



## FRADL Newsletter – March 2026

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: April 14,**  
**2026, 1:00**

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

16  
YEARS

2010—2026

## RADL WRITING CLUB

Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> & Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M.

**Casual & Beginner Friendly**

Join us at the RADL Writing Club, where we play writing games, share our stories, and encourage each other to be our most creative selves!



### President's Message

Greetings Friends of the Roscommon Area District Library. With “March Madness” upon us there is no better time to run down to the Roscommon Area District Library to catch up on a number of reading selections about your favorite sports. Of course, there is more to our fantastic library than books about sports. Besides the frantic pace of Basketball, March brings a few weeks of tipsy-turvey weather. One day it seems like spring has sprung, the next we feel like building a snowman. With that in mind, FRADL is continuing a number of terrific “sweater weather” activities including “Bingo for Books” and another Pizza party for FRADL members at the Library. As we anticipate warmer weather this is also a good time to catch up on information about gardening tips for those who are so inclined. The Library also features a number of terrific periodicals to inspire those with a green thumb (or just an interest in adding a splash of color to our gardens). As always the Friends continue to seek input on ways to increase our Non-Profit financial footprint and grow our membership to continue providing support for future Library programs. Please remember you are always welcome to attend our monthly membership meetings, held the second Tuesday of every month, in the Library Meeting room at 1:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend when possible. Thanks to all for your continued support of the FRADL.

Jim Engelhard

### 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)

94 Paid Members

Thank You for your Continued Support!

### Good News Stories:

[Meet the Librarian Who Risked His Life to Save Timbuktu's Ancient Books](#)

[Celebrating 122 Years of Dr. Seuss and How He Became a National Reading Legend](#)

[Meet the Women Librarians Who Changed History](#)

### 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**

Shouts of "Bingo!" "Springo" and "I finally got one!" echoed through the Community Room at Bingo for Books on February 24. The Friends hosted 33 enthusiastic winners who went home with stacks of used books. We all enjoyed the camaraderie and laughter to warm a winter day. Thanks to Friends volunteers Ann Jordan, Judy Voorhees, Sue Glover, Erin Layton, Mike Glover, Chuck Brick, Jim Engelhard, Bev Emery and Linda Brick for making it possible. Next Bingo for Books is March 24 at 12:30.



## Book Women

She rode 100 miles a week through mountain creeks and snowstorms, carrying the one thing these families couldn't grow: books.

This is a Pack Horse Librarian in rural Kentucky, 1938. During the Great Depression, when a third of Americans lost access to libraries, President Roosevelt created something extraordinary.

He hired women—almost 1,000 of them—and sent them into the most isolated hollows of Appalachia on horseback. They were called "book women" or "book ladies," and they earned \$28 a month to bring reading to people who had never held a library book.

They used their own horses or rented mules. They stuffed saddlebags with novels, magazines, recipe collections, and handmade scrapbooks. They crossed creek beds on foot logs, climbed mountains in freezing rain, and rode routes that would terrify most people today.

At remote cabins, they'd read aloud to families who couldn't read themselves. They brought hygiene pamphlets to expectant mothers with no doctor for miles. They carried messages between communities. One young man walked 8 miles just to exchange his

books.

In 1936 alone, they served 50,000 families. Children who'd never seen a library would run out to greet them, begging for illustrated books.

The locals were skeptical at first—Appalachian communities didn't trust outsiders. But these were local women. Familiar faces. Neighbors who understood the isolation because they lived it too. The program ended in 1943 when World War II put everyone back to work. But those women changed Appalachia forever. They brought more than books. They brought proof that someone remembered they existed.

One grateful recipient said it best: "Them books you brought us has saved our lives."

Today, Kentucky has over 140 bookmobiles continuing their legacy. The roads are paved now. But the mission is the same: No one gets left behind.

**Don't Forget Bingo for Books  
March 24<sup>th</sup>!**



**The Friends of the Roscommon Area District  
Library invites you to play Bingo for Books!**

Tuesdays:

January 27

February 24

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

March 24

April 28

Come in to play

- receive 2 "Book Bucks".
- win a game get another "Book Buck".
- special games win "Book Bucks" for the entire table!

At the end of bingo, redeem your "Book Bucks" and choose books to take home from a great selection of used books.  
(1 "Book Buck" = 1 Book)

Bring a friend for a bit of fun, casual company and books, books, books!  
Beverages and snacks provided.

RADL Community Room - See you there!

**Reader's Corner: by Joe Battocletti**

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

Say "John Adams" and most people probably visualize a dyspeptic stuffed shirt best known as the USA's first irrelevant Vice-President (possibly a redundant adjective) and failed one-term President. Adams engaged in a decades-long feud with Thomas Jefferson, which highlighted Adams's shortcomings compared to Jefferson's brilliance. There's truth there, but you'll realize that it's far from the whole John Adams picture by reading David McCollough's biography. McCollough's Adams is much more personable with an actual sense of humor. He wrote enough of the Declaration of Independence to deserve co-author's credit with Jefferson, and Adams's Massachusetts Constitution provided the foundation for the US Constitution. He also paid a lot more attention to women's political opinions than most other Founding Fathers, thanks to his brilliant wife Abigail, who gets a lot of credit in McCollough's book. He and Jefferson reconciled in time to spend several years exchanging ideas-filled letters and both died on July 4, 1826- America's 50th birthday. I've never been disappointed in a McCollough book and John Adams is one of his best.

It's also worth your time to look up McCollough's essay on the role of luck in history, specifically George Washington's luck at the Battle of Brooklyn. Had the weather not been exactly right, the Revolutionary War might well have ended quickly and for the Americans, disastrously.

The go-to account of what America 250 is celebrating is Daniel Boorstein's 3-volume set The Americans. The trilogy is divided into "The Colonial Experience", "The National Experience", and "The Democratic Experience". The volumes were written from 1958 to 1973 and advance Boorstein's belief that the main points of American history were made by what the people agreed upon, rather than what they fought over. It's been 30 or so years since I finished the books, so The Americans tops my re-read list this summer. Boorstein doesn't neglect the cultural side of the process that got us from the Pilgrims' landing to the mid-20th Century. For example, he describes how the pioneering Baltimore and Ohio Railroad deliberately

made the chairs in its station dining rooms uncomfortable so people would leave and make room for new paying customers. And he shows how weapons manufacturers were landing government contracts through overpromises that led to under fulfillment and cost overruns as far back as before the War of 1812.

Accounts of the American Revolution tend to focus on what happened within a couple hundred miles of the Atlantic seaboard while ignoring how the War for Independence played out in places like Michigan. That Dark and Bloody River by Allan W. Eckert fills the gap. The river is the Ohio River and the story ranges from the farthest western Patriot outposts in today's Wheeling, WV and Washington, PA across the No-Man's-Land of modern Ohio to the bastion of British power in the west- Detroit. Redcoat commander Colonel Henry Hamilton was known as "hair buyer Hamilton" for paying bounties to Indians who brought Patriot scalps to Detroit. There are still unanswered questions about what Daniel Boone promised to regain his freedom after being brought to Detroit following his capture in Kentucky. And when "Hair Buyer" himself was seized in a commando raid worthy of James Bond, he oscillated between having pleasant philosophical conversations with Thomas Jefferson and threats of being hanged by Patrick Henry.

McCollough's The Pioneers describes how our part of America...the Northwest Territory... was settled. It's filled with interesting revelations and reminders of how little has changed in many ways when it comes to political problems and how they get solved. On the fiction side, James Fenimore Cooper's The Spy takes place during the Revolution, and is fact-based. So, the Burr by the acerbic Gore Vidal, who uses the aging third Vice-President's voice to tee off on American Founding Icons.

