CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

The new Superior library on Harris Road is beginning to take shape! On November 1st the final steel beam was installed, and crews are working on exterior stud walls, as well as curbs and gutters for the parking area. Steel roof trusses are delayed, but expected by the end of 2021.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Next Chapter Capital Campaign to date. Contributions help ensure the new library includes everything our community wants and needs, despite today’s high costs and unpredictable supply chain. Currently all gifts up to $100,000 are being matched by a generous anonymous foundation donor, so they have twice the impact.

As of November, our campaign has raised $1.67 million of its $2 million goal. Gifts to YDL are tax deductible, and it’s easy to give! Visit ypsilibrary.org/nextchapter, or mail checks to YDL at 5577 Whittaker Road, Ypsilanti MI 48197. Thank you for supporting your library!

Lisa Hoenig, Director

REFLECTING BACK, PLANNING AHEAD

In January 2017, the Board of Trustees adopted a 5-year strategic plan for YDL. Developed with community input, the plan focused on improvements in five areas: Diversity and Inclusiveness, Effectiveness of Programs, Facility Equity, Fiscal Health, and Marketing and Communications. With the dedicated hard work of our entire staff, we are very proud of the results achieved.

Some of the changes we’ve made are very visible. We launched the current library logo and this newsletter, The Loop, in 2017. A new website design followed in 2018. Our bookmobile got a colorful facelift that markets the library wherever it goes.

Another strategic plan initiative rebranded our summer reading program. The Summer Challenge was introduced in 2017 and has become a community staple, remaining popular even when held virtually during the pandemic. In November 2018 you overwhelmingly voted to support a new library millage. This helped restore the library’s budget to fiscal health. As a result, YDL finally broke ground on the new Superior Township library, expected to open in the second half of 2022.

Other changes have been more subtle or behind the scenes altogether. Delayed slightly by the pandemic, a staff team has developed a comprehensive Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion recommendation for the Board’s consideration in early 2022. We conducted a space utilization study at the Whittaker and Michigan Avenue libraries that will guide future improvements. Another team of staff developed a program proposal and evaluation process to ensure the events we offer are those you truly want and need.

We launched a mobile app, implemented text notifications for holds, and put a new room reservation and event registration system in place. Tools to make staff more efficient and effective include an improved phone system, a new email platform, and a helpdesk for reporting technical or maintenance issues.

You can review the entire 2017-2021 strategic plan at www.ypsilibrary.org/about/connect/strategic-plan.

In 2022, YDL will work to develop a new strategic plan, our roadmap for what’s ahead. We want YOUR input! Be on the lookout for upcoming surveys and community conversations. Thank you in advance for sharing your ideas with staff, Trustees, and the Strategic Plan Steering Committee that we’ll convene when the process begins.
EXPERIENCE “EVICTED”

February 1 – March 31, 2022 at YDL-Whittaker

I n 2017, Princeton sociologist and MacArthur “Genius” Matthew Desmond published Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (The Nation), Evicted transformed America’s understanding of poverty and economic exploitation with its “unforgettable scenes of hope and loss.”

Evicted went on to earn multiple awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, and many more. Inspired by Desmond’s book, the Evicted exhibition brings visitors into the world of low-income renter eviction, challenging us to face the enormity of one of 21st-century America’s most devastating problems.

Developed in collaboration with designers MATER Architecture Practice and mgmt. design, Evicted uses specialty-commissioned visual infographics to introduce numbers and statistics to help us better understand the causes for and ramifications of chronic eviction. The exhibition also highlights ways that some local and state governments and nonprofits are intervening to upend the cycle of chronic evictions, such as Right to Counsel laws and new affordable housing projects. Visitors will leave armed with ideas for enacting change in our own community and helping alleviate the downward spiral for those already living on the economic edge.

During Evicted’s stop in Ypsilanti, YDL will host book discussion groups, film screenings, leaders from local organizations working on affordable housing initiatives, and representatives from Legal Services of South Central Michigan to examine evictions in Washtenaw County – both in the past and since the pandemic’s eviction moratorium ended in August, 2021.

Evicted is sponsored by the National Building Museum.

WASHTENAW READS

The 2022 Washtenaw Read is Being Heumann by Judith Heumann. In this empowering memoir, Heumann shares her spirit and her story as a disability rights advocate, from her childhood experiences with prejudice and “invisibility” to her eventual role as Special Advisor for International Disability Rights in the White House.

Paralyzed by polio as a baby, Heumann was recommended for a life of institutionalization. Her parents, however, were orphans of the Holocaust. Knowing what happened to disabled children in German institutions, they had no intention of following that advice. But beginning in 1953, when she was denied access to public school and called a “fire hazard,” Heumann found the world was not designed to accommodate her.

With her mother’s fierce advocacy leading the way, Heumann slowly gained access to education, camp, university, and employment, eventually becoming a driving force in the passage of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Heumann’s thoughtful and poignant memoir reminds us all that an accessible world is everyone’s right. Her courageous life is a testament to the power of advocacy.

Copies of the book are available to check out from YDL.

Judith Heumann is an internationally recognized leader in the Disability Rights Independent Living Movement. Her work with a wide range of activist organizations has contributed greatly to the development of human rights legislation and policy benefiting disabled people. Connect with her on Twitter (@judithheumann) and Facebook (TheHeumannPerspective).

