

Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

1710 W. St. Andrews
Midland, MI 48640-2698
A SERVICE OF THE CITY OF MIDLAND

Change Service Requested

Library Closings

Monday, September 1
Labor Day

Sunday Hours Resume

beginning September 7
1-5 PM

Library Hours

Monday-Friday 9 AM-9 PM
Saturday 10 AM-5 PM
Sunday 1 PM-5 PM
Closed Sundays from Memorial Day - Labor Day

Phone Numbers

Information 837-3430
Reference 837-3449
Circulation 837-3457
Youth 837-3466
MCTV Network 837-3474
TDD 837-3472
Friends 839-8159

Web Access

www.midland-mi.org/gracedowlibrary

Email

gadml@midland-mi.org

Library Director

Melissa Barnard

About this Publication

The Library Connection is available at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, online, or can be mailed to interested patrons. Call (989) 837-3432 for more information or address updates. *The Library Connection* is published six times annually. Articles may be reprinted without permission.

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Midland, Mich.
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September/October 2003

Events

Author Tom Stanton

Thursday, September 25 at 7 PM

MCTV Honors Night 2003

Thursday, October 2 at 7:30 PM

Café Muse

Thursday, October 23 at 7 PM

Teen Spook Night

Thursday, October 30 at 7:30 PM

Halloween Happenings

Friday, October 31, All day

Holiday Book Shoppers!

Monday, November 3 at 2 PM

Meetings

Library Board

Wednesday, September 17
7 PM, Library Boardroom

Wednesday, October 15
7 PM, Library Boardroom

Cable Access

Advisory Commission
Wednesday, September 3
7 PM, City Hall Council Chambers

Teen Advisory Board

Saturday, September 13
1 PM, Library Lounge

Saturday, October 11
1 PM, Library Lounge

Web Access

www.midland-mi.org/gracedowlibrary
Email: gadml@midland-mi.org

Genealogy Moves

The library's local history and genealogy collections & services have moved from the Midland Room to the former magazine back issues room, now named the Midland Local History & Genealogy Room.



Genealogy Volunteers

Maxine McCullen, Nancy Lackie, Bob Snyder, Jo Brines (Not pictured - Bob Mass)

Volunteers from the Midland County Genealogical Society work at the library from 1-4 PM weekdays and will assist with genealogical research. In addition, they provide services such as the inter-library loan of census and vital records microfilms, filing and organizing forms, newsletters, books and microfilms. Genealogy volunteers donated over 800 hours assisting library patrons in 2002!

Word Processing Now Available!

The library has two computers for public use with Microsoft Word software and laser printers. There is no advance sign-up, but you can sign-in for a time slot later the same day. The fee is \$1 per hour (plus printing costs). Contact the Reference Desk at 837-3449 for more information.



From the Director

Members of the Library Board and staff have been working together on a Planning Steering Committee to develop a three-year strategic plan for the library. The goal of the committee was to identify key elements of change in the community and their impact upon library service needs, and to develop a plan that will advance library services to a new level.

From the report:

"The Grace A. Dow Memorial Library will provide technology that will meet our publics' needs via ease of use and access, proven reliability, and a trained and supportive staff." and *"The Grace A. Dow Memorial Library will enhance service to our public by balancing staff resources to meet the publics' needs, embracing change, and working to enhance effectiveness."*

The completed plan identifies two areas of focus: **Technology Excellence** and **Customer Service Excellence**.

The Technology Excellence Committee will evaluate needs, explore new technologies, determine the best use of resources, and create a technology plan. The Customer Service Excellence Committee will evaluate library programs and services, plan for improvements, and enhance staff effectiveness.

You are invited to read the library's Strategic Plan on the library's web site, www.midland-mi.org/gracedowlibrary. It is challenging and exciting to begin working on this plan.

Melissa Barnard

Friends Forum

June Book Sale Exceeds Expectations! Book sale volunteers and book purchasers contributed to a very successful June Book Sale. Book sale proceeds are used for the Friends' Kindergarten Book Give-Away along with library programs including Battle of the Books and Summer Reading. Thank you to all!

Holiday Used Book Sale! Mark your calendars now for the Holiday Used Book Sale to be held November 14, 15, and 16.

New Friends Email address - FOGADML@yahoo.com

The Benefits of Friends Membership

In addition to helping fund great library programs, Friends members also enjoy "Members Only" shopping at Used Book Sales throughout the year. Members can also volunteer at book sales, serve on committees, and more!

Friends Membership Annual Dues

- \$5 ~ Student and Senior
- \$10 ~ Individual
- \$15 ~ Family
- \$25-99 ~ Patron
- \$100-249 ~ Benefactor
- \$250+ ~ Life Member

Exhibits & Displays

September

Lower Level Display Cases
Midland Interfaith Council Exhibit

October

Mezzanine Gallery
"Just Add Water"
Midland Watercolor Society Exhibit

Lower Level Display Cases
UNICEF Exhibit

Call 837-3432 for more exhibit and display information.

Spotlight On...

ShelfLife

Wouldn't it be great if your local librarians regularly printed up a list of their favorite books, personally reviewed them, and placed in your hands a treasure-trove of terrific tales?

Meet *ShelfLife*, the Adult Reference Staff's newest quarterly publication.

This new book review collection, with original reviews by our Adult Services Department, goes in-depth to describe ten of our most interesting fiction works. We review not only current library acquisitions, but also

some you may have missed in the past few months. We won't pretend we could ever possibly agree on what the best book in a particular issue might be, since our reading tastes are very different! Our favorites are a diverse group, because the only guidelines we follow for inclusion are that our library owns the book, and that it is *excellent*.

Next time you visit the library, stop by the Reference Desk for your free copy of *ShelfLife*.



Kids Corner

Halloween Happenings (All Ages)

Friday, October 31

Trick or Treat in the library, All day

Puppet Shows: 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM, and 1 PM

Costume Parade (filmed by MCTV) following each puppet show.



Battle of the Books Kickoff (Grades 4-5)

Mark your calendars now for the 25th Battle of the Books Kickoff on Saturday, November 15...more details to follow.



Crafty Readers (Grades K-3)

Join us in the Library Lounge for stories, crafts, snacks, and more!

Fancy Flights!

Tuesday, September 9

4:15-5 PM and 6:30-7:15 PM

Wednesday, September 10

4:15-5 PM

Children Around the World

Cosponsored with UNICEF

Tuesday, October 14

4:15-5 PM and 6:30-7:15 PM

Wednesday, October 15

4:15-5 PM

Register on the first day of the program month.



Teen Spook Night

Thursday, October 30

7 PM, Library Dungeon

Costume contest, games, prizes, and refreshments. A great night for ghouls in grades 6-12 ~ Come if you dare!

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

TAB will resume monthly sessions on Saturday, September 13 at 1 PM in the Library Lounge. Teens in grades 6-12 interested in planning teen programs, suggesting items for the library's collection, organizing the Summer Teen Reading Program, and more are welcome. Join us and make your voice heard.

Brown Bag Book Club (Grades 4 & 5)

Book discussion and activity group. Bring your dinner (we'll provide dessert and a drink). Register on the first day of the program month.

Tuesday, September 23

5:30-6:30 PM, *Earthquake Terror* by Peg Kehret



Tuesday, October 28

5:30-6:30 PM, *Dovey Coe* by Frances O'Roark Dowell

Baby Time (Babies who are not yet walking)

Designed for parents and caregivers to introduce their young infants to books, songs, music, bounces, and rhymes.

Tuesdays at 1 PM on October 7, 14, 21

Wednesdays at 10:30 AM on

October 8, 15, 22

Toddler Time (Babies up to 24 months)

An active program with books, rhymes, music, and social time.

Tuesdays at 9:30 & 10:30 AM on

October 7, 14, 21

Circle Time (2 and 3 year-olds)

Be an active participant as we share books, finger plays, puppets, songs, and activities.

Tuesdays at 6:15 & 7:15 PM on

September 9, 16, 23

Wednesdays at 9:30 & 10:30 AM on

September 10, 17, 24

Thursdays at 10:30 AM on

September 11, 18, 25



Listeners Story Time (Ages 3-5)

We'll read from the best picture books, tell classic tales, and share stories on the flannel board.

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM on

September 9, 16, 23

Thursdays at 7 PM on

September 11, 18, 25

"Success by 6" Playgroups (Ages 0-5)

These playgroups will have stories, crafts, snacks, and fun. Drop-in.

Goodnight Gorilla

Tuesday, September 30, 9:30-11 AM

Itsy Bitsy Spider

Thursday, October 16, 1-2:30 PM

MCTV Network Update

"Honors Night" is MCTV's annual night to recognize and thank the many access users who serve the community through MCTV. "Honors Night 2003" includes a guest speaker, "live" entertainment, and recognition of several individuals and organizations. We hope you join us for this special night! Thursday, October 2 at 7:30 PM in MCTV's studio



MCTV Summer Video Camp is proud to present "Studio B!"

Kids (ages 12-17) participated in a four day video camp at MCTV this past August to produce this show featuring the Library and MCTV. Watch for "Studio B" to be shown on MCTV 3 in early September.

Join the fun of public access television! Come to an orientation/studio training class and learn how to become an MCTV volunteer. Saturday, September 13 or October 11, 10 AM-1 PM. The cost is \$10. Call 837-3474 for more information.

For Adults

ATTENTION BASEBALL FANS



Enjoy baseball memories with Tom Stanton!

Thursday, September 25 7 PM, Free, Library Lounge Refreshments served

Tom Stanton, author of *The Road to Cooperstown: A Father, Two Sons, and the Journey of a Lifetime*, has been a journalist for 25 years, and a baseball fan for 35!

"This adventure, though brief, provides a true bonding experience that is the heart of a sweet, one-of-a-kind book about baseball, family, the Hall of Fame, and the town that shares its rich heritage."

St. Martin's Press

His book will be available for purchase and signing.

Holiday Book Shoppers!

Monday, November 3 from 2-4 PM Library Lounge

Book lovers on your holiday list? Don't wait until the last minute - drop in for great book ideas, refreshments, and the opportunity to discuss favorite books for gift giving with our librarians. No books will be available for purchase.



Books and Bites

Read the books & enjoy lively discussion in the Library Lounge at 7 PM.

September 18~ *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo

October 16 ~ *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

Library Board

My connection to the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library began when my family moved to Midland. My beloved librarian, Miss Long, was always there to find good books for me to enjoy. Even in those days I thought I might like to be a librarian, though what I really wanted to do was run the checkout machines! Within six years of college graduation I was an employee of the library in the Youth Services Department. What an honor it was to help children connect with books! A few years later I enjoyed the challenge of the Reference Desk, fielding questions, and relishing the moment when I found the answers.

Though my career moved to the schools, my use of, and interest in the library has continued. Many issues have come to the Library Board since I've become a part of it, the coffee shop being the most controversial. I invite any questions or comments from the public so please visit the library's webpage for email addresses or drop your thoughts in the suggestion boxes located throughout the library.

My first 50 years using the library, from preschooler to grandmother, have been wonderful! I hope you check out what's happening here!

Kathy Mortensen
Library Board

Board News

For 2003/2004, the Library Board has elected Stu Bush as Library Board Chair and Judy Stein as Vice-Chair. Thank you to outgoing Chair Cherie Hutter and Vice-Chair Harvey Steinberg.

Calling All Battle Alumni

It's the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of the Books! A special anniversary committee has been formed and is planning exciting ways to celebrate this milestone. We'd love to hear from you if you participated in past battles... watch the *Library Connection* and the library's website for more information!

