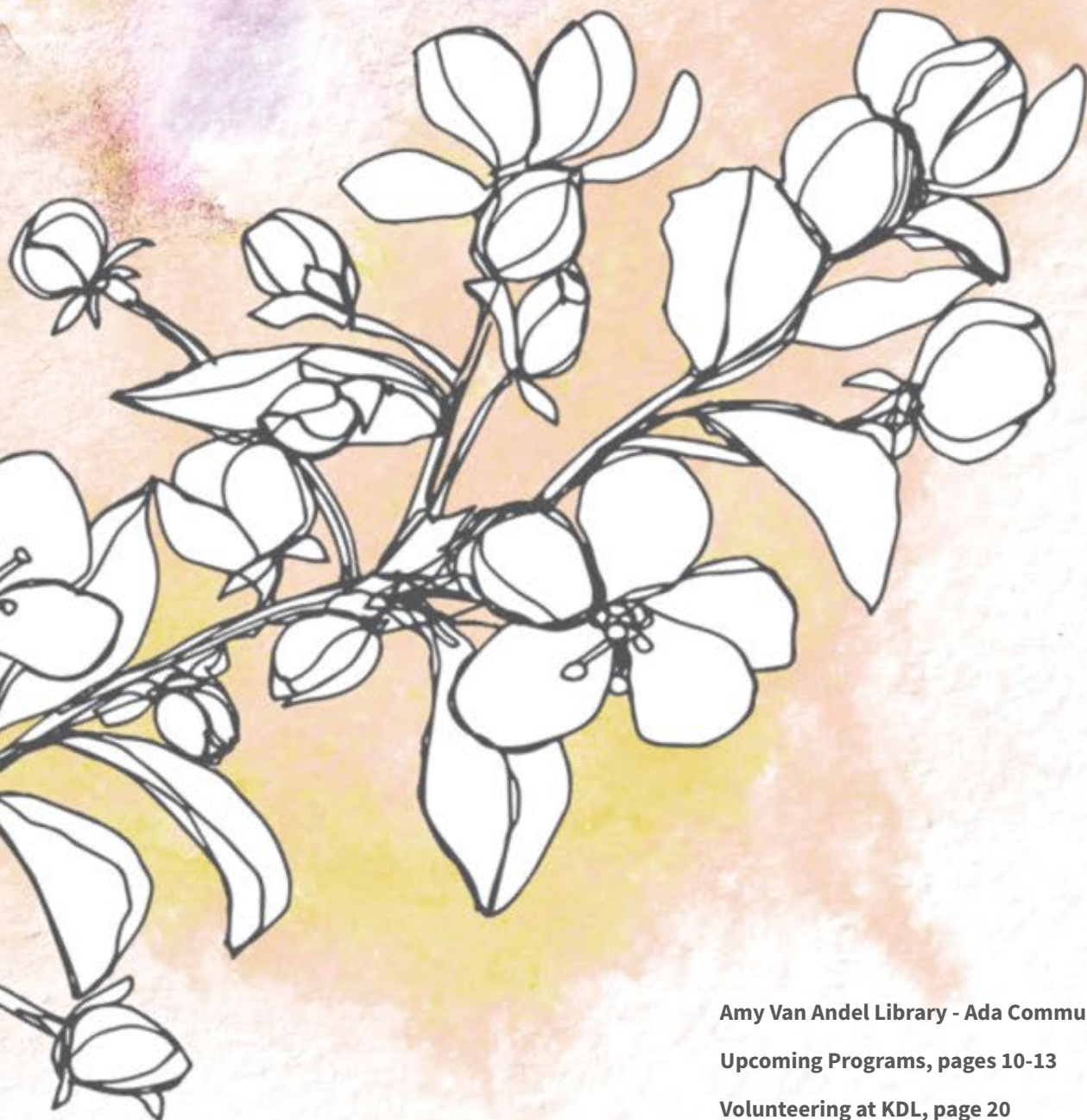


# KALEIDOSCOPE

Kent District Library | Information. Ideas. *Excitement!*

Spring 2021



**Amy Van Andel Library - Ada Community Center, pages 5-7**

**Upcoming Programs, pages 10-13**

**Volunteering at KDL, page 20**



# Spring has arrived!

Spring is a time of growth and new life in nature... and at KDL. We are so pleased to introduce our new branch, the **Amy Van Andel Library - Ada Community Center** located in Ada. Check out pages 5-7 to learn more about this beautiful new library. Each of our 20 branches has its own personality and charm, and this branch is no exception.

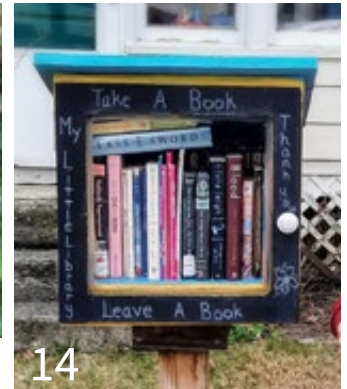
Some of our branches are small, some are large. Some are quaint, others are modern. Some offer a waterfront view, some offer beautiful artwork and some offer inviting fireplaces. I hope you agree that all of our branches offer a robust collection, a safe and comfortable space and excellent customer service.

When the Coronavirus settles down, I encourage you to find time to visit as many KDL branches as you can. You are part of the KDL family and you are welcome here!



Sincerely,

Lance Werner  
Executive Director



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# KDL updates

We now offer Book Bundles! If you aren't sure what to read next, we will give you a great collection to choose from.

Visit [kdl.org/book-bundles](https://kdl.org/book-bundles).



**Our annual Write Michigan Short Story Contest was a huge success!** We received over 950 submissions. The anthology that contains all the winning stories will be available this spring at Schuler Books in Kentwood. Previous years' anthologies are available as well.



**Our 20th branch,**  
**the Amy Van Andel Library - Ada Community Center,**  
is open! Stop by for a visit. The branch is located at  
**7215 Headley St. SE** in Ada.



# Staff Picks



## Snow by Orhan Pamuk

“In this thought-provoking, atmospheric and intricate novel, an exiled poet returns to Turkey and travels to the city of Kars to investigate a rebellion of school girls who have been forbidden to wear head scarves. Over the course of four snowbound days, the poet falls in love, becomes embroiled in a military coup, witnesses an assassination and debates the existence of God with an idealistic Islamicist, illustrating the difficulties and contradictions involved in places where Western-style democracy and Islamic fundamentalism are often at odds.”

– Mark at the Krause Memorial Branch

## Deacon King Kong by James McBride

“I loved *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride. It is a book about people living in NYC housing projects in the late '60s. The characters seem at first like stereotypes — Sportcoat (the drunk), the young drug pusher Sportcoat shoots, the church lady and the janitor, everyone with a nickname. In the book McBride transforms each one of them into a whole human being. It is funny, suspenseful, touching, depressing and uplifting all at the same time.”

– Penni at the Amy Van Andel Library



## Ready Player One and Two

by Ernest Cline

“*Ready Player One* has been on my “must read” list for a long time. Now that *Ready Player Two* has been released, I’ve finished *One* and am now reading *Two*. In this series, the future is nostalgic with references to '80s video games and music that plunge into an exploration of the role of artificial intelligence. The stories revolve around OASIS, a virtual reality world that people use to escape reality. Considering the current availability of Second Life and VR technology, this story is not at all far-fetched.”

– Randy at the Service Center

## The Silver Arrow

by Lev Grossman

“I recently listened to the audiobook *The Silver Arrow* by Lev Grossman on a road trip and was thoroughly engrossed! Kate’s uncle buys her a train for her 11th birthday, and she and her brother embark on a breathless adventure around the world. Talking animals, narrow escapes and a fantastic narrator made this easy to recommend to fans of magic and peril!”

– Liz at the Amy Van Andel Library



## Star Pig

by Delilah S. Dawson

“This really cute comic is about a girl who gets saved by a space tardigrade. It has a lot of funny references and the art was really cute. It even has fun facts about our favorite water bears.”

– Tabby at the Wyoming Branch



# Amy Van Andel Library – Ada Community Center Begins to Open

Taken from the pages of the spring issue



**On February 6**, the Amy Van Andel Library – Ada Community Center opened its doors to begin limited public access. This long-awaited community treasure is the result of the Township’s Envision Ada Plan, with five years of tremendous community input, dedicated volunteer leaders and the generosity of hundreds of local donors. The complete public opening and formal dedication of the building is scheduled for later this spring.

## Operations:

The Amy Van Andel Library is operated by Kent District Library (KDL). Current library services include online holds, curbside pickup and 30 percent public capacity access to the collection areas within the building. Be sure to refer to the KDL website [kdl.org](http://kdl.org) for the latest access information as the facility continues to adhere to all COVID-19 guidelines. The Ada Community Center is operated by Ada Township. Information about Community Center room use will be on the Ada Township website later this spring.

## The few first details:

Located at 7215 Headley St. SE, the two-story, 25,786 sq. ft. building is visible from E. Fulton Street. It sits just west of Ada Drive in the Village of Ada. The building was designed by the architecture team of Progressive AE of Grand Rapids and built by Ada-based Erhardt Construction.

## Outdoor Area:

As you pull up, you are welcomed by the United States, State of Michigan and Ada Township flags, flying prominently and illuminated at night. The building is lined with expansive windows, letting in an abundance of natural light and providing outward views of downtown Ada and a Central Courtyard. The exterior features three earth tone shades of brick, complimented by aluminum accent panels that coordinate with the window trim. Shaded tables and benches line the walkway, and there are both a walk-up and drive-up book drop. Onsite parking is available, as well as nearby street parking.

The entire building and outdoor grounds feature complimentary Wi-Fi access for guests. Wi-Fi is available seven days a week from 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. All the more reason to grab a coffee and enjoy a seat outside!

Continued...

## Freight Train

by Donald Crews

*Freight Train* is a 1978 picture book written and illustrated by Donald Crews that, while lacking any story, describes the inner-workings on a large cargo train. As a kid who loved trains, naturally this was the very first book I ever learned to read. Recently, my mom spotted it at a bookstore and decided to send me a copy. I have to say, it was a much quicker read this time around.

– David at the Service Center



## Sitting Pretty: The View From My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body

by Rebekah Taussig

“I recently enjoyed *Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body* by Rebekah Taussig. I first discovered her on Instagram, and her writing is so lovely and engaging, as well as giving a window into her experience as a person who has used a wheelchair nearly her whole life. Her memoir is eye-opening and great food for thought, and it could make for a good book club discussion as well.”

– Anna at the East Grand Rapids Branch



## Sisters

by Daisy Johnson

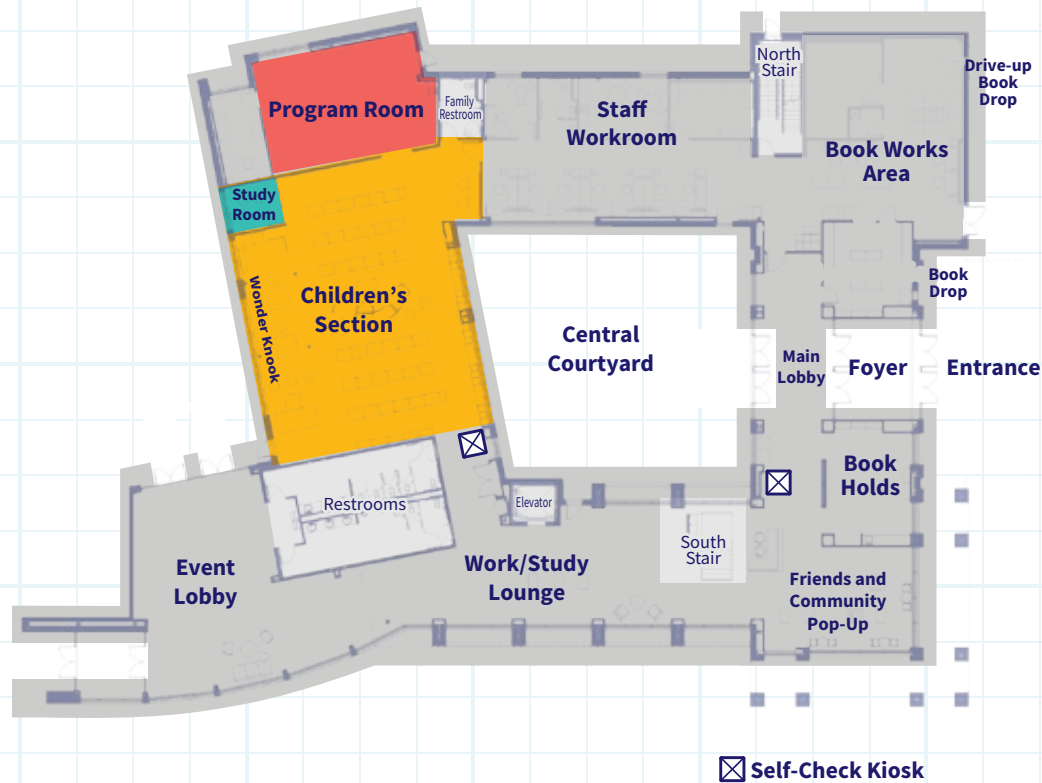
Like *Everything Under*, Daisy Johnson's Oedipus retelling that earned her a spot on the 2018 Man Booker shortlist, *Sisters* brims with symbolism and controls your heartbeat with her incredible skill to pace and build suspense and veer into the unexpected. *Sisters*, an ominous, quiet, fairy tale-like