HOLIDAY CHEER AT YDL

Y DL is offering festive activities to get you in the holiday spirit. See below for some indoor and outdoor events where you can harness your holiday cheer, or even process difficult emotions to help the holidays look a little brighter. For more on these events, see pages 4–7.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT MICHIGAN AVENUE

Come to the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, Dec. 3 at 6pm in Library Plaza at YDL-Michigan. Enjoy caroling with the YCHS Choir and the Ypsilanti Community Choir while sipping hot chocolate and decorating cookies. Santa will join us for the tree lighting and a photo op in his sleigh! The light display will remain throughout the season for photo opportunities and enjoyment, including photos in Santa’s sleigh.

PAUL KELLER ENSEMBLE HOLIDAY JAZZ CONCERT

The popular Paul Keller Ensemble is back in concert on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 5pm at YDL-Whittaker, sponsored by the Friends of YDL. Enjoy some holiday favorites and a few new arrangements from this seven piece band as Paul Keller and his merry musicians joyfully celebrate the holiday season with good cheer and swinging jazz. Space is limited. Registration is required.

DIY HOT COCOA BOMBS (18+)

At 5:00pm Dec. 5, watch an interactive, one-hour, virtual workshop to learn about grief and helpful tips for navigating grief during the holidays. In partnership with GrieveWell. Register online for the Zoom link.

MAKE SNOW GLOBES

Dec. 8 and 11, there will be opportunities for children of all ages to make their own snow globes at YDL-Michigan. Registration is required since supplies are limited.

WINTER STEAM

Dec. 20–22 and Dec. 27–29 stop by the YDL-Whittaker Youth Department each afternoon for a different activity you can explore on your own to get creative or develop your STEM skills. See page 5 for featured activities.
ONE YEAR OF YPSI STORIES!

I t has officially been one year since the first episode of the Ypsi Stories podcast. The 13 episodes so far cover a wide range of topics related to Ypsilanti’s history, from its infrastructure and development to personal narratives about Black liberation and women’s rights.

Reference librarian Shoshanna Wechter is the creator and host of Ypsi Stories. Wechter had the idea to start a podcast during the pandemic. As a result of YDL’s closure she realized the importance of engaging with the public.

“We wanted” to give them some of the same experiences they had gotten when we’d been open,” said Wechter. “The Ypsilanti District Library has always brought in speakers to present on Ypsilanti history, and these are popular programs, so what better way than a podcast to bring Ypsilanti history to our patrons in the age of social distancing.”

Not only is the podcast entertaining and informative, it is also a valuable resource for researchers. “The library is creating primary sources in the form of interviews of Ypsilantians’ personal experiences, and is contributing to the intellectual heritage of Ypsilanti,” Wechter said.

One of the goals of the podcast is to bring light to lesser known stories, “whether it’s a story making the invisible visible, highlighting the infrastructure that underlies our community, a story from a nondominant racial, gendered, or class-based lens, or a personal narrative thought to be too current to be considered part of history by many,” she added.

Podcasting is an increasingly popular mode of storytelling, and YDL is one of many libraries across Michigan using this medium to start a dialogue with the community. In fact, American Libraries featured Ypsi Stories in its November issue as part of an article on how library podcasts examine local history. Ypsi Stories is one of a handful of library podcasts from across the country featured in the article.

In that piece, Wechter explained that the podcast was “an opportunity to showcase different experiences, narratives, and histories that you don’t normally see in a history book or even from local history organizations.” The Ypsi Stories podcast has over 1,700 plays from people looking to absorb that history.

Going forward, Ypsi Stories will continue working with local historians and community members to tell stories from multiple perspectives.

December’s episode will share the history of the Kiwanis Club of Ypsilanti. In January, hear about the Washtenaw County African American Genealogical Society and African American genealogy as a whole. In February, coinciding with Black History Month, you’ll get the history of discriminatory housing laws in Ypsilanti.

New episodes are released on the first Wednesday of each month. Ypsi Stories is available at ypsilibrary.org/ypsistories and wherever you find your podcasts.

KANOPY IS HERE!

The newest addition to YDL’s growing list of digital resources, Kanopy, is ready for streaming. Use Kanopy to find nearly 30,000 movies and other videos to inspire, educate, and entertain. Free to library cardholders, Kanopy’s unique selection offers something for everyone, from award winning indie films to important and timely documentaries, to foreign films, popular cinema, children’s shows, and more.

“We are so thrilled to offer Kanopy to our community,” said YDL Assistant Director Julianne Smith. “Patrons will love the critically-acclaimed movies, award-winning foreign films, and inspiring documentaries, as well as the popular Great Courses catalog and Kanopy Kids. With 10 play videos on the 1st of the next month, when your play credits reset.

Feel free to watch as many videos from Kanopy as you’d like; videos from the Kanopy Kids section do not require any play credits to view. You’ll also occasionally see a “Credit-Free” shelf on the Kanopy homepage. You will be able to view the videos on this shelf without using any of your play credits.

To get started with Kanopy, visit our website or go to kanopy.com.

Here are some of the great films you can watch with Kanopy:

- COMEDY: What We Do in the Shadows
- HORROR: Midsommar
- DRAMA: The Bookshop
- DOCUMENTARY: I Am Not Your Negro
- FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Seven Samurai
- CLASSIC: Dial M for Murder
- ROMANCE: The Tomorrow Man
- ANIMATION: Loving Vincent
- SHORT: The Phone Call
- SCI-FI: Under the Skin
- THRILLER: Eye in the Sky
- KIDS: Don’t let the Pigeon Drive the Bus
- SERIES: Alone
- MINISERIES: Roots

With your YDL account, you get 10 credits each month. Once you create your account and log in, you will see a “play credit counter” at the top of the screen that lets you know how many credits you have remaining. A play credit is logged once at least 5 seconds of a video has been played. After a play credit is logged, you will have 3 days (72 hours) to watch the video as many times as you would like without using another play credit. If you use all available play credits for the month you will next be able to borrow per month and the ability to download the Kanopy app right to your TV or streaming device, customers!”

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To get started with Kanopy, visit our website or go to kanopy.com.
**SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: ART MARKETING**
6:30pm | Virtual
Calling all artists! Learn how to formulate a plan, strategy, and tactics that will set you apart from your local galleries, or through a variety of online channels. This series is presented in partnership with the Washtenaw South Lyon District Library and the Ann Arbor area SCORE office. Register for all four weeks; for more information, email Paula Drummond at drummond@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x 1306.

**CORNER CHATS AT YDL - TEEN MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS**
6:30pm | Virtual
A mental health therapist and social worker will answer anonymous questions about mental or physical health, and share tips to deal with anxiety and stress in our community and we’ll share snacks while we discuss the questions that we receive. Submit questions anonymously through the event link on the online YDL calendar.

**SAT MATH PREP**
4:30pm | Virtual
Our math prep tutor Geetha Elangovan returns to help high school students prepare for the math portion of the SAT. Register for access to the Zoom link. Supporting materials and worksheets will be available for participants to pick up at the library. Call 734-879-1304 or email jodi@ypsilibrary.org with questions or to schedule pickup of materials.

**DIY HOT COCOA BOMBS**
3:30pm | YDL-Michigan
(Ages 12+)
Use your hot cocoa mix with additional mix-ins inside DIY chocolate shells to make these hot cocoa bombs. Tickets are available for gifting or keeping for a chilly day. Use hot cocoa mix with additional mix-ins inside DIY chocolate shells to make these hot cocoa bombs. Supplies are limited, and registration is required. For more information, email Kim at snow@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x 1385.

**FAMILY KELLER ENSEMBLE HOLIDAY JAZZ CONCERT**
6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Paul Keller and his merry band of musicians joyfully celebrate the holiday season with good music and a swinging jazz performance. All ages welcome. Space is limited. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Friends of YDL. (See page 2 for details).

**DIY Macrame' Wall Hanging**
2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
(Ages 55+)
Join us for a lighthearted afternoon where our goal is to engage your mind, connect with others, work on a project, and play with a new technique. We'll be meeting in-person, socially distanced. All supplies provided. Register online for this virtual session. For more information, email Paula Drummond at drummond@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x 1306.

**MEETING (WAAGS MEETING)**
10:30am | Virtual
Genesee Valley Genealogical Society hosts a virtual monthly meeting to discuss genealogy topics and strategies. Click on the WAAGS meeting to register. This event is open to the public.

**SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: E-COMMERCE**
6:30pm | Virtual
An introduction to selling to the broader and more competitive e-commerce market. Look at basic websites, integrated platforms like Shopify, and confined platforms like eBay. This series is presented in partnership with the Salem South Lyon District Library and the Ann Arbor Area SOACE office. Register online for this virtual session. For more information, email Paula Drummond at drummond@ypsilibrary.org or call 734-482-4110 x 1306.

**MASTERS OF CARE**
7:00pm | Virtual
A monthly feature where attendees can learn from and listen to a variety of experts within the field of mental health and wellness. Speaker(s) will be announced prior to each month.

**FAIRY DOORS & MAKING RINGS**
2:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
(Families)
Create magical fairy doors and rings with your children to bring your imagination to life! Registration is required. (See page 2 for details).

**HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING: SINGING, SANTA, AND SUGAR COOKIES**
6:00pm-7:30pm | YDL-Michigan
Join us for a festive and fun evening to celebrate the holiday season! Sing Christmas songs, enjoy hot cocoa, activities for kids, and meet Santa Claus! (See page 2 for details).
WINTER BREAK STEAK
3:00pm–4:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
Stop by the youth department for projects to keep you busy during break. Each afternoon we’ll put out supplies for a different STEAM activity to help you create, explore, and learn. Monday, Dec 20 through January 3 | Drop in
Tuesday, Dec 21 | Snap circuits
Wednesday, Dec 22 | Winter vision STEM
Monday, Dec 27 | 7 pm Challenge
Tuesday, Dec 28 | Fiber art
Wednesday, Dec 29 | Lego building challenge

TEEN SUBSCRIPTION PACKS
Schedule pickup during regular YDL Hours
Boxed at hand! Sign up for YDL’s teen subscription packs and get a surprise package (that our teen interns select) that will include a book and other cool snacks, activities, and gifts surrounding a different topic each month. Subscribe today, then stop by the library once a month to snag your swag at the YDL branch of your choice. Don’t forget to tune into the accompanying podcast produced by YDL teen interns. Teen Subscription Packs are available starting the third of the month. Sign up at ypsilibrary.org/packs. Questions? Email teens@ypsilibrary.org.

GRAPHIC NARRATIVE CLUB
7:30pm | YpsiAlchoose
Discuss graphic narratives—from ancient hieroglyphs to modern Manga, and everything in between.
Dec 23: Whitty Bird by Molly Ostertag
Jan 18: One Hundred Nights of Hero by Isabel Greenberg
Feb 15: Seek You by Kristen Radtke

NATIONAL TRIVIA DAY Contest
6:00pm
Celebrate National Trivia Day by competing in a Trivia right competition at the library. Register your team of 6 people or register as an individual and we will place you on a team. Snacks and drinks will be provided, and awards will be won! Topics will range from Pop Culture to Literature and everything in between.
Register online or contact Madelynne at whittaker@ypsilibrary.org for questions.

