

PROGRESS REPORT

Long-awaited repairs have begun at YDL Michigan Avenue! We hope to reopen our beloved downtown library branch this June, as long as the supply chain doesn't throw the project any curveballs.

Following months of water damage remediation, working with our insurer, developing a redesign with architect Faber Design Co., and applying for building permits, construction manager Phoenix Contractors, Inc. is digging in at last. Fittingly, as we were alerted to the July 1 flood by a fire alarm, the building's fire alarm panel was the first thing to be replaced. Repairs to the walls, floors, and ceilings are soon to follow.

Besides the repairs, we're making improvements we think you'll love. Interior upgrades will include three new study rooms, a laptop counter with street views, some spiffy new furnishings, and a completely redesigned youth area. We can't wait to show it to you. A big welcome back party is in the works—stay tuned!

– Lisa Hoenig, Director



BLOCK OUT TIME FOR THE 2024 ECLIPSE

There's a solar eclipse coming Monday, April 8, and YDL can help you get the best view. This will be the last major eclipse in our area for 20 years. Use your library card to "check out" a pair of eclipse glasses starting March 25, then join us at the Whittaker or Superior branch for a group viewing during National Library Week!

ABOUT THE ECLIPSE

The eclipse will start around 2pm and last until roughly 4:30pm. Join us between 2:30–3:30pm at the Whittaker Road or Superior branches to see the peak views.

Ypsilanti is in the 95% eclipse zone, so we'll see a near total eclipse. The sky will get darker as the moon passes in front of the sun, but a sliver of the sun will always be visible—and that sliver is harmful to your eyes. You'll need safe solar eclipse

glasses, or viewers, to watch the whole eclipse. Regular sunglasses will NOT work.

GETTING GLASSES

Ypsilanti District Library received 4,000 pairs of eclipse glasses to give away from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which distributed eclipse educational kits to libraries that will serve as community centers for eclipse education.

Beginning March 25, visit the Whittaker or Superior branch or the Bookmobile to "check out" a pair of eclipse glasses. Each YDL patron can receive one pair with their library card, and they are yours to keep!

Each family member who wants glasses will need to have a YDL card to secure a pair. There will be a limited number of glasses available on the day of the eclipse, so check them out ahead of time if possible.

ADDITIONAL YDL ECLIPSE PROGRAMMING

In addition to the viewing parties on April 8, you can find eclipse-themed STEM stations at the Whittaker branch on March 23 and hands-on programming with UM Students at the Superior branch on March 30 (see Page 6). Representatives from NASA's eclipse ambassador program will teach you more about the cosmos ahead of the eclipse.

During the last eclipse in 2017, more than 800 people visited the Whittaker branch for a viewing party, with crowds also watching from the Michigan Avenue and old Superior branches. If you can't join us this year, many online resources can show you how to convert a shoe box or cereal box into an eclipse viewer! Visit [ypsilibrary.org/eclipse](https://www.ypsilibrary.org/eclipse) for details.

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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

The 66th annual National Library Week (NLW) is April 7–13! This year’s theme is “Ready, Set, Library!” with a focus on how libraries foster community. NLW aims to spread the word on how programming and events encourage us to engage with one another.

“Libraries connect our communities and enrich our lives in ways we might not realize, and one of my greatest pleasures is discovering the unexpected and beautiful things libraries offer,” said author Meg Medina, NLW’s 2024 Honorary Chair.

In 1958, the American Library Association co-established National Library Week to encourage people to read in their leisure time and support their local libraries. Libraries are most frequently

associated with reading and book borrowing. However, the clubs, family events, and classes libraries offer are a different kind of community enrichment.

From book clubs to genealogical societies, storytimes to live performances, YDL offers a myriad of new ways to engage and connect members of our community. YDL’s newest community clubs—Mahjong Meetup and the Downtown Queer Crafting Group—have already become library staples.

Are you a yarnie? Try Knitting Plus! Looking to strengthen your body but don’t want to leave the house? Try virtual Chair Yoga! Know a teen that likes D&D and other role-playing games? Tell

them about Natural 20 or The Adventuring Party! Peruse the listings on Pages 4–7; you might find a perfect match for your interests.

You can also meet up with friends at Aubree’s on Whittaker Road on April 11 to raise funds for the Michigan Avenue branch restoration. In honor of National Library Week, Aubree’s will donate 20% of every dine-in, carryout, or delivery order to YDL that day! You can find the Dine to Donate flyers inside our branches, or online at ypsilibrary.org/events. Just show it to your server that day before you pay your bill.

Get “Ready” to celebrate National Library Week this April by finding new ways to enrich your life and connect with your community at YDL.



BLACK BIRDERS WEEK ACTIVITIES TAKE FLIGHT AT YDL

Black Birders Week kicked off in 2020 as a Twitter phenomenon to celebrate and amplify the voices of Black birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts. On June 1, join YDL to try your hand at bird photography followed by a walk in the park led by Victor Chen of the Washtenaw Audubon Society. (See Page 5 for event details.)

This year, Black Birders Week is May 26–June 1. Fueled by a desire to break down racial barriers in outdoor spaces, this annual event bucks the notion that the wilderness is only for one shade of explorers.

“The joys of exploring nature and having new experiences are for everyone,” said Amisha Harijan, the YDL Adult Services Librarian who spearheaded YDL’s participation in Black Birders Week.

The week began as an online event intended to bring more visibility to incidents like the one Chistian Cooper experienced in Central Park in 2020, when he filmed a racially-charged encounter between himself and a white woman



while bird watching. Cooper now hosts his own National Geographic show, *Extraordinary Birder*, which explores the “wild, wonderful and unpredictable world of birds.”

As the website *All About Birds* states, Black Birders Week “has evolved from a collective reaction to a painful situation to a celebration of the people in our communities who have found joy, inspiration, and peace in birds and nature.”

Whether you’re a seasoned birder or a backyard enthusiast, Black Birders Week is an open invitation to embrace the joy of discovery and celebrate nature lovers from all walks of life.

THE SCOOP ON THE LOOP

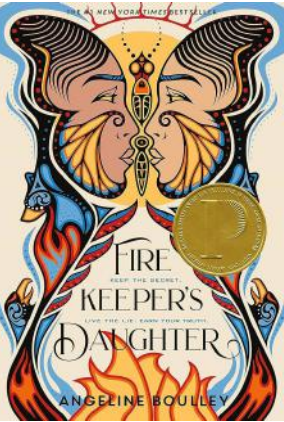
We receive many compliments on this quarterly newsletter, but occasionally we are asked why YDL still does a print mailing. Strategic plan research conducted in 2016 told us Ypsilanti was a news desert, and people were hungry for more community information. *The Loop* was born as our attempt to bridge that gap.

Because many in our community are without access to the Internet and others are not comfortable with technology, mailing a print publication ensures the library’s message reaches everyone. We send a copy to every residence in our service area.

In addition, if you live within the library district, either you or your landlord pays property taxes that support YDL. *The Loop* tells you not only what we do with those funds, but how you can make use of the services and resources we provide. We welcome and encourage you to take full advantage!

FOR THE LOVE OF READING!

THE 2024 GREAT MICHIGAN READ



Fire Keeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley is the 2023–24 pick for the Great Michigan Read. This gripping novel is set in the Ojibwe reservation of Sault Ste. Marie in the Upper Peninsula and explores themes of identity, cultural heritage, and the complexities of modern Native American life.

The Great Michigan Read is a statewide initiative that aims to foster a sense of community by encouraging Michiganders from all walks of life to read and discuss a common book.

Thanks in part to a \$750 grant from our partners at Michigan Humanities, YDL is offering programs to enhance your experience of *Fire Keeper's Daughter*.

On March 30, learn how to make a handmade basket with natural materials. Then, be sure to join us April 29 for a community screening of the documentary *Warrior Lawyers: Defenders of Sacred Justice*. **The 2023–24 Great Michigan Read is presented by Michigan Humanities and supported by national, statewide, and local partners, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Meijer Foundation, The Library of Michigan, Image Creative Group, BiblioBoard, and Michigan Radio Reads.**

THE 2024 YDL FAMILY READ

Get ready for futuristic nature exploration! This year's YDL Family Read is *Little Monarchs* by Jonathan Case. This outdoor adventure graphic novel is set in the future, 50 years since humans have had to live underground during the day to avoid the sun, and nature is taking over again.

Only Flora (a biologist) and 10-year-old Elvie can tolerate the sunlight, thanks to an antidote Flora made that relies on the scales of monarch butterfly wings. Their journey to make more of

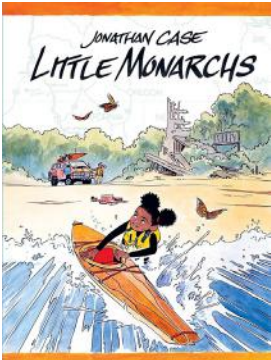
the antidote introduces readers to nature, nature journaling and drawing, navigation, and survival skills. The range of STEM topics explored in the book make it a perfect fit for this year's Project STEM @ YDL hands-on programming.

Each Family Read includes YDL events to help readers dive into the book's themes and bring the book to life. At the kickoff on March 9, make your own nature journal and get tips for observing, drawing, and writing about the natural world. As you fill your journal with entries throughout the spring, share your drawings and writing with us to enter to win an official *Little Monarchs* Adventure Satchel.