masterpiece, explores a codependent teenage sibling relationship and a tragic event that changes the trajectory of it. You can find *Sisters* on the NYT 100 Notable Books for 2020 – and on my favorites shelf. – Jaci at the Service Center



# Amy Van Andel Library – Ada Community Center Begins to Open

Here is a first look at what’s  
inside, with many more details  
to experience as the building  
opens fully in the spring.



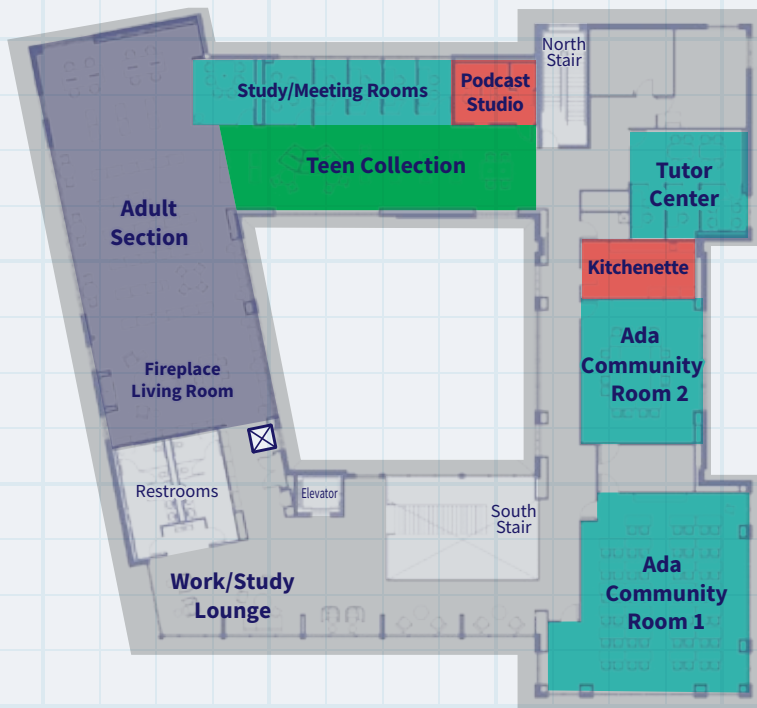
## Ground Level

The entryway foyer will offer residents community resources, a library calendar of events, tax forms, etc. As you pass through the foyer, you immediately experience the view of the Central Courtyard. It’s a brilliant outdoor quiet space, surrounded by glass windows on both floors, complete with outdoor seating and tables.

The lobby features a concierge desk and self-check kiosk, along with a book hold area and book return. This area also includes a pop-up corner for Friends of the Amy Van Andel Library and other community activities.

The lobby leads to a spacious work/study lounge with seating and tables, and a dramatic open staircase and elevator provide access to the second floor. The interior space is bright and inviting, with streamlined décor, contemporary fixtures and thoughtful design touches. A separate “pre-function” lobby provides additional space for gatherings and small events.

The most prominent experience on the first floor is dedicated to children. More than 7,000 colorful books and media line the shelves at eye level, ready to captivate young readers. And opening soon will be an interactive play space, intentionally designed to promote early learning skills and encourage a lifetime of learning through discovery and exploration. This area also includes a family study room and an adjoining program room.



Additionally, a soundproof, state-of-the-art podcast studio will allow for livestreaming and recording of KDL and community podcasts and much more. Reservations can be made at the concierge desk.

An enclosed tutoring center offers a conference room setting to fit a larger group and three smaller rooms. Each space is equipped with a whiteboard to encourage brainstorming and collaboration, and the tables are outfitted with easy access to technology charging.

The second floor also houses the two Ada Township community rooms for small and large gatherings. These spacious rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows with retractable shades and the latest in AV technology, and will allow for a variety of

seating configurations. Further information as to booking these rooms for family, business or organizational use will be available later this spring.

Residents who do not have a KDL library card can register at the library or online through the KDL website, [kdl.org](http://kdl.org).

Stay tuned for updates and be sure to follow the Amy Van Andel Library on Facebook! [facebook.com/KDLAda](https://www.facebook.com/KDLAda)

## Upper Level

On the upper level, the staircase and elevator open to a second work/study lounge that offers a variety of open-concept seating options with tables, as well as more private nooks. The tall ceilings and natural light make this an ideal space to work, study or read.

The adult section features a living room with comfortable furniture, anchored by a striking stone fireplace, and the adjacent teen section provides a welcoming environment with low-slung couches and chairs. Rows of books and media across all genres line the shelves in both sections.

Multiple public computers are staged in a central area and there are six private study rooms.



