



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: July 14,
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)

99 Paid Members, 16 Life Members

Thank You for your Continued
Support!



FRADL Newsletter – June 2026

Friends of Roscommon Area District Library
“A strong library for a stronger community”

President's Message

The summer solstice is upon us, and with it warm weather (whew) and the arrival of the unofficial bird of Northern Michigan (the Mosquito). For visiting friends and families the RADL is a great place to hang out when summer rainstorms limit outdoor activities. The annual Roscommon Art Fair is also right around the corner (first Saturday in July at the Roscommon CRAF) and with it an opportunity to join FRADL volunteers at our Membership Table. This is always a good chance to share the mission of the FRADL as well as encourage prospective members to join the FRADL team. The summer reading program is back and will continue to be supported by FRADL. In addition to the library's summer programs, Friends will continue accepting books for our big “used book” sale in October. Just a reminder that FRADL monthly membership meetings, held the second Tuesday of every month at the Roscommon Library, are open to all members. The meetings continue to grow with 18 members attending the June meeting. Here's hoping you have a great summer. See you soon.

Jim E.

Good News Stories:

[The Lost Joy of Receiving Real Letters](#)

[What Book Lovers Are Called Around the World Might Surprise You](#)

[8 Historic Libraries of the Ancient World](#)

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

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 "LOST TREASURE" THAT LIVES UP TO ITS RAVE REVIEWS

by Joe Battocletti

If you spend much time looking at internet posts about books, you'll certainly come across praise for the 1965 novel Stoner by John Williams. I finally satisfied my curiosity and found that the book is as engrossing as its fans claim. Nothing really jumps out and grabs you in this account of a college professor who leaves life on the family farm to study English Literature and then teach it for the next half century. Most of the book chronicles William Stoner's hard luck- a disastrous marriage, an academic career beset by superiors who openly hate him, estranged parents and daughter, then a final fatal disease. I was on the verge of dumping the story of what appeared to be The Born Loser, when Stoner began fighting back-- so imaginatively that I began rooting for him and could hardly turn the pages fast enough. The book became a magnet that drew me in further and further until I was sorry that it ended at 278 pages.

How many times a week do you think about Amelia Earhart? Chances are it's somewhere around zero. Yet there are people who spend a lot of time contemplating America's most famous missing aviatrix, and they have spent millions of dollars in recent years trying to solve her mystery. Rachel Hartigan tells their story in Lost: Three Mysterious Deaths and One Extraordinary life. She got involved as a correspondent for National Geographic TV, which twice sent her to cover Earhart search expeditions in some of the god-awfullest places in the South Seas. She recounts her personal adventures, the expeditions that have been mounted over the decades, and Earhart's own life. Amelia's disappearance has captivated a diverse crew of people, including the man who found the "Titanic". Among the others with far less impressive credentials are the two who ginned up the fable that Earhart survived and snuck back home....sick of the pressure to keep topping her previous achievements....and became a New Jersey housewife under a false name. That nuttiness earned the two a lawsuit from the woman they claimed was really Earhart (she wasn't). It's a fun read with a lot of serious content. Recently, we saw a woman rocket to the moon and back. The book shows that it's no exaggeration that Amelia Earhart, with her strong dedication to women's advancement in aviation, was willing to die so that one day Christina Koch could fly on "Artemus".

Ira Levin is famous for writing the novels that became the hit movies "Rosemary's Baby", "The Stepford Wives", and The Boys From Brazil". I first encountered him when I read his page-turner Sliver, about life in an apartment building where everyone is under secret camera surveillance. Recently, I came across his first novel, 1953's A Kiss Before Dying. If you love clever plot twists and a surprise ending, pick up a copy.

IF YOU NEED SOMETHING NEW TO WORRY ABOUT:

Eric Schlosser's Command And Control will perk up your anxiety meter with its accounts of how close we have come to having an atomic bomb accidentally detonate on American soil. The US was within moments of a nuclear blast that would have contaminated a swath of North Carolina and adjacent states only a few weeks after President Kennedy's 1961 inauguration. He wraps his story around a nail-biting minute-by-minute account of the 1980 accident when a Titan missile blew up in its Arkansas silo and sent a damaged atomic warhead careening through the air. It didn't go off, thanks more to luck than to design. You'll wonder if he's right by contending that some modern systems are so complicated that human minds can't anticipate all the ways they could go catastrophically wrong. But the book is no screed- it's high-octane entertainment.

There's a second helping of what might keep you up late at night is Quakeland: On the Road to America's Next Devastating Earthquake by Kathryn Miles. She goes into deep mines, examines Mississippi River levees and discovers the web of California-style faults beneath New York City. We're safe from quakes here in Northern Michigan, but if The Big One turns out to be near Memphis or Long Island, NY, or South Carolina...life in our part of America will be a lot more difficult for a long time.

But before we get clinically depressed, let's grab some fun reads by University of Notre Dame Professor Ralph McInerney and his Notre Dame mystery series. All 13 are very well written and plotted out, featuring a McInerney-style professor who keeps solving murders and almost becoming the victim himself. What makes these books stand out is their often-pungent observations on campus life at an elite Catholic university which McInerney clearly loves but doesn't love unconditionally.

This is the centennial of the novel that launched Agatha Christie's fabulous career, as well as the fictional detecting career of Hercule Poirot. The Murder of Roger Ackroyd has lost nothing in its 100 years. If you haven't read it, or have forgotten it, you'll see how the Queen of All Mysteries immediately staked her claim. A good reading day's entertainment.

Find something in today's "Book Reporting" that you disagree with, or that you want to endorse and 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 inspired.

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

At the June Membership Meeting, we celebrated our special friend, Ann Jordan. Ann and her husband, Al, are leaving Roscommon soon to begin the next adventure in their lives downstate. They're moving to the Chelsea area, luckily near their daughter and one of their sons and their families. Ann is a big part of the Roscommon Area District Library. She was one of the tenacious library lovers who started a grassroots operation more than 25 years ago to establish a library separate from the high school when it could not remain open in the summer. From space in the CRAF Center, to the small rental building on Federal Highway to building the present library, Ann has been there every step of the way. Not only is she a founding member of the Friends of RADL, she has served as an officer multiple times. Currently she serves as vice president. Ann is also on the RADL Board of Trustees and has served as an officer there, currently as treasurer. For RADL, she is the first phone call when an emergency fill-in is needed at the circulation desk. She has been a judge for Battle of the Books every year. She's recognized as the friendly door greeter at library programs, always making guests feel welcome. Yes, she's known as "Can Do Ann"!

Ann has made so many Friends' events successful and just plain fun! She's been in parades, worked book sales, passed out snacks, arrived in character at Downton Abbey Teas and mystery parties. For several years, Ann made amazing bookmarks on her embroidery machine (even took orders) and sold a huge number as a Friends' fundraiser. Perhaps you remember Ann as the on camera host of the Friends' Monthly Basket Drawings? She composed imaginative rhymes and scenarios for each drawing. And we would be remiss not to mention Ann's collection of books and reading themed t-shirts. We always wait to see what themed shirt book lover Ann will be sporting!

We wish Ann and Al all the best as they start the next chapter in their lives. And we promise, each month when we see the library stats for new library cards, to get just as excited as Ann does.

From your biggest fans,

All your RADL Friends



The Friends of the Roscommon Area District Library

Accepting Book Donations!

Hardcovers,
paperbacks,
audio books,
DVDs



The Friends will be taking donations at RADL:

- Fridays and Saturdays in May and June
- Fridays, 2 pm - 4 pm
- Saturdays, 10 am - 12 pm **(No collection 6/23 - RADL closed)*

Please bring only 1-2 bags or boxes per visit

More details:

Pick up a donation guidelines flyer at circulation desk or contact The Friends at friendsofradl@gmail.com.

Donation volunteers for book sale



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 June 9 meeting:

Art in the Park: July 11th, need volunteers to work the table.

Used book donations: need volunteers to take in books at library, Fridays & Saturdays in May and June.

Contact Sue Glover if you can help with either.

New Drop Box should be installed this week. It is on your left under the yard light.

Summer Reading Programs need volunteers.
Contact Colleen at the Library.

Phyllis Mills will turn 97 in a few days. If you want to send a card: 195 State Street, #D-1, Roscommon, MI 48653

Attendees for our events:

Writing Club w/ Cora: 17
Book Talk: 9
Adult Paint w/Cathy: 18
Author Tobin Buhk: 10
Android Class: 10
Murder They Read Mystery Book Club: 10
Kentucky Derby Tea: 13

A 2019 Ohio State study found that children who read just five picture books a day hear roughly 1.4 million more words by age five than children who are never read to. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends reading aloud to infants from birth.

Keep books visible in the home. A 20-year, 27-country study led by Mariah Evans found that having even 20 books at home significantly raises a child's eventual educational attainment – and the effect of 500 books rivals having university-educated parents.

Let them choose what to read. A 2026 study confirmed what decades of research suggest: when children select their own books – even from a small curated set – their motivation and engagement rise significantly.

Check out new arrivals at RADL

Click on book

