Spring 2021
Programs and Information

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Curbside Pickup Hours
Monday - Thursday, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friday & Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Building is closed until further notice.

Holiday Closings
The library will be closed
Good Friday, April 2 through Easter Sunday, April 4.
For Memorial Day, the library will be closed Saturday, May 29 through Monday, May 31.

Spring is Springing Up All Over!
Let the Royal Oak Public Library help you commit senseless acts of beauty. As you plan your spring garden, do not forget the amazing offerings of the library’s free seed collection. The service is going strong and is housed in an attractive nook near the library’s Eleven Mile Road entrance. All community members are welcome to take the vegetable, herb and flower seeds curated with the help of generous donors. And it is the hope that seed library patrons return some seeds from their harvest to make the Seed Library self-sustaining.
The library started a “Library of Things” in the fall of 2020 and has expanded its collection to include gardening tools which you can check out and use in your garden. Questions? Please contact Mick Howey at 248-246-3724 or michaelh@ropl.org

Spotlight on Newspaper Databases
Did you know that ROPL offers a digital archive of newspapers, both local and national? The Daily Tribune is the go-to paper for all things Royal Oak plus surrounding communities in southeast Oakland county. The library has recently completed a major digitization project for the “Trib” from November 1877 to September 2015. Every back issue has been scanned and the entire page of the paper, photos, ads and all is accessible 24/7 on the web. Users can search by name, subject, keyword, or browse by date. It’s an effective tool for finding local obituaries, local news, sports articles, and feature stories about Royal Oak businesses, organizations, local history, and government decisions. This is particularly helpful for users trying to glean a picture of what life was life in Royal Oak in a given month or year when it comes to the prices of goods and real estate, products being showcased in ads, local happenings in social events columns, and feature articles of local interest. A current Tribune collection is also available, covering the years 2010 to today.
National newspapers are also available through the library, including online access to The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. Another newspaper database, Newsbank provides access to world news and information on global issues and events, education, political and social issues and features the Detroit News, Royal Oak Review, USA Today, international sources and much more.
For assistance in accessing or searching the databases, please contact the Adult Reference Desk at (248) 246-3727.

Another Word About Programming
ROPL continues to offer virtual programming during the pandemic for the safety of patrons, presenters, and staff. Please stay tuned for announcements about the status of programming when the library is able to safely transition back to in-person events.
Spring is in the Air!
Backyard Birds and Beyond

More and more people are enjoying bird feeding while staying close to home during the pandemic. Greg Bodker’s beautiful photography will help you learn more about birds as he demonstrates the joys of birding you can have both in your backyard and in your area. Novice and aspiring birders will especially benefit from the program. Topics include:

- Discuss the excitement and enjoyment of birdwatching
- Differences between birdwatching and birding
- How to attract more birds to your backyard
- Backyard birds, types of seed, feeders and their care
- How birding beyond the backyard leads to many enriching experiences
- Places to go birding in our area
- The excitement of a bird chase
- Stories from the field while birding

Greg Bodker has been a serious birder since 2006, combining his interest in birds, nature, and photography as often as possible. Greg has led birding trips for Michigan Audubon and was on its Board of Directors for three years. Currently, he enjoys delivering birding and nature education presentations to audiences throughout Michigan.

Monday, March 1 at 7:00 PM Please register HERE

Spring into Writing; Writing into Spring

Shake free of winter cobwebs and discover how to use the promise of spring as a springboard to write – while experiencing the change of seasons through the act of writing. Join author, writing coach, and writing workshop facilitator Maureen Dunphy to learn how to make this connection work for you. Participate with pen in hand, and plan to start a new piece of writing of your own.

In this workshop, Maureen will read a piece of her own writing, share the story of its inception, and get you started writing a transformational piece of your own through an exploratory series of fun writing exercises.

Dunphy is author of Great Lakes Island Escapes: Ferries and Bridges to Adventure (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2016) and All About the Great Lakes (Indianapolis: Blue River Press, 2020). She is currently writing a book about trees.

Tuesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM Please register HERE

Houseplants 101 with the Houseplant Guru

Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 PM Please register HERE

Handcrafting Teas, Tinctures & Oils

Herbalist Ben Cohen explores the benefits of cultivated and foraged herbs and why developing a relationship with our herbal allies is so important. Ben will show how to process herbs, brew teas, craft salves, tinctures, and oils. Ben is an educator, seed saver, and an author. His latest book is The Artisan Herbalist.

Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 PM Please register HERE

Spring Veg with Chef Jake Williams
Chef Jake Williams will share some of his favorite ways to prepare and highlight spring vegetables. Jake is an award-winning, certified Executive Chef and works as a Programs Manager with Gleaners Community Food Bank.

March date and time to be announced.
Contact Adult Services at 248-246-3727.

Rain Gardens with Drew

Rain gardens are shallow depressions that collect rain water before it enters municipal storm water systems. They alleviate problems associated with flooding and drainage, keep water clean by filtering storm water before it enters local waterways; provide habitat and food for wildlife, and enhance the beauty of individual yards and communities. Landscape designer Drew Lathin will explain what a rain garden is, how rain gardens work, and how to design and build a rain garden.

