

# EX LIBRIS

Volume 24 ~ Issue 1 ~ Winter 2026

## Reminders

Story Times  
resume  
January 12

Neighbors  
Read Author  
Event  
February 21

Scan the code  
below for many  
more events at  
the Library



The Library will  
be **CLOSED**

Sunday  
April 5

## Story Times Set to Resume

The Library's popular Story Times will resume this January. **Drop-In Story Times** will begin on **January 12** with **mixed-age programs Monday and Thursday mornings at 11 am**, a **Toddler program on Tuesday mornings at 10 am** and a **Preschool aged program on Tuesday mornings at 11 am**. Stories will be geared to the different age groups. Mixed-ages Story Time is geared for children ages 5 and younger. Toddler Story Time is targeted to children 18 months to three years of age and Preschool Story Time is for children three to five years old. These programs will run

through February 26 and take place in the Lower Level Meeting Room. No registration is required.

**Small Group Story Times** return starting **January 14**. The Library will offer **Toddler Small Group Story Time on Wednesday mornings at 10 am** and **Preschool Small Group Story Time on Wednesday mornings at 11 am** and run through February 25. Registration is required for these programs. Parents or caregivers of children may register on our website through our calendar of events or by calling 734-426-4477. Registration is currently open. Children may only be registered for one 7-week session.



## Neighbors Read

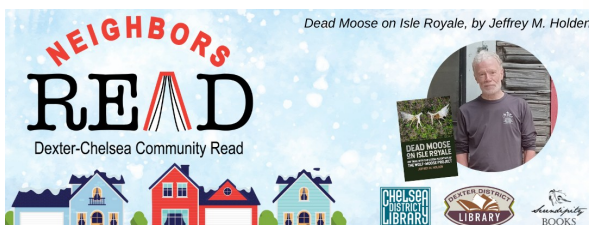
The Dexter District Library, Chelsea District Library, and Serendipity Books are proud to present the second annual **Neighbors Read**. This community read will bring together readers from the cities of Dexter, Chelsea and the surrounding areas. We focus specifically on books set in our beautiful state, Michigan, or books by Michigan authors. This year's read is ***Dead Moose on Isle Royale*** by Jeffrey M. Holden.

Isle Royale is one of the most remote and pristine of all the U.S. national parks, and the

site of the world's longest-running predator-prey study. Every summer, Holden leads groups of citizen scientists on week-long expeditions to search for dead moose. Those intrepid enough to join him backpacking off trail in Isle Royale's rugged beauty face many challenges as backpacks grow heavier with bones every time a new dead moose is found. ***Dead Moose on Isle Royale*** provides a fascinating look into the day-to-day

realities of backpacking in the wilderness, while featuring the extraordinary

(Continued on page 6)



# Youth and Family Fun



Join us on **Saturday, January 3 at 11 am** and make a **Wish & Treasure Box Craft**. Decorate a small box with paint and other embellishments. You can write your wish for the new year and keep it in the box or store your favorite small treasures inside.

Children of all ages are welcome and registration is not required.

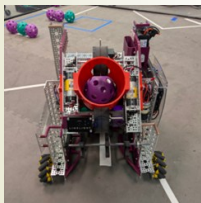
Try your hand at **Yarn Painting** on **Monday, January 19 at 1 pm**. Find your inner artist with this simple and fun art method. Children in grades K-4 are invited to learn how to "paint" a vibrant, textured piece of art using just yarn and glue. Templates will be available, or participants can create their own unique designs. Registration is required and is currently open.



**Drop-in Preschool Winter Crafts** comes to the Library on **Wednesday, January 7 at 11 am**. Celebrate the season by making a variety of snowy winter crafts. Children ages five and younger can drop-in and express their creative side. Registration is not required.



**Drop-in Snowflake Suncatcher Craft** comes to the Library on **Saturday, January 24 at 11 am**. Children of all ages can visit and create a snowflake suncatcher decoration. Registration is not required.



The Library will feature the **Dexter DreadBolts Robotics Team** on **Saturday, January 10 at 11 am**. Students in kindergarten through fourth grade are invited to join the Dexter DreadBolts Mill Creek team for an interactive and informational robotics program. Hear a brief

presentation by the team about their competition season and the robot they created. Then do a craft, watch the robotics demonstration and drive a robot created by the team. Registration is required and is currently open.