**BEST BOOK I'VE READ SO FAR THIS YEAR:** The Stalin Affair by Giles Milton. It's about how the Americans and British came to the Soviets' rescue when Hitler double-crossed his fellow tyrant and invaded the USSR in 1941. It was the first direct encounter between the Western Allied leaders and the radical Bolsheviks who had seized power in 1917, personified by Stalin himself. It uses previously unpublished letters, diaries, and once-secret reports, so even if you know the story you'll still find lots of

revelations. It tells how a 20-something millionaire's daughter became an influential informal diplomat in Moscow and provided valuable insights into the Russian people and the top Communists, including Stalin, who let himself be charmed by her. She also made a pal out of Winston Churchill, giving her unprecedented access to both men. She never spoke much about her experiences after the war, and her letters home were packed away for decades. The Stalin Affair ends at the start of the Cold War and shows why the breakdown of the US/Soviet relationship was inevitable. I couldn't help substituting "Putin" in people's accounts of their encounters with Stalin, and very often the two names fit perfectly.

SADDEST TWO BOOKS: Anthony Bourdain's Kitchen Confidential and Medium Raw. Lots of interesting stuff from the man who went from B-list chef (by his own admission) to TV star (which he sort of disliked). The sad part comes from know how his story will end and how someone with his immense advantages.... thanks to his wealthy family the young Bourdain spent almost as much time in France as he did in the US...wound up so filled with despair and self-loathing.

If you're looking for something uniquely different, pick up A Spy On The Bus by Margean Gladysz. She was 18 years old in 1946 when she left home outside Kalamazoo and spent 3 years working as a company spy for Greyhound Bus. She posed as a passenger and rode all over the Midwest watching the drivers for reckless operation, theft, drinking, or any other misbehavior. The book came from her daily letters home describing her life on the road right after the end of World War II. The letters languished in an attic until being discovered in 2003. Along with her personal story of navigating the world of first-time work 80 years ago, they also give a closeup of how Americans got along in the turbulent first years of peacetime. And what did Margean do after leaving the world of corporate espionage? She became a librarian!

If "Book Reporting" has stirred your imagination, please write an article and send it to newsletter editor Wilma Barber at [wilmabarber55@gmail.com](mailto:wilmabarber55@gmail.com). A great book recommendation lasts for the lifetime of the reader you inspired.

Wilma: I recently read Born Survivors by Wendy Holden. It is a sad book and makes you furious that people went through such atrocities. But it has a relatively happy ending. It is about 3 babies born in concentration camps and survived.

I like true stories about women who helped during the wars, and those who became spies. Some I've read:

Women in Silver Wings by Katherine Sharp Landdeck

Code Name Lise by Larry Loftis

The Last Good Night by Howard Blum

Code Girls by Liza Mundy

*Spring is almost here!!!*



**Sit and Get Fit**

EVERY TUESDAY @ 2:30PM

JOIN US FOR A SIMPLE LIGHT EXERCISE CLASS FOR SENIORS AND BEGINNERS TO STAY HELP STAY FIT & MOBILE.

An illustration of a person in a yellow shirt and black pants performing a sit-up or similar exercise, with a rainbow background.

## 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](mailto: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 March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Colleen went over the March calendar and asked us to donate candy for the March 28th Easter Egg Hunt. Candy should be wrapped and fit in a plastic Easter egg. They hide these all over the library for children to find. Please bring in candy by Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>.

The FOL Book Sale Committee will meet on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm in the library conference room. A used book sale is being planned for late September or early October.

In February, library patrons especially enjoyed trivet painting with Brenda, computer class with Anthony, and the new Mystery Book Club.

Moving the outdoor book drop: Colleen said they are waiting until spring because they may need to pour some new concrete for it.



MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE  
**MOBILE OFFICE**  
IS COMING TO YOU

The Secretary of State Mobile Office will be visiting  
**Roscommon Public Library**  
to provide service to  
Offering branch services to Roscommon and surrounding areas

**Date:** 03/20/2026  
**Time:** 10 am-3pm  
**Location:** 106 Lake St, Roscommon, MI 48653

Book a visit to complete your Secretary of State transactions, including:



First-time Michigan ID



Renew driver's license or ID



Transfer title



Apply for/renew disability placard

For more information or to schedule your visit during this Mobile Office event, contact

**Julie**  
at (989) 281-1305



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