VOL. 2 NOVEMBER 2026

CELEBRATING ADRIAN AND LENAWEE'S RICH CULTURE AND HERITAGE

ADRIAN DIVERSITY EVENT FUND

Year-End Report 2006 **A Look Ahead 2027**

POP-UP HOLOCAUST MUSEUM SUCCESS



For two months in spring 2026, the Gallery of Shops in downtown Adrian became a place for remembrance, education, and reflection. In partnership with the Zekelman Holocaust Center, ADEF brought Holocaust learning into the heart of our community, welcoming more than 3,500 visitors, including school and community groups.

Connecting global history with local learning.

The museum brought together traveling exhibits, primary source materials, local newspaper history, and stories of people targeted by persecution. The Intersected Lives Exhibit highlighted the lives of Anne Frank, Hannah Goslar, and local survivor Irene Butter.

Together, these displays gave visitors different ways to approach a complex history through individual lives and experiences.

Over the course of the exhibit, over 26 hours of classes were offered to the community and teachers free of charge. Over 50 school and community groups participated in tours.

The Pop-Up Museum concluded with a community Holocaust Remembrance Celebration at the Croswell Opera House.

School children presented, sang, and shared their works of art with the community. U of M Professor Annemarie Toebosch presented on the life and legacy of Irene Butter. Irene's message was to never be a bystander, one person can make a difference, and refuse to be enemies.

COMMUNITY SERVICE



The Adrian Diversity Event Fund organized community clean-ups of veteran tombstones. This September, volunteers gathered to clean the 86 headstones located at Soldier's Field in Oakwood Cemetery. Look for more cleanings across Lenawee in 2027 on our facebook page.



Follow us on facebook

Stay connected, follow us on Facebook for news, upcoming courses, book reads, trips, and events.



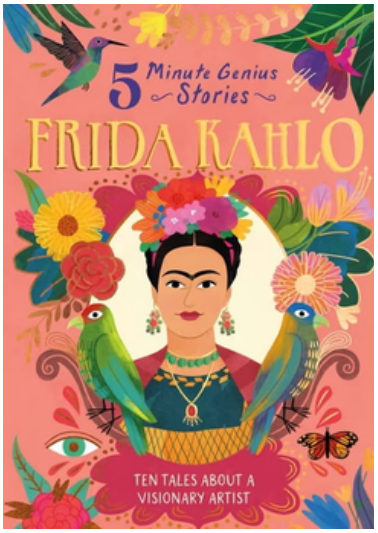
Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

The Adrian Diversity Event Fund purchased 20 pairs of dance shoes for young members of Raíces de mi Tierra who did not have them, helping provide the footwear they needed to participate in this local celebration of Mexican culture.

Led by Teresa Gutierrez, Raíces de mi Tierra teaches children and teenagers traditional Mexican folklórico dances. The troupe carries forward a local tradition that began in 1976,

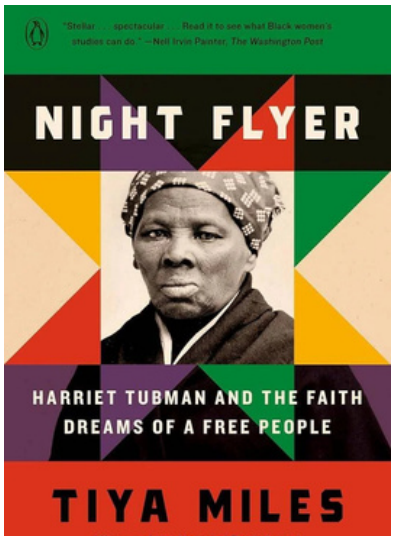
Students from Raíces de mi Tierra performed for adults taking the ADEF Lenawee Does Detroit Class on September 30th at the Adrian District Library. Following their performance, each student was given a book on Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, one of the artists being studied as part of the Lenawee Does Detroit Class.

