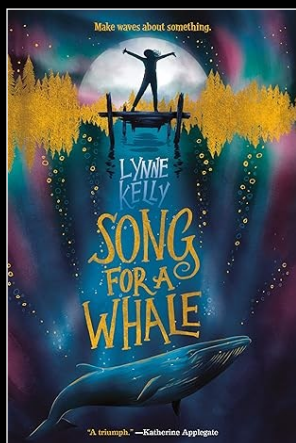


"Life is like riding a bicycle.
To keep your balance,
you must keep moving."
— Albert Einstein

BUZZ

The official newsletter of Rodman Public Library



OBOC selection *Song for a Whale* on sale at RPL

With the flip of the calendar year, it's time to read Alliance's One Book One Community selection for 2024 — Lynne Kelly's *Song for a Whale*.



KELLY

Copies of the novel are available for purchase at the circulation desk at Rodman Public Library as well as the Branch. The cost is \$8.99 plus tax. *Song for a Whale*, winner of the 2020 Schneider Family Book Award and one of the best books of the year, according to New York Public Library, is the touching story of 12-year-old Iris, the only deaf person at her school, who hears about Blue 55, a whale who cannot communicate with other whales, and she sets out to show him he's not alone.

One Book One Community programs will begin in February and continue through March, culminating on March 21 when Kelly visits Alliance.



Rodman Chess Club open to all interested in classic board game

Anyone up for a game of chess?

It's the most popular board game in history and more than three million sets are sold in the United States each year.

Perhaps you have a set yourself and have dabbled with it here and there, but you aren't exactly sure how to play.

Perhaps you know how to play, but you don't know anyone else who does play.

Perhaps you are totally clueless, but want to learn.

Rodman Public Library's newest monthly program — Rodman Chess Club — may be just what you are looking for.

Every third Wednesday of each month, chess boards will be set up in the auditorium at the Main Library for those who play and are looking for an opponent, those who sort of play and are looking to learn more about the classic game, or for those who are interested in getting started.

"I'm excited to have this program come to

fruition," said Byron Reed, a reference librarian who will facilitate the program. "For the past six or seven months, we have had a passive chess program going on and there seems to be some interest."

Midway through the year, Reed set up a chess board on a table in the reference department and placed a sign stating "Your Move."

Patrons would take turns moving pieces around the board to keep a game going. Eventually, patrons started to play entire matches against each other.

That gives Reed some hope that the Rodman Chess Club will be a popular program among players that are experienced to those who are beginners.

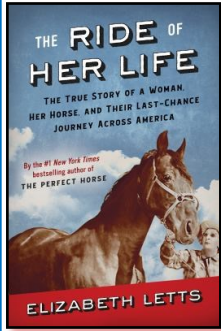
"There was a lot of activity around that board," said Reed. "It was a good way to gauge if there were people who were looking for other chess enthusiasts or those would be interested in learning to play."

See *CHESS* on Page 5

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

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

BOOKS & COFFEE

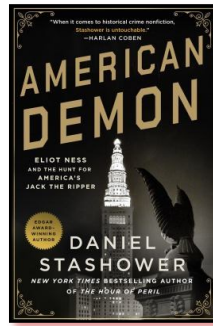


Meets every second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Branch Library.

January 8
The Ride of Her Life: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last-Chance Journey Across America
by Elizabeth Letts

Call 330-821-1313 for information.

TRUE CRIME JUNKIES

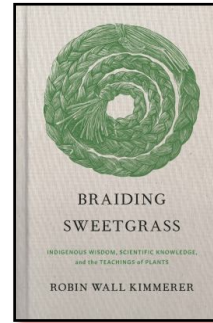


Meets every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library.

January 16
American Demon: Eliot Ness and the Hunt for America's Jack the Ripper
by Daniel Stashower

Call 330-821-2665, ext. 215 for information.
Registration required at rodmanlibrary.com

RPL EVENING BOOK CLUB



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

January 22
Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants

Call 330-821-2665 for information.

