Friends of the Library Speaker Series

Friends of the Library Speaker Series: Kit Homes of Michigan
Thursday, April 16, 6 PM | Carnegie Room
The Friends of the Library are excited to be sponsoring a biannual Speaker Series! Join us for the first of these events as we explore the fascinating history of catalog and kit homes with kit house enthusiasts Andrew and Wendy Mutch, owners of a 1926 Sears Roebuck “Hamilton” kit house. In their presentation, you’ll learn about Michigan’s role in the kit house industry and the process of buying and building a catalog house. You will also go on a photographic tour of kit homes from across Michigan. Registration required.

March Madness Bracket Challenge
Monday, March 16, All Day | Circulation Desk
The NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball tournament is a single-elimination tournament of 68 teams that compete in seven rounds for the national championship. The rules are simple: earn points for every game you predict correctly, and the person with the most points wins! Stop in any time starting Monday, March 16 to pick up your official March Madness bracket, rules, and instructions; brackets must be turned in by Thursday, March 19, at 11 AM. The winner will receive a gift card to Rally House, where you can stock up on your favorite team’s gear. For grades 6 and above.

Upcoming Changes

New DVD Loan Policy
Great news! In an effort to meet our patrons’ needs, we have expanded our loan policy to include longer checkout periods for one of our most popular items. New DVDs can now be checked out for one week. You can also place a 24 hour hold to pick up DVDs by the end of the next business day.

New Website
In our ongoing quest to become a gold-standard library, we are actively working to provide you with an intuitive, easy-to-use, accessible, mobile-friendly, and more aesthetically pleasing website to accomplish your library needs. Look for the new website launch in late spring or early summer!
Adult Programs & Events

Holocaust Survivor, Irene Miller
Thursday, March 5
6 PM | Carnegie Room
Author, speaker, educator, and Holocaust Survivor, Irene Miller, will take you on a journey of survival. She will guide you through the experiences of sleeping under the open sky in winter, freezing in a Siberian labor camp; consuming boiled grass or onions; shivering with malaria; and spending years in orphanages. By the end you will wonder how a child with this background grew up to become the positive, creative, accomplished woman that she is. Registration required.

Manitou Mysteries Shipwreck Adventure
Tuesday, May 19, 7 PM | Carnegie Room
Journey to the waters off the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and join author and shipwreck hunter Ross Richardson in exploring the histories and mysteries of the Manitou Passage, one of the deadliest areas on The Great Lakes. An undiscovered fleet of shipwrecked ghost-ships lies off the rugged coast, just waiting to be found. Learn their stories and explore a newly discovered mystery schooner thought to be one of the most intact shipwrecks on the planet. Registration required.

Monthly Programs

The ADL Book Club
Tuesdays, March 3, April 7, and May 5, 7 PM | Carnegie Room
Join us for great books, great conversation and a great time! No registration required.

March: “The Marsh King’s Daughter” by Karen Dionne
April: “The Power” by Naomi Alderman
May: “The Silent Patient” by Alex Michaelides

Recess for Adults with the Arc of Allegan County
Tuesdays, March 10, April 1, and May 12, 2 PM | Children’s Program Room
ADL is partnering with the Arc of Allegan County, a non-profit organization supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. ALL adults are welcome to connect, create, play, and explore during this series of interactive programs. There will be some volunteers available to offer support to participants. If one-on-one support is needed, please bring a support person with you. No registration required.

March: Bingo Game Day
April: Adult Coloring Class
May: Planting Flowers
Adult Programs & Events Continued

Monthly Programs Continued

Pub Quiz Night @ Tantrick Brewing Co.
Fridays, March 20, April 17, May 15 at 6 PM
Test your knowledge in a fun night of trivia covering a variety of topics. Teams of 4-6. Space is limited. Registration begins at 6 PM; quiz starts at 7 PM. Show your library card and earn extra points to add to your team’s score. **Note: Feel free to bring your dinner as Tantrick does not serve food.**

Creative Aging Club

**Craft Day: Acrylic Pour**
**Marbled Coasters**
**Thursday, March 12, 11:30 AM**
**Children’s Program Room**
Liven up your spring decor with these colorful marbled coasters made using the acrylic pour painting technique. While your creations dry, enjoy lunch and chat with friends. Registration required.

