FRADL Newsletter— October 2026

Friends of Roscommon Area District Library

"A strong library for a stronger community."

2026 Officers:

President:
Jim Engelhard

V. Pres.
Alison Marsh

Secretary:
Mary Lou Jeanette

Treasurer:
Lisa Sutton

Trustee & Chair of the Nominating Committee:
Sue Glover

Trustee & RADL Board Liaison:
Kathy Lawrence

Trustee & Member at Large:
Beverly Emery

Next Meeting:
November 10, 2026, 1:00
Pre-meeting social half hour with 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)

93 paid members!!!

Thank You for your Continued Support!

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

President's Message

The beautiful, vibrant colors of Autumn are here, and the apple harvest continues at the Engelhard home.
The Rocktoberfest music celebration on October third was a success with outstanding support from FRADL member-volunteers. FRADL received ninety dollars in donations and gave away another basket of wonderful Michigan products during the event. With over 200 hundred tickets from event participants, it was a great opportunity to showcase the important benefits of FRADL membership.
The annual used book sale, held at the Library from Friday the Second through Saturday, the Third of October, was also a booming success. Thanks to all our volunteers. FRADL collected over eight hundred dollars from eager community members. All the money earned from FRADL projects is used to support numerous programs at the Roscommon Area District Library.
FRADL is still looking for ideas to continue to grow our program, both in membership and in project ideas. Our monthly membership meetings continue to grow in participation at the Roscommon Library and are open to all members. Our November membership meeting will be held at the Library on the 10th. Once again, a big thank you to all of our members who volunteered to participate in our October activities. See you at the Library.

Jim E.

Good News Stories:

An 85-Year-Old Woman Wrote a Letter to Her Younger Self About Living Life Differently

The Burnt Toast Theory Might Change How You See Bad Days

These Celebrities Still Believe in the Magic of a Library Card

10 Fascinating Facts You Didn't Know About Agatha Christie

Why Do We Celebrate Halloween? The Irish Night That Went Around the World

The Real-Life Inspiration Behind Dracula

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:

THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWS A BOOKIE JOINT TO SET UP SHOP INSIDE YOUR SMARTPHONE. WHAT CAN POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

by Joe Battocletti

Plenty, says Danny Funt, in the new book Everybody Loses: The Tumultuous Rise of American Sports Gambling. Not so long ago, TV commentators danced around discussing the point spread when describing a football or basketball matchup, while pro and college leagues denounced legalization of sports gambling outside of Nevada as a threat to their very existence. Today the betting odds and the payoff on guessing the total points scored by both teams is posted with the day's schedules on all the sports channels. Leagues and teams have official "gaming partners" like FanDuel or Draft Kings. You can download an app and bet on whether the next pitch will be a ball or strike, or if the quarterback will pass or run while you watch a baseball or football game. Think WNBA star Caitlin Clark will make more than three of her famous long-range 3-point shots during the game? Open the app and place your bet. Funt chronicles how losing your next mortgage payment to misplaced hunches has gone from having to find an illegal gambling den or at least phoning a clandestine number to nowadays pressing some phone keys and waiting for the result, heart in throat. And the surest bet, he documents, is that you will always lose if you gamble long enough. The most insidious of his findings is that if you do beat the odds and rack up a lot of winners, the sports books will no longer allow you to bet with them. They only want sure losers. It's an engrossing and enlightening book about a social development that's far from played out.

How did a batch of disaffected young college instructors force a historic change to the leadership of the United Auto Workers Union? The answer is in Noam Scheiber's Mutiny: The Rise & Revolt of the College-Educated Working Class. As the American Promise that obtaining an expensive and often difficult degree from a "good" college locks in a lifetime of well-paid prestige employment has faded, the young graduates who have been confronted with crushing debt, jobs below their qualifications, and outright unemployment have responded with anger and activism. Scheiber, a veteran New York Times reporter, documents the frustration among the people he writes about when their degrees fail to bring the opportunities they were promised. They organized unions at Apple stores and Starbucks coffee houses, while demanding reform at already unionized video game production studios and among Hollywood script writers, as well as the UAW, whose membership includes many people who have never set foot in a car factory. He explains why the college-educated working class will continue to demand change in the workplace and in national politics for years to come. We've been inundated with the phrase "No Kings" during the past couple of years, but according to Seth Wickersham, the USA is overrun with American Kings, better known as football quarterbacks. Wicksham takes a unique look at the young men whose ability to throw a game-winning touchdown pass has set them apart from the rest of the American male species. He visits with well-known NFL stars, including Bob Waterfield. If his name isn't familiar, you've probably heard of his wife, screen star Jane Russell. Their marriage is a fascinating look at how fame is lived on a routine everyday basis. We also meet up-and-coming quarterback's who are chasing the dream in high school, and how they handle the time when their talents no longer meet the demands of increasingly-tough competition. Then there's the star who walked away from a big money pro career because the personality changes wrought by being a quasi-dictator toward his teammates are threatening to cost him his marriage. The quest for achievement and status documented by American Kings tells us a valuable lesson about the price of ambition.

Three Americans who paid the price for achievement and status, and entertained millions in the process. is the story Larry Tye tells in The Jazzmen, his parallel biographies of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Count Basie. Tye interviewed hundreds of people and scoured numerous archives to bring alive the careers of three geniuses who left us with great music that we still enjoy today. Tye tells us that these three giants knew and respected each other but could never actually be friends because each felt so competitive with the other two.

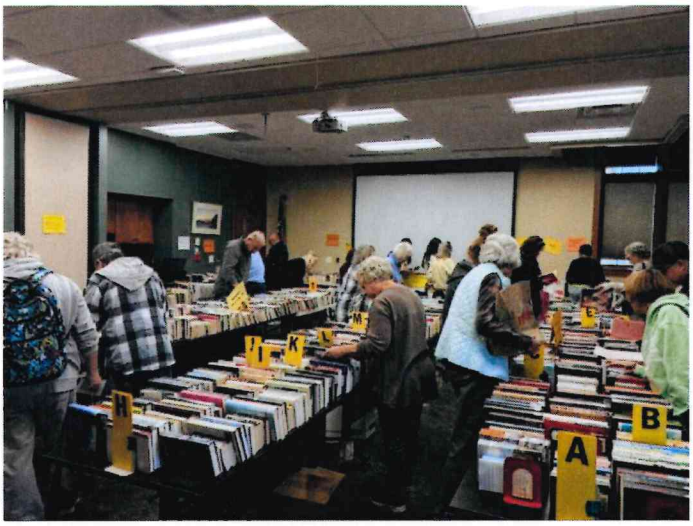
Leslie McFarlane had a very respectable writing career as "Leslie McFarlane". But far more people read his words in books by "Franklin W Dixon". That's the name assigned to everyone who wrote the Hardy Boys mysteries published by the Stratemeyer Syndicate, a book factory that employed dozens of writers for its huge lineup of juvenile fiction. McFarlane wrote most of the Hardy Boys series from the 1920s until the 1940s. Stratemeyer would send an outline, and McFarlane would turn its 30 or so pages into a full-length book, collecting around $100 for each one with no further royalties. He also moonlighted as "Carolyn Keene" for a Nancy Drew mystery or two and even penned one of "Laura Lee Hope's" Bobbsey Twins novels. McFarlane's son recounts that his dad considered the books a nuisance, but one that kept the lights on and coal in the furnace for a struggling young author during the Great Depression.

Are you a 20 percenter? While surveys about reading are all over the place...from the pessimistic finding that only 1/3 of Americans read at least one book for enjoyment a year, to the Pew Research Center telling us that up to 3/4 of us do at least a little reading, the surveys are in agreement that 2/3 of US adults prefer traditional print books and that roughly 20% of Americans are reading 80% of the books.

Whether you can scarcely put down a book, or rarely pick one up, there's a lot for you at our Roscommon Library.

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 reached.

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



Used Book Sale Summary

The 2026 Used Book Sale is done and dusted! Lisa Sutton, Sue Glover and Linda Brick thank the over 20 Friends' volunteers who made it happen and the library staff who supported us along the way. Crews hauled books from the basement and assembled tables on Wednesday, September 30, more gathered to unpack and arrange the books on Thursday, October 1 for the sale. Tables were packed with selections and ready for purchase when the doors opened at 10 am on Friday, October 2. There were 20 shoppers waiting! By noon more than 60 shoppers had filled and purchased bags of books. By Saturday noon, we'd had approximately 140 shoppers. Shoppers commented on the organization and tidiness of the books, saying it made their shopping easier and pleasurable. We also sold 52 cider and donut holes combos! Thank you to all who donated cider and donut holes. Yum! A great cleanup crew packed the remaining books and broke down the tables on Saturday. We decided to save the remaining fiction books and moved them to the basement to use for Bingo for Books this winter. We are thrilled to report the income for the used book sale is $852. Additionally, there were 7 memberships paid, new and renewals.

Want a cute bag?



Welcome Mat Creation



Roscommon Area
District Library

HALLOWEEN BOOK BASKET

ENTER YOUR NAME FOR
A CHANCE TO WIN
FROM NOW UNTIL

October 30th

Free entry
Once Per Patron

You do not have to
be present to win!

Please include your name and
phone number on your ticket!

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 the October 13th meeting:

Reminder that your dues were due in September.

Used book sale had approximately 140 shoppers. It went very well.

Secretary of State Mobile Office will be at the library on Friday the 16th.

Attendees:

Adult Journal Decorating with Amy: 20
Fall Welcome Mats: 1
Family Friendly Halloween Storyteller and party: 16 kids and 7 adults
Adult Halloween Monster Crafting with Brenda: 20
Talk on the Declaration of Independence: 24

Upcoming:
Lord of the Gourd: Oct. 21, 2:00
Adult Tote bag painting: Oct. 21, 4:00
Jackie and Gary Sing Along: Oct. 22, 4:00
Halloween Movie: Hocus Pocus: Oct. 23, 12:00
UFO's over Michigan: Oct. 29, 4:00
Murder They Read Book Club: Oct. 30, 1:00

Membership:
- Membership is open to everyone.
- Annual dues are $5.00. Life-time dues are $100.00.
- Applications are available at RADL and the Lyon Branch Library.
- Currently, meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 1 pm.
- Meetings are held at RADL. Pre-meeting social half hour with snacks at 12:30 pm

Ways to support:
- become a member,
- Purchase used books from the Friends Used Books shelves at the back of RADL.
- Donations are welcome!

How we make a difference:
- Summer reading programs
- Battle of the Books
- Used Book Sales
- Bingo for Books
- Roscommon Art Fair
- Rocktober Fest

Check out new arrivals at RADL
Click on book:

