

Adult Programs

Education Seminar on Hearing & the Brain With Laurie Bennett

Wednesday, April 25 • 1 p.m.

Local audiologist, Laurie Bennett of Beltone Hearing Center here in Plainwell will lead this educational seminar at the library. A number of recent studies have new shed new light about how hearing is of vital importance to memory, balance, emotional well-being and overall quality of life. Learn about the importance of good hearing and ways to optimize listening.

Images of America: Mackinac Bridge

With Author Mike Fornes

Tuesday, May 8 • 7 p.m.

Join us for an entertaining, informative presentation about Michigan's iconic five mile span that has seen historic, tragic, and hilarious events. Since construction began in 1954, the Mackinac Bridge has withstood gale force winds, the pressure of crushing ice flows and blinding snowstorms. Since opening in 1957, it has been struck by lightning and hit by an airplane and a ship yet still stands as perhaps the safest five miles of I-75. Author Mike Fornes will be leading this trip through the bridge's history. Mike has covered the Mackinac Bridge for 26 years for several media outlets in Northern Michigan, including radio and television stations and the Cheboygan Daily Tribune. He is the author of *Mackinac Bridge - A 50 Year Chronicle 1957-2007*, *USCGC Mackinaw WAGB 83 - An Illustrated History of a Great Lakes Queen*, *Mackinac Bridge* and *USCGC Mackinaw (WLBB-30)*.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Thursdays, May 10 to June 14

1-2:30 p.m.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational program designed to help family caregivers take care of themselves while caring for a relative or friend. You will benefit from this class whether you are helping a parent, spouse, friend, someone who lives at home, in a nursing home or across the country. Registration required.

Author Bonnie Jo Campbell

Thursday, May 17 at 7 p.m.

National Book Award Finalist, Kalamazoo area resident, and local treasure Bonnie Jo Campbell will visit the library to read and discuss her work. The Guardian recently named Bonnie Jo as one of the world's foremost writers of "rural noire," and she has won a Pushcart Prize, the AWP Award for Short Fiction, and the 2008 Eudora Welty Prize. Her novel, *Once Upon a River*, which details 16-year-old Margo Crane's life-defining odyssey through rural Michigan on the Kalamazoo River, is currently being made into a movie. Bonnie Jo's stories and novels focus on people—especially women—in Michigan's rural communities as they try to navigate their lives and various changes in the modern landscape. Other work includes the novel *Q Road*, and short story collections *American Salvage*, *Women and Other Animals*, and the recent *Mothers Tell Your Daughters*. Please join us for a special chance to visit with this celebrated writer and fellow child of the Kalamazoo River.

Make & Take Jewelry

With Barb Stewart

Thursday, June 7 • 7 p.m.

Local crafter and jewelry designer Barb Stewart will teach patrons how to make a fantastic piece of jewelry in this free class. Barb is owner and designer of the jewelry line Stoney Creek Arts. She also dabbles in paper crafts such as bead making and other paper-oriented skills. Please pre-register.

Antique Road Show Ransom Style

Saturday, June 9 from 10 to noon

The real Antiques Road show will be in Rochester in June but Ransom is inviting patrons to dig out their hidden treasures and bring them in to the library for our version of the show. This fun-filled event will feature appraisals by local antique appraisers and light refreshments. Tickets are \$5 and include having two items appraised. No weapons, please and carry-in only. Observers without items do not need a ticket. Appraisals are verbal, nonbinding opinions of value. Patrons are asked to pre-register.

Ongoing Programs

Genealogy Help Offered on

Wednesday Mornings

This is a great opportunity to learn about genealogy from our experts!

Book a Geek

Book a private tutor for your basic technology questions! Need a little help with your laptop, figuring out Excel or downloading digital books? Call the library at 685-8024 to set up a 30 minute session or schedule an appointment online at <https://rdltech.setmore.com/>.

BYOB Discussion

Wednesdays, April 25, May 23, & June 27 7 p.m.

