



Library Pointes

THE TRI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC LIBRARY



From the Director, Jessica Keyser

Join or Die

At the heart of every vibrant and resilient community lies a shared commitment to connection, understanding and participation. Here at the Grosse Pointe Public Library, we believe deeply in the power of community—not just as a word, but as a living, breathing practice that brings people together across generations, cultures and experiences.

Our library has always been more than a place to borrow books. It is a space where ideas meet action, where stories spark conversations, and where people of all backgrounds can gather, learn and grow. Whether you're attending a children's Storytime, joining a book discussion group, exploring local history, or simply enjoying a quiet place to read, you're contributing to something greater — a shared investment in our collective well-being.

This summer, in partnership with the Family Center, War Memorial and Ford House, we hosted three community screenings of the documentary Join or Die, a powerful exploration of civic engagement and the importance of human connection. The film, centered on the research of political scientist Robert Putnam, shows how participating in community organizations — from bowling leagues to book clubs — helps strengthen the social fabric of our society.

We are thrilled to announce that Rebecca Davis, one of the filmmakers of *Join or Die*, will be visiting Grosse Pointe on October 1 for a special event at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Rebecca will discuss the documentary with Taylor Mae, host of Creative Mornings

Detroit, followed by a Joiner Fair where local organizations and community groups will be on hand to help you find your place to plug in and participate.

See inside for more details.

We invite you to continue building this community with us — through conversation, curiosity and connection. Your library is here to help you do just that.

Departure of Melissa Rizer

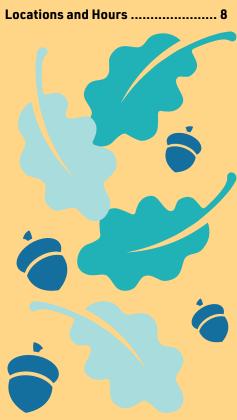
We bid farewell to Youth Services Librarian Melissa Rizer, known better to most Grosse Pointe families as "Miss Melissa." This summer she is turning the page to a new chapter in another state. Melissa has served as the Youth Services Librarian at the Ewald branch for over eight years, where she introduced the wildly popular "Read, Rhyme, and Play" program, and was instrumental in launching the 1,000 Hours Ouside initiative, always finding creative ways to bring families outside to enjoy nature throughout the year. Melissa will be greatly missed, and we wish her well on her next adventure.

New Youth Services Librarian

I am thrilled to welcome Youth Services Librarian Michelle Orzel to the Ewald branch. Michelle joined the GPPL Team as a Substitute Librarian last year, and we jumped at the opportunity to bring her on full-time. Michelle plans to carry on many of the popular programs established by Miss Melissa, while infusing her own special energy and creativity into the mix. I know our young readers and families are in great hands with Michelle.

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Adult Programs



Join or Die: A Film About Why You Should Join a Club

An inspiring documentary about the health benefits of connecting socially through involvement in clubs, support groups and volunteer organizations.



The Big Event

Wednesday, October 1, 6 – 8 p.m., Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road

The library along with The War Memorial, The Family Center, Ford House and other local groups are hosting a fantastic event advocating for community engagement. Hear from the director of the film, Rebecca Davis, in conversation with Taylor Mae from Creative Mornings Detroit. After the discussion, walk through our Joiner Fair, where up to 50 local social clubs, volunteer organizations and support groups will have information for you on how you can join.

Tickets are free but pre-registration guarantees a seat. Learn more at www.warmemorial.org or talk to one of our librarians.

See The Film

Wednesday, September 3, 6 p.m. at The Ford House; Tuesday, September 16, 6 p.m. at Central Library

The documentary is also available on Netflix.



Revolutionary Vision Boulevard

Thursday, September 18, 7 p.m., Woods Branch

Author Dion A. Johnson, in his remarkable memoir, shares his interpersonal memories, the power of friendships, love, respect and true honor for family. Dion uses a unique style to authenticate the narrative he thoughtfully reveals about the struggles of racism that continues to erode our great country, to the unwavering together-



ness that a group of multiracial kids can somehow put all the differences between them aside, to find out they have many more things in common than they have apart. Breaking barriers, bridging gaps, and trying to change the systemic problems that were affecting our entire country. Please register.