Drew has been playing around with native plants in built landscapes for nearly 20 years, most recently as the owner of Creating Sustainable Landscapes, now in its 10th year. He is a fierce advocate for the need to re-wild our urban and suburban landscapes using native plants in thoughtful and legible designs to bring biological diversity and beauty to our everyday lives.

Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 PM Please register HERE
Gardening for the Birds: Strategies for Optimizing Habitat

Did you know that most of our native songbirds rely on native insects to raise their young? With the ongoing insect apocalypse, our native songbirds are at risk. Advanced Master Gardener Cheryl English will teach us how we can help them through plant selection, garden design and maintenance protocols, making your garden a safe and welcoming oasis for all species.

Monday, April 12 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Edible Landscaping

Love being able to pick fresh fruit and veggies grown in your yard? Would like some advice on what native plants to use to help extend your joy of the harvest? Naim Edwards will share just how you can change your yard into an edible landscape. Naim is the director of the MSU Detroit Partnership in Food, Learning and Innovation (DPFLI) and will also discuss the important work he is doing there.

Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Your Body & Its Journey

Understanding Infertility

Did you know infertility is a disease recognized by the World Health Organization? Join us during National Infertility Awareness Week to learn more about infertility and how it affects the 1 in 8 couples struggling to conceive. A panel of experts, including Dr. Carole Kowalczyk, MD and Claire Hogan, MA, LPC, NCC, from Michigan Center for Fertility and Women's Health, will discuss what causes infertility, what options exist for medical treatment and adoption, and how to support friends and family fighting infertility. This program is for adults 18 and older and will include adult content. Registration is encouraged.

Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Introduction to Face Reading

Experts say only 7% of our face-to-face communication comes from spoken words, and that two people in a 30 minute conversation can send as many as 800 different signals. Lin Klaassen will share real time videos of body language signals that you can easily and accurately understand and apply, with scientifically-supported research on how to read people's micro expressions and all aspects of nonverbal behavior.

Lin is considered one of the world’s top experts in the field of Nonverbal Communication – Including Western Face Reading and Body Language. She has been lecturing internationally for over 28 years, and serves as a sales, jury, business, relationship, and poker consultant, with clients spanning 45 countries.

Tuesday, May 11 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Women’s History Month

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Elizabeth Cady Stanton fought for equal rights for women for over fifty years, and upon her death in 1902 she left behind a legacy of her crusade for female equality and myriad writings that would inspire feminists for over a century to come. Hear from Mrs. Stanton in 1866, when the Civil War was over, but the battle for Women’s Suffrage was just beginning. Join Laura Keyes, as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, for this informative and inspiring presentation.

Laura Keyes graduated from UW-Madison with a Master’s Degree in Library Studies, and is a lifetime member of the Association of Lincoln Presenters. Laura recently won the Excellence in Performing Award from that Association.

Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Women in the Ancient World: You’ve Come a Long Way, Baby!

Comparing and contrasting the status and roles of Greek, Roman, and Egyptian women, Dennis Fiems provides a fascinating perspective on the history of women’s rights.

Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Title IX: June 23, 1972

Until 1972, sexual discrimination against women in college and university studies was legal, and women could outright be denied educational opportunities. Learn about how influential politicians Patsy Mink, Edith Green, Birch Bayh, Ted Stevens and Richard Nixon stepped in to change this with Title IX legislation that created limitless educational possibilities for women.

This will be presented by Evan Weiner, an award-winning journalist and author of seven books that cover sports, politics and American history.

Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Title IX: A Project of Advocates for Youth
Renew Your Spirit with Books

Detroit Public Library: An American Classic

For the last century, the Detroit Public Library has ranked as one of the most beautiful buildings in Detroit – an important landmark as well as a significant monument serving generations of Detroit’s community. Author Barbara Cohn will highlight the conception and building of the 1921 Woodward Avenue Library, the 1963 Cass Avenue addition, and the library as it is today. This lecture unites the interests of history buffs, art enthusiasts, library lovers, and Detroit-area locals with a tribute to one of the city’s most impressive structures.

Tuesday, April 6 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Let’s Talk About Books

Interested in finding new authors and titles to round out your reading list? Two book lovers will share great reads during two ZOOM sessions.

On Wednesday, March 24, retired librarian Beth Andersen, who worked at the Ann Arbor District Library for 35 years and still reviews books for Library Journal, will share her favorite titles coming out this spring. She also will share tips on finding memorable reads.

Wednesday, March 24 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

On Wednesday, April 7, join author and librarian Annie Spence to chat about her favorite books and reading habits, and how you can find your next favorite book. She is the author of Dear Fahrenheit 451: love and heartbreak in the stacks: a librarian’s love letters and breakup notes to the books in her life, which professes her love, and sometimes ire, at the books in her life.

Wednesday, April 7 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Registration is required. Both programs will take place on Zoom. Registrants will receive a Meeting ID by email which will be sent out the day of the event. Please check your spam folder if you do not receive an email. For more information, please contact Librarian Rosemary Mirsky, 248-246-3715 or rosemary@ropl.org.

A Celebration with Michigan Poets

The library is honored to host a reading by these remarkable poets, each with an impressive body of work and experience, for a Zoom poetry reading on Thursday, April 8 at 7:00 PM to celebrate National Poetry Month.

Founding director (1995-2015) of Detroit’s InsideOut Literary Arts Project (www.insideoutdetroit.org), Terry Blackhawk is the author of eight volumes of poetry and a 2019 inductee into the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame. Her awards for poetry include the Pablo Neruda Poetry Prize from Nimrod International, the John Ciardi Prize for her second collection, Escape Artist, seven Pushcart Prize nominations, and a 2013 Kresge Arts in Detroit literary fellowship.

Her work as a poet and scholar has received support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and she was twice named Michigan Creative Writing Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. Terry has also just announced that she is a finalist for the 2020 Joy Harjo Poetry Prize from Cutthroat.

Dennis Hinrichsen is the winner of Grid Poetry Prize for 2020 for his collection This Is Where I Live I Have Nowhere Else To Go which was just published this fall. Other recent work includes [q / learn], a chapbook from Green Linden Press, and Skin Music, winner of the 2014 Michael Waters Poetry Prize from Southern Indiana Review Press. His previous books include Rip-tooth (2010 Tampa Poetry Prize), Kurosawa’s Dog (2008 FIELD Poetry Prize), and Detail from The Garden of Earthly Delights (1999 Akron Poetry Prize). His other awards include the 2015 Rachel Wetzsteon Chapbook Award. From May 2017-April 2019, he served as the first Poet Laureate of the Greater Lansing area.

Jack Ridl, Poet Laureate of Douglas, Michigan, released Saint Peter and the Goldfinch (Wayne State University Press) in April 2019. His Practicing to Walk Like a Heron (WSUPress, 2013) was awarded the National Gold Medal for poetry by ForeWord Reviews/Indie Fab. His collection Broken Symmetry (WSUPress) was co-recipient of The Society of Midland Authors best book of poetry award for 2006. His Losing Season (CavanKerry Press) was named the best sports book of the year for 2009 by The Institute for International Sport. Then Poet Laureate Billy Collins selected his Against Elegies for The Center for Book Arts Chapbook Award.

Registration is required. Please contact Susan Sheiner, Adult Services Librarian at Susan@ropl.org with any questions.

Thursday, April 8 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE
Inhabiting the “Other” When the Heart Needs a Stunt Double

Poet Diane Decillis will read from her new book When the Heart Needs a Stunt Double (Wayne State University Press) via Zoom, followed by a workshop for participants to write their own autobiographical poetry.

The poet explains, “There’s a wonderful German word maskenfreiheit that has no English equivalent – but it alludes to the freedom that comes with wearing a costume mask. It can be a literal mask or metaphorical one. We all wear masks, we all portray an image on social media, we all lie and conceal our true selves.” Decillis will show how artists have done this and will inspire participants to do the same.

Registration is required. For more information please contact Adult Services Librarian, Susan Sheiner at susan@ropl.org.

Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Travel Through Your Own Hometown: A Photographer’s Story

Photographer Rich Silver will share his journey of capturing images of cultures and landscapes around the globe and in his town of Montauk, New York. Silver’s images of the beautiful shores of the Atlantic reveal the life and light of the region year round. In this Zoom presentation, Silver will share his process of creating images and developing them into a body of work. He will also speak about his experience of travel photography and his closer look at Montauk, during this time of the pandemic, while he focuses on his environment close to home.

During the nine years that Silver has focused full-time on his photography practice, his work has been exhibited widely on the East End of Long Island, including group shows at the Montauk Depot Art Gallery, Guild Hall in East Hampton, and the Amagansett Lifesaving Station Museum. Most recently, with his “The Natural World from Home” series, Rich participated in the COVID-19 Pictures collection, a project with images from all over the world.

Please contact Susan Sheiner for more information at 248-246-3745 or susan@ropl.org

Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Third–Thursday Zoom Book Club

Join us for spirited discussions of novels and non-fiction titles on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Books can be provided upon registration for each session. Meetings will be conducted online through Zoom. For further information, please contact Rosemary Mirsky at 248-246-3715, or email her at rosemary@ropl.org.

Begin Again: James Baldwin’s America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own by Eddie S. Glaude

James Baldwin grew disillusioned by the failure of the Civil Rights Movement to force America to confront its lies about race; in the era of Trump, what can be learned from his struggle?

Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Crooked Hallelujah by Kelli Jo Ford

A first collection (a novel in stories) by a Cherokee Nation writer traces four generations of Native American women as they navigate cultural dynamics, religious beliefs, 1980s oil bust, devastating storms and unreliable men while grappling with their ideas of home.

Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

On Trails: An Exploration by Robert Moor

The book is an “exploration of how trails help us understand the world – from tiny ant trails to hiking paths that span continents, from interstate highways to the Internet.” After thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail, Moor spent seven years traveling the globe exploring all kinds of trails. He intersperses his travel observations with science, history and philosophy.

