

Community Events 04/01/2016 – 04/30/2016
Arab-American Month
Compiled by Diversity & Inclusion Office



Title: First Friday at LINC

Description: LINC Up First Friday is the "Monthly Groove for the Professional," offering a premiere networking event for professionals in the Grand Rapids area. Join us to share a drink, grab some delicious food, and enjoy jazz & spoken word in the company of friends.

Date: April 1, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Location: LINC Gallery
341 Hall Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Cost: Free

RSVP: firstfriday@linc.org

Information: www.lincrev.org

Title: First Friday Gallery Hops

Description: On the first Friday of every month, South Division Ave becomes the ultimate destination to find artwork by local artists, handmade goods, and food and drink specials. This monthly event is a unique opportunity to check out new events and features at shops, galleries and eateries in the rapidly evolving South Division Corridor. First Friday events include drink specials, exhibition receptions, holiday sales, and student artwork on view. This event attracts downtown residents, as well as friends and supporters from surrounding neighborhoods and suburbs into downtown Grand Rapids; creating and strengthening community and commerce.

Date: April 1, 2016

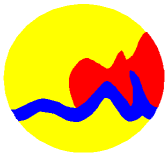
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Avenue for the Arts
100 S. Division Ave
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.avenueforthearts.com>



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Title: Caring for Our Common Home: From Conversation to Action

Description: Bruce Friedrich, Executive Director of The Good Food Institute in Washington, D.C., has committed his career and life to Environmental Justice, the Protection of Animals, and being in Solidarity with the Poor. He is dedicated to Pope Francis's appeal to care for our common home and joins us in keeping the conversation going. Come and have a cup of fair trade coffee, share a vegan delicacy and join us in conversation, on a Friday spring evening. Help us keep the conversation going in Caring for Our Common Home.

Date: April 1, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Dominican Center at Marywood
2025 Fulton Street East
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$10

RSVP: Online

Information: <https://dominicancenter.com/events/>

Title: Lines: the lived experience of race 2016

Description: Performing the actual experience of community members, this moving play explores how racial issues specifically impact individuals and families in our community. LINES challenges us to ask questions about where we live and how we can respond to race-related division in West Michigan. We plan to set up a conversation afterwards on issues for the churches in Grand Rapids. We believe this will be a very thoughtful opportunity for us in our antiracism efforts together.

Date: April 2nd and 3rd

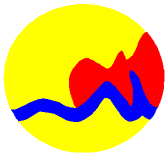
Time: 2nd at 7:00 p.m., 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Wealthy Street Theater
1130 Wealthy Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Cost: \$12.50

RSVP: janice.mcwhertor@coscrc.org

Information: www.cornow.org/2016/03/14/lines-the-lived-experience-of-race/



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Title: Collectors Show/SPRING

Description: Collectors Show / SPRING is produced by Second Ave Arts in partnership with ArtPrize. Join us at the ArtPrize HUB Friday night, April 1st, from 6 to 9pm for a gallery reception, and then from 9pm to midnight for a DJ and drinks. The show is also open Saturday from noon to 8pm. Juror and NYC artist Tyler Loftis chose thirty artists from an open submission of ArtPrize artists, and in addition, he has selected twenty artists from New York for the show. The final grouping is very diverse, including local artists, NYC artists, and other artists from around the globe, from emerging to very established artists. Artwork will be priced at a guaranteed reduced pricing from certified (or established gallery) pricing, to help collectors in the area build their collections. In addition 20% of proceeds will be donated to Arts education at ArtPrize.

Date: April 1, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Location: ArtPrize HUB
40 Sheldon Blvd SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1745742828977880/>

Title: Hip Hop & Break Dance Class

Description: Join Mark Evans and Momentum for this high energy and engaging class. This is a great opportunity for beginner and advanced dancers alike ages 5 and up. Their stop at City Life Church will be a part of their 'Keep It Moving' tour where they'll be traveling to dance studios, churches and schools promoting healthy living. Please join Mark, Isaiah and Shorty for this fun and exciting night and invite your friends!

Date: April 1, 2016

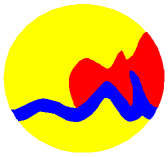
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: City Life Church
574 Division Ave S
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Cost: \$5

RSVP: None

Information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/793657377406183/>



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Title: The Michigan Poet Presents “Poetry Imperson” A Poetry Recital Contest

Description: The Michigan Poet in celebration of National Poetry Month and in collaboration with Great Lakes Commonwealth of Letters is pleased to present Poetry Imperson, an evening of competitive recited poetry. The event takes place Friday, April 1st, 2016, at Great Lakes Commonwealth of Letters and will be guest judged by Grand Rapids' own David Cope. The event begins at 6:30 pm. A \$50 prize will be awarded to the best performed poem in both U18 and Adult categorizes. U18 participants will go first, followed by Adult participants. This event is free and open to all ages to compete and attend.

Date: April 1, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Great Lakes Commonwealth of Letters
758 Wealthy Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.readwritelive.org/poetry-imperson.html>

Title: Spring Break Big, Big Bike Sale and Family Bike Ride

Description: Boston Square Community Bikes is hosting a Spring Break Big, Big Bike Sale and a Family Bike Ride to Reeds Lake/ the ride will start at 1260 Kalamazoo SE Grand Rapids, MI 49507 and be about 5 miles long. Bring your bike and helmet. Receive a free safety check and tune-up. Loaner bikes are available for adults that want to ride. Snacks and giveaways afterwards.

