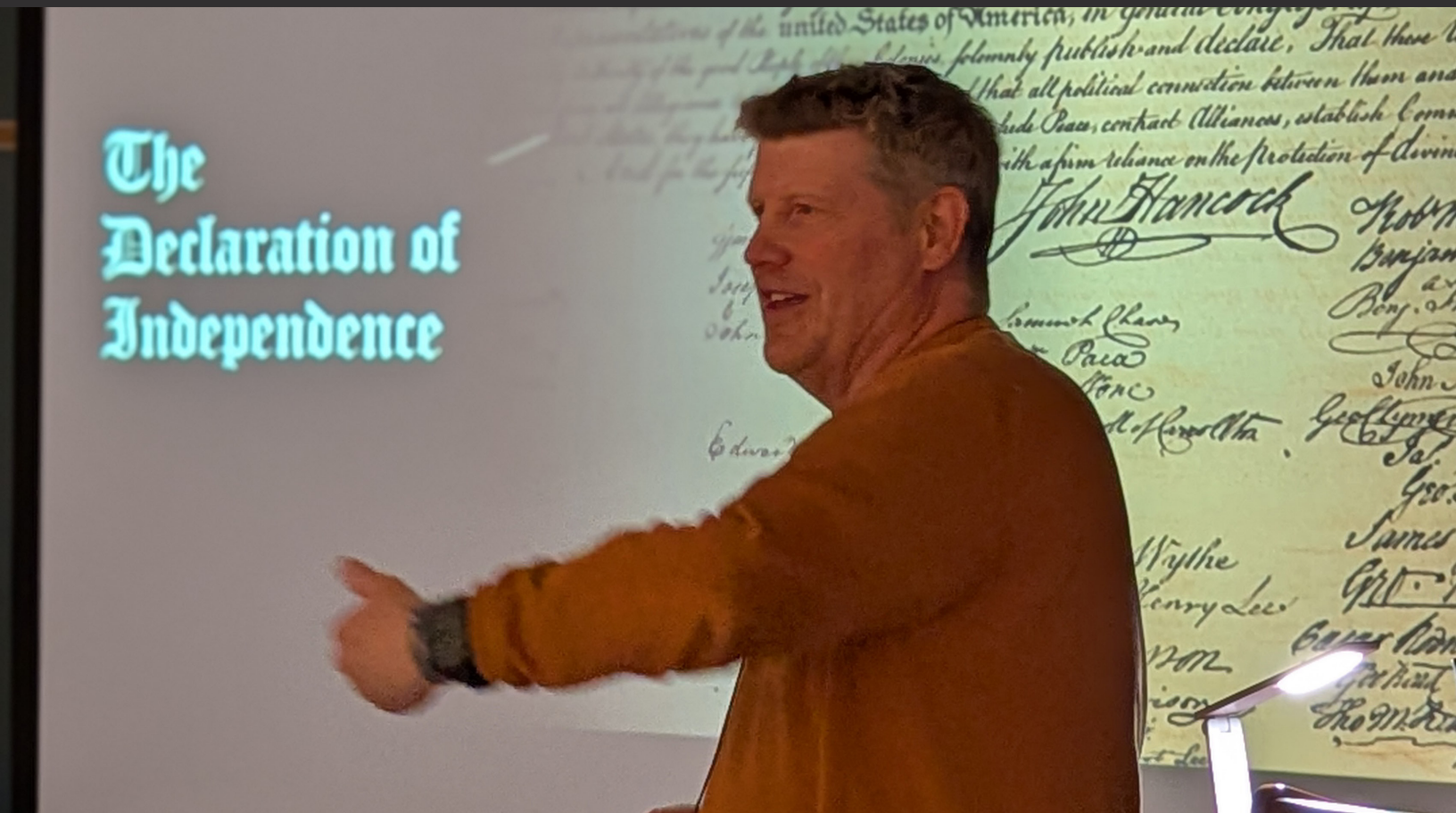
COVER TO COVER

MENTOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

FEBRUARY 2026



KEY

RR: REGISTRATION REQUIRED
C: CONCORD TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER
H: HEADLANDS
HB: THE HUB
M: MAIN
L: LAKE
V: VIRTUAL

ADULT

M **Winter Reading Challenge**
All January & February
Adults and teens (7th grade and up) can read something new and win something too! Pick up a Winter Reading Challenge bingo sheet from our Reference Desk or online at **mentorpl.beanstack.org**. Earn raffle tickets for reading books and completing activities like attending our programs, watching an author talk, or borrowing something from our Library of Things. There'll be prize drawings at the end of January and February.

M **Blind Date with a Book**
All February
Read our Blind Date books and you could win a prize! They're wrapped so you can see a short description of their stories but not their titles. Fill out the Rate Your Date card inside each book, give it to our librarians, and you'll be entered into a raffle to win a gift card.

L **Color Me Calm**
Monday, Feb. 2, at 10 am
Adults can color while listening to relaxing music. Registration encouraged.

H **Come Crack Cold Cases**
Monday, Feb. 2, at 2 pm
Mystery buffs unite! Detectives can test their skills by solving fictional cold cases. Examine the evidence and identify the murderer. RR

L **The Apollo Program**
Monday, Feb. 2, at 6:30 pm
Eric Rivet, chief curator for the Western Reserve Historical Society, will share the triumphs and tragedies of the Apollo Program. RR

C **World War II Women: The WASP**
Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 10 am
Hear stories about the Women's Airforce Service Pilots and their contribution during World War II. To register, call the Concord Community Center at 440-639-4650. RR

L **Tracer Tuesdays**
Tuesdays, Feb. 3, 10 and 24
From 1 to 3 pm
Patrons with genealogy questions can schedule a one-on-one appointment at our Lake Branch. Call us at 440-257-2512 to make an appointment. RR

L **Scandals & Mansions**
Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 6:30 pm
Mandy Spencer from the Lake County Historical Society revisits the stories and scandals from Lake County's upper crust. RR

HB **Little Lightbox**
Wednesdays, Feb. 4 or 11,
At 5:30 pm
Create a charming Little Lightbox using The HUB's Cricut maker and laser engraver. RR

H **Headlands Crafternoon**
Thursday, Feb. 5, and Tuesday, Feb. 17
At 1 pm
Enjoy an afternoon of crafting. Bring your current project. All skill levels welcome!

M **Black Tea or White: The Yin & Yang of Tea**
Thursday, Feb. 5, at 2 pm
Patricia Dennison, the owner of Palmer Place Fine Teas, explores the differences and connections between black and white teas. Sample teas while learning about their history, production, and health benefits. RR

HB **Galentine's Day Keychains**
Thursdays, Feb. 5 or 12,
At 5:30 pm
Spend a fun evening with your gal pals by creating interlocking keychains using The HUB's laser engraver. RR

M **Ingredient Deep Dive: Chocolate**
Thursday, Feb. 5, at 6:30 pm
Former chef and MPL librarian Stefanie Paganini will share the history and process of making chocolate from cocoa bean to bar. She'll also guide participants through a chocolate tasting. RR

V **Swashbuckling Heroines & High Seas Adventures with Vanessa Riley**
Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7 pm
The award-winning writer Vanessa Riley discusses her newest novel **Fire Sword and Sea**. Riley's story will transport readers to a world of seafarers, smugglers, and courtesans! Join at **libraryc.org/mentorpl**. RR

Winter Bird Walk
Sunday, Feb. 8, at 2 pm
Join the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's naturalist to explore natural areas and see what birds and wildlife are active this time of year. Meet at the **Mentor Marsh Nature Center**. RR

M **Monday University: Live a Stress 'Less' Life**
Monday, Feb. 9, at 6:30
Maggie Kimble leads this class on recognizing your stress level and learning how to calm yourself down. RR

H **We Love Quilling**
Monday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 pm
Learn the basics of paper quilling with the artists from MulWal Creations. Make a lovely heart tree craft. RR

H **Headlands Writers' Group**
Monday, Feb. 9, at 7 pm
Join our new writers' group! Each meeting begins with a guided prewriting exercise and 30 minutes of free writing, followed by group sharing and constructive criticism. Hosted at the **Headlands Community Center**. RR

C **How to Run a Book Discussion that Everyone Will Love**
Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 10 am
An experienced librarian explains how to manage a dynamic, inclusive, and well-attended book group. Call 440-639-4650 to sign up. RR

M **The Fall of Rome: From Republic to Empire**
Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 6:30 pm
Dr. John Foster launches his yearlong lecture series on the Roman Empire. The opening talk explores how Rome rose from a turbulent republic to a vast empire. Along the way, discover emperors, generals, and other citizens who filled the Roman world. RR

L **Castaways**
Wednesdays, Feb. 11 & 25, at 10:30 am
Stitch with friends! Bring whatever knitting, crocheting, or other fiber art project you're working on.

