

Kalamazoo Valley Museum
230 North Rose Street
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Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070
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kalamazoomuseum.org

Texas Township Campus
6767 West O Avenue
PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070
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Arcadia Commons Campus
202 North Rose Street
PO Box 4070
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070
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The Groves Campus
7107 Elm Valley Drive
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News Release
February 1, 2017

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Peace is the theme of the Museum's Fifth Annual Storytelling Festival

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum's Fifth Annual Storytelling Festival begins on Friday, February 3, with Art Hop from 5 to 8 p.m. Speed painter Martina Hahn will be the featured visual artist and will create a piece live at the end of Joe Reilly's concert. The Festival continues on Saturday with a vendor fair running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and presenters starting at the top of each hour.

In addition to an amazing lineup of storytellers Festival will feature 16 authors, a Michigan publishing company, and 11 local vendors.

Kazoo Books will carry a wide selection of books from local authors and festival presenters. Ruth Barshaw, author of Leopold the Lion and the Ellie McDoodle series, will meet with patrons and sign her books from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Leslie Helakowski, author of Woolbur, Big Chickens, and Doggone Feet will be available 1:00-2:30 p.m. Janet Heller, author of How the Moon Regained Her Shape, will be here on hand from 2:30-4:00 p.m. Kazoo Books will also carry Colored Water, Groundhog's Dilemma, Stand Tall, Abe Lincoln, and The Monster Who Ate My Peas from authors/illustrator Matt Faulkner and Kristen Remenar. I Went to a Party in Kalamazoo, by author Ed Shankman and Farmer's Day Market by Shanda Trent will also be available.

Several authors will have their own tables during the Festival and will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. These include Laura Becklar, author of Bumblebee Bumblebee, and Katie Seifert, author of Penelope: The Adventures of a Penny, Hank the Hanger, Ellie's Room, and Littleleaf Linden. Mat Roll, author of the science fiction series Jupiter 7, will be here. Presenter Mark Binder from Rhode Island will tell stories at noon and have a vendor table with several of his award-winning books and audio stories, including Transmit Joy, Stories for Peace, Cinderella Spinderella, and A Dead Politician, an Undead Clam, and an Ancient Horror.

Patricia Polacco will present at 10 a.m. and be available to sign books from 11 a.m. to noon. Tim Cusack will entertain at 1 p.m. and sell and sign his book Me Too from 2-3 p.m. Noa Baum will share stories at 2 p.m. and be at the presenter table from 3-4 p.m. with her materials: A Land Twice Promised - An Israeli Woman's Quest for Peace, a One Woman Show (DVD) of the same title, and audio CDs of Far Away and Close to Home, and Impossible to Translate But I'll Try: True-Life Israeli Stories. Judy Sima presents at 4 p.m. and will be available before her performance to talk to visitors about learning to become a writer and tell stories. Her books August House of Scary Stories and Raising Voices: Creating Youth Storytelling Groups and Troupes will be available from 3-4 p.m.

Terry Wooten will perform on Friday at 6 p.m. during Art Hop. His award-winning books, The Stone Circle Poems, Water Under the Bridge, and A Book of Hours, will be available both Friday night and all day Saturday through Parkhurst Brothers Publishing. Ted Parkhurst is a former chairman of the National Storytelling Network and will bring a variety of titles from other Michigan storytellers. Joe Reilly will perform during Art Hop, on Friday at 7 p.m. His CDs will only be available Friday night and include Planting Gardens, Children of the Earth, Touch the Earth, Let's Go Outside, Hello Ocean, Greyhound Bus Tour, and just-released The Circle.

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Read and Write Kalamazoo will help visitors learn to “Use Your Words!” Representatives from the Culinary Arts program at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and the student-run Havirmill Café will have plates for children to decorate and celebrate fresh fruits and vegetables. Visitors can color peaceful mandalas from Adamcz Associates, get a personalized calligraphy bookmark from the Pen Dragon Calligraphy group, and see what the Kalamazoo Public Library has to offer.

Discover the many different family-centered musical storytelling programs offered by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. Learn more about the Kalamazoo Country Day School. A variety of jewelry and other fine arts with a storytelling theme will be available from LeeLee Joy Arts, LLC. Kalamazoo Sportswear and Regalia provides custom printing in addition to their Pure Kalamazoo line of t-shirts, which includes the Kalamazoo Strong shirts and those featuring local businesses, current and historic. The Kalamazoo County Department of Health and Human Services will provide a book walk offering free picture books to our visitors. The Kalamazoo Nature Center will bring an Eastern Box Turtle and a Domestic Rabbit for event goers to meet up close. Interpreters will be on hand to explain how these animals are related to the ones from the classic fable The Tortoise and the Hare.

Snacks and beverages will also be available from Feed the World Café.

Admission to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and the Storytelling Festival is free.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.