FRADL Newsletter –September 2026

Friends of Roscommon Area District Library

"A strong library for a stronger community"

President's Message

Fall greetings to all Friends of the Roscommon Area District Library. The apples are getting ripe, the leaves show signs of turning red and yellow (and filling our yards) and the geese and migratory birds are beginning their fall journey to warmer climes. While children are back in school and harvests continue around Michigan, it's canning season for many of us in preparation for the winter season. There is no better place to catch up on many fall activities than our Roscommon Area District Library. In addition to great reading selections there are a number of periodicals that appeal to many interests. In September we elected and welcomed two new members to the FRADL Leadership team. Alison Marsh is our new Vice President and Kathy Lawrence is our new Library board liaison. Of course, they have big shoes to fill so here is a big thank you to Members Ann Jordan and Bobbie Werle who previously held those positions. The Members also voted to approve a budget for 2027, big thanks to our treasurer Lisa Sutton for putting our budget together. We are celebrating "Rocktoberfest" with our annual basket giveaway of Michigan made products, that is always a hit during the Rocktoberfest program. We also have the Annual book sale at the Library on Saturday, the third of October (coincidentally, the same day as Rocktoberfest). Of course, we are still looking for volunteers for our table at the Rocktoberfest celebration on Saturday, the third of October at the River Center in Roscommon. Our monthly membership meetings continue to grow in participation at the Roscommon Library, as always, they are open to all members. The Friends continue to be busy soliciting information from members for fundraising ideas. Our next membership meeting is October 13th. Thanks again for your friendship and membership in the FRADL.

Jim E.

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: Oct. 13, 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)

113 paid members!!!

Thank You for your Continued Support!

Did you know:

Address for Ann Jordan:
151 Constitution Ave.
Apt 402
Brooklyn, MI 49230

Good News Stories:

This Mom's 10-year old Family Tradition

The 10 Most Borrowed Books of all Time at the New York Public Library

Why being Unreachable has become a Luxury

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: An Award-Winning Movie Director's Big Novel About Detroit and a 1960's "Auto Brat" Enlarges the Story

by Joe Battocletti

John Sayles is well known for his documentary-style movies, including "Mattewan" and "8 Men Out". He also writes books, with his latest, Crucible, telling Detroit's larger-than-life story from the Roaring 1920's to the end of World War II. Crucible's narrative sprawls from the remote Upper Peninsula to the even remoter Amazon jungles of Brazil, centering on Ford Motor Company and both its founder and his "chief enforcer", Harry Bennett. Bennett's almost forgotten now, but a century ago he wielded immense power and influence over Michigan by being Henry Ford's "surrogate son". Bennett reflected the carmaker's darker side, in contrast to Edsel Ford I, whose premature death remains Detroit's greatest historical "what if"-- what if Edsel had lived to succeed his father and guided Ford's fortunes in the postwar era. The book's title is Sayles's perception of Detroit as the crucible of the class conflict that roiled America from Prohibition to Pearl Harbor. Sayles has a filmmaker's eye for plot structure and characterization, as he takes us from Michigan to "Fordlandia", Henry's failed Brazilian rubber plantation intended to break the international monopoly. Back home, the United Autoworkers Union fights to sign up Ford workers for the big showdown with the company that Bennett has made into a private fiefdom of violence and corruption. Sayles exposes the extraordinary lives of ordinary Detroiters, White and Black, caught up in the tides of history. We're reminded that the UAW was established by people like the Reuther brothers and their allies who put not just their livelihoods but their actual lives on the line. The supporting cast of characters includes Joe Louis, Deigo Rivera, Father Charles Couglin, the Purple Gang, the KKK, and the entire human panoply that made the Motor City America's Most Vital and Interesting place to be.

Harry Bennett's thuggery and overall unsavoriness are matters of historical record. He came to his own defense in We Never Called Him Henry. Bennett's version depicts an ambitious striver who served his employers well, even when he didn't follow Ford's orders. The beatings of recalcitrant employees, the gun downs of UAW activists, the relentless undermining of the already-ill Edsel Ford...Harry just slides right past them all.

The Lions Finally Roar by Bill Morris takes the Motortown narrative into the 21st century. It's about our annual autumn obsession-- rooting for the Detroit Lions. Morris's father was a close aide to team owner William Clay Ford at Ford Motor Company and Morris recounts the hours of Lions and carmaker stories that his father recorded before his death. The Lions Finally Roar is a collection of insider narratives that reads like a comic opera of how to accomplish exactly the opposite of what you intended...over and over again. Morris begins to wonder along with many others whether the twin curses of Bobby Layne and the murder of President JFK really explain how the Lions have gone from disaster to greater disaster...until a woman arrives to clean up the mess. It's also a unique closeup look at the daily life of a billionaire who can buy anything he wants without caring about the price tag, except for his greatest desire- an NFL championship. Anybody who annually abandons experience to again embrace hope for another season of Lions football will love this book.