You'll also have an opportunity to learn from local artists and climate action advocates. Make water filters, mini blackberry pies, bottles of sun sickness serum from recycled materials, and nature art. Learn to tie knots, use the night sky and compasses to navigate, and identify natural objects. See Pages 6–7 for details.

Then join the Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition Scientific at the Whittaker branch April 20 for hands-on environmental activities ahead of Earth Day (April 22). Take home seeds for pollinator-friendly plants perfect for our region from the Xerces Society, the world leaders in monarch preservation who informed the research for *Little Monarchs*.

Can't make it to a program? Visit ypsilibrary.org/familyread for resources teachers and families can use including conversation starters, writing prompts from YpsiWrites, links to videos and activities, and a booklist for younger readers. Contact jodi@ypsilibrary.org for more information.



Speaker Visit

2024 WASHTENAW READS

In conjunction with the 2024 Washtenaw Read selection, *How the Word is Passed* by Clint Smith, visit the Downtown Ann Arbor District Library Lobbytorium (343 S. Fifth Avenue) on April 14 at 3pm to hear from the director of the Whitney Plantation. Ashley Rogers will discuss how the organization works to educate visitors about the experiences of the enslaved people who worked the plantation.

Whitney Plantation is a 200-acre former sugar plantation turned historic site dedicated to telling the history of slavery in the United States from the perspective of the enslaved Africans, African-Americans, and Creoles of color who built America's wealth. The plantation is one of the sites Smith discusses in his *New York Times* bestseller. You can learn more about the book in the Washtenaw Reads article from the winter issue of *The Loop*.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Published in June 2021 and a #1 NY Times Bestseller, *How the Word is Passed* is a multi-award winning work of nonfiction by Clint Smith. Beginning in his own hometown of New Orleans, Smith leads the reader through an unforgettable 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.

FIND MORE “THINGS”

YDL's Library of Things (LOT) is constantly growing, so we've started hosting "Check it Out" events to introduce you to everything.

Join us on Saturday, March 23 at our Whittaker branch for a general "Check it Out!" event to learn what the LOT has to offer. Our librarians will walk you through the process of searching our catalog, and they'll bring a display of currently available items that you can borrow on the spot!

On April 20, just ahead of Earth Day, come view the gardening equipment available to check out. Other themed "Check it Out" events have featured our crafting supplies and board games, so keep an eye out for future opportunities to discover what the LOT has to offer.

The LOT allows patrons to borrow a range of everyday objects—from tools to kitchen appliances to tech gadgets. Visit ypsilibrary.org/lot to explore the library's catalog, reserve items, and check



them out from the library. Access items you may only need for a specific project or just to try before you decide to buy.

In addition to old favorites like board games, gardening tools, instruments, and office equipment, YDL has added over 50 new items to our LOT catalog since December.



If you're in need of a ladder, furniture dollies, a bike repair kit, a paper shredder, a dumpling maker, 2-way radios, a karaoke machine, portable CD player or our personal favorite—night vision goggles!—the LOT is the place to go.

EVENTS

Adult

Mar 2

STORIES OF BELONGING AND UNBELONGING IN DIVERSE SPACES WITH OUR WRITERS OF YPSILANTI

10am | [Virtual](#)

Kick off Women's History Month at this presentation by four of YpsiWrites' Writers of Ypsilanti. Angelica Esquivel, Lisa-Erika James, Kayla Chenault, and Angela Verges will share pieces they will be presenting at the annual EMU Women of Color Symposium.

Wednesdays, Mar 6–Apr 24; May 15–29

BASIC LITERACY COMMUNITY TUTORING

4pm–5:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

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

Mar 6; Apr 3; May 8

CLASSIC COMEDY/MYSTERY/CRIME MOVIES

6:30pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Watch some of the best Classic Comedy/Mystery/Crime hybrid movies ever made.

Mar 6: *The Thin Man* (1934) directed by W. S. Van Dyke II

Apr 3: *The Ladykillers* (1955) directed by Alexander Mackendrick

May 8: *Murder, She Said* (1961) directed by George Pollock

Mar 6

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: SOCIAL MEDIA TRENDS, UPDATED

6:30pm | [Virtual](#)

Examine the key trends in social media as well as some of the new tools. Our Spring Small Business Savvy series is for those who want to start or own a small business. Presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Join these virtual classes on Zoom to help establish and improve your business skills and services.

Mar 7; Apr 4; May 2

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP

10:30am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join us to discuss a variety of books.

Mar 7: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

Apr 4: *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

May 2: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
Copies of the book are available at the Whittaker Road branch one month before the discussion date. Questions? Contact Adult Services at 734-482-4110 x2411.

Thursdays, Mar 7–28

LNGO CHAIR YOGA WITH KAITLYN JOHNSON

12pm | [Virtual](#)

This is a gentle yoga class that focuses on breathing and slow movements to improve overall health. Poses will be shown with modifications. This class is designed for ages 55 & up, but open to all adults who would enjoy a gentler workout. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.



Mar 8

LNGO CRAFTERNOONS (Ages 55+)

2:30–4:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Join us for a lighthearted afternoon working on a craft project. All materials provided. Register for each workshop individually at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Mar 8: Mini collage pendant

Apr 12: Dragonfly from recycled soda cans & beads

May 10: Sharpie-dyed scarf

Mar 9

TEA TASTING WITH S•TEA•P (14+)

11am–12:15pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Join Samantha Musil, owner of local tea company S•TEA•P, to explore the 6 tea types (Dark, Black, Oolong, Green, Yellow and White). Learn about processing and general characteristics of each tea type, as well as brewing tips, all while enjoying a curated selection of samples. Register online at ypsilibrary.org/events.



Mar 9

MEET THE ARTISTS RECEPTION WITH T'ONNA CLEMONS & MAREDITH BYRD

3–4:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Meet the artists behind the two new paintings in YDL-Superior's Teen area. Enjoy light refreshments and participate in a Q&A session with the artists, facilitated by Jen Eastridge.



Mar 10

TOXIC PLANTS FOR HUMANS & PETS

2–4pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn which common house and garden plants are toxic to humans and pets from Advanced Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck.

Mondays, Mar 11–25

LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S: FOR CARE PARTNERS (EARLY-STAGE) - 3 PART SERIES

3pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join us to hear practical answers to the questions that arise in the early stage of Alzheimer's.

Mar 13; Apr 10; May 15

MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY OUTREACH

11am–1pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

A representative from MICHIGAN WORKS! Southeast will be in the lobby to answer your questions and provide information and assistance on job leads, employment, job fairs, and career guidance.

Mar 13; April 13; May 18

WRITERS ROOM & DROP-IN CONSULTING

Mar 13: [YDL-Whittaker \(6:30–8pm\)](#)

Apr 13: [Virtual \(11am–12:30pm\)](#)

May 18: [YDL-Superior \(11am–12:30pm\)](#)

Join other writers for open writing time in an YpsiWrites Writers Room. Bring a work in progress or start something new. We'll provide prompts for inspiration. Our trained volunteers will also be available for one-to-one writing support.

Mar 16

JUMPSTART YOUR NOVEL - PLOT TO STORY/WHY AM I DOING THIS?

11am–12:30pm | [Virtual](#)

In the final installment of our three-part “Jumpstart Your Novel” series, participants will join author Patrick Flores-Scott in examining the relationship between story and plot. Writers will consider outlining story events, charting their narrative, and what to keep in mind if they choose to proceed without an outline. Writers will conclude the workshop by brainstorming what we need for a happy writing life.

Mar 20

HANDMADE BASKET CRAFT (18+)

6–8:30pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn how to make a basket by hand with some rope and a few other supplies. Adults only; register at ypsilibrary.org/events. Contact Robert at 734-482-4110 x1353 or Neil@ypsilibrary.org with questions. This program is in support of the 2023–2024 Great Michigan Read title, *Fire Keeper's Daughter*, by Angeline Boulley (see Page 3) presented by Michigan Humanities and supported by national, statewide, and local partners, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Meijer Foundation, Library of Michigan, Image Creative Group, BiblioBoard, and Michigan Radio Reads.

Mar 20

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: FINANCIAL MODELING

6:30–8:00pm | [Virtual](#)

This workshop will provide some guidelines for developing realistic proforma financials that support operations and financing. Our Spring Small Business Savvy series is for those who want to start or own a small business. Presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Join these classes on Zoom to help establish and improve your business skills and services.

Mar 23; May 25

SILENT BOOK CLUB

10am | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Come to a reading meetup! Read what you want and enjoy talking with fellow readers. Have 30 minutes of settling in, an hour of reading quietly with other book-loving folks, and wind down with an optional 30 minutes to chat. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events. Questions? E-mail Paula Drummond at drummond@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x1306.

Mar 23

CHECK IT OUT! LIBRARY OF THINGS SHOWCASE

2–4pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

We will have a display of currently available items from our Library of Things collection that you can borrow on the spot. Librarian Aaron will show you how to read through the binder of everything currently listed in our Library of Things, and walk you through the process of searching our website to place a hold on interesting items. Questions? Contact YDL Librarian Aaron Smith at asmith@ypsilibrary.org or 734-482-4110 x1335.

