ADAPTING & IMPROVING

Libraries are resourceful and ever-changing. The Ypsilanti District Library found many ways to adapt to the challenges of 2020, and because they improve access for everyone, most of these changes are here to stay.

We now offer even more streaming and downloadable books and media. Library storytimes, computer classes, and other events are available virtually. You can get or renew your library card online. We’re publishing this newsletter more frequently, have expanded our wireless Internet access, and are providing mobile hotspots. We’re podcasting. And every day, we’re bringing books, movies, music, print-outs, and kits to you curbside.

None of this changes the fact that we all miss the busy hum of a well-loved library. We miss you!

Everything inside the library—our books, DVDs, newspapers, magazines, CDs, kits, and computers—is meant to be shared. However, sharing means many people touch these items, a real concern during the pandemic. Though we want to welcome you back, we want to do so safely. We do not want to risk exposing anyone to COVID-19.

When Michigan’s stay home order was lifted in June, YDL developed a Reopening Plan which you can view at ypsilibrary.org/phased-opening.

We established criteria for entering Stage 4: a rolling 2-week average reduction in the number of COVID cases in the 48197 and 48198 zip codes. Sadly, this hasn’t happened, so YDL has remained in Stage 3. We continue to monitor the situation carefully.

While we wait, we’re excited to share that Needlepoint Bi-Polar Ionization Systems (NPBI) are being installed at YDL-Whittaker and Michigan Avenue. NPBI works to safely clean indoor air and surfaces by releasing high concentrations of ions into the air stream through a building’s ventilation system. This process deactivates harmful substances like airborne mold, bacteria, allergens, and viruses. Read more about NPBI’s effectiveness with the virus that causes COVID-19 and watch a fascinating 3-minute video on the technology here: ypsilibrary.org/help-ydl-prepare-for-reopening.

Installation of NPBI will add an additional layer of confidence that we can all return to the libraries we love and stay safe. Since the Library Board of Trustees approved the project in November, our wonderful donors have been very generous in helping us foot the $70,000 bill. Recently, we also received a grant for $12,000 from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation and Ypsilanti Area Community Fund to cover the entire Michigan Avenue installation. Thank you, AAACF and YACF!

We are very grateful to our loyal patrons, who continue to use the library for enrichment, education, and entertainment during this time of isolation and uncertainty. We appreciate the care and concern you’ve expressed for our staff and their families, and can’t wait until it is safe to welcome you back. Thank you for your patience. Stay safe! Here’s to a happy and healthy 2021!

Lisa Hoenig, Director

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COMMITTING TO COMPASSION

Last year brought challenges. It also brought opportunities for compassion, community, and patience. In addition to the pandemic, racial unrest throughout the country forced us to think about how we make a community work for everyone. This year, renew your commitment to personal and community growth. In the spirit of spreading knowledge, here are some tools and tips for achieving your resolutions and becoming a more informed and engaged citizen.

Make your reading lists more colorful

According to the latest stats, 50% of 2018’s children’s books featured white characters. Only 10% featured African/African American characters; 7% featured Asian/Pacific Islanders, 5% featured Latinx characters, and only 3% featured American Indians/First Nation characters. Courtesy of Black Men Read, assess your reading list to make it more diverse by asking yourself things like:

- How many of your book selections feature a character of color?
- How many are authored or illustrated by a person of color?
- If the story features a character of color, does the story talk about hardships or oppression, or does it talk about joy and create a whole, relatable person?

Visit ypsilibrary.org/race-relations to find our Power of Stories section with more thought-provoking activities and advice. Additionally, to celebrate Black History Month, all of our storytimes in February will highlight black authors.

Research from the American Psychological Association shows some preschoolers may have already developed racist beliefs well before adults start talking about race with them. Infants can even start to notice racial differences. This can lead children to form preconceptions about race that are sometimes damaging, according to psychologists. Parents play a significant role in shaping kids’ values and helping kids embrace diversity. For tips about starting these conversations, check out “Talking to your Kids about Race and Racism” on our Race Relations page.

But don’t stop there! Teaching involves many small moments where parents are consistent and intentional. To help with these teachable moments, we’ll be adding to our race relations resources for families. Our February 6 Saturday Afternoon Adventure will focus on music and include how people in the US have used music as protest. February 13 will demonstrate the ripple effects of kindness and how kids can build empathy and compassion for others.

Additionally, our Garden to Table series will focus on local food justice, with activities and videos available February 20 to help families talk about who has fair access to fresh, healthy, affordable food and learn about fair wages and treatment of those who harvest, prepare, and serve the food we eat. See who is taking action to make it more diverse by asking yourself things like:

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Participate in programs about race

Check out YDL’s upcoming virtual events that support and highlight people of color. See pages 4–5 for more details.

- Jan 17 & Feb 21
  - SAFELY TALK ABOUT RACE & RACISM WITH LA’RON WILLIAMS
    - 2:00 PM

- Jan 25
  - COMMUNITY FORUM: RACE, RACISM, AND INJUSTICE IN SCHOOLS
    - 4:00 PM

- Jan 26 & Feb 23
  - AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
    - 7:00 PM

- Jan 27
  - STRATEGIES AND CELEBRATIONS FOR MINORITY BUSINESS OWNERS: PANEL DISCUSSION
    - 6:00 PM

- Feb 5 & 6
  - AMERICAN WITHOUT RACISM: MAKING THE VISION A REALITY
    - Feb 5 | 6:00–9:00 PM
    - Feb 6 | 1:00–4:00 PM

- Feb 13
  - OPENING OUR HEARTS THROUGH WRITING—CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN POETS
    - 11:00 AM

Plug into and share community news and resources

Many people and organizations in our community work tirelessly to make a difference. Perhaps you saw the Concentrate story about Kallista Walker, a local woman who started a video series featuring leaders of color reading books. It’s wonderful to see these local stories in the media. Organizations like the Washtenaw County Health Department, Corner Health, United Way, EMU Engage, and the Office of Community and Economic Development provide tons of services for people in need, from food to housing help and beyond. Follow their social media to stay informed. Commit to finding and sharing great local news stories and resources that paint a more lively and positive picture of our community.

Read to become anti-racist

Browse our comprehensive reading lists both by and about people of color. From How to be an Antiracist by Ibram Kendi, to An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, you can find opportunities to learn from experiences that may not be familiar. Many are available on Overdrive or Hoopla. Visit ypsilibrary.org/race-relations for reading lists to pick from.

Talk to your family about race

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WASHTENAW READS

We are pleased to announce the 2021 Washtenaw Read! The title is: *All American Boys*, written in tandem by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. A 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor book, and recipient of the Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children’s Literature, this New York Times bestselling novel explores how two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

The Reads Committee has scheduled a virtual author discussion on Tuesday, February 16, at 7:00pm. You won’t want to miss a chance to hear from Jason Reynolds and Brandon Kiely! Copies of *All American Boys* are ready for you to pick up at curbside!

The Teen Advisory Group (TAG) will include a copy of *All American Boys* in their January social justice-themed subscription box. Boxes also contain other teen-created items such as a read-alike book list, social justice pins, tips for talking to your family about race, and more. See page 4 for details.

Whether you pick up a subscription box, read the eBook, or just want to be part of a youth-led conversation about race and racism, join the Zoom conversation Friday, February 12, at 4pm. All teens 13–18 are welcome to join the conversation and to join TAG!

Washtenaw Reads is a community initiative to promote reading and civic dialogue through the shared experience of reading and discussing a common book. Begun in 2004 in partnership between YDL and the Ann Arbor District Library, since 2016 the Read has expanded to include libraries in Chelsea, Dexter, Milan, Northfield Township, and Saline.

NEH EXHIBIT VIRTUAL TOUR

Experience “For All the World to See”

YDL is pleased to bring you a virtual tour of the NEH-sponsored exhibit “For All the World To See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights.” Although the pandemic has closed YDL’s physical doors, we remain committed to providing you with quality, timely, and relevant information that enriches your life and stimulates your curiosity. Our virtual tour (www.ypslibrary.org/exhibits) is no exception.

FATWTS was originally curated by Dr. Maurice Berger, a renowned research professor at the Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Dr. Berger sought to explore the connections between the history of racism in America, the Civil Rights Movement, the ever increasing role of visual media, and ultimately the impact of that on public opinions and perceptions about race and injustice.

