

## ROAD BACK FOR THE DOWNTOWN BRANCH

The evening of July 1st, downtown Ypsilanti was pummeled with torrential rains. Streets filled with standing water and cars were stranded. As the roof drains were overwhelmed, YDL’s historic Michigan Avenue branch was flooded inside. Although the damage to the building was extensive, the collection was mostly spared, and thankfully no one was hurt. We lost fewer than 100 books, and staff have been reassigned to other YDL locations until we are able to open our doors downtown again.

On-Site Restoration worked tirelessly to remove waterlogged building materials and eliminate mold and moisture that resulted from the flood. Because there were buried layers of lead paint, the remediation had to be conducted with great care. To make everything safe, they had to take dramatic measures, including dismantling wall structures and removing sections of the floor. After 2½ long months, an environmental testing firm finally confirmed we could safely enter the space again.

### THE CURRENT PATH

On September 27, we met at the branch with our insurer, an architect, and Ypsilanti-based Phoenix Contractors to launch the next phase of work.

At its meeting that same evening, the Library’s Board of Trustees approved a proposal for architectural services from Faber Design Co. to restore the historic building. Architect Kyle Keaffaber immediately took a Matterport 3D scan of the interior and began design development. After consulting with staff, he prepared a redesign that will maximize the space and make it more user-friendly for everyone.

We hope to add small group study rooms, rearrange the Youth area for better use of space and improved sight lines, and make other tweaks that improve safety and security. The Library Board



and administration are sensitive to the pressing need to resume library service downtown, and will not pursue upgrades that will take longer than would otherwise be necessary.

The architect is currently working to create detailed plans and specifications for the reconstruction. Because the building has largely been gutted, materials for walls, floors, and ceilings themselves need to be specified, as well as their finishes (carpeting, blinds, paint, etc.). Some large light fixtures, the fire alarm panel, study tables, and other furnishings that were destroyed must be replaced as well.

When we reopen, the building will sparkle and provide the very best service possible to our downtown patrons. Though the construction supply chain is still unpredictable, we aim to reopen before the launch of the 2024 Summer Challenge, if not sooner. In the meantime, we’re doing our best to provide service outside the building.

### ACCESSING LIBRARY RESOURCES DOWNTOWN

After the wrap-up of road construction downtown, the YDL Bookmobile added a stop on Adams Street near the library’s parking lot

entrance on Friday afternoons from 1–5 p.m. The Bookmobile is a library on wheels that provides materials for reading and borrowing, computers with Internet access, and friendly, helpful staff. From January 12 through February 16, our youth librarians will host storytime on the bus at 4:00 each Friday. We hope our downtown patrons will visit—we miss you!

The 24/7 outdoor lockers at Michigan Avenue are back online following flood-related damage. You can request materials and pick them up from the lockers or at the Bookmobile stop. The Library Plaza also offers 24/7 high-speed Internet access and a power pedestal to charge devices.

### WHAT THE FUTURE LOOKS LIKE

At YDL’s Strategic Plan Retreat held in September 2022, participants made it very clear: the library’s #1 priority in the coming years should be to renovate Michigan Avenue. Our community dreams of a modernized and expanded library branch in the heart of the city. YDL’s 2019 space needs assessment envisioned adding a third floor to the top of the building and an attractive modern stairway and elevator feature in the rear. Library Director Lisa Hoenig and *CONTINUED ON PAGE 2*

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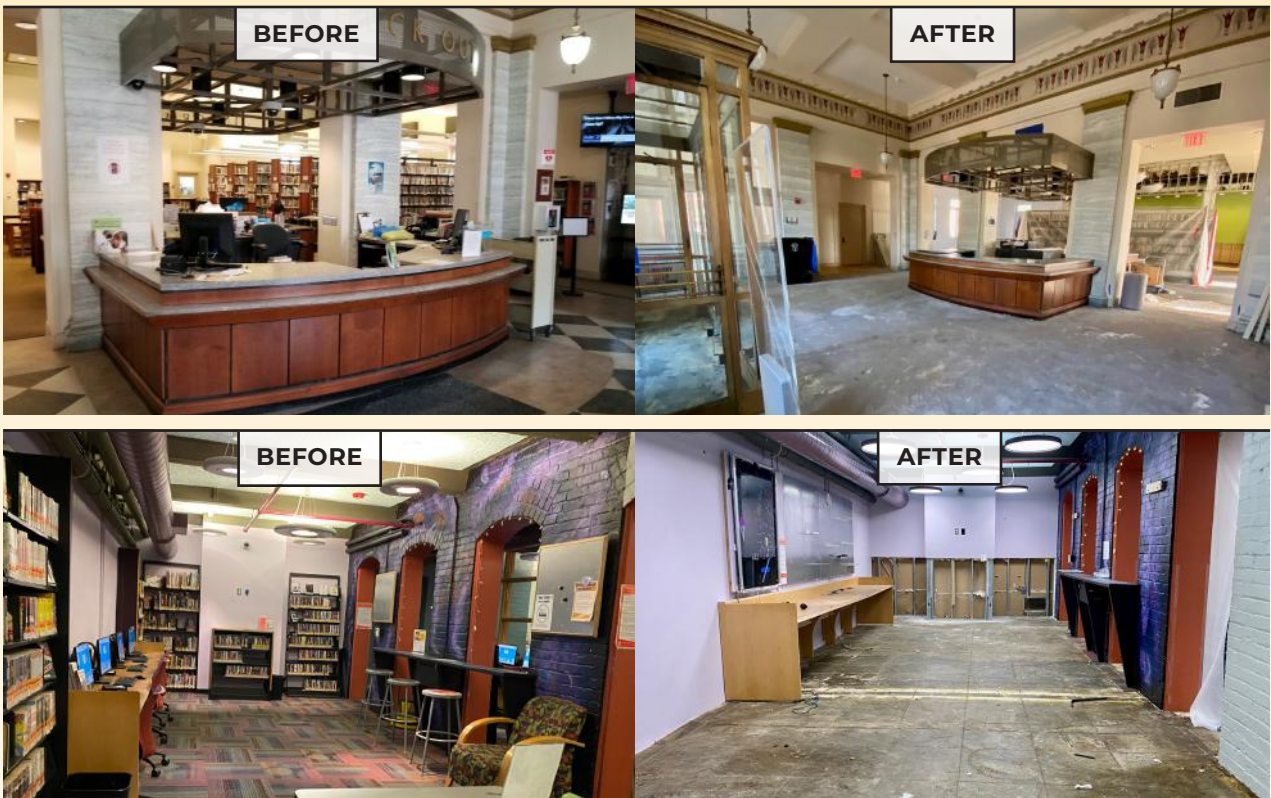
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Keaffaber requested a preliminary study session with the Ypsilanti Historic District Commission, and these ideas were well-received.

As we work to reopen, we'll begin a feasibility study for this addition as outlined in YDL's strategic plan, carefully assessing the building, community needs, and financial options for a major renovation. We're also using this opportunity to bring staff together as an even more cohesive team, reinforcing that we are indeed one library that serves three communities with top-notch programming, collections, and services.

We thank you for your patience and understanding. Please come visit us at Whittaker Road, Superior, the Bookmobile, or online!

Before & after the Michigan Avenue branch flood damage



# NEW YDL BRANCH A POINT OF PRIDE

*A multi-year, \$2M fundraising effort for the new Superior Library branch was completed just in time for its 1-year anniversary, and the new branch has had an instant impact on the community.*

A \$6,500 donation from the Friends of YDL helped YDL meet our ambitious fundraising goal. The Friends are a volunteer organization that works to stimulate community interest in the library and help fund library programs, services, and facility work. Learn more about the group and how to get involved at [ypsilibrary.org/friends-of-ydl](https://ypsilibrary.org/friends-of-ydl) (on page 12).

“It is thrilling that the goal has been reached and we delight in providing this pledge for our Superior Library,” said Friends of YDL President Marci Kinsey. “Thank you to everyone for supporting YDL libraries.”

Since it opened in November 2022, each MONTH the Superior branch has averaged:

- More than 2,800 visitors
- 70+ new library cards issued
- Around 4,000 items circulated
- Over 300 people attending programs
- 100+ people using the meeting rooms
- Over 250 people using the computers and 590 people accessing the Wi-Fi
- 1,170 lunches served from June 27–August 4 during the summer’s Lunch, Listen & Learn program. (The addition of a kitchenette allowed us to host these at the Superior branch for the first time.)



“At the prior, 1,100 square foot space...there were no meeting rooms, we were unable to hold the summer lunch programs, and we could only do small programs inside or large ones outside when the weather cooperated,” said Superior Branch Manager Mary Garboden. “The new space has opened up so many more possibilities for community gathering, learning, and inspiration.”

The Friends’ contribution joined leadership donations from organizations including The Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, the Young Family Foundation, the James W. and Marla J. Gousseff Fund, and Superior Township. In October of 2022, hundreds of people also joined us in a Book Brigade line to move thousands of books from the old branch to the new one.

After voters passed the 2018 library millage necessary to move forward, a “quiet” phase of the Next Chapter Capital Campaign helped raise an initial \$1.5M to fund the new branch.

YDL then began a crowdfunding campaign to raise \$500,000 to reach the \$2M fundraising goal. Since that time, more than 473 donors contributed to the campaign, with over 40% giving more than once.

“I’m continually touched by the sheer number of people who contributed to make this library a reality,” Garboden said. “The donor screen [in the lobby] is full of names of long-time library users, friends, neighbors, and family. It’s like a virtual pat on the back every time I see [them]!”

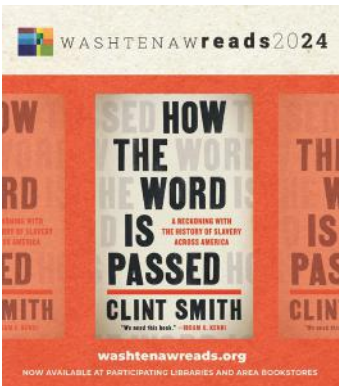
Along with strong representation from longtime YDL supporters, the campaign successfully welcomed 300 new donors.

“The need for a new library and community space in Superior was recognized by a broad group of individuals and organizations who not only understood the need for services in this area of Washtenaw County, but were ready to act and make the much-needed space a reality,” said Library Director Lisa Hoenig.

Since its Grand Opening in November 2022, as hoped, the Superior branch has become a point of pride for the neighborhood, and it is building community through shared activities and programs.

“I’ve voted for a lot of things,” one patron said when visiting the new branch for the first time. “This is the single best thing I’ve ever voted for.”

# 2024 WASHTENAW READS SELECTION



a committee chooses a book to inspire discussion and thoughtfulness about issues facing our community.

Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Smith leads the reader through an unforgettable

Published in June 2021 and a #1 NYT Bestseller, *How the Word is Passed*—a multi-award winning book by Clint Smith—is the 2024 Washtenaw Reads selection. Each year

tour of monuments and landmarks—those that are honest about the past and those that are not—that offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation’s collective history, and ourselves.

Informed by scholarship and brought alive by the story of people living today, Clint Smith’s debut piece of nonfiction is a landmark work of reflection and insight that offers a new understanding of the hopeful role that memory and history can play in making sense of our country and how it has come to be.

Stay tuned for Washtenaw Reads event details in 2024. Visit [aadl.org/washtenawreads](https://aadl.org/washtenawreads) for more information.

## About the author



Previously, Smith taught high school English in Prince George’s County, Maryland, where he was named the Christine D. Sarbanes Teacher of the Year by the Maryland Humanities Council. He is the host of the YouTube series *Crash Course Black American History*.

Smith received his B.A. in English from Davidson College and his Ph.D. in Education from Harvard University. Born and raised in New Orleans, he currently lives in Maryland with his wife and their two children.

# GROWING THE YDL ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

*There’s a new addition coming and you won’t want to miss the kick-off celebration!*

The Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project will be introduced December 14 at the Whittaker branch, with local farmers and gardeners, including folks who were interviewed for the new collection, on hand to share stories from 6–8pm.

Finn Bell, Assistant Professor of Human Services at University of Michigan-Dearborn, is curating this digital collection of oral interviews that discuss how growing food has served as resistance and resilience for BIPOC and working class people in Ypsilanti.

“Gardening is unique in that it is both a way to provide nourishment and a way to create beauty,” Bell said. “In my previous research, I found that growing food was clearly a way that people addressed the everyday disasters of racial capitalism, including living in low-income and food apartheid neighborhoods, but I also found that growing food was a way for people to create meaning in their lives.”

The interviews will be accessible alongside current local history collections from YDL at a revamped [history.ypsilibrary.org](https://history.ypsilibrary.org). The A.P. Marshall Oral History Archive, Ypsi Stories podcast episodes, and Ypsilanti Commercial newspaper records will also be housed on the new page.



Omer Jean Winborn  
Photographs by Nick Azzaro



Linda Mealing



Lisa Bashert



Versel Jones

The collection will launch with about 6 interviews with more added regularly as they are recorded. Portraits of each interviewee in their gardens, homes, or farms by Ypsilanti community-engaged photographer Nick Azzaro will go alongside each audio interview and written transcript. At the launch event, large prints of each portrait will be on display, accompanied with select text from their interviews.

“Talking with food grower interviewees and community partners, they shared many ideas for oral histories,” Bell said. “[They] wanted to actually see food growers to provide context and embodiment to people’s stories.”

Omer Jean Winborn, YDL Board member and co-founder of the Washtenaw County African American

Genealogy Society, is lending her expertise to the project, particularly highlighting the importance of hearing the stories in the subjects’ own words.

“We must tell our own stories. No one can tell our stories like we can,” Winborn said. “Our stories are powerful. As African American people, many of our stories have been told by someone else, told incorrectly, or maybe not at all.”

An Ypsi Stories podcast episode will also be released in conjunction with the launch event (see page 7). Explore the collection starting December 14 at [history.ypsilibrary.org](https://history.ypsilibrary.org).

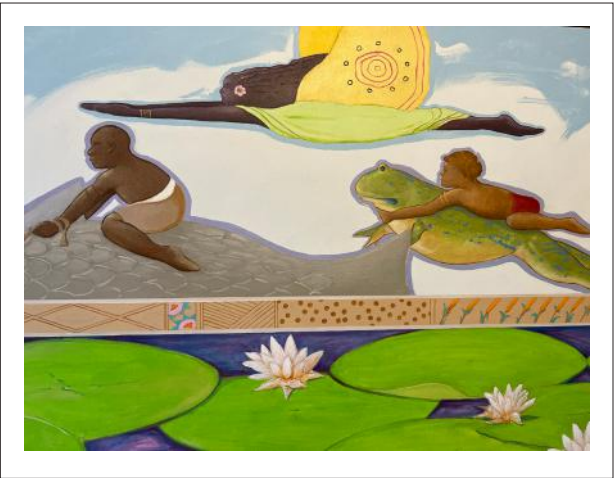
This project was made possible by a grant from the Arts Initiative at the University of Michigan.

# NEW ART TO BE UNVEILED AT SUPERIOR

In Summer 2023, YDL put out a call for artists with the goal of starting a permanent public art collection at the new Superior branch. We’re delighted to introduce the artists whose work we chose: Earl Jackson, Meredith Byrd, Angelica Esquivel, and T’onna Clemons.

The pieces will be on display by January 1, 2024.

The selected pieces are vibrant depictions of our community that help to tell our story.



Earl Jackson, *The Lily Pond*

Jackson took inspiration from a pond near his old neighborhood in Willow Run.

“It was mythical because only the older boys would venture to it,” Jackson said. “My brother allowed me to tag along twice.”

Earl Jackson is a founding member of the African American Cultural and History Museum of Washtenaw County. He has three pieces of art on display at YDL’s Whittaker branch. His art has been featured at the WCC gallery, U of M’s Museum of Art, and Detroit’s Charles H. Wright History Museum, as well as museums in Chicago, New York City, Georgia, and Senegal.

Meredith Byrd, *Unoccupied*

This oil painting was inspired by a former high school classmate of Byrd’s.

“She is a really kind and sunny person with a beautiful voice,” Byrd explained.

“I wanted to bring out her joy with a bright blue clouded sky. Her coolness and comfortableness are for everyone to view and enjoy.”

Meredith Byrd is a junior at the University of Michigan who considered herself an artist before she was able to take art classes. In high school, Byrd took oil painting classes at Kalamazoo Institute of Art and attended Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.



Angelica Esquivel, *Earth, You Have Returned to Me*

This triptych by Esquivel was inspired by the foliage in Ypsilanti, her hometown, and its title is an homage to a poem by Elaine Equi.

“In this poem, the narrator celebrates a reconnection with Earth after years spent suffering from chronic illness. This poem

resonated deeply with me when I first read it... and it still does,” said Esquivel.

Beneath the acrylic paint on her piece, Esquivel glued junk mail to form the base of the hills to give the paintings a waviness and “movement” that to Esquivel is “reminiscent of the wind through the leaves, waving hello.”

Angelica Esquivel is a Xicana artist and writer. Her work has appeared in *America Magazine*, *Poet Lore*, and *Chestnut Review*, and she received the 2021 Zocalo Poetry Prize and the 2022 Roadrunner Review Cover Art Prize.

T’onna Clemons, *The Lonely Afronaut*

Clemons’ piece was inspired by her love of children and cyberpunk. “I want to empower the youth in my community by [representing] that you can do and be anything ... We are everywhere, even space,” explained Clemons.

An Ann Arborite, Clemons is a former graphic designer who now works as a freelance painter and muralist specializing in oil and acrylics. She has been painting for over 20 years, and her art focuses on conveying and capturing the emotions of the African American experience.

T’onna Clemons studied Fine Arts at EMU and The Art Institute of San Francisco. She has been traveling around the world for the past several years to develop her own style of mixed media and futuristic textiles.



# Adult

**Dec 2**  
**MONICA HICKSON: THE COVID DIARIES**  
**4pm | YDL-Superior**  
Local author Monica Hickson will discuss her memoirs *The COVID Diaries* and *He's Not My Type* to share her experience of losing a loved one to COVID. Followed by a Q&A. Copies of Hickson's books will be available for purchase. Learn more on her website: [monicahickson.com](https://monicahickson.com).



**Dec 2**  
**WRITING AS A GIFT**  
**11am | Virtual**  
Join us for a hands-on virtual writing session with YpsiWrites facilitators and learn to turn your poetry, song lyrics, and other writing into meaningful gifts you can give this holiday season.

**Dec 3**  
**PAUL KELLER ENSEMBLE HOLIDAY JAZZ CONCERT**  
**2pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Paul Keller and his merry band of musicians joyfully celebrate the holiday season with good cheer and swinging jazz. All ages welcome! Sponsored by the Friends of YDL.



**Dec 6**  
**SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: WHY DO SMALL BUSINESSES FAIL? DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU!**  
**6:30pm | Virtual**  
Learn about common mistakes businesses make and how to avoid them. The Small Business Savvy series is presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office.

**Dec 6 & 9**  
**HOLIDAY CRAFT WORKSHOP**  
**Dec 6: 7pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
**Dec 9: 2pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Adults and kids: Stop by and decorate a holiday candle, gift tag, or card. Please attend only one of the sessions. Materials are limited. For questions, contact Sheila at [skonen@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:skonen@ypsilibrary.org) or Robert at [neil@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:neil@ypsilibrary.org).

**Dec 9 & Jan 13**  
**WRITERS ROOM & DROP-IN CONSULTING**  
**10–11:30am**  
**Dec 9: YDL-Whittaker**  
**Jan 13: YDL-Superior**  
Join other writers in an YpsiWrites Writers Room. Bring a work in progress or start something new! We'll provide prompts for inspiration and our trained volunteers will also be available for one-to-one writing support.

**Dec 9**  
**INTERGENERATIONAL SEASONAL WREATH MAKING**  
**2pm & 3:30pm | YDL-Superior**  
Make a door or wall wreath using natural materials such as fresh cut fir, cedar, holly, and ribbons. Local expert Lauren DuBois will guide the way for first-timers and the experienced alike in making a door or wall wreath. Materials will be provided. Participants must be 10 years or older. Register for EITHER the 2 or 3:30pm session at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events).

**Dec 10**  
**GARDEN DEMO/HOW TO MAKE IT: HOLIDAY EVERGREEN/FLORAL CENTERPIECE**  
**2pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn to create a festive centerpiece using evergreens and flowers with Advanced Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck. Attendees will receive a handout on selecting containers, supplies, flowers, and greens.

**Dec 13; Jan 10; Feb 7**  
**MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY OUTREACH**  
**11am–1pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
A MICHIGAN WORKS! Southeast representative will answer your questions and provide information and assistance on job leads, employment, job fairs, and career guidance. All services are offered free of charge unless otherwise noted. Visit [MWSE.org](https://mwse.org) for more details.

**Dec 13**  
**SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: ALTERNATE FINANCING IF YOU CAN'T USE A BANK OR RICH RELATIVE**  
**6:30pm | Virtual**  
Come learn about microloan opportunities from Todd Van Appledorn, loan officer at CEED. The Small Business Savvy series is presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office.

**Dec 14**  
**YPSI FARMERS & GARDENERS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT LAUNCH**  
**6–8pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Celebrate the launch of the Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project! Meet other community members to discuss the rewards and challenges of growing food in Ypsilanti. The archive will be live on YDL's website, but this is your chance to view it first! Light refreshments will be served. See page 3 for more details.

**Jan 9**  
**HOW TO MANAGE CHRONIC PAIN AND GET BACK TO DAILY LIVING**  
**5pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Do you or one of your loved ones suffer from chronic pain? Hear from Dr. Chatas of Michigan Pain Specialists about various interventions and techniques to help manage chronic pain.

**Jan 10**  
**INTRO TO GENEALOGY WITH JEAN WINBORN**  
**6pm | YDL-Superior**  
Join Jean Winborn, co-founder of the Washtenaw County African-American Genealogy Society and YDL Board member, and learn how to research your family's story. Get tips on navigating online databases and how to organize and share your research. Walk away with resources to explore your own genealogical journeys. Register at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events).

**Jan 10; Feb 7**  
**NOIR MOVIE NIGHT**  
**6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Watch some of the best Noir movies ever made.  
**Jan 10 - The Killing** (1956) directed by Stanley Kubrick  
**Feb 7 - The Big Heat** (1953) directed by Fritz Lang

**Jan 13**  
**CHECK IT OUT! CRAFTS EDITION**  
**2–4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Want to learn more about items for crafters in YDL's Library of Things? See the Cricut Joy, sewing machine, crocheting supplies, and more in action at this interactive event. Try your hand at using these tools so you know what to expect when you check them out yourself!