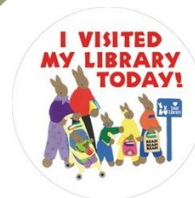
**Mini Golf at the Library** returns on **Friday, January 30 from 3 pm to 7 pm** and also on **Saturday January 31 from 10 am until 2 pm**. Are you



ready to test your skill and take a swing at our 9-hole mini-golf course in the Library? It's a hole lotta fun! We'll provide the putters and golf balls, you provide the talent. Everyone is welcome and no registration is required.

**KinderConcert!** returns to the Library on **Saturday, January 17 at 12 pm**. Children ages five and younger and their caregivers will find that music comes alive during this 30-minute concert. Don't worry about wiggly tots sitting still for

a concert - they will be encouraged to dance and move while listening to the music, hearing a story being told with musical accompaniment and learning about a special orchestral instrument. Members of the A2SO lead children on a guided introduction to the instruments of the orchestra. Registration is not required.



**Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day** on **Saturday, February 7 from 11 am to noon**.

Take Your Child to the Library Day is an interna-

tional initiative that encourages families everywhere to take their children to their local library. We will celebrate with crafts, a book character eye spy game, and a variety of building activities. Stop by and join in the fun! Registration is not required.



On **Friday, February 13** at **11 am**, the Library will host **Drumcommunity!** Join Lori Fithian for Drumcommunity! Lori brings the drums and YOU get to play them. Children of all ages get to drum, sing and dance during this energizing program. We'll have all kinds of drums and percussion instruments on hand. Registration is not required.

**Drop-in Valentine's Day Crafts** comes to the Library on **Saturday, February 14** from **11 am to 12 pm**. Children of all ages are welcome to drop in and get creative by making a variety of Valentine's Day crafts. Registration is not required.



Join us for **Movie & Popcorn for Kids** on **Monday, February 16** at **1 pm**. Kids of all ages are invited to stop by the Library and watch *The Bad Guys 2* (2025) on the big screen while enjoying a free bag of popcorn. The now-reformed Bad Guys are trying (very, very hard) to be good, but instead find themselves hijacked into a high-stakes, globe-trotting heist, masterminded by a new team of criminals: The Bad Girls. Rated PG – 104 minutes

Make a **Leprechaun Trap Craft** on **Saturday, March 14** from **11 am to 12 pm** at the Library. Use your creativity to design a trap to catch a leprechaun before St. Patrick's Day. Registration is not required. Geared for children of all ages.



## Recurring Favorites



Our **Lego Club** is designed for a wide age range, inviting students in grades K-8 to drop in and build with Legos provided by the Library. Lego Club will meet on **Mondays, January 5, February 2 and March 2** from **4:30 to 5:30 pm** each day.

The **Super Stories Book Club For Young Fives and Kindergarteners** returns this winter. This 45-minute program is for kids transitioning out of story time and into book clubs. Adults should attend this program with their children. Each month, Miss Ruth will read books related to a theme and then the kids will do a theme related craft or activity. The group will meet on **Tuesdays, January 13** (Theme: *Winter*), **February 10** (Theme: *Friendship*), and **March 10** (Theme: *Bugs*) with all programs starting at **4:30 pm**. Registration is required and is open for the January meeting.

The **Club Create Book Club** is an independent book club for first and second graders. Each month, Ms. Krista will read longer picture books centered on a theme and the group will participate in activities and crafts related to the theme. Club Create meets **Thursdays, January 8** (Theme: *Winter*), **February 12** (Theme: *Friendship*) and **March 12** (Theme: *Inventions*) at **4:30 pm each day**. Registration is required and is now open for the January meeting.

The next step up for reading groups is our **All Star Readers Book Club**; an independent reading book club for third and fourth graders. Each month, we will play an icebreaker game, have a book discussion, and do an activity related to the book we discuss. This hour-long program will be held on **Thursdays, January 15** (Book: *Choose your own funny book*), **February 19** (Book: *Squished* by Megan Wagner Lloyd) and **March 19** (Book: *The Mysterious Moonstone* by Eric Luper), all **starting at 4:30 pm**. Registration is required and opens on the day of the preceding meeting. Free copies of the books will be available to pick up at the Library after you register.