Date: April 1st and 2nd

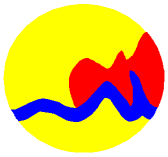
Time: Fri 11a-7p; Sat 11a-2p

Location: Boston Square Community Bikes
1260 Kalamazoo Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.bostonsquare.org/spring-break-big-big-bike-sale-and-family-bike-ride/>



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Title: Coffee Roasting Demonstrations & Tastings

Description: The Saturday Experience, which in open house style, includes at least three brewed coffee samples for you to try as well as espresso shots & Americanos. We will custom roast any of our Select Single Origin or Premium Specialty Blend coffees so that you may take them home right out of the roaster while the beans are still warm. Other products available for sale are 12 oz. packaged coffee, chocolates, loose leaf tea, candy, mints, brewing supplies and more. All brewed coffee samples and espressos are free of charge and no purchase is required!

Date: Every Saturday in April

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Coffee Roasters
1111 Godfrey Ave SW
Suite S-530 Mailbox 8C
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: http://www.grandrapidscoffee.com/index.cfm?cat_id=49

Title: GVSU New Music Ensemble 10th Anniversary Concert

Description: The Grand Valley State University New Music Ensemble is celebrating its founding with a special 10th anniversary concert. With performances by current and former members, the concert will celebrate the group's longtime collaborator, composer Marc Mellits, on the occasion of this 50th birthday. Featured on the program will be two compositions the ensemble commissioned from Marc, as well as other notable works spanning his significant career.

Date: April 2, 2016

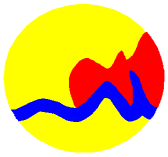
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location: Peter Martin Wege Theatre
341 Ellsworth SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: Recommended by emailing ryanwi@gvsu.edu or calling 616-331-3484

Information: <http://www.gvsu.edu/music>



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Title: Community Egg Hunt

Description: 1 year olds – 5th Grade, come to the church grounds where it will be LITTERED with eggs full of goodies! Don't worry about the little ones, they have a designated "Tots Hunt" so they won't be trampled by the older kids who have free reign to grab-n-GO! There will be PLENTY of eggs, so come on over and enjoy! Christ Community Church is a proud supporter of Kids Food Basket so bring a food item from the KBF wish-list and you could win a prize!

Date: April 2, 2016

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

Location: Christ Community Church
2400 Forest Hills Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.christcommunitygr.org/events/egg-stravaganza>

Title: LADYFESTGR 5

Description: LadyFestGR is back with a variety show, performances and workshops in the Heartside neighborhood. This event is to celebrate extraordinary women in our community. This annual grassroots event consists of DIY educational workshops along with radical and diverse performances. The mission is to empower and encourage all members of the community to join us in honoring the strengths, talents and creative power of women and girls. Proceeds benefit Girls Rock Grand Rapids.

Date: April 2, 2016

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: The Pyramid Scheme
68 Commerce Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$10

RSVP: <http://pyramidschemebar.com/event/ladyfestgr-5/>

Information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1030306060381410/>

Title: Funday at the Downtown Market

Description: Family activities and FREE food demos happening at the market. Enjoy strolling entertainment while you shop. Don't forget to sign up for a \$100 Market gift certificate giveaway every week!

Date: Sundays in April

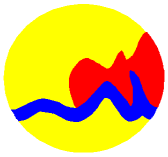
Time: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Downtown Market
435 Ionia Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://downtownmarketgr.com/classes-events/sfunday-night-at-the-downtown-market>



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Title: Teen (Tech) Knowledge Spring Workshop

Description: Imagine building a robot and programming it to make it do what you want! Come create an awesome robot this spring at the library! Explore the world of robotics using Lego Mindstorm Education EV3 base set and software. Bring a friend, grab a kit and build an army of robots. Want to get even more creative? Use LittleBits to create your own electronic creation. For grades 7-12.

Date: April 4, 2016

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Public Library - Main
111 Library St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.grpl.org

Title: Zoobilee

Description: Spend your spring break with the lions, tigers and bears! Get outside and take in some special events.

Date: April 4 – 8, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: John Ball Zoo
1300 West Fulton St
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Cost: \$8

RSVP: None

Information: www.jbzoo.org

Title: Pre-Reading Classes for Babies

Description: Parents and caregivers are invited to introduce their babies, birth through 18 months, to music, movement, and language in these 30-minute classes designed just for their specific developmental stages. Babies will enjoy hearing a story and learning songs and rhymes. Playtime after enhances the development of social skills.

Date: Tuesdays in April

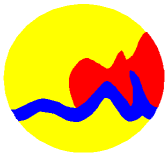
Time: Varies Check Website

Location: Varies Check Website

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.grpl.org



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Title: Spring Break for Kids: “Peter and the Wolf”

Description: After six consecutive years of sold out performance, Spring Break for Kids returns with another kid-friendly ballet perfect for the whole family! Enjoy an entertaining 30-minute ballet perfect for the entire family as well as pre-show activities including a free trial ballet class, costume dress-up, and the chance to win great prizes.