SAFELY TALK ABOUT RACE & BLACK LIVES MATTER: FOCUS ON THE WHY, NOT THE WHAT
2:00pm–3:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
This series screens films that provide the opportunity to safely engage and understand the ways racism has functioned historically and continues to work in the present. This month we will show a documentary that offers a fresh look at the Black Lives Matter movement and why it exists. After the viewing, La’Ron Williams, local holistic body systems activist, will facilitate an open, honest discussion about race and racism. Light refreshments served.

SMALL BUSINESS SAVVY: SUCCESS PLANNING FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS
9:00am–10:30am | YDL-Whittaker
Friends of YDL Annual Book Sale
6:00pm–8:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
It’s the Friends of YDL Annual Book Sale! Book lover prices are $1 for hardcovers, 25 cents for paperbacks, and 50 cents for oversize paperbacks. Jan. 23 books of bags will be available for $4, and some books will be sold for a reduced price. January 20 from 6–8pm is a members only preview sale. Memberships will be available for purchase at the door! Jan 20: 6–8pm (Members only preview sale)
Jan 22: 11am–3pm
Jan 26: 1–4pm

READING, AND WRITING, ABOUT WRITING: A VIRTUAL CLUB Book Club
This virtual book club, led by Bright Futures Director Lynn Malnoff, will meet on three Thursdays to discuss Writing Down the Bones by Natalie Goldberg. You can purchase your own copy of this book (or borrow it through YDL) and follow along! During the sessions, the book’s deck of writing prompts will inspire your writing. Bring paper or a journal and your favorite pens or pencils! We will also hold a drawing each week for a copy of the Writing Down the Bones Deck: 60 Cards to Free the Writer Within. Register online.

SUPERHERO TRAINING ACADEMY
6:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
Based out of Detroit, Superhero Training Academy empowers youth and their families to find their inner strengths. Through fun, exploratory games and guided activities, children of all ages will grow stronger together. Discover your inner superhero!

TEEN AFTER HOURS PARTY
6:00pm–8:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
If you pick up a January subscription pack, you’ll get supplies to use at home to relax and refocus for the new year. Join us at the library for more activities related to the theme that you can do to reconnect with yourself and look forward to a better 2022. Make a time capsule, play games to win prizes, enjoy music, snacks, and more. Hosted by the Teen Subscription Pack Interns and TAG.

YOUTH CRAFT TIME: ORICAMI MOBILES DIY PAPER MOBILES
6:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
This creative concrete project combines painting and folding paper to make a delicate mobile. This is for those who want to learn a basic origami as well as to create a beautiful decorative item to hang in your room or home. Supplies are limited, so registration is required. This is the same program, offered twice; come to whichever session is most convenient. Register online or contact Madelynne at whittaker@ypsilibrary.org for questions.

BEACHCOMBING FLORIDA BEACHES 2
4:30pm–5:30pm | YDL-Whittaker
Come see and touch carefully! a variety of beach finds from Cindi Broback, who’s been beachcombing for over 40 years. You’ll see a variety of shells, sponges, corals, crab shells, sand dollars, starfish, sea urchins, horseshoe crabs, shark’s jaws, and more at this family friendly event. Be sure to wear your tropical shirt and beach hat!

VIRGIN HOUR: ILLUSTRATION
6:00pm–8:00pm
The creative concrete project combines painting and folding paper to make a delicate mobile.

GOALS
6:00pm–8:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
Members of TAG host a monthly meetup for teens to gather, watch anime, draw, and chat.

LEGO MEETUP
4:00pm–5:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
Weekly Lego bricks will be available every Tuesday. Come and build whatever you like!

BE MINE, VALENTINE: ILLUSTRATION
6:00pm–8:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
Learn to make some sweet doodles and write in various texts to make your Valentines the best yet! Led by illustrator Yen Azzaro, you will learn how to use simple shapes to draw people, animals, and heart-shaped characters to create fanatical cards for your loved ones. Paper, markers, and other craft materials provided. Free to bring your own embellishments too!

OUTDOOR STORM WINTER EDITION
6:00pm | YDL-Whittaker
Outdoor science doesn’t have to end when the days get cold. Bundle up and join in these fun outdoor activities. Blow bubbles and watch them freeze, drink warm drinks, make ice art, and more.

EYEWITNESS EXHIBIT
During regular hours at YDL-Whittaker
Exhibits are returning to Whittaker! Read inspired by Durand’s Wednesday book. Each exhibit brings visitors into the world of low-income renter disability and housing. It is part of a larger 21st century America’s most devastating problems. Sponsored by the National Building Museum and designed in collaboration with designers MATTER Architecture Practice and ngmt, the exhibit presents art installations, original visual infographics to introduce visitors to the numbers and statistics that will help them better understand the causes for and ramifications of chronic eviction. Stay tuned for future book discussions and guest speakers during the exhibit. More details on page 2.
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: A GIFT TO THE FUTURE

This international women’s day, celebrate how women have shaped the future! This event will feature an opening with Dr. Peggi Tabor, followed by a workshop to explore the science of happiness. Participants will learn how to increase and maintain their experience of happiness, and leave with a toolkit for maintaining an experience of happiness. Registration is required. This program will be uploaded to the library’s YouTube channel and available for one week.

MICROSOFT WORD - BASICS

Learn the basics for creating greeting cards, flyers, and calendars including page layout and formatting. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

MICROSOFT EXCEL BASICS

Learn to create and format tables, insert images, create bulleted and numbered lists, and mail merge. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

GOOGLE DOCS FOR BEGINNERS

Learn to create and format documents, insert images, create bulleted and numbered lists, and mail merge. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

WEB DESIGN FOR BEGINNERS

Learn to design and create web pages using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

WEB DESIGN INTERMEDIATE

Learn to create interactive web pages using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

WEB DESIGN ADVANCED

Learn to create and manage web sites, including search engine optimization and social media integration. Basic PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

WEB DESIGN FOR PROFESSIONALS

Learn to design and create web pages using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Advanced PC, keyboard, and mouse skills required. Register online or call (734) 482-4110 ext. 2411.

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Storytimes

**Monday, Jan 10—Feb 14**

**JUMPSTART KINDERGARTEN**

(Ages 4–6)

10:30am | YDL-Whittaker

Stop by the Youth Department for storytime and activity stations that build school readiness skills.

**Tuesday and Wednesdays, Jan 11—Feb 16**

**DISCOVERY TIME: LITTLE ONES 2–4 YEARS OLD**

10:30am | YDL-Whittaker

Learn a variety of preschool readiness skills, from ABCs to kindness, at fast-paced storytimes filled with music, movement, fingerplays, and books. To keep capacity lower, we'll offer repeat read aloud/music sessions twice each week, with exploratory, play-based process art or STEM activities in between. Attend Tuesday OR Wednesday and do the activity before OR after the read aloud. Look for an empty yoga mat when you arrive. If all the mats are full, visit the Youth Department to do the day's activities, then hear the second read aloud.

**Thursdays, Jan 13—Feb 17**

**BABY TIME**

10:30am | YDL-Whittaker

Join other parents and babies for tummy-time play, social time, and simple read alouds and songs. Designed for pre-walkers.

**Thursdays, Jan 13—Feb 17**

**PRESCHOOL STORY TIME**

10:30am | YDL-Michigan

Preschool storytime will include a variety of music, movement, and hands-on activities. We'll read picture books, get some wigglies out, sing, and have fun.

**Thursdays, Jan 13—Feb 17**

**YOGA STORYTIME FOR FAMILIES**

6:00pm | YDL-Whittaker

Each week a different book will inspire our movements, as well as our breathing and mindfulness exercises. We'll wind down on a calm note, readying your family for a relaxing and easy bedtime. Yoga mats will serve as a protective surface for our movement, and help us maintain physical distance from others.

**TAX PREP RESOURCES FROM YDL**

For many years, YDL has served as a site for free tax preparation. While we plan to continue this service in a COVID-safe manner, at the time of publication, details for free tax prep are still being worked out.

In the meantime, we’ve updated our Tax Help page with resources and tips you can use. Visit ypsilibrary.org/taxprep for updates on the tax help services that may be available at YDL, along with additional resources to help you prepare your taxes.

**YDL CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS ON:**

- **Friday, December 24, 2021**
- Christmas Eve
- **Saturday, December 25, 2021**
- Christmas Day
- **Sunday, December 26, 2021**
- Day after Christmas
- **Friday, December 31, 2021**
- New Year’s Eve
- **Saturday, January 1, 2022**
- New Year’s Day
- **Sunday, January 2, 2022**
- Day after New Year’s
A return to in-person learning this fall has inspired Lincoln Community Schools and Ypsilanti Community Schools to focus their efforts on district-wide equity initiatives. Both school districts are working to incorporate more social justice and social-emotional learning topics into their curricula to inspire and assist students during this unprecedented time.

YCS is helping students create home libraries they can see themselves in, thanks to a Literacy Excellence Accelerates Performance (LEAP) grant from the United States Department of Education. This grant provides funding for diverse books that students get to keep, enhanced media centers, support for afterschool clubs and the Grizzly Learning Camp, and classroom-based coaching support.

At Lincoln, teachers and administrators are working to create welcoming environments for everyone. Through a grant to LCS, the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) has started an 18-month-long professional development series, “Beyond Equity: Creating Social Justice Leaders for Change’ in Michigan Schools.” For this series, LCS teachers and administrators will take a course on social justice and education, participate in a district assessment, and develop a plan to support diversity, equity, and inclusion. After this plan is implemented, the district and MASA will assess the results.

Accessibility and early literacy are also key parts of the focus on equity. Groups from both districts are meeting regularly to discuss strategies for improving literacy, and at LCS early literacy coaching is available for teachers. Through classroom observation and collaboration, coaches will work with teachers to develop early literacy skills in their students. Coaches may also co-teach or provide resources to students and teachers.

Not only is early literacy a key skill, but biliteracy is a focus of the school districts as well. Seven accomplished YCS students—Jessica Bukasa, Angie Nicole Hernandez-Euceda, Elliott Lucas Henderson, Mariela Esmerelda Pacey-Hernandez, Fanta Kaba, Jose Alberto Medina Ramirez, and Issa Kalilou Yattassaye—were recently awarded the Seal of Biliteracy by the Michigan Department of Education. This is the first time any YCS student has received this award, which recognizes high school graduates who have displayed proficiency in one or more languages other than English.

In tandem with these equity initiatives, the need for social-emotional learning has never been clearer. Both YCS and LCS have made efforts to incorporate this into their curricula. At YCS, part of the LEAP grant will go toward professional development and social-emotional lessons in the classroom. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has also issued a grant to LCS that provides professional development sessions about the five social-emotional learning competencies.