**Senior Clogging Class**
**Thursday, April 23, 10:30 AM**
**Children’s Program Room**
It’s time to put on your dancing shoes! Join us to learn the basics of this American Folk Dance and get some exercise before enjoying lunch. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes with little traction. Registration required.

**The Price is Right**
**Thursday, May 14, 11:30 AM**
**Carnegie Room**
We’re bringing another classic game show to life! Participants will find their way to bidder’s row and use their knowledge of consumer goods to conquer our take on games from the television show. Lunch will be provided. Registration required.

Kids Programs & Events

Little Ones (Toddlers & Preschoolers)

**Storytime**
**Wednesdays, March 4-25,**
**April 1-8 & 22-29,**
**May 6-13,**
**10:30 AM**
**Children’s Programming Room**
Storytime is designed to promote literacy, language development, and a love of books. Sessions include fun stories, songs, art, and sensory activities designed to bring out the future reader in your child. Come out and play! For anyone ages 0-5, families welcome. No registration required.

**Sensory Playgroup**
**Thursdays, March 5,**
**April 2,**
**May 7,**
**10 AM | Children’s Programming Room**
Children and caregivers are invited to drop in each month to stimulate growing brains through sensory play. Stations will develop fine and gross motor skills, engage senses, and encourage social interaction with both caregivers and peers. No registration required.
Kids Programs & Events Continued

Older Kids (K-5th Grade)

Crafternoon: DIY Stuffies
Tuesday, March 17, 4 PM
Children’s Programming Room
Make your very own stuffed friend! Learn basic sewing techniques to form your creation and add details to its body. Your creativity will bring your imagination to life. No registration required.

Dash & Dot Drop-in
Saturday, April 4, 1-3 PM
Children’s Programming Room
Stop by the programming room throughout the afternoon to meet Dot or test drive Dash! Teach a robot to make music on the xylophone, play basketball using the launchers, put on a fashion show and more! Robots and accessories will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. No registration required.

STEAM Book Club for Beginning Readers
Wednesdays, March 18 & April 29, Friday, May 22, 2 PM
Children’s Programming Room
Looking for something to do on APS early release days? Check out our book club for elementary-aged children. We will read the book of the month out loud together, then discuss the story while enjoying a snack. Each session will conclude with dramatic play or a STEAM activity designed to reinforce the concepts explored in the book. Grades K-3. No registration required.

Fun For All Ages

LEGO Club
Mondays, March 2, April 6, May 4
4 PM | Children’s Programming Room
What will you invent? Each month, come complete the LEGO Challenge, and discover your inner builder. Let your mind wander and your creativity take over as you create your LEGO masterpiece. Duplos are available for little inventors. Creative geniuses of all ages are welcome. No registration required.

Teen and Tween Programs & Events

Cooking Demo: Delicious Sips, Dips & Small Bites
Thursday, March 26, 4 PM | Children’s Programming Room
Calling all foodies! Prepare and sample a variety of snacks that are perfect to whip up after a long day at school. Join Chef Jen as she teaches us how to prepare a variety of after-school snacks including a mango pineapple smoothie, guacamole, fire-roasted tomato salsa, turkey hummus pinwheels, sunflower butter energy bites, and pizza popcorn. Grades 6+. Registration required.
Teen and Tween Programs & Events Continued

Mario Kart 8 Tournament
Thursday, April 9, 2 PM
Children’s Programming Room
Race against your friends in our first double elimination Mario Kart tournament! Stop by the Teen Area leading up to the tournament to get your practice in and find the winning driver-kart combination. Not much of a racer? Come watch and indulge in snacks. A complete list of rules will be available on our website. Grades 6+. Registration required.

Upcycled T-shirt Crafts
Tuesday, April 28, 4 PM
Children’s Programming Room
Reusing and repurposing items you already have at home is a great way to be a friend to our planet! Give old t-shirts new life by turning them into coasters and tote bags. T-shirts will be provided for participants, but feel free to bring your own, along with your creativity! Grades 6+. Registration required.

Tech Playground
Friday, May 8, 6 PM | Perrigo STREAM Lab
Your favorite after-hours hangout is back! Check out our robots, experience VR and play video games while enjoying snacks and pizza after the library is closed. Grades 6+. Registration required.

