



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE THAN 20 EVENTS SET FOR 'ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY OF MONROE'

MONROE, Mich. – After funding for another Big Read of Monroe County could not be secured from the National Endowment for the Arts, a group of 13 community organizations came together to sponsor a community-wide reading program of their own.

One Book, One Community of Monroe County, modeled after a program developed by the American Library Association, promotes the value of reading by recommending a compelling book that links community members in a common conversation through readings, group discussions, programs and other events.

The community-wide reading program officially kicks off on March 21 at Café Classic with a performance by Jesse Coleman and the Jamm, but several events will take place even earlier, beginning with a book discussion at the maybe Branch Library on February 28. The full slate of more than 20 One Book, One Community events runs through April 15.

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The featured book, “The Color of Water: A Black Man’s Tribute to His White Mother,” is the autobiography of James McBride; it is also a tribute to his mother. The chapters alternate between McBride’s descriptions of his early life and first-person accounts of his mother Ruth's life, mostly taking place before her son was born. McBride depicts the conflicting emotions that he endured as he struggled to discover who he truly was, as his mother narrates the hardships that she had to overcome as a white, Jewish woman who chose to marry a black man in the 1940s.

Books are available for purchase at the Monroe County Community College Bookstore for \$15 plus tax and will be available at many One Book, One Community events.

Community partners include the Book Nook, Café Classics, The Honorable Joe Costello Jr., The Foundation at Monroe County Community College, Meadow Montessori, Monroe County Community College, Monroe County Convention and Tourism Bureau, Monroe County Library System, Monroe County Intermediate School District, Monroe Public Schools, Monroe Publishing Company – Monroe Evening News, St. Mary Catholic Central High School and Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Below is the One Book, One Community calendar of events. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise indicated.

- **February 28:** Maybee Branch Library Book Discussion, 7 p.m.
- **March 1:** Dundee Branch Library Book Discussion, 6:30 p.m.; Newport Branch Library Book Discussion, 6:30 p.m.
- **March 7:** College/Community Symphony Band Concert, Monroe County Community College, La-Z-Boy Center, 7:30 p.m. The Band will feature at least one (and possibly more) jazz numbers.

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- **March 16:** Film Festival: “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner,” Dorsch Memorial Branch Library, 6 p.m.
- **March 21:** Kick Off, Café Classics of Monroe, 7 p.m. A night of jazz featuring Jesse Coleman & The Jamm.
- **March 22:** Film Festival: “The Human Stain,” Frenchtown-Dixie Branch Library, 6 p.m. The story of Coleman Silk, a classics professor with a terrible secret that is about to shatter his life in a small New England town.
- **March 24:** MCCC Brown Bag Book Discussion, La-Z-Boy Center Atrium, 12:30 p.m.
- **March 24:** Altered Books, Dorsch Memorial Branch Library, 6 p.m. Feeling artsy? Try taking old books and turning them into art. You can do whatever you’d like to your book, including cutting or tearing it, painting it, folding it, adding collage, coloring or anything else you can imagine. Plenty of supplies will be available, but feel free to bring your own to share. This is an adult-only event. Registration is required. This can be done online at www.monroe.lib.mi.us or by calling (734) 241-7878.
- **March 25:** IHM Life Stories: Writing Your Memoirs, IHM Mother House Room D-102 3-4:30 p.m. This four-session workshop will help shape your memories into stories that you and the people you love can read. You won’t finish your memoirs in these four weeks, but you will make a good start. Other dates: April 1, 8, 15. Registration required by calling (734) 240-8195. Cost: \$3 material fee.

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- **March 30:** MCCC Memoir Writing Workshop I, Monroe County Community College La-Z-Boy Center, Room 258, 7-8:30 p.m. Join Cheryl Johnston, MCCC assistant professor of reading and English, and memoirist Harold Kinner, in a three-session workshop. Participants will explore the memoir format and gather strategies to produce their own “recollected” stories. Other dates: April 6 and 13. Registration is required by calling (734) 384-4153.
- **March 30:** Bedford Branch Book Discussion, 7 p.m.
- **March 31:** Film Festival: “Imitation of Life (1934),” 6 p.m. Bedford Branch Library. A struggling young actress with a six-year old daughter sets up housekeeping with a homeless, African-American widow and her light-skinned eight-year-old daughter, who rejects her mother by trying to pass for white.
- **April 1:** IHM Life Stories: Writing Your Memoirs II, IHM Mother House Room D-102, 3-4:30 p.m.
- **April 4:** Author James McBride, 7 p.m., Monroe County Community College, La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater. Critically acclaimed author James McBride will discuss his novel, “The Color of Water.”
- **April 6:** Blue Bush Branch Library Book Discussion, 6:30 p.m.; MCCC Memoir Writing Workshop II, Monroe County Community College, La-Z-Boy Center, Room 258, 7 p.m.
- **April 7:** Ida Branch Library Book Discussion, 4 p.m.
- **April 8:** IHM Life Stories: Writing Your Memoirs III, 3-4:30 p.m., IHM Mother House Room D-102

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- **April 8:** Write with Images, L.S. Navarre Branch Library, 4 p.m. Learn how a cartoonist uses drawings, panel size and crazy sound effects to immerse readers in the story. Cartoonist Jerzy Drozd will lead you in an interactive discussion on some of the fundamental comics storytelling principles, after which you'll be invited to create a short comics story of your own. This activity is recommended for children in grades 3-12. Registration is required. Please register online at www.monroe.lib.mi.us, or call the library at (734) 241-5577.
- **April 11:** Film Festival: "Miracle at St. Anna," Ellis Reference and Information Center, (Secondary Location: Dorsch Memorial Branch Library if Ellis is still under construction), 6 p.m. Written by One Book, One Community of Monroe County featured author James McBride, the film is set in 1944 Italy, and is the story of four black American soldiers who get trapped in a Tuscan village during World War II.
- **April 12:** Education, Faith and Family: A Panel Discussion, La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater, 7 p.m. How to survive and thrive in tough times. Confirmed panelists include Sandy Stein, Terri Kovach and Vuncia Council. Moderated by Marissa Beste, editor of The Agora, MCCC's student newspaper.
- **April 13:** MCCC Memoir Writing Workshop III, La-Z-Boy Center, Room 258, 7p.m.
- **April 15:** IHM Life Stories IV: Writing Your Memoirs IV, IHM Mother House Room D-102, 3-4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.monroecc.edu/onebook.

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