



2026 Officers:

President:

Jim Engelhard

V. Pres.

Secretary:

Mary Lou Jeanette

Treasurer:

Lisa Sutton

Trustee & Chair of the Nominating Committee:

Sue Glover

Trustee & RADL Board Liaison:

Bobbie Werle

Trustee & Member at Large:

Beverly Emery

**Next Meeting: Sept. 8,
2026, 1:00**

**Pre-meeting social half
hour w/ snacks at 12:30 PM**

Have you paid your dues yet?

It is only \$5.00 per year, or \$100.00 for a lifetime membership.
(Lifetime is only about 27¢ per day)

110 paid members!!!

Thank You for your Continued Support!

Did you know:

Michigan's Constitution was the first to provide for public libraries.

The reading numbers came in this year - from everywhere, all saying the same thing. In the US, federal data shows just 14% of thirteen-year-olds now read for fun daily. Half what it was in 2012.

FRADL Newsletter –August 2026

Friends of Roscommon Area District Library

"A strong library for a stronger community"

President's Message

Greetings to all Friends of the Roscommon Area District Library. The days seem to be getting shorter and cooler weather is on its way. The Library has had a tremendously busy summer with record attendance from children and adults participating in the summer reading program as well as in the back-to-school backpack program. The FRADL has also had some success in recruiting ten new members during the Roscommon Art Fair in July and we keep growing with 110 current members. If you know someone who frequents the Roscommon District Library or is interested in joining our organization don't hesitate to reach out to them or ask one of our other members to help out. With cooler weather inbound we also have two big events coming up. Of course, we are still looking for volunteers for our table at the RocktoberFest celebration on Saturday, the third of October at the River Center in Roscommon. We also have a big book sale that weekend at the library. These are two fun and fantastic opportunities to tell friends and family how to get involved with our program. If you are interested in being a part of these projects please attend the monthly Membership meeting, the second Tuesday in September at 1:00 pm in the Library. Additionally, we are always looking for creative ways to increase our Principle fund so that we can continue to provide support to our Library in the future. Just a reminder that FRADL monthly membership meetings, at the Roscommon Library, are open to all members. Here's hoping everyone has a safe and sound fall.

Jim E.

Good News Stories:

[Why Reading Outside Feels Different](#)

[Tiny Mountain Library in the Philippines Sparks Love for Reading Among Kids](#)

[How Librarians Became America's Greatest Asset in WWII Intelligence](#)

[Students Secretly Collected Their Professor's Best Life Advice Into a 152-Page Book](#)

[The Real Places Behind the World's Most Beloved Novels](#)

Membership Meetings:

Second Tuesday: 1:00, all year long

Pre-meeting social half hour with snacks at 12:30 PM

Leadership Meetings:

Last Tuesday of the Month: 1:30

BOOK REPORTING: A WOMAN WHOSE LIFE A NOVELIST WOULD HAVE TROUBLE INVENTING

by Joe Battocletti

No character ever dreamed up by Judith Krantz or Sidney Sheldon matched the real life of the woman born Jacqueline Lee Bouvier. J. Randy Taraborrelli tells Jackie Kennedy Onassis's story excellently in his Jackie, Public, Private, Secret. It deserves one reviewer's description as a "Gossipy biography" but that same reviewer also called Jackie, Public, Private, Secret "deeply researched"-- for 25 years, according to Taraborrelli. Jackie offers details of her life that had never been reported. It grew out of his earlier Jackie, Janet, and Lee about the lives of Jackie's mother Janet Auchincloss and her sister Lee Radziwill. There's not a lot of duplication between the two biographies. Jackie's mother was obsessed with financial security at any cost....and hers proved very high. Her younger sister's life definitely falls into the category of a guilty pleasure to read about.

Jackie Kennedy Onassis life isn't complete without reading Camera Girl by Carl Sferrazza Anthony. The title refers to her 1950s job as a roving public opinion photographer/reporter for a Washington, DC newspaper. It focuses on the years up to her marriage to Senator JFK and presents her as an independent, intelligent and ambitious young woman determined to find greatness, before her story became overshadowed by Jackie as First Lady and global celebrity.

Speaking of independent, intelligent, ambitious, and strong women...they populate Judith Mackrell's The Correspondents, Six Women Writers on the Front Lines of World War II. They refused to be confined to rear area press rooms for PR spoon-feeding about the biggest story of their lifetimes and they overcame a mountain of official obstacles to match- and exceed- the work of their male counterparts. The two who stand out are Martha Gellhorn, who shamed husband Ernest "Mr. Military Macho" Hemingway into leaving his cushy Caribbean life for the war zone, and who stowed away on a hospital ship to cover the 1944 D-Day invasion from the beach while helping save GI's lives as an impromptu nursing assistant, and, Lee Miller, who went from high fashion model to first-rate photographer to battlefield photojournalist. Both women suffered from postwar psychological trauma from the gruesome events they experienced, and Miller's downfall is heart-rending. The book is captivating and well-written.

Then there's the totally different young woman depicted in The Spy Who Seduced America by Marcia and Thomas Mitchell. It was difficult to pick up a newspaper in 1950 and '51 without finding a story about Judith Coplon. Her arrest and trials captivated America and divided public opinion about whether the glamorous 28-year-old federal worker was

a Soviet spy. Even the married co-authors disagreed about whether Coplon was a traitor or the victim of a Cold War paranoia frame-up during most of the years they spent chasing down her story. It took the final chapter to remove all doubt. Twice convicted of espionage, Coplon never served a day of her long prison sentences because the evidence against her was gathered so outrageously illegally. Coplon's first defense attorney showed what would happen if Bozo the Clown shed his funny makeup and went to law school. She married defense lawyer number two....after having an affair with a member of her prosecution team. Coplon never talked about her guilt, except to deny it at her trials, and she did her best to escape the public eye for the almost 6 decades she lived after appeals courts vacated her guilty verdicts. The most famous woman in America 75 years ago is almost totally forgotten today.

The summer's big story in Northern Michigan has been the dense smoke cloud that sent our air quality into the red danger zone thanks to massive wildfires in Canada and Minnesota. The classic Young Men And Fire by Norman Maclean puts us among the people who run toward the flames, not toward safety. It focuses on the 1949 Montana blowup that killed 13 smokejumpers, going deeply into the lives of the victims, the survivors, and the environment they lived in. Wildfire fighting technology hasn't changed much since the day of the disaster and you'll never see a story about forest fires, or view another smoke cloud outside your window, without thinking of the people taking risks at Ground Zero of the conflagration

ARE THERE YANKEES' FANS (OR HATERS) IN THE HOUSE??? Bosses of the Bronx, the new book by veteran "NY Post" sportswriter Mike Vaccaro, is a highly readable and well-researched account of the team's decades under fiery owner George Steinbrenner and his calmer family successors. You may find similarities between employee life at Yankee Stadium and your own workplace or hopefully be glad you never worked at a company like *that*. If you go back far enough to recall when Billy Martin managed the Tigers, his Detroit tenure is a big part of the backstory that's a centerpiece of the book's Martin years. What Vaccaro reveals about this brilliant, tormented man's time in Detroit and afterward borders on the tragic.

Find something in today's "Book Reporting" that you disagree with, or that you want to amplify? Please write an article and send it to newsletter editor Wilma Barber at wilmabarber55@gmail.com. A great book recommendation lasts for the lifetime of the reader you reached.

And keep in mind that you needn't stretch your budget for any of these volumes. They're all available through the library interloan..."MelCat" by name. If you aren't using it, your helpful RADL librarian will gladly show you how. You'll read more and spend much less.

Fairy Night Lights:



Spread the Word: Used Book Sale at the Library October 2nd, 10-5 and October 3rd, 10-Noon.

Volunteers need for:

Thursday, Oct. 1st, 10-Noon to set up

Saturday, Oct 3rd, 9:45 – Noon

Saturday, Oct 3rd, 1-2 to pack up

Donations of ½ gallon of cider or 1 container of donut holes. We will sell these on Friday.