Mar 23

FUND YOUR DREAMS: FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

3–4:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Join Ebonee Byrne of Liberty Financial Services and learn how to create a financial plan to help you build the life you want. This interactive workshop will teach participants how to create a clear road map to make and meet realistic financial goals. Participants will receive a digital download workbook that they can use to track progress and stay motivated. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Apr 1

TEEN & ADULT BANNED BOOK CLUB

6:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Read, discuss, and celebrate stories that have sparked controversy and inspired change. This month's title is *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky. Registration is required. Space is limited. Ages 16 and up are welcome.

Apr 3

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: BUSINESS INSURANCE FOR DUMMIES

6:30–8pm | [Virtual](#)

Review basic pitfalls that small businesses may encounter, and how small business insurance can work for you. Our presenter is Bill Springer, principal of the Conrad Insurance Agency. Our Spring Small Business Savvy series is for those who want to start or own a small business. Presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Join these classes on Zoom to help establish and improve your business skills and services.

Apr 6

EXPLORING THE POETRY OF MURIEL RUKEYSER AND ASKING, “AM I USING ALL MY FEARS”

10–11:30am | [Virtual](#)

Join YpsiWrites, retired EMU Professor Elisabeth Däumer, and poet and clinical social worker David Boeving in an exploration of the poetry of Muriel Rukeyser. A question she often asked herself was, “Am I using all my fears?” We'll explore how we might creatively use poetry to explore and give voice to our fears.



Apr 11

YPSIWITES WRITER SPOTLIGHT SESSION: WRITERS OF YPSILANTI

6pm | [Virtual](#)

Join us for this spotlight session featuring past and present Writers of Ypsilanti. Hear about projects they're working on and ask them about their writing process and what it's meant to them to be a Writer of Ypsilanti. YpsiWrites will also announce their theme and open nominations for the 2024–25 Writers of Ypsilanti.

Fridays, Apr 12–May 24

CHAIR YOGA (For all levels)

10:30am | [YDL-Superior](#)

We'll use slow, mindful movements to support brain health, muscle strength, balance, and flexibility. This class is done both seated and standing alongside the chair.

Apr 17

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: SBA 101 AND YDL DATABASES

6:30–8pm | [Virtual](#)

Brandon Adolph from the Michigan District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration will talk about the programs and resources that the SBA offers. After the presentation, we'll look at some YDL databases that may be useful for your small business needs. Our Spring Small Business Savvy series is for those who want to start or own a small business. Presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Join these classes on Zoom to help establish and improve your business skills and services.

Apr 18

PLANT PROPAGATION HOW-TOS

6–8pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Advanced Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck will discuss how you can easily create (not for resale) new plants from your existing indoor and outdoor plants using basic propagation techniques such as cuttings (leaf, stem, root), layering, and dividing perennials.

Apr 18

YPSIWITES WRITER SPOTLIGHT SESSION: POETRY OPEN MIC NIGHT AT CORNER BREWERY

7–9pm | [Corner Brewery](#)

Celebrate National Poetry Month by sharing your work at an open mic night at Corner Brewery. Share your work in whatever stage it is currently in with supportive members of the YpsiWrites community. All are welcome to come, read, listen, and encourage the poets.

Apr 20

CHECK IT OUT: GARDENING EDITION!

2–4pm | [Ypsilanti Farmers Marketplace](#)

Join us at Growing Hope's Earth Day Festival! The library will show off gardening-related Library of Things tools that you can check out! We will also give away seeds from YDL's Seed Library while supplies last. Plus, you can also make crafts and tour the Michigan Avenue garden space with library gardener Stephanie. Questions? Contact smorrison@ypsilibrary.org.

Apr 20

INTRO TO NEEDLE FELTING: SPRINGTIME TOADSTOOLS

3–4:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Gain a basic understanding of needle felting by making colorful needle-felted toadstools just in time for spring decorating. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Apr 27

SHRINE POETICS: THE MONUMENTS OF YPSILANTI

10–11:30am | [Virtual](#)

In her poem *Grand Army Plaza* June Jordan asks, “Why would anybody build a monument to civil war?”, referring to the Sailor's and Soldier's Arch in Brooklyn, New York. Published poet and EMU creative writing graduate Addy Malinowski will lead an exploration on the monuments—public, personal, and imagined—of Ypsilanti.

Apr 27

FREEDOM?? WHOSE FREEDOM? A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

1–4pm | [Virtual](#)

Join La'Ron Williams, Yodit Mesfin-Johnson, and others in a conversation tracing the threads of belief connecting slavery, eugenics, book-banning, and voting rights with the threat of autocracy in the US. How can we safeguard the ideals of democracy?

Apr 29

WARRIOR LAWYERS: DEFENDERS OF SACRED JUSTICE: DOCUMENTARY FILM VIEWING

6:30–8:00pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join us for a community screening and Q&A session with the director of this documentary in support of the 2023–24 Great Michigan Read, *Fire Keeper's Daughter*, by Angeline Boulley. The 2023–24 Great Michigan Read is presented by Michigan Humanities and supported by national, statewide, and local partners, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Meijer Foundation, Library of Michigan, Image Creative Group, BiblioBoard, and Michigan Radio Reads.

May 1
SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: ART MARKETING
6:30–8pm | Virtual
Learn about the world of art marketing before outdoor art fair season. Our Spring Small Business Savvy series is for those who want to start or own a small business. Presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Join these virtual classes on Zoom to help establish and improve your business skills and services.

Thursdays, May 2–30
LNGO FITNESS WITH GERALDINE POWELL
12pm | Virtual
This is a general gentle fitness class that covers overall body health and well being. It will demonstrate multiple styles of exercises (dance, aerobic, etc.) with different types of modifications. Designed for ages 55 & up, but open to all adults who would enjoy a gentler workout. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

May 2
WILLS, TRUSTS, AND ESTATE PLANNING
6:30–8pm | YDL-Whittaker
Estate planning attorney Viginia Cardwell will explore available tools including wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and other methods to plan for property to pass outside of probate.

May 6
JAMS AND JELLIES WITH MSU EXTENSION
6:30–8pm | YDL-Superior
Learn about canning and freezing jams and jellies. Find out how you can play with flavors during a demonstration from MSU-Extension. Don't own canning equipment? No problem! Use your library card to check out the home canning kit from YDL's Library of Things.



May 11
JOURNALING AND MEDITATION WORKSHOP
11am–12:30pm | Virtual
Join poet and clinical social worker David Boeving in meditation and journaling exercises and learn to explore and expand feelings and thoughts by writing with open hearts and minds.

May 12
SAFELY TALK ABOUT RACE & RACISM - RACE: THE POWER OF AN ILLUSION
2–4:45pm | YDL-Whittaker
A hybrid event, we will review “The House We Live In” which focuses on the ways our institutions and policies advantage some groups at the expense of others. Local storyteller and peace activist La’Ron Williams will lead discussion.

May 15
SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: AI ROUNDTABLE
6:30–8pm | Virtual
We hosted a presentation from the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office on AI marketing for small businesses, and now we'd like to pool the collective minds of those who attended and others who may be interested in sharing what they know. Our Spring Small Business Savvy series is for those who want to start or own a small business. Presented in partnership with the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Join these virtual classes on Zoom to help establish and improve your business skills and services.

May 16–19
FRIENDS OF YDL BOOK SALE
YDL-Whittaker
Book sale prices are \$1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversize paperbacks. On May 19 there will be bags of books available for \$5, and some books will be sold for a reduced price.
May 16: 6–8pm (members-only sale)
May 17: 11am–5pm
May 18: 11am–3pm
May 19: 1–4pm

May 19
NATIVE PLANT SWAP
1–2:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Everyone is welcome to this potluck-style event with staff from the Washtenaw County Water Resources Office. Exchange plants, learn about native plants, practice your identification skills, and socialize with native plant enthusiasts. If you would like to help weed and/or install leftover plants (starting at 2:15 pm) along the edges of the library's detention basin and/or pollinator garden, please bring gloves and a trowel.

May 19
THE PERENNIAL WORK OF A PERENNIAL GARDEN: MAINTENANCE!
2–4pm | YDL-Whittaker
Learn about maintenance tasks to keep your perennial garden looking good! Advanced Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck will discuss watering, fertilizing, mulching, staking, pruning, weeding, and dividing.

May 22
YPSILANTI-AREA AUTHOR READING
6:30–8pm | YDL-Whittaker
Local authors Patrick Flores-Scott, Caroline Huntoon, and Toni Pressley-Sanon will read excerpts from their new books, followed by a Q&A session about writing and publishing.

Jun 1
BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY
11am | YDL-Whittaker
Learn about bird photography with photographer Ryan Henyard. Capture the beauty of the flying feathered friends you've been tracking during Black Birders Week.

Jun 1
RARE BIRDS FLOCKING TOGETHER AT NORTH BAY PARK: A BLACK BIRDERS WEEK MEETUP
12:30–2pm | YDL-Whittaker
We're wrapping up Black Birders Week with a walk in North Bay Park. This fun and informative walk will be led by Victor Chen of the Washtenaw Audubon Society. We will meet at 12:30 at the North Bay Park entrance.

Adult Meetups

Mondays, Mar 4–May 27
MAHJONG MEETUP
1–3pm | YDL-Whittaker
American and Chinese-style sets will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. While you're at it, bring a friend or two! All levels of experience welcome.

Tuesdays, Mar 5–Apr 23 & May 14–28
ESL COMMUNITY TUTORING
1–2:30pm | YDL-Superior
Practice English language skills in an informal, relaxed setting with Washtenaw Literacy. Free and open to the public. All levels of English welcome. Please arrive 5 minutes before the start time.

Tuesdays, Mar 5–May 28
KNITTING PLUS
6:00–8:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Meet with other yarnies and share your projects and ideas every Tuesday. Open to all, any handcraft welcome!

Tuesdays, Mar 5–May 28
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!

Mar 5; Apr 2; May 7
GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY BUNCH
7pm | YDL-Whittaker
Share stories, research techniques, deal with old photos, or just hang out with people who have an interest in genealogy. We'll meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm to gauge interest.

Wednesdays, Mar 6–May 29
MOVING FOR BETTER BALANCE WITH THE ANN ARBOR YMCA
10am | YDL-Whittaker
Come to this FREE falls-prevention program from the Ann Arbor YMCA that uses the principles and movements of Tai Chi to help older adults improve their strength and balance and increase their confidence.

Wednesdays, Mar 6–May 29
SLOW FLOW YOGA WITH THE ANN ARBOR YMCA
5:45pm | YDL-Whittaker
Come to this FREE slow flow yoga class from the Ann Arbor YMCA that provides asanas (postures) for a relaxing yet challenging yoga experience. For those already familiar with basic yoga postures. Bring your own yoga mat if you have one; if not the YMCA will provide one while supplies last.

Wednesdays, Mar 6–May 29
VINYASA YOGA WITH THE ANN ARBOR YMCA
7pm | YDL-Whittaker
Come to this FREE Vinyasa Yoga class from the Ann Arbor YMCA for rhythmic, flowing, and dynamic yoga practice. Bring your own yoga mat if you have one; if not the YMCA will provide one while supplies last.

Mar 9 & 23; Apr 6 & 20; May 4
YDL GUITAR CLUB
10am–12pm | YDL-Whittaker
Bring your acoustic or electric guitar, pick a favorite simple song you want to share, and practice some tunes together in our long-running YDL Guitar Club. Other stringed instruments are welcome, and singing is encouraged, but our emphasis is on the guitar. Contact YDL Librarian Aaron Smith at asmith@ypsilibrary.org or 734-482-4110 x1335 for more information.

Mar 11; Apr 8; May 13
DOWNTOWN QUEER CRAFTING GROUP (Ages 18+)
6–8pm | Riverside Arts Center
Join us for a drop-in, bring-your-own-materials crafting group at the Riverside Arts Center. Folks of the LGBTQIA+ community are invited to bring projects to work on and build a creative community. Questions? Contact YDL Librarian Aaron Smith at asmith@ypsilibrary.org or 734-482-4110 x1335.



Mar 12 & May 14
SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB
7pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join us every other month for this adult discussion group for fans of science fiction books.
Mar 12: *A Fire Upon the Deep* by Vernor Vinge
May 14: *The Long Way to a Small Angry Planet* by Becky Chambers
Copies of the book are available at the Whittaker Road branch one month before the discussion date. Questions? Contact Marianne at vandenbergen@ypsilibrary.org.

Mar 16; Apr 20; May 18
WASHTENAW AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY (WAAGS)
10:30am–12:30pm | Virtual
Obtain tools and learn facts that will help unlock hidden treasures that are not only compelling but vital to successfully navigate the complex resources of African American ancestry. All skill levels are welcome and encouraged. Contact Joy Cichewicz at joy@ypsilibrary.org.

Mar 16; Apr 20; May 18
INTERGENERATIONAL CHESS: TEENS & SENIORS
2–4pm | Ypsilanti Senior Center
A friendly chess meetup. Teens from Mentor 2 Youth—and 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.

Mar 21; Apr 18; May 16
SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD (Ages 55+)
1pm | YDL-Whittaker
Seniors: Join us each month as we work to represent and give voice to the needs of older adults at the library.

Mar 21; Apr 18; May 16
YPSILANTI ZINE CLUB
6–8pm | YDL-Whittaker
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!

Mar 21; Apr 18; May 16
ADULT QUEER BOOK GROUP
6:30–8pm | YDL-Whittaker
The Adult Queer Book Group reads and discusses literature written by queer-identifying writers with diverse backgrounds. Books are available for pickup one month in advance of the group meeting.
Mar 21: *Burn the Page* by Danica Roem
Apr 18: *Manhunt* by Gretchen Felker-Martin (s, sv)
May 16: *Let's Talk About Love* by Claire Kann

Mar 22
SUPERHERO CELEBRATION: CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM (WISD) COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
10am–12pm | YDL-Whittaker
Creative arts workshop with a superhero/graphic novel theme designed for young adults with developmental delays.

Mar 26; Apr 30; May 28
VIRTUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
7–9pm | Virtual
Join us for lively discussions of books by African American authors.
Mar 26: *Heavy* by Kiese Laymon
Apr 30: *Thicker Than Water* by Kerry Washington
May 28: *Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

Apr 26
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE: CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM - COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
10am–12pm | YDL-Whittaker
Creative arts workshop with themed craft stations related to the topic designed for young adults with developmental delays.

May 3 & 17
FRIDAY WALKING CLUB (Ages 55+)
10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Exercise and socialize with a 30-minute walk along a path near the Whittaker branch. Questions? 734-482-4110 x2411.

Teens

Mar 9
BREAKFAST BREADS (Ages 12–18)
4:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Learn to make breakfast breads from scratch and cinnamon twists with puff pastry. Eat what you make!

Mar 15 & Apr 26
TEEN STEAM CAFE - AFTER HOURS TEEN ONLY EVENT
6–8pm | YDL-Superior
Learn about cool STEAM careers while hanging out with friends and eating delicious food at our TEEN ONLY after hours cafes. Dinner, activities, and a gift card raffle will be incorporated. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

Mar 16 & Apr 13
ANIME CLUB (12+)
1–3pm | YDL-Whittaker
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.

Mar 26
SELF PORTRAIT GOUACHE PAINTING (Teens and Adults)
3–5pm | YDL-Superior
Learn how to paint your own portrait with Maredith Byrd, the artist who created the newly-installed piece "Unoccupied" in the YDL-Superior teen area. Learn the basics of proportion, color mixing, paint application, composition, and more! All skill levels are welcome.

Mar 27
TINY KNITTING (Ages 10–18)
3:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Drop in to learn knitting basics and make a small project of your choice: a ring, chapstick holder for a keychain, or mug cozy. All supplies provided. If you don't finish in the hour, take home what you need to continue working.

Mar 29
DOG TOY SERVICE PROJECT (Ages 10–18)
3:30 pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join us in making upcycled dog toys out of old t-shirts for the Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue. Help animals, earn volunteer hours! We'll provide a letter of volunteer documentation at the event.

May 13

SEW SOCIAL: A CRAFTING CLUB

7pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Bring your latest project and meet with crafters that share an enjoyment of needlework! Whether you cross-stitch or embroider, get inspired, share project ideas, seek advice, and work on your projects with fellow crafters. All skill levels are welcome!

May 18

GARDEN SERVICE PROJECT

(Ages 10–18)

2–4pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Help us plant the garden, move soil and mulch to rebuild the rain garden, and earn service hours. We'll provide a letter of documentation at the event. Drop in, meet friends, and help your community!

May 18

HIP HOP WORKSHOP WITH ROD WALLACE AND NATE WHITSETT

(10+)

2–4pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Participants will learn about how music and words intersect to increase creativity and personal expression. Then you'll have the opportunity to create your own hip-hop bars. Ages 10 and up are welcome.

Teen Meetups

Mar 2; Apr 6; May 4

SUPERIOR TAG - TEEN ADVISORY GROUP

2–3:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

A collaborative teen leadership meet-up: activities might include event planning or facilitating, library promotion, graphic design, or work with our library collections. Volunteer hours available. Want to join TAG? Apply at ypsilibrary.org/tag.

Mar 4 & 18; Apr 1, 15, & 29; May 13

THE ADVENTURING PARTY! AFTER-SCHOOL TTRPG CLUB

(10+)

4:30–6pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Welcome 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!

Mar 5 & 19; Apr 2 & 16; May 7 & 21

TEEN GREAT STORIES BOOK CLUB - DEEPER THAN OUR SKINS & FINDING YOUR INNER VOICE

4:30pm | [SPARK East Innovation Center](#)

Join YDL & Ozone House for a fun-filled book club featuring friends, snacks, free books that you get to keep, and a gift card raffle at each session!

Wednesdays, Mar 6–May 22

RAISING ROYALTY CHESS & LIFE LESSONS WITH MENTOR2YOUTH

(Grades 7–12)

6:30–8:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Learn about life through the game of chess with Darryl Johnson from Mentor2Youth. For students in Grades 7–12. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays: The Art of Chess - learn the skills and practice your moves while competing for prizes. 4th Wednesdays: Chess as life - Learn to thrive while playing the game of life. **No meetings 2nd Wednesdays of the month.**

Mar 9 & 23; Apr 13 & 27; May 11 & 25

NATURAL 20! - TEEN ONLY D&D WITH DM KC DIXON

10:30am–12:30pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

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

Mar 12 & 26; Apr 9 & 23; May 14 & 28

WHITTAKER TAG - TEEN ADVISORY GROUP

4:30pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Plan and lead library programs, design new services and spaces, look for funding opportunities and write grants, earn service hours, and meet new friends! Teens in grades 8–12 can apply at ypsilibrary.org/tag.

Kids & Parents

Mar 4 & 18

DRAW WITH KAM

(Ages 7–14)

5pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Want to learn the fundamentals of cartooning and comic book/manga drawing? Local comic book artist Kamron Reynolds will teach you.

Thursdays, Mar 7–May 30

KIDS LEARN PROGRAMMING

6–7:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Get a better understanding of the technology you use every day! Kids ages 8–13 are paired with a volunteer mentor to learn about computer programming, doing more advanced activities each week. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.



Mar 9

LITTLE MONARCHS NATURE JOURNALS - FAMILY READ KICKOFF

2–4pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

At our kickoff for this year's Family Read, make a nature journal and hone your observation, drawing, and writing skills to fill it. Take a mindful hike with Washtenaw County Parks, draw with Doodles Academy, and write with YpsiWrites. As you fill your journal this spring, share your drawings and writing with us. Each time we'll enter you in a drawing to win a Little Monarchs Adventure Satchel. Stop by a Youth Desk or email photos to jodi@ypsilibrary.org.

Mar 13

FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: MELT AND POUR SOAP

6:30–8pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join us in the exploration of the science of temperature, melting points, and heat while creating soap bars. Create your own soap bars to take home using colorings, scents, and molds.

Mar 14 & 28; Apr 11 & 25; May 9 & 23

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. Registration required. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org.

Mar 16

STEMFEST - UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHT

2–4pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Only for the curious! Do hands-on activities with researchers from University of Michigan's Museum of Natural History's Science Communication Fellowship program, which brings scientists and the public face-to-face.

Mar 21; Apr 18; May 16

READ TO HUGO

4:30–5:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Reading to a Therapaws dog helps children build confidence and become better readers. Sign up for a 10-minute slot when you get to the library to read to Hugo the Library Dog.

Mar 23

ECLIPSE STEM STATIONS

2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Representatives from NASA's eclipse ambassador program will be leading activities to educate young people about the cosmos, including the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8.

Mar 30

HIP HOP DANCE STORYTIME CHILDREN AND ADULTS

(Ages 4+)

11am | [YDL-Superior](#)

Listen to books about dance and then practice your dance moves.

Mar 30

WATER FILTERS - YPSI FAMILY READS

2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join students from UM's Graham Sustainability Institute to learn about the water cycle and water quality, and make a water filter to take home.

Mar 30

ECLIPSE AMBASSADORS WITH UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

3pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

See Mar. 23 description.

Apr 6

NATURE IDENTIFICATION & PRINTS - YPSI FAMILY READ

(Ages 6+)

11am–12:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Go on a nature walk around the library to gather and identify leaves and plants. Inside, we'll turn our leaves and plant materials into nature prints to take home.

Apr 8

ECLIPSE VIEWING PARTY

2:30–3:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#) & [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Gather at the Superior OR Whittaker branch to watch the 2024 Solar Eclipse. Eclipse viewing glasses will be available for participants to use during this event.

Apr 10

FAMILY MAKER NIGHT: SHORTBREAD COOKIES

6:30–8pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Explore the science of baking by making shortbread cookies with different herbs, spices, and fruits. Spend the evening baking and tasting exciting new treats!

Apr 13

CHESS CLUB TOURNAMENT

10am–4pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join Jenny Skidmore-Smith and the YDL Chess Club for an unrated tournament, with 5 rounds. G/20 time control. Snacks and ice cream provided.

Apr 13

WAYFINDING FOR KIDS - YPSI FAMILY READS

(Ages 8+)

3pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Learn to navigate with a compass, then use it to complete a directional scavenger hunt. Participants can keep their compass after the event (one per family).



Apr 20

EARTH DAY - FAMILY READ WRAP UP

2–4pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Help us wrap up the Family Read! Learn about greenhouse gases and how to address global warming with the Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition. Take home a pollinator-friendly native plant.

Apr 27

JOE REILLY CONCERT SPONSORED BY TOYOTA

2–4:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Do you love music and nature? So does Joe Reilly! Joe will share songs from his latest album, "Seeds," featuring songs about soil, decomposition, and compost. After the concert, participate in hands-on exploration activities with soil, compost, and worms. Learn more about Joe at joereilly.org.



May 4

FUN OF FLIGHT

(Ages 6+)

2pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Learn about flight in an interactive workshop with the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum. You'll learn about the engineering process as you create a paper rocket and chart how far it flies. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

May 8

BLACK MEN READ BOOK PARTY

6pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Join members of BMR for stories from the African diaspora and a hands-on art activity at this family Book Party. Black Men Read Book Parties have been a staple of Washtenaw County since 2016. Visit bmrkids.org or follow [@BMRKIDSClub](#) on social media for more information. This event will be held in person and on Zoom. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events to receive the Zoom link.

May 11

MOTHER'S DAY CARDS & CRAFTS

12–2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Celebrate Mother's Day by visiting the library and creating a craft and/or writing a Mother's Day card.

May 11

CELEBRATE ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE

1pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Join us on an adventure to the South Pacific as we honor Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month with this immersive workshop. Families will have the opportunity to engage in activities that explore the culture, traditions, and beauty of fa'asamoa, the Samoan Way.

May 11

BOARD GAMES

3:30–5:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Join our building monitors for an afternoon of fun, games, and snacks.

May 18 & 25

GARDEN PLANTING

May 18: 2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

May 25: 2pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Join us to plant the Learning Garden. These plants will be used in our summer cooking programs.

Kids & Parents Meetups

Saturdays, Mar 2–Apr 27

DROP-IN WRITING FOR WEE-BOTS

(Ages 5–8)

12–1pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Hear a book and get inspired with 826michigan! Students will experience the joy of story-creating however they are able, from writing to conversation-based brainstorming and development of new ideas. **(No class on 3/23 or 3/30).**

Mondays, Mar 4–Apr 22

AFTER-SCHOOL WRITING LAB WITH 826MICHIGAN

5:30pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Students in 3rd–5th grade: get creative and stretch your writing muscles with this weekly, small-group writing program. Young writers and trained 826michigan volunteers will work together to cultivate joy and confidence around writing.

Tuesdays, Mar 5–May 7

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB

(Grades 2–5)

5pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

This after-school reading club is for fans of graphic novels. Listen to the book read aloud, then discuss it while making art. **(No class 3/26 or 4/2).**

Wednesdays, Mar 6–Apr 10

KIDS CHESS CLUB WITH JENNY SKIDMORE SMITH

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. **(No class 3/27).**

Thursdays, Mar 7–Apr 4

AFTER SCHOOL STEM—CODING

5pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Kids and families will practice computational skills like pattern recognition and algorithm design with board games, toys, and online programs in this introduction to basic coding skills.

Mar 7; Apr 4; May 2

TWEEN BOOK CLUB

(Grades 6–8)

6:30pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book and enjoy a snack. Registration required. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org
Mar 7: *Daughter of the Deep* by Rick Riordan
Apr 4: *Little Monarchs* by Jonathan Case
May 2: *Maya and the Rising Dark* by Rena Barron

Thursdays, Mar 7–May 2

LOVE OF LEARNING CLUB

(Ages 6–9)

1pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Connect with other families while engaging in themed activities each week inspired by a nonfiction or picture book. **(No class 3/27).**

Mar 20; Apr 17; May 15

KIDS BOOK CLUB

(Grades 3–5)

6:30pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book and a snack. Registration required. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org.
Mar 20: *Doodleville: Art Attacks!* by Chad Sell
Apr 17: *Houdini and Me* by Dan Gutman
May 15: *The Terrible Two* by Mac Barnett

Mar 25–29

SPRING STEAM - FAMILY READ
12pm | YDL-Whittaker
Drop in over Spring Break for hands-on activities related to this year's Family Read, *Little Monarchs*.
Mar 25: Knot Tying: Practice tying knots, then use those skills to make survival bracelets.
Mar 26: Constellations: Make constellations with pipe cleaners and beads, and learn about how to use the night sky to navigate.
Mar 27: Creative Conservationists: Join Doodles Academy to scientifically draw endangered animal figurines from observation.
Mar 28: Make your own bottle of sun sickness antidote from recycled materials with SCRAP Creative Reuse.
Mar 29: Mini Blackberry Pies: Use the recipe in the book to make a small pie to take home. Part of Project STEM @ YDL sponsored by Toyota.

Mar 25–29

SUPERIOR SPRING BREAK
3–4:30pm | YDL-Superior
Mar 25: Tessellations: Use stencils to create your own mathematical work of art.
Mar 26: Self Portrait Gouache Painting (for teens and adults): Learn the basics of acrylic self portraits with Meredith Byrd.
Mar 27: Play Dino Dig: Immersive play centered around paleontology.
Mar 28: Grossology: Learn about the amazing, gross things your body does!
Mar 29: Galaxy 2 Galaxy Painting: Dream and paint your very own galaxy.

Thursdays, Apr 11–May 2

AFTER SCHOOL STEM-DESIGN CHALLENGE
5pm | YDL-Whittaker
Use different supplies each week to see if you can complete our engineering design challenge.

Stories and Fun for Little Ones

Mar 8

PRESCHOOL FITNESS WITH KIDOKINETICS (Ages 2–5)
11am | YDL-Whittaker
Join Kidokinetics for fun, games, and activities specifically designed for your child's development! Kidokinetics uses cross-body movement to develop your child's gross motor skills and help prepare them for an active future.

Mar 22

AMAZING AIR (Ages 3–6)
11am | YDL-Whittaker
Join Nutty Scientists for a morning of learning and laughter. Hear a story, watch a science show, do hands-on experiments. Learn about air as you take the big bad wolf challenge and make things fly.

May 13

KINDERCONCERT
10am & 11am | YDL-Whittaker
Join the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra for a fun-filled KinderConcert for little ones featuring the French horn. Audience members can dance, move, and sing to live music and stories.

Mar 15 or 16; Apr 5 or 6; May 17 or 18

SENSORY STATIONS (Ages 2–6)
11am | YDL-Whittaker
Explore themed sensory and art stations 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.
Mar 15 & 16 Rainbows: Colorful, exploratory, hands-on art and STEM activities.
Apr 5 & 6 STEM Fair: Preschool STEM stations to help develop your child's curiosity about the way things work through play.
Apr 26 & 27 Puppets: Celebrate National Puppetry day with fun sensory and STEM stations.
May 17 & 18 Nature Play: Enjoy the return of spring with outdoor sensory art and play near the garden.

Weekly storytimes

MONDAYS

Mondays, Mar 11–Apr 29

JUMPSTART KINDERGARTEN (Ages 4–6)
10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Three books are read aloud followed by parachute play and activities that build school readiness skills, from scissor skills to STEM concepts. Designed for listeners ready for longer stories and more independence.

TUESDAYS

Tuesdays, Mar 12–Apr 30

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, Mar 12–Apr 30

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, paired with exploratory learning and play. Parents can chat while kids engage in small and large motor skill play nearby.

Tuesdays, Mar 12–Apr 30

JUMPSTART KINDERGARTEN
1pm | YDL-Whittaker
See Monday description.

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays, Mar 13–May 1

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

Wednesdays, Mar 13–May 1

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

THURSDAYS

Thursdays, Mar 14–May 2

DISCOVERY TIME (Ages 2–4)
10:30am | YDL-Superior
See Tuesday description.

Thursdays, Mar 14–May 2

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

Thursdays, Mar 14–May 2

BEDTIME STORYTIME (All ages)
6–6:45pm | YDL-Whittaker
Build early learning skills and wind down for bedtime with stories, songs, and gentle movement followed by a hands-on project.



SATURDAYS

Mar 2

GERMAN/ENGLISH STORYTIME - WORLD LANGUAGE STORYTIME SERIES
11am | YDL-Whittaker
Children and families immerse themselves in songs, crafts, and stories read in German and English. All are welcome.

Mar 16; Apr 13; May 11

TODDLER TIME (Walkers through age 3)
11am | YDL-Superior
Enjoy toddler appropriate toys and play time with your little one. Take a kit to make your own toddler toy focusing on motor skills, colors, numbers, and letters.

Apr 13

SUPERHERO STORYTIME
11am | YDL-Whittaker
An action-packed storytime celebrating superheros. Enjoy songs and stories, then make a superhero cape.

May 4

ARABIC/ENGLISH STORYTIME - WORLD LANGUAGE STORYTIME SERIES
11am | YDL-Whittaker
Hear stories and sing songs in Arabic and English, then do a craft. All are welcome.

Tech Help (Adults)

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 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.

Mar 2 & May 15, 10:30am

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.

Mar 2, 2pm; Apr 4, 6:30pm; May 1, 10:30am

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

Mar 5, 6:30pm; Apr 27, 10:30am

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 can sign up for a Gmail account at the end of class. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

Mar 6, & Apr 6, 10:30am; May 7, 2pm

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.

Mar 7, 7pm; Apr 2, 2pm

GOOGLE DRIVE - BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to navigate Google Drive's interface. You will learn how to create, store, organize, access, and share your files and folders online. Basic keyboard and mouse skills are required.

Mar 12 & May 2, 6:30pm; Apr 6, 2pm

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.

Mar 13 & Apr 20, 10:30am; May 14, 2pm

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.

Mar 14, 7pm; Apr 24, 2pm

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.

Mar 16 & May 29, 10:30am

HOW TO HOST A ZOOM MEETING
Virtual
Join us to learn the basics of hosting a Zoom meeting from start to finish.

Mar 16, 2pm; Apr 11, 6:30pm; May 8, 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.

Mar 19, 2pm; Apr 10 & May 11, 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.

Mar 19 & May 9, 6:30pm; Apr 20, 2pm

MICROSOFT EXCEL – INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
In this intermediate class, learn to apply functions, filter data, create charts, and print worksheets. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required.

Mar 20, 10:30am; Apr 16, 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.

Mar 21, 6:30pm; May 25, 2pm

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

Mar 26, 2pm; Apr 17 & May 25, 10:30am

GOOGLE SHEETS TIPS & TRICKS
Virtual
Explore more advanced features of Google Sheets like 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.

Mar 26 & May 16, 6:30pm; Apr 27, 2pm

MICROSOFT EXCEL – PIVOT TABLES (INTERMEDIATE)
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to perform simple data analysis using Excel's PivotTable feature. Participants should have basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills and an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.

Mar 27, 10:30am; Apr 23, 7pm

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.

Mar 28, 6:30pm; May 11, 2pm

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

Mar 30, 10:30am; Apr 9, 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.

Mar 30, 2pm; Apr 18 & May 28, 6:30pm

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

Have you listened to the latest episode of Ypsi Stories? Episode 22 discusses the new Ypsi Food Growers Oral History Project, with interviews of the participants. Keep an eye out for Episode 23, which covers President Roosevelt's secret 1942 trip to the Willow Run Bomber plant. You can hear all of the podcast episodes at ypsilibrary.org/ypsistories.

CULTIVATING LIFELONG LOVE OF READING

March is National Reading Month, and Lincoln Consolidated Schools has tips for igniting a love of reading in young ones.

FAMILY READING TIME

Set aside a specific time each day for family reading. Encourage each family member to pick a book of their choice.

VISIT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Plan a library day where children can explore, attend storytelling sessions, and even get their own library card.

THEMED BOOK WEEKS

Each week of March, pick a theme of reading to try—be it adventure, science fiction, fairy tales, or history.

STORYTELLING SESSIONS

Bring stories to life with an interactive performance! Use different voices for characters, and perhaps even some costumes.

CREATE A READING NOOK

Designate a cozy corner of the house as a reading nook. Fill it with comfortable cushions, good lighting, and easy access to books.



BOOK CLUB FOR KIDS

Start a mini book club! Once a week, children can discuss a book they've read with their friends or family.

INTERACTIVE READING APPS

Incorporate technology by exploring educational reading apps. You can access YDL's Tumblebooks subscription with your library card.

WRITE A STORY TOGETHER

Encourage creativity by writing a story with your child or grandchild.

READING REWARDS

Create a reading challenge with small rewards for completing a book or reading for a certain number of hours.

PARTNER WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

Collaborate with your child's school to support their reading initiatives. Participate in school-sponsored reading events, volunteer in literacy programs, or contribute to classroom libraries.

ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK INITIATIVE

An innovative program where every student gets a book to read at home with their family. The program enhances reading skills, involves parents, strengthens the connection between home and school, and fosters a community of readers.

SCHOOL LITERACY NIGHTS

Family Reading Night is a key event for discussing a child's literacy progress and sharing reading techniques with families.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS

These fairs are hosted several times a year and offer a wide selection of books and support the enrichment of classroom and school libraries.

Important School Dates:

- 3/8: Students K-5 1/2 Day (LCS)
- 3/14: Students K-5 1/2 Day; Parent-Teacher Conferences (LCS)
- 3/15: 1/2 Day (YCS)
- 3/20-3/21: 1/2 Day; Parent-Teacher Conferences (YCS)
- 3/23-3/31: Spring Break, No School (Both)
- 4/1: No School (YCS)
- 4/1: Classes Resume (LCS)
- 4/2: Classes Resume (YCS)
- 4/10-4/11: PSAT/SAT Test Days; K-12 report full days (LCS)
- 4/19: 1/2 Day (YCS)
- 5/24: 1/2 Day (Both)
- 5/27: Memorial Day - No School (Both)
- 6/6: 1/2 Day (YCS); Grades 6-12: Exams + 1/2 Day (LCS)
- 6/7: 1/2 Day (YCS); Grades K-11 1/2 Day (LCS)
- 6/7: Last Day of School (Both)

BOOK GIVEAWAYS; STUDENT OUTINGS HIGHLIGHT YCS LEAP IMPACT

With the help of an important grant, Ypsilanti Community Schools has been providing unique experiences and literacy boosts for students over the last 3 years.

A 2021 Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) grant (worth \$3.7M over 5 years), combined with the US Department of Education's Literacy Excellence Accelerates Performance (LEAP) program, allowed YCS to focus on improving literacy through a combination of targeted instruction, ongoing assessment, and individualized support.

With 2 years remaining in the grant, YCS has been offering book giveaways, class outings, and other initiatives to improve literacy skills for children and young adults, especially those from low-income families.

"The Book Giveaway program has had a profound impact on our students," said YCS Assistant Superintendent Dr. Carlos Lopez. "By being able to see people who look like them in these books, our students feel a sense of representation and belonging."

This has included books for all ages, like *Black Is a Rainbow Color* by Angela Joy, *New Kid* by Jerry



Craft, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, and classics like *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou.

School officials said they've seen an increase in students who are asking for new books to read—especially among high schoolers.

The LEAP program has also funded student excursions, allowing students to explore the world outside the classroom and connect what they learn in school with real-life experiences. This has included trips to the Charles Wright African American Museum in Detroit, the Detroit Institute of Art, the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, Growing Hope, visits to YDL buildings, and more.

PROJECT STEM@YDL RECEIVES SECOND YEAR OF FUNDING



Thanks to the success of our first year of enhanced STEM programming at YDL, Toyota Motors North America has generously extended their funding of STEM activities and equipment at YDL for 2024-25!

As part of Toyota's Driving Possibilities initiative, this year's grant of \$30,000 will bring even more new STEM tools and activities to children, teens, and families in Ypsilanti through YDL programming.

The goal of Toyota's initiative is to close educational gaps for all students through innovative, hands-on STEM programming. Through partnerships with YDL, Ypsilanti Community Schools, Lincoln Consolidated Schools, and WISD, our partnership will continue to build STEM awareness, excitement, and interest in careers in STEM-related fields while addressing the essential needs and barriers to success for our students and families.

SPRING? THAT'S WRITE

Spring is a time of rebirth, new beginnings, warmer weather, plants, and usually a fair amount of mud. It's also a great time for grabbing a notebook and a pencil, going outside, and writing!

YDL partners with 826michigan—a nonprofit writing lab for K–12 students—for After-School Writing Labs and Drop-in Writing for Wee-bots each week. In the After-School Writing Labs, students ages 8–14 work in small groups with peers and adult volunteers to brainstorm, write, revise, share, and publish original writing. At Drop-in Writing for Wee-bots, students ages

5–8 play and explore what writing can do. With stories that spark creativity and games that inspire, Wee-bots work in small groups—and with trusted volunteers—to bring their imaginations to life. For more information, please visit: 826michigan.org/programs or check out the calendar listings on Page 6.

Writing prompts are also a quick, easy way to spark creativity, and while you can certainly do them alone, they're great for engaging with friends and family. Try the exercises below, solo or with companions, and if you come up with something fantastic, share it with others!

Writing Advice From Young Writers

You have to feel the character to write a good story about him.
-Yukttha

To not be afraid to share your work
-Harper

Get involved in the story when you write it
-Yukttha

You should add more adjectives

Write your ideas down. You can always edit!!!

It's okay if you don't feel like writing, try to find yourself before you write.



Writing Prompts

1. Make a list of every sign of spring you can think of. Then, write a poem about spring, but don't use any of the words on your list.
2. Write an article called "The Year There Was No Spring."
3. April Fools' Day happens in the spring—make a humorous list of outrageous and impossible pranks.
4. What if "Spring Fever" was an actual illness? Write a list of symptoms, then create a treatment plan.
5. You come upon a large muddy puddle on your walk home from school. You jump into it, and instead of hitting the ground, you travel through a portal! Where do you end up? Describe the setting of the world inside the puddle with as many details as you can think of.
6. You've been put in charge of planning a spring picnic for your class! Plan the afternoon. Where will it take place? What's on the menu? What games and activities will there be?



MOVING YPSI STUDENTS FORWARD

To help prepare students and adults for career success, Washtenaw Community College has created the Advance Ypsi Program.

That's thanks to a \$2.09 million grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. The grant goes towards jobs and education initiatives that boost the quality of life and outcomes for underrepresented populations in Ypsilanti.

"We see Advance Ypsi as an opportunity to not only offer educational pathways for Ypsilanti residents, but an opportunity to transform the generational trajectory for families," said Dr. Stephanie L. Krah, Acting Chief Community Development Officer/Executive Director of College Access and Success at WCC.



Advance Ypsi will serve a minimum of 300 high school students and adults from Ypsilanti over three years, training and preparing them for careers in IT, Advance Manufacturing, and Mobility with an earning potential of at least \$40,000/year. This can generate more than \$12 million annually, all earned by residents from areas where 50% of households live below the poverty level and the post-secondary educational rate is 20%, according to the most recent US Census.



Find representatives of Advance Ypsi at an informational table in the Lobby of YDL's Whittaker branch on March 13 from 4–7pm and March 19 & 23 from 1–4pm.

If you have questions or would like to register for an information session, visit wccnet.edu/advanceypsi OR email advanceypsi@wccnet.edu.

RECOVERY: IT IS POSSIBLE!

The Washtenaw County Health Department is featuring stories of recovery as a powerful part of their “It Is Possible” substance abuse campaign.

Community members share stories of recovery and information about harm reduction as part of this comprehensive substance use treatment program. Below, Chris tells his story in his own words:



“I’m a person in long-term recovery. For me, recovery has allowed me to become the father I always wanted to be, a college graduate, recovery-coach, and unlocked doors I would have never expected. My substance use started from high school, just drinking at house parties but spiraled into a way to cope once my mother passed. I felt anxious, alone and confused about life. Substances became the way I coped with my feelings inside and the outside world. It wasn’t until recovery that I was

able to actually grieve and understand how to handle how I reacted to things. I found a support system, meetings that worked for me, and formed amazing relationships with my family. Substance use doesn’t start by wanting to become an addict; it transforms into a necessity to live. It plugs any hole that may be missing in your life. Recovery allowed me to fill that gap and bridge myself into the man I am today, a proud one.”

Substance use treatment support is available seven days a week and 24 hours a day to Washtenaw County community members at 734-544-3050. Calls are answered by licensed mental health and substance use professionals who can share information about how to help loved ones and how to navigate the county’s substance use treatment system.

For substance use disorder emergencies—such as an overdose or imminent danger—call 911 for immediate help. See more recovery stories and campaign materials at Washtenaw.org/ItIsPossible.

Did you know?

Naloxone and fentanyl test strips can save lives! Many community locations have these resources available for free, including the Ypsilanti District Library. Visit Washtenaw.org/1837/Naloxone for a full list.

NALOXONE SAVES LIVES

FIND NALOXONE NEAR YOU:
Washtenaw.org/ItIsPossible
Or call 734-544-3050 for help in Washtenaw County

Support for this initiative was provided by CMHPM and MHSWS through a federal grant from SAMHSA

Mental Health Support

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Washtenaw County has support groups for people who live with a mental health condition as well as family members and friends who support loved ones with mental health conditions. Group leaders have personal experience with a mental health condition and are trained in group facilitation. Below are some of the support groups available:

- Connection Recovery Support Group
 - Young Adults Support Group
- NAMI Faith Group
 - Parents Together Support Group
- Friends and Family Support Group

Visit namiwc.org to learn more and register.

SUMMER WORKS

Applications for this year’s SummerWorks program are due March 24, and some of the participants will be helping at the library!

SummerWorks is a summer youth employment program designed to provide career opportunities and mentorship to young adults ages 16–24 who live or attend school in Washtenaw County. Participants attend weekly sessions to improve job skills, are matched with adult mentors who answer questions and provide career advice, and can interview for summer internships.

“SummerWorks has allowed me to become the person that I want to be and have the opportunity to grow,” said Asma Gundy, a 2021 participant.

There are a variety of opportunities available, and this year, some participants will help at YDL during our Lunch, Listen, and Learn programs. Aside from building career connections and getting advice about developing your professional portfolio, the program can just be generally fulfilling.

“I joined SummerWorks without having much experience or expectations, but I think I’ve come out a better professional,” one 2021 participant said. “It’s definitely something that I would recommend to anyone looking for a rewarding learning experience.”



The program lasts from April to August, and interested parties can learn more and apply at www.summerworks.info. It’s put on in partnership with the Washtenaw County Office of Community & Economic Development, University of Michigan, Michigan Works! Southeast, the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity, and Michigan Rehabilitation Services.



MORE FROM MICHIGAN WORKS!

Although Michigan Works! Southeast relocated to Ann Arbor in the summer of 2023, they are maintaining their connections in Ypsilanti.

In addition to a variety of area faith groups and community centers, they have a table at YDL’s Whittaker Road branch from 11am–1pm on the second Wednesday of each month. You can visit with a representative who can answer your questions and provide information and assistance on job leads, employment, job fairs, and career guidance.

“ SummerWorks has allowed me to become the person that I want to be and have the opportunity to grow. ”
—Asma Gundy

THE 211 ON FOOD ASSISTANCE

Access to nutritious food is fundamental for our overall health and well-being. For individuals and families facing financial difficulties or experiencing food insecurity, food assistance can be essential.

“These programs are crucial in promoting food justice and reducing hunger and malnutrition by providing life-saving food assistance to vulnerable populations,” said Growing Hope Executive Director Julius Buzzard.

