



# FRADL Newsletter – April 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: May 12, 2026, 1:00**

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

16

YEARS

2010—2026

The most expensive book in the world is the Codex Leicester, a handwritten scientific journal by Leonardo da Vinci. It was bought by Bill Gates in 1994 for \$30.8 million dollars, which is roughly \$61.6 million today when adjusted for inflation. *Source: The New York Times*

## President's Message

The days are growing longer and soon the daffodils will be blooming. Spring may have finally found its way to northern Michigan. For those friends who spent the past winter in warmer places, welcome home. The Library has been a vibrant and popular attraction for those that braved the winter chill. Our monthly “Bingo for Books” program has been a sensational hit in the community with attendance exceeding 30 patrons every month. Special kudos to friends who have participated in making that program a success.

Our Lifetime Membership numbers continue to exceed expectations with over 16 Lifetime members (as of the month of March). Additionally, we are planning a couple of projects for the upcoming summer months, including our membership drive at the Annual Roscommon Art Fair, held in July, and a used book sale. If you have the opportunity to look at the monthly Library calendar you will also find a variety of interesting programs that the RADL offers.

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 again for your continued support of the FRADL.

Jim Engehard

## 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:

[True Stories of People Who Risked Everything for Books](#)

[This 11-Year-Old Malaysian Girl Wrote a 260-Page Mystery Novel](#)

## 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**

## Easter Party!!!



### How to get the most from your Roscommon Area District Library card:

The library offers more than 35,000 items including books, movies magazines, CD's, and audio books. Library patrons can also enjoy downloadable audiobooks, eBooks & streaming video through the Great Lakes Digital Library. We also offer free coffee in the morning donated by our local Family Fare.

Thanks to interlibrary loans, more than 400,000 items are available for your usage. Thousands of people enjoy access to our online resources and the Internet through the Library's high-speed connection, enjoy state-of-the-art WiFi service, or participate in or attend one of the library's many cultural, educational, and entertaining events.

- Place Your Items on Hold
- Schedule a Curbside Pickup Appointment
- Upgrade to Libby. You'll find the same great titles from your library in a modern, easy-to-use app.
- Search Ancestry for your family history
- Search Digital Michigan Newspapers
- Faxing service
- Computer/Internet Workstations
- Copy Machine
- Digital Scanner
- Wireless Internet Access
- Printing services
- Laptops and iPads
- Library Services for the Blind
- Low Income Resources

"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."--- J.K. Rowling

Friend Cathy Spencer is leading an upcoming craft class for RADL, "Wax Painting on Candles". She is in need of the loan of a few electric fry pans or skillets (and power cord) for the class on April 23. The pan will be lined with foil so no wax or materials will damage it. If you have one to loan, please leave it at RADL without the lid or cover, prior to April 23. Please put your name on the pan and cord.

### [The World's Most Unique Mobile Libraries](#)



## Reader's Corner: by Joe Battocletti

### BOOK REPORTING: DOES FRANK SINATRA'S ROMANTIC ADVICE WORK FOR READING, TOO?

by Joe Battocletti

O! Blue Eyes famously sang that love was "lovelier the second time around". (1) Does that also apply to re-reading a book you haven't picked up for years? Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird definitely deserves an adult reading by anyone who hasn't seen it since a school required list. Mockingbird is a real page-turner during the trial and near-death climax chapters. The subtleties of Lee's 1960 description of 1930s Alabama racial dynamics went over the heads of a young 1960s reader, not to mention Scout's observations of adults in their natural habitat. And it's fun knowing that her pal "Dill Harris" is really the juvenile Truman Capote. Re-reading Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn puts you in touch with why it's one of the great classics in any language. Like Mockingbird, Huck Finn needs to be appreciated thru the eyes of a one who's gone thru years of life's ups and downs and experienced American society in all its contradictions--things beyond a student's worldview. Reading Huckleberry Finn for the first time in 6 decades showed me why Ernest Hemingway declared it the great American masterpiece that all other authors, himself included, were merely copying. If you re-read only one book from long ago, this is it. Some readers may have problems with the free-and-easy use of the "n-word" in both these books...especially Twain's. It's not the pejorative of today when Huck Finn uses it to describe his companion, Jim. It's how an illiterate teenager of the 1850s thought and spoke, as included in a book written 30 years after the fictional events it describes. Huck keeps remarking that Jim displays exceptional intelligence and perception for a (Black Man), causing the reader to urge Huck to make the final leap and realize that the color of Jim's- or anyone's- skin is irrelevant to the interior human being. Twain's not beating the reader over the head with that...remember his audience was 140 years ago...makes the message even more effective. I hadn't read Jack Kerouac's On The Road for 30 or 40 years and it didn't come off so well. The semi-autobiographical adventures of Sal Paradise (Jack) and his pal Dean Moriarty verged quite a bit into why one unfavorable 1950s reviewer denigrated Kerouac's Beats as more like "deadbeats". Dean's habit of abandoning wives and children in order to speed off into the night with his pal Sal to "experience life to the fullest" comes off today as cruel and irresponsible, not free-spirited and rebellious. I still like lots of On The Road, but it's fallen out of my Personal Reading Pantheon.

Do you go back far enough to recall when Catcher In The Rye was the subversive novel that young readers found liberating, even life-changing? J.D. Salinger's 16 year-old Holden Caulfield used language we teens would never had said out loud to adults and had no compunctions openly hating school and most of his teachers and classmates. But Holden, 75 years after his creation in Salinger's imagination, gets tiresome with his constant complaints about "phonies" and "hypocrites". Granted, he's supposed to be writing from the mental institution where his parents took him after his New York misadventure but he still comes off too often as a cynical kvetch. It would be interesting to hear how a 2026 teenager evaluates Holden. John Knowles's A Separate Peace covers similar territory much better.

A NEW BOOK THAT DOES LIVE UP TO ITS ACCLAIM: 1929 by Andrew Ross Sorkin. No less a critic than Barack Obama declares it "a masterpiece". 1929 unravels the months leading up to the Stock Market crash that helped usher in America's Great Depression. Sorkin researched it for 8 years and obtained access to, among other previously unpublished archives, the Federal Reserve Board's notes during the crucial months before the disaster. It's a familiar story told in a way you've never read it before. Provocatively, Sorkin shows that President Herbert Hoover....widely derided by history for allowing the Depression to happen...could have been re-elected in 1932 had he changed one campaign policy that had nothing to do with the deepening economic mess. That would have meant no President FDR and the subsequent avalanche of monumental events that Roosevelt brought in.

The movie "A Complete Unknown" about Bob Dylan's breakthrough from folkie phenom to worldwide hit parade stardom is now showing on basic streaming and cable networks. If it's piqued your interest, pick up the book on which the film is based, Elijah Wald's Dylan Goes Electric. As enjoyable as the movie is, it just scratches the surface of the full story the book tells.

In case it's news to you: 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 it, your helpful RADL librarian will show you how. You'll read more and spend much less.

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.

(Note 1) The words are actually those of songwriter Sammy Cahn, who penned them the same year that To Kill A Mockingbird was published- 1960

## Accepting Book Donations

In anticipation of a fall used book sale, the Friends will be accepting used book donations on **Fridays and Saturdays in May and June**. Donations are being monitored by Friends volunteers so the RADL staff isn't juggling donations with all their daily tasks. At the April Membership Meeting, volunteers signed up to monitor intake times. **Donations will be taken on Fridays from 2 pm - 4 pm and Saturdays from 10 am - 12 pm (no collection 5/23, RADL is closed for holiday weekend.)** Volunteers work in pairs to greet patrons with friendly smiles (as we always do!) and take in books. You do not have to lift heavy boxes. You will have donation guidelines to refer to when kind donors drop in with their books. If you would like to volunteer to monitor a donation time, please contact Sue Glover [sueandmikeglover@gmail.com](mailto:sueandmikeglover@gmail.com).

You are invited to donate books, too! Tell your neighbors and friends!

Some helpful donation guidelines . . .

- We are pleased to accept most books, hardcover and paperback, in good condition,
- Less than 15 years old,
- Books will either be added to the RADL collection, if needed or given to the Friends for RADL or its used book sale.

Especially needed:

- Books published in the last 5 years and recent best sellers,
- Clean copies of "classic" titles,
- Children's books and
- Paperback romances, mysteries, urban fiction, and westerns in good condition.

CANNOT use:

- Books in poor condition (yellowed pages, broken bindings, musty or smoky smelling)
- Textbooks and encyclopedias
- "Time-Life" Sets
- Reader's Digest Condensed Books
- Boxes and boxes of Harlequins
- Dated information
- Magazines

## Friends Cheers for RADL

The Friends of the Roscommon Area District Library encourages patrons to "Find Your Joy" at the library, the 2026 theme of National Library Week, April 19 - 25.

Libraries everywhere spark creativity, fuel imagination, and inspire lifelong learning, offering a space where individuals of all ages can find joy through exploration and discovery. Libraries provide free and equitable access to books, digital tools, and innovative programming for everyone. The Roscommon Area District Library not only provides all these opportunities, it is also a community hub where dedicated librarians and library workers provide welcoming spaces that inspire discovery, collaboration and creativity for all. Recently, during power outages, the library was a warm haven for many to sit in front of the fireplace, have cups of coffee, check emails and charge phones. RADL is one of the best places in Roscommon to go to for smiles. Every month, patrons can enjoy three different book talk groups, yoga and fitness classes, crafts, watercolor painting, creative writing, computer and phone skills classes, children's story hour, Lego building, author or music programs, movies and more. Everyday patrons gather with friends to socialize while sharing crafts or assembling puzzles. COOR students come to help out, keeping the library tidy while practicing life skills in a friendly environment. In celebration of this joyful place, the Friends of RADL encourages patrons to visit the Roscommon Area District Library and the Lyon Township Branch Library to "Find Your Joy" and wish the remarkable staff, Colleen, Julie, Casey, Cora, Calvin and Lori (at Lyon Township Branch) a Happy National Library Week. Leave a message on the Friends' "I Found Joy at RADL" board on display for the week and share your joy!

## Friends Social Get-Together Announce

At the April Membership Meeting, Friend Dorothy Backus presented an engaging idea for a make and take get-together. Dorothy shared journals she made employing found objects, paper, bits of ribbons, wrappers, stickers, photos, magazine pages - anything you can think of - and gluing them into paper journals or paper notebooks. The craft has many names such as "Junk Journals", "Joy Journals", "Morning Pages" and so on. Some people choose themes, some try a free-form approach. Whatever suits your fancy - anything goes! A date in May is being secured for interested Friends to bring whatever they wish, to use or share and gather together to relax, chat and see what happens! A group email will be sent when date, time and details are firm.

## 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 April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Used Book Sale will be held this Fall in early October. Donations will be accepted in May and June on Fridays from 2pm-4pm, and Saturdays 10am-12pm. A guideline handout will be given to patrons, and Friends are being asked to help with the collection of these books on those days. Volunteers' primary job is to check books, and do not accept books that are very old and/or moldy. Books hardcover and paperback in good condition and less than 15 years old will be accepted. Books will begin to be sorted in the basement in May. Linda Brick will notify volunteers of the date.

Art Festival is in July; volunteers will be needed to work at our table.

Dorothy Backus showed us journals that she made out of cutouts, and it was discussed as a fun project to do at the next social held by the Friends. A date has not been set for this, more information will be provided soon.

Colleen went over upcoming events in April, and said the library has a couple big baskets to raffle off, and other events planned for Library Week.

Beth Myers passed out flyers for the Michigan Genealogical Council, and talked about Ancestry.com, and the Michigan Pre-Statehood and First Families Certificates. Beth is at the Library on Wednesdays from 1-3 and would be glad to help anyone with this project.

**Librarian Report:** Colleen reported that our Roscommon BOB team took second place at finals! She also thanked us for buying the books and t-shirts. The Friends will purchase a book to give away on April 16<sup>th</sup> when Ron Rodemacher presents "Michigan Back Roads". The new "Murder they Read" book club is a big success.

### Outreach Committee:

There were 34 people at Bingo for Books in March and everyone had fun. Only one box of books went down to the basement. We will do one more Bingo for Books on April 28.

Used Book Sale Committee met. **We reserved the Community Room for the book sale for October 1,2,3. We will set up on October 1st and the sale days are October 2 & 3.** The Friends will be collecting used books every Friday and Saturday in May and June. Fridays from 2pm-4pm and Saturdays from 10am-12pm. We will be asking for FOL volunteers to sit at a table in the vestibule to hand out information and collect used books on those days.

Check out new arrivals at  
RADL

Click on book

