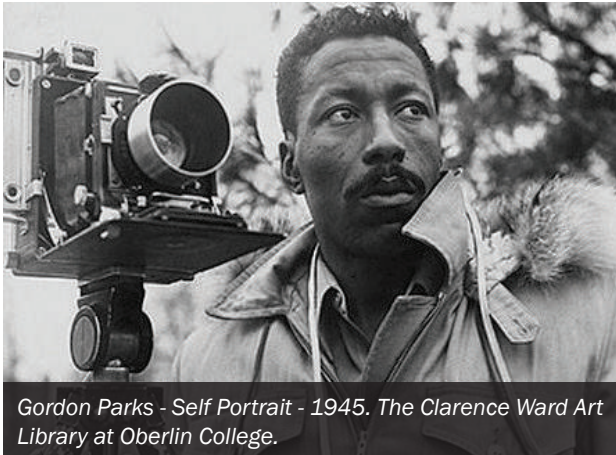
FATWTS was originally curated by Dr. Maurice Berger, a renowned research professor at the Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Dr. Berger sought to explore the connections between the history of racism in America, the Civil Rights Movement, the ever increasing role of visual media, and ultimately the impact of that on public opinions and perceptions about race and injustice.

To help you and your family explore these themes and their relevance today, YDL has

prepared Exhibit Activity Packets that you can request for pick up at Curbside by emailing smith@ypsilibrary.org. These packets contain something for each age group and learning style, and help deepen our understanding of how the media and "what we see" impacts how we see and interact with others. The packets contain crayons, writing prompts, social justice cues, and art opportunities.

Your creations are just the beginning, however! Our ultimate hope is to compile every submission into a FATWTS scrapbook that can be shared and preserved in the library. Submit your entry at ypsilibrary.org/exhibits and you will receive a free copy of Ralph Ellison's book *Invisible Man*.

While we will miss sharing this exhibit in person, we hope you will enjoy the virtual tour, and that its themes will move you to share your experience with others in our community. We are proud to elevate the conversation of racial equity and are committed to honoring the many voices who helped make Civil Rights an ongoing possibility.



Gordon Parks - Self Portrait - 1945. The Clarence Ward Art Library at Oberlin College.

Engage and win a free book!

Complete any of the activities below and submit your work to us for the FATWTS scrapbook using our online forms or mailing to YDL, 5577 Whittaker Rd., attn. Julianne Smith. Then email smith@ypsilibrary.org to schedule a time to pick up your free copy of *Invisible Man*!

- Make your own protest sign
- Take a photo that illustrates social justice
- Take a story walk in the A.P. Marshall archives, YDL's new YpsiStories podcast, or our virtual StoryMap.
- Write a letter to Dr. Berger
- Complete an YpsiWrites writing prompt
- Finish a coloring page from your packet
- Write a book review
- Take a photo using PhotoVoice principles and write about it
- Write your own "Freedom Song"
- Learn about AfriCobra and make your own art

For more details and to submit your work, visit ypsilibrary.org/exhibits.

JAN/FEB EVENTS

MONDAYS

Jan 4 & Feb 1

TWEEN BOOK CLUB

6:30 PM

Join us for a virtual meeting to discuss great books!

Jan 4: *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

Feb 1: *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman
REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org.



Jan 25–Feb 22

826MICHIGAN TUTORING

3:00 PM

In partnership with 826michigan, the library is happy to provide access to live one-on-one tutoring through 826michigan's Online Learning Lab. Register at tinyurl.com/826vss, or call (901) 205-9035 between 10:30–6:30 to register by phone.

Jan. 25

COMMUNITY FORUM: RACE, RACISM, AND INJUSTICE IN SCHOOLS

4:00 PM

Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, author of *Love from the Vortex*, gives an interactive talk on how love can be a springboard for discussing race, racism, and injustice in schools. This event is part of the Washtenaw Intermediate School District's Responsive Teaching Coalition. Sponsored by Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Ypsilanti District Library, and Ann Arbor District Library.

TUESDAYS

Jan 5–Feb 23

KNITTING PLUS

6:00 PM

Meet virtually with other yarnies and share your projects and ideas every Tuesday through Zoom! Open to all, any handcraft welcome!



Jan 12

GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS

(Adult)

2:00 PM

Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, create simple formulas, and share and collaborate on your spreadsheet with others. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.