This is an amazing example of how your donations make contributions like this possible.





R4 - Book Sponsor



The Big Read is Coming to Lenawee!

As part of the River Raisin Ragtime Review's America 250 Big Read Program, the ADEF has become a sponsor of the book Night Flyer. Look for book clubs forming soon. R4's focus is on the Underground Railroad, abolitionist leaders, and Latino influences on Music. The full schedule of events can be found at: ragtimeband.org/big-read



SO YOU WANT TO RUN FOR CITY COMMISSION?

Are you a resident of the City of Adrian and thinking about running for City Commissioner? This workshop will help you explore the election process, help you develop your message, and understand the basic roles and responsibilities of being a City Commissioner. While the election is in November of 2027, it's important to start planning early to make sure you do not miss any deadlines for your candidacy.

Workshop Info:

Adrian District Library
Community Room
Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2027
6:00 - 8:00pm
Tuesday, March 2, 2027
6:00 - 8:00pm

Cost: Free

Register for this free workshop at AdrianDiversityEventFund.org or use the QR code Below.

Photo below of February 2023 So you want to run for Commission workshop.



Lenawee Does Detroit



We learn more when we learn together!

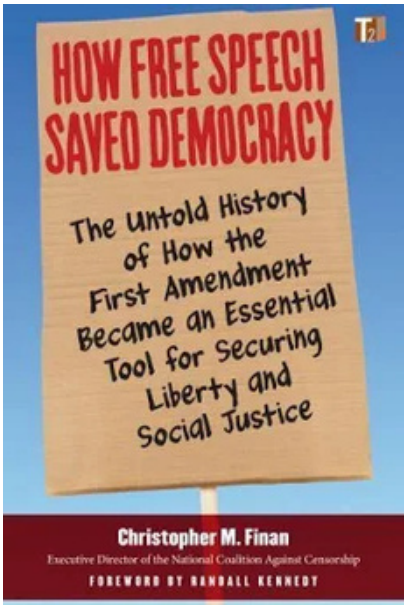
History, art, and community connections came together through Lenawee Does Detroit, an Adrian Diversity Event Fund program that welcomed participants to classroom sessions and brought 47 travelers together for an educational trip to Detroit to explore the DIA, Eastern Market, and Detroit Historical Society.





Throughout September, participants explored connections between Lenawee County and Detroit. Learning the critical connections between Adrian and Detroit's Underground Railroad and the passage to freedom in Canada. Participants explored Diego Rivera's Detroit Industry murals and the experiences of Rivera and Frida Kahlo in Michigan. We also highlighted LGBTQ artists whose contributions enrich the DIA's collection including multiple artists that were persecuted in Nazi Germany. Connections too place with the DIA's Ofrenda and Adrian's Ofrenda.. Visits to Eastern Market and the Detroit Historical Museum added further understanding. Learning about Detroit's riots prompted learning about racial inequality from the past and where we stand as a community, state, and country today.

Thank you to The Holiday with Heart Gala for grant funding covering venue admission and the Stubnitz Foundation for cover-ing transportation costs. Their support helped remove financ-ial barriers for our participants.



Author Chris Finan joins Community Conversation

November's book study explored Chris Finan's "How Free Speech Saved Democracy" and the impact of free speech advocates, including those who spoke at the Croswell. We examined how free speech inspires change, challenges injustice, and encourages understanding and acceptance.

"I Have Something to Tell You" Book Study

ADEF brought community members together for a free book study of "I Have Something to Tell You", exploring identity, acceptance, and belonging. The conversation continued with a National Coming Out Day gathering at Farver's, where participants shared coming out stories and listened with compassion. Together, these experiences celebrated LGBTQ voices, strengthened connections across generations, and reminded us how sharing our stories can build understanding and help others feel seen, supported, and less alone.

Based on the success of this event we will plan it again in 2027.

A big thank you to our community partners Lenawee Pride, Holiday with Heart Charity Gala, and Farver's.