## Amy Van Andel Library - Ada Community Center

7215 Headley St. SE, Ada, MI 49301

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1:00 to 5:00*	9:30 to 8:00	9:30 to 5:00	9:30 to 5:00	12:00 to 8:00	9:30 to 5:00	9:30 to 1:30

\*Closed Sundays in summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day)



# Bringing Home the Windows

*“Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created or recreated by the author. When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror. Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of a larger human experience. Reading, then, becomes a means of self-affirmation, and readers often seek their mirrors in books.”*

— Rudine Sims Bishop



**Ashley Smolinski**  
Branch Outreach and  
Programming Specialist

I remember when I first heard the idea of books acting as both “mirrors and windows” used in relation to children’s books at a conference. I was in a session learning about how young readers can develop empathy through stories, and the speaker talked about the necessity of seeing oneself reflected in a story (“mirrors”) and of seeing other people’s experiences (“windows”). At the time, my son was probably two, and although I wasn’t really mindful about the books I was reading to him, I wrote the information down next to my notebook doodles as something worth thinking about.

And then I kept thinking about it.

Growing up in a rural Michigan neighborhood, my friends looked like me, my neighbors looked like me and the books on my shelves looked like me. I want my children to experience more than this. They are now two and five, and when we visit the library, I purposefully choose titles that can act as mirrors and windows.

“Mirror” books for my son include kids with red hair, boys that are wild and energetic and stories with strong feels and great big hearts. For my daughter, it means finding little girls that cuddle dolls, or books with princesses and kitties, mommies that hold them close and lots of pictures of the outdoors.

But the “windows” are what really matters to me now. We’ve loved *The Proudest Blue*, *In My Heart*, *I Got the Rhythm* and *Fry Bread*. We’ve read about mommies who wear beautiful hijabs, and daddies who have beautiful tattoos, and little girls who attend dance class in their wheelchairs and little boys who go to the barbershop for their first haircut. And reading those stories prompts questions from my kids that they don’t ask when we read “mirror” books. I’m not sure I was ready for questions at first, but now I welcome them (usually with more questions, like “what do you think?”). When we read a book starring a child with a different family structure or culture than ours, it’s the one that we talk the most about that night and one we talk more about later.

Through these window books, my kids have learned that not everyone lives in our country, that there are holidays we’ve never celebrated and that our neighbors speak a variety of amazing languages. My son’s room now features a map, after he asked to learn about “all the world,” and we talk about going to China, Africa and Iceland. We look forward to eating sushi in Japan, picking out Asian vegetables we’ve never grown from our seed catalog and we’re hoping to go to a few more cultural festivals in Grand Rapids when we can!

While we didn’t expect such a journey so young with our little ones, we’ve both enjoyed and been challenged by the experience. I’m dedicated to always looking for new windows for my kids to peer out of, as their world gets just a little bit bigger page by page.





## Prepare to Get Outdoors with Summer Wonder

This year, KDL will take you on a Summer Wonder journey of reading, learning and exploring through the great outdoors right here in Kent County! We are partnering with Kent County Parks to bring you some exciting new elements and activities to participate in over the summer. Enjoy activities for the whole family, including outdoor scavenger hunts, park exploration and more. There will also be many of the tried-and-true elements that make KDL's Summer Wonder program so great — reading incentives, awesome programming, access to books and other library materials, fun reading goals for all ages... and it's all **FREE!**



We look forward to seeing you this summer!

[kdl.org/summer](http://kdl.org/summer)

Curi | Summer Wonder Guide

## KDL Cruisers are Returning May 1!

These branches will have bikes available for checkout:

- Amy Van Andel Library in Ada
- Caledonia Township
- Comstock Park
- East Grand Rapids
- Grandville
- Kentwood
- Krause Memorial in Rockford
- Nelson Township
- Walker
- Wyoming
- Service and Meeting Center

[kdl.org/services/kdl-cruisers](http://kdl.org/services/kdl-cruisers)





# 17th Annual Teen Poetry Contest & Slam



## Submission Deadline:

Sunday, April 4  
Entries are now being accepted  
at [kdl.org/teenpoetry](https://kdl.org/teenpoetry).

## Teen Poetry Slam:

Thursday, April 22  
6:00 PM for grades 6-8  
Thursday, April 29  
6:00 PM for grades 9-12



THESE ARE LIVE AND UNCENSORED EVENTS.

Submit up to two poems for a chance to win a \$50 Meijer gift card. Then, read a poem at our Write Michigan Teen Poetry Slam for another chance to win! You must submit a written work to be eligible for the teen poetry slam. Visit [kdl.org/teenpoetry](https://kdl.org/teenpoetry) for more information.



# What We're Reading

Join online to catch up on what your favorite KDL librarians and special guests are currently reading.

"I love connecting with people in my community who love to read as much as I do and talking about books. In 2020, I found a new way to do that." - Penni Zurgable, Amy Van Andel Library



March 2 – May 25

**Tuesdays, 6:30 PM**

FOR ADULTS



WZZM Reporter  
**Nick LaFave**  
March 2

Previous episodes can be viewed at [youtube.com/KentDistrictLibrary](https://www.youtube.com/KentDistrictLibrary) or [facebook.com/KentDistrictLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/KentDistrictLibrary).  
Past guests include:



**Maranda**  
WOOD TV Personality  
and Content Developer



**Kendra McNeil**  
Owner & Curator,  
We Are LIT!  
Multicultural Bookshop  
Located Inside Grand Rapids  
African American Museum

# Celebrate Your Community!

This streamed program has centered around getting to know our community here in Kent County. We started with community helpers and community artists. This season, we are interviewing our friends and neighbors who have come here from other countries. We are excited to learn about and celebrate the diverse population that makes up the wonderful tapestry that is our local community.

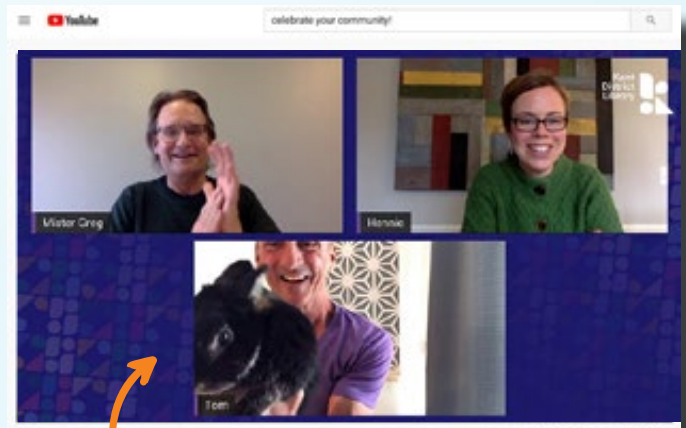
March 5 – April 24

**Fridays, 10:00 AM**

**Saturdays, 11:00 AM**

**(Encore of Friday's program)**

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN



Previous episodes, like this one featuring Magician Tom Plunkard, can be viewed at [youtube.com/KentDistrictLibrary](https://www.youtube.com/KentDistrictLibrary) or [facebook.com/KentDistrictLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/KentDistrictLibrary).