Navigating the process of finding help can be intimidating, but there are a number of food assistance resources available to Washtenaw County residents.

SNAP

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) is a federally funded program that provides financial assistance for food purchases to eligible low-income individuals and families.

To apply in Washtenaw County: Call 734-481-2000 or visit michigan.gov/mdhhs. You can also visit the Washtenaw branch of MDHHS in person at 22 Center Street in Ypsilanti.

How it works: Michigan residents receive SNAP benefits on a Bridge Card, which is an EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) card that looks and works much like a debit or credit card. With the card, you’re automatically eligible for Double Up Food Bucks—a program that matches your fruit and vegetable purchases dollar for dollar, up to \$20 a day.

WIC

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) is a nutrition program for pregnant women, new mothers, and young children that provides healthy food, nutrition education, and support.

To apply in Washtenaw County: Call 734-544-6800 or visit michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/wic.

PRESCRIPTION FOR HEALTH PROGRAM

Washtenaw County residents can also access the county Health Department's Prescription for Health Program, which connects residents to local farmers markets through their clinicians. Clinicians identify possible participants during regular patient visits and write "prescriptions" for them to eat more fruits and vegetables. Patients can redeem their prescriptions, worth \$100, at a local farmers market, where program staff provide individual nutrition education and support.



FEDUP

FedUp serves healthy food truck style food to communities that are experiencing food insecurity. FedUp serves four free meals a week at locations across the county, including the Ypsilanti Freighthouse, Growing Hope Farmers Marketplace, and the Ypsilanti Transit Center. Visit fedupministries.org for the most up-to-date information about meal times and locations.

WHERE TO USE YOUR BENEFITS

In addition to many local grocery stores, Ypsilanti Farmers Markets and the Ypsi Area Online Market accept EBT/P-EBT cards, Double Up Food Bucks, and Prescription for Health benefits. In fact, nearly 20% of sales at the Ypsilanti Farmers Market are food assistance sales. The Ypsilanti Farmers Markets in Depot Town and Downtown also accept WIC Project FRESH (an extension of WIC benefits) and Senior Market FRESH.

If you need additional help, the 211 Helpline is available 24/7 to help you access food, housing, bill assistance, and more. Just dial 2-1-1, text your zip code to 898211, or go to mi211.org to connect with the resources you need. You can also find free grocery and meal programs near you by visiting foodgatherers.org/foodresources.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Have you enjoyed the new art in the Superior branch? You’ll have a chance to talk to the artists who created some of the pieces on Saturday, March 9.

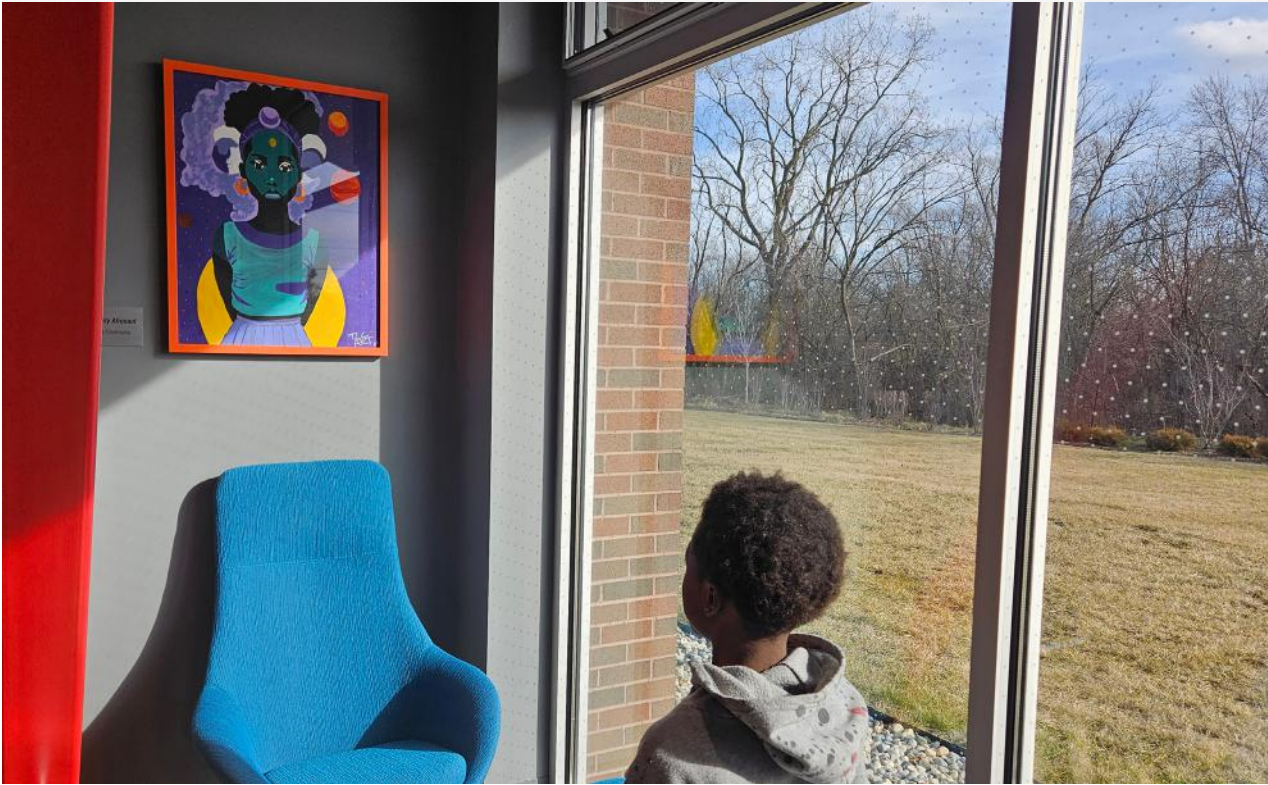
Join us at the Superior branch from 3–4:30pm to meet T’onna Clemons & Meredith Byrd, and participate in a Q&A session hosted by Jen Eastridge. Enjoy refreshments while you look at art and celebrate the artists.

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.

Meredith Byrd is a junior at the University of Michigan who considered herself an artist even 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.

YDL will put out another call for artists soon, so please keep an eye out at ypsilibrary.org, or follow us on Facebook (YpsilantiDistrictLibrary) or Instagram (ypsilibrary).



WRITING FOR JOY

As we emerge from the often dark and cold days of winter, we can sometimes experience a sense of joy that comes with getting outside and having more daylight and sunshine. One of the themes of YpsiWrites' mental wellness campaign for this time of year is joy.

Joy is the feeling of great pleasure we have when encountering something satisfying. Joy can come from surprising and unexpected places.

To help you reflect on and capture some of the moments of joy from your own life, try these writing prompts from YpsiWrites:

Make a list of people, places, things, or moments that have brought you joy. List as many as you can think of!

- Pick two entries on your list (maybe one recent and one distant) and write about how you felt when you encountered them. Did your body feel light or relaxed? Did you notice a smile on your face? What were your thoughts? What differences and similarities are there between your experience of the recent joy and the distant one?
- Read back over your list. Write about what it might be like to connect with one of them now. Are there past sources of joy you think may no longer be joyous for you? Write about what makes you think or say that.

- What might it be like to cultivate even more joy in your life, and what steps might you take to do that? What are you feeling *right now* as you write about joy?

Are there after-effects to your experiences of joy? For example, are you kinder to others? Do you sleep better? Do you relive, or wish to relive, the experience that brought you joy?

- Think of a moment of joy you experienced, and write about what it was like *after* that experience. Does your joy stick around or go away quickly? How did your experience of joy impact others around you? How did the experience shape your ability to respond to other experiences?
- What insights did writing about the after-effects of joy offer you?

In collaboration with the Washtenaw County Health Department's WishYouKnew Washtenaw mental wellness campaign for teens, YpsiWrites is providing writing prompts and worksheets, like this one on **Joy**, to writers of all ages. The prompts and the worksheets are available at YDL and at various Ypsilanti businesses. You can also find them at ypsiwrites.com.

FRIENDS OF YDL BOOK SALE

It's book sale time again! Book sale prices are \$1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversize paperbacks. On May 19 there will be bags of books available for \$5, 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 per year.

MAY 16: 6–8pm (members-only sale)
MAY 17: 11am–5pm
MAY 18: 11am–3pm
MAY 19: 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

NEW EXPRESS ROUTE

Get ready for a new bus route! In the coming months, TheRide will be introducing the Washtenaw Avenue Express Route. This limited-stop route follows a similar path connecting Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti as the existing Route 4 Washtenaw, but it will help you get to your destination quicker. This new route is part of the TheRide 2045 (TheRide's Long-Range Plan) and was made possible by the millage that voters approved in August 2022, along with funding through the Fiscal Year 2023 Carbon Reduction Program.

In addition, TheRide will be going to the public this year to gather feedback on improvements to the Ypsilanti Transit Center. TheRide is currently in the planning and design stage of the project

and expects to start construction in 2026, which will last approximately a year, but it is subject to change. Learn about all the improvements being made as part of the Long-Range Plan by visiting [TheRide.org](https://theride.org).



[WWW.YPSILIBRARY.ORG](https://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 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 YDL-Michigan)

Neighborhood route and schedule:
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 for meeting schedules, locations, agendas, and minutes.

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

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