Date: April 5 – 7, 2016

Time: 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Location: GR Ballet Company Peter Martin Wege Theatre
341 Ellsworth SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$5

RSVP: <http://www1.ticketmaster.com/event/0800503CE38A629E>

Information: <http://www.grballet.com/2015-16-season/spring-break/>

Title: Pajama Time

Description: Get cozy in your pajamas, grab your favorite stuffed animal or blanket, and come to the library for a special bedtime event. Listen to stories, sing lullabies, and get those wiggles out before bed. For babies birth to 18 months and for kids 3 to 5 years old. Great for working parents!

Date: Tuesdays in April

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Varies Check Website

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.grpl.org

Title: Coffee with the Captain

Description: Join us every first Tuesday of the month for “Coffee with the Captain!” Captain Vincent Reilly will be available to discuss questions or concerns about the South Service Area.

Date: April 5, 2016

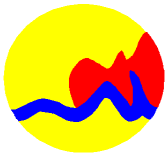
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Linc Up
1167 Madison Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: lincup.org



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Title: Live Music at Bar Divani

Description: Vocalist Kathy Lamar sings a diverse blend of jazz, R&B, soul, and pop hits and delights audiences with her powerful voice and infectious laugh. Kathy Lamar grew up in Grand Rapids, MI and in 1980, she moved to Las Vegas to sing with her friend Tex Richardson. She's now living back in Grand Rapids where she performs with various local musicians. Lamar's shows are like a blind date -- because you never know what you're going to get. One minute, you might hear a Sting or Bob Marley tune, and the next, an Ella Fitzgerald or Billy Holiday song.

Date: Every Tuesday in April

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Bar Divani
15 Ionia Ave SW
Suite 130
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.bardivani.com/tastings-events/live-music-tuesdays

Title: Film: The Hunting Ground

Description: Come to a free viewing of The Hunting Ground documentary, followed by a panel of AQ leaders on sexual assault awareness and prevention. Please be advised that the film is an honest conversation about sexual assault. Survivors on the film are sharing their experience on their campuses. AQ will share our available resources and offer community resources as well. Counseling Staff and Campus Ministry Staff will be available throughout the event for support and questions.

Date: April 6, 2016

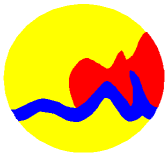
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Wege Student Center Ballroom
1607 Robinson Road SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.experiencegr.com/event/film%3a-the-hunting-ground/44264/>



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Title: Root Causes of Economic Inequities with Amata Miller, IHM

Description: Sister Amata will provide a deeper understanding of the root causes of the inequities of our current economic system. She will focus on the messages that Pope Francis has raised in Evangelii and Laudato Si and identify the injustices that arise from the social, economic and political systems and address how they are sustained by human attitudes. She will address the meaning of and facts about what Pope Francis calls: autonomy of markets; excessive consumerism, misguided anthropomorphism and technocratic paradigm. And she will demonstrate how these systems generate extreme poverty; human trafficking, violence, harmful immigration policies and ecological degradation. She will also suggest concrete actions being advocated to address the root causes of inequity and address some of the programs proposed by presidential candidates.

Date: April 6, 2016

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Dominican Center at Marywood
2025 Fulton Street East
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$20

RSVP: Online

Information: <https://dominicancenter.com/events/>

Title: Wine Social Wednesday

Description: Come try wines from around the world with us! Each social features 6 tastes and will range from \$15 to \$25. Also offering \$3 off every glass of wine.

Date: Every Wednesday in April

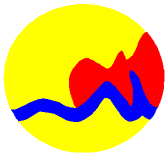
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Bar Divani
15 Ionia Ave SW
Suite 130
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.bardivani.com/tastings-events/wine-socials



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Title: Breastfeeding Support Group

Description: The early weeks of breastfeeding can be challenging. Come with your newborn and receive expert help from lactation consultants and counselors. Sleepy babies, burping, pumping, and returning to work are some of the topics that are discussed. Surrounded by other moms and babies, you will gain confidence in breastfeeding. These group sessions are free and registration is not required. You are welcome to attend during pregnancy.

Date: Every Wednesday in April

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Spectrum Health Healthier Communities
665 Seward Avenue NW
Suite 110
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.spectrumhealth.org/body.cfm?id=4202&fr=true>

Title: Re-Discovering Our Catholic Mystical and Contemplative Tradition: Teresa of Avila

Description: During this session we will take another look at the “Best Kept Secret” in Catholic tradition: Mysticism & Contemplation. Reflecting on the words and teachings of these well-respected mystics, our tour guides will be Fr. Richard Rohr, Fr. Ron Rohlheiser, Sr. Ilia Delio and others.

Date: April 6, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Location: Catholic Information Center
360 Division Ave. S. Ste. 2A
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$10 suggested donation

RSVP: register@catholicinformationcenter.org or call 616.459.7267

Information: <http://www.catholicinformationcenter.org/>

Title: Pre-Reading Classes for Kids

Description: Parents and caregivers are invited to bring their preschoolers, ages 3 to 5, to 45-minute classes featuring literacy-rich activities such as interactive storytelling using puppets, dramatic play, and hands-on fun. Related songs, fingerplays, and activities are interspersed between books. Classes end with a fun and creative art activity.

Date: April 7th and 14th

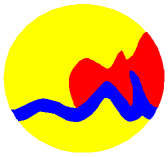
Time: Varies

Location: Varies

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.grpl.org



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Title: GVSU Downtown Toastmasters

Description: One Book, One City for Kids is an annual reading program that encourages all 5th graders in the city to read and discuss the same book. The program also strives to encourage a lifelong love of reading among students, to inspire readers to bring story ideas and themes to life through discussion, and to build collaborative ties between public libraries, school libraries, and area schools. This year the entire city will be reading *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan.

Date: Every Thursday in April

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Location: Grand Valley State University – Cook-DeVos Center
301 Michigan St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://8177.toastmastersclubs.org/>

Title: Pre-Reading Classes for Kids

Description: Parents and caregivers are invited to bring their preschoolers, ages 3 to 5, to 45-minute classes featuring literacy-rich activities such as interactive storytelling using puppets, dramatic play, and hands-on fun. Related songs, fingerplays, and activities are interspersed between books. Classes end with a fun and creative art activity.

Date: Thursdays in April of 2016

Time: Varies Check Website

Location: Varies Check Website

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.grpl.org

Title: Reading the Great Lakes

Description: Come explore the Lakes with us! We'll read a range of titles including mystery, history, fiction, and nonfiction all taking place in the Great Lakes region—from Chicago to Cleveland. This book club will be led by our smart librarians and will take place the first Thursday of every month. Additional copies of the book are available to be checked out on Level 4 of the Main Library. April's selection is *When the World is Old* by John Rybicki.

Date: April 7, 2016

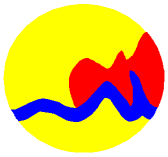
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Main Library
111 Library Street, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: <http://www.grpl.org/rtgl>

Information: www.grpl.org



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Title: Earn Work Search Roundtable – Westminster Presbyterian Church

Description: These sessions make them the longest, continuously meeting job clubs and support groups in West Michigan—9000+ have attended sessions. The sessions are open to the public and provide ongoing networking, support, group problem solving, and coaching for individuals during periods of work search and career transition.

Date: Every Thursday in April

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church
47 Jefferson SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: beckyw@wpcgr.org

Information: www.earn-network.org/events

Title: Art.Downtown. Presented by Avenue for the Arts

Description: Baseball is back in West Michigan! Gates open at 2 p.m. and fans can play catch on the field, sign along with a Dixie Land Band, get their face painted, feed animals at the petting zoo, and so much more. The Whitecaps Professional Baseball Corporation's mission is to provide affordable family entertainment to the West Michigan community.

Date: April 9, 2016

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Avenue for the Arts
South Division between Fulton and Wealthy
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://avenueforthearts.com/artdowntown/>

Title: Maurice Sendak: Where the Wild Things Are

Description: Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* has sparked the imaginations of generations of readers since its publication in 1963. As an artist, illustrator, and author, Sendak expanded the scope of children's literature to acknowledge children as intelligent individuals with powerful emotions—boredom, anger, fear, and of course, the need to be where someone loved them best of all. This exhibition celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *Where the Wild Things Are* with original drawings, prints, posters and more from one of the greatest children's authors of the 20th century.

Date: April 9 – May 22, 2016

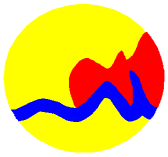
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Art Museum
101 Monroe Center St NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: General Admission

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.artmuseumgr.org/2015/09/08/maurice-sendak/>



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Title: 2016 West Michigan Whitecaps Season Opener

Description: Baseball is back in West Michigan! Gates open at 2 p.m. and fans can play catch on the field, sign along with a Dixie Land Band, get their face painted, feed animals at the petting zoo, and so much more. The Whitecaps Professional Baseball Corporation's mission is to provide affordable family entertainment to the West Michigan community.

Date: April 9, 2016

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Fifth Third Ballpark
4500 West River Drive NE
Comstock Park, MI 49321

Cost: Starting at \$7.00

RSVP: <http://www.milb.com/tickets/tickets.jsp?sid=t582>

Information: <http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t582>

Title: Access Feedback Concert

Description: Join us for the 22nd annual Access Feedback Concert! This year's lineup features music from three amazing bands – local favorites The Honeytones and Soul Syndicate, and national breakout The Accidentals. Tickets are \$5, and all proceeds support Access of West Michigan. Come join us for an amazing night of music and food to support local food pantries and hunger response initiatives in West Michigan!

Date: April 10, 2016

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Founders Brewing Company
235 Grandville Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$5

RSVP: None

Information: www.accessofwestmichigan.org

Title: Cutting the Cable Cord

Description: Have you been thinking of canceling your cable tv subscription? This program will help you save money and still get all the content you want. Luke Bouma, owner of CordCutterNews.com, will show you how

Date: April 11, 2016

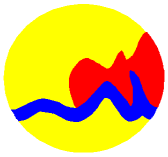
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Public Library - Main
111 Library St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.grpl.org/event/cutting-the-cable-cord/>



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Compiled by Diversity & Inclusion Office



Title: Tuesday Table Talk: Interfaith Collaborations for Social Justice

Description: Poverty, homelessness, incarceration rates, and other social justice issues are part of the day to day fabric of so many in our community. Faith leaders, faith community members, and people of good will are joining efforts to find solutions and respond to social injustice. Come and join us in a dinner conversation to discuss how individuals from diverse faith traditions respond to social justice issues.

