



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grand Rapids Public Library Events for March 2020

Pension Files and Native American Genealogy

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 1:30 pm
Main Library - 111 Library St NE

In time of war, Native American men have always volunteered to fight for their land. The Civil War was no different. When a soldier fell on the field of battle, his widow could apply for a pension. The same was true for a son who was the sole source of support for his mother. Additionally, the surviving soldiers still alive in the 1890s could receive a pension. But there was always one catch--documents! Those rare documents sent in for a pension still exist. They can be found in Pension Files at the National Archives in Washington, DC. For the Native American community, those Pension Files are a gold-mine of information. Presenter Chris Czopek will share best practices around using Pension Files for Native family research. This program is co-sponsored by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society.

A Journey from Plaster to Community: The Story of the GUB

Thursday, March 12, 2019, 7:00 pm
Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Explore the history of Grand Rapids' southwest neighboring community, starting in 1833. Often mentioned as an "urban-suburban neighborhood with a small-town attitude," the history of Galewood-Urbandate-Burlingame (GUB) is one that is historically rich in pride, loyalty, and changing culture. Beginning with the discovery and milling of plaster, the advent of the electric interurban, growth of the industrial sector, and the rise of two key commercial districts, presenter David Britten will discuss key pioneers, changes over time, and the growth of several area churches and schools. He will also touch on the friction between Grand Rapids and Wyoming Township throughout decades of successful and unsuccessful annexation efforts. It's an interesting story of how communities on the urban fringe get started, grow up, suffer setbacks, and attempt to rebuild themselves over time. This program is co-sponsored by the Grand Rapids Historical Society.

Genealogy Lock-In

Friday, March 13, 2020, 6:00 pm
Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Come to the Grand Rapids History and Special Collections department for a free after-hours program just for genealogists. Learn how to use the library databases, newspaper microfilm and other resources, and take advantage of free copying and printing during the event. Bring your family history questions or problems--volunteers from the Western Michigan Genealogical Society will be on hand to assist. Network

with other genealogists--you never know what you might find! Registration is required. Visit www.grpl.org/register or call 988-5400 to sign up.

www.grpl.org

Main Library

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids MI 49503
p. 616.988.5400
f. 616.988.5419

Madison Square Branch

1201 Madison SE
Grand Rapids MI 49507
p. 616.988.5411
f. 616.245.1403

Ottawa Hills Branch

1150 Giddings SE
Grand Rapids MI 49506
p. 616.988.5412
f. 616.241.1460

Seymour Branch

2350 Eastern SE
Grand Rapids MI 49507
p. 616.988.5413
f. 616.241.1445

Van Belkum Branch

1563 Plainfield NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505
p. 616.988.5410
f. 616.365.2615

West Leonard Branch

1017 Leonard NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504
p. 616.988.5416
f. 616.301.9438

West Side Branch

713 Bridge NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504
p. 616.988.5414
f. 616.458.0103

Yankee Clipper Branch

2025 Leonard NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505
p. 616.988.5415
f. 616.235.8349

Becoming a Successful Writer

Monday, March 16, 2020, 7:00 pm

Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Join us for an evening with five award-winning authors from West Michigan. They will discuss the work and joy of writing. Discover inside information on the many paths available today to publishing, promoting, and distributing your book. Gain insight on how to excite readers. A Q&A session will follow the presentation. This event is designed for writers at all levels, including anyone who has thought about writing and publishing and wants to know where to start. Co-sponsored by the West Michigan Writers' Workshop.

One Book, One City for Kids Book Party

Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 3:00 pm

Van Belkum Branch - 1562 Plainfield NE

Learn about the 2020 One Book, One City for Kids selection, *Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson. Enjoy readings and activities based on the book before you meet the author on March 24. Light refreshments will be served.

The Great Michigan Read: Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha

Tuesday, March 24, 2020, 6:00 pm

Loosemore Auditorium, GVSU -401 Fulton St W

Hear Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha's riveting account of her discovery that Flint's children were being poisoned by lead leaching into the city's drinking water. Her book, *What the Eyes Don't See*, was chosen as the 2019-2020 Great Michigan Read. It is an inspiring story of a shameful disaster that became a tale of hope--the story of a city on the ropes that came together to fight for justice, self-determination, and the right to build a better world for their children. The Great Michigan Read is presented by the Michigan Humanities Council and supported by national, statewide, and local partners including the National Endowment for the Humanities and The Meijer Foundation. This program is a partnership with the Kutsche Office of Local History at GVSU.

Music in the Stacks: Wicker Basket

Thursday, March 26, 2020, 7:00 pm

Main Library - 111 Library St NE

A manifestation of the Midwest, Wicker Basket has spent decades sharing his musical electronic explorations. You may have heard his work on WYCE, at Festival of the Arts, any Midwest venue, or in the tunnels under US-131.

Yoga Time

Saturday, March 28, 2020 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.

Adventurers Guild

Saturdays, March 7 and 21, 2020, 3:30 pm

Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Adventurers Guild takes players on a tour through a dangerous fantasy world created by Dungeons & Dragons where they become the heroes of the story. Adventurers will be able to change the path of the narrative by their

choices and interactions. Players ages 13-24 are welcome. Snacks provided. Registration is required. Sign up at www.grpl.org/register.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday, March 28, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm and Sunday, March 29, 2020, 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.

Getting Started (or Restarted) in Genealogy

Mondays, March 2 - April 6, 2020, 7:00 pm

Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Whether you have been working on your family's genealogy for decades or are just getting started, this class is for you. In this six0week series, Susan Rabick and Sue Irvine will teach you basic and advanced research strategies, including four generation charts, family group sheets, and organizing your research. Learn new skills and brush up on old techniques around using databases and primary sources to research family histories. This program is co-sponsored by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society

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.

Tuesdays, January 14 – April 28

11:00 am West Side Branch - 713 Bridge NW

Wednesdays, January 15 – April 29

11:00 am Yankee Clipper Branch - 2025 Leonard NE

11:00 am West Leonard Branch - 1017 Leonard NW

Thursday, January 16 – April 30

10:30 am Seymour Branch - 2350 Eastern SE

11:00 am Main Library - 111 Library St NE

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.

Mondays, January 13 – April 27

6:30 pm Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Tuesdays, January 14 - April 28

11:00 am Main Library - 111 Library St NE

Wednesdays, January 15 – April 29

10:30 am Seymour Branch - 2350 Eastern SE

Thursdays, January 16 – April 30

11:00 am Yankee Clipper Branch – 2025 Leonard NE

Friday, January 17 - May 1
11:00 am West Side Branch - 713 Bridge NW

Let's Play!

Children 0-5 are invited to a playdate at the library! Let's Play focuses on child-driven play using STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) toys to ignite the imagination. Caretakers are invited to enjoy a cup of coffee while meeting new people and learning helpful early literacy tips. Drop in for an hour of friends and fun.

Thursdays, January 16 - April 30
11:00 am West Leonard Branch - 1017 Leonard NW

Saturdays, January 18 - May 2
11:00 am Yankee Clipper Branch - 2025 Leonard NE
12:30 pm Seymour Branch - 2350 Eastern SE

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, January 13 – April 27
6:30 pm West Leonard Branch - 1017 Leonard NW

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.

Fridays, January 17 - May 1
10:30 am Ottawa Hills Branch - 1150 Giddings SE

Ready, Set, Play!

Free play helps build social skills, communication, creativity, and more importantly, confidence! If you have an elementary school student who wants to de-stress and have fun after school, this is the program for you!

Thursdays, January 16 - April 30
6:30 pm Madison Square Branch - 1201 Madison SE

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. Team members from Team Asteroids 14486 will be available to offer instruction on building and programming robots. This is a self-guided, drop-in event.

LEGO Block Party

Saturdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2020, 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: Crazy creations.

One Book, One City for Kids

January – March, 2020

All library locations

One Book, One City for Kids is an annual reading program that encourages all 5th graders in the city to read and discuss the same book. The program also strives to encourage a lifelong love of reading among students, to inspire readers to bring story ideas and themes to life through discussion, and to build collaborative ties between public libraries, school libraries, and area schools. This year the entire city will be reading *Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson.

All library events are free and open to the public. Visit 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.

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