Greatest Generation Interviews: Tuskegee Airman, Alexander Jefferson (Lt. Col., Ret.)

Thursday, September 25, 7 p.m., Woods Branch

Larry Martin tells the story of Alexander Jefferson,

born in 1920 in Detroit. He became a Tuskegee Airman flying the P-51 fighter. On a mission in August 1944 Mr. Jefferson was shot down over France becoming a German POW. After eight months as a POW, he was freed



in Munich and went to the Dachau death camp not knowing what it was. Mr. Jefferson was also the author of the autobiography Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free. He was portrayed by actor Branden Cook in the Apple TV mini-series, Masters of the Air. Please register.

GROSSE POINTE and the PACKARD MOTOR CAR LEGACY

Thursday, October 2, 7 p.m., Central Library

In the 1920s and 30s, Grosse Pointe investors such as the Algers, Newberrys, Joys and Gar Wood left amazing legacies still central to Grosse Pointe life. Learn all this and more.





The Art of Michigan Central

Wednesday, October 8, 7 p.m., Central Library

In 2018, Ford Motor Company purchased a set of historic buildings across 30 acres in Corktown, Detroit – including the 1913 Michigan Central Railway Terminal. After pumping 3.5 million gallons of water from the basement of the Station, a massive 6-year, \$950 million renovation project began. Mark Higbie, who served as a senior advisor to Ford Motor Company for 18 years, will offer insights into how Art – both classical, renegade, and future-looking – is playing in the Station's long and colorful history. Please register.



Mr. & Mrs. William B. Stratton - GP's Gilded Age Power Couple Wednesday Nevember 12, 7 p. m.

Wednesday, November 12, 7 p.m., Central Library

You'll learn about Grosse Pointe's Gilded Age "Power Couple," notable architect William B. Stratton and his wife: the artist, educator and co-founder of Pewabic Pottery, Mary Chase Stratton. Both played a significant role in the architectural development of Detroit and the Grosse Pointes discussion. Presented by returning lecturer, Paula Draper. Please register.







Ewald Branch Series

Home Food Preservation Series with Michigan State University

Food Preservation Techniques

Wednesday, September 3, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a presentation of food preservation including dehydration, freezing and drying techniques. Please register

Water Bath and Canning

Wednesday, September 24, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a presentation on water bath and pressure canning. Please register.

Seed Saving 101

Thursday, September 11, 4 - 5:00 p.m.

Want to save seeds? Do you know what seeds to save? Do you know how? Learn how or refresh your knowledge in our seed saving workshop. Please register.



Business Solutions Series

Business Plan with AI and Author Lakelia "Black Byrd" DeLoach

Thursday, September 18, 6 - 8 p.m.

Have an idea and need a business plan? Learn how to create one using artificial intelligence in our workshop designed with you in mind. Please register.

Drop Ship Like a Pro

Thursday, October 16, 6 - 8 p.m.

Are you an author or entrepreneur with merchandise you need to get into the hands of your customers? Simplify your business processes with drop shipping. Learn how with Lakelia "Black Byrd" DeLoach. Please register.



Content Creator 101

Saturdays, November 1 and 15, 10 a.m. – Noon

So, you want to be a content creator? Join us as we explore the world of being a social media content creator. This is a two-part workshop. Bring your laptop or mobile device for a handson experience. Please register.

The Business of Acting with Shawntay Dalon

Monday, November 10 and Wednesday, November 12, 5 - 7:00 p.m.

Join us for workshops designed to enlighten and enhance attendees' knowledge on the business side of acting. Please register.

Entertainment and Enjoyment Series

So, You Want To Be a Comedian?

Saturdays, October 4 and October 18, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Learn the techniques and business of standup comedy from veteran comedian, CoCo the Laugh Therapist. Please register.

Intro to Film

Join us for a glimpse into the art of film as we examine the filmmaking process.

Film and the Monsters We Love

Session 1 – Thursday, October 23, 3 – 5 p.m. Session 2 – Thursday, October 30, 3 – 5 p.m.

Join us to find out why "we need dragons in our dungeons, creatures in our lagoons and, monsters under our beds." – Charlie. Please register.

Drawing With Mari

Friday, December 19, 10 a.m. to Noon

Back by popular demand, Mari will lead us in another fun-filled drawing workshop. Please register.

Holiday Candles and Karaoke

Saturday, December 20, 1 - 3 p.m.

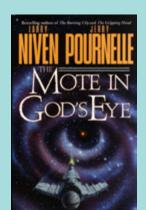
Join us for an afternoon of candle making and Karaoke fun with your favorite holiday tunes. Please register.



Adult Programs



Science Fiction Book Club



Wednesday, October 1, 7 p.m., Woods Branch

The Mote In God's Eye by Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle



Wednesday, December 10, 7 p.m., Woods Branch

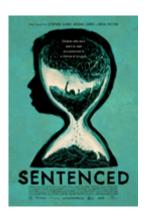
We Are Legion (Bobiverse, book 1) by Dennis E. Taylor

SENTENCED

Wednesday, September 17, 7 p.m., Central Library

A 2024 call-to-action documentary co-produced and narrated by NBA super-star Stephen Curry. This one-hour film highlights the life-long challenges of being illiterate in the United States and the current state of literacy among our school-aged children.

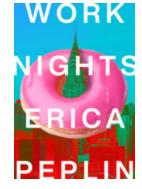
About 1/3 of the documentary was filmed in Detroit. A representative from **SOAR DETROIT** (located at Grace Community Church at Moross and Harper) will speak about the work they are doing in our area.



An Evening with Erica Peplin

Wednesday, October 15, 7 p.m., Central Library

Author and former Grosse Pointer Erica Peplin will present her novel, Work Nights, published this summer by Simon & Schuster. Praised by Publishers Weekly as a "witty and emotionally raw debut" her protagonist Jane works at an impressive company in an unrewarding, toxic position. The demanding, yet mind-numbing quality of entry-level work in a corporation and the odd mix of co-workers are perfectly portrayed. Jane falls for an exciting, probably straight intern named Madeline and proceeds to derail her relationship with Addy, a musician who wants a long-term commitment. Full of humor and angst as

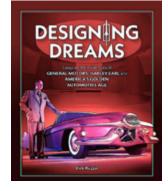


Jane struggles with work, life and love in her twenties in New York City. Books sales and signing will follow the presentation. Please register.

GENERAL MOTORS and the GOLDEN AGE of DESIGN

Thursday, October 16, 7 p.m., Central Library

Retired General
Motors executive
designer and local
author of a new book,
"Designing Dreams,"
Dick Ruzzin reflects
on his four-decade
career and offers
a behind-thescenes look at the
company's Golden
Automotive Age. The



presentation will include 100 historic images, and offer a unique perspective on the evolution of automotive design and the creative process within General Motors during a pivotal era in American automotive history.

Please register.

Through The Eyes Of Rose

Thursday, November 13, 7 p.m., Woods Branch

Author John Kozak discusses his book, *Through the Eyes of Rose* which details the story of his mother, Rose Kozak and how she successfully defied the Czechoslovakian Communists in October 1949 and escaped with her children through the wilderness of the Bohemian Forest to the freedom of West Germany. John Kozak was just



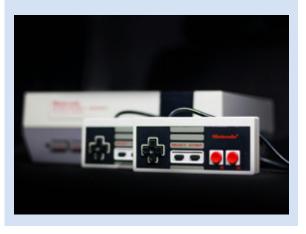
seven when he escaped with his mother and older sister from oppressive Communist rule. His emotional retelling of his mother's struggle to feed her family during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia, her near drowning in the Danube River, and her reaction to the news that the Czech Communists had fabricated criminal charges against her husband all make for an intriguing look into the lives of a family deeply affected by the Communist takeover of their native country.

