



**Books & Beyond**

# SDL Book Talk

## Sanilac District Library Newsletter

Volume 31 Issue 4

**Serving Our Community Since 1936**  
Managing CPS Elementary & High School Libraries  
and the Bark Shanty Library Branch

April 2026

# National Library Week Events

### SDL Book Club

Share your love of books with others who enjoy reading. SDL's book discussion group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30.

**April 1 at 5:30**  
*The Measure*  
Nikki Erlick

**May 6 at 5:30**  
*News of the World*  
Paulette Jiles



**Monday Morning, April 20**  
**10 a.m. at SDL's Bark Shanty Branch**  
**Paint a Tote Bag**  
**\$5 for supplies**  
Limited to 10

**Wednesday, April 22 From 3 to 5**  
**At Sanilac District Library**  
**Book Signing With Sherry Burton**  
**Author of the *Orphan Train* series**



**Sanilac District Library**  
7130 Main Street  
PO Box 525  
Port Sanilac, MI 48469  
810.622.8623



**Thursday, April 23 at 1**  
**at SDL's Bark Shanty Branch**  
**Puzzle Swap**

Bring a puzzle in excellent condition & trade for another

**Closed**  
**Good Friday, April 3**



**Friday Morning, April 24 at 10**  
**Learn To Finger Knit**  
**At SDL's Bark Shanty Branch**



**Library Hours**  
Monday: 11-5  
Tuesday: 11-5  
Wednesday: 11-7  
Thursday: 11-5  
Friday: 11-5  
Saturday: 11-2



**Saturday, April 25 at 3**  
**Concert & Sing Along**  
**At SDL's Bark Shanty Branch**

**Basic Watercolor Technique Series**  
**With Joyce Knight-Coyne**

Registration is required.  
See page 3 for more information.



## New Fiction

- *All In: The Naturals #3*—Jennifer Barnes
- *All The Little Houses*—May Cobb In the mid-1980s in the tiny town of Longview, Texas, Nellie Anderson, the beautiful daughter of the Anderson family dynasty always gets what she wants. What she can't get for herself...well, that's what her mother is for. Charleigh, blond, beautiful and ruthlessly cunning, remembers I having to claw her way to the top. When she was coming of age on the poor side of East Texas, she was a loser, an outcast, humiliated and shunned by the in-crowd, whose approval she so desperately wanted. When a prairie-kissed family moves to town, all trad-wife, woodworking dad, wholesome daughter vibes, Charleigh's entire self-made social empire threatens to crumble. Who will be left standing when the dust settles?
- *The Best Little Motel In Texas*—Lyla Lane. After a childhood spent combing bars to collect her fun-loving momma, Cordelia now enjoys a respectable life. Then one phone call from the hometown she's trying to forget throws it into chaos. Her great-aunt passed away and Cordelia is the heir to the Chickadee Motel. which can't be sold until its residents leave or pass away. Upon her arrival, Cordelia discovers the Chickadee isn't a motel—it's a brothel, housing three women in their sixties known as the Chicks.
- *A Far-Flung Life*—M. L. Stedman. Remote Australia, 1958. For generations, the MacBrides have lived on a vast sheep station. On an ordinary day, on a lonely road, under the unending blue sky, patriarch Phil swerves to avoid a kangaroo and the lives of the entire MacBride family are shattered.
- *The Final Problem*—Arturo Perez-Reverte. 1960. Rough weather at sea leaves a group of strangers stranded on an idyllic Greek island as guests of the only local hotel. Edith, a quiet British tourist, is found dead inside a beach cabana. What appears to be suicide has possible signs of foul play. Ormond Basil, a well-known actor who in his glory days portrayed the most celebrated detective Sherlock Holmes. The other guests believe that the actor is the best equipped to uncover the truth.
- *A Good Animal*—Sara Mauer. In the farm country outside Sault Ste. Marie, most kids want out. Everett is set on rebuilding his family's sheep farm and carving a future from the land he loves. Then he meets Mary, a new girl with restless energy and bigger plans. When their relationship reaches a crossroads, Everett sees a life together. Mary, however, is desperate to find a way out. Together, they make an impulsive choice—one that could change everything.

- *Her Last Breath*—Taylor Adams. Tess goes caving with her friend Allie. As they Allie descend into the depths, they realize they're not alone. Allie insults a guy who harasses them and he retaliates. 24 hours later, as a hospitalized Tess recounts her story of survival, the detective interviewing her shares shocking secrets about Allie's past.
- *How To Survive In The Woods*—Kat Rosenfield. Emma is married to Logan, a charismatic tyrant who keeps her under tight control. Her marriage is a cage: it keeps you in but it also keeps you safe. Until it doesn't. She makes a plan to take her life back. Destination: the punishing final stretch of the Appalachian Trail known as the Hundred Mile Wilderness. After all, bad things happen in the woods all the time.
- *It Girl*—Allison Pataki. As working models, independent young women soar to stardom not because of their pedigrees or inherited wealth, but because of their talent, charisma and beauty. Pop culture is born in a world alight with Mr. Edison's new bulbs, and no one shines brighter than America's sweetheart, Evelyn Talbot.
- *Keeper of Lost Children*—Sadeqa Johnson. The wife of an American officer, living in Occupied Germany discovers an orphanage filled with abandoned mixed-race children, Ethel feels compelled to help find them homes. Philadelphia born Ozzie volunteers for the recently desegregated army in 1948. While serving in Germany, he meets a local woman and the two embark on a relationship. In 1965, Sophia attends an all white boarding school to escape her heartless parents. She discovers a secret that upends her world and sends her on a quest to unravel her identity.
- *Last Ride of the Dirty Creek Gang*—William Johnstone
- *Laws of Love and Logic*—Debra Curtis
- *Murder Will Out*—Jennifer Breedlove Willow cherishes her memories of childhood summers spent with her godmother on Little North Island, Maine. Sue's death brings Willow back to the island. The locals gossip about the controversy around Sue's unexpected inheritance of the sprawling mansion. When Willow overhears someone threatening the next heir to the property, she wonders if Sue's death was an accident.
- *No Matter What*—Cara Bastone. Roz and Vin's marriage hasn't been the same since they survived a life-altering accident. Roz has hoped they can fix things, until she discovers Vin has signed a new lease. She signs up for a figure-drawing class. and Vin offers to let Roz draw him. As she works to capture the wholeness of the person she fell in love with, will they both be able to draw upon the feelings they buried deep inside to finally heal together?

- *Now I Surrender*—Alvaro Enrique. A woman flees into the desert after a raid on her dead husband's ranch. Decades later, the American and Mexican militaries try to maneuver Geronimo into surrender.
- *The Optimists*—Brian Platzer. Mr. Keating is an extraordinary teacher. He's able to enchant 14-year-olds into loving writing and literature. Clara is a student who lived up to the promise of her potential: from kindergarten thief to high school genius, Silicon Valley celebrity and animal rights activist turned terrorist. To tell her story, Mr. Keating tells his own.
- *Strangers In the Villa*—Robyn Harding Sydney's life is shattered when her husband admits to a meaningless affair. Begging for forgiveness, he suggests a retreat in Spain to repair their marriage. When a young couple come to their door in need of help, they invite them to stay. But as the days pass, dark secrets come to light, the Lowes' bond is tested, and not everyone will leave the villa alive.
- *Sakura*—Kanakano Nishi. The story of a family who is happy, until it isn't. Kaoru, receives a letter from his estranged father that spurs him to go back to his childhood home, and though he is apprehensive at returning, his spirits are lifted when he is greeted by Sakura, the family dog.
- *This Story Might Save Your Life*—Tiffany Crum. Benny and Joy host one of the most beloved podcasts in the world. Each week, they delight listeners with a "against all odds" survival stories, gleefully finding weird, life-affirming humor in near-death experiences. They've built a lucrative empire. The problem is, their next survival story may be their own.
- *Turn Off The Light*—Jacquie Walters Edith is a healer and a woman watched. Shadows creep where they shouldn't. Whispers creep through the dark. Terrified she has opened her home to the Devil, Edith makes a desperate choice. Claire doesn't believe in ghosts until she returns home to care for her dying father and finds her childhood house listening. Is the house haunted? As danger mounts, Edith & Claire discover they need each other to survive. But they are separated by 400 years.
- *Where The Wildflowers Grow*—Terah Harris. When the transport bus taking Leigh to prison goes off the road, killing everyone onboard except her, she searches for a place to hide. She finds a flower farm in rural Alabama. She doesn't expect the found family there who have built something from the wreckage of their own lives. Leigh finds peace with the hard pace and soft nature of the farm,. Maybe she's not beyond redemption & maybe Leigh starts to heal. But the past isn't so easily buried..