H **Headlands Craft Social Squad**
Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 6 pm
Crafters and artists *of all ages* and skill levels can enjoy company while working on their next projects.

V **Mojos, Mermaids, Medicine & 400 Years of Black Women's Magic**
Thursday, Feb. 12, at 2 pm
Dr. Lindsey Stewart is the author of **The Politics of Black Joy**. Her new book, **The Conjuring of America,** recounts 400 years of black women's magic in America Join her author talk at **libraryc.org/mentorpl**. RR

M **Let's Cook with LaDonna Oltmanns**
Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 pm
Local chef LaDonna Oltmanns leads a free cooking demonstration. This month, she's making homemade crystallized ginger and pear chutney. Yum! RR

ADULT

L Diamond Book Painting
Thursday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 pm
Adults (and teens) can upcycle discarded books into bejeweled masterpieces! RR

H Backyard Bird Count
Friday, Feb. 13, to Monday, Feb. 16
Birders of all ages and skill levels are invited to participate in the annual Backyard Bird Count. It's fun, gathers important information for ecologists, and you can win a gift card! Pick up a checklist of bird species from one of our branches, go birding at your favorite spot, and check off the birds that you see and hear. (There are free apps that can help with identification.) Return your checklist to one of our branches by Feb. 18 to be entered into the raffle for a gift card.

Nature Journaling
Saturday, Feb. 14, at 9 am
Explore different journaling techniques across a variety of mediums. Open to all ages and skill levels. Join other nature journalers and venture into **Mentor Marsh**! (Park at the corner of Woodridge and Forest Roads.) RR

M Spice Club: Crystallized Ginger
Starting Sunday, Feb. 15
Pick up a free take-home kit from our reference desk with a sample of this month's spice and a suggested recipe. One kit per family, while supplies last.

L Cozy Crafts: Zentangle
Monday, Feb. 16, at 6:30 pm
Craft in a cozy, no-pressure setting. We provide the supplies and instructions. RR

M Paint By Numbers Night
Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 6 pm
Create art with a paint-by-numbers kit! RR

L Tuesday Night Crochet Club
Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 6:30 pm
Fiber artists can work on projects, get ideas, and learn from each other while they work.

M Air Fryer Demo with LaDonna
Wednesday, Feb 18, at 3 pm
Chef LaDonna Oltmanns demonstrates how to prepare appetizers, dinner, sides, and desserts with an air fryer RR

L Tai Chi for Arthritis
Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 3:15 pm
Tai chi helps reduce pain, increase strength, and improve balance. All experience levels welcome. Wear comfortable clothes. RR

M Stitchin' to Start: Beginning Counted Cross-Stitch
Wednesday, Feb 18, at 6:30 pm
Learn the art of cross stitch in this fun class for beginners. You'll leave knowing the four essential stitches. RR

L No Rules, Just Art
Thursday, Feb. 19, at 6:30 pm
Adults (and teens) can enjoy an artsy evening. We provide the supplies to make the artwork of your choice. RR

M Board Game Saturdays
Saturday, Feb. 21, 9 am to 4:30 pm
Play games from our collection or bring your own on the third Saturday of every month.

M Saturday Scrapbooking
Saturday, Feb. 21, 9 am to 4 pm
Bring your supplies for a full day of cropping with fellow scrapbooking enthusiasts. RR

M Lake Erie N-Scale Society Train Display
Saturday, Feb. 21, and Sunday, Feb. 22
Members of the Lake Erie N-Scale Society (LENS) will set up a model train exhibit and run their trains for everyone to enjoy.