Jan 12–Feb 23

STORYTIME LIVE

10:30 AM

Tune in to YDL's YouTube Channel for live storytimes. Hear stories, sing along to your favorite storytime songs, try some yoga poses from home, and more! Videos available anytime on YouTube after the livestream, or visit ypsilibrary.org/virtual-storytimes for past sessions.

Jan 12 and Feb 9

TEEN SUBSCRIPTION BOXES

Curbside Hours

Bored at home? Sign up for YDL's teen subscription boxes! Each month, get a surprise package with a book, themed snacks, activities, and gifts, all chosen by the Teen Advisory Group (TAG). Email kscott@ypsilibrary.org to subscribe, then stop by the library once a month to snag your swag. TAG will also host a monthly book talk for teens to discuss the title in each box.

January theme: Social Justice

February theme: Self Love

Check ypsilibrary.org/curbside for hours at each location. Teen Subscription Boxes are available starting the second Tuesday of the month.

Jan 12 & 26 & Feb 9 & 23

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP

4:30 PM

Join the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) and earn volunteer hours by attending Zoom meetings to help plan online meet ups and activities for teens. Add your voice to the conversation about anti-racism as we develop resources for teens who want to learn more. Apply at ypsilibrary.org/TAG



Jan 12–Feb 16

STRENGTH TRAINING

12:00 PM

Learn basic weight training principles using free weights to target major muscle groups with instructor Jerry Powell of Lifestyle Fitness. Suggested equipment is 1–5 lb. weights. If you don't have weights at home, alternate options will be given. Each class will end with a cool down and balance exercise. This class is designed for adults ages 55 & up, but is open to all adults who would enjoy a gentler workout.

Jan 19

GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS

(Adult)

2:00 PM

Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and share and collaborate on your presentation with others. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Jan 26–Feb 23

826MICHIGAN TUTORING

3:00 PM

In partnership with 826michigan, the library is happy to provide access to live one-on-one tutoring through 826michigan's Online Learning Lab. Register at tinyurl.com/826vss, or call (901) 205-9035 between 10:30–6:30 to register by phone.

Jan 26 & Feb 23

AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

7:00 PM

Jan 26: *Deacon King Kong*, by James McBride

Feb 23: *Mind of My Mind*, by Octavia Butler

Jan 26

COOKING WITH SCRAPS

6:00 PM

Want to reduce waste in the kitchen, learn to use ingredients that normally are thrown out, lower your grocery bill, and utilize every edible part of your food? Join Lindsay-Jean Hard, of Zingerman's Bakehouse, as she discusses her book, *Cooking with Scraps: Turn Your Peels, Cores, Rinds and Stems into Delicious Meals*. She'll be demonstrating the Bakehouse's banana bread recipe, which, thanks to Lindsay-Jean, now uses the whole banana, peel and all. Feel free to bake along with her or just enjoy the demonstration.

Feb 2

GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS

(Adult)

2:00 PM

Learn to format, select, copy, paste, and edit text and learn methods for sharing your document and collaborating. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

WEDNESDAYS

Jan 6 & Feb 3

YPSI STORIES: A NEW PODCAST

A new podcast, Ypsi Stories takes a look into our community's past through storytelling. Featuring local historians and experts, look for a new podcast the first Wednesday of every month wherever you find your podcasts or at ypsilibrary.org/ypsistories.



Jan 13 & 20

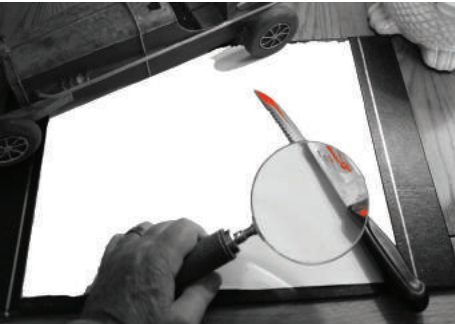
ECOMMERCE: KEYS TO SUCCESS

6:30 PM

If you own a business, or want to start one, this two-part series on eCommerce covers the fundamentals of building your online store and attracting customers. Presented by the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office. Registration required. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext 2411 to register.

Jan 13: Discusses different eCommerce models, selecting your shopping platform, and navigating your way through the options of product sourcing and shipping services.

Jan 20: Addresses the challenge of attracting potential customers to your online store.