ONGOING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AT RPL

Alliance Vinyl Club

Open to all music lovers, Alliance Vinyl Club will undergo a schedule change in 2024, meeting every other month. The group will meet at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each even-numbered month — February, April, June, August, October, and December — inside the Main Library auditorium. Supported by Friends of Rodman Public Library, AVC provides the opportunity to listen to music, hang out, and make new friends. Those attending are encouraged to bring some of their favorite records to share a selection or two with others. Although it is called a club, there is no formal membership and no registration is required to attend the program. For more information about Alliance Vinyl Club, call 330-821-2665, ext. 216.

Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m.



Maker Monday

Maker Monday crafters will have the opportunity to create whatever they like when they meet Monday, January 29 at 6 p.m. in Rodman Public Library's Main Auditorium.

For this free-for-all Maker Monday, materials left over from previous crafts will be available for patrons to use as they design and create one project however they wish.

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, call 330-821-2665, ext. 210 or visit Rodman Public Library's online calendar at rodmanlibrary.com.

Monday, January 29 at 6 p.m.



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. The group welcomes new members and any donations of yarn. For information, call 330-821-2665, ext. 204.

Mondays, January 8 & 22 at 10 a.m.

Writers' Alliance

Writers' Alliance, a group for those who like to create with words and share their work with others, meets every fourth Monday of the month at RPL. All are welcome to the group, facilitated by John Milan. No registration is required. For information, call Milan at 330-581-1437.

Monday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Want to help support Rodman 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



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

MAIN LIBRARY
215 E. Broadway St.
Alliance, Ohio 44601
330.821.2665

BRANCH LIBRARY
1808 W. State St.
Alliance, OH 44601
330.821.1313

TECH Time Thursday

A librarian is on hand each Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Main Library Information Center to answer basic questions about your electronic devices, including laptop computers, iPhones, Android phones, and tablets. No registration is needed. For information, call 330-821-2665, ext. 217.

Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon

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REMEMBERING

Gertrude Alice Kay

JANUARY 30, 1884 - DECEMBER 17, 1939



One of the brightest stars of America's Golden Age of Illustration, was Alliance's own Gertrude Alice Kay.

Best known as a children's literature illustrator and author who worked in fairy tales and beginner novels, much of Kay's work was produced inside her studio at her family home located at 133 South Union Avenue. The building, which later served as the Myers-Israel Funeral Home, was razed in 1996 to make way for expansion of the Alliance YMCA.

Kay was born 140 years ago this month on January 30, 1884 in Alliance, the second daughter of Charles Young Kay and Gertrude Cantine Kay. Her parents, born of pioneer Alliance families, supported her creativity as a child and encouraged her to secure an education in the arts.

After graduating from Alliance High School in 1902, she attended the Philadelphia School of Design for Women as well as Drexel University, where she studied under Howard Pyle alongside many other prominent female illustrators such as Jessie Wilcox Smith, Elizabeth Shippen Green, and Violet Oakley.

She eventually graduated from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and established her art studio in Alliance, where she remained for the rest of her life – besides occasional travel to Europe and Asia for inspiration – and a career that spanned three decades.

Beginning in 1906, she regularly exhibited her work at various galleries, but her illustrating career began with *Down Spider Web Lane*, *A Fairy Tale*, written by Mary Dickerson Donahey in 1909. That was one of nearly two dozen that Kay is known to have illustrated for other authors.

In 1916, Kay published the first of her ten original books in which she authored and illustrated, which include:

- ◆ *When the Sandman Comes*, 1916
- ◆ *The Book of Seven Wishes*, 1917
- ◆ *The Fairy Who Believed in Human Beings*, 1918
- ◆ *The Jolly Old Shadow Man*, 1920
- ◆ *Helping the Weatherman*, 1920
- ◆ *Adventures in Our Street*, 1925
- ◆ *The Friends of Jimmy*, 1926
- ◆ *Us Kids and the Circus*, 1927
- ◆ *Adventures in Geography*, 1930.
- ◆ *Peter, Patter and Pixie*, 1931

Kay regularly contributed illustrations to periodicals such as *Ladies' Home Journal*, *McCall's*, *The American Girl*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Everybody's Magazine*, *Outlook*, and *Pictorial Review*.

Beginning in 1923, Gertrude created illustrated paper doll inserts for magazines that became quite popular with different themes.

Sadly, Kay's brush was stilled on December 17, 1939 when she died from injuries suffered in a car accident near Canfield.

Although Kay never married or had any children, her legacy was carried on through her influence on another Alliance-born children's author/illustrator – Brinton Turkle.



Gertrude Alice Kay is shown in her Alliance studio while working on the May 1924 cover of the *Ladies' Home Journal*.

CHESS

From Page 1

Reed will host the inaugural meeting of the Rodman Chess Club on Wednesday, January 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Although it is called a club by name, there is no formal membership and no registration is needed to attend the monthly sessions. Open to all ages, the only requirement is that those attending have an interest in chess.

Reed describes himself as a "novice" chess player and says he will not be on hand to necessarily teach people how to play, although there will be experienced players in attendance who will be able to help explain the game.

"The idea is to provide a place where people can come together to play chess and explore the game and learn together," said Reed.

UNLEASH YOUR POWERS

PAW PATROL

THE MIGHTY MOVIE

All Ages

PG

1 Hour, 35 Minutes

Movie Licensing USA.

FREE ADMISSION • FREE POPCORN

Saturday, January 6
1:00 p.m.
Rodman Auditorium

CHILDREN UNDER 13 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S

ALL AGES

PG-13

1 Hour, 49 Minutes

Movie Licensing USA.

FREE ADMISSION • FREE POPCORN

Tuesday, January 9
5:30 p.m.
Rodman Auditorium

CHILDREN UNDER 13 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

MEDICARE 101:

A SIMPLE GUIDE MADE CLEAR & EASY

WITH
JAY CULLER

MEDICARE
EXPERT

RODMAN LIBRARY
AUDITORIUM

MONDAY,
JANUARY 8
6 P.M.

RSVP at rodmanlibrary.com
For information, call 330-243-0382.



Rodman

Staff Spotlight



JAIME GROSS

"I work in the Reference Department, helping patrons at the Information Desk and assisting with teen programs. I also help run the library's social media accounts."

Jaime has been at RPL for eight years this month.

What is your favorite part about your job?

I like helping with the teen programs (Teen Writing Club, Teen Book Club, and Teen D&D) and helping patrons find books to read. Nothing is better than finding just the right book to bring a smile to someone's face.

What is your favorite book or author?

It's always too hard to pick one favorite, but I love *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien and *The Scorpio Races* by Maggie Stiefvater.

What is your favorite food or snack?

Ice cream, preferably some variation of chocolate.

What is your favorite color?

Green!

Do you collect anything?

I own a lot of dragon and dinosaur themed items. It's turned into a thing now that people know to get me something with dinosaurs or dragons.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I read a lot and write stories and play video games.

Do you have a favorite saying or motto you try to live by?

One of my favorite quotes that I would say I live by is "Courage, dear heart" from *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis.

If you could visit anywhere, where would it be?

Either Europe or New Zealand! But really, I'd be up for traveling anywhere.

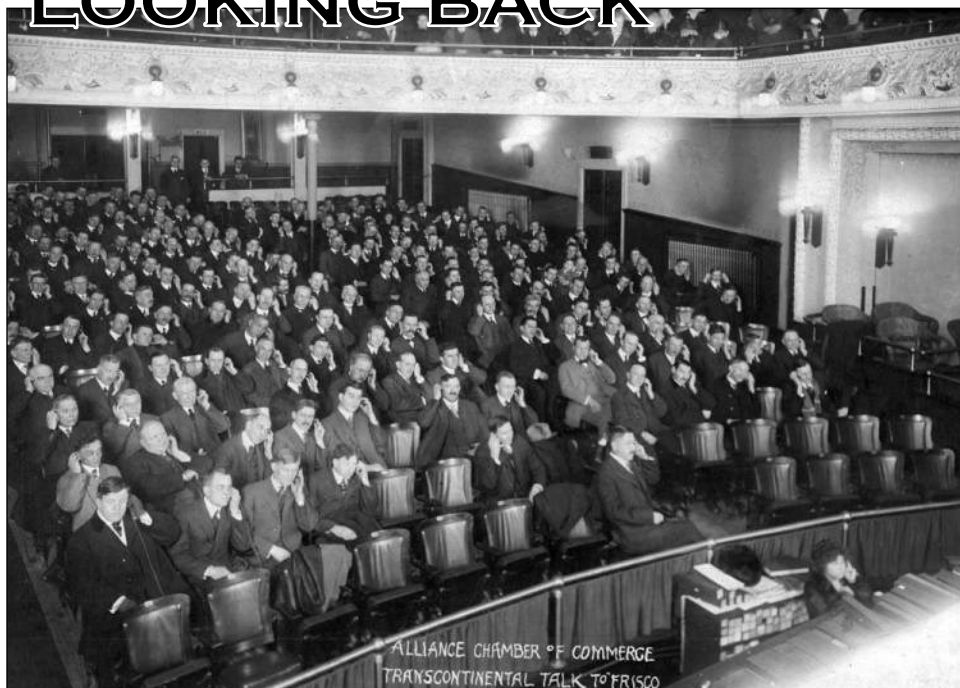
If you could be in any fictional universe what would it be?

Probably Middle-earth during an era without any war. I'd want to live in the Shire but be able to visit other parts of the world as well.

What was the last thing you binge watched?

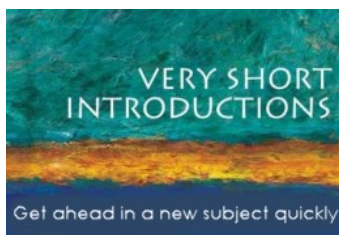
I recently rewatched both seasons of *Shadow and Bone* on Netflix.

LOOKING BACK



Members of the Alliance Chamber of Commerce listen to a talk about the transcontinental telephone system and then join a conversation linking New York and other cities across the nation to its terminus in San Francisco during the first annual meeting of the Alliance Chamber of Commerce inside the Columbia Theater in January 1916. The distance of the call was 3,100 miles and the call lasted 1 hour, 45 minutes as residents in Alliance got the chance to chat with friends in San Francisco. It was led by Chamber President Col. W.H. Morgan and Myron T. Herrick of Cleveland. This picture is one of hundreds of photos that can be found on alliancememory.org, a collaboration between Rodman Public Library and the Alliance Historical Society, a proud partner of the Alliance Preservation Society and the Castle Crusaders in preserving Alliance's history. Alliance Memory offers a view of history through photographs, personal recollections, and documents. To access RPL's online local history and genealogy resources, visit rodmanlibrary.com/genealogy. For information about how Rodman Library can connect you to local history, call 330-821-2665, ext. 217.

FEATURED DATABASE



Very Short Introductions

Very Short Introductions grants users access to a series of eBooks designed to breakdown key issues in society in a concise way. Each introduction is written by experts in their respective field to help the user better understand the topic being covered.

Very Short Introductions is one of more than 70 databases available on the RPL website.

You can find all databases offered by RPL at rodmanlibrary.com/databases.

For information or help accessing any of RPL's free databases, call 330-821-2665, ext. 217.

OUT AND ABOUT



The RPL Bookmobile

visits schools in the Alliance, Marlinton, and West Branch school districts as well as Copeland Oaks between September and May.

