

# FRADL Newsletter— November 2025

## Friends of Roscommon Area District Library

**“A strong library for a stronger community.”**

### 2025 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:

**December 9, 2025, 1:00**

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



### President's Message

Dear Friends. Winter is fast approaching and bringing with it wonderful opportunities to visit our beautiful Roscommon Area District Library. Whether your interests are reading fiction, learning about history or just brushing up on ideas for home and hearth, the RADL has volumes of books, dozens of videos, computers, hands-on activities and some great guest speakers to make the coming winter months enjoyable, fun and interesting. Friends of the Roscommon Area District Library continue to count on our dedicated members to volunteer, participate in activities and spread the word about this great resource. Thank you for helping to make the Roscommon Area District Library "second to none" among Michigan Libraries. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a warm and fulfilling winter.

Jim Engelhard, FRADL President

Have you paid your dues yet? We only have 61 paid.

It is only \$5.00 per year, or \$100.00 for a lifetime membership.

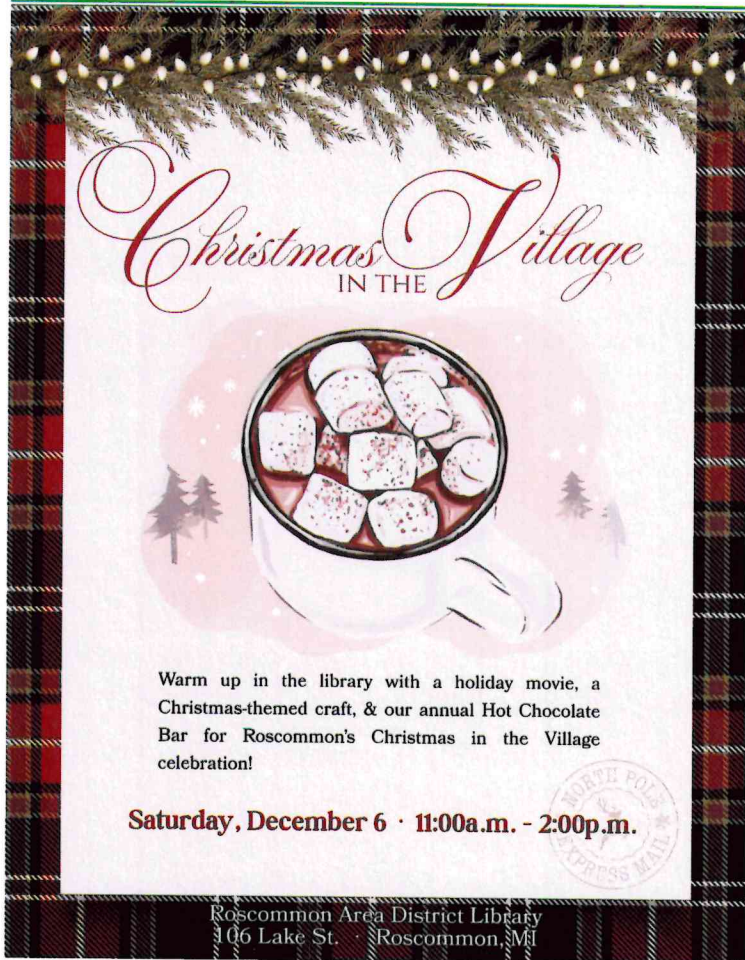
*For those who travel south or west for winter,  
safe travels. Have a wonderful winter.*

Here's the kicker: Reading feeds your brain, sparks your imagination, and costs less than your morning coffee run. You don't need to buy every bestseller to stay in the loop. You just need a library card.

### Membership Meetings:

**Second Tuesday: May through December, 1:00**  
*Pre-meeting social half hour with snacks at 12:30 PM*

**Leadership Meetings:**  
**Last Tuesday of the Month: May through December, 1:30**



### Christmas in the Village:

For our Hot Chocolate Bar in the Library for Christmas in the Village, donations of the following would be appreciated:

- 8 cans of Pirouline Hazelnut Wafers
- 3 bags of mini marshmallows
- 10 cans of whipping cream
- 2 boxes of mini candy canes.

We are giving away a Christmas basket. A donation of Christmas ornaments, items, etc. for the basket would be great.

Please drop off your donations at the circulation desk at the library by November 28. Thank you!

Which of these words means library in at least three Romance languages, including Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish?

Biblioteca

Which philanthropist donated over \$50 million to create libraries?

Andrew Carnegie

About how many public libraries are there in the United States?

Over 9,000

From M-Live

Country's 2nd oldest active women's club to be inducted into Michigan Women's Hall of Fame

By

Ryan Boldrey | [rboldrey@mlive.com](mailto:rboldrey@mlive.com)

KALAMAZOO, MI — The Kalamazoo Ladies' Library Association has been named one of the seven inductees for the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame class of 2025.

Founded in 1852, the Kalamazoo LLA serves as the oldest women's club in Michigan and is one of only 120 ladies' library associations to ever exist nationwide.

It also serves as the the oldest women's organization with open membership in the United States and is the second-oldest active women's organization in the country. Only the Ladies Education Society of Jacksonville, Illinois, which is private, is older, according to Kalamazoo LLA club president and historian Sharon Carlson.

The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame is honoring the Kalamazoo LLA in the historical category for its role in providing a model for dozens of similar organizations that influenced thousands of Michigan women and communities, the hall announced.

"For more than 170 years, the association has empowered women through leadership, literacy and cultural programming, from distributing hundreds of children's books annually to hosting community arts events," the announcement states. "A catalyst for Michigan's women's club movement, the group remains a vibrant force for advancing women and preserving history."