Jan 27 & Feb 24

MYSTERY LOVER'S BOOK GROUP

2:00 PM

Jan 27: *Thirty-Three Teeth*, by Colin Cotterill

Feb 24: *Raven Black*, by Ann Cleeves



Jan 27

STRATEGIES AND CELEBRATIONS FOR MINORITY BUSINESS OWNERS: PANEL DISCUSSION

6:00 PM

Hear from local minority business owners on strategies for moving your business forward, recent successes even under the pandemic, and learn specifics about the benefits of getting certified as a woman-owned or minority-owned business. For aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners alike. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411.

Feb 10

BUSINESS INSURANCE AND YOU

6:30 PM

Since every business operation has its own unique set of risks, a commercial insurance policy must be tailored to the business. Learn differences between the types of insurances available, and which are most applicable to your business. Presented by the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext 2411.

Feb 10

FROM BOOMERS TO ZOOMERS: ZOOM PRACTICE FOR SENIORS (55+)

2:00 PM

Learn the basics of navigating the Zoom meeting interface. While working with other seniors, you can see yourself on camera, test your microphone, learn to chat, and more. To register call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Feb 17

BUSINESS PLANNING: I HAVE A BUSINESS PLAN, NOW WHAT?

6:30 PM

Your work isn't done when you make a business plan. This workshop will address the additional types of planning necessary to make your business function and adapt to changing circumstances in your markets and the general economy. The discussion will include operations planning, planning scheduling, as well as roles and responsibilities. Presented by the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext 2411.

Feb 24

ROAD MAP TO YOUR LAWN CARE AND MAINTENANCE BUSINESS

6:30 PM

This workshop will discuss the types of services and work that can be provided for lawn care, landscaping, and exterior maintenance. We'll cover equipment requirements, working with suppliers, pitfalls, and standards of work. Presented by the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext 2411 to register.

THURSDAYS

Jan 7 & Feb 4

TAKE SOME TIME: MONTHLY SELF-CARE KITS FOR ADULTS

Michigan Ave Curbside Hours

Feel like you could just use a break? Grab one of our self-care kits. Kits include items and activities to bring down stress: tea and/or other goodies, self-care recipes, calming exercises, and screen-free activities. Each month has a different theme. Pickup hours are 9:30am–12:30pm and 2:30pm–5:30pm Monday through Saturday at Michigan Avenue. Kits are available starting the first Thursday of the month while supplies last. To pick up a kit, follow the curbside pickup instructions in the parking lot. To check availability, call 734-482-4110 x 1385. For questions, email Kim at krowe@ypsilibrary.org.



Jan 14 & Feb 4

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP

10:30 AM

Email skonen@ypsilibrary.org to request your copy and a Zoom link.

Jan 14: *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie

Feb 4: *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds

Jan 14–Feb 25

STORYTIME LIVE

4:30 PM

Tune in to YDL's YouTube Channel for live storytimes. Hear stories, sing along to your favorite storytime songs, try some yoga poses from home, and more! Videos available anytime on YouTube after the livestream, or visit ypsilibrary.org/virtual-storytimes for past sessions.



Jan 21 & Feb 18
ONLINE SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
1:00 PM
Contribute to the library by sharing ideas and resources. For more information email or call Monique: mgeiman@ypslibrary.org, 734-482-4110, x1362.

Jan 21 & Feb 18
KIDS BOOK CLUB (Grades 3–5)
6:30 PM
Join us for a virtual meeting to discuss books for young readers! REGISTRATION REQUIRED: email mitchell@ypslibrary.org.
Jan 21: *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl
Feb 18: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever* by Jeff Kinney

Jan 21 & Feb 18
THIRD THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB (Ages 18+)
7:00 PM
Registration required; supplies provided. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x 2411
Jan 21: Photo and Memento Display: make a display for photos or ephemera out of a metal hoop, twine, yarn, and other embellishments
Feb 18: Paper Flowers: use coffee filters to create easy, beautiful blooms



Jan 28
UFOS OVER MICHIGAN
6:00 PM
Did you know that Michigan has some of the biggest UFO cases on record? Find out more about these incredible events as well as several other unusual and well-documented UFO sightings from the Great Lakes State.



