

Adventure Nature



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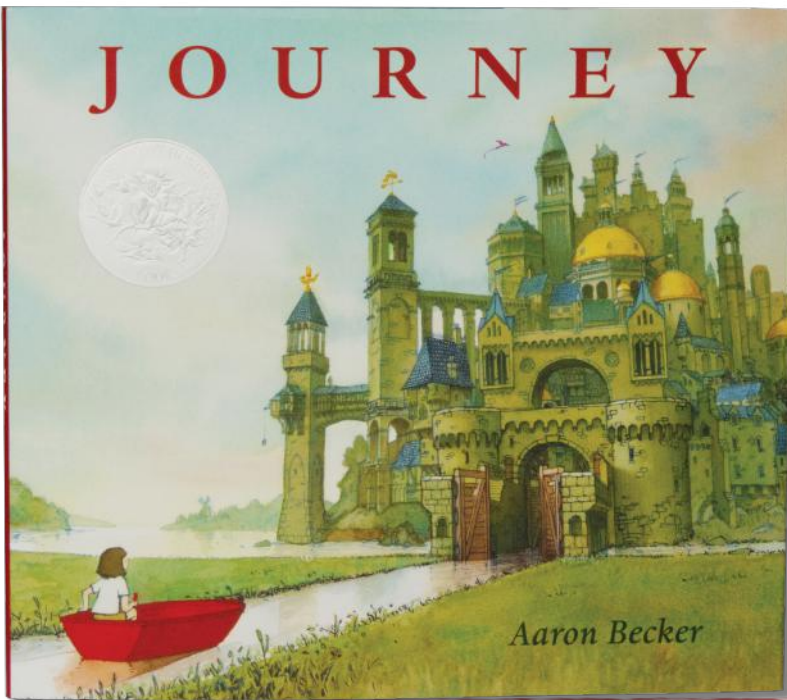
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This wordless picture book by author and illustrator, Aaron Becker, follows a lonely girl who draws a magic door and escapes into a fantastical world filled with adventure and danger. Armed with a red marker, she creates boats, balloons, and flying carpets to navigate the wondrous landscape. When captured by a sinister emperor, her courage and kindness become the key to freedom.

*“An imaginative adventure story whose elaborate illustrations inspire wonder, careful examination and multiple reads.”*

**— Kirkus Reviews**

*“Though Becker has plenty of experience as an artist for films, “Journey” is his first book, and it’s a masterwork.”*

**— New York Times Book Review**

*“The strong visual narrative makes this an appealing choice for a wide range of ages. By the turn of the last page, children will immediately begin imagining the next adventure.”* — **School Library Journal**



# Big Read Block Party

You're invited to kick off the Big Read Lakeshore with MADL in style! Bring your neighbors and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon featuring...

- **Scavenger Hunt:** Explore the NEW StoryTrail book, *Journey* by Aaron Becker.
- **FREE Food:** Served by your Bethlehem Park Neighbors, including a bonfire with s'mores.
- **Crafts and Activities:** Provided by neighborhood organizations.
- **FREE Swag and Giveaways:** Get your own copy of the book *Journey* (while supplies last) and take-home craft kits.

**THU, SEP 25 | 5-7pm**

**Bethlehem Park** (3008 Waalkes St)







# Play & Learn

Play & Learn to give your 0-5 year old child a great start!  
FREE books, music, crafts, and connection to the community.  
**Click the dates to register.**

**Connection Point** (2270 S Mill Iron Rd)

SEP 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 | 10am

**Bunker Elementary** (2312 Denmark Street)

SEP 17 & 24 | 12:30pm & SEP 18 & 25 | 10am

**Goodwill Center** (3353 Underwood Dr)

OCT 3 | 10am

**Fellowship Church** (4200 Apple Ave)

OCT 3, 6, 10, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31 | 10am

**McMillan Early**

**Childhood Center** (2885 Hyde Park Rd)

OCT 6 | 9:30am

**PLAY Muskegon** (280 W. Muskegon Ave)

OCT 7 | 9am

**White Lake**

**Community Library** (3900 White Lake Dr)

OCT 10 | 9:30am

**Goodwill Center** (950 West Norton Ave)

OCT 10 | 10am

**Orchard View**

**Community Education** (1765 Ada Ave)

OCT 14 | 10:30am & OCT 21 | 4:30pm

**Read Muskegon**

**(Bilingual Play & Learn)** (26 E. Broadway Ave )

OCT 18 | 10am

**Goodwill Center** (1934 E Sherman Blvd)

OCT 24 | 10am

**Lakeshore Museum Center** (430 W. Clay Ave)

NOV 13 | 10am

## Everyday Places are Learning Spaces

Get a Little Read or Mini Read Activity Kit to enjoy where ever you are while supplies last. Each kit includes a book, scavenger hunt, craft, coloring page and links to more activities. Text Liz at 231-299-0182 to find these kits in other every day places.

**Pick up your Kit at**  
**Suds Laundromat,**  
**2719 Sanford Street**  
**Or Sunshine**  
**Laundromat, 2300**  
**Glade Street**  
**Muskegon MI**

SEP - NOV





# Water Filtration Family Night

For this month's family night, join us for a fun and educational hands-on science activity at the library! In this interactive session, we will learn how water filtration works by creating our own mini water filters using recycled 2-liter bottles. We'll explore the science behind clean water, discover how natural materials help remove dirt and particles, and see the filtration process in action. All materials will be provided, and no science experience is needed—just curiosity and creativity!

**NOV 6 | 5:30pm** **White Lake Community Library** (3900 White Lake Dr)



## Journey Storytime

Enjoy reading, singing, talking and playing featuring *Journey*! Let your little one's feel inspired by this wordless story set in fantastical world led by a young girl with nothing but a red marker and her vivid imagination.

**OCT 6 | 9:30am** **MADL Egelston Branch** (5424 E Apple Ave)

**11am** **MADL Ravenna Branch** (12278 Stafford St)

**OCT 7 | 9:30am** **MADL Montague & Dalton Branches**  
(8778 Ferry St #2) (3175 5<sup>th</sup> St)

**11:30am** **MADL Norton Shores Branch** (705 Seminole Rd)

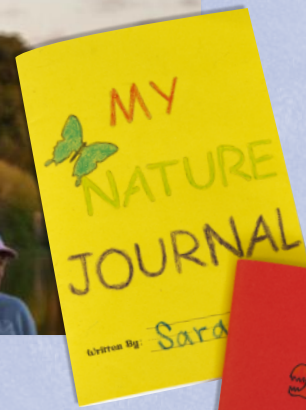
**OCT 8 | 11am** **MADL Holton Branch** (8776 Holton-Duck Lake Rd)

**11:30am** **MADL Norton Shores Branch** (705 Seminole Rd)

**6pm** **MADL Norton Shores Branch**

**OCT 10 | 11am** **MADL North Muskegon Branch** (1522 Ruddiman Dr)





## Adventure Nature Journey with PJ Hoffmaster State Park

Journey with the folks from P.J. Hoffmaster State Park as they show you how to connect with nature, use your imagination, and learn about different plants, animals and amazing things you'll find outside. Using your creativity, you'll decorate an outdoors inspired journal that you can fill with your discoveries.

**OCT 3 | 4pm PJ Hoffmaster State Park** (6585 Lake Harbor Rd)

**OCT 8 | 3:30pm MADL Montague Branch** (8778 Ferry St #2)

## Adventure Nature Journal

Start your Journey by making your very own nature inspired journals. You can decorate them and fill them with all your cool experiences noticing and being in nature. **Click the dates to register.**

**OCT 3 | 3pm MADL Dalton Branch** (3175 5<sup>th</sup> St)

**NOV 20 | 3:30pm MADL Norton Shores Branch** (705 Seminole Rd)

## Drop in Big Read Lantern Craft

Come together with our community as we celebrate Big Read books *Journey* by Aaron Becker and *A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat. Light and creativity come together as we create a lantern craft at any ability level.

**OCT 18 | 10am - 4pm Hackley Public Library** (316 W Webster Ave)



## Journey Stone

Create a rock "friend" who will be there for you throughout all your adventures. You'll decorate, name, and start your Journey Stone off on your first experience together. **Click the dates register.**

**NOV 5 | 4pm MADL Montague Branch** (8778 Ferry St #2)

**NOV 17 | 1:30pm MADL Muskegon Heights Branch**  
(2808 Sanford St)





# Float Your Crafty Boat

Row, row, rowing your boat down the stream is easy and fun! Launch your imagination creating a craft sailboat out of everyday materials. Sail away on your Journey! **Click the dates to register.**

**OCT 9 | 3:30pm** **MADL Ravenna Branch** (12278 Stafford St)

**5pm** **MADL Muskegon Township Branch**  
(1910 E Apple Ave)

**OCT 15 | 1pm** **MADL LVPD Branch** (4845 Airline Rd)

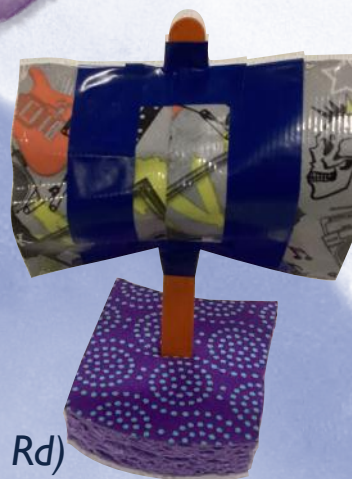
**3:30pm** **MADL Egelston Branch** (5428 E Apple Ave)

**OCT 16 | 3:30pm** **MADL Norton Shores Branch** (705 Seminole Rd)

**OCT 27 | 4pm** **MADL Holton Branch** (8776 Holton-Duck Lake Rd)

**NOV 7 | 12pm** **MADL Dalton Branch** (3175 5<sup>th</sup> St)

**NOV 12 | 3:30pm** **MADL North Muskegon Branch** (1522 Ruddiman Dr)



# Fly High with Paper Hot Air Balloons

Let your imagination take off making awesome paper hot air balloons! Using colorful paper, glue, and your creativity, design your very own balloon. Think about all the amazing places you and your balloon could go! **Click the dates to register.**

**OCT 1 | 1pm** **MADL Muskegon Heights Branch** (2808 Sanford St)

**OCT 14 | 3:30pm** **MADL North Muskegon Branch** (1522 Ruddiman Dr)

**NOV 3 | 4pm** **MADL Holton Branch** (8776 Holton-Duck Lake Rd)

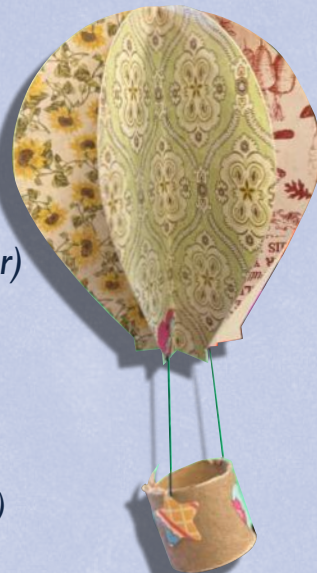
**NOV 4 | 3:30pm** **MADL Ravenna Branch** (12278 Stafford St)

**NOV 6 | 3:30pm** **MADL Norton Shores Branch** (705 Seminole Rd)

**5pm** **MADL Muskegon Township Branch** (1910 E Apple Ave)

**NOV 19 | 1pm** **MADL LVPD Branch** (4845 Airline Rd)

**5:30pm** **MADL Egelston Branch** (5428 E Apple Ave)

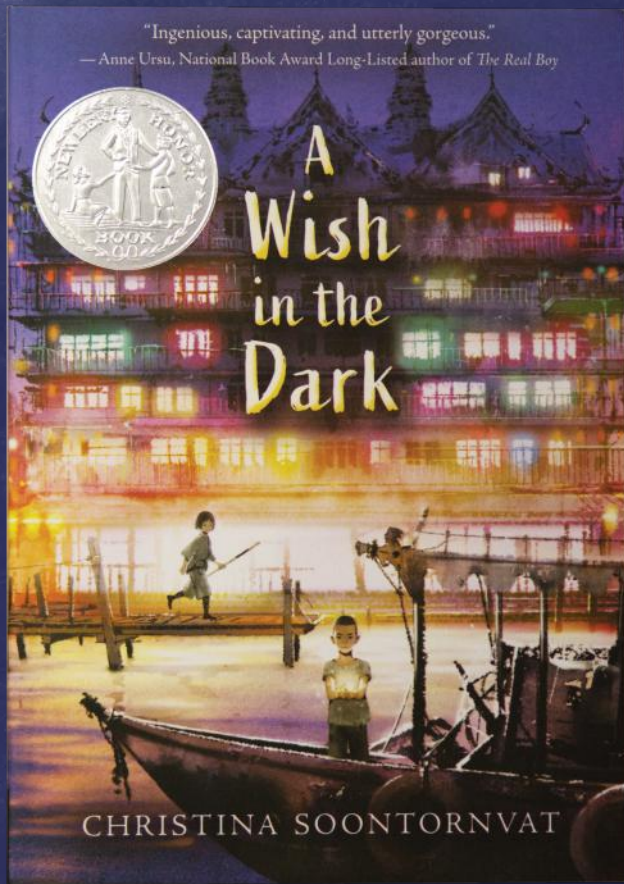


# Little Read Dance Performance

Hope College's StrikeTime Dance Theatre will perform an interactive, choreographed dance of *Journey*, Aaron Becker's wordless picture book.

**NOV 10 | 10am** **MADL North Muskegon Branch** (1522 Ruddiman Dr)





## THE MIDDLE READ L A K E S H O R E

This Newbery Award book follows Pong, born in Namwon Prison, who escapes to find that freedom is just as elusive outside, where the wealthy bask in light while the poor remain in darkness. Hunted by Nok, the warden's determined daughter, Pong discovers harsh truths about justice and power in the Thai-inspired city of Chattana. This fast-paced adventure reimagines *Les Misérables*.