To ensure that social-emotional learning is integrated into the curriculum for students K–12, two lesson planning resources will be used—Second Step for elementary and middle school students and TRAILS for high school students. Students will take an assessment before and after these lessons, and mental health resources will be available.

Join the Family Learning Institute at YDL-Whittaker on December 9 at 7 pm for their first annual Book and Poetry Reading Night. This event will feature Ypsilanti Mayor Lois Richardson, a youth poetry slam, and read alouds by University of Michigan athletes.

“We are all aware how difficult the pandemic has been on our kids—and reading development has certainly been a challenge,” said Collyer Smith, Engaged Community Member with The Family Learning Institute. “Mayor Richardson will spark enthusiasm as she shares her passion reading her favorite book. In addition, young Poetry Slam artists will perform, as well as a very special video done by the University of Michigan Cheerleaders, to support our kids in becoming excited, and motivated, to seek out books that will inspire them.”

Book and Poetry Reading Night is free, and families will receive a grab bag of food and a free book to take home.
MORE KITS ARE COMING!

Youth Department staff have partnered with local experts to create some brand new kits for the YDL collection. Staff at UM’s Matthaei Botanical Garden’s Garfield Children’s Garden donated natural items for two new nature play kits, and the American Institute of Architects Huron Valley Chapter donated engineering and design toys for more architecture kits that will be available in the coming months (see photo below).

The architecture kits will include KEVA Maker Bot Maze kits, books on architecture, blocks, straws, and other building materials and ideas. In the meantime, YDL has more than 50 other kits to choose from, but they are so popular you might not find one on the shelf! With so much use, librarians regularly spend time going through the kits to make sure they are in good condition, replacing pieces, and planning new ones.

In addition, YDL librarians have also been working to enhance diversity and inclusion within the kits. They consider the toys and the authors of books to include, and have created a few kits that focus on aspects of our community’s diversity, too.

As a reminder, our kits generally fall into one of the following categories:

1. **Play Kits** are designed for little ones and include four books, plus themed games and toys to help your child develop early literacy skills for school readiness.

2. **STEM Kits** are for school-aged kids and are filled with tools, toys, and a book or two to help kids learn about science, technology, engineering, and math through exploratory play.

3. **Sensory Kits** are great for all kids, but they are designed with the needs of kids who are on the spectrum in mind.

4. **Our Newest Addition... Reading Kits**, with sets of leveled readers and games to help build the skills kids need to read on grade level. We already have five kindergarten Reading Kits ready to go and will be adding first grade kits soon.

Visit ypsilibrary.org/kits to see the full list of kits and reserve one to check out to use at home for three weeks.

TEEN INTERNS AT YDL

In October, seven new interns, representing many different high schools and areas of YDL’s district, joined the Teen Subscription Pack team. The new interns are working in teams to help create YDL’s monthly themed packs for teens. They’re also helping to promote the project by recording and editing podcasts and planning events to bring youth together around each theme.

The internships are possible through a Generator Z grant that YDL’s Teen Advisory Group helped write. The goal is to provide more free take-home activities and conversation starters for teens to de-stress, learn skills, get creative, and be the change through occasional social justice themes. Pack themes this season include Find Your Aesthetic, Snow Day, and the New Year. Interns are planning an after-hours party on Saturday, January 22, 6–8pm at YDL-Whittaker with games, prizes, art activities, snacks, music, and more to give teens a chance to meet up in a casual, safe space and connect with others. Events will alternate between libraries. Watch the events calendar for new opportunities to come together around a monthly theme. Bus tokens available on request.

Meet the interns, sign up for a pack, and hear the podcast at ypsilibrary.org/packs.
**STAY HEALTHY THIS WINTER**

**Stop the Spread of COVID-19!**

As of November, Washtenaw County was still at a high level of community transmission. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, you can:

- Wear a mask in indoor public spaces when local transmission rates are high.
- Follow isolation guidance if you test positive and quarantine guidance if you’re exposed.
- Avoid others if you feel sick and get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

Stay up to date on the latest COVID-19 information by visiting [www.washtenaw.org/covid19](http://www.washtenaw.org/covid19) or by following the Washtenaw County Health Department (@wcpublichealth) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or NextDoor. You can also email the Health Department at health@washtenaw.org or call 734-544-6700.

**Prevent Flu: Get a Flu Shot & Wash your Hands**

Winter means flu season. The Washtenaw County Health Department urges everyone six months and older to get vaccinated against flu. Getting a flu shot is especially important this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Flu shots, good handwashing, covering your cough, and staying away from others when sick can prevent the spread of flu.

Symptoms of the flu include: coughing, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, sore throat, headache, fatigue, fever and/or chills. The flu can affect anyone, but older adults, children, and individuals with chronic health conditions are at greater risk for severe complications from flu.

Flu vaccines work to prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death due to the flu. Getting vaccinated also protects the people around you, who may be more likely to get seriously ill from flu. Get vaccinated at your doctor’s office or local pharmacy. See [www.washtenaw.org/flu](http://www.washtenaw.org/flu) for updates.

**COVID-19 testing from YCS**

Cold and flu season are in full swing, and every family deserves to feel healthy and safe. Ypsilanti Community Schools is offering two types of COVID-19 testing for students and their families. PCR testing, which takes 24–48 hours, is available by appointment. Antigen testing is available without an appointment and takes only 15–30 minutes for results. YCS is looking for volunteers to help with testing, so please email acash9@ycschools.us for more information.