The BYOB Club (Bring Your Own Book) is a book club with a twist: here you talk about a variety of books, make new friends, eat food and, best of all, take home new books to read! Instead of everyone in book group reading the same title, every member brings a different book to the meeting. The book could be one you have already read and loved, or a book that interests you, or one that's getting a lot of buzz. All each member has to do is share information about the book or read an especially intriguing passage aloud. Refreshments will be provided.

Michigan Activity Pass

Library users with a valid library card can print a pass to one of the 70+ participating cultural institutions at the michiganactivitypass.info website. Some cultural partners offer complimentary or reduced price admission; others, discounts in their gift shop or other exclusive offers. Each Michigan Activity Pass expires one week from the date it is printed.

Ransom Library Seed Exchange

A seed library is a self-perpetuating collection of heirloom seeds. Donations of saved seeds are needed to support our library. The more seeds in the library, the more others can experience growing their own food. Seeds will be accepted if they are properly dried and identified. Tell us a little about the plants from which the seeds came—the stories are helpful for future planters and support community connections. If donating commercial seeds, please be sure that the seeds are non-hybrid and non-Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) seeds.

SPRING 2018

RANSOM DISTRICT LIBRARY NEWS

It's Spring in Michigan!

Larry Massie: Adventures in Michigan's Past

Thursday, April 12 • 7 p.m.

"Everyone has a story to tell, but not many can tell a tale like Larry Massie!" Michigan is a special place with a rich and colorful heritage second to no other state in the Union. Sprinkled across its grandeur are a myriad of musical, magical place names, each with a fascinating story to tell. Best-selling author, historian and dynamic storyteller, Larry B. Massie takes his audience on a pilgrimage into his beloved state's past. His telling of true stories makes history come alive and will entertain anyone who has felt the lure of Michigan's fascinating past.

Spring Wild Herbs for Wellness with Author Lisa Rose

Thursday, April 19 • 7 p.m.

Herbalist, forager and author Lisa Rose will take patrons on a journey to learn about wild plants that can be used for food and herbal medicine. Come away with tips on how to locate and eat plants like garlic mustard, white pine needles, stinging nettles, dandelion and violet leaves. Learn how these herbs and wild foods can combat spring colds, allergies, stagnant digestion, and support the body's transition through spring.

Take a Hike with Author Tom Funke

Thursday, April 26 • 7 p.m.

Meet uber-hiker Tom Funke, author of *50 Hikes in Michigan's Upper Peninsula*, as he shares stories and hiking tips about the places he's visited. Released in 2008, this book also inspired him to start his first business, the Tahqua Trekker, a hiker shuttle service in Tahquamenon Falls State Park. Today, Trailspotters of Michigan is the parent company for his outfitting business, which now serves the eastern half of the Upper Peninsula and Western Michigan.

Seed Exchange and Container Gardening

Monday, April 30 • 7 p.m.

Planting season is almost here! Do you have extra seeds to share or need seeds? Make plans to join us for a spring seed exchange and container gardening program. Ransom District Library has had a seed library available to our patrons since 2016. A seed library is a self-perpetuating collection of heirloom seeds. Donations of saved seeds are needed to support our library. The more seeds in the library, the more others can experience growing their own food. Seeds will be accepted if they are properly dried and identified. If donating seeds, please be sure that the seeds are non-hybrid and non-Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) seeds. Mary Colborn, a certified educator, writer community activist and organic farmer will be assisting patrons with starting a container garden and answering patron's gardening questions.



Friends of RDL News

The Friends of Ransom District Library would like to thank everyone who helped out and who attended Dr. Seuss night on March 6, 2018. It was once again a great evening of reading stories, playing games and roaming Dr. Seuss characters!

Thanks to all who continue to donate books and DVDs to the library for our book sales. We use the funds from our sales to purchase new books and sponsor programs for the library. Our next book sale dates are **Saturday, May 19** and **Saturday, July 21** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We can always use volunteers and new members. If you have an hour or two that you could volunteer or would like to join us, please give Char a call at 269-685-6646.

