

**West Michigan Fitness & Cardio Drumming**

**Saturday, January 4 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.** REGISTER

Kick off the new year with a fun and simple exercise that activates multiple muscle groups with high-intensity drumming movements.

**Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament** REGISTER

**Thursday, January 9 • 7-8 p.m.**

The fastest team of four to complete the 500-piece puzzle (or get the closest to completion) will win a prize. Other participants may be added to your team as space allows.

**Lifelong Learners BINGO** REGISTER

**Tuesday, January 14 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

Get ready to join the fun as Library Director, Joe Gross calls for BINGO. This event is brought to you by the Plainwell & Otsego Community Senior Citizen Lifelong Learners.

**Adult Craft & Company:** REGISTER

**Library Craft Closet Cleanout**

**Thursday, January 16 • 7-8 p.m.**

**OR Friday, January 17 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

It's a new year and that means the library is cleaning out the crafting closet to make room for new supplies for 2025's monthly crafts. Bring your creativity to piece together your own creation. Analiese will be on hand to help spark ideas. All supplies are included.

**Growing a Tea Garden**

**presented by Vista Garden Club**

**Thursday, January 16 • 1-2 p.m.**

Bring a friend and learn how to grow teas and prepare them to brew. Enjoy a cup of for yourself with light refreshments following the presentation.

**Murder Mystery Jigsaw Puzzle** REGISTER

**Saturday, January 18 • 1-4 p.m.**

See if you and your team can solve one of our many mystery jigsaw thrillers. Read the story, assemble the puzzle, and solve the murder at your own pace.

**Writing Your Legacy with author Janyre Tromp**

**Thursday, January 30 • 7-8 p.m.** REGISTER

Every family has stories begging to be captured and passed on to the next generation. But where to start? Join best-selling historical novelist and award-winning editor Janyre Tromp as she explores capturing your family's legacy. You'll come out with a plan and options to create your own record.

**Caregiver Burnout with PACE Senior Care Partners**

**Tuesday, Feb. 4, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

This educational presentation presented by

Senior Care Partners PACE is essential for anyone in a caregiving role to learn valuable strategies for maintaining their own well-being while providing support to others.

**Adult Craft & Company: Book Folded Heart**

**Thursday, February 6 • 7-8 p.m.** REGISTER

**OR Friday, February 7 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

Learn how to turn an old book into a work of art by folding the pages into a beautiful heart shape.

**Kalamazoo County Characters with Dianna Higgs Stampfler**

**Tuesday, February 4, 7-8 p.m.**

Since its founding in the early 1800s, Kalamazoo has welcomed a variety of notable characters who have shaped the community's legacy. Dianna will share characters with Plainwell ties such as James Higgs, Carrella Peterson (Princess Red Feather), Fletcher Ransom and more!

**Building Healthy Relationships with Yoga Mindset Mentor, Jodie Perry**

**Thursday, February 13 • 7-8 p.m.**

Building healthy relationships begins with understanding and being in a healthy internal relationship with yourself. Jodie Perry will guide you in a meditative talk to identify what thoughts/ beliefs are the root cause of conflict in our relationships.

**Improv Comedy with Canned Champaign**

**Thursday, February 27 • 7-8 p.m.**

Much like their namesake, this group is classy, yet down to earth; effervescent, yet digestible; bursting with flavor, yet sturdy in their aluminum casing. Forged from the fires of the Crawspace Comedy Theatre improv program, this group is ready to have fun and get silly!

**Adult Craft & Company:** REGISTER

**Succulent Planter Gnomes**

**Thursday, March 13 • 7-8 p.m.**

**OR Friday, March 14 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

It's a gnome-brainer that you are going to love this simple spring craft. Turn a pot and faux succulent into an adorable gnome. All supplies included.

**Spongy Moths & Invasive Insects with Chula Vista Garden Club**

**Thursday, March 20 • 6-7 p.m.**

A speaker from the Allegan County Conservation Department will present a video and information about these annoying insects. Come prepared with questions on how to protect your trees and landscape.