**Jan 14**  
**ALL LIVES STAND UP**  
**2pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Join jazz musician and educator Sean Dobbins and some exceptional musicians for a musical reflection on the lasting legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This all-ages show will include original music and music by the jazz masters of the past. Sponsored by the Friends of YDL.



**Jan 7 & Feb 11**  
**SAFELY TALK ABOUT RACE & RACISM - RACE: THE POWER OF AN ILLUSION**  
**2pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
This series screens films that provide the opportunity to safely engage in conversation on the topic of racism. In 2024, this program series will go back to its beginnings with the question: What is race? We will screen and discuss Episodes 1 and 2 of the PBS series, *Race: The Power of an Illusion*. LaRon Williams, local storyteller and peace activist, will facilitate an open, honest discussion about race and racism. Attend in person or via Zoom: [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events).

**Jan 17**  
**SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: WHERE TO BEGIN (UPDATED)**  
**6:30pm | Virtual**  
This session will consider types of e-commerce, market segments, and current/recent market trends. The Small Business Savvy series is presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office.

**Jan 18–21**  
**FRIENDS OF YDL BOOK SALE**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
Book sale prices are \$1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversize paperbacks. On January 21 there will be bags of books available for \$4, and some books will be sold for a reduced price.  
**Jan 18:** 6–8pm (members-only preview sale)  
**Jan 19:** 11am–5pm  
**Jan 20:** 11am–3pm  
**Jan 21:** 1–4pm

**Jan 20**  
**FINDING YOUR AUTHENTIC VOICE AS A WRITER**  
**11am | Virtual**  
Join facilitator Lauren Slagter to examine what writing means to authentic self-expression. Listen to poems for inspiration, then write—pen never leaving the page—to move past your inner critic. Bring a pen, notebook, and an open mind! Writers of any experience level welcome.



**Jan 25**  
**SOCIAL MEDIA 101**  
**3pm | YDL-Superior**  
Learn how to maintain an authentic and safe social media presence by gaining insight into how the popular sites work. Register online at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events).

**Jan 27; Feb 24; Mar 16**  
**JUMPSTART YOUR NOVEL**  
**11am | Virtual**  
In our three-part “Jumpstart Your Novel” series, join author Patrick Flores-Scott in exploring your new novel. This workshop is for all writers at any stage of their writing process.  
**Jan 27:** Experimenting with Point of View  
**Feb 24:** World Building and Plot Development  
**Mar 16:** Plot to Story/Why am I Doing This?

**Jan 30**  
**CHILD BEHAVIOR AND COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP**  
**7pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Parents, caregivers, and educators are invited to better understand K–5 children's behaviors and learn strategies to improve communication. Childcare will be provided. Learn Trust-Based Relational Intervention strategies to communicate better as a family. Attendees will leave with simple techniques they can use at home with their children. TBRI is designed for children who experienced adversity such as trauma and stress in their early years.

**Jan 30; Feb 27**  
**VIRTUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**  
**7pm | Virtual**  
Join us for lively discussions of books by Black authors.  
Visit [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events) for the link.  
**Jan 30:** *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson  
**Feb 27:** *Thicker Than Water* by Kerry Washington

**Thursdays, Feb 1–Apr 11**  
**AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM - INCOME TAX PREPARATION**  
**9am–5pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
AARP's TaxAide assistance program is provided by trained volunteers in partnership with the IRS. Tax preparation is targeted at low and moderate income taxpayers. There is no age requirement, but this service especially targets those over 50. AARP membership is not required. Call 734-482-4110 x2411 or x2431 to make an appointment or for more information. You will need to pick up a packet of information and fill out forms before meeting your preparer. Visit [ypsilibrary.org/taxprep](https://ypsilibrary.org/taxprep) for more info.

**Feb 1–29**  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRIVIA CONTEST**  
**Virtual**  
Celebrate Black History Month by competing in an online trivia contest. Answer questions related to Black History for your chance to win prizes. Contest open to library card holders and individuals within the YDL service area only. Call 734-482-4110 x2411 with questions. The quiz link will be active February 1–29.

**Feb 1**  
**NAME CHANGE CLINIC - HOW TO CHANGE YOUR NAME & GENDER MARKER IN MI**  
**6pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Join the Jim Toy Community Center's OUTreach team and the Outlaws at the University of Michigan for a free clinic dedicated to addressing the challenges of name changes for transgender and gender nonconforming people. They will provide details on how to legally change your name and gender marker in the state of Michigan.

**Feb 1–Mar 8**  
**OSCAR & RAZZIE AWARDS CONTEST 2024**  
**Virtual**  
Predict this year's Academy & Razzie Award winners! Entry with the most correct answers wins a movie prize pack. Deadline for entries: Friday, March 8th, 6pm. Online and paper entry forms will be available starting February 1. Contest open to library card holders and individuals within the YDL service area only. Must be able to pick up prize package in person at a YDL building. Limit one entry per person.

**Feb 2**  
**BOOKMOBILE LOVE: CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM (WISD)**  
**10am | YDL-Whittaker**  
The WISD Creative Arts Program for Young Adults will be creating art for the Bookmobile.

**Feb 3**  
**CHANGING OUR HEARTS THROUGH POETRY: CELEBRATING AND LEARNING FROM AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN POETS**  
**11am | Virtual**  
Join YpsiWrites and EMU Professor of Africology and African American Studies Toni Pressley-Sanon for a morning of reading, reflection, and writing. 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 inspire change and make a difference in our communities and our world. For teens and adults.

**Feb 3**  
**THE RJ SPANGLER QUINTET PRESENTED BY THE JAZZ FOUNDATION OF AMERICA**  
**2pm | YDL-Superior**  
The RJ Spangler Quintet will perform jazz standards, swing tunes, and traditional New Orleans jazz. Don't miss your chance to see these veteran musicians of the Detroit jazz scene.



**Mondays, Feb 5–Apr 8**  
**AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM - INCOME TAX PREPARATION**  
**9am–4pm | YDL-Superior**  
See Feb. 1 description.

**Tuesdays, Feb 6–Apr 9**  
**AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM - INCOME TAX PREPARATION**  
**9:30am–5pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
See Feb. 1 description.

**Tuesdays, Feb 6–Feb 27**

**ONE-ON-ONE GENEALOGY SESSION**  
**12pm | YDL-Superior**

Sign up for a one-on-one genealogy session with Jean Winborn, co-founder of Washtenaw County African-American Genealogy Society. Search for information about your African American ancestors or learn more about the human side of America’s slave-holding past. Look at various records, migration patterns, and laws specific to race. Register online at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events).

**Feb 7**

**SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: ART MARKETING**  
**6:30pm | Virtual**

Learn how to formulate a plan, strategy, and tactics to sell art at a variety of venues. The Small Business Savvy series is presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor area SCORE office.

**Feb 10**

**CHECK IT OUT! BOARD GAMES EDITION**  
**2–4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**

Check out the Library of Things (LOT) collection of board games and outdoor games at this giant family board game day! Learn about new games and find fellow board game lovers. LOT games will be available for checkout along with additional games for patrons to use at our YDL branches.

**Feb 12**

**GRIEVE WELL: UNDERSTANDING GRIEF WEBINAR (VALENTINE’S DAY SPECIAL EDITION)**  
**7pm | Virtual**

Join YDL and GrieveWell for this interactive workshop to learn about grief, the effects it has on one’s physical and emotional health, and helpful tips for navigating grief during Valentine’s Day. You will make a written plan for managing grief during this challenging time of the year. Registration link will be available in 2024 at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events).

**Feb 21 (Tentative!)**

**SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: THE ROMANCE OF FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**  
**6:30pm | Virtual**

Learn about basic financial concepts and how to understand basic financial reports. The Small Business Savvy series is presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office.

## Adult Meetups

**Dec 4 & 18; Jan 8 & 22; Feb 5 & 19**

**MAHJONG MEETUP**  
**1–3pm | YDL-Whittaker**

We’re starting a Mahjong group and we want you to join! Bring yourself and a friend or two. American and Chinese-style sets provided, or you’re welcome to bring your own. All levels of experience welcome! Please contact Amisha Harijan at [aharijan@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:aharijan@ypsilibrary.org) or 734-482-4110 x1375 if you have suggestions and/or recommendations.

**Tuesdays, Dec 5–Feb 27**

**ESL COMMUNITY TUTORING**  
**1–2:30pm | YDL-Superior**

ESL community tutoring from Washtenaw Literacy is a place to practice English language skills in an informal, relaxed setting. Free and open to the public. No registration required. All levels of English are welcome. Please arrive 5 minutes before the start time for each group.

**Tuesdays, Dec 5–Feb 27**

**KNITTING PLUS**  
**6pm | YDL-Whittaker**

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

**Tuesdays, Dec 5– Feb 27**

**MEDITATION WITH EASE: GUIDED IN-PERSON MEDITATION**  
**6pm | YDL-Superior**

Meditation has many benefits for our health and well-being. Drop in for simple guided non-religious awareness practices in the company of friends you may not have met yet!

**Wednesdays, Dec 6–Feb 28**

**ESL BOOK CLUB**  
**11am | YDL-Whittaker**

Members of this group will read one book per season and meet once a week to talk and learn about language, grammar, and cultural aspects of the book. Members will be expected to read approximately 45 pages in advance of each session. To register, contact Washtenaw Literacy at (734) 337-3338.

**Wednesdays, Dec 6–Feb 28**

**BASIC LITERACY COMMUNITY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY**  
**4–5:30pm | YDL-Superior**

Washtenaw Literacy is offering free drop-in tutoring for adults. Get help with reading, writing, computer skills, work skills, and GED prep.

**Dec 7; Jan 4; Feb 1**

**THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP**  
**10:30am | YDL-Whittaker**

Join us on the first Thursday of the month to discuss a variety of books.

**Dec 7:** *In the Time of Our History* by Susanne Pari

**Jan 4:** *Firekeeper’s Daughter* by Angeline Boulley \*\*\*The Great Michigan Read 2023-2024 title

**Feb 1:** *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* by Clint Smith \*\*\*Washtenaw Reads 2024 title. Copies of the book are available at the Whittaker Road branch Circulation Desk one month before the discussion date. Questions? Call 734-482-4110 x2411.



**Dec 8; Jan 12; Feb 9**

**LNGO CRAFTERNOONS**  
**2:30pm | YDL-Superior** (Ages 55+)

Join us for a lighthearted afternoon working on a craft project where the goals are to engage your mind, connect with others, and build new brain pathways. Register for each workshop individually at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events).  
**Dec 8:** Alcohol Ink Ornaments  
**Jan 12:** Melt & Pour Soap  
**Feb 9:** Realistic Crepe Paper Flowers

**Dec 11; Jan 8; Feb 12**

**DOWNTOWN QUEER CRAFTING GROUP** (Ages 18+)

**6pm | Riverside Arts Center**  
Folks of the LGBTQIA+ community are invited to bring projects and supplies to work on and build a creative community. Bring your own half-finished projects or a project you’ve been wanting to start. Join us just to get out of the house and be in a creative shared space. Contact Aaron Smith at [asmith@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:asmith@ypsilibrary.org) or call 734-482-4110 x1335 for more information.

