

FRADL Newsletter— December 2025

Friends of Roscommon Area District Library
"A strong library for a stronger community."

2026 Officers:

President:
Jim Engelhard

V. Pres.
Ann Jordan

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:

January 13, 2026, 1:00
Pre-meeting social half hour with snacks at 12:30 PM

15

YEARS

2010—2025



President's Message

Dear Friends,

Winter has arrived (earlier than usual it seems) and the spirit of Christmas is in the air in our beautiful Roscommon Area District Library. The contributions of our volunteers at this year's "Christmas in the Village" were outstanding as we were able to increase our membership with 18 new friends. A special thanks to Lisa Sutton and all those friends that contributed to our basket Give-away. We are going to increase our monthly membership meetings through the winter months after a unanimous vote from our members to change the by-laws at our December meeting. For all of our Friends who remain in the Roscommon Area for the winter this is a great opportunity to connect with other friends, share ideas, participate in discussions as well as provide another opportunity to visit our Library. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, the 13th of January (the second Tuesday of the month) at 1:00 pm. As usual there will be snacks and coffee available at 12:30. Here's hoping everyone continues to have a safe and memorable winter.

"The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may yet have hope for the future of man." T.S. Eliot

Jim Engelhard, FRADL President

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)

82 Paid Members

Thank You for your Continued Support



For those who travel south or west for winter, safe travels. Have a wonderful winter.

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

We had so much fun painting ornaments for the RADL Christmas Tree!



\$2.00 Book sale during Christmas In The Village:



Hot Chocolate Bar at the Library for Christmas In The Village! Looks tasty!



Cookie Decorating



A BALANCED DIET
is a
CHRISTMAS
COOKIE
IN EACH HAND

*Have The Merriest Christmas!
from Wilma*

BOOK REPORTING: I CAN'T EXPLAIN WHY I LOVE THIS BOOK

I like to think that my communication skills are pretty good, but every time I describe the best book I read in 2023 people respond, "that sounds depressing", sometimes accompanied by a hairy eyeball. But if Four Friends: Promising Lives Cut Short by William D Cohan strikes you as a mood-killer, trust me, it's engrossing and uplifting. The four friends are the author's classmates at the elite Phillips Andover Prep School in the 1970s, most famously JFK Junior. By the time Cohan revisits Kennedy's life and death, enough time has passed for people to be more candid than they were in its immediate aftermath, especially because Cohan's sources are also former classmates and mutual friends. I applied a principle I use to judge the value of a biography or memoir: I didn't know half of the real story, and half of what I did know was wrong. Another one of Cohan's classmates was President Harry Truman's grandson. The other two weren't famous, but that doesn't make their stories less compelling. Much of what happened to them is reflected in our own lives, except, hopefully, for unexpected terminal tragedy. It reminds us of our common human bond-- mortality. And how every minute involves a choice of some kind. Almost always a benign choice. ALMOST always. I have gifted this book to many people. I'll bet you'll do the same if you give it a chance.

A very different look at a similar topic is I'm Glad My Mom Died by Jennette McCurdy, "Sam" on the TV show "iCarly". They loved each other, mostly, in their unique manner. But show business stardom carries a price that many of us are better off for not having paid.

If someone asked me, "What one book would you give somebody who wants to know about America's Civil War", I would unhesitatingly reply: City of Sedition: The History of New York During the Civil War by John Strausbaugh. The title's deceptive- it deceived me- because the book ranges from coast to coast and to Europe, starting with the years leading up to the war and how New York became the economic capital of the Southern Plantation Regime. It was also the city that financed the Union Army's victory, even as New Yorkers themselves voted against Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and 1864. This is historical narrative at its best: vividly written and totally factual. You'll never think of Michigan's General George Custer the same after you read it.

Pair City of Sedition with Gore Vidal's excellently researched novel Lincoln and you'll have as good a grasp of the Civil War years, and their lead-in and aftermath, as anybody who hasn't spent years focusing

on the subject. These are the two volumes I'd advise any history student to absorb.

If you enjoyed Ken Burns's recent PBS film "American Revolution", or even if you didn't, Bill O'Reilly's Killing England is a superlative one-volume take on the war that made us a nation. It compliments and fleshes out the points Burns emphasized.

One aspect of the Revolutionary War that Burns spent no time on is the role Detroit played in it. The future Motor City was the western hub of British military activity, facing off across modern-day Ohio against the Patriots' western outpost, Wheeling West Virginia- later birthplace to a different kind of warrior, Walter Reuther. Ohio was a free-fire zone, with soldiers from both sides battling wherever they encountered each other. That's the story so well told in Allan W Eckert's That Dark and Bloody River, referring to the Ohio River. If you've driven I-75 enough to notice different places named "Kenton", the book explains why. And if you don't know about Simon Girty, you'll find out why he's still hated in some precincts. That Dark and Bloody River tells the America 250 story that the East Coast-centric histories omit.

If "Book Reporting" has stirred your imagination, please write an article and send it to newsletter editor Wilma Barber at wilmabarber55@gmail.com.

A great book recommendation is a wonderful gift to everyone who sees your words.

In this cold, snowy time:

Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.

(Mason Cooley)

The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library.

(Albert Einstein)

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 the December 9th meeting:

We have 82 paid members, please send in your dues if you have not already.

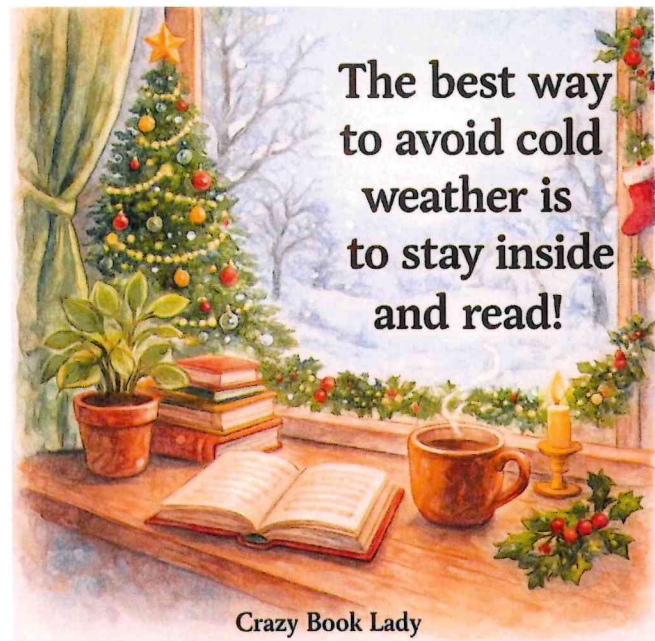
The bylaw change was approved to hold monthly meetings, second Tuesday of the month at 1:00.

The book drop box at the library will be moved for safety purposes. It will be at the far end of the parking lot.

The book-bundle sale at Christmas in the Village brought in \$18.50.

Thanksgiving craft and movie had 24 children attend.

Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered for the Hot Chocolate Bar, and the Basket Give-Away.



Crazy Book Lady

Check out new arrivals at RADL
Click on book:

