



The Mentors Plus Match

For members of the Mentors Plus Family

March, 2016

Volume 4, No. 3



Ivory Williams, Story Teller: With Brenda and Annessa, her Mentee, at the Detroit Historical Museum

Quote of the Month

“The best teacher is not the one who knows the most, but the one who is most capable of reducing knowledge to that simple compound of the obvious and wonderful.”

■ H.L. Mencken

As mentors, we are not paid teachers, but our matches learn by what we model and encourage. Too often in schools, teachers rely on “book” learning, rather than having students participate in doing things. Building things or taking them apart, going to see how things are made or assembled, and using imagination in creative ways are great ways for mentors to add to their matches’ knowledge. Thank you for keeping up this important work.

Julie

Fun Things to Do Anytime

- *If your match isn’t familiar with banking, help him/her open a *free* savings account – it usually just takes \$5. Practice writing checks.
- * Pick a theme and each create your own comedy routine, then perform for each other.
- *Find an exercise or yoga program at the library or on-line and get moving together.
- * Research each of your dream vacations, then share information you’ve gathered with each other.
- * Make “Snowcream” together and then enjoy eating it! Recipe: 5 cups fresh snow, add 1 cup milk, 1 tsp. vanilla, ¼ cup sugar, and cocoa powder – mix & serve immediately!

★ March Announcements

Please submit *Monthly Reports* by Thursday, 3/10/16.

★ *Mentors Plus Orientations:* Saturday, 3-19-16, 10:00 a.m. Please send anyone interested!



The Piston’s Basketball Season continues with a few tickets available for Saturdays, 3/19/16 and 3/26/16 and, Tuesday, 3/29/16. Call Julie to order tickets.

Julie’s Corner



Broc at the Henry Ford Museum (Mentor, Bill)

Meadowbrook Theatre Presents: *ATOMIC*. A \$12 rate is available for Mentors Plus by calling: Leanne at (248)370-3316. Say you’re from Mentors Plus. *ATOMIC* is the thrilling new Off-Broadway musical that blasts open the doors of The Manhattan Project, a government-funded program of top scientists with the task of creating the world’s first atomic bomb...3/5 to 3/8/16.

Stagecrafters in Royal Oak Presents:

The Snow Queen

March 3rd-6th

See page 6 for more details.

Oakland County Youth Assistance



Mentors Plus

Be a friend. Show the way.

Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division
Oakland County Youth Assistance
1200 N. Telegraph Road, Building 14 East
Pontiac, MI 48341-0452
248-858-0041



March, 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 st	2 nd * Tai Chi for Health: Lyon Public Library, 6:00-8:00. * Paws For Reading: Rochester Library, 6 – 7:15 p.m. * Zumba: Southfield Library, 6:30	3 rd * DIY Ladies Night- Reading is Key: Salem/South Lyon Library, 7 – 8:30 p.m.	4 th * First Friday for Kids: Northville Community Center, Ages: 4-12, 5:30 –9:00 * Cranbrook Science Institute; Free after 5.	5 th * Winter Star Party: Independence Oaks Nature Center, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m.. * St. Patrick's Day Party: Lyon Library, 6:00-8:00.
6 th * Detroit Chamber Winds: First United Methodist Church, 3:00, Adults: \$25, Students: free.	7 th	8 th	9 th * Tai Chi: Salem/South Lyon Library, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	10 th * DIY Skin Care Vol. 3: Salem/South Lyon Library, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	11 th	12 th * RJ Spangler Trio: Salem/South Lyon Library, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Please Register: (248) 437-6431 * St. Patrick's Day Parade: 215 W. 5 th Street,,Royal Oak, 11:30 to 12:30
13 th	14 th * Arts & Scraps: Southfield Library, grades K-5, 7:00 p.m. * Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Nessa Celtic Fusion Band, Troy Library, 7:00, Pre-register. * Kim the Piper(Bag Pipes): Berkley Library, 6:30 to 8:00. * Arts and Scraps: Southfield Library, 7:00.	15 th	16 th * Teen D&D Night: Rochester Library, 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. * Family Craft Night: Berkley Library, 7:00-8:00 p.m. * Jazz and Blues Band: Southfield Public Library, 6:30 p.m.	17 th * Teen Movie Night-Jurassic World: Salem/South Lyon Library, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. * Framed Foil Embossing: Royal Oak Library, 6:30 p.m.  Happy St. Patrick's Day!	18 th	19 th * Read To The Dogs: Royal Oak Library, 10:30 a.m. * The Fabulous Vocabulous League: Rochester Library, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. * The Good Dinosaur (Movie): Berkley Library, 3:00.
20 th * Book Sale: Lyon Public Library, 12:00 to 3:30. * Folk Music with Ann Hills and David Roth: Bloomfield Township Library, 5:00.	21 st * Teen Book Club: Rochester Library, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. * Battle of the Books: Southfield Library, 4 th & 5 th Grade, 7:00 p.m.	22 nd * Battle of the Books: Southfield Library, Middle School, 7:00 p.m. * Story Time with Sparky: Royal Oak Library, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. * The Language of Sports: Berkley Library, 6:30 to 8:00.	23 rd * Tai Chi: Salam/South Lyon Library, 6:30 – 8 p.m. <i>For Mentors, Parents, etc.:</i> * Navigating the Maze of Communication – concerning suicidal or mental health issues, Beaumont Hospital Admin., 7:00.	24 th * Video Games for Tweens: Royal Oak Library, Ages 7-11, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. * Video Games for Teens: Royal Oak Library, 6:30–7:30 p.m.	25 th * Doodle&Daydream: Rochester Library, 1:00 –3:00 p.m.	26 th * Lego Time: Rochester Library, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
27 th 	28 th	29 th * Choose Your Own Book Club: Rochester Library, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. * Community Sing with Mat Watrobs: 7:00, Farmington Library, Liberty Branch	30 th * Just Add Color: Southfield Library, 6:00 p.m., for all ages. (From kid to grown-up coloring books.)	31 st * April Fool's Fun: Royal Oak Library, 6:30 p.m.		

*Many places are **tapping maple trees** for syrup this month. Most are on week-ends. Some are free, others are \$4 to \$5 per person. A few locations are listed below. Just go on-line to a city site to see if some are close to you.

Troy, (248)688-9730; Milford, (810)227-8912; Farmington, (248)477-1135; White Lake, (248)625-7280; Oakland Township, (248) 651-7850, ex. 405; Kensington Metro Park, 1-800-477-3178; and Indian Springs, (248)625-7280.



Have You Liked Us on Facebook Yet?

Again this year, the Mentors Plus Advisory Committee set a goal to improve our use of social media. Thanks to Grant Smith and Thad Bogert for their continuing work on this project.

We post reminders of upcoming events and meetings. Moving forward, when we hear about events in Oakland County that are free, if we are given tickets to events (like Piston Tickets) or a group activity is planned, we will post them on our Facebook page. If you are at an activity with your mentee and have pictures that you would like to share, send them to us, and we will post them.

To find our page, you can enter **Mentors Plus Michigan** in the search box at the top of your Facebook page. It will return our page as one of the results. Once you get to our page, please *Like* the page and select the option to receive notifications from the page. That way, whenever we post a new item, you will get a notification.

We want to make our Facebook page show how much fun being a mentor can be, and all the great activities that we get involved with. In order to accomplish this goal, we need people to Like the page. When that occurs, our posts will appear on your page, and as you like those posts, some of your friends will see them. Our goal is to strike an interest in mentoring. Wouldn't it be great if one of your friends saw a post, and asked you how to become a mentor? It could happen and it will happen if you take the time to *Like* us!