**WASHTENAW WINTER WARMING SHELTERS**

On a given night in Washtenaw County, there could be hundreds of people experiencing homelessness. That’s according to data from the Washtenaw County Office of Community & Economic Development (OCED).

That’s why OCED and the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County are working to provide options around Washtenaw County for people who need shelter during the winter months. Their Winter Program runs through March 31 with day and night-time shelter options (pending weather conditions).

The Freighthouse is available from 8am to 6pm, Monday through Thursday. Located at 100 Market Place in Ypsilanti, the shelter is available through March 31.

During the evenings, shelters are available around the area. Contact Housing Access of Washtenaw County (HAWC) to obtain a referral to the Delonis Center. Call 734-961-1999 during regular business hours, or after 5pm visit the Delonis Center at 312 W. Huron St. in Ann Arbor. From there you will be able to get a referral.

Individuals are provided a safe place to sleep each night and can access a wide variety of services, including meals, case management, medical care, and, most importantly, help finding permanent housing.

Whether you call Housing Access of Washtenaw County or visit the Delonis Center for shelter, you will be connected to a network of almost 30 organizations to help you with moving into safe, permanent housing. For anyone who needs it, transportation from the Delonis Center is provided to additional offsite facilities.

This year, social distancing protocols mean beds are limited, and it won’t be possible to serve everyone in need (see the sidebar for more help options). It’s recommended that you stay with friends or family members whenever possible, but enhanced health and safety practices (including masks) will be in place, and additional offsite locations will be opened when necessary to ensure adequate social distancing.

There are a variety of additional daytime shelter accommodations 7 days a week. Call 734-662-2829 for the most up to date information and locations.

**WORRIED THE EVICTION MORATORIUM HAS ENDED? FOLLOW THESE HELPFUL STEPS!**

Because there is a severe shortage of housing resources in Washtenaw County, HAWC is not able to help all people who are experiencing a housing crisis. More options for help:

- Veterans experiencing a housing crisis, contact the Veteran Administration (VA) at 1-877-234-9672.
- Youth (ages 10–20) experiencing a housing crisis, contact Ozone House at (734) 662-2222.
- If you are experiencing domestic violence, contact SafeHouse Center at (734) 995-5444.

**STEP 1: APPLY FOR COVID-19 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE (CERA)!**

Apply online at [michigan.gov/CERA](http://michigan.gov/CERA). For paper applications or for assistance, contact HAWC at 734-961-1999.

**STEP 2: ATTEND YOUR COURT DATE!**

If you get notice of court dates, show up! When you show up, Legal Services can represent your court case until there has been time for CERA applications to be processed, and for landlords to receive back rent.

**STEP 3: DO NOT MOVE OUT!**

If you move out of your rental unit, you will be deemed ineligible for CERA. Remember to remain in your rented space and do not vacate until your CERA application has been processed.

**STEP 4: IF YOU MISSED YOUR FIRST COURT DATE, CALL LEGAL SERVICES!**

If you were unable to make your first court date, call Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM) for free legal advice and representation at 734-665-6181 (Washtenaw County Office).

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Wash your Hands

When sick can prevent the spread of flu.

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Do not cover your nose and mouth with your hands.

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you cough or sneeze and before eating or preparing food.

Wear a mask in indoor public spaces when local transmission rates are high.

Follow isolation guidance if you test positive and quarantine guidance if you’re exposed.

Avoid others if you feel sick and get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

Stay up to date on the latest COVID-19 information by visiting [www.washtenaw.org/covid19](http://www.washtenaw.org/covid19) or by following the Washtenaw County Health Department (@wcpublichealth) on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or NextDoor. You can also email the Health Department at health@washtenaw.org or call 734-544-6700.

#WishYouKnewWashtenaw – Winter Mental Health

The winter season can be hard for some, and it can be hard to reach out for help when it’s needed most. It’s important to remember that asking for help does not make us weak, it does not make us a burden, and it does not make our progress any less meaningful.

If you need mental health support and have questions about where to find it, call the CARES team at 734-544-3050. CARES offers 24-hour help with any mental health concern or question. The Health Department also has a local resource guide with information on different mental health resources at [https://bit.ly/wusupportmh](https://bit.ly/wusupportmh).

Want to see more mental health info and resources? Follow @wishyouknewwashtenaw on Instagram.
representatives from TheRide have held public feedback sessions about TheRide 2045, their long-range plan for the future. More learning opportunities about the long-range plan will be available in the coming months, and details will be available at TheRide.org.

In the meantime, winter is upon us and that means cold weather, snow, and ice. With bad weather, some delays may occur. You can sign up for TheRide’s MyAlerts system at TheRide.org. With MyAlerts, you can select the route(s) you use, and you will receive an email directly if your route is detoured.

Remember to leave extra time for the morning commute, especially on snowy days. If your bus stop is blocked due to snow or ice, please wait at the nearest cleared spot.

During the winter season, TheRide has holiday hours for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Stay up to date on TheRide.org or follow them on Facebook and Twitter.

Mark your calendars for January 20–23, and attend the Friends of YDL January book sale at YDL-Whittaker! Pay $1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversize paperbacks, with even more special deals available during the sale.

January 20 from 6–8pm will be a members-only preview. Memberships will be available for purchase at the door, so it’s the perfect time to join the Friends and help make library events possible.

On January 23 there will be bags of books available for $4, and some books will be sold for a reduced price.