Contact Linda Brick, 248-835-3036

Members, we need full-size paper grocery bags to supplement our supply for the Used Book Sale. Please bring to September Friends Meeting or drop off at library by October 1.

"A Stronger Library for a Stronger Community"

The Friends of the Roscommon Area District Library is a non-profit, charitable group whose mission is to promote the development of excellent library services for all patrons through fundraising, advocacy and volunteerism. The Friends of RADL formed in 2010 and is also a member of the Michigan Friends of Libraries. This local group of women and men is composed of friendly neighbors, full-time residents and "snow-birds" who share a fondness for the Roscommon Area District Library.

Mission Statement:

To promote the development of excellent library services for all patrons through fundraising, advocacy and volunteerism.

The Friends of RADL support the library by sponsoring programming for all ages, providing refreshments, volunteering as needed and helping fund library needs that may be outside of the library budget.

RocktoberFest at the Depot/Pavilion, October 3rd, 11:00am - 9:30pm

We need volunteers to be at our booth. A gift basket will be given away.

Donated Michigan Made Products for the basket will be appreciated.

Secretary of State will be at the library, September 4th.

Shred-It will be at the library, September 12th.

Ancient Beginnings & Materials

- **Clay tablets:** Ancient Sumerians wrote on wet clay with a reed stylus over 5,000 years ago.
- **Papyrus rolls:** Egyptians made long scrolls from the papyrus plant before codex books existed.
- **Parchment and vellum:** Animal skins replaced papyrus because they were much stronger and could be folded.
- **The codex:** Romans invented the modern bound-page book style around the 1st century AD.
- **Palm leaves:** Ancient South Asian texts were carved into dried palm leaves and tied with string.

Friends of the RADL Mission:

To promote the development of excellent library services for all patrons through fundraising, advocacy and volunteerism.

Membership Year: September 1 to August 31

Dues: \$5.00 per member, per year
\$100.00 Lifetime dues

Make check out to:
Friends of RADL
PO 311
Roscommon, MI 48653
Or deliver to RADL desk.

Contact Us!

friendsofradl@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook

Library website:

<http://www.roscommonlibrary.org>

Roscommon Area District Library

106 Lake Street
P.O. Box 888
Roscommon, MI 48653
989-281-1305

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 10:00-7:00

Friday: 10:00-5:00

Saturday: 10:00-3:00

Lyon Township Branch Library

7851 West Higgins Lake Dr.
Higgins Lake, MI 48627
989-821-9111

Tuesday through Friday: 10:00—3:00
(times are subject to change)

Notes from August 11 meeting:

If you are interested in becoming our Vice President, or the Library Board Trustee, please contact Sue Glover.

Used book sale will be Friday, October 2, 10-5 and Saturday, October 3, 10-Noon. Donations of donut holes and ½ gallons of cider will be appreciated for Friday. These will be sold for \$1.

We will have a table at the RocktoberFest, Saturday, October 3rd, at the Depot/Pavilion in Roscommon. Volunteers are needed to handle the basket giveaway and sign-up new members. Michigan made items for the basket will be appreciated.

The Fund-Raising group will meet August 25th, at 2:30 at the library. Bring ANY idea for fund raising for discussion.

Events:

9 Different Dinosaur events brought in 208 kids!

Amber insects craft: 40 kids

Bubbleman Ron: 30 kids

Critchlow Live Animal Show: 60 kids

58 summer programs were attended.

Total attendees: 1285

Membership:

- Membership is open to everyone.
- Annual dues are \$5.00. Life-time dues are \$100.00.
- Applications are available at RADL and the Lyon Branch Library.
- Currently, meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 1 pm.
- Meetings are held at RADL. Pre-meeting social half hour with snacks at 12:30 pm

Ways to support:

- become a member,
- Purchase used books from the Friends Used Books shelves at the back of RADL.
- Donations are welcome!

How we make a difference:

- Summer reading programs
- Battle of the Books
- Used Book Sales
- Bingo for Books
- Roscommon Art Fair
- Rocktober Fest

Check out new arrivals at RADL

[Click on book](#)

