



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: Aug. 11,
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!

Volunteers for Friends of the Library.

Thank you so much for taking book donations for our upcoming sale. We needed help, and you really stepped up. Can't thank you enough. We will take donations again after summer reading. Maybe you'll volunteer again?

Sue Glover

FRADL Newsletter – July 2026

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

President's Message

The temperature has been heating up and Northern Michigan has been dealing with the smoke from fires in Ontario and Minnesota. While not a very good time to enjoy the outdoors, it's a great time to visit our Library and indulge in some exciting reading as well as participate in some of the many activities offered in our Library.

We were able to add ten new members at our membership table during the Roscommon Art Fair in July. *Welcome to our new Friends.*

We are also looking for volunteers to create a new "Fund raising Committee." As a non-profit organization the Friends provide support to our Library, and it is important that we continue to fund programs that engage the community through the RADL. If you are interested in being a part of the committee please attend the monthly Membership meeting, the second Tuesday in August at 1:00 pm.

Friends are always looking for creative ways to increase our Principal fund so that we can continue to provide support to our Library in the future.

Friends will continue to accept books for our big "used book" sale. Watch for the dates on when to drop off your used books. The book sale will be in October.

Just a reminder that FRADL monthly membership meetings, at the Roscommon Library, are open to all members. Here's hoping you are having a great summer.

Jim E.

Good News Stories:

[Why We Need More Benches, Not More Apps](#)

[10 Times a Piece of Paper Changed the World](#)

[This Woman Turned a Double-Decker Bus into a Library on Wheels](#)

[14 Laugh Out Loud Stories as Told by Library Employees](#)

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: AMERICA 250, ONE NATION
CELEBRATING LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF
GREAT READING**

by Joe Battocletti

YOUR ONE VOLUME RECAPITULATION OF THE USA'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL: If you watch the History Channel much, you've seen University of Texas Professor H.W. Brands on "The Titans That Built America", "The Men Who Built America", "World Wars" and numerous other programs. He was a featured speaker on the Ken Burns "American Revolution" series. Professor Brands is also a really good writer, and his Our First Civil War: Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution excellently encapsulates America 250. Professor Brands shows that the Revolution wasn't merely the Patriots vs the British. It also involved a large population of Loyalists, subdivided into people who strongly opposed independence and those who preferred not leaving the British Empire if at all possible. Professor Brands weaves their stories together, focusing on Benjamin Franklin, whose son was a staunch Royalist who disowned his father. Professor Brands abbreviates a lot of the familiar Revolution story to fit everything into 444 pages. He assumes you know how brutal the winter at Valley Forge was and he skims past many battles with a sentence or two. The exception is a close up of the Battle of Yorktown, which led to the surrender that effectively ended the fighting. We learn that the idea of Canada becoming an American state has roots in the Patriots' invasion that captured Montreal and got a long way toward the Atlantic coast before the British counterattacked. He recounts how George Washington could have become an American Napoleon Bonaparte had he not squelched his disgruntled troops' talk of a military coup on the eve of the Constitutional Convention. Our First Civil War is an excellent gateway book to such other Professor Brands titles as American Colossus, America First, The Money Men, and The General vs The President.

Detroit has had a big role in America 250....from its days as the western outpost of British military power-- the prevailing local sentiment was "those traitors Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin should be hanged"-- to the Great Chrome Colossus. Malcom Bingay's memoir Detroit Is My Own Hometown is 80 years old, but Bingay's combination of the city's history and his personal story of growing up to become an influential newspaper columnist offers a wealth of stories about people he knew and knew about, from the 19th century to the 1950s. Its jaunty optimism is a reminder of how magnificent a self-image Detroit enjoyed until the bottom fell out of its economy and triggered harsh new realities.