Thursday, May 20 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

In Honor of Memorial Day

Music of the War Years

Unlike many World War I songs, many World War II songs focused more on romance and strength instead of propaganda, morale, and patriotism. Songs that were overly patriotic or militaristic were often rejected by the public. Many bands produced records, and names such as Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw became household staples. But swing didn’t stop with the music – swing dancing grew alongside it. Dance halls and clubs were filled with “jitterbugs” performing the Lindy Hop, Balboa and Shag. Join Stu Johnson for the musical history of the era and enjoy the songs of the Greatest Generation.

Monday, May 24 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE
Deep Six: Titans of the Great Lakes

Based on Ric Mixter’s 1998 documentary, this lecture shares the largest ships ever lost on the Great Lakes, which include:

The Cedarville: lost in a collision in the Straits of Mackinac near the famous Mackinac Bridge, 10 men lost their lives due to a captain’s desire to run full steam in pea-soup fog. Ric shares rare television interviews with survivors and a German sailor who helped rescue the men from the freezing water.

The Daniel J Morrell: Ripped into two parts in a 1966 storm, the Morrell’s stern sailed for five miles after the bow sank. Only one man survived a two-night ordeal in November of 1966.

The Carl Bradley: The largest ship lost on Lake Michigan was empty when it broke in a storm in 1958. Two men survived, and Ric shares insight to the disaster and how the story has been perpetually incorrect over the years. Featuring exclusive comments from US Steel president Chris Buekema, this lecture is unmatched in its scope of the largest ship lost.

The James Reed: Lake Erie’s largest wreck, lost in a collision in the fog in the middle of the lake. The water is so shallow that one man climbed up the mast and never even got wet. Eyewitness interviews make this an exclusive look at a wreck few have talked about.

The James Carruthers: Canada’s largest freighter during the 1913 Storm was lost during a killer storm that took 250 lives and a dozen ships. It has yet to be discovered, one of three of the ships still missing.

William C Moreland: This massive steel freighter barely made five trips after launching when it was blinded by smoke along Michigan’s Keweenaw Peninsula and ran aground on the notorious Sawtooth Reef. A long salvage project finally saved half the wreck, which was rebuilt into another freighter.

Edmund Fitzgerald: The largest of Great Lakes shipwrecks, this ship reached legendary status after a Top 40 song was written about its loss on Lake Superior in 1975.

The 1913 Strike in Michigan’s Copper Country: Its History and Tragedy

In 1913, thousands of copper miners went out on a nine-month strike in the copper country. This labor strike tore the community in two; some people sympathized with the miners’ dangerous working conditions, while others sided with mine and business owners. Learn more about the working conditions in the mines, what life was like in copper country, and hear about how the strike led to a tragic end for 70 lives.

Presented by Donna Simons, author of Copper Empire, a fictionalized story of the strike. She will be available to answer questions from the audience following the presentation.

Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE
There’s Always Something to Learn @ ROPL

British and Irish Descendants: Dual Citizenship and Passport Virtual Workshop

Are you a descendant of a British (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) or Irish relative? Do you want to increase travel and other options with a second passport? COVID-19 greatly increased the demand, usefulness, and advantages of a second passport. The co-founder of Google, Eric Schmidt, is one of many who have obtained dual citizenship recently. This virtual webinar will cover critical information on eligibility and other requirements for obtaining a British (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) or Irish (Ireland is a member of the E.U.) passport, or both, for eligible American descendants of either or both countries, who want to take advantage of a second, or even third, citizenship. Advantages can include lower cost education, career prospects, health care registration, retirement options, or other security and economic purposes.

Téné Logan, a Royal Oak resident, has successfully navigated the process for her family, and her free webinar covers the ins and outs of dual citizenship eligibility. For one-on-one assistance and additional consultation from Téné, call (248) 246-3900 to set up an appointment (fees apply).

Tuesday, March 30 at 7:00 PM  Please register HERE

Seniors’ Computer College: Free 7-Week Computer Essentials Course

This Senior College (ages 65-95) is for seniors and other interested adults. Take all four classes at your own pace to complete the course. A Certificate of Achievement will be e-mailed to you! Instructor Mike Wilson is an author of five books for seniors. Mike has taught hundreds of seniors during computer workshops in about 40 cities in S.E. Michigan! He currently teaches at colleges, senior centers, libraries, parks & recreation departments, and workforce/development settings.

Closing Your Digital Divide: A Computer Checklist for Recent Learners and Tinkerers

Whether you are a newbie, tinkerer, or just need tips on how to get the most out of your computer, author and instructor Mike Wilson has you covered. This workshop will include such topics as common computer terms; Windows 10 and apps; the basics of word processing; using email, websites, and the Internet; and transferring cell phone pictures. Prerequisite: know how to use a mouse/touchpad.

Class 1: Monday, April 5 at 11:00 AM  Please register HERE
Class 2: Monday, April 12 at 11:00 AM  Please register HERE

Using Browsers, Exploring Websites and Getting the Most Out of Searching the Web

Learn about browsers and how to use them. Create favorites, use browser tabs, and enlarge web pages as well as use “Read aloud”, and search. Get the most out of search engines, such as Google. Explore websites in class and get cooking recipes, access free games, shop, get free stuff, and visit practical websites for seniors!

Class 1: Monday, April 19 at 11:00 AM  Please register HERE
Class 2: Monday, April 26 at 11:00 AM  Please register HERE

All About Pictures – Finding, Organizing and Editing

Learn to manage pictures on your computer. Also, find out how to name, rename, and move pictures into folders and get organized. The class will take a look at using Photo Gallery and how to do minor picture editing. In addition, you’ll learn how to use pictures for desktop backgrounds and insert a picture into Microsoft Word to manipulate for fliers, invitations, and other printed materials. (Not for Apple/Mac users.)

Monday, May 3 at 11:00 AM  Please register HERE

Learn Word Processing by Doing Small Projects

Seniors will acquire basic word processing skills and then create invitations, certificates, recipes, and other printed materials. Learn how to copy and paste, change margins, and the secret to properly using tabs. Also, Mike will demonstrate the free word processor that came with your computer, as well as features of the popular Microsoft Word program.

Class 1: Monday, May 10 at 11:00 AM  Please register HERE
Class 2: Monday, May 17 at 11:00 AM  Please register HERE

Classic, indie, documentary and DIY films are now available from Kanopy. Access Kanopy’s impressive variety of films from silent-era shorts to ground breaking documentaries for free with your Royal Oak Public Library card. Go to ropl.org for details.
Free Introductory Coding Workshops
Partnering with Grand Circus in Detroit, we continue to offer introductory workshops on coding, repeated on a monthly basis for adults wishing to explore a new high-demand career in technology. This free workshop introduces you to the basics of programming through hands-on exercises. If you have little to no coding experience or want to get acquainted with the GC learning environment, this is a great place to start!
Participants are required to supply their own laptops.
Please register with Grand Circus HERE.

Wednesdays, March 10, April 14, and May 12 at 6:00 PM

Google Chromebooks Available for Public Use
In an effort to increase computer access within our community we are offering Google Chromebooks for public use. Chromebooks are fast, lightweight computers that run apps instead of traditional software. A Wi-Fi connection is required to log in. Patrons checking out Chromebooks may also check out a library Wi-Fi HotSpot. Sign in as an ROPL Guest to use the internet or to create and share documents, edit photos, listen to music and much more using Chrome apps. Once you log out and/or shutdown, none of your personal data can be accessed by other users and will be completely erased. Anything you don’t save somewhere else will be deleted when you log out.

Loan and Use Policy
• Patrons must be 18 years of age or older and have a valid library card that is not blocked in order to check out a Chromebook.
• Chromebooks may be checked out for 14 days with no renewals. Local holds only.
• Only one computer can be checked out per person.
• Chromebooks connect to the internet over an open wireless network. Users should exercise caution when transmitting sensitive information over an unsecure network without encryption.
• Patrons may not alter or reconfigure the library’s hardware or software in any way.
• Patrons will be accountable for any malicious or illegal use of the internet.
• The library is not responsible for any damage to the user’s removable disks/drives or loss of data that may occur due to malfunctioning library hardware and/or software.
• Please keep the Chromebook with you at all times. All borrowers assume full financial responsibility for the cost of repair or replacement due to accidental damage, theft, or misuse. The replacement fee for a lost, stolen, or damaged Chromebook is $250.00.
• Overdue Chromebooks will be deactivated within 24 hours of the due date.
• NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS: Internet content filtering is NOT provided through the ROPL Chromebook. Parents/Guardians are responsible for monitoring what their children access via the ROPL Chromebook.

Click here to place your hold (Chromebooks and hotspots are available through contactless pickup).

ESL Conversation Club
English as a Second Language Conversation Club is a community partnership with Oakland Community College, ESL program in Royal Oak. Participants include non-native speakers, as well as volunteer English speakers who want to learn about other cultures and engage in interesting conversations. All levels welcome and each person is encouraged to participate. While meeting on Zoom, the group is discussing movies selected by the group leader, Susan Sheiner, Adult Services Librarian.

Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 PM Please register HERE
Thursday, April 29 at 7:00 PM Please register HERE
Thursday, May 27 at 7:00 PM Please register HERE
**Teen Book Club**

**Ages 11-18**

*New York Times* bestseller
**Lovely War** by Julie Berry

They are Hazel, James, Aubrey, and Colette. A classical pianist from London, a British would-be architect turned soldier, a Harlem-born ragtime genius in the US Army, and a Belgian orphan with a gorgeous voice and a devastating past. Their story, as told by goddess Aphrodite, who must spin the tale or face judgment on Mount Olympus, is filled with hope and heartbreak, prejudice and passion, and reveals that, though War is a formidable force, it’s no match for the transcendent power of Love. **The first 10 registered participants will receive a free copy of the book.** Program registration is required. Contact becca@ropl.org to schedule your book pickup starting Thursday, February 11. Limit 10.

Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 PM
**Please register HERE to receive Zoom link and schedule book pickup.**

**DIY Miniature Harry Potter Boxed Set**

**Ages 11-18**

If you enjoy detailed work, this project is for you! Make this incredibly realistic miniature Harry Potter boxed set with provided printables, foam core, glue, and sandpaper (using a craft knife is preferable to scissors). Program registration is required. Contact becca@ropl.org to schedule your supplies pickup starting Thursday, March 18. Limit 20.

Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 PM
**Please register HERE to receive Zoom link and schedule supplies pickup.**

**Questions? Call Youth Services at 248.246.3725 or email emilycrosby@ropl.org**

**Needle Felting Peeps®**

**Ages 11-18**

Make these adorable felt Peeps® with step-by-step instructions from Creativebug. Peeps® are a perfect needle felting project with their recognizable shape and bright color. This session will be a screen-share with Miss Becca, and you can access Creativebug for free any time with your Royal Oak library card! The wool roving and felting needles are provided. Program registration is required. Contact becca@ropl.org to schedule your supplies pickup starting Thursday, March 25. Limit 20.

Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 PM
**Please register HERE to receive Zoom link and schedule supplies pickup.**

**Wish Bracelets**

**Ages 11-18**

The idea behind a wish bracelet is that you make a wish, and tie it on. Eventually, the hemp wears out, and you will lose the beads. Which sounds sad, but when this happens, your wish is then “released” and is supposed to come true. Join the Zoom meeting for instruction with Miss Becca. All supplies provided. Program registration is required. Contact becca@ropl.org to schedule your supplies pickup starting Thursday, April 8. Limit 20.

Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 PM
**Please register HERE to receive Zoom link and schedule supplies pickup.**
New to ROPL: The Library of Things!

The Library of Things is already in circulation and we are adding more and more Things regularly. What “Things” are in the collection? Toys, games, tools, STEM kits, baking pans, telescope, microscope, musical instruments, knitting, and sewing supplies – even a Ghost Hunting Kit! The list goes on with more to come!

ROPL’s New Makerspace is Projected to Launch Summer 2021!

The $10,000 National Endowment for the Arts Grant that the library has been awarded will fund our long-anticipated arts-focused makerspace. This new collaborative space will have a variety of equipment and materials for youth, teens and adults to explore creative projects. Expect to find tools as sophisticated as sewing and embroidery machines, a 3D printer and cameras; and STEM supplies as fundamental as Lego® blocks to cardboard. The makerspace is expected to be available for public use by summer. This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how the National Endowment for the Arts impacts communities, visit www.arts.gov.

Tutor.com: Live Tutors for Homework Help

Parents: We have some great resources to help you and your children homeschool, hybrid or any schooling scenario that the COVID pandemic throws our way. One of the most useful is Tutor.com: Live Tutors for Homework Help. ROPL proudly offers tutor.com, a service available for patrons to help with homework assignments, essay proofreading, testing practice, resume writing, interview skills, and more! Certified tutors are always ready to assist all students in any school subject. Homework help is a click away!
More Fun Stuff!

Wednesday After School Specials:
Oliver’s Animal Adventure by Alex Thomas and Friends

These programs mix the silliness of puppetry with a series of live exotic animals for an educational and entertaining virtual program! These fun-packed adventures are about 5-7 minutes long and episodes continue on ROPL’s Facebook page and Youtube channel. No registration is required.

Wednesdays at 3:30 PM
March 3 & 10

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Party

Whether you’re new to the program and would like more information, or already tracking your books and want to celebrate, register for this season’s virtual party! We’ll have stories, dancing, and a grab-and-go craft as all part of the fun!

Participants who have reached 1,000 books will be eligible to receive their caps, diploma, books, stickers & bag prizes. Please contact emilycrosby@ropl.org to schedule your supplies pickup starting Saturday, February 27. Limit 40.

Saturday, March 6 at 10:30 AM
Please register HERE to receive Zoom link and schedule supplies pickup.

St. Patrick’s Day Crafts Grab & Go

Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day – the day when anyone can be Irish – with this fun craft! No scheduling is necessary. Crafts will be in the south lobby for self-serve pickup all day on Wednesday, March 17.

Story Times

No registration is required for Story Times
Story times will be available on ROPL’s YouTube channel with new story times added each week.

Monday Family Story Time Ages 5 and under

These pre-recorded story times for ages 5 and under incorporate many enjoyable pre-reading skills including stories, rhymes, songs, finger plays and movement.

Mondays at 10:15 AM
March 1 - April 26

Baby Size! Birth-15 months

These pre-recorded story times are for the youngest children, infants to 15 months, and their caregivers. Enjoy literacy building activities for babies including songs, rhymes, and sharing board books.

Thursdays at 10:15 AM
March 4 - April 29

Tween Programs

What’s the Weather Going to Be? Ages 7-11

March can be unpredictable as far as weather goes. One day it can be sunny and warm and the next it can be cold and snowy. In this program we’ll learn why the weather is the way it is, and what the clouds can tell you about what sort of weather to expect. We’ll be making our own clouds as well. Contact jess@ropl.org to schedule your supplies pickup starting Wednesday, February 24. Limit 20.

Wednesday, March 3 at 4:30 PM
Please register HERE to receive Zoom link and schedule supplies pickup.

Weaving Ages 7-11

Learn the art of weaving using a notched loom that you keep! Looms are designed to encourage the development of creativity, fine-motor skills, problem-solving skills, finger dexterity and concentration. Weaving also helps expand basic mathematical proficiency. You can use the loom over and over for different projects. Yarn is included. Contact amy@ropl.org to schedule your supplies pickup starting Wednesday, April 14. Limit 20.

Wednesday, April 21 at 4:30 PM
Please register HERE to receive Zoom link and schedule craft pickup.

BookFlix is an exciting online literacy resource that pairs interactive, fictional video storybooks with related nonfiction eBooks. BookFlix engages young students, reinforces reading skills, and introduces early readers to a world of knowledge and exploration.
Tuesday Evening Virtual Family Programs

The whole family will enjoy a variety of virtual evening programs designed for elementary and preschool children. Programs typically last 30-45 minutes. **Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.** You may register online at [ropl.org](http://ropl.org) or by calling 248-246-3725 during library hours. **Registration opens two weeks in advance of the program.**

### Virtual Dr. Seuss Birthday Party!

March 2 is Dr. Seuss’s birthday (he was born in 1904)! Join us for stories, rhymes, and crafts, and discover some Seuss trivia. Wear your Dr. Seuss character costume if you have one. Contact emilycrosby@ropl.org to schedule your craft supplies pickup starting Tuesday, February 23. Limit 30.

**Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 PM**

Please register [HERE](http://ropl.org) to receive Zoom link and schedule supplies pickup.

### Starting Seeds Indoors

March is the perfect time to start seeds indoors that will be ready to plant after the last frost (April 23 for Royal Oak according to the Farmer’s Almanac). We’re going to fold recycled newspapers for the pots – it’s like origami! Contact amy@ropl.org to schedule your supplies pickup starting Tuesday, March 23. Limit 30.

**Tuesday, March 30 at 7:00 PM**

Please register [HERE](http://ropl.org) to receive Zoom link and schedule supplies pickup.

### Dynamike Magician!

Dynamike, Master Magician, is back to bring his award-winning magic show directly to you through this Zoom presentation! Enjoy the magic, engagement and entertainment from Detroit’s own Dynamike! Contact barbara@ropl.org for more information. Limit 40.

**Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00 PM**

Please register [HERE](http://ropl.org) to receive Zoom link.

### Beverly Meyer the Music Lady

Join Beverly Meyer the Music Lady in this rollicking, fun virtual concert! Beverly Meyer has been entertaining audiences for over 30 years! Sing and dance along to original music and old favorites. Contact amy@ropl.org with any questions. Limit 40.

**Tuesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM**

Please register [HERE](http://ropl.org) to receive Zoom link.

### The Detroit Zoo: How to Help Injured or Orphaned Wildlife

Stephen Vrla from the Detroit Zoo is back to teach us how to identify and help injured or orphaned wildlife. Learn what animals you can expect to see and listen to the book *How to Heal a Broken Wing*. You’ll also learn how to make window decals to prevent bird collisions and understand what to do if you see an injured or orphaned animal. Contact barbara@ropl.org for more information. Limit 40.

**Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 PM**

Please register [HERE](http://ropl.org) to receive Zoom link.

### Up with Unicorns!

Join us for all things magical and shiny as we celebrate National Unicorn Day with songs, stories, fingerplays, and a unicorn craft! Contact emilycrosby@ropl.org to schedule your craft supplies pickup starting Tuesday, March 30. Limit 30.

**Tuesday, April 6 at 7:00 PM**

Please register [HERE](http://ropl.org) to receive Zoom link and schedule supplies pickup.

### Money Smart Week

Join Royal Oak’s OUR Credit Union and learn healthy money habits and savings strategies that will help you throughout your life! Each participant will receive a free Money book and a craft. Contact amy@ropl.org to schedule your book and supplies pickup starting Tuesday, April 6. Limit 30.

**Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00 PM**

Please register [HERE](http://ropl.org) to receive Zoom link and schedule book and supplies pickup.

### Earth Day Story Time

Celebrate springtime and the beauty of the earth with stories, rhymes, songs, and crafts. We will talk about ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle to keep our planet clean! Contact barbara@ropl.org to schedule your craft pickup starting Tuesday, April 13. Limit 30.

**Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 PM**

Please register [HERE](http://ropl.org) to receive Zoom link and schedule supplies pickup.

### Yoga Story Time

Join Miss Tracy for a mindful story time that incorporates yoga poses, stretches, and relaxation exercises with stories and music. Everyone is encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and yoga mats or towels are suggested. Please contact tracy@ropl.org with any questions. Limit 30.

**Tuesday, April 27 at 7:00 PM**

Please register [HERE](http://ropl.org) to receive Zoom link.
Book Buddies Book Club

Book Buddies is a book club for ROPL’s youngest independent readers, ages 5-8. Book club meetings include activities, book discussions, and a craft based on the book. Contact barbara@ropl.org to schedule your book pickup. **Limit 25.**

**Fly Guy Presents: Snakes**
by Tedd Arnold

- Book and craft pickup begins on Monday, March 1.
- Book Club Zoom meeting is on Monday, March 22 at 4:30 PM

Please register HERE to receive Zoom link and schedule book and craft pickup.

Fly Guy and Buzz are going to the zoo to learn all about snakes. With straightforward text, humorous asides, and kid-friendly full-bleed photographs throughout, young readers will love learning about these slithery creatures. **The first 25 participants will receive a copy of the book to keep.**

Kids’ Book Club

ROPL has a book club just for kids ages 9-12! Join us for a lively book discussion and activities on the featured book. Contact emilycrosby@ropl.org to schedule your book pickup. **Limit 15.**

**Don’t Stand So Close to Me**
by Eric Walters

- Book pickup begins on Monday, March 22.
- Book Club Zoom meeting is on Monday, April 12 at 4:30 PM

Please register HERE to receive Zoom link and schedule book pickup.

Thirteen-year-old Quinn and her friends can’t believe their luck when spring break is extended an extra two weeks – even if it’s because of some virus. But when the impact of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic becomes apparent, everyone, not just the students, has to learn to adjust to their new reality. Sacrifices have to be made to keep everyone safe, but there’s more to life than rules and scary news reports. In an effort to find some good in all this uncertainty, Quinn comes up with an idea that she hopes will bring the entire community together. **The first 15 registrants will receive a copy of the book to keep.**

Graphic Novel Book Club

ROPL has a book club just for kids ages 8-12 who love graphic novels! Lively book discussions and activities are all part of the fun. Contact tracy@ropl.org to schedule your book pickup. **Limit 15 per session.**

**Kodi**
by Jared Cullum

- Book pickup begins on Monday, February 8.
- Book Club Zoom meeting is on Monday, March 1 at 4:30 PM

Please register HERE to receive Zoom link and schedule free book pickup.

Katya and her Meema are spending another summer at their cottage in Alaska, when a chance accident leaves Katya face-to-face with the biggest creature she’s ever seen... an enormous kodiak bear with a gentle heart and a knack for fishing. But when Katya must suddenly return home to Seattle, the two are torn apart, leaving Kodi to do whatever it takes to reunite with his fragile human friend. It’s a wild journey packed with breathtaking views, brave new companions, and adventure around every turn. **The first 15 registrants will receive a copy of the book to keep.**

**Compass South (Four Points, Book 1)**
by Hope Larson; illustrations by Rebecca Mock

- Book pickup begins on Monday, March 29.
- Book Club Zoom meeting is on Monday, April 19 at 4:30 PM

Please register HERE to receive Zoom link and schedule free book pickup.

It’s 1860 in New York City. When 12-year-old twins Alex and Cleo’s father disappears, they join the Black Hook Gang and are caught by the police pulling off a heist. They agree to reveal the identity of the gang in exchange for tickets to New Orleans. But once there, Alex is kidnapped and made to work on a ship that is heading for San Francisco via Cape Horn. Cleo stows away on a steamer to New Granada where she hopes to catch a train to San Francisco to find her brother. Neither Alex nor Cleo realizes the real danger they are in – they are being followed by pirates who think they hold the key to treasure. How they outwit the pirates and find each other makes for a fast-paced adventure. **The first 15 registrants will receive a copy of the book to keep.**
ROPL: Your Community Resource

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

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

2020 has been a year like no other. The coronavirus pandemic forced all of us to quickly pivot to new ways of doing everyday things and that’s also true for the Royal Oak Public Library. Donations from caring individuals like you have helped ensure we continue to offer residents a world-class library system despite the limitations thrust on all of us. While our building was shut down, the library worked to educate all residents on the digital resources we have been continually enhancing over the years with your help. This brought books, movies, music, magazines and more directly to people’s devices, at no cost.

As soon as the state of the pandemic allowed, the library began curbside pick-up, ensuring that families still had access to all the library materials they have come to rely on. Over 8,000 curbside pick-ups occurred this year. Programs shifted online and were able to reach a wider audience than ever before, as more than 3,900 patrons virtually took part in storytimes, educational talks and more for all ages. Library staff even worked to pack craft kits so that all children could still have equal and ample access to educational and recreational opportunities.

When you donate to the Royal Oak Public Library, your support stays right here, going to work for residents and helping maintain the city’s status as one of the best places to live in Michigan. Through 2020, contributions of community members have helped the library purchase Chromebooks and wi-fi spots available for checkout, begin a collection of household items available for checkout, offer Tutor.com to assist students and parents adjusting to distance learning, and so much more!

When finances are tight or recreational opportunities are sparse for our fellow community members, they rely on the library. Your donation levels the playing field, making the materials that help us learn and grow – that enhance our lives – accessible to those of all backgrounds, ages, needs and abilities, even during a pandemic. And your donation is more important now than ever.

Please consider donating generously to the Royal Oak Public Library to help expand and improve our community offerings! Visit ropl.org/1072/Donate to make a convenient, secure online donation.

Sincerely,

Stacie Woodward
Library Board of Trustees, President