

Presented by the Friends of the Lake Odessa Community Library



The Library is delighted to showcase a truly one-of-a-kind display that has captured the attention—and admiration—of our patrons. Library enthusiast, Dawn Reser, combined two of her favorite hobbies, reading and crocheting, into an extraordinary yearlong project: crocheting 92 unique granny squares, each inspired by the cover of a book she read in 2025. Every square reflects the colors, mood, and design of its corresponding book, transforming stories into vibrant works of fiber art. The display features both the books and their matching granny squares side by side, inviting visitors to see literature through a new creative lens. From bold and dramatic designs to soft, intricate patterns, the collection highlights the incredible variety of stories read throughout the year. Dawn's talent and attention to detail are remarkable, and the visual impact is nothing short of stunning. Since its installation, the display has been wildly popular, sparking conversations, inspiring reading lists, and encouraging creative expression across all ages.

The display will be at the library through February, and we encourage everyone to stop in and check it out. In addition to sharing her squares, Dawn will be sharing her love of crocheting during three crochet workshops at the Library on Tuesdays in February. Patrons can sign up for the workshops while they're at the Library enjoying the display . Whether you're a longtime crocheter, a curious beginner, or simply a book lover, this display and its accompanying program ignite inspiration for all.

Three-week

GRANNY SQUARE CLASS

Tuesday, February 10 @ 6:00PM
 Tuesday, February 17 @ 6:00PM
 Tuesday, February 24 @ 6:00PM

Take your crochet skills to a new level and learn all the secrets of Granny Squares! Supplies are provided- or bring your own favorite hook and yarn.

SIGN UP HERE
 or at the circulation desk




- \$5 refundable deposit reserves your spot for *all three classes*.
- Some prior crochet experience is beneficial.
- Recommended for ages 12+

1007 4th Avenue, Lake Odessa MI 616.374.4591
 LakeOdessaLibrary.org

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Library Hours

Tuesday 9:00AM-7:00PM
Wednesday 9:00AM-5:00PM
Thursday 9:00AM-7:00PM
Friday 9:00AM-5:00PM
Saturday 9:00AM-Noon
Closed Sunday & Monday

Friends of the Library

Heidi Reed	Co-Chair
Dawn Deardorff	Co-Chair
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Deanna Humphrey	Director
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**The library will be closed Saturday
before Memorial Day, May 23rd**

Library Director: Jennifer Salgat
Library Staff: Deb Morrison, Julie Stahl, Kecia Dillon, Mike Forton, and Anthony Brandt

LakeOFriends@gmail.com

LakeOdessaLibrary.org

Upcoming Activities

Contact the Library to register
616.374.4591

February:

3rd Herbal Workshop for ages 12+ @ 6:00 PM
5th Library Lab STEM for kindergartens- 5th grade 3:45 - 4:45 PM
5th Teen Game Night for 6th-12th grade 5:00- 6:50 PM
10th Granny Squares Class for ages 12+ @ 6:00 PM
12th Teen Game Night for 6th-12th grade 5:00- 6:50 PM
17th Mr Mike's STEM for ages 11-16 3:30- 5:00 PM
17th Evening Family Story Time @ 6:00 PM
17th Granny Squares Class for ages 12+ @ 6:00 PM
19th Home-Based Education for all students 1:00 PM
19th Teen Game Night for 6th-12th grade 5:00- 6:50 PM
24th Granny Squares Class for ages 12+ @ 6:00 PM
26th Inspired Readers Book Discussion 2:00 PM
26th Teen Game Night for 6th-12th grade 5:00- 6:50 PM

March:

5th Teen Game Night for 6th-12th grade 5:00- 6:50 PM
12th Teen Game Night for 6th-12th grade 5:00- 6:50 PM
17th Mr Mike's STEM for ages 11-16 3:30- 5:00 PM
17th Evening Family Story Time @ 6:00 PM
19th Home-Based Education for all students 1:00 PM
19th Spring Craft for ages 15+ any time between 3:00 & 5:00 PM
19th Teen Game Night for 6th-12th grade 5:00- 6:50 PM
26th Inspired Readers Book Discussion 2:00 PM
26th Teen Game Night for 6th-12th grade 5:00- 6:50 PM

31st Parent Workshop Discussing Anxiety in Children for adults @ 6:00 PM

April:

2nd Teen Game Night for 6th-12th grade 5:00- 6:50 PM
7th-10th Spring Break Activities!