**Ongoing Programs**

**Sew What? Stitching Group**

**Wednesdays • 1-3 p.m. and**

**(New) Sew Saturdays! Stitching Group**

**Starting Saturday, Jan. 11 • 10 a.m. - noon**

Knit, crochet, needlepoint, or sew--whatever your stitch, you're welcome to come and work on your project with other crafters. Please bring your own project.

**Weekly Euchre Club – Fridays • 1-3 p.m.**

Come to the library every week to play! Bring a partner or come alone for a self-guided game.

**Monthly Euchre Night**

**Monday • 1/13, 2/10, 3/10 • 6-8 p.m.**

Bring a partner or come solo to meet other euchre players for a self-guided night of cards the second Monday of each month. We're going to start by casually playing four person (two team) "Turn Up" Euchre. We'll be playing "Stick the Dealer" and "Go Alone option."

**Dungeons & Dragons for Adults** REGISTER

**Monday • 1/20, 2/17, 3/17 • 6-8:45 p.m.**

Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or completely new to the world of tabletop role-playing games, this is your chance to join an epic tale! Bring your library card and show it to the session to either start at 2nd level or gain a free point of inspiration at each session.

**NovelTEA Book Club**

**Tuesdays 1/21, 2/18, 3/25 • 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

Enjoy a pot of tea and homemade scones that match the book being discussed each month. Multiple copies of the book will be available at the desk a month before the event.

**BOOK GROUP PICKS**

**January: Remarkably Bright Creatures** by Shelby Van Pelt

**February: Black Cake** by Charmaine Wilkerson

**March: The Guest List** by Lucy Foley

**With a Twist Book Club**

**Thursdays • 1/23, 2/20, 3/27 • 7-8 p.m.**

This book group pairs the Book of the Month with an adult beverage recipe picked specifically to match. Multiple copies of the book will be available at the desk a month before the event.

**Card Sharks**

**Tuesday • 1/28, 2/25, 3/25 • 1-3 p.m.**

Join us for an afternoon of playing cards. Each month we will instruct you on how to play a new game, but if you already know it or would like to play something else, feel free!

**Ransom District Library**

**NEWS**

Winter 2025

**Adult Blizzard Book BINGO: Adult Reading Challenge**

**Monday, January 6 – Friday, February 28**

Use these frigid months to try something out of your comfort zone. Read through the three squares on your BINGO card to get a BINGO and you will receive a RDL Blizzard Book BINGO travel mug. Want to read more? Complete the entire board and you will be entered into a drawing for the Grand Prize!

**Puzzle Exchange Week**

**Monday, January 27 – Sunday, February 2**

In honor of National Puzzle Day (January 29), we will host a week long puzzle exchange. Bring a puzzle to the library and swap it for one that's new to you. This will be located at the cafe in front of the circulation desk.



**Director's Note**  
Winter at the Library brings a focus on literacy and on finding joy within the cold and dark. Our annual celebration of children's literacy, Dr. Seuss Night, hits both marks, as do our musical offerings with the Winter Concert Series and beginning guitar lessons. In particular, you won't want to miss our Parti Gras on March 2nd that features cajun refreshments from River Road Foods and New Orleans-style music from Kanola Band! Both Dr. Seuss Night and Parti-Gras are funded in full by the Friends of the Library, who we can never thank enough! The joy of community happens every day at the Library with puzzle tournaments, card playing, escape rooms, gardening programs, and more. Whether you visit the Library for reading and listening materials, learning about 3-D printing in the Design Lab, or crafting with friends old and new, there is always something to learn and something to love at Ransom District Library. See you at the Library!

— Joe

**Beginning Guitar Workshop** REGISTER

**Mondays, Jan. 6 - Mar. 24 • 4-4:45 p.m.**

Join Library Director and former guitar instructor, Joe Gross, for a free 12-week introduction to playing the guitar. The workshop will focus on the basics of reading music and guitar-playing technique. While the lessons will mostly be geared for true beginners, players of most levels can benefit from a concentration on basic music reading, and more advanced concepts will be considered as well. If you can, try to arrive a few minutes early to tune and prepare!

**RDL Winter Concert Series**

**The Rebel Eves – Sunday, Feb. 16 • 2 p.m.**

Comprised of three Michigan bred award winning songwriters, Katie Pederson, Grace Theisen and Jilian Linklater have spent the better part of the last decade writing, touring, and harmonizing across the country with successful solo careers. Vintage Mitten calls the Rebel Eves, "The hottest American folk group to come out of the Midwest with original songs in a long while."

**MEXICUBA – Sunday, Feb. 23 • 2 p.m.**

MEXICUBA is a Latin Band located in Grand Rapids, Michigan comprised of musicians from Mexico and Cuba. MEXICUBA will be thrilled to share the cultural heritage of their music, rooted in the dynamic syncopation and colorful arrangements of various Latin traditions.

**"Parti-Gras", featuring Kanola Band Sunday, March 2 • 2 p.m.**

Our annual winter party will feature Cajun refreshments provided by River Road Foods and the joyous sounds of Kanola Band. Bringing together some of the most experienced and diverse musicians in the US jazz scene to pay tribute to the great music and heritage of New Orleans. Dipping into the city's diverse musical history including traditional Dixieland, groovin' zydeco, soulful funk to blasting brass band second lines, audiences of all ages will leave feeling just a bit happier than when they came.

**Selkie – Sunday, March 9 • 2 p.m.**

Selkie is a trio of dynamic Celtic musicians who play traditional music and original music with a trademark intensity and drive. The sounds of flute, fiddle, bouzouki, banjo, guitar, accordion, and harp are woven into Selkie's music, along with the vocal harmonies they use for their songs. We're lucky to host them so close to St. Patrick's Day!



# It's Going to be a WARM WINTER at RDL!

A special thank you goes out to the Friends of Ransom Library for all the good work they do. In the last four months they have donated money for new toys in the children's room and provided free Christmas books for the kids who came to visit Santa. We greatly appreciate their support! If you are looking for a place to volunteer your time, fill out an application to join the Friends. These are available at the front desk at the Library.

## Weekly Activities

### Caterpillar Play Group with Kelli Stuijbergen

Birth - 35 months

Mondays: January 27, February 17 and March 17 • 10:30-11:30 a.m.

This play group is specifically designed for our littlest friends, and meets monthly on the third Monday of the month. **Note: The caterpillar group has been rescheduled to the 4th Monday in January.**

### Teen Tuesdays: After School Fun

Every Tuesday 3-4 p.m.

No Teen Tuesdays March 4th

Come after school for games, crafts, laughter and snacks! Drinks and munchies are provided.

### Story Time

Every Wednesday 10:30-11:30 a.m.

No Story Time March 5th

Youngsters can listen to great tales, sing songs, dance with shakers and complete a themed craft in this fun-filled hour.

### After School Special

Every Wednesday 4:00-4:45 p.m.

(Hill Room) No After School Special March 5th

Elementary school-age kids can enjoy a different type of fun each week. An after-school snack is provided.

1/8, 2/5, 3/5: art

1/15, 2/12, 3/12: games

1/22, 2/19, 3/19: science

1/29, 2/26, 3/26: Build-o-Rama (Legos)

### NEW! Reading Practice Reference Collection

Is your child having difficulty learning to read? The Library is now offering a set of materials that you can access to give your child extra practice. They are "reference books," which means that they remain in the library, but you can make free copies to use with your child. These books are stored at the Circulation Desk—ask a staff member if you would like to see them.

### Preschool Thursdays

Every Thursday 10:30-11:30 a.m.

All programs meet in the Hill Room

**Note: No Preschool Thursday on Jan. 2**

1/9, 2/6, 3/6: Preschool Yoga with Ms.

Sarah from Yoga Adventures for Kids

1/23 (Note Jan. date change), 2/13, 3/13:

Toddler Zip and Zoom "Gym" Time

1/16, 2/20, 3/20: Butterfly Play Group

with Kelli Stuijbergen (36 months - age 5)

1/30, 2/27, 3/27: Preschool Dance Party

### Magic: The Gathering (for middle/high school players)

Fridays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Bring your own deck and join a group of enthusiasts to kick off your weekend. Snacks and drinks provided.

### MONTHLY PROGRAMS

#### Teen Dungeons and Dragons

Second Saturday of the month: REGISTER

January 11, February 8 • 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Youth Assistant Dimitri will bring his Notebook of Doom to this monthly series of campaigns. Feel free to bring your own character sheet—Dimitri has pre-made characters to share if you are coming for the first time.

#### Teen Manga Club REGISTER

Second Wednesday of the month:

Fridays • January 8, February 12 and

March 12 • 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Burchfield Room

Those interested in manga, anime, or Japanese culture can join Youth Assistant Devin for an hour of Japanese themed games and snacks. There will be different activities each month.

## Special Events

### KIDS

#### Snowman Hunt

February 3- 28

Can you find all ten of the snowmen lurking around the library?

Each wears a scarf of a different color.

Pick up a checklist, find them all,

then turn in your sheet to earn a treat.

#### Snowman Sock Craft

Monday, February 24 • 10:30 a.m. - noon

Drop in during Midwinter Break to turn a humble sock into a fun, seasonal craft that will be sure to provide lots of warm smiles.



### TEENS

#### Bigfoot Stole My Car! TTRPG REGISTER

January 18 • 2-4 p.m.

It's your best friend's birthday, and everything perfect except for one problem: Bigfoot stole your ride, and your friend's present is still inside! Come have a cryptid car chase adventure.

#### Teen Nerf Night REGISTER

Friday, January 24 • 6-8 p.m. • Grades 6 and up

Bring your blasters and enjoy a high-powered two hours of fun after hours at the Library! Several different games will be played, and they will be chosen by participants. Pizza and sodas provided.

#### Gunpla Model Building REGISTER

Friday, February 7 • 1-3 p.m.

Into modeling or mecha? Build your own scale model from Mobile Suit Gundam. Kits are entry-level, and will be provided by the Library. SPACE IS LIMITED

#### Lady Blackbird TTRPG REGISTER

Saturday, February 15 • 2-4 p.m.

An 1800's fantasy pirate adventure where Lady Blackbird flees her arranged marriage... but gets captured by Imperial officers before she can join her true love: Pirate King Flint! Role play as Lady Blackbird or one of her crew in this (un)romantic escape.

#### Mothman Won't Move Out! TTRPG REGISTER

Saturday, March 15 • 2-4 p.m.

Sure, Mothman's going through a rough patch, but you agreed to let him stay the night, not couch surf for weeks! Friend or no, he's gotta go. Join Youth Assistant Devin to help get rid of that cryptid!

#### Lancer TTRPG REGISTER

Saturday, March 22 • 1-4 p.m.

Join the fight for the betterment of all of humanity as a Lancer, an ace mecha pilot. SPACE IS LIMITED.



RDL'S ANNUAL DR. SEUSS NIGHT  
Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> • 7-8 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of Ransom Library

Another year has passed and it is once again time for Dr. Seuss Night! Join us for games, crafts, and other Seussian silliness, topped off with a treat. As Dr. Seuss himself wrote,

*"You'll have fun. You will indeed!  
(98 and ¾ percent guaranteed!)"*

### ALL AGES ESCAPE ROOM! REGISTER

Friday, February 21 - Monday, February 24  
Times by Appointment Only

Help Belinda, the lovelorn librarian, find true love in this "dating-sim" style escape room. Solve a variety of puzzles to build the perfect profile of her soulmate and identify him from a set of ten candidates. Groups should consist of 2 - 6 players.