*“At once timeless and timely, Christina Soontornvat’s *A Wish in the Dark* is a richly imagined portrait of the power of hope, courage, and compassion to shine a light in dark times and the ability of small people to effect great change. Ingenious, captivating, and utterly gorgeous.”*

—**Anne Ursu**, National Book Award–nominated author of *The Real Boy*

*“Do you hear the people sing? Christina Soontornvat’s *Les Misérables*-inspired *A Wish in the Dark* will have readers cheering for Pong, the young boy who escapes a life of unfair imprisonment, discovers the powers of friendship and forgiveness, and raises his voice against oppression. I was swept away by the Thai setting, the Buddhist teachings of Father Cham, and the sheer grit and determination of these young characters. At the heart of this novel, like Victor Hugo’s, are the struggle for justice and the power of marginalized communities to change our world for the better. Young readers will be rooting for Pong and his band of revolutionary friends and inspired to spread more light in their own communities.”*

—**Sayantani DasGupta**, New York Times best-selling author of *The Kiranmala* and the *Kingdom Beyond* books





# Thai Beats & Bites

Create a musical instrument while exploring the sounds and flavors inspired by Thailand. Try traditional Thai treats—both sweet and savory—then build your own simple musical instruments. Discover how music, food, and culture bring stories like *A Wish in the Dark* to life in new and exciting ways! **Click the dates to register.**

OCT 1 | 5:30pm **MADL Egelston Branch** (5428 E Apple Ave)

OCT 6 | 4pm **MADL Holton Branch** (8776 Holton-Duck Lake Rd)

OCT 7 | 3pm **MADL Dalton Branch** (3175 5<sup>th</sup> St)

OCT 8 | 2pm **MADL Muskegon Heights Branch** (2808 Sanford St)

OCT 14 | 3:30pm **MADL Ravenna Branch** (12278 Stafford St)

OCT 22 | 4pm **MADL North Muskegon Branch** (1522 Ruddiman Dr)

OCT 28 | 3:30pm **MADL Norton Shores Branch** (705 Seminole Rd)

OCT 29 | 4pm **MADL Montague Branch** (8778 Ferry St #2)

NOV 20 | 5pm **MADL Muskegon Township Branch** (1910 E Apple Ave)



## Lights & Legends

Create your own paper lantern, lotus flower tea light and Gyotaku (Japanese fish painting) activity while enjoying tasty Thai-inspired snacks. Step into the glowing world of *A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat. Middle Read Book selection! Inspired by the vibrant setting and themes of the book, like the magical lights that fill the sky in *A Wish in the Dark*! **Click the dates to register.**

OCT 1 | 6pm **MADL Dalton Branch** (3175 5<sup>th</sup> St)

OCT 2 | 5pm **MADL Muskegon Township Branch** (1910 E Apple Ave)

OCT 8 | 4pm **MADL North Muskegon Branch** (1522 Ruddiman Dr)

OCT 20 | 4pm **MADL Holton Branch** (8776 Holton-Duck Lake Rd)

OCT 22 | 5:30pm **MADL Egelston Branch** (5428 E Apple Ave)

NOV 3 | 1pm **MADL Muskegon Heights Branch** (2808 Sandford St)

NOV 12 | 3:30pm **MADL Ravenna Branch** (12278 Stafford St)

4pm **MADL Montague Branch** (8778 Ferry St #2)

NOV 25 | 3:30pm **MADL Norton Shores Branch** (705 Seminole Rd)





## The Durian: King of Fruits

The durian is a unique and fascinating fruit that divides opinion due to its strong smell but is celebrated for its delicious taste and rich nutritional value by its many fans. Come to the library and learn about this fascinating fruit by taste-tasting candies and cakes, creating a durian craft, and taking home a fun gift. For Kids. **Click the date to register.**

**OCT 8 | 5:30pm MADL Egelston Branch** (5428 E Apple Ave)



## Paper Lantern Luminary Bag

Turn a paper map into a lantern, add decorations, stars and lights. The light shines through the pattern in the sides of the bag to add a warm glow to your home decorations. For Adults. **Click the date to register.**

**OCT 29 | 6pm MADL Dalton Branch** (3175 5<sup>th</sup> St)

## Afternoon Hang ft. *A Wish in the Dark*

Join a fun group of tweens (ages 10+ invited) on Friday afternoons. Make new friends, do some crafts, play some games, eat some snacks, or just hang out. Each week we'll have the Switch and the VR headset out for gaming as well. This week will feature activities based on the Middle Read book, *A Wish In The Dark*.

**OCT 10 | 2pm White Lake Community Library** (3900 White Lake Dr)

## Tutoring Prompts/Guides

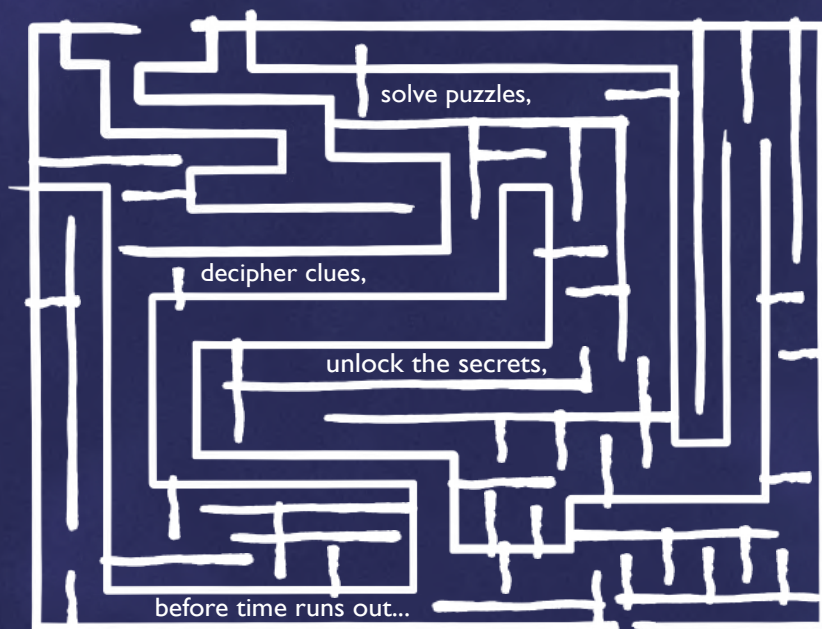
Read Muskegon will provide copies (while supplies last) of *A Wish in the Dark* and *I Cheerfully Refuse*, along with comprehension questions and reflection/writing prompts, to be made available for Read Muskegon Tutors working with adult (ABE or ESL) learners. Learners will be invited to keep the copy of the book.

**OCT 15 | 12pm Read Muskegon** (26 E Broadway ave)



# Escape Room Adventure

Step into the world of *A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat! Inspired by the daring journey of Pong and Nok, you'll need to use your wits, courage, and teamwork to solve the clues before time runs out. Perfect for tweens and teens who love mysteries, challenges, and stories filled with light and justice. **Click the dates to register.**



**OCT 9 | 3:30pm** **MADL Norton Shores Branch** (705 Seminole Rd)

**OCT 27 | 10am** **MADL Muskegon Heights Branch** (2808 Sandford St)

**NOV 4 | 3pm** **MADL Dalton Branch** (3175 5<sup>th</sup> St)

**NOV 5 | 4pm** **MADL North Muskegon Branch** (1522 Ruddiman Dr)

**NOV 12 | 5:30pm** **MADL LVPD Branch** (4845 Airline Rd)

## Drop in Big Read Lantern Craft

Come together with our community as we celebrate Big Read books *Journey* by Aaron Becker and *A Wish in the Dark* by Christina Soontornvat. Light and creativity come together as we create a lantern craft at any ability level.

**Hackley Public Library** (316 W Webster Ave)

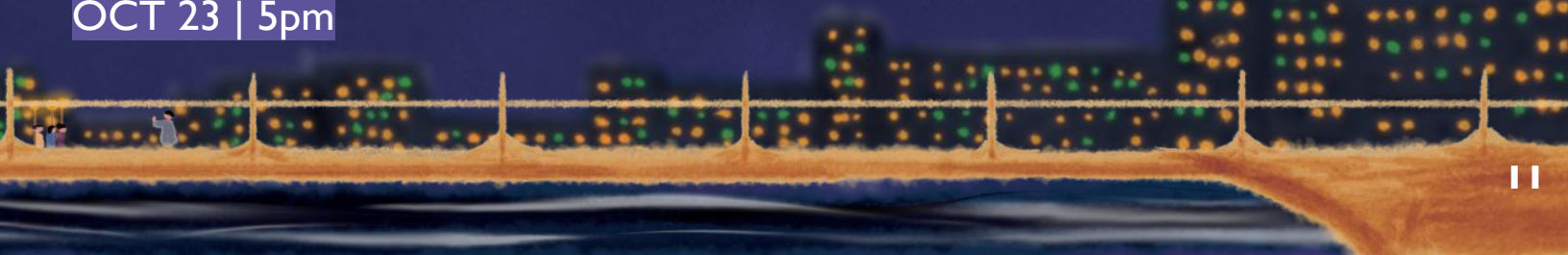
**OCT 18 | 10am - 4pm**

## Shadow Art at MMA

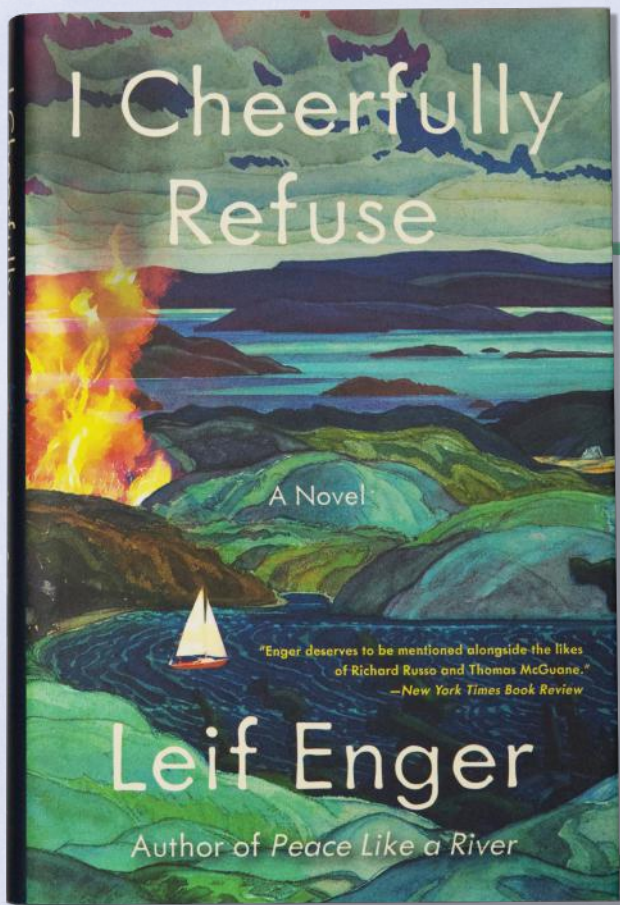
Take a field trip over to the Muskegon Museum of Art to learn more about how light (and shadow) are used in artwork. This special trip is open to the first 40 young people with an adult. We will do a fun shadow art project and take a tour together through the art galleries.

**Muskegon Museum of Art** (296 W Webster Ave)

**OCT 23 | 5pm**







**NEA BIG READ**  
L A K E S H O R E

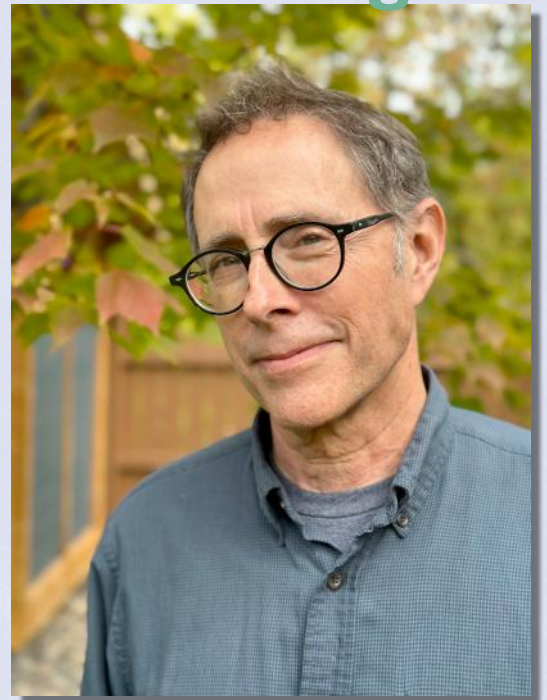
*I Cheerfully Refuse* follows Rainy, a grieving musician sailing the sentient waters of Lake Superior in search of his lost, beloved wife. Set in a collapsing, lawless America ruled by a ruthless billionaire class, Rainy encounters treacherous storms, desperate survivors, and unexpected allies—including a young stowaway who changes his journey. As his quiet quest transforms into a reluctant rebellion, Rainy's innate kindness and determination inspire hope.

## Big Read Author Talk with Leif Enger

Join the award-winning author of *Peace Like a River* and *Virgil Wander* for an evening of discussion, book readings, and music. *I Cheerfully Refuse* epitomizes the “musical, sometimes magical and deeply satisfying kind of storytelling” (Los Angeles Times) for which Leif Enger is cherished. A rollicking narrative in the most evocative of settings, this latest novel is a symphony against despair and a rallying cry for the future. Book Nook will offer books for sale at the event. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is strongly encouraged. **Click the dates to register.**

**Overbrook Theater at Muskegon Community College** (221 Quarterline Rd)

NOV 13 | 6pm







## Big Read Kick-Off: Stories, Science & the Lake

Set against the beautiful backdrop of Muskegon Lake at the Mart Dock shipping yard, this **free, family-friendly** event brings *I Cheerfully Refuse* by Leif Enger—and other Big Read selections—to life through hands-on exploration and creativity. This afternoon will feature exciting events such as...

