

“Books are a uniquely portable magic.”

— Stephen King

BUZZ

The official newsletter of Rodman Public Library

One Book One Community Events Set



Three One Book One Community programs leading up to the author's visit are on the calendar. The selected title for 2023 is *The Children's Blizzard*, a piece of historical fiction by Melanie Benjamin that is set in January 1888 when a freak storm hit the Great Plains, tragically killing hundreds, many of them schoolchildren trying to get home. For that reason, the event came to be known as The Children's Blizzard.

See *ONE BOOK* on Page 5

Author with local ties to discuss Underground Railroad in Ohio

Kathy Schulz to talk about new book on February 7

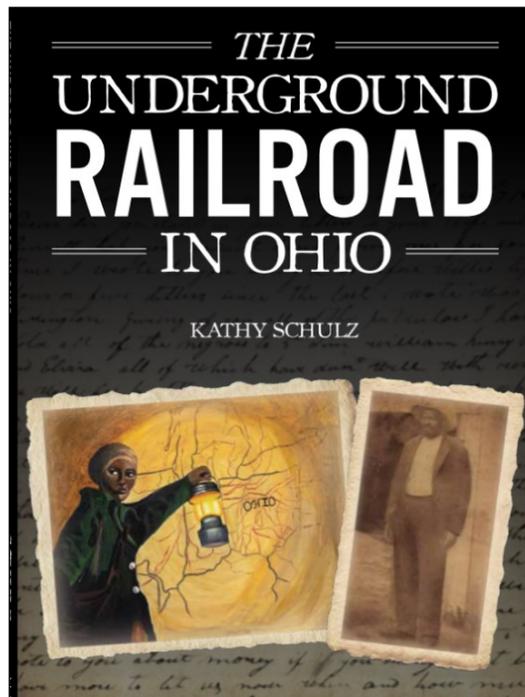
In their first collaboration for 2023, the Haines House Underground Railroad Museum (operated by the Alliance Area Preservation Society) and the Alliance Historical Society will present author Kathy Schulz to discuss her new book, *The Underground Railroad in Ohio*, in the auditorium at Rodman Library on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.



The program will take the format of an informal, sit-down conversation with AAPS President Robb Hyde on the auditorium stage. The program is presented in partnership with Rodman Library. The program is free and open to the public, but reservations are required through the Rodman website (rodmanlibrary.evanced.info/signup).

Schulz rightly believes that Ohio was at the heart of it all when it came to the route of enslaved freedom seekers. During a dark time in United States history, thousands of these freedom seekers traveled through Ohio with the help of an anti-slavery underground which was popularly known as the Underground Railroad. The Buckeye State hosted as much as half of all fugitive slave traffic of the antebellum era. A mix of Northern and Southern settlers in the state added drama to a struggle that led to major benefits for the state and the country.

Unfortunately, this epic past was obscured by silence and secrecy and then distorted with misinformation and folklore — until now. Schulz



accurately details the development and workings of the UGRR with true stories of Addison White, John Parker and others, as well as ties between Alliance's actual railroads and the famed underground network in *The Underground Railroad in Ohio*.

After the discussion and questions from the audience, the author will sign copies of her book for attendees. Books will be available for sale before and after the program for \$20.

See *UNDERGROUND RAILROAD* on Page 5



Bring the little ones in on February 4

Rodman Public Library is encouraging all caregivers to bring their little ones in for a visit on Saturday, February 4, which is Take Your Child to the Library Day.

Several literacy stations and games will be set up throughout the children's area at the Main Library. A craft table will also be available as well as a "photo booth" where families can take pictures.

At 2 p.m., family BINGO will be played in the auditorium and children's prizes will be awarded to the winners. Only children will be given BINGO cards.

All activities are free.

Registration is required, however, for all those who wish to attend BINGO at rodmanlibrary.com.

No registration is necessary for the other activities, which will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

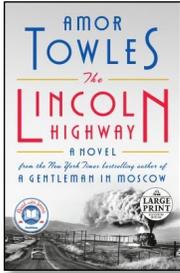
If you haven't been to the library in a while, Take Your Child to the Library Day is a perfect time to stop in and discover everything your local library has to offer every member of the family, no matter what their age.

For more information about children's programming at Rodman Public Library, call the Children's Department at 330-821-2665, ext. 223.

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

For a look at future Book Club selections, visit rodmanlibrary.com/Rodman-Book-Clubs

BOOKS & COFFEE

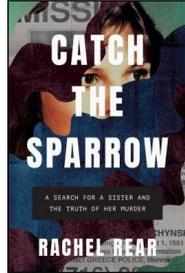


Meets every second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Branch Library.

February 13
The Lincoln Highway
Amor Towles

Call 330-821-1313 for information.

TRUE CRIME JUNKIES



Meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library.

February 21
Catch the Sparrow
The Search for a Sister and the Truth of Her Murder
Rachel Rear

Call 330-821-2665, ext. 215 for information.
Registration Required

RPL EVENING BOOK CLUB



Meets every fourth Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Main Library.

February 27
The Children's Blizzard
Melanie Benjamin

Call 330-821-2665, ext. 107 for information.

Get to Know Your Fruit at RPL

Do you know your fruit?

Just like humans, each type of fruit is unique, and every type of whole-food offers your body different possible health benefits.

Rodman Public Library invites patrons to get to know their fruit a little better from the inside out when Holly Bandy of the Ohio State University Extension's College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Science, presents "Know Your Fruit" at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 20.

Key points of the hour-long presentation will include health benefits, servings, and preparation and storage of fruit. Attendees will also have the opportunity to sample a healthy, fruity treat.

The event is free, but space is limited. Registration is required at rodmanlibrary.evanced.info/signup.

For more information, call 330-821-2665, ext. 107.

Maker Monday Crafters to Decorate Wooden Shamrock



Maker Monday crafters will decorate a wooden shamrock when they meet Monday, February 13 at 7 p.m. in Rodman Public Library's Main Auditorium.

Led by Nicole Brown, Maker Monday is an in-person craft program for adults that is held monthly on select Mondays. All materials are provided free of charge, thanks to Friends of Rodman Library, but space is limited and registration is required for each session.

To register for Maker Monday sessions, visit Rodman Public Library's online calendar at rodmanlibrary.evanced.info/signup or call 330-821-2665.

ONGOING PROGRAMS



Alliance Vinyl Club

Alliance Vinyl Club meets at Rodman Public Library at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Although it is called a club there is no formal membership and there is no registration required

to attend the program, which is open to all music lovers. Those attending are encouraged to bring in some of their favorite records to play for others. The monthly program, which is supported by Friends of Rodman Public Library, is led by Byrun Reed and provides the opportunity to listen to music, hang out, and make new friends. For more information about Alliance Vinyl Club, call 330-821-2665, ext. 216.

Wednesday, February 1 at 6:30 p.m.



Friends of RPL Thank Patrons for Support

The Friends of Rodman Public Library, with the help of library patrons, had a successful Troopon drive in 2022.

The Friends donated \$125,498.67 in coupons to Support Our Troops to help military families.

Coupons are collected throughout the year at boxes located at the Main and Branch.

Want to help support Rodman Public Library?

Join the Friends of Rodman Public Library by calling 330-821-2665

or by visiting any of the service desks.

\$5 for an individual membership

\$25 for a patron membership



MAIN LIBRARY

215 E. Broadway St.
Alliance, Ohio 44601
330.821.2665

BRANCH LIBRARY

1808 W. State St.
Alliance, OH 44601
330.821.1313

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday through Wednesday: 10 a.m. — 8 p.m.

Thursday & Friday: 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Sunday:

Main Library — Closed

Branch Library — 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

(October through April only)

rodmanlibrary.com

TECH Time Thursday

A librarian is on hand each Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon to answer basic questions about your electronic devices. No registration needed. For information, call 330-821-2665, ext. 217.

Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon

Knit Wits

The Knit Wits, a circle for needleworkers of all types and skill levels, meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Main Library.

Mondays, February 13 & 27 at 10 a.m.

Rodman Library to Serve as VITA Drop-Off Site

Rodman Public Library will serve as a drop-off location for the United Way of Greater Stark County's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

Trained VITA volunteers help qualifying individuals file returns for free, looking for all possible deductions and credits. The free tax preparation service is available to households that earn less than \$60,000 if filing single and under \$90,000 if filing a joint return. Taxpayers with disabilities and those who speak limited English may also be eligible.

VITA is now taking appointments to check for eligibility and to schedule drop-offs for February through April for the 2022 tax return season. An appointment is needed for all drop-offs.

Those wishing to take advantage of the VITA program should visit uwstark.org/vita to download and print an IRS Intake Form and an IRS Consent Form. Both must be filled out so VITA volunteers can prepare and process your taxes. A list of other required documents is also posted on the website.

Those who would like more information about the VITA program or those wishing to make an appointment should call 330-994-VITA (8482).



RPL to Host Saturday Matinee

Rodman Public Library will host a Saturday matinee movie on February 11 when it screens *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* on the big screen in the Main Auditorium.

In the 2022 Marvel blockbuster, Queen Ramonda, Shuri, M'Baku, Okoye and the Dora Milaje fight to protect the kingdom of Wakanda from intervening world powers in the wake of King T'Challa's death. As the Wakandans strive to embrace their next chapter, the heroes must band together with the help of War Dog Nakia and Everett Ross and forge a new path for their nation.



The film, which runs 2 hours and 41 minutes and is rated PG-13, will start at 1 p.m. No registration is required to attend the free movie, which is open to patrons of all ages. Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Freshly popped popcorn will be provided thanks to the Friends of Rodman Public Library.

For more information, call 330-821-2665, ext. 217

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

From Page 1

Schulz, a retired college librarian, grew up in Columbiana County between Columbiana and New Waterford, on a family farm predating the Civil War and surrounded by Underground Railroad lore. Her birthplace was Salem, the headquarters of the Western Anti-Slavery Society and a majority Quaker town full of abolitionists. She later lived near Springfield, Ohio, on another important freedom-seeker route. Kathy regards herself as a "soldier in the information revolution" during her career at Wittenberg University, though she discovered fascinating information about local anti-slavery activity the old-style way: from yellowed papers in library archives.

Kathy holds a bachelor science in education from Ohio State, an M.L.S. from Kent State, and an M. Hum. from Wright State. Her research skills recently helped her confirm Underground Railroad involvement in one of her ancestor lines in Highland County, Ohio; she suspects it in others. Kathy and her husband currently live in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she stays busy with friends, hobbies, and grandchildren.

Robb Hyde has served as president of the Haines House/AAPS for 10 of its 22 years, and frequently talks about the freedom seekers, abolitionists, and trailblazers of Alliance history in and around the Alliance community. He's the retired executive director of the Wayne Center for the Arts in Wooster, and previously served as director of marketing & development for the Canton Museum of Art, and the president of the Ohio Museums Association.

The Alliance Area Preservation Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic structures through education, research and documentation, and welcomes hundreds of visitors every year at the Haines House Underground Railroad Museum, 186 W. Market St. in Alliance. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a certified member of the National Park Service's Network to Freedom Program.

The Alliance Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which collects, preserves, and organizes historical materials and works with area schools and community organizations to present programs on the history of Alliance. The Society owns and operates the Mabel Hartzell Historical Home and the Alliance History Mini Museum, located at 840 N. Park Ave. in Alliance, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ONE BOOK

From Page 1

The novel follows two sisters – both teachers on the Great Plains – that are faced with making a life or death decision as a blizzard strikes on a day when many of their students had not come to school dressed for such weather. One makes a decision that will lead her to be ostracized. The other is viewed as a hero in the aftermath. It also is a tale of survival and redemption for two other main characters – one a servant girl who miraculously comes through the tragedy and the other a journalist who lured immigrants to the inhospitable land with his newspaper stories.

Full of human drama and a bit of history, the book is one that will strike up lots of discussion.

Getting it started at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, will be local Scouts who will talk about winter survival as they prepare for their annual Klondike Derby.

Robb Hyde, president of the Alliance Area Preservation Society, will give a history lesson when he delivers "Local Schoolhouses and the Three R's in 19th Century Alliance" at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday, March 6.

On Saturday, March 11 at 2 p.m., Eric Wilhelm, chief meteorologist at



Copies of *The Children's Blizzard* are on sale at RPL for \$14 per copy. Copies are also available for loan using a library card.

Youngstown's WFMJ (Channel 21) will talk about his job as a forecaster, the science of forecasting and how it has changed since *The Children's Blizzard* struck, and the challenges of forecasting in Northeast Ohio.

All of those programs will be held in Rodman Public Library's Main Auditorium and registration is required at rodmanlibrary.evanced.info/signup.

On Thursday, March 23, Benjamin will visit Alliance to discuss her book, answer audience questions and sign books. Her appearance will be held at 7 p.m. at the Union Avenue United Methodist Church, located at 1843 S. Union Avenue. Registration is not required to attend Benjamin's lecture.

For more information about One Book One Community, call 330-821-2665.

PLEASE NOTE:

Some programs require registration at rodmanlibrary.evanced.info/signup

Rodman Staff Spotlight



LINDSAY SIMPSON

A circulation assistant who has been at RPL for nine years, she helps patrons, handles billing, and processes holds and withdrawals as part of her job.

What is your favorite part about your job?

I love serving the community and finding solutions to problems.

What is your favorite movie?

Rabbit-Proof Fence is one of my favorite movies.

What was your favorite subject in school?

Biology

What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I am over 40 years old.

If you could visit anywhere, where would it be?

Hawaii or Scotland.

What was your first car?

1998 Ford Escort.

What super power would you like to have?

The ability to time travel.

If you could be in any fictional universe what would it be?

Marvel or DC universe.

LOOKING BACK



Four unidentified men stand with an 1898 Barbette Gun that was manufactured by the Morgan Engineering Company for use in the Spanish-American War. Reprinted in 1981, the photo was given to Harold Vogus from the estate of Dan Hazen, who was an electrician at Morgan Engineering. The photo, along with hundreds of others, can be found at alliancememory.org, a collaboration between Rodman Public Library and the Alliance Historical Society. Alliance Memory offers a view of history through photographs, personal recollections, and documents. To access RPL's local history and genealogy resources, visit rodmanlibrary.com/genealogy, or call 330-821-2665, ext. 217.

Get an email version of

The Buzz

libraryaware.com/3618/Subscribers/Subscribe

Need some help doing genealogical or other basic research? Having trouble with an electronic device?

Book A Librarian

Stop at the Reference Desk or call 330-821-2665, ext. 217 to make a one-on-one appointment for one hour with a friendly, knowledgeable staff member.



FEATURED DATABASE



African American Heritage

African American Heritage is a database from ProQuest that provides detailed records for African Americans.

Records include federal census, marriage and cohabitation records, military draft and service records, registers of slaves and free persons of color, Freedman's Bank, and more.

African American Heritage is one of more than 75 databases covering more than 20 categories that can be found at rodmanlibrary.com/databases.

For information or help accessing the databases, call 330-821-2665, ext. 217.

DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR FRIENDS OF RODMAN LIBRARY
33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST | 4-8PM
1630 W STATE ST STE A, ALLIANCE, OH, 44601
ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE 2BZLKE6 OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count toward the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location(s) and during the hours of the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$50 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

SAVE THE DATE

Eat at the Alliance Chipotle on March 1 between 4 and 8 p.m., tell the cashier you want to support the Friends of Rodman Public Library, and the group will receive 33 percent of the event sales. You can also order for pickup online, using the code 2BZLKE6 and the Friends will get credit for the purchase.

The RPL app puts the library at your fingertips

GET IT ON Google Play
Download on the App Store