16th Home-Based Education for all students 1:00 PM

21st Mr Mike's STEM for ages 11-16 3:30- 5:00 PM

21st Medicare 101 for adults @ 6:00 PM

21st Evening Family Story Time @ 6:00 PM

23rd Ionia County Battle of the Books for 4th -5th grade @ Portland

26th Inspired Readers Book Discussion 2:00 PM

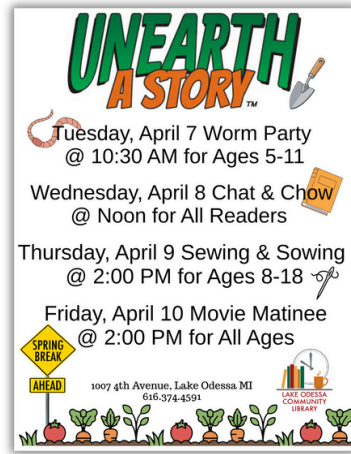
May:

7th Library Lab STEM for kindergartens- 5th grade 3:45 - 4:45 PM

19th Mr Mike's STEM for ages 11-16 3:30- 5:00 PM

19th Evening Family Story Time @ 6:00 PM

28th Inspired Readers Book Discussion 2:00 PM



Wiggles & Giggles

Thursdays
@ 10:30-11:00 AM
Through March



Preschool Story Time

Wednesdays
@10:30 AM
Through May



Recent Reads

Thoughtfully submitted by Anne-Marie Flannery
Contact the library to join a book club 616.374.4591



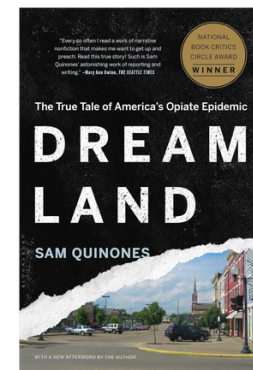
The Compound by Aisling Rawle

20 young men and women are brought to a desert compound to film a reality television show. What begins as a light-hearted attempt to garner fame and money through the show slowly turns more insidious. The show producers ask the contestants to engage in ever riskier and more humiliating stunts to keep the watching public interested. The participants (including narrator Lily) must decide if winning is worth the physical and personal sacrifices they must make to reach the conclusion of the game. This book serves an indictment of our fascination with reality and celebrity culture.



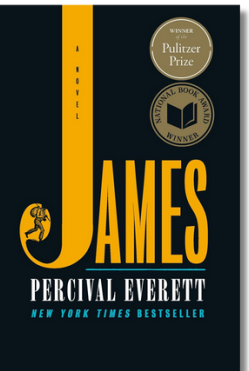
Dreamland: The True Story of America's Opiate Epidemic by Sam Quinones

Author Quinones wrote this book after investigating the drug and opiate trade as a journalist in the Eastern United States. It tracks the initial opium source from a surprisingly small village in Nayarit, Mexico to the streets in places like Ohio and West Virginia. The author intersperses personal stories from the addicts and their family members with the history of narcotics and pain management used in our health system. Quinones shows how medical professionals helped create the opioid crisis in this country and how recovery for many drug abusers remains stubbornly out of reach. Few answers are provided by the end of this book, with only more questions raised.

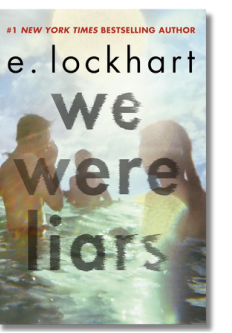
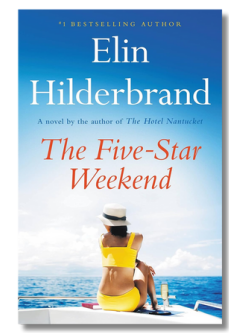
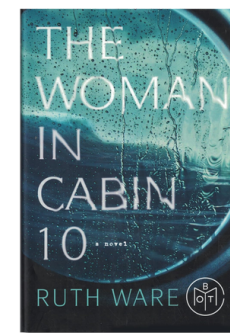
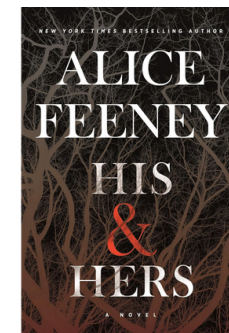
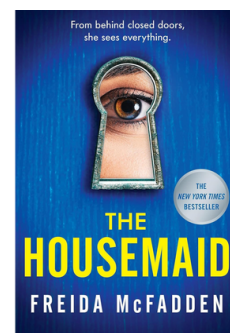


James by Percival Everett

Jim, the runaway slave from Mark Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn narrates his own story, recounting his version of the famous river trip with Finn. Unlike his portrayal in Twain's novel, Jim is an articulate and insightful man who is far more educated than the whites around him would believe. (He and other slaves can speak perfect English when among themselves but lapse into slave dialect when white people are present.) The book has been recognized for its compelling story, fine prose and topical social commentary. Everett was awarded the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his efforts.



RECENTLY HITTING THE BIG SCREEN



Check the library's webpage and Facebook events for all the programs and news.

LakeOFriends@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO THESE LIFETIME FRIENDS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Leah Abbott	Janet Gearhart	Doris McCaul	David & Louise Smith
Alona & Barbara Allen	Terry & Jan Geiger	Jane McClelland	Dorothy Smith
Jim & Patricia Saint Amour	Robert Gierman	Mel & Sandy McCloud	Lawson & Margaret Smith
Phylis Armstrong	Von & Sharlene Goodemoot	Marjorie McDowell	Lon & Janice Smith
Karen Avery	Marion Graham	Jim & Deb Morrison	Lakewood West Elementary Staff
Tony & Kay Barcroft	Alan & Linda Hamlin	Helen Mudry	Julie & Stephanie Stahl
Mary Sue Barnett	Bernice Hamp	Dr. Cary & Marion Peabody	Pamela K. Swiler
Lois Barton	Marilyn Haney	Richard & Gayle Peacock	Iris Tasker
Mike & Deb Behler	Daryl & Kay Hartzler	Dennis & Melinda Pepper	Fred & Connie Teachworth
Jim Behrenwald	Allen & Diane Haskin	Marie Pickens	Ryan & Jamie Teachworth
Henry & Beulah Beland	Mary Allison Haskin	Evelyn Pierce	Darwin & Margaret Thompson
David & Mary Beswick	Norm & Harriet Haskin	Katherine Possehn	Fern Tischer
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Pepper Carpentry	Janice Heidrick	Michael & Sharon Rohrbacher	Marie A. Warner
Jean Chapman	Dr. John & Maureen Hemming	Mary Roush	Jeff & Judy Wells
Gerald & Joan Chorley	Laurine Henry	Jennifer Salgat	Jim & Barb Wickham
Yvonne Cobb	Frances Hershberger	Les's Sanitary Service	Willice & Patricia Wilson
Jerene & Charlotte Collier	Michael & Nancy Hickey	G. Lee & Doris Shellenbarger	Dr. Frederick & Charlotte Wiselogle
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Raymond & Mary Dykhous	Theron King		
John Eash	Elizabeth & James Kinsey		
David & Sharon Easter	Marian Klein		
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L. Roger Eggers	Holly Lathrop		
Arnold & Linda Erb	Joe & Marilyn Leslie		
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Clara French	Virgil & Roberta Manley		
Dennis & Barb Frost	Larry & Anna Mascho		
David & Kris Galaviz	Carolyn Mayhew		
Laurel E. Garlinger	C. Hale & Evelyn McCartney		
Merton & Elaine Garlock	David & Lisa McCaul		

Are you interested in becoming a Lifetime Member?
Simply complete this form and send it along with a check, or you can drop off payment at the Library.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Please Choose: _____Good Friend (any donation is appreciated)
_____Lifetime Friend \$150

Questions? Please email the Friends at: LakeOFriends@gmail.com

1007 4th Ave, Lake Odessa MI 48849
The Friends of the Lake Odessa Community Library group is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.
Make checks payable to Friends of the Lake Odessa Community Library.