**Makerspace** allows kids in grades K through 8 to drop in for an hour and have time to make, build, craft and explore. Makerspace meets **Thursdays, January 22, February 26 and March 26** all at **4:30 pm**.

And don't forget about our **Chess Club** for children and teens. The Club meets on **Wednesdays, January 7, February 4 and March 4** at **6:30 pm** for an hour of tournament-style play. Registration is required.



# Winter Programs for Tweens and Teens

The Library offers several group programs for tweens and teens which meet on an ongoing basis. This is a great opportunity for students to meet and make new friends outside of their classrooms, share common interests and learn something new.



The Library's **Teen Advisory Group (TAG)** will meet on **Saturdays, January 10, February 7 and March 7, all at 1 pm** at the Library. Teens in grades 7 through 12 meet to enjoy a pizza lunch then work on projects to make the Library a better place. TAG members also get to give input on Library events

for teens and tweens. Make your voice heard!

The Library's **Tween Book Club**, geared for students in grades 5 and 6, will meet on **Tuesdays at 4:30 pm**. On **January 13**, the group will discuss "The Great Greene Heist" by Varian Johnson. On **February 10**, the book will be "Tuck Everlasting" by Natalie Babbitt and on **March 10** it will be reader's choice of a science fiction title. Read the month's book or theme and then join us for icebreakers, snack, discussion, and a related activity. Registration is required and is currently open for the January meeting.



We also have a book discussion group for teens, **Teen Books and Bites**. Teens in grades 7 through 9 are invited to Books and Bites book club. Join us each month to eat snacks and talk about books with other teens. Read something new each month, or discuss books and series you've already read. The group meets **Wednesdays at 4:30 pm** and on **January 28** will discuss first books in series (your choice), on **February 18** will discuss "The Inheritance Games" by Jennifer Lynn Barnes and on **March 18** discuss books on sports and hobbies. Registration is required and is currently open for the January meeting.



**Magic: The Gathering** continues this winter, meeting on **Fridays, January 23, February 20 and March 6 at 6 pm**.

Our **Chess Club** also continues this winter, with meetings on **Wednesdays, January 7, February 4 and March 4, all at 6:30 pm**. Registration is required for both programs and is currently open for the January events.



Join us for some great, individual programs for teens and tweens this winter. Our individual programs for tweens and teens are geared for students from late elementary through high school. Please check each program for age and registration requirements.

**Teen Tech Take-Apart** comes together on **Thursday, January 15 at 2 pm**. Do you like learning how things work? Ever wanted to take something apart?



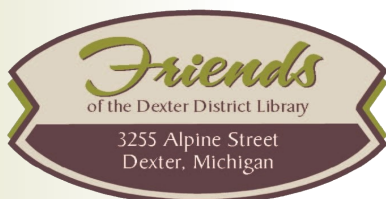
Join us to use tools to deconstruct small electronics and see what makes them tick. We'll use the disassembled pieces to create art. For students in 7th through 12th grades. Registration is required and is currently open.

The Library will host a **Teen/Tween Crochet Crafternoon** on **Monday, January 19 from 1:30 to 3 pm**. Join us for a chance to learn crochet or practice your skills. Beginners and more advanced teen and tween crocheters are welcome. Learn a new project or bring in what you have in progress. Registration is currently open for students in 5th through 12th grades.

Make **Polymer Clay Mini Charms** on **Friday, February 13 at 2 pm**. You can make mini figurines with polymer clay and turn them into charms for jewelry or keychains. Registration is required and opens on Tuesday, January 13.

Try your hand at **Scrape Painting** on **Saturday, February 28 at 1:30 pm**. Try something new with this process-focused abstract art form. Experiment with the scrape painting techniques using squeegees and other tools to make a piece of art that is one of a kind. Registration is required and opens on Wednesday, January 28 for students in 5th through 12th grades.

**Pi Day Pie Tasting** comes to the Library on **Saturday, March 14 at 3 pm**. Celebrate Pi (the number) by eating some pie (dessert)! Sample multiple varieties of pies and help us determine which is the best.