FULL BOOK SALE HOURS:
Thursday, January 20: 6 – 8pm
(Members only preview sale)
Friday, January 21: 11am – 5pm
Saturday, January 22: 11am – 3pm
Sunday, January 23: 1 – 4pm

If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer, please fill out the application at ypsillibrary.org/volunteer-at-the-friends-book-shop.

Since the book shop at YDL-Whittaker has resumed normal hours of operation, the Friends need volunteers. There are plenty of ways to help, like assisting with book shop sales and sorting the generous donations the Friends receive. Whatever your availability, your assistance is greatly appreciated.

To reserve a room online, visit reserve. ypsillibrary.org/reserve, or click on “Meeting Rooms” under the Services tab of our website. Currently, all rooms are available for reservation except for the Community Room and room 1C at YDL-Whittaker.

Once you click on your preferred time and room, you’ll see additional information about the space, including an image and description of the room, a list of available resources, and maximum capacity.

If you see an empty room in the library, you can reserve it from one of our self-service kiosks. These can be found on the 1st and 2nd floors of YDL-Whittaker (next to the self-service printing stations on each floor) and in the lobby at YDL-Michigan. Kiosk reservations will look similar to booking on our website, but you can conveniently make reservations right from the library!
MEET THE 2021 WRITERS OF YPSILANTI

Adapted from an article by Sarah Rigg published October 6 as part of Concentrate Media’s On the Ground Ypsilanti segment. The original article can be viewed at concentratemediam.com.

Author’s note: I had begun work on this story weeks before I found out I had also been named a 2021 Writer of Ypsilanti. Our editorial team decided to have me complete the article to celebrate my fellow honorees.

Eight Ypsilanti-area writers were named to the Ypsi Writes Writers of Ypsilanti cohort for 2021.

The Writers of Ypsilanti program began in 2019 and has honored a handful of community members each year since then, with a new motto for each cohort. This year’s motto was “Write Now.” The writers are A.M. Dean, Frankie Koni, Brent Miller, Ayesha Nadeem, Kierra Owens, Sarah Rigg, Debbie Taylor, and William Teepen.

“The Writers of Ypsilanti are writers of any age who live or work in, or have significant ties to, the Ypsilanti area,” YpsiWriters co-founder Ann Blakeslee said.

This year’s honorees use writing in their everyday lives in a variety of ways, from a children’s author to a playwright to a teenager who writes grants.

Taylor is the author of two children’s books, Sweet Music in Harlem and Over in Motown. She lives in Pittsfield Township but calls Ypsilanti’s Brown Chapel A.M.E. her church home. Taylor says she’d like to use her nomination as a Writer of Ypsilanti as a platform to advocate for literacy.

“Writing can be such a good way to share your story and your feelings during these peculiar times we’re in,” Taylor said.

Ypsilanti resident Teepen writes articles for “Fresh Prints,” the newsletter of Ypsilanti’s self-help mental health center, Fresh Start Clubhouse. He has also helped the club house work on its business plan and other documents that will help the organization establish its nonprofit status.

Teepen says he uses writing to process current events or personal life experiences. He has covered topics such as trauma and consent for “Fresh Prints.”

“I like to take a problem or issue I’m dealing with and write about it for other people in more generic terms,” he says.

2021 honoree Koni began writing poetry in fifth grade and turned out a book of poetry for a school contest. They have had four poems published in “Asylum” magazine, an online publication that bills itself as a “radical mental health magazine.”

“I write some semi-autobiographical poetry about mental health and sexuality,” Koni says. “I get a form of catharsis out of poetry that I don’t get out of much else.”

Koni says being named a Writer of Ypsilanti has inspired them to start a daily poetry practice again and launch a Facebook page dedicated to their poetry.

Nadeem was nominated by Ypsilanti District Library librarian Jodi Krahkne for Nadeem’s work with the library’s teen advisory board.

“The best writing experience of mine this last year has been learning to write grants,” Nadeem says. “I feel powerful, knowing that my words will translate into real change.”

Dean is an Ypsilanti-based playwright and novelist who has had numerous plays and musicals premiere in Ypsilanti, and serves as the literary manager for Neighborhood Theatre Group.

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“Right now I am working on a second draft of a novel I finished about a decade ago,” Dean says.

Owens, 15, is a poet and an active member of the Ypsilanti-based nonprofit Educate Youth. She was nominated by that organization’s founder, Gail Wolkoff. In the nomination form, Wolkoff called Owens “an excellent role model of young Black women on their journey of the power of words.”

Owens produced a written piece about police brutality that she shared with Ypsilanti Police Chief Tony DeGiusti “to share her firsthand experiences of what it is like to be a young woman of 15 living on the Southside of Ypsilanti,” Wolkoff said.

Miller began volunteering with YpsiWriters in March 2020 doing one-on-one tutoring with YpsiWriters and creating various guides for the organization, such as book club reading guides, a scavenger hunt project in collaboration with First Fridays, and a guide to finding and corresponding with a pen pal.

Miller writes instructional materials as an instructional designer at the National Center for School Safety, a program of the University of Michigan’s School of Public Health. He also writes fiction in his free time and hopes to spend November revising the first draft of a novel he’s written.

He says he loves YpsiWriters’ emphasis on the idea that everyone is a writer.

“If you send text messages or emails or fill out your taxes, you’re a writer,” he says. “I’m glad YpsiWriters is encouraging others to embrace that they, too, are writers.”

Ypsilanti District Library | The Loop

Winter 2021–22