

Your Card is Your Key

In my daily work, I hear wonderful stories about what makes the library special. For some, it's the memory of traveling to a far-off place in a book for the first time, or of a librarian whose welcoming approach opened doors to learning. For others, it's the richness and diversity of modern library collections—streaming audio and video, and the ability to borrow a GoPro camera or a jigsaw puzzle. Many tell me that YDL's creative staff and events for all ages are what bring them back again and again. The stories make it clear the library is a vibrant gathering place that's genuinely treasured by our community.

Your free library card is your key to unlocking these riches. If you live in Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, or Superior Township and haven't paid us a visit lately, now is the perfect time to explore YDL's offerings. Back to school = back to the library. I can't wait to hear your library story!

— Lisa Hoenig, Director



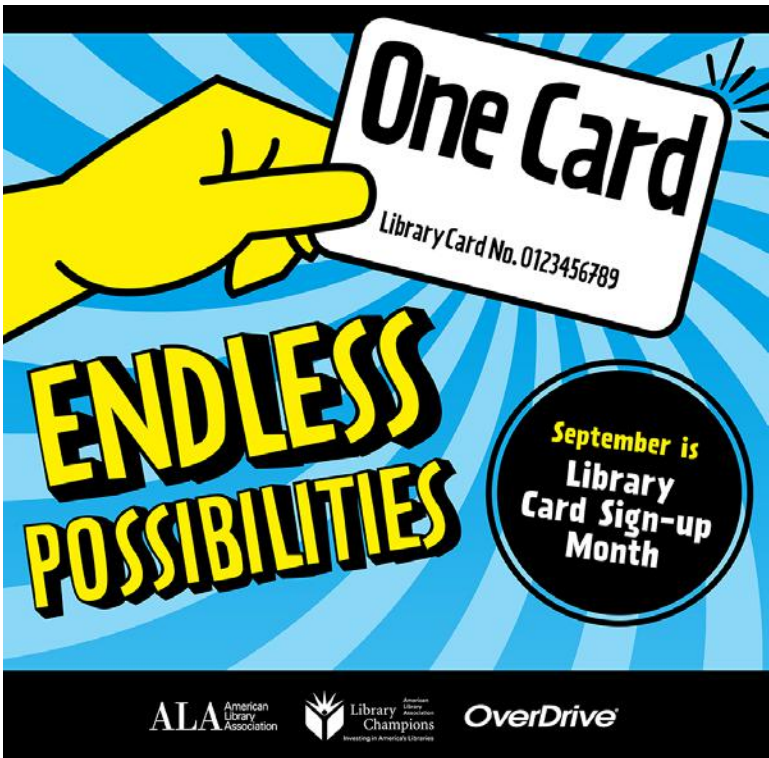
Your Library Card Packs a Punch

Last September, YDL issued over 400 new library cards. This year, you can help us make National Library Card Sign-up Month even bigger!

Since 1987, September has marked an annual effort to get a library card in as many hands as possible. This year, the American Library Association chose the theme “One Card, Endless Possibilities.”

Anyone who gets their YDL card this September can also get a colorful beach ball, courtesy of Gene Butman Ford, or a nifty travel bag (while supplies last).

Have you somehow finished reading all of the books in our collection? You can also use your card to borrow from our Library of Things—a collection of games, tools, and other items you can use around your home. Want to try a new park or museum in the area? Try the Michigan



Activity Pass at ypsilibrary.org/map to score free or discounted tickets with your library card.

Your library can save you hundreds, even thousands, of dollars each year, whether you use your card to take language lessons instead of subscribing to a service, read online newspapers, or get homework help.

“This year’s theme is a reminder that libraries are for everyone—no matter your age, background, or goals,” the American Library Association said in a press release. “Whether you’re diving into a new hobby, searching for your next great read, brushing up on tech skills, or helping your child succeed in school, it all starts with a library card.”

You can get or renew your YDL card and check to see if you live in our service area at ypsilibrary.org/library-cards.

(Continued on Page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

My favorite thing to “check out” at YDL is	2	Return of the Macabre	9
Michigan’s Poet Laureate Comes to Town	2	The Ypsi Seed Library at the Whittaker Branch has Grown - Literally!	10
New Spot to Lounge	2	Washtenaw Voters to Consider Career Technical Education Millage on November Ballot	10
Reading Together Downtown	3	November Election Key Dates	10
“Smeet” Ypsi’s Local Legend	3	From the Health Department	10
Help is a Click Away	3	YpsiWrites Celebrates Year 6!	11
Events	4-7	Your Novel is Waiting	11
Banned Books Week 2025	8	YCUA Meter Upgrade	11
Growing Dollars, Growing Futures	8	A Garden for a Rainy Day	12
Important School Dates	8	Friends Fall Book Sale “T”-ser	12
826Michigan Moving to Ypsi	9	Ypsi Stories	12
Access Eduroam at YDL	9		

My favorite thing to “check out” at YDL is:



“New books that I come across after some browsing.”
— Stephanie

“Sensory kits.”
— Asil

“Books about Alaska or biographies.”
— Sarah

“DVDs.”
— Jeffrey

“Looking at the Museum of Abandoned Bookmarks (in the lobby). Sweet!”
— Tom

“The atmosphere. The library feeds my mind and my soul.”
— Jessica

“Fiction books!”
— Tamra

“Garfield books.”
— Caleb

“Novels and movies.”
— Alfred

“Activity kits. My daughter loves them!”
— Taylor

“New releases (saves my paycheck).”
— Ben

“I like using the tablets.”
— Arwa

“Endless ways to learn something new!”
— Victoria

“Games, toys, and fun things and new friends, so you never get bored.”
— The Elsayed family

“The iPads and play area (and my aunt Daisha).”
— Tiana

“Nature time.”
— Azaylia

“Scavenger hunts.”
— Noah

“The library has lots of books I like!”
— Hannah

Michigan’s Poet Laureate Comes to Town



Get ready for a poetic night to remember! Dr. Melba Joyce Boyd, Michigan’s Poet Laureate, will visit YDL-Michigan this fall for an afternoon of poetry and community.

To celebrate three generations of poets, Leslie McGraw and Ypsilanti’s Youth Poet Laureate Ruth Mella will join Dr. Boyd on Saturday, October 18 from 3-5pm (see page 5) to read poems, discuss

their poetic journeys, and take questions from the audience.

Dr. Boyd is an award-winning author of 13 books, nine of which are poetry collections. Her works *Death Dance of a Butterfly* and *Roses and Revolutions: The Selected Writings of Dudley Randall* were selected by the Library of Michigan as Michigan Notable Books. Dr. Boyd was a distinguished professor in African American Studies at Wayne State University. Her poetry has been translated into multiple languages and appeared in publications across the United States and Europe.

“I am honored and excited being named the poet laureate of Michigan,” Dr. Boyd said. “Although I have lived in other states and other parts of the world, Michigan is where I was born and raised. This is where I became a poet, learned to appreciate and respect nature, and to cherish and inspire humanity.”

As Michigan’s Poet Laureate, Dr. Boyd meets with students, teachers, and residents across the state in schools and libraries to promote poetry, the spoken word, and literary arts. State Librarian Randy Riley praised her as “a rare combination of poet, researcher, and teacher” whose poetry “wraps you with the experiences of Michiganders, and often elevates voices of the past through a combination of history and verse.”

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to meet a local celebrity!

New Spot to Lounge

You can now enjoy the new lounge at YDL-Whittaker, right outside the Community Room to the left of the main entrance. Grab a snack from a vending machine, relax with a book in a comfy chair, and make yourself at home.



Reading Together Downtown

The Ypsilanti District Library has super-charged literacy tools downtown, thanks to an initiative funded by the Ann Arbor Rotary Club.

The \$4,900 grant is sponsoring Reading Together Downtown. Now that YDL-Michigan has reopened, YDL is ramping up important literacy work there. The grant also funds Black Men Read book parties, free books for families to take home from storytimes and our Reading Readiness program, and other storytime and book club tools.

“We missed almost two years of engagement in the literacy development of our youngest patrons,” said Youth Librarian Stephanie Pocsi-Morrison. “We are committed to getting books into kids’ hands that they can see themselves in...and that connect them to reading as a habit, skill, and passion.”

Along with building early literacy skills, the program is intended to reassure readers about their progress.

“Not every child learns to read in kindergarten, and learning to read comes in waves for every person,” said Pocsi-Morrison.

YDL's Reading Readiness Book Club brings kids ages 3-6 and their parents together to explore pre-reading skills and how they support early literacy. Incorporating free books into downtown storytimes



allows kids to actively build their home libraries and find books that resonate.

“We want to bring literacy-based programming to everyone in our community and create a space where everyone knows they can find something to love when they read,” said Pocsi-Morrison.

**EVENTS AT YDL-MICHIGAN
SPONSORED BY THE GRANT**

Wednesdays | Sept 10 | Oct 8 | Nov 12
READING READINESS BOOK CLUB
5:30pm

Sept 13
**SPANISH STORYTIME WITH
NORMA RODRIGUEZ**
11am

Mondays | Sept 15 - Nov 17
LITTLE ONES STORYTIME
10:30am

Fridays | Sept 19 - Nov 21
JUMPSTART KINDERGARTEN
10:30am

Oct 31
**DOWNTOWN HALLOWEEN
STORYTIME**
10:30am

Nov 7 | Dec 5 | Jan/Feb TBD
BLACK MEN READ BOOK PARTY
11am

“Smeet” Ypsi’s Local Legend

Get ready for Smeet Fest, a celebration of Ypsilanti's very own resident cryptid, the Smeet Frog! Throughout September, YDL is recognizing this beloved creature with a series of engaging programs at YDL-Michigan designed to bring the community together.

For those unfamiliar with our local folklore, the Smeet Frog is a small flying frog covered in fur. There have been reported Smeet sightings in Frog Island Park since the 1990’s.

Smeet Fest will blend local folklore with community creativity, offering something for residents of all ages. Keep an eye out for more details as September



approaches, and prepare to embrace Ypsilanti's most famous (and mysterious) resident.

Help is a Click Away

Could you use some help navigating community resources? Find information on how to use our Library Care Coordination services on the program’s new webpage: www.ypsilibrary.org/library-care-coordination.



Kat Layton, YDL's Social Worker, helps patrons access social services and can assist with referrals, application forms, and more. You can make an appointment with Layton on our website and see her drop-in hours, find

community resources, and see upcoming Library Care events. During the school year, Social Work student interns are also available to help.

Since April, Layton has helped bring several service organizations to the library, including regular visits from Wolverine Street Medicine, Shelter Diversion and Housing Resources, and FedUp Food Truck stops to boost our free summer lunch offerings.

In the future, Layton also hopes to cultivate more partnerships.

Stay on top of all of our new initiatives for community care at ypsilibrary.org/library-care-coordination.

PARTICIPATE IN SMEET FEST AT THE DOWNTOWN BRANCH:

ILLUSTRATION CONTEST

Artists of all skill levels can submit original interpretations of the Smeet Frog, with separate categories for youth and adult participants. With so few existing illustrations of our cryptid, this contest is a chance for creative community members to help define how we envision this mysterious creature. Winners will be selected by community vote, with winning designs featured on handcrafted bookmarks.



YOUTH CRYPTID CREATION

Children can visit a special felt activity board to build their own cryptids using various parts like tails, wings, and other fantastical features. Kids can name their creations and develop their backstories.

MAD LIB FUN

Community members can fill out a special Google form to create hilarious Smeet-themed Mad Libs. Read the completed stories on YDL’s social media.

YOUTH STORYTELLING PROJECT

We'll provide guided journal prompts to help young writers create their own Smeet Frog stories, adding new chapters to Ypsilanti's growing Smeet lore.

ROLL FOR STEALTH

Have you always wanted to *be* a Smeet Frog? Now’s your chance! Check out this homebrew playable character at our September Dungeons and Dragons Drop-in for Teens: **Saturday | Sep 13 | 10:30am | YDL-Michigan**

SMEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF ZINES

On Thursday, September 11, the library's popular Zine Club will focus on Smeet-themed creations.

EVENTS

Adult

Tuesdays | Sept 2-30

FREE LUNCHES FROM FEDUP MINISTRIES!

1:30-2:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Enjoy a free, delicious meal from the FedUp Food Truck on Adams Street outside YDL-Michigan.

Sept 3 | Oct 23 | Nov 20

BOOBIE CLUB WITH WRAPPED IN LOVE

6:30pm | YDL-Superior

This is a safe space for anyone planning to or currently breastfeeding, to meet other parents and to get support from lactation experts.

Fridays | Sept 5 - Nov 21

DIGITAL LITERACY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY

12pm | YDL-Whittaker

Learn how to use devices, Internet safety, social media etiquette, Zoom, and more. For more information, contact steichen@washtenawliteracy.org or call 734-337-3370.

Sept 6

VACCINE CLINIC (5+)

1-4:30pm | YDL-Superior

Stop by for a free flu vaccine. No insurance or appointment required. Provided by Michigan Medicine and available for ages 5 and up. Children 17 and under must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.



Sept 6 & 20 | Oct 4 & 18 | Nov 1, 15 & 29

INTERGENERATIONAL CHESS CLUB

2pm | YDL-Michigan

Our club encourages players from different generations to connect, learn, and grow through the game. All ages and skill levels are welcome!

Tuesdays | Sept 9 - Oct 28 | Nov 18 & 25

ESL COMMUNITY TUTORING WITH WASHTENAW LITERACY

1pm | YDL-Superior

Practice English language skills in an informal, relaxed setting. Free and open to the public. All levels of English are welcome. Please arrive 5 minutes before the start time for each group.

Tuesdays | Sept. 9 & 23 | Oct 7

SHELTER DIVERSION & HOUSING RESOURCES AT YDL

3-5pm | YDL-Michigan

A Shelter Diversion Specialist from the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC) is available every other Tuesday at YDL-Michigan to offer support with landlord mediation, housing planning, one-time financial assistance, obtaining IDs, and more.

Sept 10 | Oct 8 | Nov 12

MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY OUTREACH

11am-1pm | YDL-Whittaker

A representative from MICHIGAN WORKS! Southeast will answer questions and provide information and assistance on job leads, employment, job fairs, and career guidance.

Sept 10

LIVING WITH LOW VISION: AT HOME ADAPTATIONS

1pm | YDL-Whittaker

Dr. Erin Klukas from U-M's Kellogg Eye Center will showcase adaptations that can make your home safer and more accessible for people with low vision needs.

Wednesdays | Sept 10 - Nov 19

BASIC LITERACY COMMUNITY TUTORING

4pm | YDL-Superior

Drop-in tutoring for adults in reading, writing, and more.

Sept 10 | Oct 8 | Nov 12

CLASSIC NOIR MOVIES

6pm | YDL-Whittaker

Watch classic Noir movies. Showtimes at 6:30pm.

Sept 10: *The Big Combo* (1955) directed by Joseph Lewis

Oct 8: *Pickup on South Street* (1953) directed by Samuel Fuller

Nov 12: *This Gun For Hire* (1942) directed by Frank Tuttle

Sept 11

INTRODUCTION TO MOVING FOR BETTER BALANCE

1pm | YDL-Whittaker

Come to this FREE falls-prevention program. Learn more about MFBB from certified instructor Darryl Mickens. Then join us every Wednesday afternoon, starting September 17, for our weekly sessions.



Sept 11

SHOW & TELL FOR GROWNUPS

6:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Join us for an evening of Adult Show & Tell! Bring an object that tells a story to this relaxed, friendly gathering where adults can connect over the things that matter to us. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Sept 12 | Oct 10 | Nov 14

MICHIGAN WORKS! SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY OUTREACH

11am-1pm | YDL-Michigan

See Sept 10 description.

Sept 13

NEW AND EXPECTANT PARENTS SOCIAL

11am | YDL-Whittaker

Join other parents for light refreshments as you socialize and learn about what the library has to offer for little ones and their families.

Sept 13

JIGSAW PUZZLE COMPETITION

2-5pm | YDL-Whittaker

Can you beat our previous champion's time of 85 minutes? Sign up for our 2nd Jigsaw Puzzle Competition to find out. The team that completes the 500-piece puzzle first will win a \$25 Barnes and Noble gift card for each participant. Sign up to join a team, or enter as a duo. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events, or call 734-482-4110 x1306.



Sept 13

ARTISTS' RECEPTION

2:30-4pm | YDL-Superior

Meet the artists behind the newest additions to YDL-Superior's permanent collection. Artists Paloma Núñez-Regueiro, Guanhua Yao, and Monica Prince will join Liz Warren, director of Riverside Arts Center, for a conversation, then you can explore their creations on display. Refreshments will be provided.



Sept 14

FALL GARDENING TIPS

2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Advanced Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck will cover a wide variety of topics: Lawns, trees, shrubs, perennials, tender bulbs, bringing plants indoors, season extenders, and preparing a new garden.

Sept 16

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

11am-2:30pm | YDL-Whittaker

3-4:30pm | YDL-Michigan

5-7pm | YDL-Superior

The League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County will provide forms for voter registration, absentee ballot applications, and information on Vote411.org, their online, personalized, non-partisan voter's guide.

Sept 17 | Oct 15 | Nov 19

RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP

7pm | YDL-Michigan

Join Washtenaw Faces Race to discuss material about racism, privilege, discrimination, social justice, and our democracy. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events. For more information, email Joy Cichewicz at worksofjoy@gmail.com.

Sept 17: *What Project 2025 Means for Black Communities* - a report by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund

Oct 15 | Nov 19: *Why Does Everything Have to Be About Race? 25 Arguments that Won't Go Away* by Keith Boykin



Sept 17

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR WOMEN AND VETERANS WITH THE SBA

6:30pm | Virtual

Abron Andrews from Vet Biz Central and Shawntay Dixon from the Women's Business Center at the Great Lakes Women's Business Council provide vital information for women and veterans who are looking to start, grow, or expand a business. This session is in partnership with the Small Business Association. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Sept 17

STORIES OF HOME: WHAT MAKES YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD GREAT WITH YPSI WRITES

6:30pm | YDL-Superior

Celebrate the special places that shape our lives. Through guided prompts, we'll share descriptions, stories, and poems that highlight the strengths of our communities. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Sept 18 - 21

FRIENDS OF YDL BOOK SALE

YDL-Whittaker | See description for times

Book sale prices are \$1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for kids books, 50¢ for mass market paperbacks, and \$1 for oversize paperbacks. See Page 12 for details.

Sept 18: 6-8pm (members-only sale)

Sept 19: 11am-5pm

Sept 20: 11am-3pm

Sept 21: 1-4pm

Sept 20

HISTORICAL POETRY: WRITING ABOUT OUR SHARED PAST

2pm | Virtual

Join YpsiWrites' Writer in Residence, Angelica Esquivel, to learn more about Ypsilanti's history and craft a poem inspired by a historical event or figure. This workshop is part of Angelica's *Envisioning Ypsi: Histories and Futures* residency program. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events. See page 11 for more details.

Sept 20

LOCAL AUTHOR TALK: JARED BENTLEY

3:30pm | YDL-Michigan

Local author Jared Bentley will read from his debut short story collection *Robots, Please* which was published in February 2025.

Sept 20 | Nov 15

BREASTFEEDING BASICS WITH WRAPPED IN LOVE

10:30am | YDL-Superior

Learn the benefits of breastfeeding, how to advocate for yourself and your baby, breastfeeding tips and tricks, and how your partner can support you on this journey.

Sept 25 | Oct 23

GARDEN QUESTIONS? ASK THE MASTER GARDENER!

5-7pm | YDL-Whittaker

Advanced Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck will be in our lobby once a month to answer all your garden questions.

Sept 27

FALL FEST

2-4pm | YDL-Whittaker

Enjoy live music while you make fall crafts, including a decorative tea candle holder.



Sept 27

FABRIC DESIGN: STITCHED SHIBORI DYEING WITH MONICA PRINCE

(Ages 12+)

2pm | YDL-Superior

Shibori is a traditional Japanese method of dyeing fabric. Explore stitching to resist dye and take home a one-of-a-kind dyed bandana. No experience necessary. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Sept 30 | Oct 4

YPSIWRITES WRITERS ROOM & DROP-IN CONSULTING

Times and locations below

Join other writers for open writing time. Bring a work in progress or start something new! Get prompts for inspiration and one-on-one support. Register at tinyurl.com/YpsiWritesWritersRoom.

Sept 30: Virtual | 6:30pm

Oct 4: YDL-Michigan | 11am

Oct 4

NEEDLE FELTING: ACORNS

11am | YDL-Superior

Learn the basics of needle felting by making charming, colorful acorns in time for fall decorating and festivities. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Oct 5

FALL NATIVE PLANT SWAP

1pm | YDL-Whittaker

Drop by and exchange your favorite native plants with fellow gardeners. Bring your own plants to share and leave with new treasures for your garden!

Oct 5 - 31

BANNED BOOKS WEEK EXHIBIT

YDL-Whittaker | Open Hours

Visit the Banned and Challenged Books exhibit and celebrate your freedom to read. Enter the raffle to win a free copy of George Orwell's anti-censorship novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. See page 8 for more information on Banned Books Week.

Oct 8

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS AND YOU

6:30pm | Virtual

See how social media influencers affect marketing, trends in social media marketing tools, and get suggestions on becoming a successful social media influencer. Our Small Business Savvy series is for those who want to start or own a small business. Join these virtual classes on Zoom to help establish and improve your business skills and services. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Oct 11

YPSIWRITES' SIXTH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

11am-1pm | YDL-Whittaker

Meet the 2025-2026 Writers of Ypsilanti over birthday cake, and participate in collaborative writing activities around their 2025-26 theme "Writing Together".

Oct 11

YPSILANTI CYCLONE DAMAGE AT THE CHINESE LAUNDRY

2pm | YDL-Michigan

Linette Lao shares her experience of making zines and uncovering the history of Washtenaw County's earliest Chinese immigrants in this lecture and creative workshop. Come hear the story behind the zine *1893 Ypsilanti Cyclone Damage at the Chinese Laundry*, and create and publish your own mini-zine.

Oct 12

THE JAZZ THAT MADE AMERICA DANCE: A CONCERT WITH THE BOOGIE WOOGIE KID

2pm | YDL-Whittaker

Join pianist/singer Matthew Ball — The Boogie Woogie Kid — for a fun, family-friendly concert of boogie-woogie, New Orleans jazz, and swing! All ages welcome.



Oct 15

THE SPOOKIER SIDE OF OPTOMETRY!

1pm | YDL-Whittaker

Dr. Erin Klukas from Kellogg Eye Center will be here to show that some "spooky" eye conditions from the movies are nothing to be afraid of. Learn about red eye conditions, Dracula serum tears, yellow eyes, and even why animal eyes can glow at night.

Oct 15

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: LEVERAGING CANVA FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS
6:30pm | Virtual
Learn to use Canva in your small business with Kelly Blazo, Social Media Manager/Event Coordinator at 2 Dandelions Bookshop. Our Small Business Savvy series is for those who want to start or own a small business. Join these virtual classes on Zoom to help establish and improve your business skills and services. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Oct 16

CHILDBIRTH BASICS WITH WRAPPED IN LOVE
6:30pm | YDL-Superior
Join Wrapped in Love Doula & Lactation Support to guide you through what to expect as you welcome your new baby.

Oct 18

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE JIMMIE WILSON, JR. AND SPECIAL GUEST STATE SENATOR JEFF IRWIN
11am | YDL-Whittaker
The Representative and Senator will share updates on legislation, the budget, and more from their work in Lansing, and host a Q&A session with attendees. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Oct 18

MEET MI POET LAUREATE DR. MELBA BOYD
3pm | YDL-Michigan
Spend a Saturday afternoon with Michigan's new Poet Laureate, Dr. Melba Joyce Boyd! She will be joined by local poet and community organizer Leslie McGraw and Ypsilanti's Youth Poet Laureate, Ruth Mella. They'll each read their poems, have a group conversation, and answer questions. Learn more on page 2.

Oct 20

GRIEVE WELL: UNDERSTANDING GRIEF WEBINAR
7pm | Virtual
Join this interactive workshop for information and resources to help you move through your grief journey. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Oct 25 | Nov 8

YPSIWITES: FLASH FICTION - THE ART OF BREVITY
2pm | YDL-Michigan
Angelica Esquivel leads this two-part series on flash fiction – a short story of a thousand words or less.
Oct. 25: Complete writing exercises and draft a story.
Nov. 8: Peer-review workshop to refine and revise your work.

Oct 25

SEED COLLECTION WALK
2pm | Rolling Hills Park (7660 Stony Creek Rd)
Enjoy the fall prairie and collect native seeds to replenish YDL's Ypsi Seed Library. Seed collection techniques will be demonstrated; beginners welcome. Led by Washtenaw County Parks Naturalist Shawn Severance.



Oct 26

PROTECT TREES AND SHRUBS FROM WINTER DAMAGE
2pm | YDL-Whittaker
Advanced Master Gardener Carol Brodbeck will share her expertise on how you can protect trees and shrubs this winter.

Saturdays | Nov 1 - 29

YPSIWITES NOVEMBER WRITING SPRINTS
10am-12pm | Vertex Coffee Roasters | 307 North River Street
Are you struggling to find time to write? Join YpsiWrites each Saturday in November for writing sprints. Get support, writing prompts, feedback, and more for novels or any other kind of writing. See more about National Novel Writing Month on page 11.

Nov 5

THE WRECK OF THE EDMUND FITZGERALD: 50TH ANNIVERSARY
6pm | Virtual
Join this state-wide virtual presentation on the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the Edmuhd Fitzgerald, in conjunction with the Library Cooperatives of Michigan and The Library Network. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events for the Zoom link.

Nov 5

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: EVERY PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE BUSINESS PLAN
6:30pm | Virtual
Get a practical approach to creating and writing a business plan to take some of the stress off. Our Small Business Savvy series is for those who want to start or own a small business. Join these virtual classes on Zoom to help establish and improve your business skills and services. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Nov 12

STAY SHARP: UNDERSTANDING AGE-RELATED EYE CHANGES
1pm | YDL-Whittaker
Dr. Erin Klukas from Kellogg Eye Center will talk about eye conditions that affect us as we age.

Nov 12

NAME CHANGE CLINIC
6-8pm | YDL-Michigan
Join Jim Toy Community Center's OUTreach and the Outlaws at U-M 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.

Nov 13

NATIVE PRAIRIE GARDENING
6pm | YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to embrace the beauty of native grasslands in your garden design, creating a space for people and pollinators to share. Washtenaw County Parks Naturalist Shawn Severance will share design tips and resources for new and experienced gardeners.

Nov 19

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: PITCH DECK - AN UNDERUTILIZED MULTIPURPOSE TOOL
6:30pm | Virtual
Learn how to use a Pitch Deck for raising funds and in your everyday business operations. Our Small Business Savvy series is for those who want to start or own a small business. Join these virtual classes on Zoom to help establish and improve your business skills and services. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Nov 22 | 11am-5pm & Nov 23 | 1-4pm

FRIENDS OF YDL HOLIDAY SALE
YDL-Whittaker
Stop by the YDL-Whittaker lobby for great deals on hard-to-buy-for loved ones. Enjoy half-off on Nov. 23.

Adult Meetups

Tuesdays | Sept 2 - Nov 25

KNITTING PLUS
6pm | YDL-Whittaker
Meet with other yarnies and share your projects and ideas every Tuesday. Open to all, any handcraft welcome!

Tuesdays | Sept 2 - Oct 28 | Nov 18 & 25

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, nonreligious awareness practices in the company of friends you may not have met yet!

Sept 2 | Oct 7 | Nov 4

GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY BUNCH
7pm | YDL-Whittaker
Share stories and research techniques, deal with old photos, and connect with people interested in genealogy.



Wednesdays | Sept 3 - Nov 26

WEDNESDAY WALKING CLUB
10:30am | YDL-Michigan
Meet outside YDL-Michigan. Dogs and strollers welcome. Take 45 minutes to reset, explore your neighborhood, and make friends!

Sept 3 & 17 | Oct 1 & 15 | Nov 5 & 19

CROCHET CLUB
6-9pm | YDL-Whittaker
Gather with other crocheters to crochet, share projects, get ideas, and more. Adults only, no experience necessary.

Sept 4 | Oct 2 | Nov 6

THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP
10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Join us on the first Thursday of the month to discuss a variety of fiction and nonfiction books.
Sept 4: *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid
Oct 2: *The Anthropocene* Reviewed by John Green
Nov 6: *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali

Sept 4 & 18 | Oct 2 & 16 | Nov 6 & 20

EUCHRE CLUB
6:30pm | See description
Play tournament-style Euchre at YDL. Players will be shuffled after each game. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events to ensure a spot.
Sept 4 | Oct 2 | Nov 6: YDL-Michigan
Sept 18 | Oct 16 | Nov 20: YDL-Whittaker

Sept 5 & 19 | Oct 3 & 17 | Nov 7 & 21

FRIDAY WALKING CLUB (55+)
10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Join us for a 30-minute walk along a path near the library and enjoy each other's company. Call (734) 482-4110 x2411 to check weather-related cancellations.

Sept 6 & 20 | Oct 4 & 18 | Nov 1, 15 & 29

YDL GUITAR CLUB
10am | YDL-Michigan
Practice your skills, learn new songs, and play in a group. Email asmith@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x1335 for more information.



Mondays | Sept 8 - Nov 24

MAHJONG MEETUP
1pm | YDL-Whittaker
A weekly Mahjong group for new and experienced players. Chinese-style sets will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own.

Sept 8 | Oct 6 | Nov 10

READ IT & EAT IT: COOKBOOK CLUB
6pm | YDL-Whittaker
Each month, choose a recipe from a specific book or theme, prepare it, and bring the dish to share and discuss.
Sept 8: *Hot Sheet* by Olga Massov & Sanaë Lemoine
Oct 6: Selections from *Milk Street Cookbooks*
Nov 10: *Half Baked Harvest Quick & Cozy* by Tieghan Gerard

Sept 8 | Oct 13 | Nov 10

DOWNTOWN QUEER CRAFTING GROUP
6-8pm | YDL-Michigan
Folks of the LGBTQIA+ community are invited to bring projects to work on and build a creative community. Contact Aaron Smith at asmith@ypsilibrary.org or 734-482-4110 x1335 for more information.

Sept 9 | Oct 14 | Nov 4

SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB
7pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join us every month for this adult discussion group for fans of science fiction books.
Sept 9: *Exordia* by Seth Dickinson
Oct 14: *Wool* by Hugh Howey
Nov 4: *Maxine Justice: Galactic Attorney* by Daniel Schwabauer

Wednesdays | Sept 10 - Dec 10

ESL BOOK CLUB
11am | YDL-Michigan
For intermediate to advanced readers. Meet weekly to talk about the language, grammar, and cultural aspects of a book. To register, contact Washtenaw Literacy at (734) 337-3338.

Sept 11 | Oct 9 | Nov 13

YPSILANTI ZINE CLUB
6-8pm | YDL-Michigan
Work on zines together, share techniques and ideas, and make zine-making friends. Basic art materials provided. Find out how you can contribute to YDL's growing zine collection.

Sept 11 | Oct 9 | Nov 13

BOARD GAME MEET UP
6:30-8:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Play a rotating selection of mostly lighter complexity board games from the library, or bring your own to share. If you are bringing a game, please keep our two-hour time limit in mind.

Sept 13 | Oct 11 | Nov 8

WAX IN THE STACKS - SHOW OFF YOUR VINYL!
4pm | YDL-Michigan
Music lovers and curious listeners gather and explore a diverse range of genres. Dust off your collections, bring your favorite records, or simply come to listen.
Sept 13: Guilty Pleasures
Oct 11: Freakshow
Nov 8: Crown Jewels



Wednesdays | Sept 17 - Nov 19

MOVING FOR BETTER BALANCE WITH THE ANN ARBOR YMCA
4pm | YDL-Whittaker
Come to this free falls-prevention program that uses the principles and movements of Tai Chi to help older adults increase their strength, improve their balance, and increase their confidence. **Now meeting in the afternoons.**

Sept 18 | Oct 16 | Nov 20

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD
1pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join us each month as we work to address the needs of older adults at the library.

Sept 18 | Oct 23 | Nov 20

QUEER BOOK GROUP
6:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Read and discuss literature written by diverse queer writers.
Sept 18: *Flung Out of Space* by Grace Ellis
Oct 23: *The New Life* by Tom Crewe
Nov 20: *Our Wives Under the Sea* by Julia Armfield

Fridays | Sept 19 - Nov 21

CHAIR YOGA FOR ALL LEVELS, WITH INSTRUCTOR MELANIE HERRON
10:30am | YDL-Superior
Experience the benefits of Chair Yoga, including enhanced flexibility, improved mobility, and greater awareness of breath. This class is done both seated and standing alongside the chair.

Sept 25 | Oct 30 | Nov 20

PARANORMAL CLUB
6:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Delve into the fascinating world of the unknown. Each month, we gather to discuss intriguing topics, share personal experiences, and engage with expert guest speakers who bring their knowledge of the supernatural.

Sept 26 | Oct 24 | Nov 21

LNGO CRAFTERNOONS (Ages 55+)
2pm | YDL-Michigan
Join us for a lighthearted afternoon working on a craft to engage your mind, connect with others, and build new brain pathways. All materials will be provided. Register for each workshop individually at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Sept 29 | Oct 27 | Nov 24

BANNED BOOK CLUB (Ages 16+)
7pm | YDL-Superior
Read, discuss, and celebrate stories that have sparked controversy and inspired change. Copies of the book are available at the Superior branch one month before the discussion date. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.
Sept 29: *Cinderella is Dead* by Kalynn Bayron
Oct 27: *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
Nov 24: *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Sept 30 | Oct 28 | Nov 25

VIRTUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
7pm | Virtual
Join us for lively discussions of books by Black authors.
Sept 30: *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl* by Issa Rae
Oct 28: *Dream Count* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Nov 25: *Alex Paradise and the Ubuntu Stone* by Heather Neff

Oct 2 | Nov 6 | Dec 4

YDL FILM CLUB
7pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join fellow cinephiles for an evening of film discussion. Films will not be screened at the meetings, but we will use a large TV screen to review important scenes. The first meeting will cover *Longlegs* directed by Osgood Perkins. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Teen

Sept 13 | Oct 11 & 25 | Nov 8 & 22

D&D: DROP-IN FOR TEENS

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

Join us for D&D with an experienced DM, an adventurous storyline, and pre-generated characters. Each Saturday is a one-shot game (done in one sitting) with an overarching campaign. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org to register or with questions.

Sept 22

BUTTON MAKING FOR TEENS

4pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Create your own button pins using manga, books, magazines, and more.



Oct 5

BABYSITTING 101 (Ages 11-16)

1-5pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Denise Wieck from Lock it for Life teaches babysitting skills including feeding, diapering, basic safety, and how to provide fun activities for young children. A light lunch will be provided. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Oct 11

APPLE SWEETS

4pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Make apple turnovers and apple smoothies with Michigan apples!



Oct 23

RESEARCH: SOURCES, CITATION, AND LIBRARY RESOURCES

3pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn about evaluating information sources, using citations, and research resources you can access through YDL.

Oct 25

SCARY STORYTELLING: TEEN AFTER HOURS PARTY (Ages 12-18)

6-9pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join artist KC Dixon, along with YDL's Teen Advisory Group, for scary storytelling. Carve or decorate pumpkins, create costume components, and enjoy a taco bar and fall themed dessert bar. Wear a costume if you like.

Oct 29

THE GREAT TEEN ESCAPE

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

Calling all teens! Come join us at the library for a spooky adventure. Work as a team to solve a mystery and escape if you DARE!

Nov 15

HOLY MOLY TEENS ONLY

3-5pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Calling all teens, come join us for a chill afternoon at the library for a movie and snacks.

Teen Meetups

Sept 3 & 17 | Oct 8 & 22 | Nov 5 & 19

TEEN GREAT STORIES CLUB

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

Enjoy a fun-filled teen book club featuring snacks, free books, and a gift card raffle. Explore questions of race, equity, identity, and history. Email kscott@ypsilibrary.org to join.

Sept 8 & 20

BEYOND PLAY WITH G.A.S. IT UP FITNESS

11am | [YDL-Superior](#)

Through games, obstacle courses, and fun challenges—like sprinting like cheetahs or hopping in potato sacks—kids discover the joy of staying active.

Sept 9 & 23 | Oct 14 & 28 | Nov 25

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP (Ages 14-18)

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

Plan and lead library programs, design new services and spaces, look for funding opportunities, write grants, earn service hours, and meet new friends. Apply to join at ypsilibrary.org/tag.

Wednesdays | Sept 10 - Nov 19

CHEF CAMP WITH FEDUP MINISTRIES

6-8pm | [Growing Hope](#) (9 S. Adams St.)

Learn to cook for a crowd, dice any veggie, or how to innovate with basic ingredients. Participants can start anytime. There are three sessions that are each four weeks long. Participants can vote on the curriculum ahead of each session, and can attend any program date.

Sept 25 | Oct 23 | Nov 20

BOOK-ISH GIRL COLLECTIVE

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

Join YDL board member and educator Jean Winborn and other teens to chat about life and books by YA authors. Each month we'll cook and/or do an art project that ties into the book.

Wednesdays | Oct 1 - Nov 5

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

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

Middle and high school students, learn to code in Python and JavaScript as you build your own live website. Computer programmer and former math teacher Andrew Kuck will cover basic programming principles and provide resources for beginners and intermediate coders.

Kids & Parents

Sept 5

FIRST FRIDAYS AT YDL: NATURAL DYES

6pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Kick off your evening at First Fridays Ypsilanti. Each month we will provide hands-on programs for learners of all ages. In September we will explore the world of natural dyes and the science behind how they work.

Saturdays | Sept 6 - Oct 25

DARE2DESIGN WITH EMUINVENT

1:30-4:30pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Dare2Design is an 8-week program that helps students and their families invent together. Families are guided from identifying a problem through testing solutions and presenting their findings. This program is targeted at families from a low-income background, with children in 2nd-10th grade. Call (734) 879-1305 x1363 or email smorrison@ypsilibrary.org to register.

Sept 10 & 11

HOMESCHOOLING 101: HOW TO USE YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

12pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn how the library can support your family on your home education journey in this relaxed, informative program. After a short tour, our discussion will be in the youth department where kids can enjoy a fun craft while parents chat. Both sessions cover the same content.



Sept 10 | Oct 8 | Nov 12

READING READINESS BOOK CLUB

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

Caregivers and kiddos will work together to understand pre-reading skills, how they support reading readiness, and how to practice them. Caregivers will get age-appropriate tips and tricks for recognizing, practicing, and enhancing pre-reading skills. Kids can pick a free book each week, courtesy of the Ann Arbor Rotary Club.

Sept 11 & 25 | Oct 9 & 23 | Nov 13

READ TO MOON THE LIBRARY DOG

5:30-7:30pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Reading to a Therapaws dog helps children develop confidence and become better readers. Registration required. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org to sign up for a 10-minute slot with Moon.

Sept 13

BLACK MEN READ BOOK PARTY

11am | [YDL-Superior](#)

Join us for a book party with Black Men Read. Share in a fun storytime and spark creativity with a craft.

Sept 18 | Oct 16 | Nov 20

READ TO BAMBI THE LIBRARY DOG

5:50-7:35pm | [YDL-Superior](#)

Reading to a Therapaws dog helps children build confidence and become better readers. Email nrussell@ypsilibrary.org to reserve a 10 minute slot with Bambi.

Sept 20

WHAT DOES BLACKNESS MEAN TO YOU?

1pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

This program is meant to spark conversation and activities about what blackness means to us individually and collectively as we watch the short documentary *The Beauty of Blackness*. This event will be facilitated by licensed therapist Nerissa Legg, owner of Black Girls Crowned.



Sept 20

LOCKER CHANDELIER: TWEEN PROGRAM (Ages 8-14)

2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Design and create a glam mini magnetic chandelier to put in your locker or bedroom.

Sept 22 | Oct 13 & 27 | Nov 10

READ TO SIMBA THE LIBRARY DOG

5-7pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Reading to a Therapaws dog helps children build confidence and become better readers. Come to the library to read to our newest library dog, Simba! Visit the youth desk between 4:45 and 6:30pm to get an assigned time slot.