L Ohio's Inventors and Inventions
Monday, Feb. 23, at 6:30 pm
Doug Hulett from North Coast Narratives will showcase the groundbreaking ideas and innovations that originated in Ohio. RR

V Smithson's Gamble: The History Behind the World's Largest Museum
Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 2pm
Tom D. Crouch, curator emeritus at the Smithsonian, discusses the museum's history and legacy during this free online author talk. Join at **libraryc.org/mentorpl**. RR

L Yoga for Anxiety
Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 6 pm
Jennifer Kovalchik Langsdale blends simple chair yoga and aromatherapy. Explore what anxiety is, how it affects your health, and how to reduce it. For teens and adults. RR

L Gentle Yoga with Deep Relaxation
Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 2 pm
Enjoy gentle yoga that moves at a slower pace and leads into a guided meditation Experience deep relaxation with yoga. RR

M Puzzle Swap
Saturday, Feb. 28, 10 am to noon
From Feb. 23-27, drop off used puzzles at the Front Desk of our Main Branch. The puzzles should be in good condition with no missing pieces, have at least 300 pieces, and be in their original boxes. You'll receive one ticket for each donated puzzle. The tickets can be redeemed for a new-to-you puzzle during our Swap Day on Feb. 28

L Singing Bowls Sound Bath
Saturday, Feb. 28, at 1 pm
A certified sound healer will ease your stress with a sound bath from her singing bowls. RR

TECH

M Cybersecurity: Computer Class
Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 2 pm
Learn basic information on how to stay safe while online. Discover what measures can be taken to protect computer systems and your data from cyberattacks, unauthorized access, and other threats. RR

M Computer Class: Excel I
Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 6:30 pm
Learn basic techniques for using Microsoft Excel, including how to create a basic worksheet, describe a worksheet and its function, and save it. Also learn how to apply simple formulas and formatting. RR

M AI Basics: Computer Class
Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 2 pm
Learn what artificial intelligence is and how it can be used. RR

M Computer Class: Excel II
Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 pm
Learn techniques for using formulas and functions in Microsoft Excel, including how to create and copy them, understand relativity when working with them, and recognize and troubleshoot errors in them. RR

M Learn How to Use your iPhone: Computer Class
Thursday, Feb. 26, at 2 pm
Learn basic information about mobile devices with more specific advice on how to use an iPhone. Bring your device. RR

M Excel III: Computer Class
Thursday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 pm
Learn advanced techniques, including how to hide and freeze columns and rows, use print area and print titles, and how to create and format charts. RR

L Streaming Videos with your MPL Card
Thursday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 pm
Learn how to use your MPL card to stream movies and shows for free at home, and discover different streaming services offered by your library. RR

For the cost of supplies, you can enjoy one-on-one assistance from our library staff and the opportunity to make something uniquely yours at The HUB's makerspace.

The makerspace contains a Cricut maker, vinyl cutter, green-screen studio, laser engraver, sublimation printer, heat press, laminator, button maker, and more!

Visit **www.mentorpl.org/makerspace** for information about The HUB's makerspace, including how to schedule your one-on-one appointment now!

Book Clubs

M **It's a Mystery Book Club**
Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 6:30 pm
This monthly book club reads crime-related genres such as thrillers, suspense, true crime, and mystery/detective novels. In February, they will discuss **First Lie Wins** by Ashley Elston RR

M **Back in Time Book Club**
Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 2 pm
This book club travels through time with fiction and nonfiction selections. This month, we discuss **The Personal Librarian** by Marie Benedict. RR

L **Tuesday Night Book Club**
Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 6:30 pm
Enjoy great reads with great company! This month, we'll be talking about **1776** by David McCullough. RR

M **Cookbook Club**
Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 6:30 pm
Local chef LaDonna Oltmanns leads this group, which combines a book club and potluck. Each member picks and prepares a recipe to share with the group. This month's book is **Appetites** by Anthony Bourdain. Bring a plate and utensils for yourself and a serving spoon for your dish. RR

H **Thrills & Chills Book Club**
Monday, Feb. 16, at 6:30 pm
Our book club for teens — with books selected by its club members! In January, they will read and discuss **The Breakup Lists** by Adib Khorram. For readers, ages 14 - 18 in 9th - 12th grade. RR

M **Men's Book Club**
Monday, Feb. 16, at 7 pm
This month's book is **Gory Details: Adventures from the Dark Side of Science** by Erika Engelhaupt. RR