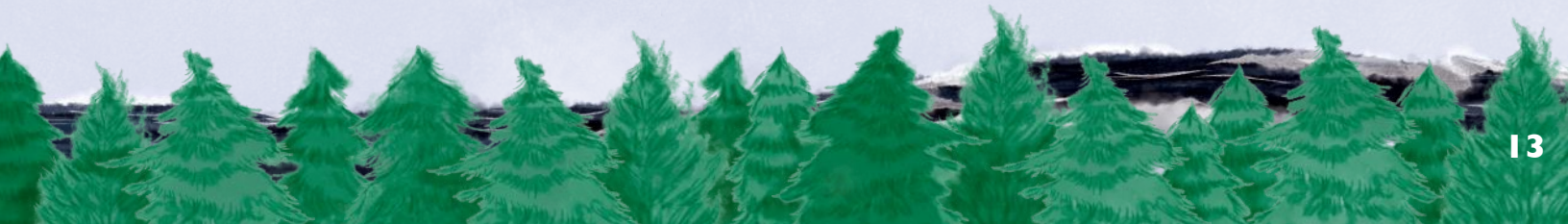
- Science cruises aboard the W.G. Jackson research vessel.
- Tour of the historic LST 393 WWII Ship
- Live performances and crafts on the LST's top deck
- A bounce house and lake-themed kid's crafts
- Interactive booths from local nonprofits
- A celebration of the recent delisting of Muskegon lake as "area of concern"

**OCT 4 | 12-4pm Mart Dock (560 Mart St)**

## Big Read Bar Crawl

This is an opportunity for readers and revelers alike to explore the diverse bar scene of Downtown Muskegon. We'll have scavenger hunts, games, photo booths, specialty drinks and more--all themed around this year's Big Read book selection *I Cheerfully Refuse* by Leif Enger. **Click here to register and see participating establishments.**

**NOV 14 | 5:30pm Beginning at Rake Beer Project (500 West Western Ave)**





## Currents of Change

Discover how development and conservation meet at the water's edge in this panel on West Michigan's evolving relationship with its rivers and lakes.

SEP 17 | 5:30pm **White Lake Community Library** (3900 White Lake Dr)



## Dystopias and Hope: Leif Enger's *I Cheerfully Refuse* in A Speculative Fiction Context

In this “Big Read” themed talk, Dr. Rachel Anderson will discuss the history of utopian/dystopian lit, and look at how Leif Enger's novel *I Cheerfully Refuse* fits into and challenges the genre.

**Hackley Public Library** (316 W Webster Ave)

SEP 23 | 5:30pm

## Pedal for Progress: Muskegon Lake's Comeback Ride

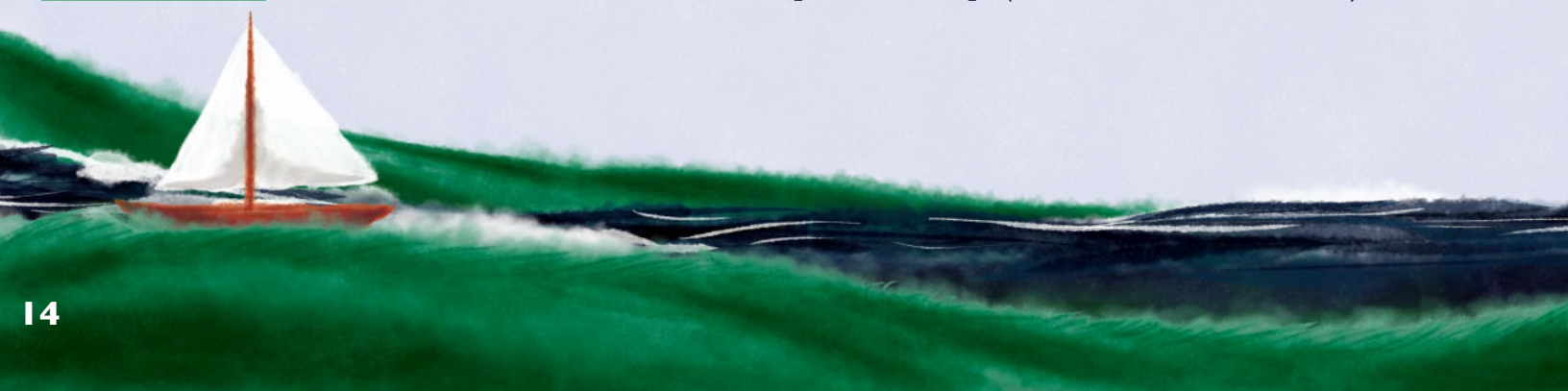
Join us for a leisurely 7 mile bicycle ride along Muskegon Lake and learn about its environmental restoration through decades of work. **Click the date to register.**

SEP 27 | 12pm **Beginning at Lakeshore Museum** (430 W Clay Ave)

## Read the Great Lakes: Adult Reading Challenge

Five lakes. Five books. One unforgettable reading journey through the stories that shaped the Great Lakes region. Join in throughout October and November.

OCT - NOV **White Lake Community Library** (3900 White Lake Dr)







## Memory Jars

Make a sea glass inspired memory jar to store your written memories, mementos, or small items that represent significant moments or people. Inspired by the 2025 Big Read Lakeshore novel *I Cheerfully Refuse* by Leif Enger, a dystopian novel set on Lake Superior exploring themes of grief, loss, hope, connection, and resilience.

**Click the dates to register.**

**OCT 7 | 3:30pm MADL Ravenna Branch** (12278 Stafford St)

**5:30pm MADL Holton Branch** (8776 Holton-Duck Lake Rd)

**OCT 14 | 5:30pm MADL Egelston Branch** (5428 E Apple Ave)

**6pm MADL North Muskegon Branch** (1522 Ruddiman Dr)

**OCT 22 | 1:30pm MADL Muskegon Heights Branch** (2808 Sanford St)

## Shaping the Landscape: West Michigan's Environmental History

Join the Lakeshore Museum Center for a talk about the environmental past, present, and future of West Michigan. We'll highlight the different industries that have impacted the environment and how the community has been working to clean and restore our natural environment.

**OCT 8 | 5:30pm MADL Dalton Branch** (3175 5<sup>th</sup> St)

**NOV 19 | 5:30pm MADL Montague Branch** (8778 Ferry St #2)

## Cruisin' with

**MADL** Valerie van Heest, underwater explorer and historian who has been involved in the discovery and archaeological documentation of numerous historic Great Lakes shipwrecks, will present *Lost and Found: Legendary Lake Michigan Shipwrecks*, highlighting legendary Lake Michigan shipwrecks. Space is limited. **Click to register.**

**OCT 8 | 5:30pm Aquastar** (560 Mart St)





## Tumbled Glass Suncatcher

Make a unique suncatcher out of tumbled Good Glass from Goodwill and CDs. A short presentation from Goodwill about their sustainable product will take place before instruction starts. **Click the dates to register.**

**MADL LVPD Branch** (4845 Airline Rd)

OCT 1 | 5:30pm

**MADL Montague Branch** (8778 Ferry St #2)

OCT 15 | 5:30pm

**MADL Norton Shores Branch** (705 Seminole Rd)

OCT 20 | 6pm

**MADL Dalton Branch** (3175 5<sup>th</sup> St.)

NOV 5 | 5:30pm

## Books, Bikes, & Brews

Join fellow readers and riders for a cycling meet-up followed by laid-back conversation at Fetch Brewing! Whether you stop in before or after your ride, we'll be chatting about *Cheerfully Refuse* by Leif Enger—the 2025 Big Read Lakeshore selection.

OCT 9 | 6pm **Fetch Brewing Company** (100 West Colby St)



## Fall Foliage Hike

Journey through the change of the seasons on this outdoor adventure hike through the fall foliage! All welcome to experience nature at Duck Lake State Park. Ty will regale you with local knowledge and nature tidbits. **Click the date to register.**

OCT 25 | 2pm **Duck Lake State Park** (5799 Wabaningo Rd)

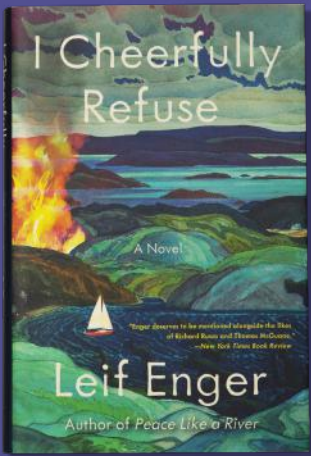


# From Pelts to Plows: Michigan's Shift from Fur Trade to Settlement

This program by the Lakeshore Museum Center explores Michigan's transition from a fur trade economy to agricultural settlement in the 18th and 19th centuries. The presentation highlights how changing land use, economic priorities, and cultural dynamics shaped our region's development. This program provides historical context for Michigan's early industries and settlement patterns, offering insight into the broader story of expansion and change in the Great Lakes region. **Click the dates to register.**

**NOV 3 | 6pm** **MADL North Muskegon Branch** (1522 Ruddiman Dr)

**NOV 12 | 5:30pm** **MADL Dalton Branch** (3175 5<sup>th</sup> St)



## *I Cheerfully Refuse: Dystopian Deep Dive with MCC*

Please join us for a Muskegon Community College faculty led, multi-disciplinary discussion on the 2025 Big Read Book, *I Cheerfully Refuse* by Leif Enger. Faculty from various disciplines (Music, Literature, History, Philosophy, and Geography) will delve into book themes from their perspectives. **Click the date to register.**

**NOV 5 | 6pm** **MADL Norton Shores Branch** (705 Seminole Rd)



## The Wreck of the Muskegon

Presented by Patrick Horn of the Lakeshore Museum Center. In 1919, the worst maritime disaster to ever occur in Muskegon took place. In this presentation, we will look at the ship, the wreck, and what fallout occurred from the disaster.

**NOV 4 | 5:30pm**

**Hackley Public Library** (316 W Webster Ave)





# NEA BIG READ

## LAKESHORE