Hennie

Mister Greg

IT'S ALL ONLINE!  
kdl.org/livestream



# MARCH | APRIL | MAY



## ALL BOOK CLUBS REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION

An email address is required for registration and instructions for how to join on Zoom. These programs will be monitored by KDL staff and you will have the option of joining with or without video. Parents are encouraged to read book reviews of each week's chosen title in advance to determine if the book is one their child will enjoy.

## MONDAYS

### Family Storytime

**March 1 – May 24, 10:00 AM**

Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

### Wimee's Words | Men of Color Read

**March 1 – May 24, 4:00 PM**

Wimee, Uncle Jon and The Brethren (from Men of Color Read) team up on Mondays for "Wimee's Words," an interactive LIVE kids show that encourages imagination, vocabulary building, storytelling and a love of reading. Join the fun where YOUR ideas could become part of the show!

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

### More than Superheroes | A Graphic Novel Series for Teens and Adults

**March 8, April 5 and May 3, 4:30 PM**

Learn about graphic novels that may be new to you! FOR TEENS AND ADULTS.

### Elementary Book Talks

**March 1, 15 & 29, April 12 & 26 and May 10 & 24, 6:30 PM**

Looking for your next great read? Tune in for expert recommendations from KDL youth staff. We'll tell you all about our favorite new books, including graphic novels, nonfiction, picture books, chapter books and more!

FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN.

### Elementary Graphic Novel Book Club

**March 8 & 22, April 5 & 19 and May 3 & 17, 6:30 PM**

If you love to read and discover new books, join us for our graphic novel book club! **Selected titles will be listed on kdl.org/events.**

FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN.



## TUESDAYS

### Family Storytime

**March 2 – May 25, 10:00 AM**

Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

### Teen Tuesdays @ Home

**Dates listed below at 6:00 PM**

Check out [kdl.org/events](https://kdl.org/events) for instructions to log in to participate in these exciting programs provided by some of your favorite KDL Teen Librarians. FOR TEENS.

**March 2, April 6 and May 4**

Animal Crossing

**March 9, April 13 and May 11**

Dungeons and Dragons

**March 16, April 20 and May 18**

Discord Games

### What We're Reading

**March 2 – May 25, 6:30 PM**

Catch up on what your favorite KDL Librarians and special guests are currently reading. FOR ADULTS

### Live & Learn Lecture Series

**Dates listed below at 6:00 PM**

- Each night we will be joined by a professional from our community on
- a specific topic. To submit questions
- to the panel or find out more, go
- to [kdl.org/events](https://kdl.org/events). FOR ADULTS

### April 13, Anti-racism and Local Law Enforcement

- Sergeant Peter Gerkin, Training Officer for the Kent County Sheriff's Department, and former prosecutor Patrick Miles will discuss their policies and efforts to combat racism.

### April 20, Anti-racism and Parenting

- Tarita Johnson, Director of Calvin University's Career Center, and Erin Fisk, Owner of Fisk Solutions, will be with us to consider how to address the topic of racism with our children.

### April 27, Next Steps in the Fight Against Racism

- Kenneth James, Director of Inclusion for the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, will talk about action you can take to fight racism.

## WEDNESDAYS

### Family Storytime

**March 3 – May 26, 10:00 AM**

Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

### What We're Learning

**Dates listed below at 7:00 PM**

Join a local presenter as they share an assortment of information, ideas and excitement, all from the comfort of your home. FOR ADULTS.

**March 10, Renaissance Ireland:**

Weapons, Tactics and Mercenaries

**March 31, Greater Grand Rapids**

Women's History Council

**April 21, Home Repair Services**

**May 5, Crafts with Lions & Rabbits**

### Anti-Racism Book Club

**March 17, April 21 and May 19, 7:00 PM**

This monthly virtual book club will discuss books across genres that explore issues of race in America as a means of better understanding ourselves, our history and our community. **Selected titles will be listed on kdl.org/events.** FOR ADULTS.







## THURSDAYS

### Hodgepodge | A Teen Librarian Talk Show

**March 4 – May 27, 4:30 PM**

Join Miss Monica and Miss Clare as they talk books, games, teen happenings and more with special guests. FOR TEENS.

### Evening Storytime

**March 4 – May 27, 7:00 PM**

Enjoy stories, music, movement and rhymes that develop early literacy skills and encourage everyone in the family to share their love of reading.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

## FRIDAYS

### Babytime

**March 5 – May 28, 9:30 AM**

Delight and engage your baby with songs and a story that help your baby develop listening and language skills.

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.

### Celebrating Your Community!

**March 5 – April 23, 10:00 AM**

A special storytime featuring community guests who hail from all over the world.

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

## SATURDAYS

### Celebrating Your Community!

(Encore of Friday's program)

**March 6 – April 24, 11:00 AM**

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.

## SPRING SPECIALS

### Write Michigan | Teen Poetry Contest & Virtual Slam

OPEN TO TEENS IN GRADES 6-12 LIVING IN KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

Attention aspiring teen poets! Enter your work by **Sunday, April 4** for a chance to win a \$50 Meijer gift card.



### Submit up to two poems at

**kdl.org/teenpoetry.** When you submit your work, don't forget to sign up to participate in the live, uncensored Virtual Slam where five winners will be announced each night.

### Virtual Slam

**Thursdays, 6:00 PM**

**April 22, grades 6 – 8**

**April 29, grades 9 – 12**

### Streaming in a Lore-Filled Wonderland

**Friday, May 14, 8:00 PM**

A sequel to Streaming in a Spooky Wonderland. Teen Librarians Christine and Shannon take a walk through the woods while sharing local legends and lore. During the walk, they stumble upon clues of what happened to Hannah and Monica after their mysterious disappearance in December.

FOR TEENS.

### Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia with the Alzheimer's Association

**Wednesday, May 19, 7:00 PM**

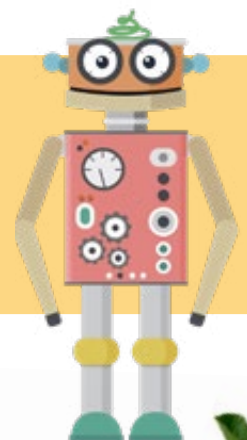
Learn the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, Alzheimer's stages and risk factors, current research and available treatments, as well as ways the Alzheimer's Association can help. **Register at [kdl.org/events](https://kdl.org/events) with an email address to receive a Zoom link.** FOR ADULTS.

## ALWAYS FRESH

### Wimee's Words

**Weekdays, March 1 – May 28, 4:00 PM**

**Wimee's Words** sparks imagination and inspires creative thinking with interactive wordplay, songs and stories, celebrates the diversity of languages and cultures, showcases technology that invites creativity and much more! FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN.



# Borrow. Grow. Save. Donate.



One of our three pillars in the KDL 2021-2023 Strategic Plan is Sustainability.

The KDL Seed Library not only helps to ensure the library adds value beyond books to our community, it also protects plants, feeds people and works to sustain our environment.

Find out more at [kdl.org/seedlibrary](http://kdl.org/seedlibrary).



## KDL Free Library: A Dream Come True

Linda Grit dreamed of having a free library ever since she was first introduced to them. Six years ago, she made that dream a reality.

Her friend's daughter wanted to earn her Gold Award for Girl Scouts by creating free libraries. Linda mentored her through the project and ended up with her own little library. It came unpainted, so Linda, an elementary school librarian, held a reading contest at school and the two winners visited her home, painted her little library with her and enjoyed some ice cream at Houseman's.

"They are now high school students and I haven't had the heart to repaint it... but that day is coming," Linda said.

Linda's library is located on 84th Street, a main road in Byron Center. In the early days, she had to beg people to take the books, but not anymore. It has been a lifeline for people during these COVID times. The library allows Linda to connect with her students and other community members, as they visit to borrow books and stock the library shelves.

"A lady stopped and asked my husband if she could leave us books from a loved one that had passed away," Linda said. "So much life in that little library."

Linda's favorite memory is peeking out her window and seeing a grandmother sitting in her yard reading a book to her grandchild. Linda has since added a bench next to the little library.

Linda's future plans include having her husband build a box and attach it to the side of the library post so the adult books and children's books can be kept separate and be reachable to those who use them.

"Free libraries are such a valuable part of a community and are a lovely way to partner with our public libraries," Linda said.

*Kent District Library offers several Free Libraries throughout our service area. These mini-libraries typically house around 40 books each, including youth, teen and adult fiction and nonfiction materials. People are encouraged to take a book and leave a book.*





Take A Book

My Little Library

Thank you!



Leave A Book



# Language, Communication and Culture Care



**Sara Proaño**  
Community Engagement Manager

The way we speak, sign or communicate is deeply rooted in the history of each human group. Our language often serves as a window to a different worldview, another way of thinking and understanding. Multilingual dialog offers unique opportunities to understand each other and empathize with someone else's story. These types of interactions are crucial for creating a truly inclusive and equitable community.

Cross-cultural communication requires intentionality and effort. It requires allocating time and resources specifically for this purpose. The task, while daunting, promises to pay off many times over. Shared learning experiences offer the potential to create a common and renewed community identity rooted in understanding and hope. The more we listen and understand each other, the better we become.

The public library is uniquely positioned to help advance this goal by providing the space and tools to acquire skills in a new language, translate written texts or interpret a verbal speech.





## Kent District Library has embraced this opportunity and is now making these new services and materials available to all patrons and partner organizations:

- **Language learning:** Three databases provide plenty of options for ESL students or foreign language learners, including portable apps for easy access and progress tracking.
  1. **MANGO:** With more than 100 languages and 75 English learning curriculums customized by language of origin, this database provides pronunciation audio and cultural context too.
  2. **LITTLE PIM:** Specially designed for the little learners, this database makes learning fun and entertaining for maximum engagement.
  3. **ROSETTA STONE:** This language learning database is ideal for patrons looking for an image-based learning experience.
- **TBS Scanner text-to-text translations:** Using the best available technology, patrons can now read and understand or write texts in a different language. This service does not replace the use of a professional translator but can help bridge the most basic communication gaps.
- **Interpretation equipment:** The library offers radio and digital simultaneous interpretation equipment to be used by a professional interpreter hired for this purpose.



\*For a list of translation or interpretation services in Kent County, please visit [kdl.org/language](http://kdl.org/language).

## NEW RESOURCES FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

### KDL SPARK Collection

KDL is pleased to introduce the **SPARK Collection**, for adult beginning readers. Available at all KDL branches and the Bookmobile. Books are labeled according to the CASAS reading levels.

Everyone Needs a Strong Core.

### KDL CORE COLLECTION

The **KDL Core Collection** consists of titles at least one year old that are close to the hearts of KDL librarians and patrons alike. These books are popular and respected, which is why KDL has purchased shiny new copies and labeled them the **KDL Core**.

This collection is being piloted at the Amy Van Andel Library, with hopes for a system-wide rollout later this year.







# Smashing the Barriers: Accessibility at KDL



**Shelley Roossien**  
Accessibility & Inclusion Specialist

Once upon a time, I was a young, fresh-faced college graduate looking for my first “big girl” job as a librarian. I had been working for KDL for three years, and I was given the opportunity to head up what was at the time KDL’s Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (now the KDL Talking Book & Braille Center), a unique role within the organization. And though I didn’t know it at the time, taking that position has steered my library career down a path that has led me to develop a passion for accessibility and to become an advocate for our patrons with disabilities.