H **Science Fiction Book Club**
Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 6:30 pm
Our club celebrates new and classic speculative fiction. February's book is **We Lived on the Horizon** by Erika Swyler. RR

H **Romancing the Book Club**
Monday, Feb. 23, at 6 pm
We're launching a new book club for romance readers! You can make reading recommendations when you attend our first meeting. RR

M **Monday Night Book Club**
Monday, Feb. 23, at 6:30 pm
Join us for a discussion of bestsellers, popular reads, and books of interest. This month, we're reading and talking about **Atmosphere** by Taylor Jenkins Reid. R

TEEN

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Winter Bird Walk
Sunday, Feb. 8, at 2 pm
Join the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's naturalist to explore natural areas and see what birds and wildlife are active this time of year. Meet at the **Mentor Marsh Nature Center** (5185 Corduroy Road) for a fun winter outing. All ages and experience levels are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them and dress for the weather. RR

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Jennifer Kovalchik Langsdale blends simple chair yoga and aromatherapy. Explore what anxiety is, how it affects your health, and how to reduce it. For teens and adults. RR

KIDS

H **Finger Paint Fridays**
Fridays, from 10 am to noon
Kids can explore their creativity with finger painting every Friday. This activity is largely self-directed with limited assistance from staff. Kids may need to wait for their turn.

M **Mixed Up Valentine Mailers**
Monday, Feb. 2, to Sunday, Feb. 8
Spread Valentine's Day cheer and get a mystery valentine. Kids can decorate a valentine in our Children's Area, address an envelope to themselves, and put it in our MAGIC MAILBOX without sealing it. Next, we'll switch up the valentines and send them to other kids. Finally, each kid who participates will receive a mystery valentine in the mail.

L **Valentine Riddle Scavenger Hunt**
From Feb. 2-14
Find the answers to the valentine riddles hidden around the library. Find all the correct answers to win a treat!

M **Book-to-Movie Book Club**
Monday, Feb. 2, at 4 pm
Kids (8-12) read part of a classic children's book, watch a snippet of the movie it inspired, and enjoy related activities. This month's books are the **Nancy Drew Mystery** series! RR

M **The Fine Arts Club**
Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 4 pm
Kids (7-12) learn about different art forms with fun hands-on experiences. In February, we're making creative cards — just in time for Valentine's Day RR

M **Travel Club**
Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 4 pm
Kids (6-12) will enjoy crafts, activities, and a snack celebrating a different state each month. Kids can also collect a pin from that state. This month, we're visiting Louisiana for Mardi Gras! RR

H **Let's Cook with Kids**
Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 6:30 pm
LaDonna Oltmanns from Let's Cook -- a plant-based mobile cooking school -- will lead a cooking class for kids (8 and older.) RR

M **Yoga Kids**
Thursday, Feb. 5, at 1 pm
Kids (3-6) along with their grownups will stretch their minds and bodies during this yoga story time. RR

M **LEGO at the Library**
Saturday, Feb. 7, at 11 am
Kids (ages 5-12) can rock the blocks on the first Saturday of every month. We provide the LEGO. You bring the creativity!

KIDS

M **The Story of America Club**
Thursday, Feb. 12, at 4 pm
Kids (7-12) can explore a different chapter in the story of the United States each month with crafts, activities, and a snack that relates to that period in history. In February, we're learning about New England's earliest European settlers. **RR**

H **Roblox Saturday**
Saturday, Feb. 14, at 2 pm
Join us for a different game from ROBLOX each month. **RR**

H **Next Level Video Game Club**
Saturday, Feb. 14, at 2 pm
Kids (8 and older) can play games on our Switch. They're also welcome to bring their own portable device. **RR**

L **Gem Art: Kids Craft**
Monday, Feb. 16, from 11 am to 4 pm
We'll be offering different walk-in crafts for different ages and skill levels. All of them will be gem themed. No registration required.

M **Rainforest Explorers**
Monday, Feb. 16, at noon
Kids (6-12) will learn about the rainforest's fascinating ecosystem through activities, crafts, and snacks. **RR**

HB **Mini Trinket Box**
Wednesdays, Feb. 18 or 25
At 4 pm
Kids (6-11) can personalize a keepsake box with The HUB's laser engraver. **RR**

HB **Lunar New Year:**
Fire Horse Pencil Case
Thursdays, Feb. 19 or 26, at 4 pm
Kids (6-11) can charge into the new year with Fire Horse energy! Use stencils, markers, and The HUB's heat press to decorate a unique pencil pouch. **RR**

M **Lake Erie N-Scale Society Train Display**
Saturday, Feb. 21, and Sunday, Feb. 22
Members of the Lake Erie N-Scale Society (LENS) will set up a model train exhibit and run their trains for everyone to enjoy.

M **American Girl in America**
Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 4 pm
Kids (8-12) can celebrate 250 years of American history through the American Girl doll! Each month, the group will celebrate a different girl and explore a different moment in the country's history. Kids may bring their doll with them. In February, we're joining Josefina Montoya in 1823. **RR**

STORYTIMES

M **Family Story Time**
Mondays, at 10 am
Bring your kids and enjoy stories, songs, and activities that promote early literacy and healthy development. Geared toward ages two to six but all ages welcome. Each story time ends with a parade!

M **Tiddlywinks Story Time**
Tuesdays & Wednesdays, at 10 am
Kids (0-3) with a caregiver will love this story time filled with stories, songs, and rhymes.

L **Storytime Stars**
Tuesdays, at 10:30 am
Kids (6 months to five years old) can enjoy stories, music, rhymes, and a craft. All kids must be accompanied by an adult.

M **Preschool Story Time**
Tuesdays and Wednesdays, at 11 am
Kids (3-6) will enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, and a craft. Children attend without an adult.

M **Pajama Story Time**
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Kids can wear their pajamas while enjoying stories, songs, rhymes, a craft, and a snack. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

L **Musical Munchkins**
Thursdays, at 10:30 am
Kids (0-5) can enjoy an interactive story time with singing, stories, and rhymes. All kids must be accompanied by an adult.

M **Wiggle, Giggle & Shake Story Time**
Fridays, at 10 am
Kids (2-6) and caregivers will have fun clapping and moving to music together.

M **Take Your Child to the Library Story Time**
Saturday, Feb. 7, at 10 am
Kids of all ages can enjoy a special story time with all of Miss Kim's favorite books and a library craft. **RR**

M **Early Intervention Family Story Time**
Monday, Feb. 9, at 5:30 pm
Story time and short activity for families in the early intervention program. **RR**

Celebrating a Special Birthday All Year

Our nation is commemorating its semiquincentennial in 2026 and we're celebrating ALL YEAR LONG!

Join us for fun and fascinating programs about the history of the United States, Ohio, Lake County, and Mentor.

We're hosting more programs than we can fit here, but you'll find a more comprehensive list at **mentorpl.org/am250**. You'll want to bookmark that page! We've listed all of our history programs through March and we'll be updating it regularly.

But if you're looking for some dates to highlight...

We're hosting a pair of programs where kids can explore American history — The Story of America Club and American Girl in America!

The Story of America Club explores a different chapter in the USA's history each month with crafts, activities, and a snack that relates to the era. Our next meeting is 4 pm on Feb. 12 at our Main Branch.

Then the **American Girl in America** series celebrates 250 years of history through the American Girl dolls. We'll explore the life and times of Josefina at 4 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at our Main Branch.

Meanwhile, adults can learn about our nation's **Path to Women's Suffrage** during a free program at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 9, at our Lake Branch.

MPL Cover to Cover
Jason Lea, Editor

Cover to Cover is published monthly by the Mentor Public Library. It is provided free to library patrons and interested citizens.

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Jennifer McGee
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Greg Markell

Board of Trustees' meetings will be 6 pm on the following dates at our Main Branch:
Feb. 18
March 18
April 15
The public is welcome to attend.

Friends of the Library
friends@mentorpl.org

Main Library
8215 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
Phone: 440-255-8811

Lake Branch
5642 Andrews Road
Mentor-on-the-Lake, OH 44060
Phone: 440-257-2512

Headlands Branch
4669 Corduroy Road
Mentor, OH 44060
Phone: 440-257-2000

The HUB @ Mentor High School
6477 Center Street
Mentor, OH, 44060
Phone: 440-205-6011

Register online at www.mentorpl.org or via phone by calling the library branch that is hosting the program.

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