To help you and your family explore these themes and their relevance today, YDL has prepared Exhibit Activity Packets that you can request for pick up at Curbside by emailing smith@ypsilibrary.org. These packets contain something for each age group and learning style, and help deepen our understanding of how the media and “what we see” impacts how we see and interact with others. The packets contain crayons, writing prompts, social justice cues, and art opportunities.

Your creations are just the beginning, however! Our ultimate hope is to compile every submission into a FATWTS scrapbook that can be shared and preserved in the library. Submit your entry at ypslibrary.org/exhibits and you will receive a free copy of Ralph Ellison’s book *Invisible Man*.

While we will miss sharing this exhibit in person, we hope you will enjoy the virtual tour, and that its themes will move you to share your experience with others in our community. We are proud to elevate the conversation of racial equity and are committed to honoring the many voices who helped make Civil Rights an ongoing possibility.

For more details and to submit your work, visit ypslibrary.org/exhibits.
JAN/FEB EVENTS

Mondays

Jan 4 & Feb 1
TWEEN BOOK CLUB
6:30 PM
Join us for a virtual meeting to discuss great books!

Jan 4 - The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
Feb 3 - The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Email michelle@ypsilibrary.org

Jan 12 & Feb 2
STORYTIME LIVE
10:30 AM
Tune in to YDL’s YouTube Channel for live storytimes. Hear stories along with your favorite storytime songs, try some yoga poses from home, and more! Videos available anytime on YouTube after the livestream, or visit ypsilibrary.org/virtualstorytimes for past sessions.

Jan 23 & Feb 2
TEEN SUBSCRIPTION BOXES
Curbside Hours
Bored at home? Sign up for YDL’s teen subscription box! Each month, get a surprise package with a book, themed snacks, activities, and gifts, all chosen by the Teen Advisory Group (TAG). Email iscott@ypsilibrary.org to subscribe, then stop by the library once a month to swap your tag. TAG will also host a monthly book talk for teens to discuss the title in each box.

January theme: Social Justice
February theme: Self Love
Check ypsilibrary.org/curbside for hours at each location. Teen Subscription Boxes are available starting the second Tuesday of the month.

Jan 12 & 26 & Feb 9 & 23
TEEN ADVISORY GROUP
4:30 PM
Join the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) and earn volunteer hours by attending Zoom meetings to help plan online meet ups and activities for teens. Add your voice to the conversation about anti-racism as we develop resources for teens who want to learn more. Apply at ypsilibrary.org/TAG

Wednesdays

Jan 25 – Feb 22
826MICHIGAN TUTORING
3:00 PM
In partnership with 826michigan, the library is happy to provide access to live one-on-one tutoring through 826michigan’s Online Learning Lab. Register at tinyurl.com/826vss, or call (901) 205-9035 between 10:30 – 6:30 to register by phone.

Jan 26
COMMUNITY FORUM: RACE, RACISM, AND INJUSTICE IN SCHOOLS
4:00 PM
Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Rutx, author of Love from the Vortex, gives an interactive talk on how love can be a springboard for discussing race, racism, and injustice in schools. This event is part of the Washtenaw Intermediate School District’s Responsive Teaching Coalition, sponsored by Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Ypsilanti District Library, and Ann Arbor District Library.

Tuesdays

Jan 5 – Feb 2
KNITTING PLUS
6:00 PM
Meet virtually with other yarnies and share your projects and ideas every Tuesday through Zoom! Open to all, any handcraft welcome!

Jan 12
GOOGLE SHEETS FOR BEGINNERS
4:30 PM
Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and share and collaborate on your presentation with others. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Jan 13
COOKING WITH SCRAPS
6:00 PM
Want to reduce waste in the kitchen, learn to use ingredients that normally are thrown out, lower your grocery bill, and utilize every edible part of your foods? Join Lindsay-Jean Hart, of Zingerman’s Bakehouse, as she discusses her book, Cooking with Scraps. Turn your Radish Greens, Rins and Stems into Delicious Meals. She’ll be demonstrating the Bakehouse’s banana bread recipe, which, thanks to Lindsay-Jean, now uses the whole banana, peel and all. Feel free to bake along with her or just enjoy the demonstration.

Jan 14
GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS
2:00 PM
Learn to format, select, copy, paste, and edit text and learn methods for sharing your document and collaborating. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Jan 20
BUSINESS INSURANCE AND YOU
6:30 PM
Since every business operation has its own unique set of risks, a commercial insurance policy must be tailored to the business. Learn differences between the types of insurance available, and which are most applicable to your business. Presented by the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411.

Wednesdays

Jan 6 & Feb 3
YpsiSTORIES: A NEW PODCAST
2:00 PM
A new podcast, Ypsi Stories takes a look into our community is past through storytelling. Featuring local historians and experts, look for a new podcast the first Wednesday of every month wherever you find your podcasts or at ypsilibrary.org/ypsistories.

Jan 13 & 20
ECOMMERCE: KEYS TO SUCCESS
6:30 PM
If you own a business, or want to start one, this two-part series on e-commerce covers the fundamentals of building your online store and attracting customers. Presented by the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office. Register required. Online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411 to register.

Jan 13
DISCUSS different eCommerce models, selecting your shopping platform, and navigating your way through the options of product sourcing and shipping services.

Jan 20
ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF ATRACTING NEW CUSTOMERS TO YOUR ONLINE STORE.

Jan 27 & Feb 24
MYSTERY LOVER’S BOOK GROUP
2:00 PM
Jan 27: Thirty-Three Teeth, by Colin Cotterill
Feb 24: Raven Black, by Ann Cleeves

Thursdays

Jan 5 & Feb 2
ZOOM PRACTICE FOR SENIORS
2:00 PM
From Boomers to Zoomers: Strategies and Celebrations for Seniors. Presented by the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411.

Jan 14
BUSINESS PLANNING: I HAVE A BUSINESS, WHAT’S NEXT?
6:30 PM
Your work isn’t done when you make a business plan. This workshop will address the additional types of planning necessary to make your business function and adapt to changing circumstances in your markets and the general economy. The discussion will include operations planning, planning scheduling, as well as roles and responsibilities. Presented by the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411.

Jan 7 & Feb 4
TAKING CARE OF YOU: SELF-CARE KITS FOR ADULTS
Michigan Ave Curbside Hours
Feel like you could just use a break? Grab one of our self-care kits. Kits include items and activities to bring down stress, tea and/or other goodies, self-care recipes, calming exercises, and screen-free activities. Each month has a different theme. Pickup hours are 9:30am – 12:30pm and 2:30pm – 5:30pm Monday through Saturday at Michigan Avenue. Kits are available starting the first Thursday of the month while supplies last. To pick up a kit, follow the current COVID-19 health precautions in the parking lot. To check availability, call 734-482-4110 x1385. For questions, email Kim at krowe@ypsilibrary.org.

Jan 6
COOKING WITH SCRAPES
6:00 PM
Want to reduce waste in the kitchen, learn to use ingredients that normally are thrown out, lower your grocery bill, and utilize every edible part of your foods? Join Lindsay-Jean Hart, of Zingerman’s Bakehouse, as she discusses her book, Cooking with Scraps. Turn your Radish Greens, Rins and Stems into Delicious Meals. She’ll be demonstrating the Bakehouse’s banana bread recipe, which, thanks to Lindsay-Jean, now uses the whole banana, peel and all. Feel free to bake along with her or just enjoy the demonstration.

Jan 17
BUSINESS PLANNING: I HAVE A BUSINESS, NOW WHAT?
6:30 PM
Since every business operation has its own unique set of risks, a commercial insurance policy must be tailored to the business. Learn differences between the types of insurance available, and which are most applicable to your business. Presented by the Ann Arbor Area SCORE office. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411.

Jan 18
THURSDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP
10:00 AM
Email skoner@ypsilibrary.org to request your copy and a Zoom link.

Jan 14 & Feb 11
ALL AMERICAN BOYS BY JASON REYNOLDS

Jan 21
STORYTIME LIVE
4:30 PM
Tune in to YDL’s YouTube Channel for live storytimes. Hear stories, sing along to your favorite storytime songs, try some yoga poses from home, and more! Videos available anytime on YouTube after the livestream, or visit ypsilibrary.org/virtualstorytimes for past sessions.

As YDL buildings are closed during COVID-19, all events are virtual. Find details to access them at ypsilibrary.org/events.
ONLINE SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
1:00 PM
Contribute to the library by sharing ideas and resources. For more information email or call Monique: mgeiman@ypsilibrary.org, 734-482-4110, x1362.
Jan 8 & 22 & Feb 5 & 19

KIDS BOOK CLUB (Grades 3–5)
6:30 PM
Join us for a virtual meeting to discuss books for young readers! REGISTRATION REQUIRED: email michelle@ypsilibrary.org.
Jan 21: James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
Feb 18: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever by Jeff Kinney

THIRD THURSDAY CRAFT CLUB (Ages 15+)
7:00 PM
Join us for an evening of crafting. We’ll have supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own materials. Space is limited. Registration required.
Jan 21: Venice paper mache masks
Feb 18: Miniature Gardens

UFOS OVER MICHIGAN
6:00 PM
Did you know that Michigan has some of the biggest UFO cases on record? Find out more about these incredible events as well as several other unusual and well-documented UFO sightings from the Great Lakes State.

LNGO CRAFTERNOONS
2:00 PM
Pick up supplies in advance, then join us for a creative, hands-on experience to explore, create, and make! Your head and create your own song! Register by 4pm on Zoom for a lively discussion on how to join, will be on YDL’s events calendar. More information on the selected film, running Safely Talk about Race & Racism film series. More information on the selected film, running Safely Talk about Race & Racism film series. More information on the selected film, running Safely Talk about Race & Racism film series. More information on the selected film, running Safely Talk about Race & Racism film series.

ALL AMERICAN BOYS TEEN BOOK DISCUSSION
4:00 PM
If you signed up for the monthly Teen Subscription Boxes, OR if you’d just like to connect with your peers and discuss the Washtenaw County Reads Title All American Boys by Jason Reynolds, join us at 4pm on Zoom for a lively discussion on this book and the racism happening in America today. Email Kelly at kcasio@ypsilibrary.org to register for this discussion and you’ll receive the Zoom invite link the day before the virtual event.

TINKERLAB
Cushleigh Browns
Tinkering allows young children to learn through hands-on experiences and provides unstructured time to explore, test, and create. For our virtual series, parents can watch a short video to get ideas, then use materials easily found at home, or in your supply kit. You’ll get from the library to do the activities with your little one. New themes each session! Visit ypsilibrary.org/onlinetinkerbots.

DOOR PRIZE GIFT CARD LOTTERY
10:30 AM
Each week find a new family activity you can do at home anytime, often with hands-on supplies you can pick up from the library! An Ypsilibrary prompt is included in each kit. Visit ypsilibrary.org/unstructuredadventures.
January 5: DIY Relax Pack for Kids
January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Celebrate and Reflect
January 23: Readers’ Theatre in a Bag
January 30: Kitchen Science–Water Beads
February 6: Make Music
February 13: The Ripple Effect of Kindness
February 20: Kids at the Tales: exploring food in our community
February 27: Make Do Building Challenge

AMERICA WITHOUT RACISM: MAKING THE VISION A REALITY
Friday Feb 5 | 6:00 PM
The Loop
This free, virtual, two-day conference will explore ushering in fundamental change and eliminating racism in Washtenaw County. Topics will include policing reformed, redefinition of work, health care for everyone, and defense of the commons. Individual rights versus the rights of the collective. The conference will culminate with a visioning session. Register online enounced or call 734-482-4110, x1385. Sponsored by Washtenaw Faces Race.

LIVE FROM THE LIBRARY
10:30 AM
Live from the library every Saturday morning on YpsiLibrary Instagram. Watch YDL storytimers live from the library on Saturdays or virtual session.

SQUARE FOOT GARDENING
3:00 PM
The work of African American genealogy is a challenge but with great rewards. We invite you to learn about the process with us. Each session will focus on a different resource or technique to help you discover your family history. Program is held virtually via Zoom. Contact Joy Cicheckwicz at joy@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-732-2634 to get Zoom meeting information.

FROM BOOMERS TO ZOOMERS: ZOOM PRACTICE FOR SENIORS (55+)
10:30 AM
Learn the basics of navigating the Zoom meeting interface. While working with other seniors, you can see each other on camera, test your microphone, learn to chat, and more. To register call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

AMONG US MEETUP
3:00 PM
Calling all teens! Join in an Among Us game on Zoom. You’ll need two devices—one to play the online game and one to join our Zoom hangout! Register online for the Zoom link and email Kelly at kcasio@ypsilibrary.org with questions.

GETTING THAT SONG OUT OF YOUR HEAD AND ONTO PAPER
4:00 PM
Join local singer-songwriter Pat Grimes for a fun-filled session of songwriting, learn how to take those words and ideas rolling around in your head and create your own song! Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411. Presented in partnership with Ypsilibrary.

GOOGLE SLIDES FOR BEGINNERS (Adult)
10:30 AM
Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and share and collaborate on your presentation with others. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

OPENING OUR HEARTS THROUGH SONG—CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN POETS
11:00 AM
Consider how writers can make a difference in our communities and our world. Through the reading and contemplation of African American women’s poetry, learn to listen more deeply to our own voices and to the voices of others. Then practice using writing as a tool to expand our collective hearts and minds. For teens and adults. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411. Presented in partnership with Ypsilibrary.

JAZZ IN THE PARK
2:00 PM
Calling all Petoskey Area Youth for a fun day of JAZZ. Learn new melodies, rhythm, and how to join the fun! Contact L. Marie Swanson for more information.

SCAPE STORIES
3:00 PM
Calling all Petoskey Area Youth for a fun day of JAZZ. Learn new melodies, rhythm, and how to join the fun! Contact L. Marie Swanson for more information.

KIDS BOOK CLUB (Grades 3–5)
6:30 PM
Join us for a virtual meeting to discuss books for young readers! REGISTRATION REQUIRED: email michelle@ypsilibrary.org.
Jan 21: James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
Feb 18: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever by Jeff Kinney

ADULTS
6:30 PM
In-person or virtual session.

COLLABORATIVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (Adult)
10:30 AM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411. Presented in partnership with Ypsilibrary.

GUITAR CLUB FOR ADULTS (18+)
1:00 PM
Guitar players of all levels and ages (18+) teach each other songs, listen, collaborate, and learn to play together. Acoustic, electric, and all other types of guitars are welcome. We are meeting socially distanced for up to 8 members in the Downtown Farmer’s Market Robert C. Barnes Sr. Market Peace Hall. Contact Scott Marlowe, smarlowe@ypsilibrary.org, or call Joy at 734-732-2634 for more information.

AFTERNOON ADVENTURES
Grades 3–5
Each week find a new family activity you can do at home anytime, often with hands-on supplies you can pick up from the library! An Ypsilibrary prompt is included in each kit. Visit ypsilibrary.org/unstructuredadventures.
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February 20: Kids at the Tales: exploring food in our community
February 27: Make Do Building Challenge

AMONG US MEETUP
3:00 PM
Calling all teens! Join in an Among Us game on Zoom. You’ll need two devices—one to play the online game and one to join our Zoom hangout! Register online for the Zoom link and email Kelly at kcasio@ypsilibrary.org with questions.

LIVE FROM THE LIBRARY
10:30 AM
Live from the library every Saturday morning on YpsiLibrary Instagram. Watch YDL storytimers live from the library on Saturdays or virtual session.

SQUARE FOOT GARDENING
3:00 PM
The work of African American genealogy is a challenge but with great rewards. We invite you to learn about the process with us. Each session will focus on a different resource or technique to help you discover your family history. Program is held virtually via Zoom. Contact Joy Cicheckwicz at joy@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-732-2634 to get Zoom meeting information.

FROM BOOMERS TO ZOOMERS: ZOOM PRACTICE FOR SENIORS (55+)
10:30 AM
Learn the basics of navigating the Zoom meeting interface. While working with other seniors, you can see each other on camera, test your microphone, learn to chat, and more. To register call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Getting That Song Out of Your Head and Onto Paper
4:00 PM
Join local singer-songwriter Pat Grimes for a fun-filled session of songwriting, learn how to take those words and ideas rolling around in your head and create your own song! Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411. Presented in partnership with Ypsilibrary.

Google Slides for Beginners
10:30 AM
Learn to create and deliver a presentation, add graphics and multimedia, and share and collaborate on your presentation with others. REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online or call 734-482-4110 ext. 2411. Space is limited.

Opening Our Hearts Through Song—Celebrating African American Women Poets
11:00 AM
Consider how writers can make a difference in our communities and our world. Through the reading and contemplation of African American women’s poetry, learn to listen more deeply to our own voices and to the voices of others. Then practice using writing as a tool to expand our collective hearts and minds. For teens and adults. Register online or call 734-482-4110 x2411. Presented in partnership with Ypsilibrary.

Jazz in the Park
2:00 PM
Calling all Petoskey Area Youth for a fun day of JAZZ. Learn new melodies, rhythm, and how to join the fun! Contact L. Marie Swanson for more information.

Scape Stories
3:00 PM
Calling all Petoskey Area Youth for a fun day of JAZZ. Learn new melodies, rhythm, and how to join the fun! Contact L. Marie Swanson for more information.

Kids Book Club (Grades 3–5)
6:30 PM
Join us for a virtual meeting to discuss books for young readers! REGISTRATION REQUIRED: email michelle@ypsilibrary.org.
Jan 21: James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
Feb 18: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever by Jeff Kinney
YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY | THE LOOP JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2021

**YCS FEEDS MINDS AND THE COMMUNITY**

**Leading the Way in Food Distribution**
Ypsilanti Community Schools has been a leader in food distribution programs in Washtenaw County during the pandemic. The district distributes an average of 22,000 meals weekly, with the help of volunteers and district staff. Originally set up at community locations like churches and community centers, YCS now mostly uses its own building locations, and does deliveries in the community. They’ve benefited from the support of sponsors like Food Gatherers and Heeren LLC, who have provided boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables. If you need food help, visit [www.ycschools.us](http://www.ycschools.us) for food distribution site information.

**Student Art Trip Was Canceled but Art Still Displayed**
In-person classes aren’t the only thing that many YCS students have missed. More than 60 Ypsilanti Community Schools art students were slated to visit the US Department of Education in Washington D.C. for the Public Education art exhibit, before the COVID-19 pandemic hit. YCS art teacher Kathy Fisk and the Art Department put a plan in motion to make sure the students’ art still received proper recognition. The Diversity, Equality, and Justice-themed project of students’ artwork can now be viewed at local Ypsilanti small businesses, including Cultivate, T34 Brewing, Bobcat Bonnie’s, the Back Office Studio, and many others associated with First Fridays Ypsilanti. There are also plans to create a mural of the artwork locally to be a fixture in the Ypsilanti Community, with the help of donations received from local businesses, fundraisers, and individuals.

**TAKE A VIRTUAL VACATION**

Would you normally be getting away this time of year? Travelling can help us release stress and connect more fully with ourselves and others.

In a 2018 Forbes article, author and San Francisco-based clinical psychologist Dr. Tamara McClintock Greenberg said, “The stress of work and daily demands can distract us from what we find to be actually meaningful and interesting.”

Perhaps now more than ever, we can see the benefits of exploring the world beyond our bubble. Although physical travel may be difficult, consider seeing the world from home. Maybe even tour places you hadn’t planned to see otherwise. Read on for a sample of virtual travel experiences we’ve archived at [ypsilibrary.org/isolation-recreation](http://ypsilibrary.org/isolation-recreation).

**YDL’s Around the World Series**
Throughout the summer and into the fall, YDL put together introductions to the sights, music, food, and culture of countries around the world. Learn about the Hollywood film industry in Nigeria that produces more movies than Hollywood. Create a mural inspired by Mexico’s Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. Be inspired to write a Japanese haiku. The page features video introductions to nine countries by people connected with them, and rich looks at what makes each one special. Visit [ypsilibrary.org/around-the-world](http://ypsilibrary.org/around-the-world).

**Tour National Parks**
Take 360 degree tours of 5 beautiful national parks via Google Arts and Culture. Explore the Kenai Fjords in Alaska and virtually climb down into a glacier. Fly over an active volcano in Hawaii where you can explore lava tubes and look out across volcanic cliffs. Take a headlamp trek through Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, Ride on horseback through Bryce Canyon in Utah and gaze at the night sky. Finally, swim through the Dry Tortugas in Florida, the world’s third-largest coral reef, where you can explore a shipwreck.

**Tour Beautiful Libraries**
YDL doesn’t have the only beautiful libraries in the world! The folks at ilovelibraries have compiled some of their favorite video library tours. Explore the unique architecture and beauty of:
- The Library of Parliament in Ottawa Canada (featured on Canada’s 10 dollar bill!)
- The Mansueto Library at the University of Chicago
- The New York Public Library
- Library of Congress in Washington D.C. (the largest library in the world)
- Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford (featured in the Harry Potter movie series)
- Seattle Public Library

**Tour Famous Museums**
Google Arts & Culture has also compiled virtual tours of some of the world’s most famous museums. Without leaving your living room, stop in Paris to visit the Eiffel Tower and the Musée d’Orsay. View exhibits at the National Gallery in London. You can even check out the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest, Hungary, or the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Seoul, Korea! Hundreds of museums are at your fingertips.

**See Local Favorites in a New Way**
Some of your favorite local haunts also let you check in from home. The Detroit Institute of Art has a “DIA at home” page with online school field trips, access to over 60,000 works of art, a special selection of programs for seniors, and more. You can access the Henry Ford’s Innovation Learning Series from last summer, full of lessons and activities for kids and adults. Finally, the Detroit Zoo’s Virtual Vitamin Z offers video lessons, live animal cameras, and much more. Enjoy!
January–February 2021

Ypsilanti District Library | The Loop
WRITING MATTERS!

YpsiWrites Workshops

• Getting that Song Out of Your Head and Onto Paper—Join local singer-songwriter Pat Grimes for a fun-filled afternoon of songwriting. Learn how to take those words and ideas rolling around in your head and use them to create your own song. For teens and adults. Saturday, January 23, 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

• Opening Our Hearts Through Writing: Celebrating African American Women Poets—Join us in this morning session of reading, reflection, and writing. In this workshop we will consider how all of us as writers can make a difference in our communities and our world through creative expression. Through the reading and contemplation of African American women’s poetry we will learn how to listen more deeply to our own voices and to the voices of others. We will then practice using our writing as a tool to expand our collective hearts and minds. For teens and adults. Saturday, February 13, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

LETS WRITE! TIPS FOR TACKLING ALL KINDS OF WRITING

These genre-specific writing boxes contain prompts, tips, and examples to help you write resumes, cover letters, songs, memoirs, grants, and more. You can find these boxes at ypsiwrites.org.

YOUTH WRITING PROMPTS

YpsiWrites writing activities and games will accompany YDL Youth Supply Kits this winter. Be on the lookout for online and hardcopy resources for young writers with each kit!

Schoolwork Support

See page 4 for more information on FREE Virtual Schoolwork Support (Monday & Tuesday afternoons on Zoom) for students ages 7 to 18 with 826michigan and YDL.

NEW FROM THERIDE

Stay up-to-date on TheRide’s Temporary Service Plan at TheRide.org. Beginning November 22, FlexRide-East, which serves areas of Ypsilanti Township, added service on weekends from 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. FlexRide is an on-demand, shared shuttle service that helps riders connect to fixed-route bus stops and to other hard to reach destinations. The cost is $1, with reduced fares available for those who qualify. You can learn more about FlexRide at MyFlexRide.org.

Writing Prompts & Activities

NATURE WRITING

Many of us—especially during these cold winter days—find joy and inspiration in nature. In that spirit, we offer writing prompts designed by YpsiWrites volunteer Lisa Eddy, to help you slow down and appreciate the natural world. There are some for those able to get outside and observe, and some for those who remain indoors and appreciate nature through the window. You can find these prompts on the YpsiWrites’ website.

LOCATIONS & HOURS

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<th>YDL-WHITTAKER</th>
<th>YDL-MICHIGAN</th>
<th>YDL-SUPERIOR</th>
<th>YDL-BOOKMOBILE</th>
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Visit ypsilibrary.org/contact-us or 734-482-4110

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Visit ypsilibrary.org/board for updated meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes.

Board meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. They are open to the public.