**Dec 16; Jan 13 & 27; Feb 10 & 24**

**GUITAR CLUB** (Ages 18+)  
**(Dec. 16: Meeting at YDL-Superior)**  
**10am | YDL-Whittaker**

Jam and trade licks with like-minded folks on the world’s most popular instrument. Players pass around sheets with chords and lyrics so we can strum and sing along. It’s a great way to learn new material, workshop musical projects, and share musical knowledge. All stringed instruments are welcome (except for lyres and zithers; autoharps have been approved).



**Dec 16; Jan 20; Feb 17**

**WASHTENAW AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY: WAAGS MEETING**  
**10:30am | Virtual**

Washtenaw African American Genealogical Society (WAAGS) helps those interested in African American genealogy research. Get tools and learn facts that will help unlock hidden treasures that are vital to successfully navigating the complex embedded resources of African American ancestry. All skill levels are welcome. For more information contact Joy at [joy@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:joy@ypsilibrary.org).

**Dec 21; Jan 18; Feb 15**

**ADULT QUEER BOOK GROUP**  
**6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**

This monthly book group will read and discuss literature written by queer-identifying writers of diverse backgrounds. Registration required. Books will be available for pickup one month in advance of the group meeting.

**Dec. 21:** *Hola Papi!* by John Paul Brammer  
**Jan 18:** *Hijab Butch Blues* by Lemya H  
**Feb 15:** *Monk and Robot* series by Becky Chambers

**Jan 9**

**SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB**  
**7pm | YDL-Whittaker**

Join us every other month for this adult discussion group for fans of science fiction books.  
**Jan 9:** *The Ministry for the Future* by Kim Stanley Robinson  
Copies of the book are available at the Whittaker Road branch Circulation Desk one month before the discussion date. Questions? Contact Marianne at [vandenbergen@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:vandenbergen@ypsilibrary.org).

**Thursdays, Jan 11–Feb 15**

**LNGO FITNESS WITH GERALDINE POWELL**  
**12pm | Virtual**

Join fitness instructor Geraldine Powell each week for a mid-day workout. Designed for ages 55 & up, but open to all adults who would enjoy a gentler workout. Registration required.

**Wednesdays, Jan 17–Feb 28**

**DEMYSTIFYING TECHNOLOGY: HELP FOR SENIORS**  
**1pm | YDL-Whittaker**

Seniors–Bring all your tech and computer questions for this 12-week course with Eastern Michigan University’s Digital Connecting Corp. Class is limited to those who are 55 and older. Computers will be provided, and participants get to keep the computer for free after the course!

**Jan 20 & Feb 17**

**TEEN & ADULT BANNED BOOK CLUB**  
**2pm | YDL-Superior**

Teens and adults: Let’s talk about banned books! Read, discuss, and celebrate stories that have sparked controversy and inspired change. Free copies of the book are provided. Ages 16+. Register at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events).  
**Jan 20:** *Monday’s Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson  
**Feb 17:** *All Boys Aren’t Blue* by George M. Johnson

**Fridays, Jan 26–Mar 15**

**CHAIR YOGA FOR ALL LEVELS**  
**10:30am | YDL-Superior**

We’ll use slow, mindful movements to support brain health, muscle strength, balance, and flexibility. For all levels. This class is done both seated and standing alongside your chair.

**Thursdays, Feb 22–Mar 28**

**LNGO CHAIR YOGA WITH KAITLYN JOHNSON**  
**12pm | Virtual**

Join yoga instructor Kaitlyn Johnson each week for a mid-day refreshing and gentle chair yoga session. This class will require a chair and comfortable clothing. Sessions are designed for ages 55+ but open to all adults who would enjoy a gentler workout.

## Teens

**Dec 2**

**COOKIE HOUSES** (Ages 12–18 only)  
**4pm | YDL-Whittaker**

Build tiny cookie houses and decorate them with candy and cake decorating supplies.

**Dec 27**

**FENCING 101** (Ages 11–18)  
**3–5pm | YDL-Whittaker**

Join the YMCA for Fencing 101. We’ll begin with a demo and footwork, learn safety and etiquette, then fence! Wear loose-fitting clothing, a t-shirt, and gym shoes.



**Jan 3**

**DIY RUBBER STAMPS** (Ages 10–18)  
**3pm | YDL-Whittaker**

Learn how to use cutting and carving tools to create your own personalized rubber stamps with artist Lidia Kaku. All supplies will be provided.

**Jan 5**

**ANIMAL BLANKET SERVICE PROJECT** (Ages 10–18)  
**3pm | YDL-Whittaker**

We need help to keep our furry friends warm this winter! Join us in making no-sew blankets for Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue. Help animals, earn volunteer hours!

**Feb 2**

**HAUNTED HOTEL MURDER MYSTERY FOR TEENS** (Ages 12–18)  
**6–9pm | YDL-Whittaker**

Teens are invited to play an active part in a mystery. Choose a role or be a hotel guest and try to solve the crime, plus food and prizes!

**Feb 10**

**SWEET TREATS** (Ages 12–18 only)  
**4pm | YDL-Whittaker**

Teens: Make and decorate cake truffles and chocolates for a special Valentine’s Day treat for yourself or someone else!

## Teen Meetups

**Dec 2; Jan 6; Feb 3**

**TEEN ADVISORY GROUP**  
**2pm | YDL-Superior**

A collaborative teen leadership meet-up. Activities may include event planning or facilitating, promoting the library, graphic design, or working with our library collections. Volunteer hours available.

**Dec 5 & 19; Jan 16 & 30; Feb 6 & 20**

**TEEN GREAT STORIES BOOK CLUB**  
**4:30pm | SPARK East**

Join YDL & Ozone House on the first and third Tuesdays of the month for a fun-filled book club featuring friends, snacks, free books that you get to keep, and a gift card raffle at each session! Email [kscott@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:kscott@ypsilibrary.org) to register.



**Dec 6 & 20; Jan 3 & 17; Feb 7 & 21**

**CHESS WITH MENTOR2YOUTH**  
**6:30pm | YDL-Superior**

Learn and refine your chess skills with Darryl Johnson from Mentor2Youth. For students in Grades 7–12. Compete in chess tournaments to earn prizes. By playing chess, you’ll learn about life, relationships, and yourself.

**Dec 8; Jan 19; Feb 16**

**TEEN STEAM CAFE - AFTER HOURS**  
**6pm | YDL-Superior**

Join us for interactive, lively discussions on STEAM careers with professionals in various fields that you maybe have never heard about! Dinner and activities will be incorporated into our TEEN ONLY cafes. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**Dec 9; Jan 13 & 27; Feb 10 & 24**

**NATURAL 20! - TEEN ONLY D&D**  
**10:30am | YDL-Whittaker**

Join local DM KC Dixon for a one-shot adventure once a month. For experienced adventurers aged 14–18.

**Dec 9; Jan 13; Feb 17**

**ANIME CLUB** (Ages 12+)  
**1–3pm | YDL-Whittaker**

Members of TAG host a monthly meetup to watch anime with other fans, chat about what you watch and what manga you read at home, try some snacks you might see in anime episodes, and use our drawing supplies to sketch.

**Dec 14; Jan 24; Feb 28**

**YPSILANTI ZINE CLUB**  
**6pm | YDL-Superior**

A space to work on zines together, share techniques and ideas, and make zine friends. Basic art materials provided. Find out how you can contribute your own zine to YDL’s growing zine collection!

**Dec 16; Jan 20; Feb 17**

**INTERGENERATIONAL CHESS: TEENS & SENIORS**  
**2pm | Ypsilanti Senior Center**

A friendly chess meetup. Teens from Mentor2Youth (other teens are welcome) will match up with our local wise elders. As the chess motto goes, *gens una sumus*, or we are one family.

**Dec 19; Jan 9 & 23; Feb 13 & 27**

**TEEN ADVISORY GROUP**  
**4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**

Looking for ways to help the community and earn volunteer hours? Join TAG and meet twice each month to help the library best serve Ypsi teens. Teens in grades 8–12 can apply online at [ypsilibrary.org/TAG](https://ypsilibrary.org/TAG).

# Kids & Parents

**Dec 1**  
**DOWNTOWN TREE LIGHTING**  
**5–6:30pm | YDL-Michigan**  
Enjoy singing along with the Ypsilanti Youth Choir, sipping hot chocolate, decorating cookies, creating an ornament, and visiting the Bookmobile! Santa will join us for a photo op in his sleigh.

**Dec 9**  
**BLACK MEN READ STORYTIME**  
**10:30am | YDL-Superior**  
Join us in partnership with Black Men Read, where we bring stories of the African diaspora to our youngest readers (preK–5th grade). You'll hear stories read aloud by local Black male role models. Visit [bmrkids.org](https://bmrkids.org) or follow [@BMRKIDSClub](https://www.facebook.com/BMRKIDSClub) on social media for more information on this local non-profit.

**Dec 13**  
**FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: SNOW GLOBES**  
**6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Enjoy a bit of whimsy and glitter snow in a jar. All supplies will be provided. Register online at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events). Let us know how many of your family members plan on attending so we have enough supplies on hand!

**Dec 16; Feb 24**  
**SOAR INTO SCIENCE**  
**3pm | YDL-Superior**  
Join us as we investigate science concepts!  
**Dec 16:** Snowflakes  
**Feb 24:** Fingerprints  
Open to youth and caregivers. Registration encouraged so we can have enough seats prepared. Contact [Mrivenbark@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:Mrivenbark@ypsilibrary.org) for more information.

**Jan 6**  
**BOARD GAMES & VIDEO GAMES**  
**3:30pm | YDL-Superior**  
For kids ages 8 & up. Join YDL Building Monitors Chris & Drew for an afternoon of fun, video games, board games, and snacks.

**Jan 10**  
**FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: WINTER BIRD FEEDERS**  
**6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn which birds hang around all winter and make them a feeder or two. Bring home what you make, and enjoy watching your new bird friends. Kids, bring an adult to help. Register online at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events).

**Jan 11 & 25**  
**PAPER MAKING SERIES**  
**3pm | Ypsilanti Senior Center**  
Join us for a paper making series where we will create our own paper using recycled materials. There will be two sessions, and patrons must sign up for both programs. Kids ages 7 and up are welcome to participate with a guardian.  
**Jan 11:** Paper making with recycled materials. This session will be messy, as attendees will be using water to create their paper projects.  
**Jan 25:** Paper decoration. After the created paper has dried, it will be time to decorate it.

**Jan 11 & 25; Feb 8 & 22**  
**READ TO MOON THE LIBRARY DOG**  
**5:30–7:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Reading to a Therapaws dog helps children develop confidence and become better readers. Sign up for a 10-minute slot with Moon by emailing [mitchell@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:mitchell@ypsilibrary.org). Note: There will be a special appearance by Paddington, a substitute library dog, on Jan. 25.

**Jan 15**  
**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION**  
**2:30–4pm | YDL-Superior**  
Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a performance by Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit. Reflect on Dr. King's lifework through activities before and after the performance.

**Jan 18 & Feb 15**  
**READ TO HUGO**  
**4:30–5:30pm | YDL-Superior**  
Reading to a Therapaws dog helps children develop confidence and become better readers. Sign up when you arrive at the library for a 10-minute slot with Hugo.

**Jan 20**  
**STORYTELLING WITH SANDY**  
**2pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Join Sandy of Wild Swan Theater for an hour of stories, laughs, and surprises! Kids and adults alike will find themselves delighted by Sandy's unique and engaging style of sharing stories.

**Jan 24**  
**PROJECT STEM: PIXEL ART** (Ages 6+)  
**4:30pm | YDL-Superior**  
We'll learn about pixels and create pixelated art with Perler Beads on paper squares. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**Jan 27**  
**ECLIPSE SCIENCE DOME**  
**2–4pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Embark on a virtual journey through the path of totality to explore the phenomena of solar and lunar eclipses. Learn how light and shadow play a crucial role in creating these breathtaking events, and get a sneak peak of the 2024 North American solar eclipse. Science dome presentations are typically 30 minutes long, with three sessions available. While you wait for your turn, feel free to enjoy various activities in the youth department. Presented by the Michigan Science Center. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**Feb 3**  
**WINTER WONDER LAB**  
**2pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
A scientist from Mad Science in Detroit will join us to experiment with air pressure and electricity. Explore hands-on Fun Stations after the show and make super bouncy balls you can take home! Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.



**Feb 10**  
**HEARTBEAT DRUM CIRCLE**  
**1pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Connect to the heartbeat of the drum in this community drum circle. Led by experienced and passionate facilitator Sundance Didomenico. Drums will be provided, or feel free to bring your own.

**Feb 10**  
**CRIME LAB - WITH ANN ARBOR HANDS ON MUSEUM**  
**3pm | YDL-Superior**  
Kids in grades 4–8, use science, logical thinking, and problem solving skills to explore the world of forensics. Work together to solve a mock crime. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**Feb 14**  
**FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: RESIST ART**  
**6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Join us for Patchwork Heart Resist Art for Valentine's Day. We'll use oil pastels to create patterns and watercolors to fill in the white space. All supplies will be provided, and you'll go home with your own artwork. Register at [ypsilibrary.org/events](https://ypsilibrary.org/events).

**Feb 19**  
**BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION**  
**5:30–7:30pm | YDL-Superior**  
We're celebrating Black History Month in collaboration with Black Men Read, Our Community Reads, and local artist Lynne Settles Bozeman by telling the stories of those untold, highlighting Black joy and the culture of African Americans, and creating an art piece that tells their stories. Refreshments will be provided.

**Feb 24**  
**FAMILY YOGA TIME**  
**2pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Local yoga instructor Tammy Foote will incorporate movement, yoga poses, physical creativity, and stories to help kids increase their focus, strength, and balance. For kids ages 4–10 and their caregivers.



# Kids & Parents Meetups

**Dec 4 & 11; Jan 22 & 29; Feb 5, 12, & 26**  
**AFTER-SCHOOL WRITING LAB**  
**5:30pm | YDL-Superior**  
Students in 3rd–5th grade: get creative and stretch your writing muscles with this weekly, small-group writing program from 826michigan. Young writers and trained adult volunteers will work together to cultivate joy and confidence around writing. For more information, go to [826michigan.org/programs/after-school-writing-lab](https://826michigan.org/programs/after-school-writing-lab).

**Wednesdays, Dec 6–Feb 28**  
**KIDS CHESS CLUB**  
**4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Drop in and learn chess at the library with Jenny Skidmore Smith. All skill levels are welcome, but instruction will target beginners up to USCF 1500. Designed for youth ages 7–13 and their families.

**Thursdays, Dec 7–Feb 29**  
**LOVE OF LEARNING CLUB**  
**1pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Calling all homeschoolers and anyone that feels at home in the library! Connect with other families while engaging in themed activities inspired by a nonfiction or picture book. Integrating creative movement and social emotional learning (SEL), students develop life skills for the future. Perfect for ages 6–9.

**Dec 7 & 14**  
**AFTER SCHOOL STEM: LEGOS**  
**5pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Free build or use our new Lego Spike coding sets. Kids and parents can learn STEM skills together through play! Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**Dec 7; Jan 4; Feb 1**  
**TWEEN BOOK CLUB** (Grades 6–8)  
**6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Join us for a monthly book discussion and enjoy a snack. Registration required. Email [mitchell@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:mitchell@ypsilibrary.org).  
**Dec 7:** *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan  
**Jan 4:** *The Magic Thief* by Sarah Prineas  
**Feb 1:** *Diana and the Underworld Odyssey* by Aisha Saeed

**Dec 18; Jan 3, 8 & 22; Feb 5 & 19**  
**THE ADVENTURING PARTY!**  
**4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Welcoming all fantasy lovers to the Library of Lore's first campaign! Join a team of misfit adventurers as we explore new worlds and solve magical puzzles. Drop-ins are welcome, but the club will be working through a campaign; continued attendance will pay off in learning more about the mystery you are trying to solve.

**Dec 26 & 28; Jan 2 & 4**  
**WINTER STEAM**  
**12pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Drop in over Winter Break for fun hands-on activities that cover STEAM topics.  
**Dec 26:** Build with our giant dinosaur bones and explore other dinosaur-themed activity stations.  
**Dec 28:** Play the latest table top games with your family or friends, courtesy of Ypsi's Golden Rhino Games store.  
**Jan 2:** Explore wind science with our new wind tunnel and make parachutes you can test from a balcony.  
**Jan 4:** Marbleize your own paper lantern shades and make an LED light with a switch to put inside.  
Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**Dec 26–28; Jan 2–4**  
**WINTER STEAM**  
**3pm | YDL-Superior**  
Kids ages 8 and up, enjoy hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math activities over your school break.  
**Dec 26:** Lego Coding (Ages 6+)  
**Dec 27:** Bill Nye Fest  
**Dec 28:** Magnets  
**Jan 2:** Ozobots  
**Jan 3:** Build-a-Thon  
**Jan 4:** Water science  
Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**Thursdays, Jan 11–Feb 1**  
**AFTER SCHOOL STEM - ROLLER COASTERS & MARBLE RUNS**  
**5pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Explore gravity, friction, and other aspects of motion in a fun and creative way! Problem solve like an engineer while playing with rollercoasters & marble runs. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**Thursdays, Jan 11–Feb 29**  
**FAMILY STEM TIME: DARE2DESIGN**  
**5:30pm | YDL-Superior**  
Work with EMU professors, engineering students, and others to problem solve, innovate, and convert ideas into reality while dabbling with coding, 3D modeling, machine learning, or traditional building techniques. This program is targeted at families from underrepresented groups with children in 2nd–8th grade. Registration required, contact Joy Cichewicz at 734-879-1314 or [joy@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:joy@ypsilibrary.org). Sponsored by Toyota and EMUinVENT.

**Tuesdays, Jan 16–Feb 27**  
**GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB**  
(Grades 2–5)  
**5pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Are you passionate about graphic novels? Then this after-school reading club is perfect for you! Hear the book read aloud over the course of several weeks and then discuss your favorite parts while you create art.



**Jan 17 & Feb 21**  
**KIDS BOOK CLUB** (Grades 3–5)  
**6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Join us monthly for a book discussion and snack.  
**Jan 17:** *Isaiah Dunn is My Hero* by Kelly Baptist  
**Feb 21:** *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo  
Register by emailing [mitchell@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:mitchell@ypsilibrary.org).

**Mondays, Jan 22–Feb 12**  
**PHONICS FUN FOR FAMILIES**  
**5pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Enjoy activities and games that strengthen the phonics skills of emergent readers. Card games, board games, fast-paced fitness activities, arts, crafts, and other fun. Come ready to play and learn together! Designed for ages 5–7 and their families.

**Thursdays, Feb 8–Feb 29**  
**AFTER SCHOOL STEM: FLIGHT SCIENCE**  
**5pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn about cause and effect, force, and weight while you create and play. Make and test objects in our wind tunnel, play with parachutes, and more! Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

**Feb 19 & 26**  
**DRAW WITH KAM**  
**5pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Want to learn the fundamentals of cartooning and comic book/manga drawing? Local comic book artist Kamron Reynolds will show you how. Learn to draw your own characters, faces, backgrounds, lettering, and much more. The key to creating is getting started. For ages 7–14.

# Stories and Fun for Little Ones

## Weekly storytimes

MONDAYS

**Mondays, Jan 22–Feb 19**  
**JUMPSTART KINDERGARTEN** (Ages 4–6)  
**10:30am | YDL-Whittaker**  
Activities and stories designed to help prepare preschoolers for school success. Books are read aloud followed by parachute play and STEM activities that build school readiness skills. Designed for listeners ready for longer stories and more independence.

TUESDAYS

**Tuesdays, Jan 16–Feb 20**  
**BABY STORYTIME**  
**10:30am | YDL-Superior**  
Hear a book and learn fun songs during a short lap-sit storytime designed for pre-walkers. Then stay to chat with other parents and caregivers while your little one plays.

**Tuesdays, Jan 16–Feb 20**

**DISCOVERY TIME** (Ages 2–4)  
**10:30am | YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn a variety of skills at these fast-paced storytimes filled with music, movement, fingerplays, and books. Hear stories and sing along for about 25 minutes, then explore play-based learning activities for the rest of the hour. Parents can chat while kids engage in small and large motor skill play nearby.

**Tuesdays, Jan 23–Feb 20**

**JUMPSTART KINDERGARTEN** (Ages 4–6)  
**1pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
See Monday description.

WEDNESDAYS

**Wednesdays, Jan 17–Feb 21**

**READ, SING, PLAY** (Walkers through Age 3)  
**10:30am | YDL-Superior**  
Little Ones will learn colors, shapes, and numbers through music and movement. Each week we'll read a book and sing songs for 15–20 minutes, then let parents chat while kids play nearby for the rest of the hour. Build early literacy, social emotional skills, and physical skills through play.

**Wednesdays, Jan 17–Feb 21**

**BABY TIME**  
**10:30am | YDL-Whittaker**  
See Tuesday description.

THURSDAYS

**Thursday, Jan 18–Feb 22**

**DISCOVERY TIME** (Ages 2-4)  
**10:30am | YDL-Superior**  
Learn a variety of preschool readiness skills, from ABCs to kindness. This fast-paced storytime is filled with music, movement, fingerplays, and books paired with exploratory learning and play.

**Thursdays, Jan 18–Feb 22**

**READ, SING, PLAY** (Ages 1–3)  
**10:30am | YDL-Whittaker**  
See Wednesday description.

**Thursdays, Jan 18–Feb 22**

**BEDTIME STORYTIME** (All ages)  
**6pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Build early learning skills and wind down for bedtime with stories, songs, and gentle movement followed by a hands-on project.

FRIDAYS

**Fridays, Jan 12–Feb 16**

**LITTLE ONES BOOKMOBILE STORYTIME**  
**4pm | Michigan Avenue (parked on Adams St.)**  
Enjoy a cozy storytime and escape the winter blues! Kiddos will hone early literacy skills while listening to stories, singing along with songs and rhymes, and helping each other learn and play.

Fun for Little Ones

**Dec 1–2; Jan 12–13; Feb 2–3 & 23–24**

**SENSORY STATIONS** (Ages 2–6)  
**11:00am | YDL-Whittaker**  
Explore themed sensory and art stations each session to help your child develop fine motor skills and learn about the world through play. Attend Friday or Saturday for the same set of stations.  
**Dec 1 & 2:** Little zoologist  
**Jan 12 & 13:** Pretend baking  
**Feb 2 & 3:** Construction  
**Feb 23 & 24:** Space

**Dec 8**

**MUSIC TOGETHER**  
**11am | YDL-Whittaker**  
Join Leah Fox from Robinsons Music Together for a parent and child music class for little ones. Enjoy the experience of making music together at the library. Music Together is an international, research-based program for young children and the adults who love them. The core principles are that everyone is musical and that basic musical competence can best be achieved in a playful, non-performance oriented setting.

**Jan 9; Feb 27**

**LITTLE ONES BOX PLAY** (Ages 0–2)  
**10:30am | YDL-Superior**  
Parents: join us with your littles for playtime with good old fashioned boxes.



**Jan 15**

**KINDERCONCERT**  
**10am & 11am | YDL-Whittaker**  
Don't worry about wiggly tots sitting still for a concert! Kids 5 and younger can dance and move to live music and stories with musicians from the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. In January, we'll be featuring the cello. There will be two half-hour performances, one from 10–10:30 AM and another at 11–11:30 AM.

**Jan 19 & Feb 9**

**LITTLE ONES PLAY**  
**11am | YDL-Whittaker**  
Littles ones can get some winter energy out while parents and caregivers chat nearby. We will have various big and small toys out in the space for free play.

**Jan 20**

**LITTLE ONES DANCE - WITH CHRISTINA SEARS-ETTER**  
**11am | YDL-Whittaker**  
Dancers will enjoy delightful music, fun motor activities, and creative play with props and pathways, all while building strength, balance, and flexibility and sparking problem-solving and imagination.

**Jan 26**

**PRESCHOOL UNIVERSE WITH THE ANN ARBOR HANDS-ON MUSEUM**  
**11am & 12pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Explore the wonders of space with a workshop that is out of this world! Work on engineering skills as you build paper rockets to launch, then learn how gravity keeps our feet on the ground. Attend at 11am or noon.



**Jan 27**

**SHAKE, RATTLE, AND ROLL**  
**11am | YDL-Whittaker**  
Little ones will hone early literacy skills while engaging in song, dance, and lots of fun while they shake, rattle, and roll in their own way!

**Saturdays, Feb 3–24**

**SENSORY SATURDAYS**  
**11am | YDL-Superior**  
Explore different themed sensory stations to help your child develop fine motor skills and learn about the world through play.



**Feb 17**

**PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN RESOURCE FAIR**  
**12pm–2pm | YDL-Whittaker**  
Meet one-on-one with representatives from local preschools and kindergartens to help you find a school that's a good fit for your little one. Learn about other support organizations and resources that can help you pay for school, engage in hands-on activities with your little one, and take home a free book and tote bag! If you are a licensed school or daycare and want to have a table at the event, please email [jodi@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:jodi@ypsilibrary.org).

## Tech Help

Register online or call (734) 482-4110 x2411.

**ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP FOR SENIORS** (55+)  
**YDL-Whittaker** and **YDL-Superior**  
Call 734-482-4110 x1384 or email [brigitte@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:brigitte@ypsilibrary.org) to schedule a one-hour in-person, phone, or virtual session at Whittaker. To schedule a session at Superior, call 734-482-4110 x2431 or email [mgeiman@ypsilibrary.org](mailto:mgeiman@ypsilibrary.org).

**Dec 2, 10:30am; Jan 23, 2pm**

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

**Dec 2, 2pm; Jan 11, 6:30pm; Feb 7, 10:30am**

**MICROSOFT WORD – BASICS**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
An introduction to word processing. Learn to enter, format, select, copy, paste, and edit text. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

**Dec 5 & Feb 1, 2pm; Jan 13, 10:30am**

**GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS**  
**Virtual**  
Learn to format, select, copy, paste, and edit text. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a document. A Google (or Gmail) account is required.

**Dec 6, 10:30am; Jan 6, 2pm; Feb 13, 6:30pm**

**MICROSOFT EXCEL – BASICS**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
A basic introduction to spreadsheets. Learn to enter and edit data, select cell ranges, format cells, use the fill handle, and create simple formulas. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

**Dec 6, 2pm; Jan 10, 10:30am; Feb 22, 7pm**

**COMPUTER BASICS - GETTING STARTED**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn the parts and proper use of the computer and Windows basics, including opening/closing applications and managing files/folders. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

**Dec 7, 2pm; Jan 24 & Feb 10, 10:30am**

**GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS**  
**Virtual**  
Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, and create simple formulas. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a spreadsheet. A Google (or Gmail) account is required.

**Dec 7, 7pm; Jan 6, 10:30am**

**GOOGLE CALENDAR - BASICS**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn the basics for setting up your Google Calendar to schedule and manage your events and appointments, share event information, and send notifications/reminders to your devices. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills are required.

**Dec 12 & Feb 8, 2pm; Jan 20, 10:30am**

**GOOGLE DOCS TIPS & TRICKS**  
**Virtual**  
Explore more advanced features of Google Docs: headers and footers, tabs and indents, inserting breaks (page, section, and column), finding and replacing text, and voice typing. A Google (or Gmail) account and prior Google Docs experience required.

**Dec 13, 10:30am; Jan 20, 2pm; Feb 20, 6:30pm**

**MICROSOFT EXCEL - INTERMEDIATE**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn to apply functions, filter data, create charts, and print worksheets. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

**Dec 13, 2pm; Jan 17, 10:30am**

**INTERNET BASICS - HOW TO SEARCH THE WEB**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
This class covers the browser toolbar and menu options, managing your favorite websites, and using search tools and techniques. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

**Dec 14, 2pm; Jan 31 & Feb 24, 10:30am**

**GOOGLE SHEETS TIPS & TRICKS**  
**Virtual**  
Explore more advanced features of Google Sheets: using formulas; conditional functions and formatting; sorting, filtering, and linking data; and defining a print area. A Google (or Gmail) account and prior Google Sheets experience required.

**Dec 16, 10:30am; Jan 30, 2pm**

**HOW TO HOST A ZOOM MEETING**  
**Virtual**  
Join us to learn the basics of hosting a Zoom meeting from start to finish. Topics include: scheduling, securing, and starting your meeting, inviting participants, using host controls, Zoom etiquette, and basic troubleshooting.

**Dec 16, 2pm; Jan 18, 6:30pm; Feb 14, 10:30am**

**MICROSOFT WORD - INTERMEDIATE**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn to create and format tables, insert images, create bulleted and numbered lists, and insert tabs. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

**Dec 19, 6:30pm; Jan 27, 10:30am**

**MICROSOFT PUBLISHER – BASICS**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn the basics for creating greeting cards, flyers, and calendars including page layout and formatting text and images. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

**Dec 20, 10:30am; Jan 27, 2pm; Feb 27, 6:30pm**

**MICROSOFT EXCEL – PIVOT TABLES - INTERMEDIATE**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel's PivotTable feature. Reorganize and summarize selected columns and rows of data in a spreadsheet to extract desired information. Participants should have basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills and an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.

**Dec 21 & Jan 16, 2pm**

**GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS**  
**Virtual**  
Learn to create and deliver a presentation and add graphics and multimedia. Also learn to share and collaborate on a presentation. A Google (or Gmail) account is required.

**Dec 27, 10:30am; Jan 9, 7pm; Feb 10, 2pm**

**GOOGLE DRIVE - BASICS**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
With a Google account, Google Drive provides access to free web-based applications for creating documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and more. Learn how to navigate Google Drive's interface. You will learn how to create, store, organize, access, and share your files/folders online. Basic keyboard and mouse skills are required.

**Jan 4, 6:30pm; Feb 28, 2pm**

**GMAIL - BASICS**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn how to send and retrieve messages, add attachments, create and manage labels and filters, add contacts, and manage junk email. Participants may sign up for a Gmail account at the end of class. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

**Jan 10, 2pm; Feb 29, 6:30pm**

**MICROSOFT POWERPOINT – BASICS**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

**Jan 25, 6:30pm, Feb 21, 10:30am**

**\*NEW\* MICROSOFT WORD – TIPS, TRICKS, AND HACKS**  
**YDL-Whittaker**  
Think you know everything about Microsoft Word? Learn a few tips, hidden tricks, and time-saving hacks to get the most out of this word processing program. Learn to modify page numbers, recover a corrupted file, add screenshots, reduce eye strain, use the Go To command, change ribbon tab order, and more.

## YPSI STORIES

The Fall episode of Ypsi Stories is available to listen wherever you get your podcasts! Episode 21 features a discussion with Jerome Drummond about the state of medicine in 19th century Ypsilanti. Stay tuned for Episode 22, where Finn Bell will discuss his brand new Ypsi Farmers & Gardeners Oral History Project (see page 3). Hear all of the podcast episodes at [ypsilibrary.org/ypsistories](https://ypsilibrary.org/ypsistories).

# LINCOLN SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

School performances often provide the initial platform for budding artists. Supporting these communal events can fortify community ties, celebrate our youth’s accomplishments, and champion the values of art and education. Seeing classmates perform can inspire students to tap into their own artistic

potential, reinforcing the arts within school culture. The arts can also serve as a lens into diverse cultures, histories, and stories, offering students and attendees alike a unique educational experience. There are a number of opportunities to attend a school performance at Lincoln schools this winter.



## Upcoming Events at LCS Performing Arts Center:

- 12/6 at 7 pm  
Lincoln High School Band Concert
- 12/13 at 7 pm  
Lincoln High School Choir Concert
- 12/14 at 7 pm  
Lincoln Middle School Choir Concert
- 12/19 at 7 pm  
Lincoln Middle School 7/8 Grade Band Concert
- 1/11 at 7 pm  
Lincoln Middle School Band Concert at 7pm
- 2/20 at 7 pm  
Lincoln Middle School Band Concert at 7pm
- 2/21 at 7 pm  
Lincoln High School Band Concert

## IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:

- \* 12/1: Grades K-5 1/2 Day (LCS)
- \* 12/21–12/22: 1/2 Day (YCS)
- \* 12/23–1/7: Winter Break, No Classes (Both)
- \* 1/8: Classes Resume (Both)
- \* 1/15: No School, MLK Jr. Day (Both)
- \* 1/18–1/19: Grades 6–12 1/2 Day (LCS)
- \* 1/22: No School (LCS)
- \* 2/14: Student Count Day (YCS)
- \* 2/16: 1/2 Day (YCS)
- \* 2/19: No School, Presidents’ Day (Both)
- \* 2/20: No School (LCS)

# GET A JUMP ON COLLEGE SAVINGS

Most Washtenaw County families with 1st–6th grade students can claim their FREE My Future Fund account to kick start their savings for college or career training. Each account comes with a free \$25 deposit, and students may be eligible for an extra \$475 based on family income, individual Free and Reduced Price Lunch eligibility, and other similar criteria. Every child enrolled in a participating Washtenaw County public school district or academy between October 2022 and October 2023 will automatically have an account created in their name by the end of the school year. “We are excited to bring My Future Fund to life in Washtenaw County and to show students that their community is investing in their futures,” said Sara Saylor, My Future Fund Coordinator at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD).

My Future Fund will feature two key components: A Children’s Savings Account (CSA) and financial education and support. The CSA is a research-based approach that will provide students and families with a dedicated account to build assets for future post-secondary educational expenses, and it will be paired with ongoing financial education and support as students grow up. The program was started with a generous contribution from the Washtenaw County Government. Families can scan this QR code or visit [bit.ly/StartMyFutureFund](https://bit.ly/StartMyFutureFund) to submit a release of information form to take full advantage of the program, including checking to see if they meet the criteria for the \$475 deposit. To learn more about My Future Fund, visit [myfuturefund.org](https://myfuturefund.org).



## WINTER WONDER

Looking for indoor activities to do with your little one this winter? Sign up for TALK: Text and Learn for Kindergarten! You’ll receive two activity ideas each week via text message specially tailored to your child’s age. Activities were designed by library staff and child development specialists in Washtenaw County to help kids under the age of six build a wide range of school-readiness skills. If you have a baby, you might get a link to a new bouncy rhyme you can try, and if you have a preschooler, you might get a recipe for homemade finger paint your child can use to practice drawing shapes and letters. You’ll get reminders about YDL events for little ones twice a month too. To sign up, visit [TextandLearn.org](https://TextandLearn.org), or text TALK to 74457. No personal information is required other than your zip code and your child’s birthdate. Texts are available in English and Spanish. Have fun learning together as you sing, talk, and play!



# WINTER IS FOR WRITING

There's nothing quite like snuggling up with a blanket and a warm cup of tea or cocoa to write. So why not stay inside, cozy and warm, where you can be inspired by the beauty of our great state?

And...writing is not necessarily a solitary exercise! There are all kinds of fun, family-friendly activities you can try to get in the mood to write. All you need is a pen and paper!

YDL partners with 826michigan, a nonprofit writing lab, each Monday night for an After-School Writing Lab. Students ages 8–14 work in small groups with peers and adult volunteers to brainstorm, write, revise, share, and publish original writing. For more information, visit: [826michigan.org/programs/after-school-writing-lab](https://826michigan.org/programs/after-school-writing-lab).



Can't attend? Try one of these writing prompts!  
Share your fantastic creations with others to spread a love of writing.



## WINTER-RELATED WRITING PROMPTS

- 1 Two people are having a conversation. They appear to be discussing the snow falling outside, but there is a subtext. What is really going on?
- 2 It's winter. Your character is walking outdoors and sees snow and ice on the ground, feeling the cold whipping around their body. But the character's reaction to the frigid temperature is not what you might expect...
- 3 Think about a family gathering for a winter holiday. Write about that gathering from the point of view of a child.
- 4 Write a story from the point of view of a snowman, from the rolling of the first snowball to the approach of spring.
- 5 Describe, in as much detail as humanly possible, the sensation of going from the freezing, blustery outdoors into the warm coziness of your own home.
- 6 Imagine you are trapped inside during a blizzard. Write a week's worth of entries, culminating in your eventual escape.
- 7 Write from the point of view of a snowflake falling to earth.
- 8 Describe winter to an imaginary friend who lives in a tropical climate and has never experienced the season.
- 9 Anthropomorphize winter. What is its personality like? What does it wear? What does it like to do?



## STUDENT WRITING PROMPT...

Can you pick up this story where it left off?

Wynter Miller, Age 9  
*The Knife, the Flint, the First Aid Kit*

Chapter 1: ??/??/????

Dear Whoever's Reading This Message,

I've just opened my eyes and have no clue as to the time, the date, the year, or why I find myself here on this island with no shirt and a ripped pair of shorts. I have vague memories of what "home" would be.

My island contains nothing useful. Sure, it has food and water, tumbleweeds, the typewriter I'm typing on, ink, paper, trees, and undergrowth, but that's about it. The first day on my island, I explored and had many flashbacks to my hometown, Ann-something. I forgot the second word of the name.

While exploring the island, I found a black stone . . .

# WASHTENAW LITERACY EXPANDING SERVICES TO MEET NEEDS

The addition of two new AmeriCorps members in the fall allowed Washtenaw Literacy to expand their services in the Ypsilanti area.

Over the past year, 400 volunteer tutors served 1,000 adult (16+) learners in Basic Literacy (reading, writing, math, and digital literacy) and English as a Second Language (ESL). This is up from 850 the previous year and continues to grow, said Executive Director Carole McCabe.

Washtenaw Literacy offers personal tutoring, along with Drop-In Community Tutoring groups, with no registration necessary at the following locations:

### ESL CONVERSATION GROUPS:

- Mondays at Cross and Blood Ministries, 9 South Park St.
- Tuesdays at the YDL Superior Branch, 1900 Harris Rd.
- Thursdays at Ypsilanti Free Methodist Church, 1800 Packard St.

### BASIC LITERACY SUPPORT:

- Wednesdays at the YDL Superior Branch, 1900 Harris Rd.
- Thursdays at Hamilton Crossing Community Center, 596 S. Hamilton St.

This increase in reach couldn't be more important. According to McCabe, over 30,000 adults in Washtenaw County have functional English literacy at or below an 8th grade level, which may mean they struggle to fill out a job application or read a prescription label on their own. Half of children born to parents with low literacy will also experience low literacy levels.



Washtenaw Literacy is always looking for volunteer tutors to increase their impact. The commitment is two hours per week and training is provided, so no experience is needed. For Winter Semester schedules and information on how to volunteer, visit [washtenawliteracy.org](https://washtenawliteracy.org).

# GROWING HOPE WELCOMES WINTER WITH INDOOR MARKETS



As the days grow shorter and winter's chill sets in, Growing Hope is providing a warm and vibrant escape from the cold! They've launched their Winter Indoor Markets at the Ypsilanti Farmers MarketPlace, located at 16 S. Washington Street.

Each Saturday from 9am–1pm, you can find fresh produce, handcrafted goods, and artisanal delights during the winter season. The Winter Indoor Markets continue Growing Hope's commitment to providing the community with access to fresh, local food and supporting local businesses.

"The decision to transition the Depot Town Farmers Market indoors was carefully made in collaboration with our dedicated vendors, loyal patrons, hardworking volunteers, and passionate staff," said Growing Hope Executive Director Julius

Buzzard. "This transition enhances our ability to meet the needs of community members who may face challenges attending a traditional outdoor market."

The markets accept a variety of payment options, including SNAP/EBT, Double Up Food Bucks (a program that doubles SNAP dollars spent on Michigan produce), Prescription for Health, WIC Project FRESH, and Senior Project FRESH.

For those who prefer shopping online, Growing Hope has local products available through the Ypsi Area Online Market. Place an order at [growinghope.net/ypsi-area-online-market](http://growinghope.net/ypsi-area-online-market), then pick it up at 16 S. Washington Street on Tuesdays between 3:00 and 7:00 PM.

The online shopping option has a wide range of produce, meat, dairy, eggs, and specialty items from many of the vendors who also participate in the Depot Town Farmers Market. SNAP/EBT and Double Up Food Bucks are also accepted through the online market.

Buzzard is glad the new indoor option will help Growing Hope extend their service into the winter season.

"This adjustment was meant to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for the community to continue enjoying fresh, local produce and artisanal goods throughout the winter months," Buzzard said. "We eagerly look forward to welcoming the community...with warmth and togetherness."

# WARMING CENTERS

Daytime and overnight warming centers will once again be available in Ypsilanti this winter for people experiencing homelessness and others who require shelter as temperatures dip below freezing.

With the help of outside supporters such as the Freighthouse and the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority, the city of Ypsilanti has provided funding to the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County to keep the Freighthouse and St. Luke's warming centers open through March 28th, 2024.

## Warming Center Locations:

- **YDL's Whittaker branch (5577 Whittaker Road) and Superior branch (1900 Harris Road)** are open from 9am–9pm Monday–Thursday, 10am–6pm Friday–Saturday. **The Whittaker branch** is also open from 1pm–5pm on Sunday.
- **The Freighthouse at 100 Market Place** (next to Frog Island Park in Depot Town) will be open from 8am–6pm, Monday–Thursday.
- **St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 120 N. Huron Street** will be open from 7pm–8am, Monday–Thursday.
- **Delonis Center at 312 W. Huron Street in Ann Arbor** will provide access to shelter on the weekends. People needing help outside daytime shelter hours can contact the Delonis center at 734-662-2829. If needed, the center can help arrange transportation.



Shelter services at St. Luke's and the Freighthouse will also include case management and meals.

Last year, St. Luke's became the first overnight shelter in Ypsilanti's modern history. This year, city leadership voted unanimously to approve the two agreements that will provide public access to the shelters at St. Luke's and the Freighthouse.

The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County saw a 19% increase in demand for emergency warming shelters last winter. Ypsilanti is still looking for outside organizations to assist them in providing shelter on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, which would reduce the need to transport people to Delonis in Ann Arbor on the weekends.

**No pre-registration is necessary for daytime warming centers. For access to overnight warming centers, each client must call Housing Access of Washtenaw County (HAWC) and obtain a referral to the Delonis Center.** Call HAWC at 734-961-1999 or visit [housingaccess.net](http://housingaccess.net) for more information. If you are seeking shelter after 5 pm, there will be onsite assistance provided at the **Delonis Center (312 W. Huron St, Ann Arbor).**

# TAX HELP

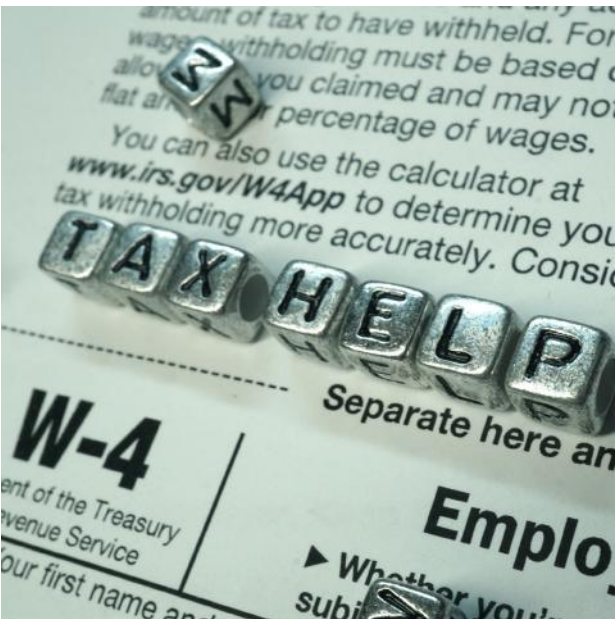
YDL will again serve as a site for free tax preparation during this upcoming season. From February until mid-April, AARP will offer tax assistance at the Whittaker Road and Superior branches. The Michigan Ave. branch will still be under construction.

Scheduling for tax preparation appointments will begin in January 2024. Visit [ypsilibrary.org/taxprep](http://ypsilibrary.org/taxprep) for updates on the tax help services available at YDL, along with additional resources to help you prepare your taxes.

AARP's TaxAide program is provided by trained volunteers in partnership with the IRS, primarily serving low and moderate income taxpayers. There is no age requirement, but this service especially targets those 50 years and older. AARP membership is not required. Call 734-482-4110 x2411 or x2431 to make an appointment or for more information.

- Please note:**
- Before your appointment you will need to pick up information and forms at the branch where you have scheduled your appointment. *NOTE: Forms should be filled out BEFORE your appointment.*
  - If filing jointly, both spouses must be present at the appointment.

- Make sure to bring:**
- All W-2s, 1099s, and any other records of income.
  - 2022 tax return.
  - Government issued photo ID and Social Security card or Social Security statement, (SSA-1099) for yourself and your spouse.
  - Social Security card for all dependents.
  - Birth dates for yourself, your spouse, and your dependents.
  - Personal check with routing/account numbers for direct deposit of a refund.
  - 1095-A if you received ACA health insurance.
  - Any other tax documents, such as 1098s.
  - If eligible for the Home Heating Credit, bring Dec, Jan, or Feb DTE bill or other proof of heating costs if not DTE.
  - If eligible for Property Tax Credit, bring 2023 Summer and Winter Property Tax statements OR proof of rent paid along with your landlord's name and address.
  - If itemizing, bring all necessary documentation.
  - If self-employed, bring records of all income and expenses.



# THE SCOOP BEHIND OUR CLEAN WATER

*Government officials recently dove into the issue of water quality at our local wastewater treatment facility.*



Ypsilanti Mayor Nicole Brown and Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo joined Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan, Representative Debbie Dingell, and Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Director Phillip Roos to tour the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) facility this fall.

They discussed planned upgrades to the wastewater treatment facilities made possible by federal investments in our water infrastructure. Rep. Dingell was particularly interested in working with local communities and the federal government to ensure clean and safe drinking water by making infrastructure improvements, getting the lead out of pipes, and making sure families can afford water.

You can also explore the power we have to return clean water to the environment and see how wastewater services affect our economy, the environment, and public health. Officials at the plant say you may be surprised by the vast amount of equipment—pumps, tanks, blowers, and more—that it takes to treat wastewater.

Get a guided tour of the wastewater treatment plant located at 2777 State Road in Ypsilanti Township. Participants must be at least 10 years old or in the fifth grade. Tours of the plant typically last 1–2 hours and can be arranged by completing the request form at [ycua.org/tourrequests.htm](http://ycua.org/tourrequests.htm).

# TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER WINTER

*Is it a struggle to stay healthy in the cold winter months? The Washtenaw County Health Department has tips to help!*

1. Keep your loved ones safe: if you don't feel well, avoid being around others.
2. Make sure you're up-to-date on your COVID vaccines. Everyone 6 months and older can get an updated COVID-19 vaccine. Visit [washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine](http://washtenaw.org/covid19vaccine) for more information.
3. Everyone 6 months old and older can get a flu vaccine every year. Flu shots are especially important for older adults, anyone with underlying health conditions, pregnant people, and young kids.
4. Cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze or cough, wash your hands often using soap and warm water, and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
5. Wearing a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask around others can help prevent the spread of illness. You can pick up masks, along with COVID tests, at the Whittaker and Superior branches of YDL (while supplies last).
6. Increasing ventilation in indoor spaces can also help prevent COVID.
7. Schedule a check-up with your doctor to get necessary vaccines and other preventative screenings.
8. A nutritious diet, plenty of sleep, and regular exercise can go a long way to help you feel better and stay healthy this cold and flu season.



BONUS TIP for older adults, new parents, and pregnant people: ask your doctor about RSV protection! RSV is a common respiratory virus that causes mild, cold-like symptoms for most individuals. However, infants and older adults are more likely to develop severe RSV. This year, there are new tools available to help protect babies and adults 60+ from severe illness. Ask your doctor about RSV vaccines or visit [cdc.gov/rsv/about/prevention.html](http://cdc.gov/rsv/about/prevention.html) to learn more.

Want to stay updated on all things health in Washtenaw County? Join WCHD's email list at [bit.ly/WCHD555](http://bit.ly/WCHD555).

## HELP FROM CORNER HEALTH

Corner Health Center has a number of support groups available for families, trans and nonbinary youth, and more!

**Corner's Trans & Nonbinary Youth Support Group:** Ongoing; Tuesdays at 5:30pm on Zoom. Email [Jschwartz@cornerhealth.org](mailto:Jschwartz@cornerhealth.org)

**Cooking Classes for 12–25-year-olds:** Tuesdays from 5:30–7pm at Corner Health Center. Text 734-657-4652 to sign up.

**Fathers for Family (a program for fathers under the age of 26):** Meets on the last Tuesday of each month. Email [DJohnson@cornerhealth.org](mailto:DJohnson@cornerhealth.org) to join the mailing list.

**STAND OUT!** Supportive programming for parents of trans and nonbinary youth restarts this winter. Email [ranneer@cornerhealth.org](mailto:ranneer@cornerhealth.org) for more information.

# MEET THE WRITERS OF YPSILANTI

YpsiWrites introduced the 2023 Writers of Ypsilanti at their 4-year Anniversary Celebration in October. YpsiWrites' theme for the coming year is Write for Change, and all nine of this year's writers embody that theme. Learn about this year's writers from the individuals who nominated them and from the writers themselves.



**Tarik Fermin** (he/him) has lived in Ypsilanti most of his life. Now a student at Michigan State University, he wrote articles and research papers for the *Huron Emery*. Fermin also writes fiction, screenplays, and social media and marketing materials. He was nominated by Devika Dibya Choudhuri. "Words are the most powerful thing in the world," Fermin said. "...The human ability to articulate and to create off the basis of an idea is truly special and should never be taken for granted."



**Robert Anschuetz** (he/him) is an Eastern Michigan University alum and currently writes articles for the Ypsilanti Historical Society's *Gleanings*, which publishes historical writings about Ypsilanti from the last century. Robert was nominated by Janice Anschuetz. He says that he hopes that through his writing "readers will take a look at where we were as a society and where we are now, so there is a clear trajectory about where we should go in the future to better ourselves and society."



**Lisa-Erika James** (she/her) is a playwright, poet, and nonfiction writer whose roots are in Ypsilanti, and visits frequently from New York City. We "are all able to use writing to advocate for ourselves and for causes that are important to us," James said "When we share our stories, we become mirrors for each other. And we don't suffer alone." Stephanie Steinberg was her nominator.



**Jane Ratcliffe** (she/her) resides in Ypsilanti and loves to write novels, short stories, personal essays, and interviews. She believes that writing is important because "it reminds us time and again that we are not alone."

Ratcliffe was nominated by another of this year's Writers of Ypsilanti, Amy Probst, who describes Ratcliffe's writing as "gorgeous, heartfelt, and the very marrow of Ypsilanti: honest, insightful, diverse, deep, quirky, intelligent, and alive."



**Caroline Huntoon** (they/them) is an Eastern Michigan University alum who currently lives in Ypsilanti. Huntoon is passionate about all kinds of writing but is currently writing books for young people. "Writing offers us so much," said Huntoon. "Even if we choose not to share our writing, words offer opportunities for exploration and healing. When we share it with others, our words can literally change the world." Huntoon was nominated by Karin Scott. *CONTINUED ON PAGE 12*



**Angelica Maria Esquivel George** (she/her) is a copywriter, writing instructor, and fiction and poetry writer who lives in Ypsilanti. She was nominated by Viviana Marie Esquivel, who calls Angelica an “unbelievable writer.”

Angelica hopes that her writing, “which often deals with themes of addictions, invisible disability, poverty, racism, sexism, and maybe most importantly, shame...[helps readers to] feel less alone, to feel seen, and to feel invited to share their own story.”



**Liz Orvis** (she/her) maintains her ties to the Ypsilanti community through her work at Fresh Start Clubhouse, a psychosocial rehabilitation community, and her use of YpsiWrites’ resources. She hopes that her writing “inspires people to feel better about who they are as a person...and make changes in legislation to decrease the disparity surrounding income and quality of treatment.” Orvis was nominated by Summer Berman.



**Amy Probst** (she/her) lives and works in the Ypsilanti community. She is a performance artist who writes poetry live on a typewriter for a variety of audiences. Probst has a keen sense about her readers and audiences and describes her work as a writer as holding up “a mirror to the reader that reflects back a self they weren’t previously able to see.”

“You’ll often find [Probst] perched at local events with her trusty typewriter,” said her nominator, Holly Schoenfield. “Making up beautiful poetry on the spot about the humans she encounters...they walk away feeling seen and inspired.”



**Kayla Chenault** (she/her) is a resident of Ypsilanti and the Programs and Volunteer Coordinator at 826michigan, one of YpsiWrites’ community partners. Chenault loves “to write about hidden history, stories that have been ignored and marginalized, and to amplify those stories.”

“[Chenault] writes from the point of view of a queer, Black woman,” Megan Shuchman, one of Chenault’s nominators, notes, “and her identity as a Michigander with a strong penchant for history is infused into all of her work.”

For more information, visit [ypsiwrites.com](https://ypsiwrites.com).



# THERIDE

The community’s feedback this fall on TheRide’s proposed service changes will go into effect in August 2024 as part of the Long-Range Plan and Millage that were approved in 2022. More details on the services will be available at [TheRide.org](https://theride.org).

Here are tips for making sure your winter rides go smoothly:

- Leave extra time for your commute, especially on snowy days.
- If your bus stop is blocked due to snow or ice, wait at the nearest cleared spot.
- With bad weather, some delays may occur. Sign up for TheRide’s MyAlerts system at [TheRide.org](https://theride.org). With MyAlerts, you can select which route(s) you use, and you will receive an email directly if your route is on a detour.
- During the winter season, TheRide has holiday hours for Christmas and New Year’s. Visit [TheRide.org](https://theride.org) or follow them on Facebook and Twitter to make sure you don’t miss any schedule updates.



# FRIENDS OF YDL BOOK SALES

The Friends of YDL annual book sale is back! Book sale prices are \$1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversize paperbacks. On Jan. 21 there will be bags of books available for \$4, and some books will be sold at a reduced price. At the members-only preview sale, memberships will be available for purchase at the door. It’s the perfect time to join the Friends and help make library events possible! Dues start at just \$10.

**JAN. 18:** 6–8pm (members-only sale)  
**JAN. 19:** 11am–5pm  
**JAN. 20:** 11am–3pm  
**JAN. 21:** 1–4pm



## BOOK SHOP HOURS:

- **Monday** ..... 2–6pm
- **Tuesday** ..... 1–5pm
- **Wednesday** ..... 10am–2pm
- **Thursday** ..... 10am–4pm
- **Friday** ..... 10am–2pm
- **Saturday** ..... 11am–5pm
- **Sunday** ..... 2–4pm



**FRIENDS OF THE  
YPSILANTI  
DISTRICT  
LIBRARY**

WWW.YPSILIBRARY.ORG



## LOCATIONS & HOURS

### YDL-WHITTAKER

5577 Whittaker Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
**HOURS**  
Mon-Thurs: 9am–9pm  
Fri and Sat: 10am–6pm  
Sun: 1–5pm

### YDL-MICHIGAN

**TEMPORARILY CLOSED**  
Visit [ypsilibrary.org/michigan-avenue-branch-closure](https://ypsilibrary.org/michigan-avenue-branch-closure) for more information and updates.

### YDL-SUPERIOR

1900 Harris Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
**HOURS**  
Mon-Thurs: 9am–9pm  
Fri and Sat: 10am–6pm

### YDL-BOOKMOBILE

Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
**HOURS**  
Mon–Thurs: 4–8pm  
Fri: 1–5pm (outside Michigan Avenue branch)  
Neighborhood route and schedule: [ypsilibrary.org/bookmobile](https://ypsilibrary.org/bookmobile)

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](https://ypsilibrary.org/board) for meeting schedules, locations, agendas, and minutes.

Visit [ypsilibrary.org/contact-us](https://ypsilibrary.org/contact-us) or 734-482-4110

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