The Friends of the Dexter District Library named Ingrid Weisz the 2025 Volunteer of the Year at the Friends annual meeting on December 2, 2025. Ingrid has been a volunteer sorter for over a decade. The award recognizes one individual whose dedication, service and passion has significantly strengthened the Friends group, their connection to the Dexter District Library and the local community. Ingrid has been an active and enthusiastic volunteer, known for stepping forward wherever help is needed, supporting the sorters group and has helped out with 10 used book sales each year. Her reliability, kindness and genuine interest in the Friends have made her a valuable member of this volunteer organization. Congratulations Ingrid!



Ingrid Weisz (L) receives the Volunteer of the Year award from Cortney Ophoff



Several Friends of the Dexter District Library contributed their efforts to a very timely project: to clean out the Library basement of unsold, used books and offer them to a deserving local charity. The Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor helped relieve the Friends of stock which had not sold over multiple book sales. Volunteers Suzanne Minock, Deborah Wolten, Glenda Haskell, Char Hanchak, Linda Mobley, Dan Chapman, Kevin Vrsek, Tempie Stahlin and Bud Haynes lent their efforts.

## Technology Classes



This winter, the Library continues its technology offerings to help you get the most out of your devices. **Registration is required for all technology classes.** Sign up at <https://dexter.lib.mi.us/events>, call 734-426-4477 or stop by the Adult Reference Desk to register.

Join us for **iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch** on **Tuesday, January 20 at 9 am** and again on **Thursday, January 22 at 6 pm**. Learn how to organize apps, bookmark websites, close non-responsive apps, and various other beginner topics. We will also discuss the Apple Watch apps and features. Please bring your own device for practice.

**Android Phones & Tablets** will be offered on **Tuesday, February 3 at 9 am** and again on **Thursday, February 5 at 6 pm**. See how to organize apps, bookmark websites, close non-responsive apps, and various other beginner's topics. Please bring your own device for practice.

On **Tuesday, February 10 at 9 am** and also on **Thursday, February 12 at 6 pm**, we'll offer **Getting the Most out of Your Smart Phone**. This is a follow-up class to the iPhone/Android classes. Learn about more advanced topics like backing up your photos/videos, subscribing to podcasts, and maximizing the app store with Library apps, how to buy apps without using a credit card and discover some of our favorite apps.

**Cut the Cord: Cable TV Alternatives** returns on **Tuesday, March 3 at 9 am** and again on **Thursday, March 5 at 6 pm**. Are you tired of paying top dollar for underwhelming cable TV service? Join us for a discussion of over the air antennas and live cable TV replacements such as SlingTV, Hulu Live TV, and DirecTV Stream. We will also cover streaming content libraries such as Kanopy, Netflix, HBO Max, Disney+ and Amazon Prime Video.

**One-on-One Technology Help** will be offered on **Thursdays, January 29, February 26, and March 26** with individualized, half-hour sessions open between **9 am and 11 am** and **1 pm to 3 pm**. Examples of potential topics include: computer basics, tablets, smart phones, eBooks and eAudiobooks, Microsoft Office, photo editing, and social media. Bring your own device for practice. While we are eager to help you learn technology, please note that we cannot repair your device, remove spyware and viruses or perform installations and upgrades.

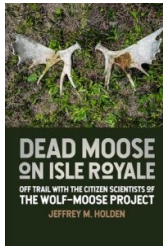


# Events for Adults This Winter

(Continued from page 1)

scientific discoveries of the Wolf-Moose Project. Free copies of the book are available to pick up from the Chelsea District Library and the Dexter District Library while supplies last. Serendipity Books has copies available for purchase.

We will hold a **Meet the Author** event on **Saturday, February 21 at 1 pm** at the Dexter District Library. Serendipity Books owner, Michelle Tuplin, will interview Jeffrey Holden. Hear more about the inspiration behind the book, the rigors of backcountry work in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and Holden's writing process. The interview will be followed by questions from the audience. This event is open to the public and no registration is required.