DREAM LAB HAPPENINGS

Retro Technology Show

Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Woods Branch

Parents, do you miss your old Atari? The Nintendo? That laptop with Space Cadet 3D Pinball? The DREAM Lab is putting on a show recognizing retro technology. Come to the Woods Branch to relive your youth or show your kids and grandkids what tech was like for you. No registration necessary. All are welcome. Please register.





Programs for Families and Children

Fall Into Reading

October 1 - November 30

Do you think you can read every day? We beleaf you can. Take the Fall Into Reading challenge and you'll be raking in great stories. Participants who log reading and complete activities will earn free books and entries in a drawing for gift cards to local businesses. Open to ages 0-18.

Sign up at gp.beanstack.org.



Fall Storytimes

Fall Storytimes begin in September at your 3 GPPL branches. Registration opens for Baby Time on September 8. Preschool Storytime does not require registration. See events calendar for details. We can't wait to welcome you.

Reader Dog at Woods and Ewald

Drop in and read with one of our friendly, trained Reader Dogs for some great reading practice and doggie time. Reader Dog drop-in sessions will be held at our Ewald and Woods locations.

See events calendar for details.



Eden



Lucky



Lucy



Augie

OpenSpot Theatre Workshop

Wednesday, September 10, 4 p.m., Woods Branch

Theatre is for everybody. This fun, accessible and interactive workshop is open to kids of all abilities in elementary and middle school. Participants will discover their unique talents as they sing, dance and act in a special performance everyone collaborates on. Please register.

Family Movies

Saturday, September 13 and Tuesday, November 4, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Woods Branch

See calendar for Movie titles. No registration required.

Michigan Science Center presents Frostology!

Monday, October 9, 6:30 p.m., Central Branch

Learn how temperature relates to the movement of atoms and molecules in this exciting presentation. Utilizing liquid nitrogen, we'll see some "cool" effects on solids, liquids and gases. Please register.



7th & 8th Grade Book Group

Second Tuesday of the month starting September 9, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Central Branch

For kids who love to read and discuss books, play games, and make new friends. Please register.

5th & 6th Grade Book Group

Fourth Tuesday of the month starting September 23, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Central Branch

For kids who love to read and discuss books, play games, and make new friends. Please register.

Sensory Friendly Movie

Monday, October 13, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Woods Branch

Lights up. Sound down. Enjoy recent releases in an accepting environment. Sensory Showtimes make movies extra welcoming to guests



with special needs, including autism. See calendar for more information.

Joel's Spooktacular Comedy Show

Monday, October 13, 6:30 p.m., Woods Branch

Joel Tacey will have kids and grown-ups laughing out loud during this hilarious Halloween show that features costumes, comedy, juggling, magic and more. Non-stop jokes and visual surprises highlight this fun, interactive



performance. Everyone is sure to enjoy Joel's Spooktacular Comedy Show. Please register.

Teddy Bear Sleepover

Tuesday, November 4, Woods Branch

See events calendar for more details and to register.



Drop-In Afternoon Kids' Craft

Tuesday, November 4 and Monday, December 29, 1 – 4 p.m., Central Branch

Hey kids. Come in for some creative crafting. No registration necessary.



Dog Man Celebration

Thursday, November 13, 4:30 p.m., Central Library

Celebrate the world of Dog Man and the release of Big Jim Believes with trivia, crafts and fun. Please register.

Middle School and Teen Programs



Teen Leadership Council

First Tuesday of each month: September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2, 6-7 p.m., Woods Branch

Looking for a fun way to make your voice heard, earn volunteer hours and help shape teen programs at the library? Join the Teen Leadership Council.

Ages 13 - 18. Please register.



Teen Tabletop Game Club

One Saturday each month: September 6, October 4, November 1 and December 13, 1–4 p.m., Woods Branch

Ready to battle dragons, cast spells, or solve epic mysteries with your crew? Join us for an afternoon of Dungeons & Dragons, Pathfinder, and more. We'll have pizza, snacks, and plenty of dice. Bring your imagination and get ready for epic quests, strategy, and fun. Ages 13 – 18. No registration required.

