

FRADL Newsletter— January 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:

February 10, 2026, 1:00
*Pre-meeting social half hour
with snacks at 12:30 PM*

16

YEARS

2010—2026



President's Message

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2026. We hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. As we embark on a new year, with new challenges and new friends to make, our goals remain the same: to ensure the continued success of our Roscommon Area District Library and to grow our organization, both in new members and in resources to support programs in our great library. This year we are increasing the number of general membership meetings, which will now include winter months. For those of you who remain in the Roscommon area for the winter, this is an opportunity to attend membership meetings, participate in our pre-meeting social event, and provide valued input to other members. It is also a great chance to catch up on current library events as well as upcoming programs and projects which support the FRADL Mission. Thank you again for your participation and continued support of our great Library.

Jim Engelhard, FRADL President

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)

86 Paid Members

Thank You for your Continued Support



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



Bingo for Books—Back by Popular Demand!

The Friends of the Roscommon Area District Library invites book lovers to come to RADL and play Bingo for Books! Library patrons have been asking for months! Come in from the cold on Tuesdays, January 27, February 24 and March 24 and April 28. The Friends will host bingo in the Community Room from 12:30 - 11:30. Walk in to play and receive 2 "Books Bucks". Win a game and get another "Book Buck". Special games win "Book Bucks" for the entire table. At the end of bingo, players can redeem their "Book Bucks" and select books to take home from a table of used books. Beverages and snacks will be provided. Bring a neighbor, bring a friend for a bit of fun, casual company and books, books, books!

Bingo for Books was conceived to help get books withdrawn from the library collection out of the basement and into the hands of potential readers. The library has to cull books every so often that aren't circulating to make room for newer books. It can be difficult to find a place for those removed books. Bingo for Books was one successful way to get them back into the world.

Yes, Friends members are invited to play, too! This event was very popular. Helping hands from the Friends last year included Bev Emery, Sue Glover, Lisa Sutton, Erin Layton, Linda Brick, Ann Jordan, Martha Clapp and Mary Lou Jeanette. On the day of Bingo for Books, we arrive at noon to arrange tables, chairs, snacks, books and bingo equipment. Many play bingo then help with clean-up at 1:30.

The Friends purchase drinks and cups. Snacks are donated. Bev Emery, snack co-ordinator, suggests donations of bags of mini-pretzels, Pirate's Booty, Goldfish, small crackers, etc. Donations can be

dropped off at the Circulation Desk at any time or brought to the Friends Membership Meetings.

If you'd like to volunteer, come on any Bingo for Books day you are able! For more information, give Linda Brick a call or text, 248-835-3036 or email bayportbrick@gmail.com

Book Donations

Just a Friendly reminder. If you have books to donate (Thank you! Thank you!) and bring them to the library, there is a path. RADL has first pick to perhaps add something to the collection they do not have but could use or replace a library copy that is "tired". Remaining donations are offered for sale by the Friends of RADL either on the shelves on the back wall of the library or at the Friends used book sales. Please do not bring used books to the Bingo for Books events.



Got a Case of Cabin Fever?

Winter too long? Walls closing in?
Ready to join in a friendly chat and a roomful of smiles? (Did we say, "Pizza?")

Calling all Friends of RADL to the "Cabin Fever Pizza Party" on Tuesday, February 17 at noon in the Community Room.

Let's share how we all stay sane in the winter. Do you have a book to recommend? A craft project to show and tell? (And did we say, "Pizza?") Don't hibernate - let's celebrate! Pizza and beverages! Suggested donation for lunch, \$2. Hope to see you there! Questions? Linda Brick 248-835-3036 or bayportbrick@gmail.com

Reader's Corner: by Joe Battocletti

BOOK REPORTING: A HOUSE FULL OF GUMSHOES PLUS A MOUTHPIECE

Thanks to all the TV streaming services and on-demand video, it's impossible not to find an episode of "Perry Mason" to watch anytime 24/7. But if your perception of the most famous imaginary criminal lawyer in history is limited to Raymond Burr winning another seemingly-impossible acquittal, you're missing the complete "Perry Mason" picture.

Years before there was such a thing as broadcast television, Erle Stanley Gardner was turning out novels starring Perry Mason- almost 90 of them from the 1930s to the 1970s. Reading Perry after watching Perry reveals a different legal eagle. Gardner's Mason isn't as profound as Burr's TV portrayal. He wise-cracks a lot more and is quicker to slug people that aggravate him. The books' Mason and his right-hand woman Della Street also have a much closer personal relationship than you see on TV. Exactly how close is left to the reader's imagination. She turns Mason's marriage proposals down several times, not wanting wedded bliss to ruin a great professional collaboration, even when it sometimes threatens to send Della to the penitentiary. The Mason books are easy reads, sometimes betraying Gardner's technique of dictating them in a hurry.

