



CITY OF MADISON HEIGHTS

LIBRARY - BRECKENRIDGE ROOM, 240 W. 13 MILE RD.

**HUMAN RELATIONS AND EQUITY COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA**

FEBRUARY 19, 2026 AT 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of January 15, 2026

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ADAPTIVE PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

2.
 - a. Adaptive Game Night - March 25, 2026
 - b. Community Resources website

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

3.
 - a. Arts and Pride
 - b. Lantern Festival
 - c. Revin' in the Heights

JUNETEENTH SCHOLARSHIP

4. Juneteenth Scholarship Draft

NOVELS AND NEIGHBORS BOOK CLUB

5.
 - a. Meeting dates and times
 - b. Title selections for upcoming meetings

POLICY REVIEW - LIBRARY

6.
 - a. Exhibit, Display, Artwork, and Handouts Policy

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation through electronic means in this meeting should contact the City Clerk at (248) 583-0826 or by email: clerks@madison-heights.org at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.

Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting
Madison Heights, Michigan
January 15, 2026

A Human Relations and Equity Committee Meeting was held on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:30 PM at Library - Breckenridge Room, 240 W. 13 Mile Rd.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Yu called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Andrew Attard
Kate Kapas
Tanner Langdon
Teresa Scott
Ashley Strunk
Alec Yu
Council Representative Quinn Wright

ALSO PRESENT staff liaison, Heather Hames.

Motion to excuse Aaron Brown made by Strunk, Seconded by Attard. Motion passed unanimously.

ABSENT

Rebecca Chambliss

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of November 20, 2025

Motion made by Kapas to approve the minutes of November 20, 2025, Seconded by Langdon. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No one present wishing to speak.

WORK PLAN ITEMS

2. Adaptive Programs and Community Resources
 - a. Adaptive Game Night for ages 16 and up will take place on March 25, 2026 in the Library Breckenridge Room from 6 - 8 pm.

b. Motion made by Kapas to establish a Community Resource committee including Kapas, Wright and Strunk to compile and maintain lists of community resources to share with the public in accordance with city guidelines, Seconded by Strunk. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Book Club - Novels + Neighbors

Discussed increase in book club members online and possibility of offering an online option later in the year. The group will select the books for June, August, October, and December at the February 2026 meeting.

4. Community Celebrations

a. Lantern Festival committee will meet again soon in February.

b. Arts and Pride will take place on Sunday, June 7, 2026 from 1 pm - 5 pm in Civic Center Park in Pavilion B and at the park Bandshell.

Motion made by Strunk to allocate \$500 towards Arts and Pride plus whatever funds are raised for the event, Seconded by Langdon. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Revin' in the Heights is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2026.

d. Discussed interest in working on a community ofrenda with the Arts Board. Also discussed reaching out to include the Mexican Consulate in Madison Heights as well as local schools.

e. Discussed interest in combining with neighboring communities for MLK Jr Day of Service.

Motion made by Kapas to create a Community Business Engagement committee to help identify community partnerships and possible sponsorships consisting of Scott and Strunk, Seconded by Strunk. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Juneteenth Scholarship

Discussed deadline dates and essay question options. Details to be finalized at the February 2026 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Adaptive

Game Night

March 25 6 - 8 pm

**Adults
and Teens
16 & up**

Join us for a free, accessible and inclusive game night for people of all ages and abilities. Games include Giant Connect Four, Giant Sorry, Uno, coloring. Snacks included!

**Madison Heights Public Library
240 W 13 Mile Rd
Madison Heights, MI 48071**



Register Now



**MADISON HEIGHTS
HUMAN RELATIONS
& EQUITY COMMISSION**



JUNETEENTH SCHOLARSHIP \$500

**Applications accepted from 2/20/26 until
5/20/26 at 11:59 p.m.**

**Winner Announced at the Juneteenth Festival in
Civic Center Park on June 20, 2026**

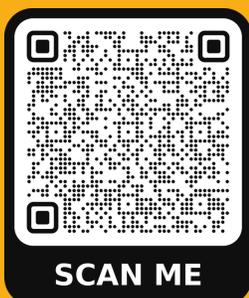
Requirements include:

- 2.5 GPA
- Graduating High School senior with acceptance into a college, university or trade school
- Demonstrated leadership or community involvement
- 500 word essay. Open to Madison Heights residents and students attending school in Madison Heights.

For more details or to apply for this scholarship scan the QR code below or visit:

<https://www.madison-heights.org/FormCenter/Boards-34/Juneteenth-Scholarship-2026-254>

APPLY NOW



The Madison Heights Human Relations & Equity Commission reserves the right to modify eligibility criteria and application requirements at any time without prior notice. Submission of an application does not guarantee a response, interview, or the awarding of a scholarship. All decisions made by the Commission are final and made at its sole discretion.