BOOK REPORTING- WORDS AND (and about) MUSIC

by Joe Battocletti

Do you go back far enough to remember when Beatlemania replaced young America's shock and grief over President JFK's assassination with a happy, hopeful new musical sound by 4 long-haired Englishmen?

Or were you one of the teens whose parents yelled "turn that (CENSORED) radio down!!!" because you were blasting the newest hit by Elvis Presley?

Have you met (or perhaps were) one of the 1940s-era "bobby-soxers" who swooned over new sensation, Frank Sinatra?

So much has been written about them and the many others whose records supplied the soundtrack of our formative years. Much of it is exaggerated hearsay, embellished myth, or total publicity-agent fabrication. But there are also plenty of believable books that bring historical context to the memories left by the music stars we've never forgotten.

Two essential histories of the Beatles' early years are The Beatles, Brian Epstein and Me by Joe Flannery and Maximum Volume: The Early Years by George Martin. Martin is the most worthy claimant to the title "Fifth Beatle". The book covers his life and career up to 1966, the last 4 of which saw him transform John, Paul, George, and Ringo from a good local band into global super-sensations. Some of his remembrances are familiar, most others have never been widely told, including the amount of his own keyboard work in the Beatles' early records.

Martin's book meets the Beatles about the time Flannery's book leaves off. Flannery, a Liverpool music manager, hooked the group up with his friend Brian Epstein, who became a legend himself. Flannery taught young George Harrison how to drive the car Harrison bought for his family - the first they'd ever owned- with his first big royalty check. Flannery's Beatles are young men filled with hopes and ambitions experiencing the first success that would set them apart from the many others whose talents couldn't match their dreams.

If you need more, pick up The Beatles 1963: A Year in the Life by Dafydd Rees and Bruce Spizer's The Beatles Are Coming.

Little worth knowing about Elvis Presley is missing from Peter Guarnick's two-volume biography: Last Train to Memphis and Careless Love. The first book captures the sense of wonder that never left Elvis: "Why me?" Of all the talented music stars of his generation, why did Fate, or the Hand of God, or some other mysterious process elevate Elvis to the level of unequalled phenomenon? The second book slides inexorably to his tragic end, which so many people around him seemed to be anticipating. The recent movie "Elvis" stars Tom Hanks as Elvis's grasping, shady manager Tom Parker. You'll find a different take in Elvis and the Colonel by Greg McDonald, Parker's former assistant. McDonald contradicts the depiction of Parker as a leech who preyed on an unsophisticated Elvis while telling the

story of the two men's role in creating the "USS Arizona" National Memorial at Pearl Harbor.

If all the books about Frank Sinatra were laid end-to-end, they'd probably stretch from Frank's Hoboken, NJ hometown to Las Vegas and back. Two by James Kaplan replace several hundred miles of other volumes. Frank: The Voice takes us up to his comeback after winning an Oscar for "From Here to Eternity". Sinatra: The Chairman finishes the story. It has one of the best final sentences of any book you'll read. What makes the books excellent is Kaplan's admission that he didn't always like Sinatra, but never ceased respecting him and admiring his talent. Tony Oppedisano was Sinatra's close assistant during his final years. His Sinatra And Me is sympathetic without glossing over the rough spots. You won't forget Oppedisano's account of accidentally eavesdropping on Sinatra saying his bedtime prayers.

Michigan's second most famous export, after automobiles, is Motown music and a must-read is Come And Get These Memories by two of Motown's greatest songwriters, Eddie and Brian Holland. Peter Benjaminson's Mary Wells tells the story of Motown's first superstar who paved the way for Martha Reeves and Diana Ross.

Michigan-born Tommy James ("Hanky Panky", "Mony, Mony", "Crimson & Clover") tells a fascinating story in Me, The Mob And The Music. How he unwillingly became a life-endangering part of the rivalry among New York's 5 organized crime families even as he wrote and performed one best-selling record after another.

But Will You Love Me Tomorrow? by Laura Flam and Emily Sieu Liebowitz is a fantastic read. It's an oral history of the 1950's and 60's "girl groups" that briefly dominated the hit parade, from the well-known Ronettes and Shirelles to one-hit wonders whose fame was as brief as it was momentarily intense. It's an oral history, told in the singers' own words as they look back at the joy of youthful stardom combined with the adult perspective of exploitation and broken promises.

As always, these books make a great gift list for the music fan in your life. And if you are the recipient, don't let your treasure languish. Donate it to the Friends' sale shelf.

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 lucky person who takes advantage of it.



## 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

## Notes from the November 11th meeting:

Library looking to expand programs for tweens and teens.

A new outdoor book return box will be installed shortly.

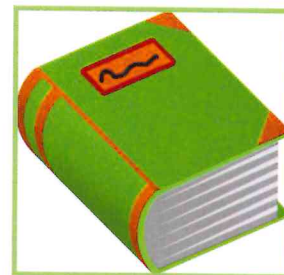
Bingo for Books will be back again: January, February, March, April. Watch calendar for dates.

To vote in December on changing the by-laws so that we have meetings all year around, NOT going dark January through April.

In October:

7 attended the computer class with Anthony  
10 attended the Book Talk (Wey Ward)  
26 were at the Adult Witch Painting  
16 visited with author Tobin Buhk  
25 kids were at the Halloween Party  
16 listened to author Twyla Baggart  
17 Witches attended the Witches Tea  
6 visited the Secretary of State Mobile Office

Check out new arrivals at RADL  
Click on book:



15  
YEARS

2010—2025

109 Members Strong!

Thank You for your Continued Support:

