



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kristen Corrado  
616.988.5402, ext. 5438  
[kcorrado@grpl.org](mailto:kcorrado@grpl.org)

### Grand Rapids Public Library Events for October 2019

#### Resources for Genealogical Research in Foreign Countries

*Saturday, October 5, 2019, 1:30 pm*  
Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Once you've discovered your immigrant ancestor's home country, how will you go about finding documents generated while they were still there, and how will you research his or her parents? Participants in this program will discuss how to use available resources to begin conducting research in foreign countries, including how to locate foreign language genealogy terms and examine online maps that provide contextual information on shifting country borders. This program is co-sponsored by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society.

#### CHAOS Lab

*Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 6:30 pm*  
Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Toddlers and preschoolers will explore the world through merry mess-making. Each month there will be a new set of activities to make kids squeal with glee! Create some chaos in the library, not in your home. Dress for a mess! This month: Gross Gala. Pretend you are a monster and make a monster size mess! Prepare gross monster stew, paint a picture of a pumpkin with a pumpkin, and enjoy other frightfully fun activities.

#### From Managerial Void to the Medical Mile: The Evolving Roles of Women and the Enduring Presence of History

*Thursday, October 10, 2019, 7:00 pm*  
Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Fleshing out the history of women founders of early Grand Rapids medical institutions, Julia Bouwkamp will reveal a pattern where they were pushed from the centers of organizations they had created to the more feminine realm of nursing. Despite their marginalization, these nineteenth-century women exploited limiting ideas about gender to continue the expansion and sophistication of our medical world. This program is co-sponsored by the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council, the Grand Rapids Historical Society, and the Grand Rapids Public Library.

#### Let's Create with Bestselling Author David Wiesner

*Saturday, October 12, 2019, 10:30 am*  
Seymour Branch - 2350 Eastern SE

Spend the morning with David Wiesner, the author and illustrator of beloved picture books *Flotsam* and *Mr. Wuffles!*. Learn about the power of wordless art and help create a masterpiece that will be displayed for the whole community. A book signing will follow the presentation. This event is co-sponsored by the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

www.grpl.org

**Main Library**  
111 Library St NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
p. 616.988.5402  
f. 616.988.5438

**Madison Branch**  
1201 Madison Ave  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
p. 616.988.5402  
f. 616.251.2222

**Ottawa Branch**  
1150 Gilead Ave  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
p. 616.988.5402  
f. 616.251.2222

**Seymour Branch**  
2350 Eastern Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508  
p. 616.988.5402  
f. 616.251.2222

**Van Belkum Branch**  
1563 Plaza  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
p. 616.988.5402  
f. 616.333.3333

**West Leisler Branch**  
1017 Leisler Ave  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
p. 616.988.5402  
f. 616.333.3333

**West Side Branch**  
713 Bridgeway  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
p. 616.988.5402  
f. 616.444.4444

**Yankee Branch**  
2025 Leisler Ave  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
p. 616.988.5402  
f. 616.251.2222

**Social Justice Begins with Me: A Book Club for Kids**

*Saturday, October 12, 2019, 10:30 am*

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Children ages 4-11 can explore social justice topics that impact their daily lives through children's literature. GVSU, GRPL and community volunteers will read children's books on that month's social justice topic (e.g. celebrating diversity, gender, equity, disability). After the book readings, we discuss the month's social justice topic in small groups and enjoy a snack and themed craft activity. This program is a partnership between the Grand Rapids Public Library and the School of Social Work at Grand Valley State University. This month's topic: Older Adults/Ageism.

**Friends of the Library Book Sale**

*Saturday, October 19, 2019, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm*

*Sunday, October 20, 2019, 1:00 – 4:00 pm*

Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Huge used book sale! Find treasures, bargains, and more! Saturday all books 3 for \$1.00 or 50¢ each. Sunday fill a bag for \$5. All proceeds benefit the Grand Rapids Public Library.

**DIY@GRPL: Book Planters**

*Saturday, October 19, 2019, 1:00 pm*

Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Create a planter out of a book. This ingenious craft will be a fantastic conversation piece for your home or the perfect gift for a loved one. All supplies will be provided, including one succulent per person. Space is limited.

**Michigan POW Camps in WWII**

*Thursday, October 24, 2019, 7:00 pm*

Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Prisoner of War (POW) camps popped up nationwide during World War II, and Michigan had dozens of camps that housed about six thousand German and Italian war prisoners. Men were processed at Fort Custer near Battle Creek, then assigned to 31 smaller camps, most in remote areas of the state. Under the Geneva Convention, prisoners were allowed to volunteer for non war-related work. They picked fruit in Berrien County, harvested sugar beets in the Thumb, cut pulpwood in the Upper Peninsula, and maintained parks in Detroit. Author Gregory Sumner tells the story of these detainees and the ordinary Americans who embodied our highest ideals, even amid a global war.

**Art Attack with the DAAC**

*Tuesdays, September 10 - November 26, 2019, 3:00 pm*

Van Belkum Branch - 1563 Plainfield NE

Our new neighbors, the Division Avenue Arts Collaborative (DAAC) is leading an after school art program at the library. Kids in grades 3-8 can kick back and get creative with local artists.

**Yoga Time**

*Saturday, October 26, 2019, 11:00 am*

Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Bend and breathe in this yoga class for kids, led by an instructor from AM Yoga. Mats will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. For ages 4-11.

### **Día de los Muertos: Honoring Day of the Dead**

*Wednesday, October 30 - Sunday, November 3, 2019, during open hours*

Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Come celebrate Día de los Muertos with the Grand Rapids Public Library. Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday that honors family and friends who have passed on. Loved ones come together to build altars that celebrate the life and memory of the dead. This is a time of celebration and joy, filled with talk and memories of those who have died. Altars from members of the community honoring family and friends will be on display. Every altar is unique and taken together they create a fascinating portrait of what citizens of Grand Rapids hold close to them. Free and open to the public.

### **Storytime at the Farmers Market**

*Saturdays, September 14 - November 9, 2019, 12:00 pm*

South East Area Farmers Market - MLK Park

Join us for a very special storytime at Martin Luther King Jr. Park! We will read stories, sing songs, and have activities and information on library programs. Come join us at the farmers market!

### **Baby & Me Storytimes**

Bring your baby, 0-18 months, and bounce along to fun stories, songs, and rhymes. Baby & Me is a 15-minute storytime followed by a relaxed playtime where you and baby will meet new friends.

Mondays, September 9 – November 11

1:30 pm West Leonard Branch – 1017 Leonard NW

6:30 pm Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Wednesday, September 11 – November 13

11:00 am Yankee Clipper Branch - 2025 Leonard NE

Thursday, September 12 – November 14

10:30 am Seymour Branch - 2350 Eastern SE

### **Toddler Time**

Bring your toddlers, ages 18 months to 3 years, to share fun stories, songs, and rhymes and learn together! Toddler Time is a 25-minute long storytime followed by a hands-on activity and playtime designed to help your child's brain grow.

Tuesdays, September 10 – November 12

11:00 am Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Wednesdays, September 11 – November 13

10:30 am Seymour Branch - 2350 Eastern SE

11:00 am West Leonard Branch - 1017 Leonard NW

Thursdays, September 12 – November 14

11:00 am Yankee Clipper Branch – 2025 Leonard NE

### **Pajama Time!**

Come explore learning through fun stories, movement, and music activities during this evening storytime. Pajama Time is a 30-minute storytime followed by a hands-on activity and playtime. Wear your pajamas and get those wiggles out before bed! For families with children 5 and under.

Tuesdays, September 10 – November 12  
6:30 pm Seymour Branch - 2350 Eastern SE

Thursdays, September 12 – November 14  
6:30 pm Madison Square Branch – 1201 Madison SE

### **Storytimes for Families**

Parents and caregivers are invited to bring their children 18-months to 5 years old to this 45-minute class featuring hands-on, literacy rich activities such as stories, songs, fingerplays, and hands-on fun. Classes end with a fun and creative art activity.

Saturdays, September 14 - November 16  
10:00 am Yankee Clipper Branch - 2025 Leonard NE

### **STEAM Ahead Storytime**

Children ages 3-5 can discover the world around them through science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM). Join us for a 20-minute storytime followed by 25-minutes of hands-on activities.

Tuesday, September 10 – November 12  
6:30 pm Yankee Clipper Branch – 2025 Leonard NE

Wednesday, September 11 – November 13  
11:00 am Main Library – 111 Library St NE

Thursday, September 12 – November 14  
11:00 am West Leonard Branch – 1017 Leonard NW

### **Bilingual Pajama Time**

Join us for an evening bilingual storytime filled with fun stories, movement, and music activities. The 30-minute English and Spanish storytime followed by a hands-on activity and playtime. Wear your pajamas and get those wiggles out before bed! For families with children 5 and under.

Mondays, September 9 – November 11  
6:30 pm West Leonard Branch - 1017 Leonard NW

### **Mindstorm Saturdays**

*Saturdays, September 7 - May 30, 2020, 10:00 am*  
Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Kids ages 10 and up can explore robotics every Saturday at the library. Using Lego Mindstorms EV3 kits, these hands-on robotics teach essential coding skills, problem solving, and more. This is a self-guided, drop-in event.

### **Lego Block Party**

*Saturdays, September 7 - November 30, 2019, 1:00 pm*  
Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Kids 6 and up can explore engineering, art, math, and other core concepts using Legos and other building blocks. Each month will feature a building challenge to teach critical thinking, problem solving, decision making and more. This is a self-guided, drop-in event. This month's challenge: Design your dream school.

All library events are free and open to the public. Visit [www.grpl.org](http://www.grpl.org) or call 616-988-5400 for branch hours and locations. The Grand Rapids Public Library connects people to the transforming power of knowledge.

**###**