## New Movies

- *All Creatures Great & Small Season 6*
- *Nuremberg* (Blu-Ray): The Allies, led by the unyielding chief prosecutor, have the task of ensuring high ranking Nazi officials answer for the Holocaust in the trial of the century, while a US Army psychiatrist is locked in a dramatic psychological duel with former Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring.
- *Predator: Badlands*: Dismissed as a runt by his clan, young Predator Dek, determined to prove himself by traveling to the perilous planet Genna and making a trophy of it's dominant species, the Kalisk. After crash-landing, Dek encounters the damaged android Thia and finds an unlikely partner in survival against a deadly prey.
- *Regretting You*: Based on a bestselling book. Morgan and her daughter Clara explore what's left behind after a devastating accident reveals a shocking betrayal and forces them to confront family secrets, redefine love, and rediscover each other.
- *Rental Family*: An American actor in Tokyo struggles to find purpose until he lands an unusual gig with a Japanese "rental family" agency playing stand-in roles for strangers. As he immerses himself in his clients' worlds, he forms genuine bonds and the quiet beauty of human connection.
- *Wildcat*: A black ops team reunites to save an abducted girl. With 12 hours to pay the ransom, pull off a heist, and escape a city in chaos, they face deadly stakes at every turn.
- *Zootopia 2*: Rookie cops Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde find themselves on the twisting trail of a great mystery when Gary De'Snake turns the animal metropolis upside down.



## Library of Things

### Check out SDL Things!

Beverage dispenser, binoculars & bird identification guide, blood pressure monitor, bread machine, butterfly cake pan, digital to film converter, food dehydrator, games, Instant Pot, hand held mixer, laser level & stud finder, metal detector, puzzles, portable CD player for use in car, scanner, Yooper UV flashlight and waffle iron.

### Thursday At The Bark Programs For Grown-Ups at 1

Rotating activities every week:  
crafts, games, movies,  
puzzle-paloozas, speakers  
& more!

## New Nonfiction

- *Lost: Amelia Earhardt's three mysterious deaths and one extra-ordinary life*—Rachel Hartigan
- *Menopause: what your Ob-Gyn wants you to know*
- *North Of Ordinary: how one woman left it all behind for wilderness and wonder in Alaska's frozen frontier* —Sue Aikens

## Basic Watercolor Technique Workshop Series With Joyce Knight-Coyne

The six week course will meet Thursdays at 6 at SDL's Bark Shanty Library Branch

**April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 and May 7**

Joyce is a retired art teacher who loves to paint portraits of pets, children and houses. Students will be introduced to different techniques to practice and build upon at each workshop.

**Registration is required**  
**Instructor fee: \$60 for the entire series**

**Classes are limited to 15**  
**Prepay to reserve your spot**

**Sign-up at SDL in person, call 810-622-8623 or email [sdlcircdesk@yahoo.com](mailto:sdlcircdesk@yahoo.com)**

### Supplies To Bring

*You do not need to purchase new supplies if you already have your own.*

- Paint: Daniel Smith Primary Watercolor Set which includes 15ml tubes of Hansa Yellow Medium, French Ultra Blue and Perlene Red. Optional: Burnt Umber or Raw Sienna. Or any red, yellow or blue tubes
- Brushes: Princeton Real Value Brush Set (9146) Golden Taklon, short handle, set of 4 (contains round 4 & 6 and flat Wash 1/2" & 1")
- Paper Pad: 2 Canson XL Watercolor pads 9"x12" with 30 sheets. Or 140lb cold press watercolor paper tablets
- Palette or a plastic plate, tray or recycled food container or lid
- Drawing pencil & gray kneaded eraser
- Roll 3/4' masking tape
- Two quart size plastic water containers

### Items for use later in the series

- Watercolor sponge
- Saran Wrap
- Watercolor pencils
- Windsor & Newton watercolor masking fluid or Daniel Smith masking fluid with applicator
- Spray bottle
- Roll of paper towels
- Kosher salt