Interested in being a Dungeon Master? Let us know by registering — DM spots are open.

Teen Anime/Manga Club

Meets the Second Wednesday of each month: September 10, October 8, November 12 and December 10, 6 - 8 p.m., Woods Branch

Love anime? Obsessed with manga? Join the Teen Anime/Manga Club — the library's teen anime and manga club. We meet monthly to watch shows, swap recommendations, create art, and geek out over all things anime and manga.

Ages 13–18. Please register.

Anime-Style Character Design & Concept Art Workshop with Finn Heenan

Saturday, September 13, 1–2:30 p.m., Woods Branch

Join us for a creative, hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to design your own original characters — from bold heroes to chaotic villains (and everything in between). Led by local artist Finn Heenan, this program dives into the fundamentals of character creation through sketching, storytelling, and inspiration from anime, video games, and mythology.

Whether you're building a world from scratch or just want to level up your art skills, this program is for you. Ages 15 – 18. Please register.

Supplies provided: Alcohol markers, paper, mechanical pencils — plus concept art books, Finn's artwork and more.



Library Bigs & Littles: A Mentorship Program for Young Readers

Second Saturday of each month: September 13, October 11, November 8 and December 13, 10 -11:00 a.m., Woods Branch

Join us for Library Bigs & Littles, a monthly Saturday program where teen volunteers (Bigs) are paired with younger children (Littles).

This program helps younger readers grow while giving teens the chance to develop leadership skills and earn volunteer hours—all while making new friends and sharing the joy of reading. Bigs: Ages 13–18, Littles: Ages 5–10. Please register.

Meet Up & Make

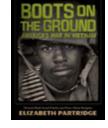
One Monday each month: September 15, October 6, November 10, December 8, 4:30 p.m., Central Library

For ages 11-13. Make something magnificent while hanging out with friends. Please register.

Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam

Tuesday, September 30, 7:00 p.m., Central Library

Book discussion of Boots on the Ground by Elizabeth Partridge for Middle School and High School students and adults. Students are



encouraged to register with a family member or mentor. Please register.

The Art of Tarot for Teens with Chet Clover

Tuesday, October 14, 6 - 7 p.m., Woods Branch

Curious about tarot? Ready to tap into your intuition? Join professional Psychic Reader Chet Clover from the Boston Tea Room for an intro class all



about the art of Tarot card reading. No deck or experience needed – just bring a notebook and an open mind. If you have a deck you love, feel free to bring it along. Ages 13 – 18. Please register.

Supplies provided: Informational handouts, practice cards to explore and guidance from a professional reader.

Plot Twist: A Teen Book-to-Movie Club

6 – 8 p.m., Woods Branch

Join Plot Twist at the Grosse Pointe Public Library. Each month, pick up a copy of the book, read on your own time, and then join us to watch the movie adaptation together. After the movie, we'll hang out, snack, and compare which one got it right – or completely missed the mark. Ages 13–18. Please register.



September 24

*Twilight*by Stephenie Meyer
Movie: Twilight (2008)



November 6 Turtles All the Way Down by John Green Movie: Turtles All the Way Down (2024)

Slices & Stories: A Teen Book Club with Pizza

6 – 7 p.m., Woods Branch

Join a book club that's lowpressure, high-fun, and comes with free pizza. Each month, we'll dive into a popular YA book, snack on pizza, and share all our bookish thoughts. No need to finish the book to join – just bring your appetite and your opinions. Ages 13–18. Please register.



October 21

Powerless
by Lauren Roberts



December 16

The Afterlife of Holly Chase by Cynthia Hand

Books available for pick-up at the Woods Branch or by request at any branch.