Gardner used the pen name A.A. Fair for 30 fun to read detective novels, starring Donald Lam and Bertha Cool as L.A. private eyes whose cases frequently are played for laughs. Lam narrates the novels in first person, and like Perry Mason, always pulls something out of his sleeve at the last minute to turn impending disaster into triumph, as his XXL plus-size boss Bertha Cool rescinds her latest order firing him.

Fiction's number one 20th Century detective is Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot. Like Perry Mason, Poirot's image is embossed in our mind's eyes by the TV series. But, like Mason, if your perception of the Belgian sleuthing genius is limited to the British TV series, you're missing the complete picture. The books on which various TV episodes are based are usually more complicated and don't always follow the same deduction patterns. It's fun to read novels like Third Girl or The ABC Murders or Death In The Clouds and compare them to how they came off on television. Same goes for the Poirot movies. The books' Poirot seems a little less Belgian than David Suchet's TV portrayal, while the Brits' anti-foreigner sentiments are more pronounced.

Christie's other great sleuth is the irrepressible Miss Marple. If you like the TV episodes and movies, the books won't disappoint.

I've been ruminating over whether Raymond Chandler outranks Dashiell Hammett or vice versa. Read Chandler's The Big Sleep or Farewell, My Love-

ly and Hammett's The Thin Man or Maltese Falcon and decide for yourself. Incidentally, the Hammett "Thin Man" is one of the book's characters, NOT detective Nick Charles who became the Thin Man in the movies. I haven't read a Hammett mystery I didn't enjoy. Pick up Red Harvest, The Dain Curse, and The Glass Key. You'll find yourself immersed in the American underside of the 1920s and 30s.

Do you go back far enough to remember when writer Mickey Spillane and his creation, private eye Mike Hammer, were denounced and banned? It's been a long time since I The Jury, My Gun Is Quick, and Kiss Me Deadly had to be sold and read furtively but they're still good reads and great examples of the 1950s hard-boiled detective literary revolution. Spillane balances Mike Hammer's hard fists and smoking .38 with a nuanced sense of justice and a surprising level of self-reflection. Spillane lived long enough to see his books taught in college courses.

Nero Wolfe is another detective who comes across differently in books than on TV. Like the Perry Mason series, Rex Stout's Wolfe novels go from the 1930s to the 1970s. Having Archie Goodwin as co-star gives the stories extra depth. If you like detective stories but never picked up a Nero Wolfe, you've been missing out.

I got hooked on writer Leslie Ford's Grace Latham/Colonel Primrose mystery series a few years ago. Written from the 1930s to the 1950s, they take you deeply into the America that was through the eyes of a Washington, DC socialite widow who gets herself into the middle of dangerous situations while trying to find the guilty party.

Frances Crane's Pat and Jean Abbott start out as "an item" in small town New Mexico and sleuth their way all over the Western Hemisphere, becoming a married couple along the way.

I've waited to mention the queen of gumshoes- Kinsey Milhone, the product of Sue Grafton's wonderful imagination. I'm probably preaching to the choir, but if you've never checked out one of the Alphabet Mysteries you've experienced major literary self-denial. I discovered them through the long-gone magazine "Book Digest" so my first Kinsey was "E is for Evidence". I suggest starting here, as Grafton's style was fully developed by "D" and "E". You can catch up on the earlier novels later.

If "Book Reporting" has stirred your imagination, 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 inspired.

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

Notes from the January 13th meeting:

The exciting news is a patron, Kay Gugala, submitted our name to a contest that author Sara Paretsky was holding asking people to submit name of their favorite library. She would grant three libraries \$1500.00 if their name was drawn. Our name was drawn and we have already received the check!

Regarding an upcoming RADL Book Sale, Linda Brick would like a committee set up to discuss how we want to run this sale. Sue will be calling some volunteers who would be interested in being on this committee. Looking for six people or more. Please contact Linda Brick if interested.

The drop box needs some work before installed, probably will not be in place until spring.

Attendees—Usage:

Adult Computer Use: 286
Christmas in the Village: 130
Ukulele Christmas Concert: 29
Santa Bell Ornament Craft: 12
Tween Cookie Decorating: 17
Peter Bergin Concert: 29

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

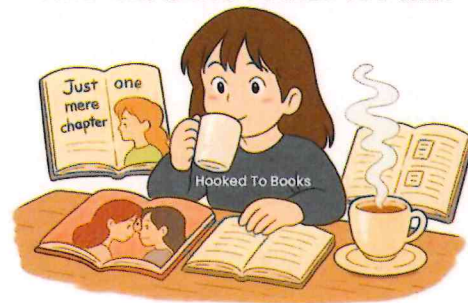
Saturday: 10:00-3:00

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)

IN MY DREAM WORLD,
BOOKS ARE FREE
CHOCOLATE IS HEALTHY
AND READING MAKES YOU THIN



"Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him." □ Maya Angelou

Check out new arrivals at RADL
Click on book:

