

Adult Crafts: Fortune Cookie Origami

REGISTER

Learn how to create your own origami fortune cookies with special messages inside in preparation for the Chinese New Year on February 1. Also, learn some fun traditions to celebrate the upcoming year of the Tiger — Xīnnián kuàilè (新年快乐). Offered at two different times for your convenience.

Craft & Company

Tuesday, January 11 • 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Crafty Night Out

Thursday, January 13 • 7 – 8 p.m.

Cross Country Skiing with Paul Wells

Wednesday, January 12 • 7 – 8 p.m.

Founder of the Kalamazoo Nordic Skiers, Paul Wells, will share his extensive history in cross country skiing both recreationally and as a racer. He is widely known in those circles as having the best, most efficient skiing technique in the region.

Clean Water for the World

Thursday, January 20 • 6 – 7 p.m.

Dedicated to providing simple, adaptable water purification systems at no charge to communities without access to potable water, Jerry and Judy Bohl of Otsego started Clean Water for the World, a non-profit organization, in 2002.

Kalamazoo Gals: The Hidden Story of the Women who Built Gibson's "Banner" Guitars of WWII

Thursday, February 3 • 7 – 8 p.m.

Are you a fan of music and local history? Join author John Thomas as he illuminates the story, culture, and music of the women who worked in Gibson's factory in Kalamazoo, Michigan during World War II. This multimedia experience highlights the women behind the 10,000 girl-made guitars during that time.

Adult Crafts: Faux Stained Glass Jars

REGISTER

Repurpose glass jars into something dazzling during this craft program for adults. All supplies will be provided to turn a yogurt jar into a work of art. Offered at two different times for your convenience.

Craft & Company

Tuesday, February 8 • 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Crafty Night Out

Thursday, February 10 • 7 – 8 p.m.

Discover Michigan

with Author Mike Sonneberg
Wednesday, February 16 • 7 – 8 p.m.

Considered a "Michigan Expert" by USA Today, author Mike Sonnenberg will showcase interesting and historic locations from around Michigan featured in his book, *Lost in Michigan: History and Travel Stories From An Endless Road Trip*. See photographs from his travels and hear his stories from all around the Great Lakes State.

Brunch Hour Book Club

with the Author REGISTER

Tuesday, February 22 • 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Discuss this month's book, *Chasing North Star*, and have a casual conversation with the author, Heidi McCrary this month. Copies of the book will be available to borrow from the library before the club meets.

Chasing North Star, Author Presentation

Thursday, February 24 • 7 – 8 p.m.

Local author, Heidi McCrary gives a presentation about her novel, *Chasing North Star*. This debut novel borrows heavily from her time growing up in Alamo, a small farming community just a short drive from Plainwell. Her bittersweet coming-of-age story focuses on a band of siblings trying to survive a mentally ill mother who can't help herself. Described as dark humor, *Chasing North Star* features many locations and events that local readers will find entertaining.

Budgeting 101

Thursday, March 3 • 7 – 8 p.m.

Learn the art of budgeting with Sean Budlong, Chief Executive Officer at Majestic Financial. With over ten years of experience, he knows how to coach people to achieve their financial dreams.

With a Twist Book Club

REGISTER

Thursday, March 17 • 7 – 8 p.m.

This book group pairs books with your favorite adult beverages. Each month you will get a book to keep along with a recipe picked out specifically to match the flavors of the book. Copies of the book and recipes will be available to borrow from the library one month before the club meets. This month's book will be *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver.

Adult Crafts: Canvas Puzzle Art

REGISTER

Puzzles are fun and pretty too! Use puzzle pieces and paint to craft your own unique and unexpected artwork. Offered at two different times for your convenience.

Craft & Company

Tuesday, March 22 • 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Crafty Night Out

Thursday, March 24 • 7 – 8 p.m.

Basic Computer Class for Beginners

REGISTER

Tuesday, March 29 • 1 – 2 p.m.

Designed for those who are new to computers or who feel like they need more instruction. You will learn the basics of how to use a computer in a judgement-free zone.

The Art of Downsizing

Thursday, March 31 • 7 – 8 p.m.

Described as the "go-to gal" for your organizing needs, Rose Hathaway will share her secrets to downsizing. Find peace of mind through the art of organization.

Ransom District Library NEWS

Winter 2022

Blizzard Book BINGO ADULT WINTER READING PROGRAM

January 3 to February 27

Use these blustery, blizzardy months to read something out of your comfort zone. Read through the squares until you get a BINGO by February 27, and once you do you'll get an official RDL Blizzard Book BINGO Mug! Complete the entire board to qualify for the GRAND PRIZE DRAWING!