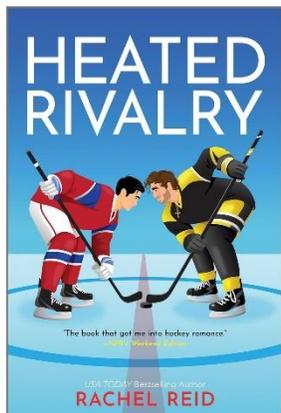


Book titles for consideration for Novels and Neighbors Book Club

Current dates to select for:

June 9, August 11, October 13, December 8

Heated Rivalry by Rachel Reid



Or Unrivaled (book 7 releases in September 2026)

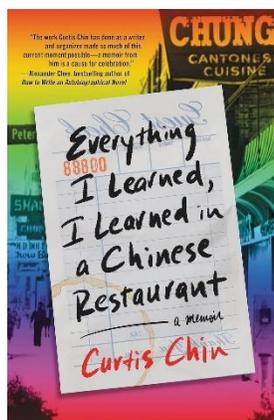
Nothing interferes with pro hockey star Shane Hollander's game.

Now that he's captain of the Montreal Voyageurs, he won't let anything jeopardize that—definitely not the sexy rival he loves to hate.

Boston Bears captain Ilya Rozanov is everything Shane's not. The self-proclaimed king of the ice, he's as cocky as he is talented. No one can beat him—except Shane. Publicly, they're enemies. Privately, they can't stop touching each other.

The smart thing to do? Walk away, once a few secret hookups turn into a struggle to keep their relationship out of the press. The truth could ruin them both. But for Shane and Ilya, secrecy is soon no longer an option...

Everything I learned, I learned in a Chinese Restaurant by Curtis Chin



This “vivid, moving, funny, and heartfelt” memoir tells the story of Curtis Chin's time growing up as a gay Chinese American kid in 1980's Detroit (Lisa Ko, author of *The Leavers*).

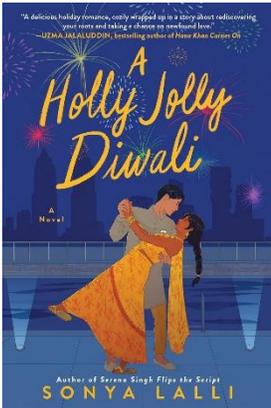
Nineteen eighties Detroit was a volatile place to live, but above the fray stood a safe haven: Chung's Cantonese Cuisine, where anyone—from the city's first Black mayor to the local drag queens, from a big-time Hollywood star to elderly Jewish couples—could sit down for a warm, home-cooked meal. Here was where, beneath a bright-red awning and surrounded by his multigenerational family, filmmaker and activist Curtis Chin came of age; where he learned to embrace his identity as a gay ABC, or American-born Chinese; where he navigated the divided city's spiraling misfortunes; and where—between helpings

of almond boneless chicken, sweet-and-sour pork, and some of his own, less-savory culinary concoctions—he realized just how much he had to offer to the world, to his beloved family, and to himself.

Served up by the cofounder of the Asian American Writers' Workshop and structured around the very menu that graced the tables of Chung's, *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant* is both a memoir and an invitation: to step inside one boy's childhood oasis, scoot into a vinyl booth, and grow up with him—and perhaps even share something off the secret menu.

An American Library Association Stonewall Honor Book—Israel Fishman Nonfiction Award
A 2024 Michigan Notable Book

Holly Jolly Diwali by Sonya Lalli



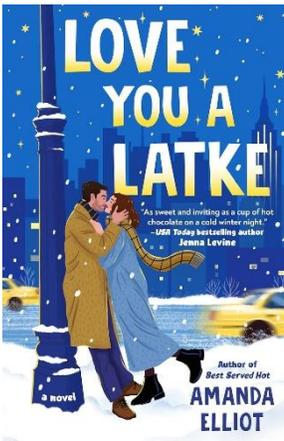
One type-A data analyst discovers her free-spirited side on an impulsive journey from bustling Mumbai to the gorgeous beaches of Goa and finds love waiting for her on Christmas morning.

Twenty-nine-year-old Niki Randhawa has always made practical decisions. Despite her love for music and art, she became an analyst for the stability. She's always stuck close to home, in case her family needed her. And she's always dated guys that seem good on paper, rather than the ones who give her butterflies. When she's laid off, Niki realizes that practical hasn't exactly paid off for her. So for the first time ever, she throws caution to the wind and books a last-minute flight for her friend Diya's wedding.