FRIDAYS

Jan 8 & 22 & Feb 5 & 19
LNGO CRAFTERNOONS
2:00 PM
Pick up supplies in advance, then join us for a virtual lighthearted afternoon where the goal is to engage your mind and work on a project but perfection is not a requirement!
Jan 8: Felt Flower Coat/Hat Pin
Jan 22: Etched Glass Vase
Feb 5: Alcohol Inked Silk Scarf
Feb 19: Venetian Masks



Jan 22 & Feb 12 & 26
TINKERLAB
Curbside Hours
Tinkering allows young children to learn through hands-on experiences and provides unstructured time to explore, test, and create. For our virtual series, parents can watch a short video to get ideas, then use materials easily found outside, in your house, or in a supply kit you'll get from the library to do the activities with your little one. New themes each session! Visit ypslibrary.org/onlinetinkerlabs.

Friday–Saturday, Feb 5–6
AMERICA WITHOUT RACISM: MAKING THE VISION A REALITY
Friday Feb 5 | 6:00 PM
Saturday Feb 6 | 1:00 PM
This free, virtual, two-day conference will explore ushering in fundamental change and eliminating racism in Washtenaw County. Topics will include: policing redefined, redefinition of work, health care for everyone, and defense of the commons: individual rights versus the rights of the collective. The conference will culminate with a visioning session. Register online (encouraged) or call 734-482-4110, x1385. Sponsored by Washtenaw Faces Race.



Feb 5 & 19
MOVEMENT FOR LITTLE ONES
Get the wiggles out with movement videos for little ones you can watch anytime. Build motor skills and have fun together to break the boredom of long winter days. The Feb. 19 session is led by local dance instructor Amy Cadwallader.

Feb 12
ALL AMERICAN BOYS TEEN BOOK DISCUSSION
4:00 PM
If you signed up for the monthly Teen Subscription Boxes, OR if you'd just like to connect with your peers and discuss the Washtenaw County Reads Title *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds, join us at 4pm on Zoom for a lively discussion on this book and the racism happening in America today. Email Kelly at kscott@ypslibrary.org to register for this discussion and you'll receive the Zoom Invite link the day before the virtual event.

SATURDAYS

Jan 2–Feb 28
GUITAR CLUB FOR ADULTS (18+)
10:00 AM
Guitar players of all levels and ages (18+) teach each other songs, listen, collaborate, and learn to play together. Acoustic, electric, and all other types of guitars are welcome. We are meeting socially distanced for up to 8 members in the Downtown Farmer's Market Robert C. Barnes Sr. Market Place Hall. Contact Scott Marlowe, smarlowe@ypslibrary.org, or call Joy at 734-732-2634 for more information.



Jan 9–Feb 27
SATURDAY AFTERNOON ADVENTURES
Curbside Hours
Each week find a new family activity you can do at home anytime, often with hands-on supplies you can pick up from the library! An YpsiWrites prompt is included in each kit. Visit ypslibrary.org/saturdayafternoonadventures.
January 9: DIY Relax Pack for Kids
January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Celebrate and Reflect
January 23: Readers' Theatre in a Bag
January 30: Kitchen Science–Water Beads
February 6: Make Music
February 13: The Ripple Effect of Kindness
February 20: Kids at the Table: exploring food in our community
February 27: Make Do Building Challenge



Jan 9
GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS (Adult)
10:30 AM
Learn to format, select, copy, paste, and edit text and learn methods for sharing your document and collaborating. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.



Jan 16
AMONG US MEETUP
3:00 PM
Calling all teens! Join in an Among Us game on Zoom. You'll need two devices—one to play the online game and one to join our Zoom hangout! Register online for the Zoom link and email Kelly at kscott@ypslibrary.org with questions.

Jan 16–Feb 27
LIVE FROM THE LIBRARY
10:30 AM
Live from the library every Saturday morning on YpsiLibrary Instagram. Watch YDL storytimers share stories, songs, and play activities that you can do with your little one at home.



Jan 16 & Feb 20
WASHTENAW AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY
10:30 AM
The work of African American genealogy is a challenge but with great rewards. We invite you to learn about the process with us. Each session will focus on a different resource or technique to help you discover your family history. Program is held virtually via Zoom. Contact Joy Cichewicz at joy@ypslibrary.org or call 734-732-2634 to get Zoom meeting information.

Jan 23
FROM BOOMERS TO ZOOMERS: ZOOM PRACTICE FOR SENIORS (55+)
10:30 AM
Learn the basics of navigating the Zoom meeting interface. While working with other seniors, you can see yourself on camera, test your microphone, learn to chat, and more. To register call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP FOR SENIORS (55+)
Call 734-482-4110 x1384 or email brigitte@ypslibrary.org to schedule a one-hour phone or virtual session.