## New Picture Books

- *Betsy-Tacy for Small Children*—Maud Lovelace
- *I'm so Happy You're Here: a celebration of library joy*—Mychal Threets
- *Jasper Rabbit's Creepy Tales: Unsettling Salad*—Aaron Reynolds
- *Rainbow Fish and the Great Escape*—Marcus Pfister
- *Tic, Tac and Toe*—Sheri Dillard

## New for Elementary

- *Frindle Files*—Andrew Clement  
Josh is a serious gamer. Which is why he can't stand Mr. N's ELA class; it's a strict no-tech zone. Then Josh discovers a secret, Mr. N's keeps a lot more than technology from his students! Together with his best friend Vanessa, and using all the computer skills they've got, Josh is determined to solve the mystery of Mr. N's past.

## New Graphic Novels

- *Bluey: The Sign*
- *Dog Man: Big Jim Believes*—Dav Pilkey

## New Nonfiction

- *Dinosaurs Are WOW!: a Roaring Thunder of Prehistoric Wonder*—Mindy Thomas

## Books For Tweens

- *Wings of Fire: The Hybrid Prince*—Tui Sutherland. Umber and Sora fly south in search of a place where they can live far away from other dragons. A kind, hybrid dragon saves Umber from a kraken attack and he realizes they don't have to survive alone after all. There's an entire community living on a forgotten island. But the two MudWings realize that nothing in this place is quite what it seems and the protection it offers comes with a price

## New Graphic Novels

- *Agents of S.U.I.T. Sew Much Trouble*—John Patrick Green. Someone has stolen the Notorious P.I.G. food truck and Piggy's special BBQ sauce! But before Bongo and Marsha can solve the case, they need to solve the problems they're having with each other.
- *Big Nate: Code Red!*—Lincoln Peirce  
Phenom Nate is a force on the soccer field, a master of pranks and as the school newspaper's cartoonist, and now he's using his talents to launch a new podcast.

## Books For Teens

- *Fly Boy*—Eric Walters
- *Made 4 You*—Eric Walters. Becky agrees to show Gene Newman who was homeschooled his entire life around high school. With her help, Gene develops social skills and confides that he has a secret. That *he* is a secret. And it's a secret worth killing for.
- *The Same Backward As Forward: Inheritance Games #6*—Jennifer Lynn Barnes. Hannah bides her time in nursing school as she waits for her sister, Kaylie, to turn 18 so Hannah can get them both far, far away from her notorious criminal family. Tobias Hawthorne II, an entitled heir guards a nest of deadly secrets. Their lives collide in one tragic, stormy night, where an act of arson and nature leave Kaylie and two others dead.
- *Torchfire: The Torch Trilogy #2*—Moira Buffini. Lark has fled with her mother urgently seeking a safe haven. Nightingale is being held captive and is forced to use her songlight against her own people. Piper was promoted where nothing but bloodshed is demanded of him. Rye has stumbled across an incredible airship. All four are united by their wish for peace.
- *Watercolor Wizardry: paint your own fantasy forests dimension with 25 step-by-step tutorials*—Kiara Maharaj

## Early Literacy Programs At SDL's Bark Shanty Branch

### Baby Time

Thursday at 10  
Planned for children:  
newborn to 24 months old



### Toddler Time

Thursday at 10:30  
Planned for children:  
2 to 4 years old

**Age appropriate activities, books, crafts, songs and FUN!**

Baby Time and Toddler Time introduce children to the joy of reading and teach parents activities that stimulate brain development and encourage lifelong reading skills in their children.

**Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver**

*Programs are cancelled if CPs is closed.*

## After School Club

Thursdays:  
3:30 to 4:45

At SDL's Bark Shanty Library Branch  
Something FUN and different every week  
Activities, Crafts, Games, LEGOs, Movies, STEM and more!

For 1st - 8th  
Graders

### Note To Parents

1. Snacks will be served. Please send a letter to notify SDL staff if your child has a food allergy.
2. Parents are not required to remain during the program, unless your child is younger than 6 years old.
3. Children MUST be picked up at the end time.

**Programs are canceled if CPS is closed.**