

Celebrate 25 Years!

Blues Series

MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH BLUES SERIES WITH 10 FREE CONCERTS

The Monroe County Library System's award-winning celebration of multiculturalism, community spirit and the blues, "the roots of all American music," marks its Silver Anniversary in February with a schedule of 10 free concerts for music fans of all ages. Monroe County's 25th Annual Black History Month Blues Series begins on Tuesday, January 31, with "The True Facts," a musical oral history of the event featuring Rev. Robert B. Jones and Peter Madcat Ruth.

What began in 1988 with Rev. Jones celebrating Black History Month with an educational, entertaining "musical lecture" at the Navarre Branch Library has grown into a nationally known, award-winning, month-long community collaboration. The project has garnered awards from the Rhythm & Blues Foundation, the Public and Michigan Library Associations, the Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies and a Certificate of Special Tribute from the Office of the Governor of the State of Michigan. In 2009, The Blues Foundation presented the Blues Series with its prestigious Keeping the Blues Alive Award for Education.



The Big Gig! Saturday, February 25, 2012, 7pm at the Monroe County Community College, Meyer Theater
 Monroe County's 25th Annual Black History Month Blues Concert, a star-studded evening featuring a once-in-a-lifetime lineup of Blues Series alumni.



Letter

From the Director

For our first newsletter of 2012, I'd like to say "Happy New Year," offer a brief introduction, provide a recap of 2011, and look ahead to some of our new initiatives and services. My name is Nancy Bellaire, Interim Director of the Monroe County Library System, a position I assumed after Nancy Colpaert's retirement in December. My love of libraries, especially this library, is life-long. I received my green "juvenile" card at what was then the Temperance Branch. I've worked in every department of the Library System but Maintenance, from page to Branch Librarian to Regional Librarian, before becoming MCLS Assistant Director in 1998. That role has allowed me to meet and work with many of you on branch building and renovation projects, as well as serve as our liaison to local units of government throughout the county.

Our community libraries were busier than ever in 2011. The sluggish economy has brought families, students, hobbyists and job seekers into our branches in record numbers. Computer use is up over 15% from 2010, and reference/information questions have risen more than 17% in the same period. We've introduced innovations like Express Check stations and "Book a Librarian," a pilot program offering you an opportunity to schedule time with a staff

person for one-on-one computer or research help.

Our branches continue to offer free programs of all types, from story times, book clubs for all ages, early literacy programs and family movies, to music, crafting and genealogy.

I must mention the e-reader, one of the most exciting opportunities ever for libraries and library patrons. Statistics confirm demand for e-materials is growing beyond projections. Through a cooperative buying program, and careful cost allocation by our Collections staff, MCLS is able to provide e-materials to the patron at no cost. You can read more about this ever-expanding category of library books on our website at mymcls.com/download

As we look toward the future, we're busy anticipating and planning for other innovations while monitoring our reduced funding situation. Tax revenues for 2012 will be down more than \$485,000 from 2009, and penal fines for 2011 were down nearly \$500,000 from 2010. To quote one of our librarians, "How can we continue to 'wow' our patrons while reducing our budget?" The answer to that lies with the staff itself. Our talented, creative staff continues to seek grants, monitor and evaluate trends in downloadable content, plan for enhancements to our catalog and website, continue to work on the digitization of our Local History collection, and plan entertaining, educational programs.

I speak for the staff when I say we can't wait to see what the future holds.

Kids Corner

Can you identify who said this?

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."*

If you guessed Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, you're right!

During 2011 we completed several projects including refreshing the popular Dr. Seuss collection. The library purchased over 600 brand new copies of Cat in the Hat, Horton Hears a Who, Green Eggs and Ham and fifty other perennial Seuss favorites.

Not a Seuss fan? Take a look at our updated Caldecott and Newbery collections. The Caldecott and the Newbery Medals are the most prestigious American children's book awards and are announced in January each year.

Over 400 ragged and worn copies were replaced representing 89 titles. You can find Caldecott and Newbery titles in our catalog by using the keywords 'Newbery medal' and 'Caldecott medal'. You'll notice many of them are available in print and eBook format.

Did you see the fabulous selection of children's holiday books this year? More than 500 new books were added for these and other holidays; Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

So stop by any of our 16 branches and enjoy a brand new Dr. Seuss, Holiday themed, or any of the amazing award winning books on our shelves.

Letter from a Student

A lovely letter from a student whose class toured the Dorsch Memorial Branch Library.

Dear Mrs. Krueger,
Thank you for letting us go to the library. I really like the books you had read, and doing the craft and thank you for letting me check out books and letting me and my class get library cards have fun.

P.S. I love reading!



Love,
Stormy

@The Branches

Dorsch Memorial Branch Library:

Vital Signs is a three month series presented by the University of Michigan's Museum of Natural History.

January 19 - How You Work

February 16 - Germs, Parasites, and Allergies, Oh My!

March 15 - Build the \$6 Million You

All Thursday evenings beginning at 6:30.

Families will get to do several hands on experiments each month. It is designed for children ages 6-11 accompanied by an adult.

Maybe Branch Library:

The Maybe Branch will be getting a paper retriever recycling bin that can take newspapers, junk mail, magazines, office paper, shredded paper in bags, and paperbacks for recycling. Please no cardboard or phonebooks.

The Maybe Branch has also started a coupon program. We have been collecting expired coupons to send to the military overseas. The coupons do not need to be expired to send. Please no older than 2 months expired and no store specific or internet coupons.

Ellis Library & Reference Center:

I Love a Mystery Book Club:

Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00am

Civil War Round Table:

Meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm

River Raisin Battlefield: Dan Downing will discuss the

National Battlefield at 7:00pm on January 25

Lest We Forget: A program about black Civil War soldiers and sailors at 7:00pm on February 23

Genealogy Group, Descendants of Early Frenchtown:

Meets on the third Saturday of the month at 11:00am

Computer Basics Forum: Meets on the 1st and 3rd

Mondays of the month at 1:00pm

To see what's happening at all of our branches take a look at our online calendar at mymcls.com

Coming Soon Booklist

February 2012

Lisa Gardner - Catch Me

Sophie Kinsella - I've Got Your Number

James Patterson & Maxine Paetro - Private: #1 Suspect

J. D. Robb- Celebrity in Death

March 2012

Sanjay Gupta - Monday Mornings

Joyce Carol Oates - Mudwoman

Jodi Picoult - Lone Wolf

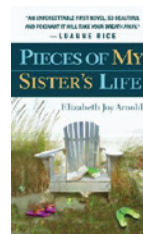
Danielle Steel - Betrayal

For the full list of coming soon books visit: <http://bit.ly/comingsoonmcls>

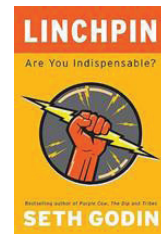
What our staff is reading.....



The Fifth Witness



Pieces of my Sister's Life



Linchpin



Forsaking All Others

See the full staff reviews: <http://bit.ly/bookpicks>

Blues Series Schedule of Events

Tuesday, January 31, 7:00 pm

Ellis Library & Reference Center

Rev. Robert B. Jones, Peter Madcat Ruth and Tim McGorey.

Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 pm

Carleton Branch Library

Samuel James, one of the roots music world's hottest young artists.

Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 pm

Dorsch Memorial Branch Library

"LOVEFEST 2012," starring Shari Kane & Big Dave Steele and Rachael Davis & Dominic John.

Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 pm

Ellis Library & Reference Center

It's MOOZAPALOOZA! starring Farmer Jason.

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 pm

Navarre Branch Library

Guitarist Johnnie Bassett and vocalist Alberta Adams

Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 pm

Bedford Branch Library

Blues and boogie-woogie piano with Mark "Mr. B" Braun.

Saturday, February 25, 7:00 pm

Monroe County Community College, Meyer Theater

"THE BIG GIG!" starring Rev. Robert B. Jones, Peter Madcat Ruth, Steady Rollin' Bob Margolin, Ann Rabson, Rich DelGrosso, Daryl Davis, Thornetta Davis, George Bedard & the Kingpins, Mike Shimmin and Dominic John.

Tuesday, February 28, 7:00 pm

Ellis Library & Reference Center.

Ralphe Armstrong, Ray Kamalay, John Reynolds, with special guest Rich DelGrosso.

For more information on the performances:

(734) 241-5277 or visit us online at

<http://mymcls.com/blues.htm>

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It's a Fine Thing to Do EVERY DAY!

You can return overdue materials and pay only \$1. Proceeds, up to one thousand dollars, will go to a different charity each month.

- January - God Works! Heating Assistance
- February - Family Counseling Shelter Services
- March - American Red Cross

Holiday Closings

All branches of the Monroe County Library System will be closed:
Monday, February 20, 2012
in observance of Presidents' Day

To receive this newsletter electronically, please visit mymcls.com/about_us



Become a Friend of the Library!

If you love the library and want to help enhance library services and promote library use, we extend an invitation to you to become involved in the Friends of the Monroe County Library System. Your membership also entitles you to invitations to Book Sale previews, special Friends events, and related Library mailings.

Please fill out the application below, call 734-241-5770, or visit mymcls.com/friends_mcls

New Membership **Renewal**

Name:

Address: Phone:

City: State: Zip:

Please make checks payable to **FRIENDS OF THE MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM.**

Classes of membership:

- Individual (annual)-\$10.00
- Family (annual)-\$15.00
- Senior (annual)-\$5.00
- Junior (annual)-\$2.00
- Life- \$200.

Joining the **FRIENDS of MCLS** entitles you to membership in your local **FRIENDS** group. With which branch library would you like to be affiliated?

What would you like **FRIENDS** to support?

Books Technology Programs Beautification

Other?

We also welcome corporate sponsors. Please call the library for details.

The Monroe County Library System Board of Trustees

Trustees: Maryanne Bourque, **Chair** ♦ Elizabeth Taylor, **Vice Chair** ♦ Catherine Calder, **Secretary**
Laurence Gregory, **Trustee** ♦ Fred Lux, **Trustee** ♦ **Interim Director:** Nancy Bellaire