Niki arrives in India just in time to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights, where she meets London musician Sameer Mukherji. Maybe it's the splendor of Mumbai or the magic of the holiday season, but Niki is immediately drawn to Sam. At the wedding, the champagne flows and their flirtatious banter makes it clear that the attraction is mutual.

When Niki and Sam join Diya, her husband and their friends on a group honeymoon, their connection grows deeper. Free-spirited Sam helps Niki get in touch with her passionate and creative side, and with her Indian roots. When she gets a new job offer back home, Niki must decide what she wants out of the next chapter of her life—to cling to the straight and narrow like always, or to take a leap of faith and live the kind of bold life the old Niki never would have dreamed of.

Love You a Latke by Amanda Elliot



"Nothing short of transcendent."—New York Times

AN INSTANT USA TODAY BESTSELLER!

Love comes home for the challah-days in this sparkling romance.

Snow is falling, holiday lights are twinkling, and Abby Cohen is pissed. For one thing, her most annoying customer, Seth, has been coming into her café every morning with his sunshiny attitude, determined to break down her carefully constructed emotional walls. And, as the only Jew on the tourism board of her Vermont town, Abby's been charged with planning their fledgling Hanukkah festival. Unfortunately, the local vendors don't understand that the story of Hanukkah cannot be told with light-up plastic figures from the Nativity scene,

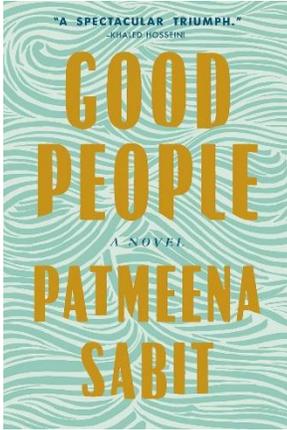
even if the Three Wise Men wear yarmulkes.

Desperate for support, Abby puts out a call for help online and discovers she was wrong about being the only Jew within a hundred miles. There's one other: Seth.

As it turns out, Seth's parents have been badgering him to bring a Nice Jewish Girlfriend home to New York City for Hanukkah, and if Abby can survive his incessant, irritatingly handsome smiles, he'll introduce her to all the vendors she needs to make the festival a success. But over latkes, doughnuts,

and winter adventures in Manhattan, Abby begins to realize that her fake boyfriend and his family might just be igniting a flame in her own guarded heart.

Good People by Patmeena Sabit



“Good People is a stunning read. I could not recommend it more enthusiastically. . . . What a spectacular triumph this book is. This is the Afghan novel I have been eagerly waiting for.”—Khaled Hosseini

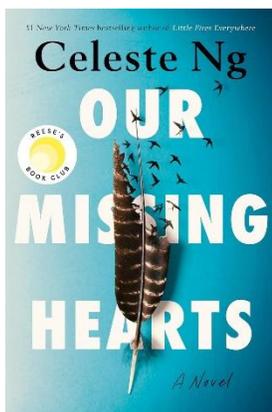
Zorah Sharaf could do no wrong. Zorah Sharaf brought shame upon her family. What’s the truth? Depends on who you ask.

The Sharaf family is the picture of success. Prosperous, rich, happy. They came to this country as refugees with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. And now, after years of hard work, they live in the most exclusive neighborhood, their growing family attending the most prestigious schools. Zorah, the eldest daughter, is the apple of her father’s eye.

When an unthinkable tragedy strikes, everyone is left reeling and the family is thrust into the court of public opinion. There is talk that behind closed doors the Sharafs’ happy household was anything but. Did the Sharaf family achieve the American dream? Or was the image of the model immigrant family just a façade?

Like a literary game of ping-pong, *Good People* compels the reader to reconsider what might have happened even on the previous page. Told through a kaleidoscope of perspectives, it is a riveting, provocative, and haunting story of family—sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, and the communities that claim us as family in difficult times.

Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng



“Thought-provoking, heart-wrenching . . . I was so invested in the future of this mother and son.” —Reese Witherspoon

“Riveting, tender, and timely.” —People

“Remarkable . . . An unflinching yet life-affirming drama about the power of art and love to push back in dangerous times.” —Oprah Daily

From the #1 bestselling author of *Little Fires Everywhere*, comes the inspiring new novel about a mother’s unshakeable love.

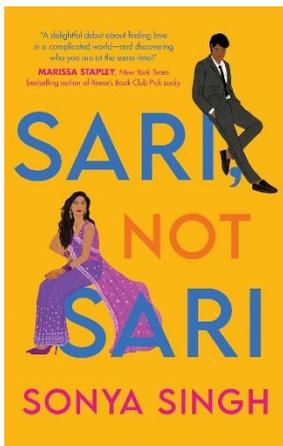
Twelve-year-old Bird Gardner lives a quiet existence with his loving father, a former linguist who now shelves books in a university library. His mother, Margaret, a Chinese American poet, left without a trace when he was nine years old. He doesn’t know what happened to her—only that her books have been banned—and he resents that she cared more about her work than about him.

Then one day Bird receives a mysterious letter containing only a cryptic drawing, and soon he is pulled

into a quest to find her. His journey will take him back to the many folktales she poured into his head as a child, through the ranks of an underground network of heroic librarians, and finally to New York City, where he will learn the truth about what happened to his mother and what the future holds for them both.

Our Missing Hearts is an old story made new, of the ways supposedly civilized communities can ignore the most searing injustice. It's about the lessons and legacies we pass on to our children and the power of art to create change.

Sari, Not Sari by Sonya Singh



This delightful debut rom-com follows the adventures of a woman trying to connect with her South Asian roots and introduces readers to a memorable cast of characters in a veritable feast of food, family traditions, and fun.

Manny Dogra is the beautiful young CEO of Breakup, a highly successful company that helps people manage their relationship breakups. As preoccupied as she is with her business, she's also planning her wedding to handsome architect Adam Jamieson while dealing with the loss of her beloved parents.

For reasons Manny has never understood, her mother and father, who were both born in India, always wanted her to become an "All-American" girl. So that's what she did. She knows next to nothing about her South Asian heritage, and that's never been a problem—until her parents are no longer around, and an image of Manny that's been Photoshopped to make her skin look more white appears on a major magazine cover. Suddenly, the woman who built an empire encouraging people to be true to themselves is having her own identity crisis.

But when an irritating client named Sammy Patel approaches Manny with an odd breakup request, the perfect solution presents itself: If they both agree to certain terms, he'll give her a crash course in being "Indian" at his brother's wedding.

What follows is days of dancing and dal, masala and mehndi as Manny meets the lovable, if endlessly interfering, aunties and uncles of the Patel family, and, along the way, discovers much more than she could ever have anticipated.

Exhibit, Display, Artwork, and Handouts Policy

Madison Heights Public Library.

Effective: Draft V1

Purpose:

As an educational and cultural institution and as part of its public service, the Madison Heights Public Library provides designated areas for exhibits, handouts, and announcements of interest. This policy ensures fair access, safety, and alignment with the library's mission.

Regulations:

1. The library, individuals, other nonprofit organizations, community groups or governmental agencies may provide materials for display, distribution, or publication.
2. Exhibits, displays, handouts, artwork, and announcements must be approved by the library director or appointed designee before being set up or posted.
3. The library may limit the size and location of materials, number of items, schedule, and the frequency an individual or group displays their materials.
4. Materials should meet at least one of the following general criteria and will be evaluated holistically:
 - a. Highlights library collections, services, or programs
 - b. Promotes literacy or is otherwise educational in nature
 - c. Showcases a local resource or topic that may be of interest to library patrons
 - d. Recognizes and elevates the wide variety of local cultures, traditions, and identities to support equitable understanding, civic engagement, and community enrichment
 - e. Context (compatible with surroundings, fits into available space)
 - f. Public safety/maintenance (structural soundness, non-hazardous materials, no maintenance required)
 - g. Potential patron appeal
 - h. Alignment with other library policies
5. The library retains priority rights to all space for City of Madison Heights purposes.
6. The library reserves the right to refuse materials that do not meet one or more of the general criteria.
7. Space is available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of an individual or group.
8. Materials must align with the library's mission and comply with all applicable policies, including the behavior policy and the materials selection and collection development policy.

9. Materials must not cause disruption of the regular flow of library work and service.
10. Dates and times for set-up and removal must be coordinated with the library director or appointed designee during regular library hours.
11. Materials must not obstruct walkways, emergency exits, or violate ADA accessibility standards.
12. The library assumes no liability in the event of damage, destruction, or theft of any materials.
13. A sign stating the sponsorship of the exhibit may be included. Values of the sponsoring organization shall not be included.
14. Distribution or posting of materials does not indicate the library's endorsement of the issue or events promoted by those materials.
15. Unapproved materials will be disposed of at the library's discretion.
16. The City of Madison Heights and Friends of MHPL retain priority rights to space for handouts and announcements. Materials from other eligible organizations may be posted by library staff as space permits and may be removed at any time.
17. Materials not removed by the agreed-upon time may be donated or discarded.
18. The library will work to retain works donated to or purchased by the library, but does reserve the right to deaccession any materials for any reason deemed by the library director to be in the best interest of the library. Deaccessioned artwork may be sold, auctioned, donated, or discarded.