Jan 23
GETTING THAT SONG OUT OF YOUR HEAD AND ONTO PAPER
4:00 PM
Join local singer-songwriter Pat Grimes for a fun-filled session of songwriting. Learn how to take those words and ideas rolling around in your head and create your own song! Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411. Presented in partnership with YpsiWrites.



Feb 6
GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS (Adult)
10:30 AM
Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and share and collaborate on your presentation with others. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Feb 13
OPENING OUR HEARTS THROUGH WRITING—CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN POETS
11:00 AM
Consider how writers can make a difference in our communities and our world. Through the reading and contemplation of African American women's poetry, learn to listen more deeply to our own voices and to the voices of others. Then practice using writing as a tool to expand our collective hearts and minds. For teens and adults. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411. Presented in partnership with YpsiWrites.

Feb 20
GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS (Adult)
10:30 AM
Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, create simple formulas, and share and collaborate on your spreadsheet with others. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Feb 27
SQUARE FOOT GARDENING
2:00 PM
Do you want to start a vegetable garden but don't know where to start? Did you have a garden but gave up on it? Anyone can be a successful gardener using the Square Foot Gardening method! Learn how to plan and implement this method with Master Gardener Shannon Ditz and save time, effort, tools, space, and water.

SUNDAYS

Jan 17 & Feb 21
SAFELY TALK ABOUT RACE & RACISM
2:00 PM
La'Ron Williams, a nationally acclaimed, award-winning storyteller, hosts an open, honest discussion about race and racism in our long-running Safely Talk about Race & Racism film series. More information on the selected film, and how to join, will be on YDL's events calendar.





YCS FEEDS MINDS AND THE COMMUNITY

Leading the Way in Food Distribution

Ypsilanti Community Schools has been a leader in food distribution programs in Washtenaw County during the pandemic. The district distributes an average of 22,000 meals weekly, with the help of volunteers and district staff. Originally set up at community locations like churches and community centers, YCS now mostly uses its own building locations, and does deliveries in the community. They’ve benefited from the support of sponsors like Food



Gatherers and Heeren LLC, who have provided boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables. If you need food help, visit www.ycschools.us for food distribution site information.

Student Art Trip Was Canceled but Art Still Displayed

In-person classes aren’t the only thing that many YCS students have missed. More than 60 Ypsilanti Community Schools art students were slated to visit the US Department of Education in Washington D.C. for the Public Education art exhibit, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. YCS art teacher Kathy Fisk and the Art Department put a plan in motion to make sure the students’ art still received proper recognition. The Diversity, Equality, and Justice-themed project of students' artwork can now be viewed at local Ypsilanti small businesses, including Cultivate, 734 Brewing, Bobcat Bonnie’s, the Back Office Studio, and many others associated with First Fridays Ypsilanti. There are also plans to create a mural of the artwork locally to be a fixture in the Ypsilanti Community, with the help of donations received from local businesses, fundraisers, and individuals.

TAKE A VIRTUAL VACATION

Would you normally be getting away this time of year? Travelling can help us release stress and connect more fully with ourselves and others.

In a 2018 *Forbes* article, author and San Francisco-based clinical psychologist Dr. Tamara McClintock Greenberg said, "The stress of work and daily demands can distract us from what we find to be actually meaningful and interesting."

Perhaps now more than ever, we can see the benefits of exploring the world beyond our bubble. Although physical travel may be difficult, consider seeing the world from home. Maybe even tour places you hadn’t planned to see otherwise. Read on for a sample of virtual travel experiences we’ve archived at ypsilibrary.org/isolation-recreation.



YDL’s Around the World Series

Throughout the summer and into the fall, YDL put together introductions to the sights, music, food, and culture of countries around the world. Learn about the Nollywood film industry in Nigeria that produces more movies than Hollywood. Create a mural inspired by Mexico’s Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. Be inspired to write a Japanese haiku. The page features video introductions to nine countries by people connected with them, and rich looks at what makes each one special. Visit ypsilibrary.org/around-the-world.



Tour National Parks

Take 360 degree tours of 5 beautiful national parks via Google Arts and Culture. Explore the Kenai Fjords in Alaska and virtually climb down into a glacier. Fly over an active volcano in Hawaii where you can explore lava tubes and look out across volcanic cliffs. Take a headlamp trek through Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. Ride on horseback through Bryce Canyon in Utah and gaze at the night sky. Finally, swim through the Dry Tortugas in Florida, the world's third-largest coral reef, where you can explore a shipwreck.