New Library Staff

My name is Casey. As a human, I do my best to represent both self and species with an appreciation for fellow beings. I am happy to be at the library where I learn something new everyday!

Hi, I’m LaVon. I am a wife and a mother to two amazing kids. I’m a native to Allegan and I’ve grown to love Allegan more as our wonderful town has grown. I’m so excited to be a part of the team here at the library.

Under Construction

“What is Happening to the Library Roof?”
Just when you thought construction was over, we started right back up again! While not in the original Library Improvement Plan, during the renovation phase of the project, we discovered that the asphalt underlayment beneath the clay tiles on the 1976 roof was in far worse shape than originally suspected. This asphalt underlayment, which dates back to the addition in 1976, is supposed to function as the waterproof membrane.

Now, thanks in part to savings found during the project, we have hired Grand River Builders of Grand Rapids to pull up the clay tiles and replace the asphalt with a new, modern, waterproof membrane. Grand River Builders will then “reset” the original tile matching the roof’s original 1976 state.
Community Art Display

We heard your pleas, and unveiled our Community Artwork Display in November, featuring our first artist, Jim Kauppi. In line with our Vision of active community participation and collaboration, the library wishes to support our local arts community by offering artists the opportunity to publicly showcase their work. Using visible and centrally-located “community art walls,” our goal is to display high quality original artwork, with preference given to local artists and subject matter.

We welcome prospective artists to stop by the library to pick up and complete an application and contract. Artists’ submissions can be made in person, by regular mail, or by email, and may be submitted at any time. We also welcome groups to apply! Displays remain in place for three months and may be scheduled as much as a year or more in advance.

We invite you to stop in and check out the artwork created by your fellow Alleganians!

Friends’ Annual Tea - A Success!

The Friends of the Library hosted their 5th Annual Fall Tea on October 13, 2019. The theme of the Fall Tea was Princes and Princesses. After sipping tea accompanied by fancy finger foods, the littlest of the royal attendees were treated to story time and a craft activity, while older patrons enjoyed a short program about famous and not so famous princes and princesses

The Fall Tea is an annual Friends’ fundraiser for supplemental but unfunded needs of the Library. Funds raised from prior teas helped to restore historically appropriate lighting for the beautifully renovated Carnegie Room. Youth programming is the current focus of the fundraiser. Look for news of the 6th Annual Tea early next fall to take part in the gracious tradition of afternoon tea.
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Directors Note

By the time you read this message, I will have departed from my role as the Director of the Allegan District Library. I made the difficult decision to resign and relocate in order to accept the role of Director of the Charlevoix Public Library, which will give my wife Lyndsay and I the opportunity to raise our children in the area where we both grew up, and where both of our families still reside.

I am thankful to have collaborated with and worked for a great Board of Trustees to help lead the Allegan District Library toward its current position of a gold-standard library of its size. Not only did I learn a tremendous amount from this Board, but I was constantly inspired by their passion for this library and community.

I am also thankful to have had the opportunity to lead a phenomenal team of staff. In the last 3.5 years, this team has positively and professionally helped initiate, direct, and follow through on a remarkable amount of change to turn this library into a space that meets the needs of this changing community.

Finally, I am thankful to this community. Stating that every individual and every organization here made me and my family feel like Allegan was our home is not a strong enough statement of how welcomed and included we felt. We truly felt gathered in and we will miss Allegan greatly. Further, the support and excitement this community has for this library made doing this job a continuous pleasure.

As you read this, operationally, the library’s amazing team of staff is being led by Devin Erlandson in an Interim Director role. Devin has fulfilled the position of Assistant Director at the library for the last 3.5 years. During that time, Devin not only played an essential role in the Library Improvement Project, but undertook a great deal of responsibility for maintaining the day-to-day operations of the library.

The Library Board of Trustees are undertaking a broad search to find a visionary leader who will continue the library on its gold-standard path as the next Director. Applications will be accepted through February, and interviews will occur not long after; it is anticipated that the next Director will start in early summer.

Please stop by and see me if and when you travel north; I would love to see you and catch up.

Sincerely,
Ryan Deery