



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

enriching lives

Main Campus

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS SET FOR ‘ONE BOOK,
ONE COMMUNITY OF MONROE COUNTY’**

MONROE, Mich. – The One Book, One Community of Monroe County Committee has finalized the calendar of events planned around the themes in this year’s featured book selection, Reyna Grande’s immigrant experience memoir, “The Distance Between Us.”

The events run throughout much of March and early April, formally launching with a kickoff event on the evening of March 19 at Monroe County Community College. Grande is scheduled to visit MCCC for student workshops and a public book signing and presentation on March 26.

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 Distance Between Us” chronicles Grande’s immigrant experience as a young girl who was born in Mexico and raised by her grandparents while her parents left to find work in the U.S. At 9 years old, Grande entered the U.S. as an undocumented immigrant to live with her father.

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Below is the calendar of events. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Inaugural Celebrity Waiter Night, March 10, 5:30-9 p.m., La Fiesta Cantina and Restaurant, 11191 Telegraph Rd., Erie. The inaugural OBOC Celebrity Waiter Night offers a night of dining, and “fun raising” to benefit the OBOC Reading Project. Hosted by local celebrities who perform as servers for their guests, the hilarity will ensue when servers compete to earn the most tips.

Book Discussion, “The Distance Between Us” by Reyna Grande, March 10, 6:30 p.m., Erie Branch Library, 2065 Erie Road, Erie

Book Discussion, “The Distance Between Us” by Reyna Grande, March 11, 1 p.m., Bedford Branch Library, 8575 Jackman Rd., Temperance

Book Discussion, “The Distance Between Us” by Reyna Grande, March 12, 7 p.m., Bedford Branch Library, 8575 Jackman Rd., Temperance

Book Discussion, “The Distance Between Us” by Reyna Grande, March 12, 6:30 p.m., Ida Branch Library, 30161 Lewis Avenue, Ida

Fiesta Night/One Book, One Community Kick-Off, March 19, 6-8 p.m., Monroe County Community College, La-Z-Boy Center, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe. Festivities will include refreshments, music, a book swap, paper crafts, a “Moving to Monroe” exhibit, a citizenship test, door prizes, a Kindle Fire raffle and an innovative performance by Magical Rain Theaterworks at 7 p.m. Magical Rain Theaterworks will create an energetic performance of Latino stories, jests and words of wisdom and wit. Latino fondness for fiestas and family and

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admiration for courage and cleverness will emerge in stories of traps and tricksters, animals, food and the marvelous oddness of everyday life.

Book Swap, March 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monroe County Community College, Audrey M. Warrick Student Services/Administration Building (Admissions hallway), 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe

Film Series: "Food for the Ancestors," March 20, 7 p.m., Bedford Branch Library, 8575 Jackman Rd., Temperance. "Food for the Ancestors" is a culinary-history exploration of Days of the Dead (Dias de los Muertos), Mexican traditions and ancient ways of life that still exist there. Dr. Terri Kovach, MCCC professor, reference/technical services librarian, will moderate a viewing of this PBS documentary (60 minutes). MCCC culinary arts students will provide light snacks.

Tour: "Art of the Spanish Speaking World," March 22, 1 p.m., Detroit Institute of Art, Farnsworth Street Lobby, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Reservations: (734) 384-4153 by March 15. Museum admission fees apply. The tour will include works of Mexican artists, focusing on Diego Rivera's "Detroit Industry" murals, as well as works by Picasso, Velasquez and Miro. This docent-led tour will be conducted by MCCC Professor Emeritus Ann Orwin.

Film Series: "Food for the Ancestors," March 24, 2 p.m., Monroe County Community College, Campbell Learning Resources Center, Little Theater (C-3), 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe. "Food for the Ancestors" is a culinary-history exploration of Days of the Dead (Dias de los Muertos), Mexican traditions and ancient ways of life that still exist there. Dr. Terri Kovach, MCCC professor, reference/technical services librarian, will moderate a viewing of this PBS documentary (60 minutes). MCCC culinary arts students will provide light snacks.

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International Studies Club Cultural Night, March 24, 7:30 p.m., La Fiesta Cantina and Restaurant, 102 Tecumseh Street, Dundee. The MCCC International Studies Club will host its second cultural experience evening of the school year in conjunction with OBOC. There will be food, music and other cultural displays.

Women Immigrants in History Fair, March 25, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monroe County Community College, Campbell Learning Resources Center, Lobby, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe. In celebration of National Women's History Month and in conjunction with One Book, One Community, the MCCC Diversity Committee is sponsoring a Women Immigrants in History Fair, which will include information regarding notable women who have immigrated to America. A drawing of a Kindle Fire will be amongst the activities.

Meet the Author – Reyna Grande, March 26, 7 p.m., Monroe County Community College, La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe. Reyna Grande will elaborate on the stories that inspired her memoir, "The Distance Between Us." She will also share insights about her writing career and the challenges of writing a memoir. A book signing will follow. A limited number of books will be available for purchase.

Brown Bag Discussion: The Distance Between Us, March 27, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Monroe County Community College, La-Z-Boy Center, Atrium, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe.

Film Series: "Spanglish," March 30, 1:30 p.m. Bedford Branch Library, 8575 Jackman Rd., Temperance. John Clasky (Adam Sandler) is a devoted dad whose skills as a chef have afforded his family (Tea Leoni, Cloris Leachman) a very upscale life, including a summer home in Malibu and a new housekeeper, Flor (Paz Vega), who has recently immigrated to Los Angeles

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from Mexico and is trying to find a better life for her daughter, Cristina (Shelbie Bruce), who is rapidly embracing the American way of life. When Flor and Cristina move in with the Claskys for the summer, Flor has to fight for her daughter's soul as she discovers that life in a new country is perilous. Dr. Paul Hedeem, MCCC's dean of Humanities/Social Sciences Division, will moderate the viewing of this 2004 dramatic comedy (rated PG-13, 130 minutes.) Complimentary movie candy and soft drinks will be available.

Panel Discussion: Immigration Reform: A Family Issue, April 1, 7 p.m. Monroe County Community College, La-Z-Boy Center, Atrium, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe. A panel of experts, ranging from legal and political experts to Monroe County residents who emigrated from Mexico, will discuss immigration reform, with particular emphasis on how families are affected. The panel discussion is sponsored by The Agora, the student newspaper at MCCC.

Book Discussion: "The Distance Between Us," April 3, 10:30 a.m., Bedford Branch Library, 8575 Jackman Rd., Temperance.

Event: "Passport to Mexico," April 3, 4:30 p.m., Navarre Branch Library, 1135 E 2nd St., Monroe. At this event, attendees will learn about life in Mexico for kids through authentic games and maybe even some art making.

Event: Genealogy 101, April 3, 7 p.m., Ellis Library and Reference Center, 3700 South Custer Rd., Monroe. Every family has an arrival story, but, over time, these stories often become distorted or even forgotten. Genealogy 101 will introduce the tools and resources that will help families recreate their stories.

Lecture: "Ever Hear of Tazewell? Monroe's Kentucky Immigrants," April 5, 1 p.m.,

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Monroe County Labor Museum, Phillip Murray Building, 41 West Front Street, Monroe. MCCC Assistant Professor of History Edmund La Clair will give a brief presentation on the Great Migration of the early 20th century and explain how the U.S. highway system and a single tank of gas made Monroe and Michigan a focal point for southern migrants.

Film Series: "A Better Life," April 6, 2 p.m., Ellis Library and Reference Center, 3700 South Custer Rd., Monroe. In "A Better Life," a Mexican immigrant and his son are being pulled apart by life in America. Carlos (Demian Bichir) keeps a low profile, works hard and holds traditional values. Luis (Jose Julian) hasn't joined a gang in his neighborhood yet, but that would seem to be his trajectory. Carlos struggles to keep his son away from gangs and immigration agents while trying to give his him the opportunities he never had. Tim Dillon, associate professor of English and coordinator of the Writing Across the Curriculum program at MCCC, will moderate the viewing of this 2011 Drama (rated PG-13, 98 minutes). Complimentary movie candy and soft drinks will be available at the viewing.

Closing Event: Mexican Buffet, April 11, 5 p.m., Monroe County Community College, Audrey M. Warrick Students Services/Administration Building, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe. The second-year culinary arts students at MCCC, under the direction of Chef Kevin Thomas and Chef Vicki La Valle, will prepare a lavish buffet of authentic Mexican dishes. Tickets are available at the MCCC Cashier's Office (9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday -Friday) or by calling (734) 384-4272. Cost is \$20 per person.

Book Discussion: "The Distance Between Us," April 15, 6:30 p.m., Rasey Memorial Branch Library, 4349 Oak Drive, Luna Pier.

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Book Discussion: “The Distance Between Us,” April 28, 7 p.m., Carleton Branch Library, 1444 Kent Street, Carleton.

Books are available for purchase at the Monroe County Community College Bookstore, Book Nook and Books-A-Million. Founding partners include Monroe County Community College, The Foundation at Monroe County Community College, Monroe County Library System and Monroe Publishing Company.

Major sponsors include The Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan, Books-A-Million, Eastern Michigan University and Sienna Heights University, Meemic, Siena Heights University, Janssen Brothers Farms, LLC and Leski Insurance Agency, LLC.

Supporters include The Agora; The Book Nook; Diversity Committee of Monroe County Community College; Friends of One Book; One Community; Jetscreen Printing; La Fiesta Mexican Restaurants; Monroe City/County Fine Arts Council; Monroe County Community College Student Government; Monroe County Historical Museum, and Mark Naber and Penny Dorcey.

Educational partners include Meadow Montessori School, Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools, Monroe High School, Orchard Center High School and St. Mary Catholic Central High School.

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

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