Tour Beautiful Libraries

YDL doesn’t have the only beautiful libraries in the world! The folks at ilovelibraries have compiled some of their favorite video library tours. Explore the unique architecture and beauty of:

- The Library of Parliament in Ottawa Canada (featured on Canada’s 10 dollar bill!)
- The Mansueto Library at the University of Chicago
- The New York Public Library
- Library of Congress in Washington D.C. (the largest library in the world)
- Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford (featured in the Harry Potter movie series)
- Seattle Public Library

Tour Famous Museums

Google Arts & Culture has also compiled virtual tours of some of the world’s most famous museums. Without leaving your living room, stop in Paris to visit the Eiffel Tower and the Musée d’Orsay. View exhibits at the National Gallery in London. You can even check out the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest, Hungary, or the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Seoul, Korea! Hundreds of museums are at your fingertips.

See Local Favorites in a New Way

Some of your favorite local haunts also let you check in from home. The Detroit Institute of Art has a “DIA at home” page with online school field trips, access to over 60,000 works of art, a special selection of programs for seniors, and more. You can access the Henry Ford’s Innovation Learning Series from last summer, full of lessons and activities for kids and adults. Finally, the Detroit Zoo’s Virtual Vitamin Z offers video lessons, live animal cameras, and much more. Enjoy!

RETHINKING COMMUNITY WITH LCS

Lincoln Consolidated Schools has always been both a school, and community center; a place to gather and share. This community support has been needed during the 2020 pandemic and LCS has delivered food, books, and technology to students in need.

With school closures in place, many students who relied on meals were uncertain. Using donations, LCS was still able to provide these vulnerable students with food and household necessities, and the free books that they had previously counted on.

Remote learning has looked different as well, but at LCS, it jumpstarted some initiatives that already had been in the works. Before the arrival of the pandemic, Lincoln was just beginning a district-wide one-to-one technology initiative, thanks to the community's support of a bond passed in 2018. The computers had arrived, but were just starting to make it into students' hands. The plan was, at least to start, they would remain



available only at school. After the pandemic closures, this plan was quickly revamped and the computers were immediately distributed to students, allowing them to actively participate in classes, wherever they were.

Teachers were still in the process of learning the technology when they had to drastically speed up their training. To ensure a successful transition to remote learning for all students, the teachers had to adapt. To accomplish this, staff completed in a

matter of weeks training that would normally take months to plan and implement. This investment in immersive training meant that they were able to provide remote and in-person teaching. When the local health data necessitated the move back to remote learning only, the transition was smoother. The hurdles of this year have resulted in new initiatives and ways of teaching and learning that will allow success for teachers and students moving forward.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT COVID UPDATE

What You Need to Know about COVID-19 in Washtenaw County

By early winter, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths increased and reached higher levels than during the spring pandemic shut down. The virus is still circulating in our community. The increases are likely due to several things:

- People gathering with friends or family without COVID-19 precautions;
- People spending more time indoors as the weather gets colder;
- People growing tired of using COVID-19 precautions.

Washtenaw County Health Department reminds everyone to do their part to stop the spread of COVID-19.

If You Test Positive or Have Symptoms

If you test positive for COVID-19, isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the start of your symptoms or your positive test date if you didn't have symptoms. "Don't wait for a call from the Health Department," said Washtenaw County Health Officer Jimena Loveluck. "At this point, we all know we should be staying away from others if you tested positive, have symptoms, are waiting on test results, or are a close contact."

Notify your close contacts that they may have been exposed. A close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet of an infected person for



at least 15 total minutes with or without a face covering. A person is considered contagious 2 days before their symptoms start or before their positive test.

If You Are a Close Contact

Close contacts should quarantine for 14 days from their last contact with an infected person. This option is the safest for everyone. However, a growing body of data shows that the risk of illness is greatly reduced between days 11–14. Therefore, quarantine may end after 10 days if you don't develop any symptoms AND you continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days. There is still a risk of developing an illness between days 11–14; it is simply lower than the first 10 days. A negative test does not mean you can stop quarantine. If you are exposed but do not have symptoms, please wait at least 5 days before testing. The virus can take up to 14 days to make you sick.