Over the years, I continued to lead the TBBC program, getting audio and Braille books into the hands of patrons who are blind or have low vision and bringing the service to many who were previously unaware of its existence. However, blindness and low vision are not the only barriers to accessing library services in terms of disability. Mobility, deafness, hearing impairments and a wide range of social cognitive disorders all present distinct challenges to utilizing the library in full. With that in mind, KDL gave me a new opportunity to expand my role as the Talking Book & Braille Center Specialist into one that is more comprehensive and encompasses the entire disabled community — my new role as KDL’s first Accessibility & Inclusion Specialist.

As the Accessibility & Inclusion Specialist, the ultimate goal is to provide excellent and improved library services for people with disabilities. We will be working on revamping existing programs to make them more accessible, while creating new programs that are specifically designed for patrons with disabilities. Library collections will include materials that are informative and educational about disabilities, and innovative services will be explored, such as our new Sensory Packs. Our branch locations will look at ways to become more physically accessible, and we will work with community partners to enhance services throughout the organization. And above all, KDL staff will engage in ongoing training to ensure we are providing the best library experience possible to a person with disabilities.

I am excited to embark on this new journey with KDL and hope to provide meaningful change and growth throughout the organization that will ensure that patrons with disabilities receive accessible, inclusive and accommodating service with every library interaction.





# Sensory Packs



**Because we care about the well-being and comfort of our patrons, we offer Sensory Packs. These bags contain items that can help someone needing sensory accommodations.**

Contents include a weighted shoulder wrap, sensory toys, headphones and more. For in-branch use only. Please see a staff member for assistance.

# Many Hands Make a Great Library



It is hard-wired in all of us to be social beings who enjoy connecting with each other. While the effects of COVID-19 continue to impact our lives, some things have not changed, like the need for volunteers at Kent District Library branches. At KDL, we continue to find innovative ways to empower an entire district through our literacy programs and our branch services.



**Christine Mwangi**  
Director of Fund Development

We would like to thank every single individual that has volunteered their time or donated funds to KDL in the last year. We have been amazed by the outpouring of support from our community during these uncertain times.

Fresh and innovative thinking is needed now more than ever, because we recognize that our

volunteers have unique attributes that make them essential to how effectively we can respond to the needs of our communities. We are committed to putting volunteers at the heart of the restoration efforts that will strengthen our community long after this stage of COVID-19 has passed.

To help us bring our strategic vision for volunteer services to life, we have recently welcomed our new Volunteer Coordinator, Corey Archambault, to our KDL family. She joins us from the east side of the state where she was an AmeriCorps Director. Corey has built an impressive career that centers on volunteerism, civic engagement and community development. In addition to the 25 grassroots projects that she has overseen— which include budget management, volunteer management and impact data collection — Corey installed and maintained six Little Free Libraries throughout the Flint community and is fluent in Spanish.

As in so many facets of our lives, we foresee a new normal for volunteering and we are certain that the fresh thinking happening today will have a long-lasting impact on the future of volunteering for development.

As Kent District Library continues to move towards offering full service, we are exploring virtual volunteer opportunities and updates are posted regularly on our website. If volunteering is something you are interested in, here are some steps to take:

## 1. Determine which area you want to serve. Opportunities that exist can include:

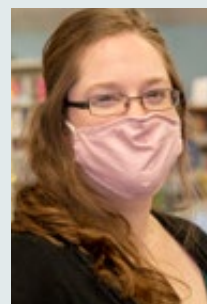
- **KDL Free Library Stockers**
- **Tech Helper**
- **Community Outreach**
- **Branch Volunteers**
- **Program Assistants**
- **Special Events**
- **Take-home Projects**

## 2. Apply on our website – [kdl.org/volunteer](http://kdl.org/volunteer)

## 3. Receive a warm welcome from Corey Archambault and branch staff (if applicable) and join the KDL family!

Of course, our first priority is, and has always been, the health and safety of our patrons, volunteers and staff. As an organization, we're committed to doing what we can to help contain the spread of the virus so as to optimize health outcomes for everyone. Our volunteers help where the need is greatest, so check our volunteering webpage

([kdl.org/volunteer](http://kdl.org/volunteer)) for what opportunities are available, or contact **Corey Archambault** at [carchambault@kdl.org](mailto:carchambault@kdl.org) or **616.784.2099**.



**Corey Archambault**  
Volunteer Coordinator

Our volunteer opportunities are a valuable point of entry to partner with KDL's mission so you can help during this unique time of need. You may even find that volunteering with us is a good way to lift your spirits. Stay strong and volunteer on!



# on Healing & Hope



**Julia Hawkins**  
Administrative Assistant  
for Engagement

First, I would like to say to those of you reading this: we may be battered and bruised, but we're still here. There is more ahead, as there always is, but we got this far. I invite you to take a moment – just a moment – to feel gratitude. Gratitude for the body that carried you through a pandemic, for a mind that sees you through the painful realities of our nation, and for a heart that beats steadily on.

We are grieving, collectively and individually, for the loss of so many things. We bear wounds both new and old. I wish I could say that our healing is beginning, and things will only get better. I can't. Grief is not linear. Some days, we will feel full and happy and open. On others, we will only feel empty.

Still, in this new season, slowly emerging from a blanket of darkness and chill, I can't help but feel hopeful. Like a tender new seedling emerging from the ground, I am searching for the light. I can see it in the generosity of neighbors who wake up at 6:00 AM to shovel everyone's sidewalk. I see it through the eyes of a close friend, who, in March, will bring a new life into the world. I see it, too, as I scroll through social media posts proudly showing off new hobbies and creations.