Sept 24

SEASONS CHANGE, SO SHOULD YOUR HAIR CARE ROUTINE

6pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

In this session of our Black Hair Series we will explore how our hair care routines should change based on the different seasons. Get tips from a licensed cosmetologist on styling and caring for kinks, coils, and beyond. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Sept 27

FAMILY BIRDING WALK

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

Get a brief introduction to birding and take a short walk to the Water Street Trail for bird spotting. Then we'll come back to the library and make a birdhouse. Bring binoculars if you can. The Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance will provide some extra binoculars.

Sept 27

FALL FEST

2-4pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Pet farm animals, eat snacks, listen to live music, play yard games, and take fall photos.

Oct 3

FIRST FRIDAYS AT YDL: FRANKENTOYS

6-8pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Kick off your First Fridays at the library! In October make your own Frankentoy using toys, craft supplies, and imagination. Register at ypsilibrary.org/events.

Oct 4

TINY FURNITURE AND ROOMS

2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Hear an excerpt from *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton, then visit stations to make tiny furniture out of found objects to decorate a small room.

Oct 11

TRAVEL TO SWEDEN

2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn about Sweden as you hear a classic Swedish story read in English, learn a few words in Swedish, enjoy a typical Swedish snack, and make a fun Swedish craft to bring home.

Oct 18

FAMILY CONCERT WITH KOOL ADE KAM

2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Join local hip hop artist Kool Ade Kam for a family hip hop concert and comic art!

Oct 24

HALLOWEEN DOWNTOWN

5:30-7pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Trick or treat, engage with local community organizations, and check out the BOO-mobile! The costume contest is back this year with prizes and Ypsilanti Rotary Club will host a game station where you could win a free book.

Oct 25

MUSICAL STORYTIME

11am | [YDL-Superior](#)

Join us for a fun and slightly spooky musical storytime featuring Noah T. Haile, a self-taught pianist and Stanford student. Streaming live from California via Zoom, Noah will bring Halloween magic to life through music as he plays a selection of festive, spine-tingling songs.

Oct 25

SPOOKY SCIENCE

2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Learn all about dry ice with the Nutty Scientists of Southeast Michigan. See the amazing things dry ice can do, discuss what it's made of and how it got its name, and find out why it sometimes sounds haunted. Then participate in safe activities to get a closer look.

Oct 27

KAM KOMICS WORKSHOP

5pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Local and independent comic book artist Kamron Reynolds, of Kam Komics, will teach you to draw your own characters, faces, backgrounds, lettering, and much more.

Nov 7

FIRST FRIDAYS AT YDL: BLACK MEN READ BOOK PARTY

6pm | [YDL-Michigan](#)

Join us for a storytime and a hands-on art activity with Black Men Read. Read stories, ask questions, listen, and share your own personal experiences. Free books for each child, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor.

Nov 8

SPINNING DOT THEATRE PRESENTS: LA PETITE POULE FRANÇAISE (THE LITTLE FRENCH HEN)

2pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Watch this adventure of French zaniness, outlandish characters, and plenty of accordion. A little hen loans the greedy king all her money. When she realizes he has no intention of repaying her, our plucky heroine sets off for the castle to get it back. On her way she meets the most unlikely set of companions.

Nov 15

STEMFEST

2-4pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Cayman Chemical scientists and Huron Valley American Chemical Society members will offer hands-on science demonstrations including some you can take home.

Kids & Parents Meetups

Sept 4 | Oct 2 | Nov 6

TWEEN BOOK CLUB

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

Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book and enjoy a snack. Registration required. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org.
Sept 4: *The Sword of Summer* by Rick Riordan
Oct 2: *The Sea of Monsters* by Rick Riordan
Nov 6: *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

Thursdays | Sept 18 - Oct 30

LOVE OF LEARNING CLUB

1pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Connect with other families while engaging in themed activities inspired by a book. Accompanying activities vary weekly and include STEM exploration, arts and crafts, movement, building, and open play.

Sept 18 | Oct 16 | Nov 20

KIDS BOOK CLUB

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

Join us for a monthly discussion of a shared book and enjoy a snack. Email mitchell@ypsilibrary.org to register.
Sept 18: *Art Club* by Rashad Doucet
Oct 16: *Felix Powell, Boy Dog* by Erin Entrada Kelly
Nov 20: *Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet* by Zanib Mian

Wednesdays | Oct 1 - Nov 19

YOUTH CHESS CLUB

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

Learn chess at the library with Jenny Skidmore-Smith. Casual play, lessons, and quick round rated play each month. Designed for youth grades K-12 and their families.



Thursdays | Oct 2-23

AFTER SCHOOL STEM: TOY DESIGN

5pm | [YDL-Whittaker](#)

Design and build a different toy each week and learn STEM concepts such as balance, gravity, and simple mechanics while you create and play. For grades K-5.

Saturdays | Oct 4 - Dec 6

DROP-IN WRITING FOR WEEBOTS
(Ages 5-8)
12pm | YDL-Whittaker
Read a book aloud and pay attention to one special thing the writer does. Then, work with volunteers on activities inspired by that idea.

Tuesdays | Oct 7 - 28

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB
(Grades 2-5)
5pm | YDL-Whittaker
Join us this session for *The Cartoonists Club* by Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud. Enjoy listening to the book read aloud followed by a themed STEAM activity each week.

Tuesdays | Oct 7 - Dec 9

AFTER-SCHOOL WRITING LAB WITH 826MICHIGAN
5:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Young writers and trained adult volunteers will work together to cultivate joy and confidence around writing in this weekly, small-group writing program. Register and find more information at 826michigan.org/programs/after-school-writing-lab.

Nov 4, 18 & 25

AFTER SCHOOL STEM: 3D PRINTING
5pm | YDL-Whittaker
During this three-session workshop, design your own name tag, key chain, and more, then print them on the library's 3D printers.

Stories and Fun for Little Ones

Sept 13

SPANISH STORYTIME WITH NORMA RODRIGUEZ
11am | YDL-Michigan
Join us for a storytime where every book and song will be presented in Spanish and English. Enjoy an art project after the storytime and leave with a book, in English or Spanish, provided by the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor.

Sept 19-20 | Oct 10-11 | Nov 7-8

SENSORY STATIONS
11am | YDL-Whittaker
Explore different 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.
Sept 19 and 20: Forest Animals
Oct 10 and 11: Creepy Creatures
Nov 7 and 8: Farm Fun

Sept 27 | Oct 11 | Nov 8

ASL FRIENDLY STORYTIME
10:30am | YDL-Superior
Join us for songs and books fully interpreted in ASL. There will be time to play with age appropriate toys for kids up to age 5.



Oct 4 | 11am

DANCE PARTY WITH KAT (Ages 3-5)
YDL-Whittaker
Professional musician and educator Kat Steih leads movement and musical play where kids dance and sing to their favorite songs!

Oct 17

BABY OBSTACLE COURSE
11am | YDL-Whittaker
Bring your little one to climb, roll, crawl, and wiggle through our baby obstacle course, or just socialize with other parents and let your little one explore our baby toys.

Nov 1

MUSIC TOGETHER
11am | YDL-Whittaker
Join Leah Fox of Robinsongs for Kids for an introduction to Music Together, a music class for little ones and their adults.

Nov 15

FOOD FUN STORYTIME
11am | YDL-Whittaker
Join us for a storytime celebrating food. Read books, tell stories, sing, and dance, then have a fruit and veggie taste test and play with toy food.

MONDAYS

Mon & Tue | Sept 15 - Nov 18

JUMPSTART KINDERGARTEN
10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Find an engaging blend of activities and stories designed to help prepare preschoolers for school success, from scissor skills to STEM.

Mondays | Sept 15 - Nov 17

LITTLE ONES STORYTIME
10:30am | YDL-Michigan
We will sing and move, read books, and provide toys for open play. We will also offer space for caregivers to connect with each other.

TUESDAYS

Mon & Tue | Sept 15 - Nov 18

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

Tuesdays | Sept 16 - Nov 18

BABY STORYTIME AT SUPERIOR
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 | Sept 16 - Nov 18

DISCOVERY TIME AT WHITTAKER
10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
This fast-paced storytime is filled with music, movement, finger-plays, and books paired with exploratory learning and play.

WEDNESDAYS

Wednesdays | Sept 17 - Nov 19

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

Wednesdays | Sept 17 - Nov 19

READ, SING, PLAY AT SUPERIOR
10:30am | YDL-Superior
Little ones learn colors, shapes, and numbers through music and movement. Build early literacy, social-emotional skills, and physical skills through play.

THURSDAYS

Thursdays | Sept 18 - Nov 20

DISCOVERY TIME AT SUPERIOR
10:30am | YDL-Superior
See Tuesday description.

Thursdays | Sept 18 - Nov 20

READ, SING, PLAY AT WHITTAKER
10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
See Wednesday description.

FRIDAYS

Fridays | Sept 19 - Nov 21

JUMPSTART KINDERGARTEN: DOWNTOWN
10:30am | YDL-Michigan
See Monday description. Oct. 31 will have special Halloween activities!

Tech Help

Register at ypsilibrary.org/events or call 734-482-4110 X2411.

ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP FOR SENIORS (Ages 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.

Sept 2 at 6:30pm | Oct 15 at 2pm

MICROSOFT POWERPOINT – BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to create and add graphics and multimedia to a presentation.

Sept 3 at 2pm | Oct 14 at 7pm | Nov 1 at 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 to your devices.

Sept 4 at 6:30pm | Oct 11 at 10:30am

GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to format, select, copy, paste, and edit text. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a document.

Sept 10 at 2pm | Oct 23 at 7pm | Nov 19 at 10:30am

VEGA DISCOVER – BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
An introduction to YDL's online public access catalog, Vega *Discover*. Learn how to find, request, and renew items. Understand the tools for managing lists and account information including checkouts and hold requests.

Sept 11 at 6:30pm | Oct 25 at 10:30am

GOOGLE DOCS TIPS & TRICKS
YDL-Whittaker
Explore more advanced features of Google Docs: headers and footers, tabs and indents, inserting breaks (page, section, and column) and finding & replacing text.

Sept 13 at 10:30am | Oct 2 at 6:30pm

MICROSOFT WORD – BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
An introduction to word processing. Learn to enter, format, select, copy, paste, and edit text.

Sept 13 at 2pm | Oct 21 at 6:30pm

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.

Sept 16 at 6:30pm | Nov 1 at 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.

Sept 17 at 2pm | Oct 7 at 7pm | Nov 18 at 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.

Sept 18

CANVA 101 - WHITTAKER
7pm | YDL-Whittaker
Learn the basics of Canva, a free graphic design tool that lets you make flyers, social media content, and more. No design experience needed. Beginners welcome.

Sept 23 at 6:30pm | Nov 15 at 2pm

MICROSOFT EXCEL – INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to apply functions, filter data, create charts, and print worksheets.



Sept 24 at 2pm | Nov 25 at 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.

Sept 25 at 6:30pm | Nov 29 at 10:30am

GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and share and collaborate on a presentation.

Sept 27 at 10:30am | Oct 9 at 6:30pm

MICROSOFT WORD – INTERMEDIATE
YDL-Whittaker
Add visual interest to your documents. Learn to create and format tables, insert images, create bulleted and numbered lists, and insert tabs.

Sept 27 at 2pm | Oct 16 at 6:30pm

MICROSOFT WORD – TIPS, TRICKS, AND HACKS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn tips, hidden tricks, and time-saving hacks to get the most out of Word. 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.

Sept 30 at 6:30pm | Nov 29 at 2pm

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 an understanding of creating formulas and how cells are referenced within Excel.

Oct 1 at 10:30am | Nov 4 at 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.

Oct 8 at 10:30am | Nov 6 at 2pm

HOW TO HOST A ZOOM MEETING
Virtual
Learn the basics for 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.

Oct 11 at 2pm | Nov 13 at 6:30pm

GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS
YDL-Whittaker
Learn to enter and edit data, format cells, and create simple formulas. Also, learn to share and collaborate on a spreadsheet.

Oct 18

CANVA 101 - SUPERIOR
11am | YDL-Superior
See description for Sept 18.

Oct 25 at 2pm | Nov 20 at 6:30pm

GOOGLE SHEETS TIPS & TRICKS
YDL-Whittaker
Explore more advanced features of Google Sheets like using formulas, conditional functions and formatting, sorting, filtering and linking data, and defining a print area.

Oct 28 at 7pm | Nov 12 at 2pm

GOOGLE DRIVE - BASICS
YDL-Whittaker
Google Drive provides access to free web-based applications for creating documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and more. Learn to navigate Google Drive's interface and how to create, store, organize, access, and share your files/folders online.

Nov 15

CANVA BY DESIGN: BUSINESS CARDS AND FLYERS
10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Learn how to use Canva's free collection of editable templates to make personalized business cards and eye-catching flyers. No prior design knowledge is needed.

More free community events

Saturday | Sept 20

MICHIGAN FOLK SCHOOL'S FOLK FESTIVAL
10am-3pm | Staebler Farm County Park (7734 Plymouth Rd.)
The free Folk Festival is back at Michigan Folk School! Enjoy a silent auction, kids' activities, and live music. Instructors will demonstrate some of MFS's most popular crafting classes. Learn more at mifolkschool.com.

Saturday | Oct 4

FOREST FORENSICS
1pm | Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (6255 Cherry Hill Rd.)
Hike through the Nature Preserve and search for signs of birds, insects, and animals and learn how they live.

Saturday | Oct 25

PUMPKIN CARVING & ARTS AND CRAFTS
11am-2pm | Norfolk Park (1815 Norfolk Ave.)
Carve pumpkins, do crafts and eat snacks while supplies last.

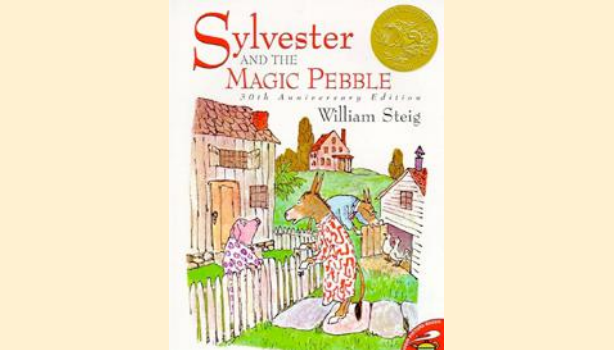
Saturday | Nov 1

OWL PROWL
6:30pm | Cherry Hill Nature Preserve (6255 Cherry Hill Rd.)
Learn how local owls nest and hunt, then hike into the preserve to listen for owl calls.

Banned Books Week 2025

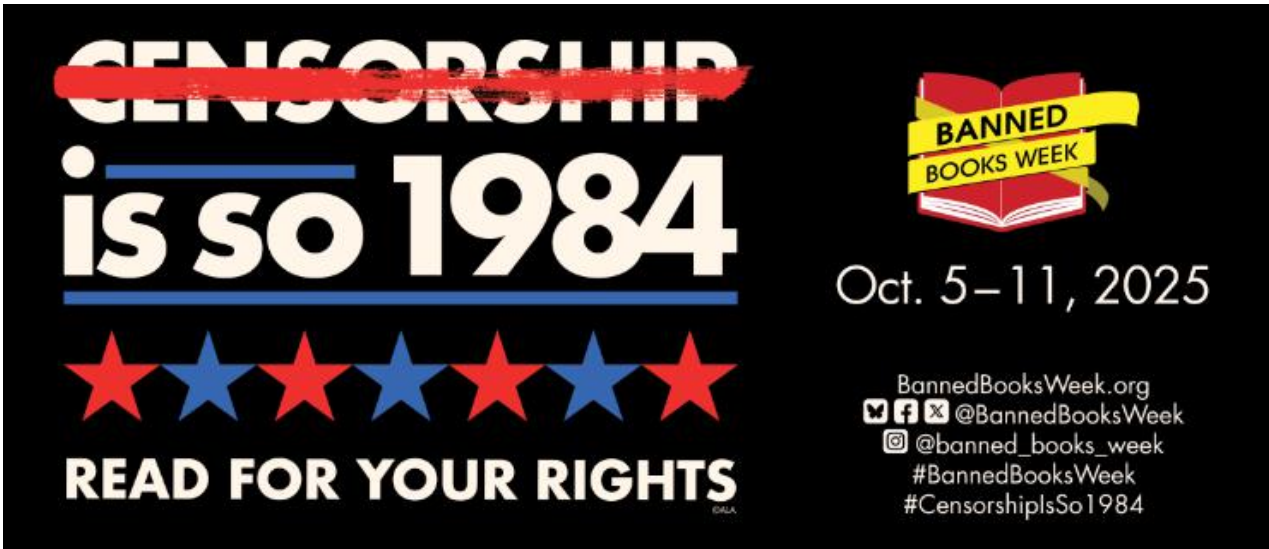
— A letter from Julianne Smith, Assistant Director

If, like librarians, you follow censorship attempts, there are always trends that follow the arc of a society experiencing change. Common reasons for challenges over the years include buzzwords like “smut,” “Communism,” “race,” and the current trends of “gender,” “diversity,” and “social justice.” One of my favorite challenges—a complete moment in time—targeted the 1970 picture book *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by Caldecott-award winning author William Steig. Sylvester, who was a donkey, was out collecting rocks one day when he found a magic pebble that granted wishes. As the saying goes, however, be careful what you wish for. If that sounds like a sweet story featuring talking animals, you would be correct. But in 1977, the Illinois State Police petitioned to have *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* removed from libraries because the police in the book were portrayed as pigs. There were also horses, lions, and chickens in the book, but never mind that. 1977 was rife with tensions and exhaustion over the Vietnam War, so in context— in that arc of societal change—the challenge seems understandable (if not legitimate).



The effort to limit, cancel, ban, and restrict speech in its many forms is not a uniquely American activity, but it raises unique problems for a country whose very Constitution safeguards the freedom of speech and expression.

The American Library Association tracks censorship attempts across the nation and documented 821 attempts across all library types in 2024. The most common justifications were claims of “obscenity for minors; inclusion of LGBTQIA



characters or themes; and topics of race, racism, equity, and social justice.” In Michigan, however, there is some good news. A March 2023 poll conducted by the public opinion and research firm EPIC-MRA confirmed a growing statewide resistance to censorship efforts targeting library collections.

According to Dillon Geshel, Interim Executive Director of the Michigan Library Association, which commissioned the survey, “These findings point to increased support for public libraries and the freedom to read, and sends a strong message to lawmakers, stakeholders, and library boards: Michiganders want their libraries to remain a gateway to knowledge for all, free of censorship.”

The “gateway to knowledge for all” is the guiding principle of public libraries. It is why librarians celebrate Banned Books Week and draw public attention to the dangers of censorship. After all, those who attempt to censor rarely want their own interests snuffed out. The vast majority of challenges over the last few years are coming from organized pressure groups. Protecting the “freedom to read” is hardly their core mission.

Thankfully, it is ours. Librarians believe deeply in the freedom of self-determination and the right to choose what to read. Just for fun, let’s compare censorship to a pizza. Let’s pretend that I hate pizza; I don’t like the texture, the tang of the sauce, the weird shape of the food, and I even dislike the aroma. But no matter how much I dislike pizza, I do

not have the right to stop others from eating pizza, nor do I have the right to bully the local restaurant which serves pizza, and I certainly don’t have the right to restrict other people’s children from eating pizza.

In short, the public library “serves pizza” and protects the right of everyone to eat pizza as they see fit. As playwright, editor, and politician Claire Booth Luce once said, “Censorship, like charity, should begin at home; but unlike charity, it should end there.” That was in 1960.

Which brings me to 1984. Not the year, but the novel. (The novel was actually published in 1949.) In Orwell’s cautionary tale of totalitarianism and mass surveillance, we are reminded of the dangers of manipulating facts and violating the freedom of expression. 1984 is, indeed, very relevant today. It is thus the perfect theme for this year’s Banned Books Week.

Our Banned Books exhibit will be on display in the YDL-Whittaker Community Room throughout October. Stop in and see what authors think of their work being challenged, learn what’s at stake when materials are challenged or banned, and post your thoughts on the feedback board. In short, celebrate your freedom to read! We got you.

Julianne Smith is YDL’s Assistant Director. She enjoys comedy, talking animals, and especially pizza. You can reach her at smith@ypsilibrary.org

Growing Dollars, Growing Futures

My Future Fund early scholarship accounts are paying off for Ypsilanti-area students. Eligible 1st-8th grade students who received \$500 in deposits from Washtenaw County government in the program’s first year have seen their accounts’ value increase to over \$650.

My Future Fund is a collaboration between Washtenaw ISD and Washtenaw County government that allows eligible students to receive free money and support for college and career training. Sign up by December 31 at myfuturefund.org. Complete the Info Form to unlock the program’s full benefits.



IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

SEPTEMBER

9/1: No school - Labor Day (YCL & LCS)

OCTOBER

10/1: Student Count Day (YCS)
10/10: K-5 students ½ Day (LCS)
10/16: ½ Day (LCS)
10/17: ½ Day–Records Day (YCS)
10/17: No School (LCS)
10/22-23: ½ Days–Parent Teacher Conferences (YCS)
10/30: ½ Day–Professional Development (YCS)
10/31: No School (YCS & LCS)

NOVEMBER

11/3: No School (YCS)
11/26-28: No School–Thanksgiving (LCS & YCS)

826MICHIGAN MOVING TO YPSI

Goal is to reach 25,000 new writers in Southeast Michigan by 2030

After 20 years of inventive storytelling and fictional robot repairs, 826michigan is relocating its headquarters from Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti to expand its impact and better serve young writers across Southeast Michigan.

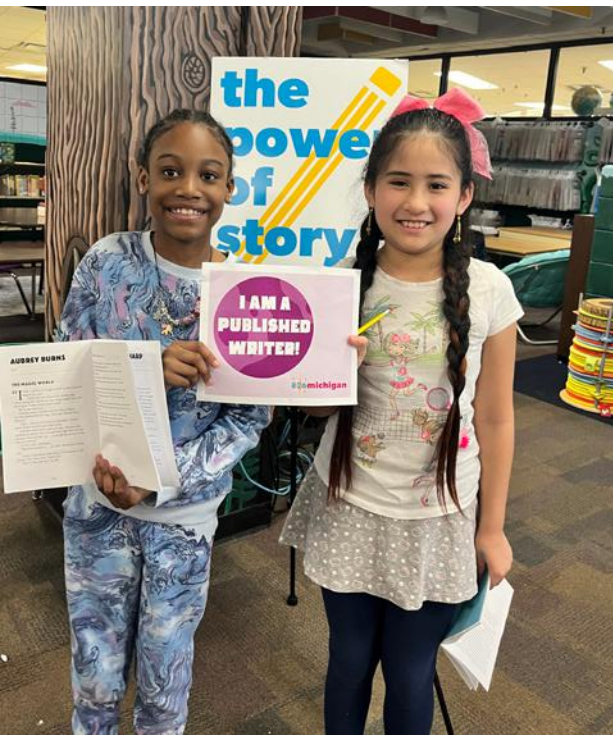
The nonprofit—known for its inventive approach to writing and literacy education and its beloved Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair storefront— is moving offices into Eastern Michigan University’s College of Education. With this new space, 826michigan will embed itself within the community that represents its largest student population and take a significant step toward their goal of reaching 25,000 new writers by 2030.

“This next chapter will allow us to place our operations where our impact can grow most meaningfully—right alongside the students, families, and educators we serve,” said Executive Director Megan Shuchman. “We are grateful to EMU for inviting us to deepen our decades-long partnership, and look forward to all that is to come for our Ypsilanti students, and beyond.”

The move also represents the evolution of two decades of work, partnership, and imagination across Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Ypsilanti.

“Our story, now twenty years old, has become quite the tome,” said Shuchman. “It’s full of plot twists and pivotal shifts—each one leading us to a stronger, more focused version of ourselves.”

826michigan has grown from after-school tutoring and drop-in workshops to a mix of in-school programming, field trips, and writing and literacy



support in Title 1 classrooms and after-school programs across their three service cities. Now, with the backing of their long-time partners at EMU, they’re creating a new kind of learning space—where future educators and young writers will learn from each other.

Ypsilanti Community Schools students will take field trips onto a college campus, and EMU students will support powerful literacy programs inside their own college halls.

“This is exactly the kind of strong partnership we aim to foster,” said Ryan Gildersleeve, Dean of EMU’s College of Education. “Our students benefit

from real-world teaching opportunities, local youth see themselves belonging on a college campus, and together we advance critical educational goals. It’s a win-win-win.”

You can even still buy merchandise from the Robot Supply & Repair shop. While their physical shop powers down, robot fans can find the gadgets, gizmos, and student publications they’ve come to love at onwardrobots.com.

“It’s another evolution for 826michigan,” said Communications & Development Manager Amy Sumerton, who was the nonprofit’s Program Director for its first fifteen years and instrumental in the organization’s founding. “We’re carrying forward everything that made our work special while adapting to what students, teachers, and families need most today. This move allows us to direct more resources into the programs themselves.”

826michigan’s programs, which serve 4,500 students annually across their three service cities, will continue to grow. In Ann Arbor, 826michigan is working with the Ann Arbor District Library to host the same vibrant programming families know and love at branch locations across the city. In Detroit, they’re actively pursuing a new, program-focused space while continuing their work with schools and educators across the city.

“826michigan’s work remains grounded in a commitment to equity, creativity, and community,” said Sumerton. “Their new strategic vision centers around agility, balance, and belonging—and this move reflects all three.”

Access Eduroam at YDL



About eduroam: eduroam (education roaming) allows users (researchers, teachers, students, staff) from participating institutions to securely access the Internet from any eduroam-enabled institution.

Students and other users with eduroam credentials on their devices can access it from all YDL branches. **Please note**, YDL cannot sign you up for eduroam access. To get eduroam access, contact your supporting institution or visit merit.edu/howtoeduroam.



Return of the Macabre

After the spine-tingling success of last year’s competition—which drew 72 haunting submissions—YDL’s Horror Short Competition returns for 2025!

Once again, we invite brave souls to use two sentences to convey their most chilling tales. This deceptively simple format has proven its power to unsettle and unnerve, leaving readers with images that linger long after the final word. In 2024, Logan Corey won with the tale *FIRST DATE* (right).

Starting October 1, submit your two-sentence horror stories at ypsilibrary.org or a YDL branch. Throughout the month, vote for your favorites on YDL’s social media platforms—Instagram, Facebook, and Bluesky. The finalists will go head to head on October 29.

Our winner will be announced on Halloween and will join *FIRST DATE* in YDL’s horror hall of fame.



Friday | Oct 24

HALLOWEEN DOWNTOWN

5:30-7pm | YDL-Michigan

Trick or treat in the Library Plaza and parking lot, meet and engage with local community organizations, and even check out the BOO-mobile! The costume contest is back this year with prizes for the winners, and Ypsilanti Rotary Club will host a game station where you can win a free book.



The Ypsi Seed Library at the Whittaker Branch has Grown - Literally!

Now located on a bookshelf near the fireplace, the Seed Library at YDL-Whittaker has expanded to include a new Propagation Station. In addition to a broader selection of seeds, you'll now find rooted houseplant cuttings available for sharing and growing.

"With seed library usage more than tripling over the past year, we knew it was time to grow," said

Nicole Walley, YDL's librarian in charge of the Seed Library. "We can't wait to welcome houseplant lovers into the space."

Patrons can take or donate seeds and participate in the plant exchange by bringing in or taking home a rooted cutting. Informational pamphlets are also available on topics such as seed saving and plant propagation.



Washtenaw Voters to Consider Career Technical Education Millage on November Ballot

On November 4, voters in the Washtenaw ISD service area will consider a 1 mill tax proposal to help expand PreK-12 Career Technical Education (CTE) in local schools, including in Ypsilanti Community Schools and Lincoln Consolidated Schools. If approved, the CTE millage would be used to reimburse all local public school districts for existing CTE expenses and develop new countywide CTE learning opportunities.



Career Technical Education, or CTE, is an educational approach where students learn by doing, combining traditional academic concepts with technical skills. Through CTE, students explore their interests and skills and then match them to career pathways like robotics, health sciences, entrepreneurship, engineering, cybersecurity, and aviation and aerospace.

Over the last four years, CTE enrollment in Washtenaw County has grown by 69%, and hundreds of students are on CTE waitlists across the county. A CTE millage would help create new CTE programs aligned with high-demand industries.

Based on data from the University of Michigan Youth Policy Lab, Washtenaw students have access to fewer CTE programs compared to their peers across the state. A CTE millage would especially help Black and Hispanic students, students who are economically disadvantaged, and students in smaller districts more easily access new and existing programs.

Learn more about Washtenaw Career Technical Education and the CTE millage proposal at washtenawcte.org.

NOVEMBER ELECTION
KEY DATES

VOTE

Now: Request an absentee ballot by 5pm on Oct. 31. Go to VOTE411 or MI.gov/vote.

Sep 16: National Voter Registration Day with League of Women Voters (see page 4).

Sep 25: First day to turn in an absentee ballot at your local clerk's office.

Oct 21: Last day to register online or by mail (postmark by 10/21).

Oct 21: Postmark deadline to return your ballot by mail.

Nov 3 at 4pm: Deadline to turn in your absentee ballot at your local clerk's office if you are registered to vote where you live.

Nov 4: Election Day! Polls are open 7am to 8pm. Find your polling place at mvic.sos.state.mi.us. You can register to vote on election day at your polling place.

From the Health Department

VACCINATION SEASON IS STARTING

Kids today are more at risk for diseases that could be prevented with vaccines, according to the Washtenaw County Health Department. Vaccination rates have dropped, which makes everyone more vulnerable to serious illnesses and outbreaks.

This year, the U.S. has already had more measles cases than we've seen in decades. Washtenaw County had a huge spike in pertussis (aka whooping cough) in 2024. Vaccines can protect against both of these potentially serious diseases.

"High rates of vaccination protect everyone in our community," said Beth Ann Hamilton, Communications Coordinator with the Washtenaw County Health Department. "We never want to see young children or their families sick with anything a vaccine could have prevented or made less serious."

You can get vaccinated at your doctor's office or pharmacy, or call the Health Department at 734-544-6700. Learn more at washtenaw.org/immunizations.

Sept 6

GET A FREE FLU VACCINE AT THE LIBRARY!

1-4:30pm | YDL-Superior

Stop by for a free flu vaccine. No insurance or appointment required. Provided by Michigan Medicine. Available for ages 5 and up! Children 17 and under must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

WASHTENAW WIC IS HERE FOR YOU!

WIC—a nutrition program that provides nutrition and health education, healthy food, and other services free of charge—has expanded its income guidelines, and you may now qualify even if you haven't before. Over half of all babies born in Washtenaw County participate in WIC.

If you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or caring for a child under 5, you can get nutritious food, breastfeeding support, health referrals, and more from WIC. Washtenaw WIC staff speak multiple languages. To find out if you qualify, call 734-544-6800 or visit washtenaw.org/WIC.



YpsiWrites Celebrates Year 6!

Angelica Esquivel, YpsiWrites’ inaugural Writer in Residence, will create an anthology by Ypsi-based creatives and writers as part of YpsiWrites’ 6th year of programming. This will be in addition to her first year of workshops centered around the 2025-2026 YpsiWrites theme, “Writing Together.”

During the first year of Writer in Residence initiatives for YpsiWrites, Esquivel will offer collaborative workshops for writers to brainstorm, share, and write their stories, poetry, and art. This fall at YDL, she will host a workshop on poetry and two workshops on flash fiction (see pages 4 & 5). In the winter, YDL patrons can attend a workshop on creating zines.

These workshops will result in a community anthology titled *Envisioning Ypsi: Histories and Futures* and an art exhibit featuring local artists in the spring of 2026. Submit your work by February 1, 2026 to be considered for the anthology. All submissions should be emailed as a .pdf or .docx file to ypsiwrites@gmail.com. Please include the subject line “YpsiWrites Anthology Submission” with the author’s name as it should appear in the publication, plus a third-person biography of 100 words or less.



- SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**
- Submissions are limited to poetry, flash fiction, or visual art.
 - Poetry - submit up to 5 poems in a single document.
 - Fiction - submit up to 3 flash fiction pieces (1000 words or less each) in a single document.
 - Visual Art - submit as a .png or .jpeg up to 8 pieces.
 - Previously published pieces are acceptable, but make a note about when and where they were first published and any additional notes about the previous publication.
 - Pieces about or set in Ypsilanti are encouraged, but this is not a requirement for submission.

Submissions will be accepted until February 1, 2026. If you have any additional questions about the Writer in Residency program or submission guidelines, please email ypsiwrites@gmail.com.

**YPSIWrites’
SIXTH BIRTHDAY
PARTY!**

SATURDAY | OCT. 11 • 11 AM-1 PM | YDL-WHITTAKER
Meet the 2025-2026 Writers of Ypsilanti and celebrate this year’s “Writing Together” theme. See page 4 for more information.

Your Novel is Waiting

Could you redirect one hour a day of scrolling or binge-watching toward writing your novel this November?

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) is a beautifully chaotic challenge: write 50,000 words in thirty days. Since 1999, writers around the world have embraced this goal, determined to end the month with a first draft.

The national NaNoWriMo organization shuttered this spring, but you can still join fellow aspiring writers at YpsiWrites’ writing sprints designed to keep you motivated and on track in November (see Page 5 for details).

Saturdays: 10am-12pm Vertex Coffee (307 N River St)

Drop in for any amount of time—whatever keeps your creative momentum alive. The YpsiWrites team will provide prompts and encouragement to help you power through plot holes and character crises.

Can't attend? YpsiWrites will also share writing resources via their website and social media throughout November. You can sign up at ypsiwrites.org for regular writing encouragement delivered straight to your inbox.

Join the collective creative energy! Your novel won't write itself, but you don't have to tackle it solo.



YCUA Meter Upgrade

The Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority (YCUA) is replacing water meters for residential and business customers in Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township. They are installing the Sonata Allegro water meter in all residential homes as part of YCUA’s Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) program.

YCUA customers will receive a letter with instructions on how to schedule the water meter replacement, which should take 30-60 minutes, including a brief interruption of water service and an inspection of the water service line material.

The project is part of a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project. YCUA has contracted with VEPO Metering to replace all water meters less than 3” in the City of Ypsilanti—approximately 4,100 meters—at no cost to the resident over the next year.

As part of a separately funded project, over the next few years YCUA staff will replace water meters

for Township residents—approximately 12,400 meters—at no cost to the residents.

All VEPO and YCUA meter installers will have identification, wear uniforms with a photo ID, travel in marked vehicles, and have completed background checks.

The Sonata Allegro is an ultrasonic water meter designed for accurate measurement of potable water. It collects and transmits real-time water usage directly to the residents and water department, helping detect unusual changes in water usage to keep residents informed in real time. Since the Sonata Allegro operates without any moving parts, YCUA anticipates the Allegro meters being maintenance-free for up to 20 years of operation.

Contact YCUA at 734-484-6000 x300 if you have any questions about AMI or how this meter change-out program will impact you.



- TO NOTE:**
- Ensure the area around your water meter is accessible before your scheduled appointment.
 - The water meter will be replaced at no cost, however, some existing conditions may need to be resolved by the homeowner in order for the meter replacement to be completed. This may include inaccessible meters, plumbing issues, or unsafe working conditions.

A Garden for a Rainy Day

YDL-Superior has a new rain garden to learn from. Funded with a grant from Ann Arbor Farm and Garden—which also funded the Superior Learning Garden—the new rain garden is filled with pollinator-friendly, native cultivars.

Rain gardens are installed where water naturally puddles, making a safe and aesthetic place for rainwater to soak in. Correctly locating and building a rain garden can help with yard flooding issues, including water in a basement.

“The hope is that people will see the garden, learn about it and the plants, and be able to utilize the knowledge for themselves if they wish to install a rain garden in their own yards,” said Nicole Russell, YDL’s librarian who organized and installed the rain garden.

Plants in YDL’s rain garden include hibiscus, blue flag iris, cardinal flower, and purple coneflower,

purchased from the Washtenaw Native Plant sale. In addition to being “bee-friendly,” the plants that have edible parts will be incorporated into YDL’s Garden to Table programs.

“I chose native cultivars for the garden,” said Russell, “because I wanted to attract the native pollinators and give them food that would be normal for their diet.”

The garden took several weeks to complete, from when the sod was removed to prepare the space to incorporating compost, rocks, and soil and installing the plants. In the future, Russell plans to use the rain garden in programs about pollinator gardens, teaching what rain gardens are used for and how to use native plants in landscaping.

“I worked really hard to get the grant approved and did a great deal of manual labor to get this installed,” Russell said. “I am super proud of it!”



Friends Fall Book Sale “T”-ser

In addition to your next great reads, you can find your next great threads at the Friends of YDL Fall Book Sale! Back on the Block t-shirts, celebrating the YDL-Michigan reopening, will be available for \$20, along with the usual great prices on books. You can also buy a shirt at the Friends Book Shop during regular hours.

During the book sale (September 18-21 at YDL-Whittaker), pay \$1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversized paperbacks. September 18 from 6-8pm is a members-only preview sale. Memberships start at just \$10 and will be available for purchase at the door. It’s the perfect time to join the Friends and help make library events possible! On September 21, bags of books will be just \$5, and some books will be sold for a reduced price.

The Friends are also hosting a Holiday Pop-up Sale November 22-23 (see page 5)

BOOK SALE HOURS:

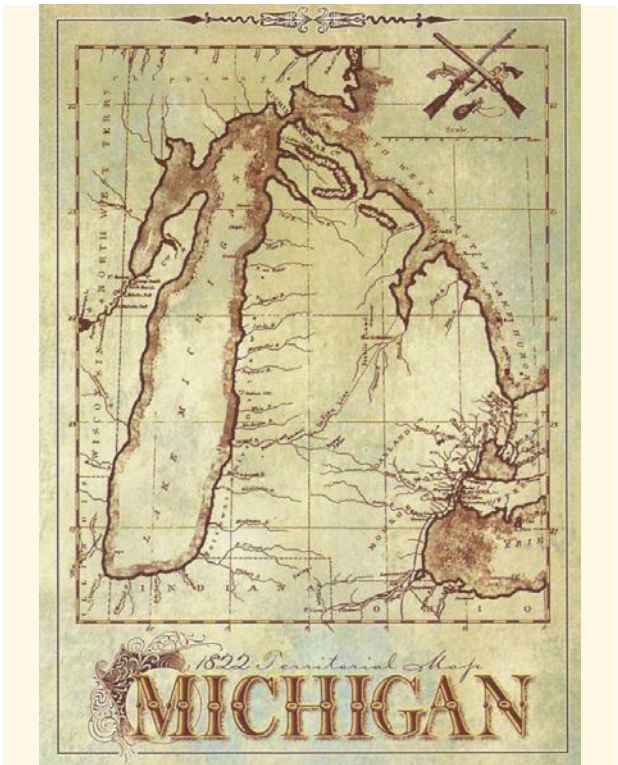
- Thursday, Sep 18 (Members-only) 6-8pm
- Friday, Sep 19 11am-5pm
- Saturday, Sep 20 11am-3pm
- Sunday, Sep 21 1-4pm

Whittaker Book Shop Hours:	
Monday	10am-6pm
Tuesday	10am-6pm
Wednesday	10am-6pm
Thursday	10am-6pm
Friday	10am-4pm
Saturday	10am-4pm
Sunday	2-4pm



Ypsi Stories

In a supersized episode that was too big to release over the summer, we'll learn from Matt Siegfried about the Native American Great Lakes and the Conquest of Michigan, especially as it relates to the Ypsilanti area. Visit ypsilibrary.org/ypsistories to hear all available podcast episodes.



From A Complete Historical, Chronological, and Geographical American Atlas (1822)

WWW.YPSILIBRARY.ORG



LOCATIONS & HOURS

YDL-WHITTAKER	YDL-MICHIGAN	YDL-SUPERIOR	YDL-BOOKMOBILE
5577 Whittaker Road Ypsilanti, MI 48197	229 W. Michigan Avenue Ypsilanti, MI 48197	1900 Harris Road Ypsilanti, MI 48198	Ypsilanti, MI 48197
HOURS Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm Fri and Sat: 10am-6pm Sun: 1-5pm	HOURS Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm Fri and Sat: 10am-6pm	HOURS Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm Fri and Sat: 10am-6pm	HOURS Mon-Thurs: 4-8pm

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 for assistance.

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