Follow that with The Most Dangerous Man in Detroit by Nelson Lichtenstein, the definitive biography of Walter Reuther. The title is a quote from George Romney, during

his days as an auto executive tangling with Reuther's UAW. On the other side of the contract bargaining table were The Whiz Kids: The Founding Fathers of American Business and the Legacy They Left Us by John A. Byrne. The team of World War II efficiency experts came to Ford Motor Company's rescue in 1946 and helped young Henry Ford II steer his struggling company away from the brink of disaster. Wheels For the World by historian Douglas Brinkley does an excellent job of telling the engrossing Ford story, from Henry I's experiments in horseless carriages to the FMC Centennial. It's sympathetic, but not a whitewash of Ford's founder and his successors.

That's a lot of Blue Oval storytelling. "Book Reporting" will be sure to give equal time to GM and Chrysler in the future.

IF I HAD TIME TO READ ONLY ONE BOOK THIS SUMMER it would be Boom, Bust, Exodus by Chad Broughton. It's what happened when NAFTA caused Maytag to close its Illinois plant and move operations to Mexico. It took Broughton 10 years of research following the people whose jobs disappeared and how life changed for the Mexican workers who took those jobs. Broughton introduces us to characters we get to really care about. He shows how the original NAFTA wasn't that great a deal for many Mexicans. And you can't ignore the irony that NAFTA was promoted as a way to quell the rising tide of illegal immigration. The book isn't a political screed. It's a captivating look at the lives of people caught up in global forces beyond their control and how the best of intentions can produce very different results.

IF I HAD TIME TO READ A SECOND BOOK it would be by author James Michener's memoir The World Is My Home. The viability of "The American Dream" has been a hot topic. Michener lived it, from a hardscrabble childhood raised by a single mother to an incredible assignment during World War II to his debut authorship at age 40, thanks to a career jump start from President Theodore Roosevelt's daughter. It's a great story that falls under the category of "you couldn't make this stuff up".

Something else we've been hearing about is banned books. I came across what was once America's most outlawed volume: Lady Chatterly's Lover by D.H. Lawrence. Its legality had to be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. By 1920s standards it's definitely under-the-counter stuff. By 1960s standards...when I first heard of it....Chatterly was still pretty racy. Today, a century after its publication, it barely tickles the needle. If Connie Chatterly were around now, she'd probably be a reality TV star...on, say, "The Real Housewives of Windsor Castle".

Speaking of centennials, it's been just over 100 years since President Warren Harding spoke his last deathbed words-- "Read more". One of the few things he got right in a very troubled presidency.

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 inspire.

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.

Back to School Bingo is coming up!

If you would like to donate, we need:

Crayons, Elmer's Glue, Glue Sticks, Washable Markers, Colored Pencils, Mechanical Pencils, Pencils, Spiral Notebooks, Kids Scissors, Pencil Boxes & Pouches, 1" and 3" Binders, Pocket Folders, Highlighters, Black Pens, Sharpies, Dry Erase Markers, Erasers, Sticky Notes, and Backpacks for all ages.

Please drop off all donations to the Library by Saturday, August 1st. We appreciate all your donations!

Made in the Mitten event. Items that are made in our great state of Michigan:



Some Michigan Products

Kellogg's
Vernors
Faygo
Better Made Snack Foods
Jiffy Mix
Gerber:
Sanders
Vlasic:
Koegel's
Hudsonville Ice Cream:

Bubble Man



Dino Races!



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 July 14 meeting:

We have an open Vice President position. If you are interested, please contact Jim Engelhard.

Attendees at our events:

Storyteller Paul Strickland - 19
Book Talk - 12
Adult Crafting with Cathy - 25
Kickoff-Nerf Wars - 57
Cave Drawings with Casey - 39
Cameron Zvara Magic Show - 83
Foam Dance Party - 77
Adult computer use - 479
Kid computer use - 28

To establish a Fundraising Committee to explore ideas for raising money.

It was decided not to purchase bags at this time, as there wasn't much of a demand for them, and they are too expensive to just give away.



Check out new arrivals at RADL

Click on book

