



# myMCLS

## MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

WINTER 2023  
NEWSLETTER

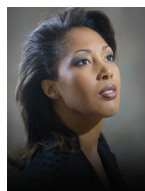
*Celebrating the*

**36TH YEAR OF THE ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

# BLUES SERIES



RECIPIENT OF THE BLUES FOUNDATION'S KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE AWARD 2009



The Monroe County Library System is pleased to welcome the Blues back to the branches! This year's series celebrates Michigan artists, both past and present. "Tuesdays are Blues Days" returned early with a January concert at the South Rockwood Branch Library, featuring The Good, The Bad & The Blues. Tuesday Bluesdays continue at other branches throughout the month of February and into early March, with new and returning artists including the Flint Southern Aires, Shari Kane and Dave Steele, Carla Cooke Hampton, Airey B and Her Blues Troupe, and Peter "Madcat" Ruth.

Then on Saturday, February 25, 2023, the *Big Gig!* returns live in the Meyer Theater of Monroe County Community College, honoring the memory of longtime blues series organizer, Bill Reiser. The show will celebrate Detroit's rich music heritage with performances by Rev. Robert B. Jones, Sr., Chris Canas, and R.J. Spangler's Blues Review with special guest vocalists Tosha Owens, Sean Carney, and John "T-bone" Paxton.

All concerts are free and open to the public, and begin at 7:00 pm.

No advance tickets are required and seating is first-come, first-served until capacity is reached.



Monroe County's 36th Annual Black History Month Blues Series is presented by the Monroe County Library System, Monroe County Community College, and the 2023 Blues Coalition of community partners: DTE Foundation, Friends of South Rockwood, Friends of Carleton, Friends of Dorsch, Friends of Ellis, Friends of Ida, Friends of Bedford, and Oaks of Righteousness.

This activity is supported by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council.

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For more information on all 2023 Blues Series events visit us online at <https://mymcls.com/blues>

# Letter

## From the Director

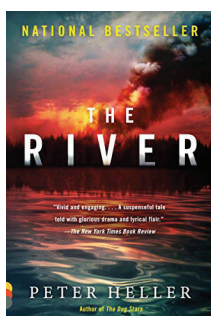
It is always a joy to share news of multiple organizations coming together to provide outreach and service to the Monroe County community.

This January, the Library was pleased to join with the MCOP and Monroe's Retired Senior Volunteer Program to participate in an area food drive. The project was introduced by the Monroe County RSVP as part of this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, and helped support seven area food pantries. Pantries included the Bedford Veterans Center, Salvation Army, Oaks of Righteousness, St. Anne's Food Closet, and Monroe County Opportunity Program - which supports Lord's Harvest Pantry and the food RXs in Bedford and Monroe.

Library branches across the county hosted collection boxes. Donations of canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, oatmeal, jelly, jam, pancake mix and syrup, peanut butter, and soup were especially encouraged. It is reported that more than 3,000 food items and \$500 was collected.

It is an honor to be a part of a community that is dedicated to making a positive impact. My thanks and appreciation go out to all of the volunteers and participants who worked to make this drive such a wonderful success.

- Nancy Bellaire



# Kids Corner

## Literacy on the Lawn

Running  
THURSDAYS  
THROUGH

MARCH 23, 2023

@11:00 am

Literacy on the Lawn takes the learning and enrichment of storytime and combines it with outdoor play! The series is held on the lawn of the Ellis Library & Reference Center for children 3-5 years old.

The fun begins inside, then moves outdoors for the last half of the program. Please come dressed for the weather. There will be stories and other outdoor activities that may be messy in nature. **Register Online at [bit.ly/ellislawn](https://bit.ly/ellislawn)**



Adults are also invited to the Ellis Library & Reference Center to learn more about the benefits of spending time away from their devices and outside in nature! The 1,000 Hours Outside Book Club discusses Ginny Yurich's 1,000 Hours Outside movement. The club reads fantastic books, asks questions, and comes up with ideas for you and your family to join the movement.

Meetings take place on the last Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm - 7:15 pm. **Register Online at [bit.ly/ellis1000](https://bit.ly/ellis1000)**

Each year, One Book, One Community of Monroe County selects a readily available and discussible book written by a major author. Residents are then invited to read the same book at the same time and discuss it through a series of free programs running approximately one month. The Committee is excited to announce that the One Book One Community selection for 2023 is *The River* by Peter Heller. It is the thrilling and fast-paced story of an excursion by best friends that quickly turns into a desperate struggle for survival.

Wynn and Jack have been best friends since freshman orientation, bonded by their shared love of mountains, books, and fishing. Wynn is a gentle giant, a Vermont kid never happier than when his feet are in the water. Jack is more rugged, raised on a ranch in Colorado where sleeping under the stars and cooking on a fire came as naturally to him as breathing. When they decide to canoe the Maskwa River in northern Canada, they anticipate long days of leisurely paddles and picking blueberries and nights of stargazing and reading paperback Westerns. But a wildfire making its way across the forest adds unexpected urgency to the journey. When they hear a man and woman arguing on the fog-shrouded riverbank and decide to warn them about the fire, their search for the pair turns up nothing and no one. But – the next day a man appears on the river, paddling alone. Is this the man they heard? And, if he is, where is the woman? From this charged beginning, master storyteller Peter Heller, unspools a headlong, heart-pounding story of desperate wilderness survival.

*One Book, One Community of Monroe County aims to enrich the experience of reading for everyone, regardless of race, gender, age, income or the neighborhood they call home. For more information and to find a One Book One Community event, visit [www.monroeccc.edu/onebook](https://www.monroeccc.edu/onebook).*



# BLUES SERIES 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**The Good, The Bad & The Blues—From Muddy Waters to Motown**

*South Rockwood Branch Library*

The series kicks off with Toledo's powerhouse blues band, "The Good, The Bad & The Blues." The band is fronted by singer and guitarist Ayan Naim and performs everything from blues and soul to gospel. There's something for everyone with selections from Muddy Waters to Motown

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**The Flint Southern Aires**

*Presented by the Dorsch and Navarre Branch Libraries, held at Oaks Village*

Celebrating the sacred side of African American music and gospel with the acclaimed Flint Southern Aires. The quartet follows in the hard-charging gospel tradition of southern-based groups like the Canton Spirituals and the Williams Brothers, but with an urban flavor.

Detroit's Rosa Warner Jones opens the show with the sound of classic gospel ala Marian Williams and the legendary Mahalia Jackson.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**Shari Kane & Dave Steele**

*Ida Branch Library*

A blues Valentine's Day with Ann Arbor's favorite husband and wife acoustic blues duo Shari Kane and Dave Steele. Their music is "street swing and stomp blues" as Shari and Dave lead a four-handed guitar party of original and classic blues, gospel, swing and ragtime.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**Carla Cooke Hampton**

*Ellis Library & Reference Center*

Acclaimed vocalist Carla Cooke Hampton, youngest daughter of the legendary Sam Cooke, brings her tour to Monroe keeping alive the music of her father and those of his era. Carla will present an evening of the music of Sam Cooke as well as her own original compositions.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**THE BIG GIG! - Monroe County Community College**

The *Big Gig!* returns live with a night of down-home Detroit blues featuring Rev. Robert B. Jones, Sr., Chris Canas and his band, and R.J. Spangler's Blues Revue with special guest vocalists Tosha Owens, Sean Carney and John "T-Bone" Paxton.

Rev. Jones, blues and gospel performer and master of ceremonies dating back to the series premier in 1988, is a renowned multi-instrumentalist and inspirational storyteller who celebrates the history and power of American Roots music.

Detroit blues is defined by great guitarists like the late Johnnie Bassett and John Lee Hooker. Guitarist and singer Chris Canas has earned the title of Detroit's "Prince of the Blues," representing the next generation of hard-working blues artists.

R.J. Spangler's big blues band features rhythm section and horns backing the vocal powerhouse team of Tosha Owens, Sean Carney and John "T-Bone" Paxton paying tribute to legendary Detroit blues artists and displaying current sounds of today's artists.

*The Big Gig! is an extremely popular event. No advance tickets are*

*required and seating is general admission, first-come, first-served until Meyer Theater capacity is reached. Doors to the theater will open at 6:00pm and the show begins at 7:00pm sharp.*

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**Airey B and Her Blues Troupe**

*Carleton Branch Library*

Singer and pianist Airey B and her band of veteran Detroit blues musicians celebrate the music of classic blues women including Bessie Smith and Ma Rainey.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM**

**Peter "Madcat" Ruth's C.A.R.Ma. Quartet**

*Bedford Branch Library*

Harmonica virtuoso and multi-instrumentalist Peter "Madcat" Ruth is a longtime performer in the blues series going back to 1990. The quartet will explore the evolution of the Blues by mixing the blues with elements of Jazz, Folk Music, World Music, Americana, Fusion Music, Motown and Jam Band Music.

**@The Branches** *(More at [bit.ly/eventsmcls](http://bit.ly/eventsmcls))*  
**Lighting the Way to Liberty**

*At the Dorsch Memorial Branch Library*

**Saturday, February 18, 2023 from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

Join us as we honor Harriet Tubman's legacy. Families will be able to make their own liberty lanterns, hear a story about Harriet Tubman, and enjoy a video showcasing the rich history of the Dorsch Memorial Branch Library. Register at [bit.ly/libertydo](http://bit.ly/libertydo)

**Informal Dementia Support Group**

*At the Frenchtown-Dixie Branch Library*

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023 from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

This is an informal, unmoderated support group for current and former caregivers of loved ones with dementia to give voice to their frustrations, concerns and moments of joy during this journey we are on with this disease. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 1-3 p.m. at the Frenchtown-Dixie Branch Library. Please note that if the library is closed for any reason, there will not be a group meeting for that day

**National Oreo Day at the Dundee Branch Library**

**Monday, March 6, 2023**

Stop in to the Dundee Branch Library to celebrate National Oreo Day! Enjoy Oreo themed activities! You will be able to test your Oreo building skills, vote for your favorite Oreo flavor and create Oreo Art! Materials will be on a first come first serve basis.

**Coming Soon Booklist**

**April 2023**

Simply Lies by David Baldacci

The Loner by Diana Palmer

The Fourth Enemy by Anne Perry

**May 2023**

Only the Dead by Jack Carr

The 23rd Midnight by James Patterson

The Wedding Planner by Danielle Steel

**Discover GREAT TITLES coming to MCLS:**

• [mymcls.com/all-recommendations](http://mymcls.com/all-recommendations)

YOUR MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

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**Holiday Closings**

All branches of the Monroe County  
Library System will be closed:

February 20, 2023 in observance of  
Presidents' Day

and

April 9, 2023

in observance of Easter



# 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 <http://bit.ly/myclsfriends>

☐ **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**

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