Escape Room

February 18-21 by appointment

Three artifacts have been stolen from the Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. The curator needs your help to recover Abraham Lincoln's top hat, Franklin D. Roosevelt's pipe, and most importantly, the Declaration of Independence. We have received a tip from an undercover federal agent that the artifacts are hidden in Ransom District Library. Will you accept this mission? All ages welcome. Please register for a time slot at the circulation desk for teams of up to six.

Mondays with Morrie

Dr. Morrie Edwards, a psychologist who specializes in the treatment of depression, anxiety, and the management of chronic and debilitating pain, discusses self-help methods in three different classes:

10 Key Principles to Maintain Motivation Monday, 1/24 7 - 8 p.m.

Almost Instant Holistic Stress Relief for Almost Anyone Monday, 2/28 7 - 8 p.m.

Brain Boosters: Suggestions for Improving Your Mind Monday, 3/28 3 - 4 p.m.

Sew What? Stitching Group

1 – 3 p.m. on Wednesdays: 1/5, 1/19, 2/2, 2/16, 3/9, 3/23

Looking for a place to work on your stitches? Knit, crochet, needlepoint, or sew – whatever your stitch, you're welcome to come and work on your project with other crafters in this bi-weekly program. Please bring your own project.

Thursday Night Trivia REGISTER

7 – 8 p.m. on Thursdays: 1/6, 2/17, 3/10

Do you have a plethora of knowledge to share with the world? Test your wits with our pub-style trivia. Come with friends or join a group when you get to the library.

Movie Mornings at RDL

10:30 a.m. on Fridays: 1/21, 2/25, 3/18

Kick off your weekend with a different matinee movie each month. Contact the library for more information on each month's movie.

Director's Note

As we find ourselves at the end of another challenging year, all of us at Ransom District Library would simply like to wish our community the very best for 2022. Despite ongoing struggles with the pandemic and the many effects it has had on our lives, we have much to be thankful for. At the Library, our thanks center on the joy of seeing patrons discover our beautiful new building, and of having the tools to help and inspire in so many ways. We thank you for your continual support, and we look forward to discovering with all of you what the new year can bring.

Sincerely,
Joe

Yoga at the Library REGISTER

7 – 8 p.m. on Mondays: 1/10, 2/7, 3/7

Join teacher Abbie Hanson, owner of River Bend Yoga, for a night of yoga. Now is a great time to get back on track with your mental and physical health. Learn the basics of yoga, from breathing techniques to proper pose alignment. This class is great for all levels.

Chair Yoga REGISTER

10:30-11:30 a.m. on Tuesdays: 1/4, 2/1, 3/1

Abbie leads this easy chair yoga practice. Yoga really is for everybody at any age, level or ability. Even people with limited mobility can learn deep breathing for stress relief, easy gentle movements to keep the blood circulating, and meditation techniques to keep the mind calm and focused. This is a simple one hour practice to find your peace in body and mind.

Winter is Coming to Ransom...

Youth Services

Text And Learn for Kindergarten (TALK)

TALK is a text message service that helps you prepare your little one for success in school. You will receive 1-2 texts per week with activity suggestions and library events. To get started, text TALK to 75547. Curious what these texts look like? Ask Erin or Analiese to show you.

New Literacy Activities

Thanks to a \$1000 Trusted Advisor grant from Help Me Grow Allegan, RDL has acquired materials for two fun new early literacy centers! One focuses on nutrition, and one focuses on tools and simple machines. Look for these activities in the JBS Children's Discovery Library this winter.

Leap Into Science

Leap into Science is a national program that integrates open-ended science activities with children's books for young children and their families. RDL is offering these fun programs on 3 dates this winter:

January 27 @ 4-4:45 p.m.

February 4 at 10:30-11:15 a.m.

February 23 @ 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Weekly Activities

Teen Tuesdays
January 4 - March 29
3 - 4 p.m.

An hour of supervised hang out time for teens. We play board games, make things, and talk—a lot!

Story Time

Wednesdays, January 5 - March 30
10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

No Story Time February 9.

Children can explore stories and songs that encourage them to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning. They will practice language and listening skills, expand their imaginations and arouse their curiosity about the world around them. Meet in the Hill Performance Room.

Kidding Around

Thursdays, January 6 - March 31
4 - 4:45 p.m.

Have fun with science, make art and play games! Different activities every week.

Monthly Activities

Build-o-Rama

4th Wednesdays (1/26, 2/23, and 3/23)
4 - 5 p.m.

Free building time for an hour after school. Creations will be placed on display in the library.

Grandparents Read

1st Thursdays (1/6, 2/3, and 3/3)
11 - 11:30 a.m.

Does your child's grandparent live far away? Utilize the services of a surrogate in this program. Local seniors will be available to read to and talk with youngsters, and perhaps play a game or color a picture.

Early Literacy Play & Learn Groups

3rd Thursdays (1/20, 2/17, and 3/17)
10 - 11 a.m.