I am not sure how to end this column, so I am going to borrow my final words from one of my favorite poems:

*“Hope” is the thing with feathers -  
That perches in the soul -  
And sings the tune without the words -  
And never stops - at all -  
And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -  
And sore must be the storm -*

*That could abash the little Bird  
That kept so many warm -  
I've heard it in the chillest land -  
And on the strangest Sea -  
Yet - never - in Extremity,  
It asked a crumb - of me.*

“Hope” is the thing with feathers, by Emily Dickinson



# Branch Locations

**ALPINE TOWNSHIP**

5255 Alpine Ave. NW  
Comstock Park, MI 49321

**ALTO**

6071 Linfield Ave. SE  
Alto, MI 49302

**AMY VAN ANDEL LIBRARY**

7215 Headley St. SE  
Ada, MI 49301

**BOOKMOBILE**

[kdL.org/bookmobile](http://kdL.org/bookmobile)

**BYRON TOWNSHIP**

8191 Byron Center Ave. SW  
Byron Center, MI 49315

**CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP**

6260 92nd St. SE  
Caledonia, MI 49316

**CASCADE TOWNSHIP**

2870 Jacksmith Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

**COMSTOCK PARK**

3943 W. River Dr. NE  
Comstock Park, MI 49321

**EAST GRAND RAPIDS**

746 Lakeside Dr. SE  
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

**ENGLEHARDT**

200 N. Monroe St.  
Lowell, MI 49331

**GAINES TOWNSHIP**

421 68th St. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

**GRANDVILLE**

4055 Maple St. SW  
Grandville, MI 49418

**KELLOGGSVILLE**

Kelloggsville High School  
4787 Division Ave. S.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

**KENTWOOD (RICHARD L. ROOT)**

4950 Breton SE  
Kentwood, MI 49508

**KRAUSE MEMORIAL**

140 E. Bridge St.  
Rockford, MI 49341

**NELSON TOWNSHIP**

88 Eighth St.  
Sand Lake, MI 49343

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP**

2650 5-Mile Rd. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

**SPENCER TOWNSHIP**

14960 Meddler Ave.  
Gowen, MI 49326

**TYRONE TOWNSHIP**

43 S. Main St.  
Kent City, MI 49330

**WALKER**

4293 Remembrance Rd. NW  
Walker, MI 49534

**WYOMING AND KDL TALKING**

**BOOK & BRAILLE CENTER**  
3350 Michael Ave. SW  
Wyoming, MI 49509

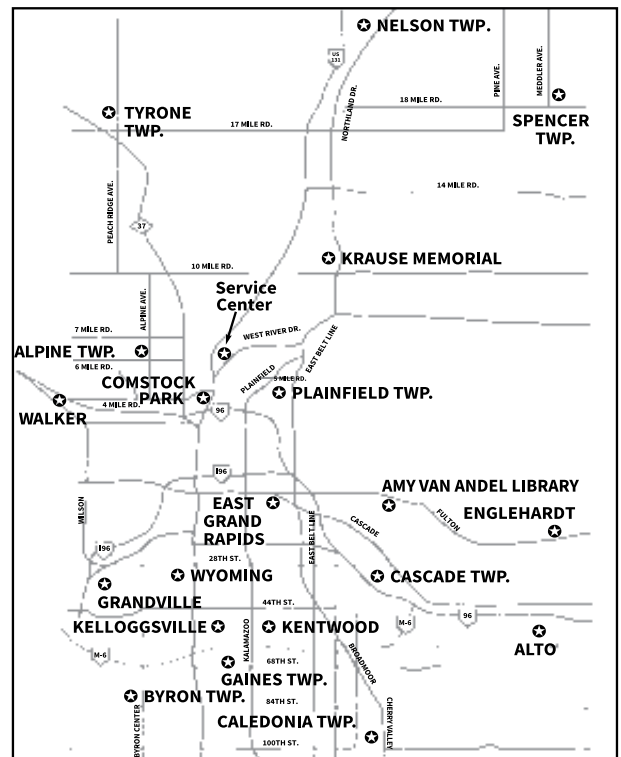
**KDL SERVICE AND MEETING CENTER**

814 West River Center Dr. NE  
Comstock Park, MI 49321

## Check out Book Bundles!

You let us know what type of books you want, and we give you a collection of titles we think you are going to love!

[kdL.org/book-bundles](http://kdL.org/book-bundles)



Scan with your smart phone camera for branch hours and additional information about our 20 locations.



# Welcome to KDL

## Adrianna Triche

Branch Librarian, Grandville

Recommends *Lovely War*  
by Julie Berry



## Angie Royce

Assistant Branch Librarian,  
Amy Van Andel Library -  
Ada Community Center

Recommends *A Prayer for Owen  
Meany* by John Irving



## Brandy Boyington

Assistant Branch Librarian,  
Amy Van Andel Library -  
Ada Community Center

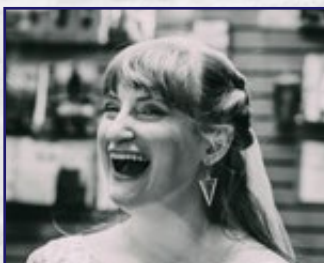
Recommends *The House on Tradd  
Street* by Karen White



## Sarah Powers

Assistant Branch Librarian,  
Amy Van Andel Library -  
Ada Community Center

Recommends *The Sandman  
Omnibus* by Neil Gaiman



## Scott Ninemeier

Regional Manager,  
Plainfield Township and  
Comstock Park

Recommends *The Greatest Game  
Ever Played* by Mark Frost



## Corey Archambault

Volunteer Coordinator,  
Service Center

Recommends *The Death  
and Life of Great American Cities*  
by Jane Jacobs



## Gwen Genzink

Branch Librarian,  
Cascade Township

Recommends *Extra Yarn* by Mac  
Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen



## Kate McCoy

Assistant Branch Librarian,  
Amy Van Andel Library -  
Ada Community Center

Recommends *A Prayer for Owen  
Meany* by John Irving



## Miriam Attal

Shelver, Byron Township

Recommends *The Historian* by  
Elizabeth Kostova



## Hannah Moulds

Assistant Branch Librarian, East Grand Rapids

## Vincent Frank

Shelver, Plainfield Township

## Kathy Cheney

Branch Librarian, Plainfield Township

Recommends *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand

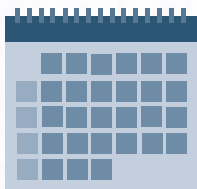


## *Spring is like a perhaps hand*

E. E. Cummings - 1894-1962

Spring is like a perhaps hand  
(which comes carefully  
out of Nowhere)arranging  
a window,into which people look(while  
people stare  
arranging and changing placing  
carefully there a strange  
thing and a known thing here)and  
changing everything carefully

spring is like a perhaps  
Hand in a window  
(carefully to  
and fro moving New and  
Old things,while  
people stare carefully  
moving a perhaps  
fraction of flower here placing  
an inch of air there)and  
without breaking anything.



See all new events  
and programs at  
[kdl.org/events](http://kdl.org/events)