Date: April 12, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Dominican Center at Marywood
2025 Fulton Street East
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$15

RSVP: Online

Information: <https://dominicancenter.com/events/>

Title: Speak to a Geek: Computer Classes

Description: Are your relatives tired of you asking for computer help? Are you hoping to boost your resume with new computer skills? The library offers individual assistance in learning: Basic computers, Basic Internet, Email, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, eBooks, in Library Resources. From getting acquainted with your computer or device, to training in spreadsheets, or internet navigation, we can help.

Date: April 12th and 27th

Time: 12th – 3:00 pm-5:00 pm, 27th – 1:00pm-3:00pm

Location: Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: None

RSVP: 616-988-5400

Information: www.grpl.org

Title: Houseplants for Health

Description: Flex your green thumb at The Downtown Market and learn a new technique or two to take your garden to the next level. Spring is here! Spruce up your home with houseplants that lift your mood, filter the air, and thrive in containers. Go home with starter houseplants that will brighten the landscape of your life.

Date: April 12, 2016

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

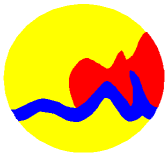
Location: Grand Rapids Downtown Market
435 Ionia Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$20

RSVP: www.eventbrite.com/e/houseplants-for-health-registration-19662058747

Information: <http://downtownmarketgr.com/classes-events/houseplants-for-health>

Title: Business Legal Issues



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Compiled by Diversity & Inclusion Office



Description: This course is an introduction to the different types of legal entities that are appropriate for structuring and starting a new business. Tax and liability issues are covered, along with basic elements of contract, collections, licenses, registrations, employment and property issues, leasing and insurance. It is designed to guide prospective business owners in setting the organizational structure that will help protect them from unnecessary legal challenges.

Date: April 12, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Valley State University
Seidman Center Forum – Section A
50 Front Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Cost: Free

RSVP: <https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/workshop.aspx?ekey=70360014>

Information: <http://www.sbdcmichigan.org/> or call (616) 331-7370

Title: Eat. Drink. Be Merry.

Description: If you love great wine, food and music, you will not want to miss this annual fundraising event for St. Cecilia Music Center. Martha's Vineyard will be hosting our 8th annual wine tasting and auction. Join us and help support the oldest arts organization in the region! As our guest you can bid on our silent auction items while sampling an array of amazing wines selected exclusively for this event. We look forward to seeing you! All funds raised will benefit St. Cecilia Music Center.

Date: April 12, 2016

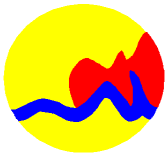
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: St. Cecilia Music Center
24 Ransom Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$35

RSVP: www.scmc-online.org/eat-drink-merry-2016-wine-tasting-auction/

Information: www.scmc-online.org/?s=eat+drink+be+merry



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Compiled by Diversity & Inclusion Office



Title: Diversity + Inclusion in Design – WM Design Week

Description: AIGA West Michigan's Diversity + Committee will lead a discussion on why diversity and inclusion is critical on design teams and how we can help achieve it.

Date: April 13, 2016

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: KCAD Woodbridge N. Ferris Building, Room 217
17 Pearl Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: <http://www.wmdesignweek.com/find-events/2016/diversity-in-design>

Information: <http://www.wmdesignweek.com/find-events/2016/>

Title: Introduction to Proposal Writing for Nonprofits

Description: You've found a possible foundation to fund your new project. That's excellent! Now the real work begins: writing a proposal that will put your program on the path to success by telling your story to the people that matter most. Join the Business Librarian to learn the key components of a proposal that a nonprofit foundation is looking for, and how you can make your proposal as effective as possible.

Date: April 13, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Public Library - Main
111 Library St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.grpl.org

Title: In-Service: Grief – Working with Families

Description: Professionals who work with families are invited to attend this free In-service. We all care about families, and we also care about our community. In an effort to be green and print less paper, our monthly In-service Evaluations are online. After you attend the In-service, you will receive a link by email to complete the evaluation online. Once the evaluation is completed and submitted, your certificate will automatically be emailed to you. To show our gratitude to Eastern Avenue CRC for hosting our free in-services, please consider donating a non-perishable food item to the church's food pantry. A collection basket will be at registration.

Date: April 13, 2016

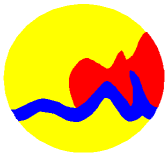
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church
514 Eastern Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.onlineregistrationcenter.com/register.asp?m=341&c=1137



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Title: MSU Science Week

Description: For the first time, the GRPM will serve as the West Michigan Hub for Michigan State University's Science Festival Week. Join in at the Museum to celebrate with the entire state April 13 through 15. The Museum will host a variety of science activities for all ages, including a science night at the Museum, a pub experience and an astronomy night!

Wednesday, April 13 – Science Night at the Museum

From 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., visit the Museum to participate in science based programming, including a special scavenger hunt, microscope activities and artifact discovery! From 8:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. use telescopes outside the Museum for viewing of the night sky.

Thursday, April 14 – Pub Science

Adults, this is your chance to learn more about the science in the craft beers you drink. This event will take place at Brewery Vivant. Registration is free to the first 40 registrants, 21 and older, with cash bar for tastings.

Friday, April 15 – Statewide Astronomy Night

Visit one of the GRPM's other sites, the Veen Observatory for special sky observation tours from 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Learn about the constellations in our night sky, as well as tips and tricks for the best telescope viewing. This event is weather dependent.

Date: April 13 - 15, 2016

Time: Times Vary

Location: Grand Rapids Public Museum
272 Pearl Street NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.grpm.org

Title: Master Arts Theatre: *The Beams are Creaking*

Description: Master Arts Theatre presents *The Beams are Creaking*, the true story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the theologian who lead an assination attempt on Hitler during World War II. "Beams" is written by Douglas Anderson.

Date: Weekends in April starting on the 14th

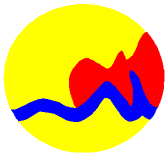
Time: Thurs – Sat: 7:30 p.m., Sat: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Master Arts Theatre
75 77th Street SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Cost: \$16 for adults with a \$2 discount for seniors & students

RSVP: None

Information: <http://masterarts.org/plays-and-events.html>



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Title: An Evening with Grand Rapids Author Adam Schuitema

Description: Our political culture is infused with debates about personal liberties, the role of government, and even the definition of “freedom” itself. Named a 2016 Michigan Notable Book, the novel *Haymaker* tells the story of an isolated Michigan town that becomes the flashpoint for these ideological conflicts. What happens when an Upper Peninsula community clashes with a determined group of outsiders? Join award-winning Grand Rapids author Adam Schuitema as he reads from this latest book and discusses the origins of its story.

Date: April 14, 2016
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Location: Grand Rapids Public Library - Main
111 Library St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free
RSVP: None

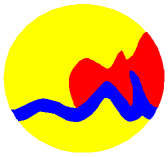
Information: www.grpl.org/event/an-evening-with-grand-rapids-author-adam-schuitema/

Title: Gazelle Girl Marathon & 5K

Description: Whether you are looking to complete your first 5k or half marathon or are looking to set a personal record, this event is for you! Grab your girlfriends, mothers, sisters, cousins, grandmas, aunts, or co-workers and get registered for this event! Take the first step toward better fitness and be part of something incredible – the Gazelle Girl community! Registration ends April 15 at 9:00am

Date: April 17, 2016
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: Calder Plaza, Downtown Grand Rapids
351 Ottawa Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$30 for 5K; \$85 for Half Marathon
RSVP: <http://gazellegirlhalfmarathon.com/>
Information: <http://gazellegirlhalfmarathon.com/>



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**Title: Cooking Matters for Seniors**

Description: In partnership with the YMCA, the library is pleased to offer Cooking Matters for Seniors, a six-week nutritional education program that fights hunger by teaching people how to make healthy food choices on a budget. Participants will learn how to select nutritious and low-cost ingredients and prepare them in ways that provide the best possible nourishment to their families. Cooking Matters provides recipes, books, and handouts as well as a bag of groceries containing the ingredients of the day's lesson.

Date: Every Monday starting on April 18, 2016

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Public Library - Main
111 Library St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.grpl.org/event/cooking-matters-for-seniors/all/>

Title: West Michigan Jazz Society Presents Monday Night Jazz Series

Description: Sunny Wilkinson – One of the most inventive and flexible singers of her generation, Sunny Wilkinson is a mischievous vocal stylist who loves to toy with rhythm and tonal color. Her wide range, marvelous intonation, effortless agility, and passion for what she sings make her a one-of-a-kind artist. She is an Artist in Residence at the University of Michigan and Hillsdale College. Pianist Ron Newman is a Professor of Music Theory at Michigan State University where he has been on faculty since 1980. Since 2011 he has been the conductor and music director for the Lansing Symphony Jazz Band. Bassist Ed Fedewa holds the position of principal bass with the Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra, and is a Professor of Bass at Central Michigan University. Larry Ochiltree, drums, has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe. Larry is a clinician for the Ludwig Drum Company, the Zildjian Cymbal Company and endorses Pro Mark sticks and Evans drum heads.

Date: April 18, 2016

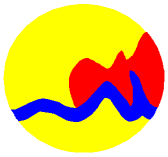
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: The Guest House
634 Stocking Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Cost: \$10

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.wmichjazz.org>



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Title: Using Facebook to Promote Your Business

Description: One of the first rules of marketing is ‘go where your customers are.’ Increasingly, they are found online! Join the Business Librarian for an informative session on how to use Facebook and other social media tools to engage customers

Date: April 19, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Public Library - Main
111 Library St NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.grpl.org/event/using-facebook-to-promote-your-business-5/

Title: Ronald McDonald House of Western Michigan Keep Families Close Spring Luncheon

Description: One Book, One City for Kids is an annual reading program that encourages all 5th graders in the city to read and discuss the same book. The program also strives to encourage a lifelong love of reading among students, to inspire readers to bring story ideas and themes to life through discussion, and to build collaborative ties between public libraries, school libraries, and area schools. This year the entire city will be reading *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan.

Date: April 20, 2016

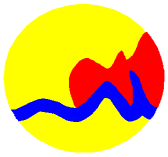
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Valley State University – Eberhard Center
301 Fulton W
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.grpl.org/event/one-book-one-city-for-kids>



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Title: Spring into Poetry with The Diatribe

Description: Don't Miss this Live Spoken word performance of The Diatribe, a diverse collaborative of Spoken Word Artists that reside in Grand Rapids. As a collective they promote self-expression, mental health awareness, honesty, and transparency through performance poetry. They constantly are striving to unite all of our youth and empower everyone around them to use their voices for positive change as well as self-empowerment. For teens grades 6-12 and adults.

Date: April 21, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Kent District Library Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch
4950 Breton SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.experiencegr.com/event/spring-into-poetry-with-the-diatribe/44173/

Title: FORUM 2016 – Partners for a Racism-Free Community

Description: FORUM is an annual conference centered on addressing issues of equity through connecting professionals across sectors to topical experts. This year's conference will specifically highlight the impact bias has on individuals and the ways in which they shape the institutions they build and the culture they contribute.

Date: April 21, 2016

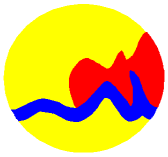
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: DeVos Place
303 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$75, \$50 for Students

RSVP: <http://prfc-gr.org/>

Information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/835168223263363/>



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Title: Wage Theft in Grand Rapids

Description: Wage theft is the illegal practice of not paying workers for all of their work including: violating minimum wage laws, not paying overtime, forcing workers to work off the clock, and more. Join panelists from the Workers Center of West Michigan and attorney Robert Alvarez to discuss their efforts to combat wage theft in the area. A question and answer session will follow the discussion. Light refreshments will be served.

Date: April 21, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.grpl.org

Title: Hometown Heroes Celebration

Description: Each year, the American Red Cross celebrates our community heroes who inspire us through their commitment to service and their recognition of the humanity of their neighbors down the street, across the country and around the world. Please join us the evening of Thursday, April 21st, 2016 for a dinner celebration honoring our local heroes. The evening promises great food, entertainment, a live auction, and a chance to spend time with members of our community and organization.

Date: April 21, 2016

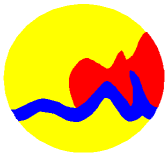
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: DeVos Place
303 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$150

RSVP: <http://american.redcross.org/site/Calendar?id=109344&view=Detail>

Information: <http://www.redcross.org/news/event/local/mi/Hometown-Heroes-Celebration-2016>



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Title: Leadership Roundtable

Description: Quite often, leaders are put into positions that are both perplexing and pivotal. Having a group of peers who can support and challenge, advise and encourage you, can help to build confidence and gain perspective in these situations. This roundtable is a discussion between people on equal terms. The group consists of management professionals who come together to promote professional growth through collaborative learning. The discussions are participant-generated, management focused, and confidential. This group is ongoing, meeting the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Date: April 21, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Tim Hortons
900 Fulton Street W
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: <http://www.orianperformancegroup.com/events/leadership-roundtable-15/>

Title: Freckleface Strawberry

Description: This children's musical is filled with entertainment and an important message for children of all ages. This play comes straight from the pages of the New York Times Best Selling book, written by celebrated and award winning actress, Julianne Moore. This musical is appropriate for children ages four and older.

Date: Starting April 22 – May 1

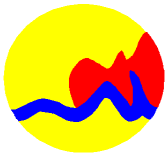
Time: Varies

Location: Civic Theatre
30 Division Ave N
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Varies

RSVP: <https://tix.extremetix.com/Online/?siteID=3000>

Information: <http://www.grct.org/plays-events/current-season/>



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Title: Grand Rapids Symphony: Pines of Rome

Description: The “Sounds of Home” could easily be the title of this concert of supremely colorful works for the mighty modern symphony orchestra. By 1937, when Bela Bartok started writing his second Violin Concerto, he was at the peak of this mastery as a composer. Each of the three movements of this virtuoso concerto has echoes of the composer’s native Hungary, whether it is the sinuous melodies in the first movement or the thrilling dance in the finale. The Brazilian composer Villa-Lobos had a lifelong devotion to Bach and wrote homages to the German master of orchestra, chamber ensemble’s and this most famous one for soprano solo and eight cellos.

Date: April 22nd and 23rd

Time: 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Location: The Grand Rapids Symphony
303 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids MI 49503

Cost: Tickets starting at \$18

RSVP: <http://www.grsymphony.org/concerts-and-tickets>

Information: <http://www.grsymphony.org/>

Title: Early Childhood Resource Fair

Description: Parents- Join us for our first annual Early Childhood Resource Fair. This FREE event will include fun activities for families and children as well as access to many valuable programs, resources, and organizations.

Date: April 23, 2016

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Kent Career Tech Center
1655 East Beltline NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Cost: Free

RSVP: [None](#)

Information: <http://www.kentisd.org/instructional-services/early-childhood/>

Title: Meet the Blandford Animals

Description: Have you personally met the Animals live at Blandford? Well if not, here is your chance! Come out and join Blandford staff as we introduce these amazing animals! Learn about their stories, and learn more about these species.

Date: April 23, 2016

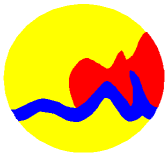
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Blandford Nature Center
1715 Hillburn Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Cost: \$3-\$6

RSVP: [Online](#)

Information: <http://blandfordnaturecenter.org/event/meet-the-blandford-animals/>



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Title: Windows and Mirrors: Diversity in Children's Literature

Description: Award-winning children's book author and illustrator, Floyd Cooper, discusses the role of racial diversity in children's picture books. Parents, caregivers and educators will discover how children's books reflect a child's own culture and life experience, while also opening windows to a bigger, more diverse world. There will be a book sale and signing following his presentation. Early Childhood Essentials. Author Visit. For Adults.

Date: April 26, 2016

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Kent District Library
3350 Michael Ave SW
Wyoming, MI 49509

Cost: Free

RSVP: [None](#)

Information: <http://www.kdl.org/events/kdl-reads-windows-and-mirrors-diversity-childrens-literature>

Title: Small Business Research Essentials

Description: Join the Business Librarian for an informative journey through the library's small business resources. Arm yourself with the best business information available, and give yourself the upper hand whether you are starting or growing your business.

Date: April 27, 2016

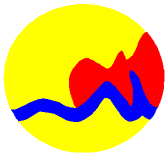
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.grpl.org/event/small-business-research-essentials-3/



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Title: The Spirituality of Human Work

Description: Rabbi Lewis is recognized as an outstanding writer on issues of spirituality and aging. His weekly articles in the Grand Rapids Press have been circulated throughout the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. In addition to a very successful career in the pulpit and leadership on the national level, Rabbi Lewis is engaged in consulting and teaching in colleges and universities. He has published numerous articles about faith and faith development in professional journals and is frequently invited to address interfaith audiences, seminary students, and clergy.

Date: April 28, 2016

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Cathedral Square – Catholic Information Center
360 S. Division Ave
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: Call (616) 459-7267

Information: <http://www.catholicinformationcenter.org/>

Title: Home Garden: Seeding Party

Description: Join us in our warm greenhouse for a series that will maximize the winter sun and help you dream about summer gardens. Ain't no party like a seed sharing party! The greenhouse will have seeds on hand, but students are encouraged to bring old seed, new seed, saved seed, etc. Have a favorite salad green you want others to know about? Have extra zucchini seeds? Bring them in. Take home a freshly seeded tray and bond with fellow gardeners.

Date: April 28, 2016

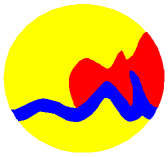
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Downtown Market
435 Ionia Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: \$20

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/home-garden-seeding-party-registration-19664561232>

Information: <http://downtownmarketgr.com/classes-events/home-garden-seeding-party>



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Title: Genealogy Lock-In

Description: Come to the Grand Rapids History and Special Collections department for a free after-hours program just for genealogists! Learn how to use the microfilm reader/scanner/printer, save images, and take advantage of free copying and printing during the event. Use the time to search databases—we will have plenty of computers available or bring your own laptop and use the library's WiFi network. Bring your genealogy questions or Ancestry and Heritage Quest problems—volunteers will be on hand to assist. Network with other genealogists—you never know what you might find!

Date: April 29, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: www.grpl.org/register or call 988-5400

Information: www.grpl.org/event/genealogy-lock-in-3/

Title: Birds and Bagels

Description: Come out and enjoy an early morning of birding. Take part in a small breakfast of bagels as our instructor introduces the birds that are moving through this area on their way to their summer homes. Head out on the trail with your binoculars and try to find as many migrating birds on their way through.

Date: April 30, 2016

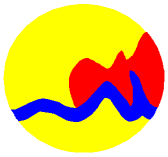
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Blandford Nature Center
1715 Hillburn Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Cost: \$5-\$8

RSVP: [Online](#)

Information: <http://blandfordnaturecenter.org/event/birds-bagels/>



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Title: International Tabletop Day presented by Vault of Midnight

Description: Founded in 2013 by internet nerd gurus “Geek & Sundry,” International Tabletop Day is a worldwide celebration of board gaming goodness. Local purveyors of comics and games, Vault of Midnight, will be on hand to lend their sharp wit & board gaming expertise to attendees. They will be teaching both classic and contemporary games for any age. International Tabletop Day is a family friendly event for both board and card games initiates and curious noobs alike. This is a great opportunity to nerd out and scratch your tabletop itch, to introduce your non-gamer friends to a new hobby, or to see what all this board game fuss is about.

Date: April 30, 2016

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cost: Free

RSVP: None

Information: www.grpl.org

Title: March for Babies Run/Walk

Description: Lace up your sneakers and join us at Grand Rapids March for Babies! Take part in the walk that saves babies from premature birth and birth defects. Over 1,500 Kent County residents will gather to take the 3.1 mile stroll along the beautiful Farmers Campus for stronger, healthier babies. March for Babies provides a memorable and rewarding day for the whole family including a health fair, music and lots of family friendly activities. The March of Dimes is proud to have Dan Meyering of Trillium Ventures and Jim Overbeck of Fifth Third Bank as our 2016 Grand Rapids March for Babies Event Co-Chairs.

Date: April 30, 2016

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Farmers Insurance Campus
5600 Beech Tree Lane SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

Cost: \$25

RSVP: <https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Signup/?eventId=17201>

Information: <https://www.marchforbabies.org/EventInfo/?EventID=17201>

Additional Community Events can be found at the following sites:

www.grnow.com

www.experiencegr.com

www.downtowngr.org

www.devosperformancehall.com