Join the Plainwell Schools' Literacy Coach Kelli Stuijbergen for a fun, informative hour. Every family who attends will receive a free book, and there are always snacks and fun activities for the kids. Everyone must be masked for these events.

Toddler Zip & Zoom

4th Thursdays (1/27, 2/24 and 3/24)
10:30-11:30 a.m.

Meet in the Hill Performance Room for your little ones to play ball, use the parachute, run silly races and more as a way to blow off steam in the chill of the winter.

Special Events

Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners

REGISTER

Friday, January 14, 3 - 5 p.m.

Is your teen interested in Dungeons and Dragons? Come play with our new Youth Assistant, Jack Sterner, who will be the Dungeon Master of a "one-off" campaign that will last only two hours. Jack will go over the basic characters and teach players how the different dice are used. Registration is required; only 4 people can play at a time. If there a lot of interest, RDL will offer additional sessions.

Fresh Food is Fun! with Hether Freyer

Wednesday, January 19, 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

As part of our great new nutrition early literacy center, our friend Hether will visit during Story Time to talk with youngsters about trying new and colorful foods. Each person (parents too!) will receive a bag of fresh food to try during the event. Stick around and play with the new toys afterward!

Kids Game Night with Fortress of Solitude

REGISTER

Friday, January 28, 6 - 8 p.m.

FOR GRADES 3-7. Sign up to play fun games with Kevin, the owner of one of our local gaming shops! Registration is required for this event.

Family-Friendly Escape Room

REGISTER

February 18 - 21 by appointment

Brighten your midwinter break by solving a mystery! Three artifacts have been stolen from the Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. We have received a tip from an undercover federal agent that the artifacts are hidden in Ransom District Library. Can you find them? All ages welcome in teams of up to six.

Dr. Seuss Night

Tuesday, March 8, 7 - 8 p.m.

The Friends of Ransom Library invite you to continue the Dr. Seuss tradition in our new building! There will be multiple activities held in rooms around the building, so you can flow freely between them. We are looking forward to this new format in our new space.

Spring Break Events

The Plainwell Schools' spring break is April 1 - 10, and RDL is cueing up a bunch of fun activities for those of you on staycations!

Friday, April 1

REGISTER

Bingo for Books 2 - 3 p.m.

Everyone wins! Play bingo for your choice of a book to keep.

Monday, April 4

REGISTER

Watercolor Pencils—A New Way to Color 2 - 3 p.m.

Use special colored pencils to color a picture, then blend the colors with water brushes. A water brush has a hollow, squeezable handle that lets you move water into the bristles for blending. Best for grades 2-high school.

April 5

REGISTER

YouTube How-to 4 - 5 p.m.

Youth Assistant Jack Sterner will go through the basics of small-scale video production for teens who want to make their own YouTube submissions.

Teen Game Night with Fortress of Solitude

REGISTER

Friday, March 18, 6 - 8 p.m.

FOR GRADES 8-12 Sign up to play more fun games with Kevin, the owner of one of our local gaming shops!

April 6

REGISTER

Party Games in the Teen Lounge 2 - 4 p.m.

Play Mario Party, Jackbox, or 1-2 Switch. Players will choose as a group.

April 7

REGISTER

Smash Brothers Tournament 2 - 4 p.m.

Tournament will be on the library's Nintendo Switch. Tournament will be bracket-style, single elimination. Prizes for 1st-3rd places.

April 8

REGISTER

Inconceivable! interactive movie 6 - 8 p.m.

For ages 12-up. Watch this classic film complete with a script so you can shout out fun movie lines and props to toss around! Everything will be provided — including popcorn and drinks.



Message from the Media Lab

It's the New Year and we've gone "old school" in the Media Lab!

While the 3D printers are whirring away constantly with patron projects, we are also creating stickers and decals on the vinyl cutting machine, iron-on transfers on the Media Lab printer, and buttons on our latest acquisition, a good old-fashioned button-maker!

As usual, we'll be making a few freebies for you to grab, but we really want you to come in and create something for yourself! Perhaps you have a birthday party coming up and want to make unique prizes? Maybe you have a laptop or favorite water bottle that you want to individualize? How about a transfer for a t-shirt? We have the non-digital technology. If you have an idea, we are available to guide you through the creative process.

The Lab is usually open on weekday afternoons and Monday evenings for drop-ins, but you can also make an appointment. Drop our Media Lab team a line at dsmith@ransomlibrary.org to find out more about learning some new skills or to book a time to start on your million dollar idea...

eServices

NEW! Pronunciator

Try our new language learning software. Practice phrases, words and conversations in 164 languages! Each course is personalized for you, with fun quizzes and games included. All you need is your library card number! Find the Pronunciator link on the RDL website.