Friends and Foundation of the Grosse Pointe Public Library

Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library

The Friends of the GPPL is a membership and volunteer organization dedicated to supporting and expanding the educational, cultural and outreach programs of the Library. The Friends sponsor activities that encourage literacy, lifelong learning and the love of reading which stimulates interest in the Library.

The Friends of the GPPL proudly supported the GPPL Summer Reading Program. This year marked great participation in both the children and adult categories.

The Friends es excited to sponsor the documentary "Join or Die." The scrteening is September 16. Additionally, we are excited to participate in the Joiner Fair on October 1 where the community can learn about all the different opportunities to be involved. Learn more about both events at the Library's online calendar.

Save the date for Authors to the Pointe on November 5 with author Elizabeth Gilbert (Eat, Pray, Love). Friends members get early access to tickets and an opportunity to attend an exclusive meet & greet with the author. Please check the Friends website for updates: www.gpfriends.org/events

Our Silent Book Club is Thursday, October 2 at Ewald. Bring your current book or borrow one from the library and enjoy the outdoors (weather permitting) or cozy up to the fireplace and read silently. More details to follow on our 2026 Silent Book Club dates.

Become a GPPL FRIEND. Our 2026 Membership Drive is taking place now. Benefits include: early ticket access to major library events, opportunities to volunteer (big/small) with other likeminded bookish people, an invitation to our annual meeting with always fascinating speakers, and many chances to make new Friends. To learn more about membership, visit our website at www.gpfriends.org/support/become-a-member.

Shop our Used Book Stores at all three library branches. Books, puzzles and DVD/CDs are only \$1. Be sure to shop our \$5 Bag Sales on the last Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Woods Branch. Friends' members receive early access at 9:30 a.m. These funds go directly back to GPPL and support library programming.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Gplf.org 313.640.4683 paige@gplf.org

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Support the Grosse Pointe Public Library – Donate to the Foundation

There is a lot to be proud of when looking back at our last 21 years supporting the Grosse Pointe Public Library. It wouldn't happen without the generous Grosse Pointe community.

Please continue to support the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation this year. Funds raised from now through June 2026, will be used to provide two interns from the Masters program at WSU, one WSU Masters student in social work, an embroidery machine for the DREAM lab at Woods branch, a pilot tablet station at Central, visits to each branch from a horse therapy program and additional funding to support staff training.

You can also sponsor or attend our upcoming fundraiser, Books & Bubbles, on Wednesday, October 22 at Ford House. Change this to Visit <u>aplf.org</u> for more information.

Honorary Chairs: Devin and Corey Scillian

Honorary Committee: Shail and Laurie Arora, Dr. RK Baumgarten and Dr. Cheryl Wesen, Barry Cameron and Shana Sine Cameron, Ryan Dempsey and Jamie Edmonds Dempsey, Bill and Pamela Flom and John and Sarah Hensien

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How Can I SUPPORT THE LIBRARY?

The Friends and Foundation work together to help build a strong public library that is able to inspire, inform and engage people of every age and background – a singular and powerful asset to our community. Please consider giving.



DONATE. Visit <u>www.gplf.org</u> to make a gift today and help inspire, inform and engage.



BECOME A FRIEND. Enjoy benefits and make a difference by becoming a Friend of the Grosse Pointe Public Library. Membership envelopes can be found at each Library branch or join online at www.gpfriends.org.



VOLUNTEER. Volunteers make all things possible. Join the Friends and complete a volunteer application on our website www.gpfriends.org.



LEAVE A LASTING GIFT. Leave your lasting legacy by naming the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation as a beneficiary of your IRA, life insurance policy or annuity. Call 313.640.4683 to learn how you can impact the Library for generations.

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Library Open 7 Days-A-Week

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

(Sunday hours only during the school year)

313-640-GPPL (4775)



CENTRAL LIBRARY

10 Kercheval At Fisher Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms



EWALD BRANCH

15175 E. Jefferson Ave. Between Lakepointe and Maryland Grosse Pointe Park



WOODS BRANCH

20680 Mack Ave. At Vernier Grosse Pointe Woods

Central Drive-Through Hours - Mon - Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.