What's New?
NOTEWORTHY UPDATES

WHAT A YEAR! by Jennifer Salgat, Library Director

I don't usually like to brag—but this year gave us plenty to celebrate! Here are some of the exciting events from 2025:

- From top to bottom, the library received thoughtful updates, including new indoor wall sconces, a freshly repainted interior, and replacement carpet squares. We worked carefully to match existing colors and styles so seamlessly that many patrons may not have even noticed the changes—proof that our nearly 11-year-old building continues to look and feel like new. The addition of acoustical tiles in the Quiet Room also made a big impact, with patrons consistently commenting on the improved sound quality. The library roof was repaired, furnaces serviced, and shelving reconfigured to be more effective. Each year we have professionals wash all the beautiful windows and clean the carpets.
- Big changes happened beyond the walls, too. We streamlined some of our procedures and staff learned new skills to serve patrons better. In prior years, staff members took a 14-week American Sign Language course, had AED and First Aid training, and deescalation classes. This year we added to our customer service skills by honing the complexities of patron confidentiality and the Library Privacy Act, participated in safety courses, and learned ways to help patrons apply for library accounts from home.
- We took advantage of partnering with established community groups to offer some really cool events to the public. Early spring brought a wonderful partnership with the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds, allowing us to give away hundreds of saplings to the community. During the summer, our collaboration with Feeding West Michigan resulted in 2,190 lunches served to local children—an effort I am especially proud of. We partnered with the Lake Odessa Fair to host a fun paper airplane competition. We engaged with Lakewood Public Schools and met almost every student from Kinderstart through 8th grade. We coordinated with the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and filled the Library with hundreds of people excited to see Santa after the Christmas Village parade. And then there were the programs—so many programs! From yoga and sewing to foam parties and herbal workshops, we hosted hundreds of opportunities for learning, creativity, and connection. I truly believe that learning is a lifelong adventure, and 2025 proved once again that it's never too late (or too early!) to try something new.

As I turn the page to 2026, I am energized and excited about what's to come. There's so much to look forward to, and I can't wait to see how the library continues to grow alongside our amazing community. Thank you for being part of such a great year—I'm excited to see what the next chapter brings!



2025 TOP TITLES

- Kids Book: *I will Surprise My Friend* by Mo Willems
- Kids DVD: *Bluey* Season 1
- Junior Book: *I Survived the Battle of D-Day 1944* by Georgia Ball
- Young Adult Book: *Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins
- Adult Fiction: *The Teacher* by Freida McFadden
- Adult Non-Fiction: *All the Scary Little Gods* by Natalie Hoffman and *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Heidt
- DVDs: *Family Plan* and *Wicked*
- Audiobooks: *Sunrise on the Reaping* by Suzanne Collins, *The Housemaid* by Freida McFadden, and *The Tenant* by Freida McFadden
- eBook: *Pretty Girls* by Karin Slaughter



2025 FUN FACTS

- 22,142 items checked out
- 21,748 items checked in
- 2,023 sessions on the public computers for a total of 45,423 minutes
- 1,519 active patrons used the Library
- 550 emagazines downloaded on Libby
- 2,747 audiobooks downloaded on Libby
- 1,575 ebooks downloaded on Libby
- 184 Hoopla users downloading 2,493 audiobooks, 615 ebooks, 246 movies, 18 music downloads, 93 tv shows, and 9 comics
- 33,339 books, DVDs, magazines, and other items are in the library building worth \$644,686.39
- 1,719 items borrowed from other libraries
- 4,522 items loaned to other libraries
- 94 preschool programs, 28 tween programs, 42 teen programs, and 5,139 total attendance at those programs
- 231 Summer programs for all ages with 1,073 people attending
- 89 adult programs with 817 people attending