That's a lot of Ford lore, so if your curiosity runs to General Motors, read The Deal Maker by Axel Madsen. It's the life and career of Billy Durant, the flamboyant visionary who built GM into an automotive giant....twice...before twice being ousted with the carmaker on the verge of bankruptcy. Durant then became a Wolf of Wall Street during the Roaring 20's, before going broke again. He wound up back home in Flint running a bowling alley and, as the snack bar's short order cook, serving hamburgers to workers from the nearby GM plant that he once owned.

Almost 9 decades after the outbreak of World War II, you might think that there's almost nothing new to discover about it. Churchill's Citadel by Katherine Carter puts that notion to rest. The book centers on Churchill's beloved private home Chartwell and the life he lived there during the years he was out of power and shunned by almost all of his old political friends. Carter, who managed Chartwell and its collections for more than a decade, shows how Churchill was far from forgotten or forsaken by important people from all over the globe, including Albert Einstein and Lawrence of Arabia, as well as diplomats, European political influencers, and spies who kept him abreast of the growing Nazi threat that so many of his erstwhile colleagues chose to ignore. Then there's Winston the bricklayer. He was constantly improving his home, most notably by building walls in the gardens while wrestling with deadlines for the books and articles that financed a lifestyle that always cost a few thousand pounds more than that year's income. He's also the father of some difficult children- a son who's drinking and gambling keeps him in scrapes and wrecks his marriage. A daughter who defies her parents by becoming an actress. Another daughter whose lifelong bouts with depression caused her mother and father many worried days and nights. Not even one of history's most famous and accomplished leaders could escape the kinds of difficulties that every parent goes through.

Another top-notch WW2 book is James Holland and Al Murray's Victory '45: The End of the War in Eight Surrenders. The authors plow new ground in recounting the fast-moving 1945 events and the people behind them that ended history's bloodiest slaughter. You'll have trouble putting down the chapters about the 2 high-ranking Nazi thugs with rival plans for the German Army's surrender in

Italy. Both hoped to curry enough favor to get off the Allies' major war criminals list, as they risked arrest for treason while seeking to undermine each other with both Hitler and the Americans. One succeeded and got away with just a token punishment for his brutal crimes. The other was hanged at Nuremberg. The jist of the 6 stories is that ending a war is much more difficult than starting one.

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 thru 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.

Spread the Word: Used Book Sale at the Library October 2nd, 10-5 and October 3rd, 10-Noon.

Volunteers need for:
Thursday, Oct. 1st, 10-Noon to set up
Saturday, Oct 3rd, 9:45 – Noon
Saturday, Oct 3rd, 1-2 to pack up

Donations of ½ gallon of cider or 1 container of donut holes. We will sell these on Friday.
Contact Linda Brick, 248-835-3036

Members, we need full-size paper grocery bags to supplement our supply for the Used Book Sale. Please bring to September Friends Meeting or drop off at library by October 1.

Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie was a one-man library-funding machine.

The wealthy industrialist donated $55 million—or about $1.6 billion in today's dollars—between 1886 and 1919 to open an astonishing 2509 libraries worldwide, including 1679 in the United States.

ROCK TOBER FEST in the village

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RocktoberFest at the Depot/Pavilion, October 3rd, 11:00am - 9:30pm

We need volunteers to be at our booth.

A gift basket will be given away.
Donated *Michigan Made Products for the basket will be appreciated. Please drop off at the Library by October 1st.*

Halloween Party!

The Library is asking for donations of candy for their Halloween party on October 10th. If you would, please drop off the candy at the library by October 7th.



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 September 8th meeting:

Annual Meeting:
Alison Marsh is the new Vice President and Kathy Lawrence is the new Trustee & RADL Board Liaison.
Congratulations!

The very big news is that the loan for the library building was paid off!!! We thank Colleen and the Library Board for this huge accomplishment.

Annual budget was explained and approved for 2026-2027.

Library Attendees:
Back to School Bingo, 30 kids received backpacks with school supplies inside.
Basic Sign Language Class, 16
Kids Bubble Wrap Turtle Painting 11 kids, 3 adults
Kids Cinema: Mario Galaxy Movie, 21 kids
Family Law Clinic, 24 adults
Adult computer usage: 461
Kids computer usage: 61

Children's Programs: 8
Attended: 107
Adult Programs: 18
Attended: 105

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