— Jan Ragainis, President of the Friends

RANSOM DISTRICT LIBRARY

180 S. Sherwood Avenue • Plainwell, MI 49080
phone 269.685.8024 | fax 269.685.2266

www.ransomlibrary.org

Hours: M-Thu 10am-9pm • Fri & Sat 10am-5pm • Sunday 1pm-5pm

☆ SPECIAL EVENTS @ THE LIBRARY

SPRING BREAK SHENANIGANS

If your spring plans involve a “stay-cation,” be sure to make the library part of your week. We have special activities planned for kids of all ages. *Our preschool programs will run as usual at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings only this week.*

Teen Video Game Tournament

Wednesday, April 4, 2-4 p.m.

Big news: we bought a Switch! Join us to test it out as we play Arms and Mario Kart 8 Deluxe. Prizes will be announced at the tournament. Snacks will be provided.

Princess Story Time

Thursday April 5, 11-12 a.m.

No registration necessary! Dress up and come rub shoulders with the princesses of Pretty Princess HQ at this very fancy story time. Teatime treats will be available after the stories.

Nerf War for grades 4-7

Friday, April 6, 6-9 p.m.

Kids in grades 4-7 are invited to hang out at the library for the evening and let their darts fly! Capture the Flag, Protect the President and other games will be included. Please mark your equipment with your name in permanent marker or with some other identifier so you can track it down at the end of the night. Darts will be available at the library. Pizza/drinks will be provided. This popular program has been split into two age groups to make the evening more enjoyable for everyone. *Older players (grades 8-12) should plan to attend the teen Nerf war on May 5.* Please contact Erin Marsh if you have questions.

AFTER SPRING BREAK

Teen Nerf War for grades 8-12

Friday, May 4, 6-9 p.m.

Teens in grades 8-12: this Nerf night is reserved for you! Games will vary as the group self-selects what is played. Please mark your equipment with your name in permanent marker or with some other identifier so you can retrieve it at the end of the night. Darts will be available at the library. Pizza/drinks will be provided. This popular program has been split into two age groups to make the evening more enjoyable for everyone. *Younger players (grades 4-7) should plan to attend the kids' Nerf war on April 6.* Please contact Erin Marsh if you have questions.

Watch for the special summer reading newsletter for the full calendar of events. It will be available at the library and on our website starting May 1.

GET READY FOR SUMMER READING!

Mark your calendars now!

READING ROCKS! SUMMER FUN AT RANSOM

Another exciting summer is in the works at your library! The reading program will feature scratch off tickets again this year—read 5 books, get a prize! There are loads of prizes waiting for you to win: books, glow wands, toys and more! Sign up starts as soon as school ends on June 13th. All kids from birth to age 18 can participate. We will also be hosting a cadre of visitors to add to summer fun:

Nelson's Wildlife Safari · Friday, June 15

Two shows! 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of Ransom Library.

Back by popular demand for two shows! Nelson will bring his marvelous menagerie to visit us once again, and he plans to bring different animals than last year. We suggest that families with younger children attend the morning session, and that older children come to the afternoon show.

Drumunity · Tuesday, June 19 2 p.m.

Take part in a library drum circle! Everyone becomes a drummer as Lori Fithian shares her multi-cultural percussion instrument collection with the audience. Sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Kevin's Juggling and Balloons · Thursday, June 21 10:30 a.m.

Otsego native Kevin Schwartz is visiting from his home in Wisconsin. He will stop in to show us his terrific juggling tricks, tell some balloon stories, and even play a few rounds of “guess the balloon.” Fun for all!

Bats of the World · Thursday, June 28 · 2 p.m.

Can you fly with your hands? Bats can! Meet live bats from around the world and observe the many similarities and differences between these amazing mammals. Sponsored by the Friends of Ransom Library.

The Science of Music · Monday, July 9 · 2 p.m.

Learn how sound waves and vibrations are put together to make music. Get a glimpse of the history of rock and roll while grooving to some great tunes!

Campfire Stu story and singalong · Tuesday, July 17 · 2 p.m.

Mike Struwin, author of *Campfire Stu and the Backwoods Jamboree*, will visit to read his story and accompany it with his guitar. The audience will have a chance to sing some songs as well!

Musical Storybook with the Kalamazoo Symphony

Monday, July 30 · 1 p.m.

The Burdick-Thorne Quartet shares their presentation of the Newbery Medal-winning story *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena. Hear the quartet use their instruments to create a musical bus ride through the city.

Magician Jason Hudy · Tuesday, August 21 · 2 p.m.

Prepare to be amazed and amused as this marvelous magician brings his bag of tricks to the library!



WEEKLY PROGRAMS

PRESCHOOL

Weekday mornings belong to the preschoolers! Our weekday morning schedule runs from April 2 - May 25. There will be a brief hiatus (May 28-June 15) as we get ready for summer reading. Preschool programs will resume on June 18, following the same schedule. All preschool programs begin at 10:30 a.m.



Story Time takes place on Monday and Thursday (Monday repeats Thursday's program; crafts are provided on Thursdays only.) Story Time is a great place for children to make friends and enhance their early literacy skills: singing, playing, reading, writing and talking.



Baby Story Time, which takes place every Tuesday, is open to youngsters from birth-age 5, but the stories emphasize concepts rather than plot. Kids will enjoy bouncing rhymes, fun songs, and interacting with others their age.



Preschoolers Explore! is a play group-style program that emphasizes sensory experience, discovery science and language development. Different activities are available each Wednesday. Children should wear play clothes—we usually get messy.

Fun Fridays will keep the fun going all week long! No registration required—come join us!



Parachute Play: April 6, May 4, and June 29

Catch some air as we place projectiles on the parachute! This activity is highly recommended for children who are at least 3 years old—they need to be strong enough to hold on to the chute and keep their footing.

Preschool Dance Party: April 13 and May 11

Kick up your heels to the “banana song,” the “lion song” and more with Miss Erin. Shakers, scarves, bubbles and silliness abound.

Crafty Kids: April 20 and May 18

Create a work of art to give to a loved one or hang on the fridge. We have paint shirts, but dress for a mess just in case.



Groovin' with Mr. Joe: April 27 and May 25

Enjoy a special story time with the extra cool that only Mr. Joe and his guitar can provide.



KIDS AND TEENS

Build-o-Rama Mondays 4-5 p.m.

Build whatever your heart desires with our bricks! Your creation will be on display at the library all week. Build-o-Rama will be held April 2-May 21 and will resume on June 18.



Discovery Hour Tuesdays 4-5 p.m.

Discover how exciting science can be! Kids learn important concepts by participating in interesting experiments. We encourage kids to seek their own answers. Plan to get messy! Discovery Hour will be held April 10-May 22.

Anime Club Wednesdays 3-4:30 p.m.

Hang out for an hour and a half after school to talk about your favorite series! We'll also watch new series, sample Asian snacks, and check out the latest library manga titles. New members are always welcome! Anime Club will be held April 11-May 23.



The Closed Door Science Club Thursdays 4-5 p.m.

More power, more mess, more science! This STEAM-based program helps kids explore the world of science through hypothesis formation, experimentation and observation. Recommended for students in grades 4-7. CDSC will be held April 12-May 24.



Island City Festival

Get ready for a fun-filled weekend at the Island City Festival! Plainwell will come alive during the weekend of July 6-8 and the library will be a part of it. We will be in Hicks Park with stories and fun from noon-3 p.m. on July 6. That evening the library, with help from the Friends of Ransom Library, are sponsoring the first ever Prince & Princess Contest! Children ages 3-8 are invited to dress up in their best royal costumes and strut their stuff on the stage in Fannie Pell Park from 6-7 p.m. Celebrity judges, (princesses from Pretty Princess HQ) will be on hand to select the best costumes. Winners will receive ribbons and some great books as well. Ask Erin or Macy for contest rules and other details.