DONATE TODAY

Help make our next chapter possible. Your year-end gift supports books, cultural programs, community learning, and opportunities to participate. Please consider a gift of $25, $50, $100, or an amount meaningful to you.

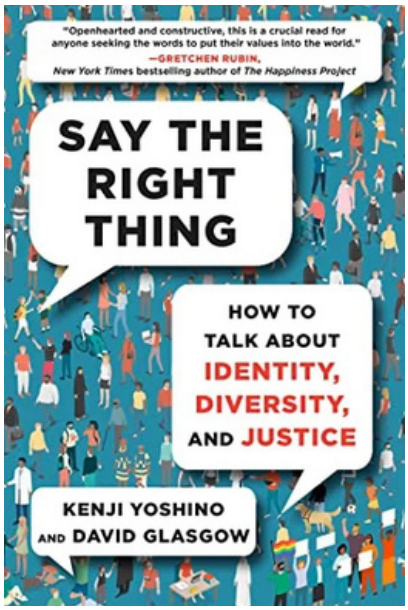
Sign up for upcoming book studies and events at AdrianDiversityEventFund.org



CONCEPT DESIGN OF OUR PLANNED 2027 INSTALLATION.

FREEDOM TO LOVE PROJECT

2027 will be a big year as we launch The Freedom to Love Project. This project uses flags and educational displays to explore marriage equality and laws that criminalize same-sex relationships worldwide. This outdoor display invites reflection on freedom, dignity, and belonging while encourag-ing visitors to stand against discrimination locally while supporting LGBTQ+ rights around the world.



Navigating Diversity Discussion for School and Community Leaders

Are you a school or community leader looking for skills to talk about the complex topics of diversity or identity? The ADEF is hosting a 3 hour workshop at Adrian District Library on January 14th from 9-12.
Educators can earn 2.5 SCECH's from this workshop. For more info or to register visit our website. Cost is $45.00.

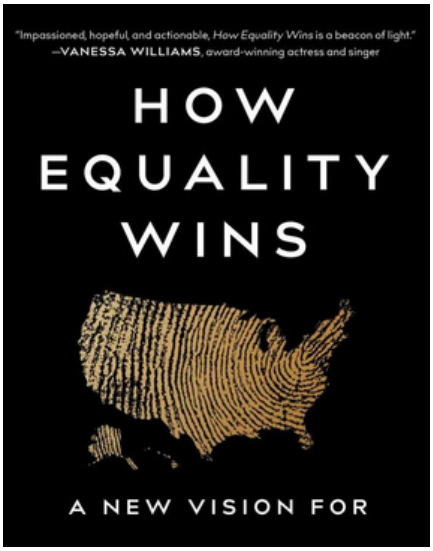
"How Equality Wins" Book Study

Join ADEF at the Adrian District Library for discussions of How Equality Wins. This two-part free book study will take place at the Adrian District Library.

April 8, 2027 6–8 p.m.:
Building Understanding
Explore how personal stories, shared values, and meaningful conversations can challenge prejudice and build support for equality. Discuss approaches to connecting with people whose perspectives differ from our own.

April 29, 2027 6–8 p.m.:
Turning Support into Action
Consider how advocates build coalitions, respond to opp-osition, and sustain momentum. Together, identify practical ways to apply these lessons in Lenawee County, strengthening inclusion through everyday conversations, community part-nerships, and action.

REGISTER TODAY



Sign up for upcoming book studies and events at AdrianDiversityEventFund.org



2027 FALL FIELD TRIP

With the great success of "Lenawee Does Detroit" many have asked for more community based learning and trips. We are exploring options for the fall of 2027. We are currently planning "Lenawee does Grand Rapids" with chances to learn and explore the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum, Fredrick Meijer Gardens, and the Grand Rapids Downtown Market. Follow us on facebook for more updates on this October '27 trip.