Both isolation and quarantine require staying away from others and out of public places, except

if seeking medical care or testing. Learn more about isolation and quarantine: <https://bit.ly/39FNUaQ>

For Everyone

Risk of exposure is present whenever you are out. Please continue to wear a face covering, maintain 6 feet of distance from people not in your household, clean hands frequently, and avoid others if you have any symptoms.

These prevention strategies are most effective when combined. Using them remains vital to slowing the spread of illness and preventing as many cases of COVID-19 as possible—especially when we spend more time indoors and during flu season. Need a flu vaccine? See www.washtenaw.org/flushots.

COVID-19 Vaccination

A COVID-19 vaccine will be critical in slowing the spread and helping communities recover from the pandemic. Stopping a pandemic will take ALL our tools: handwashing, masks, social distancing, and vaccines.

In mid-December, we received our first COVID-19 vaccines. The first people to have access to the vaccine include health care workers providing direct care, people who will be vaccinating others, and residents in long-term care settings. For everyone else, please be patient. It may take weeks or months to move through the prioritization phases, depending on supplies. For the latest information about COVID-19 vaccination, see washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine.

Please note this information was written in December 2020. Local COVID-19 information is available at www.washtenaw.org/covid19. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates (@wcpublichealth)! Health Department staff are available to answer questions. Call 734-544-6700 or email L-wchdcontact@washtenaw.org.

WRITING MATTERS!

YpsiWrites Workshops

- *Getting that Song Out of Your Head and Onto Paper*—Join local singer-songwriter Pat Grimes for a fun-filled afternoon of songwriting. Learn how to take those words and ideas rolling around in your head and use them to create your own song. For teens and adults. Saturday, January 23, 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
- *Opening Our Hearts Through Writing: Celebrating African American Women Poets* Join us in this morning session of reading, reflection, and writing. In this workshop we will consider how all of us as writers can make a difference in our communities and our world through creative expression. Through the reading and contemplation of African American women's poetry we will learn how to listen more deeply to our own voices and to the voices of others. We will then practice using our writing as a tool to expand our collective hearts and minds. For teens and adults. Saturday, February 13, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Writing Prompts & Activities

NATURE WRITING

Many of us—especially during these cold winter days—find joy and inspiration in nature. In that spirit, we offer writing prompts designed by YpsiWrites volunteer Lisa Eddy, to help you slow down and appreciate the natural world. There are some for those able to get outside and observe, and some for those who remain indoors and appreciate nature through the window. You can find these prompts on the YpsiWrites' website.

LET'S WRITE! TIPS FOR TACKLING ALL KINDS OF WRITING

These genre-specific writing boxes contain prompts, tips, and examples to help you write resumes, cover letters, songs, memoirs, grants, and more. You can find these boxes at ypsiwrites.org.

YOUTH WRITING PROMPTS

YpsiWrites writing activities and games will accompany YDL Youth Supply Kits this winter. Be on the lookout for online and hardcopy resources for young writers with each kit!

Schoolwork Support

See page 4 for more information on FREE Virtual Schoolwork Support (Monday & Tuesday afternoons on Zoom) for students ages 7 to 18 with 826michigan and YDL.



NEW FROM THERIDE

Stay up-to-date on TheRide's Temporary Service Plan at TheRide.org. Beginning November 22, FlexRide-East, which serves areas of Ypsilanti Township, added service on weekends from 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. FlexRide is an on-demand, shared shuttle service that helps riders connect to fixed-route bus stops and to other hard to reach destinations. The cost is \$1, with reduced fares available for those who qualify. You can learn more about FlexRide at MyFlexRide.org.

Washtenaw County Community Resources

Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development teamed up with United Way of Washtenaw County to create a living community resource document to help residents keep track of services and supports available in the community. Scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera to access the document.



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LOCATIONS & HOURS

YDL-WHITTAKER	YDL-MICHIGAN	YDL-SUPERIOR	YDL-BOOKMOBILE
5577 Whittaker Road Ypsilanti, MI 48197	229 West Michigan Avenue Ypsilanti, MI 48197	8795 MacArthur Blvd Ypsilanti, MI 48198	Ypsilanti, MI 48197
HOURS Curbside service	HOURS Curbside service	HOURS Locker pick up and curbside service	HOURS Curbside service coming soon!

Board meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. They are open to the public.
Visit ypsilibrary.org/board for updated meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes.

Visit ypsilibrary.org/contact-us or 734-482-4110

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