**Gentle Restorative Yoga** continues this winter, beginning **Thursday, January 8 at 9:30 am**. Relax and restore with this gentle, stress relieving yoga practice. Create harmony and balance of body and mind through physical postures, breathing techniques and an extended guided relaxation at

the end of class. Meetings are suitable for most fitness and experience levels and modifications are offered. Please bring your own yoga mat. Presented by Andrea Astley Dinsdale, a RYT Certified Yoga Instructor who has been practicing yoga for over 20 years. Additional Winter Yoga class dates will be on each Thursday morning at 9:30 am through the end of March.

**The Michigan-Ohio War: Acquiring the Upper Peninsula** comes to the Library on **Sunday, January 18 at 2 pm**. Discover the dramatic, and occasionally humorous, chapter in Michigan's past known as the Toledo War. Explore how a disputed strip of swampy land nearly sparked a shooting war between Ohio and the Michigan Territory and shaped both states' identities in the process. Presented by Andrew Kercher, who has a degree in History and Philosophy from Albion College and a MS in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University. Register on the Library's Events Calendar or call the Library at 734-426-4477.

Mary Spencer returns for more cooking demonstrations this winter. The Library will host two virtual events during the colder months of January and February.

On **Wednesday, January 7 at 6 pm**, Mary will present via Zoom **Meatless Dinners**. She will share recipes for paneer, chickpea and spinach curry and vegetarian ramen with shiitake mushrooms and soft eggs.

**Monday, February 16 at 6 pm** finds Mary **Celebrating the Year of the Horse** via Zoom. 2026 is the Chinese Year of the Horse and you can celebrate by making shrimp and broccoli, Lo Mein and sesame ginger beef. These two presentations are virtual events. Register on the Library's Event Calendar or call 734-426-4477. A Zoom link will be emailed the day before the event.

In March, we return to in-person classes at the Library. Join Mary on **Tuesday, March 3 at 6 pm** for **Indian Cuisine** and learn to make Chole (Northern Indian Chickpea Curry) and Pan Puri (Indian street food). Sample both dishes and get recipes at the conclusion. Register on the Library's Calendar or call the Library at 734-426-4477.

Join us at the Library on **Tuesday, January 20 at 6 pm** when Engineer and Bridge Director, Kim Nowack, P.E. presents **The Mackinac Bridge, Then and Now**. Learn about the history of transportation in the straits area and the building of the Mackinac Bridge from the person in charge. Discover what it takes to maintain the Mighty Mac throughout the year. Nowack has been the engineer responsible for the Bridge maintenance for over 17 years and was the first woman appointed as Executive Director of the Mackinaw Bridge in its 60+ year history. Register on the Library's Events Calendar or call the Library at 734-426-4477.





Join us for events celebrating the United States' semiquincentennial – our country's 250th birthday. This special series, **We the People** invites you to explore the vibrant tapestry of our nation's past.

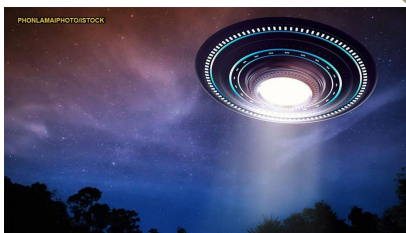
On **Tuesday, January 27 at 7 pm** the Library presents **Hamilton - How the Musical Remixes American History** via Zoom. Explore what the musical's success tells us about the marriage of history and show-business. Presented virtually by Richard Bell, a scholar, writer, and teacher at the University of Maryland.

**Tuesday, February 17 at 6 pm**, join us at the Library for **America's Story: Opportunity, Diversity, and Belonging Across 250 Years**. We'll look at how early families such as pilgrims, westward settlers, Native communities, immigrants, and free and enslaved Black Americans pursued opportunity while facing exclusion. Presented by Katherine R. Willson of Dexter, lecturer at regional and national conferences.

On **Thursday, March 31 at 7 pm** join us on Zoom for **The American Revolution and the Fate of the World**. Discover a sweeping story about the global actors involved in the American Revolution. Historian and author Richard Bell explores the global impacts of the war for independence and how it affected hierarchies across six continents.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the 1966 Michigan "Swamp Gas" UFO. On March 20 and 21, 2026, UFO researcher and author Raymond Szymanski will present *Dexter's New UFO Witnesses Burn*

'Swamp Gas' Explanation. This new, exciting presentation is a video-centric, multi-witness-based exposé of the government's 'swamp gas' UFO explanation. Based upon astounding new witness testimony, some of whom held secrets for over fifty years, this presentation will dramatically change what you think you know about the famous Dexter UFO events. For those interested, a book sale and signing will be held 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after each of these identical presentations. Copies of all three of Szymanski's books will be available for purchase. Cash purchases preferred. Registration is mandatory. Register for 1 event only, either **March 20, 6:30 pm** or **March 21, 2:30 pm**. Register on the Library's Events Calendar or call the Library at 734-426-4477.



## Movies at the Library



Join us on **Friday, January 9 at 6 pm** for a screening of **Good Fortune**, starring Keanu Reeves, Seth Rogen and Sandra Oh. A well-meaning but inept angel named Gabriel meddles in the lives of a struggling gig worker and a wealthy venture capitalist. Rated R, 1 hour 39 minutes.

On **Friday, January 16 at 1 pm**, **Hamilton**, starring Lin-Manuel Miranda will be featured. *Hamilton* is the story of America then, told by America now. Featuring a score that blends hip-hop, jazz, R & B and Broadway. Rated PG-13, 2 hours 41 minutes.

**The Call of the Wild (2020)** will be shown on **Friday, February 13 at 6 pm**. Starring Harrison Ford, this film is shown in conjunction with the Neighbors Read events and follows Buck, a big-hearted dog whose blissful domestic life gets turned upside down when he is suddenly uprooted from his California home and transplanted to the 1890's Alaskan Yukon. Rated PG, 1 hour 40 minutes.

On **Friday, February 20 at 1 pm**, we'll show **Abandoned: Angelique's Isle (2018)**, starring Julia Jones. *Angelique's Isle* is a harrowing tale of perseverance and survival on Isle Royale which unfolds during the great copper rush of 1845. Rated PG-13, 1 hour 30 minutes.

Join us for **Anemone (2025)** on **Friday, March 13 at 6 pm**. Starring Daniel Day-Lewis and Sean Bean, hidden secrets and long-buried resentments come to light when two estranged brothers reunite at a primitive cabin deep in the woods of Northern England. Rated R, 2 hours, 6 minutes.

**Friday, March 20 at 1 pm** we'll screen **Bugonia (2025.)** Starring Emma Stone and Jesse Plemons, two conspiracy-obsessed men kidnap the CEO of a major company when they become convinced that she's an alien who wants to destroy Earth. Rated: R, 2 hours.

**Dexter District Library**  
3255 Alpine Street  
Dexter, MI 48130

Phone: 734-426-4477  
Fax: 734-426-1217  
E-Mail:  
pmccann@dexter.lib.mi.us

Open Hours:  
Mon-Fri: 9 AM - 9 PM  
Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM  
Sun: 1 PM - 5 PM

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empowering minds and  
connecting community*

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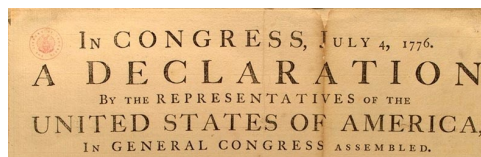
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## Director's Corner by Paul McCann



In addition to our "We the People" series of programs, the Library will be hosting a display of **America's Founding Documents** between January and the end of March and again in June and July. To celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America's founding, the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium created an exhibit that introduces the five seminal documents from our nation's history. This traveling exhibit will introduce large scale replicas of the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers, the Bill of Rights, the Northwest Ordinances and the U.S. Constitution, bringing these critical historical insights directly to residents across Washtenaw County.

The "American Founding Documents" exhibit was made possible by an America250MI History Grant awarded to the Salem Area Historical Society on behalf of the Consortium.

Thank you to the Dexter Area Historical Society for their financial contributions and to the faculty and students at Hillsdale College who researched and assembled this exhibit.

The Library would also like to thank our generous local resident (who wishes to remain anonymous) for lending a Christmas Village collection for display at the Library. Children and adults enjoy spying all the different people and places set up each year and the Library appreciates the time and effort of our volunteer.