Did you know that Mentors Plus is on Facebook? Be sure to check out our Facebook page for updates about Mentor Plus and for photos of past events. <https://www.facebook.com/mentorsplusprogram> While you're there, be sure to share and click "Like" on posts to improve our visibility on Facebook timelines. Are you not familiar with using Facebook? The following are links to tutorials: <http://goo.gl/SncwQm>, <http://youtu.be/ewlC5p851KE>, <http://freefacebooktutorials.com/>, and <http://youtu.be/ZpLiODJsp4Q>

**PLEASE HELP RECRUIT MORE MENTORS AND SUPPORT
MENTORS PLUS!**



William Ivory, Detroit Historical Museum



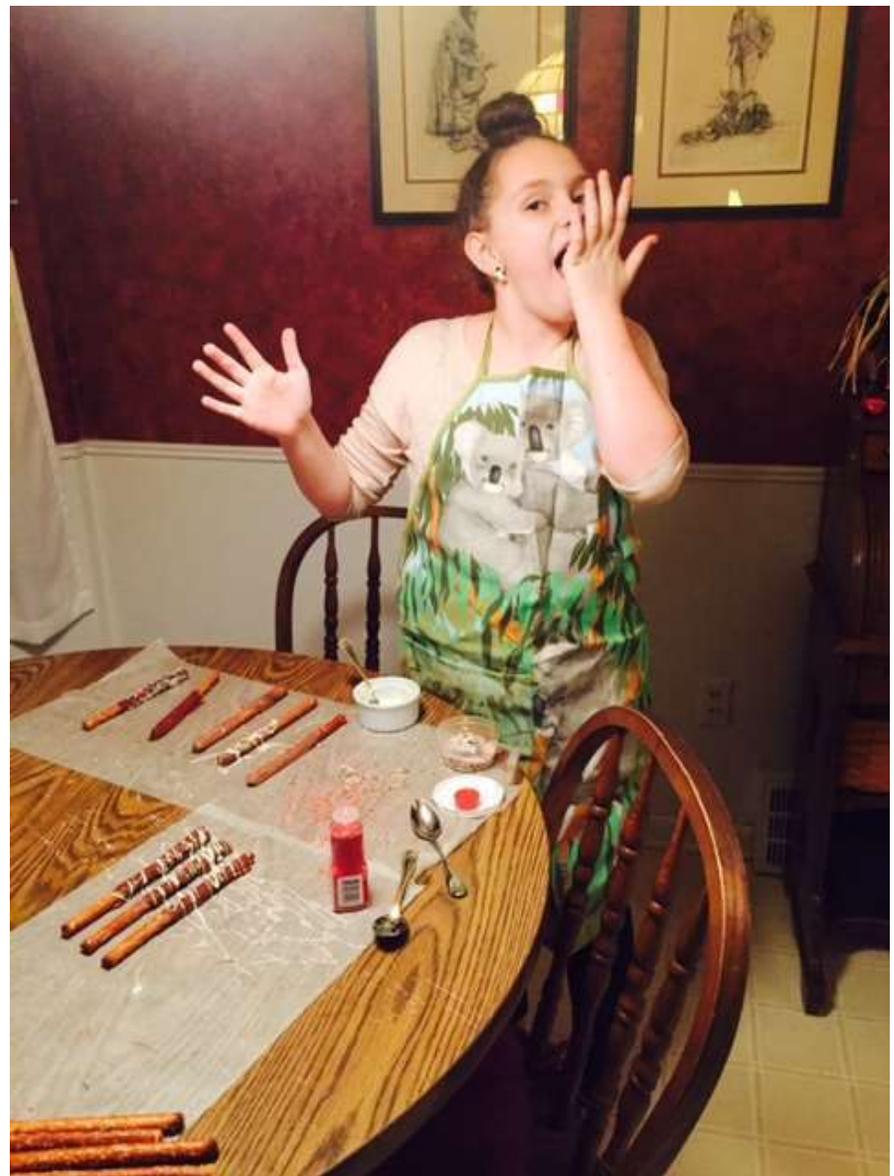
Annessa at the DIA



More Exploring at the Detroit Institute of Arts



Janice and Nautica, her Mentee



Hannah, Bettyann's Mentee – baking fun!

Stagecrafters Theatre, Royal Oak: The Snow Queen's greatest wish is to make Winter last forever. A splinter of her evil mirror pierces the heart of an unsuspecting boy named Kay which sets her plan in motion. Kay's best friend, Gerda, sets off to rescue him and save the world from being frozen. She discovers fascinating new friends on her way to the Icy Palace. This heart-warming adventure celebrates courage, friendship and loyalty. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$8 for youth. March 3rd and 4th, 7:00, March 5th, 3:00 and 7:00, and March 6, 1:00 p.m.



FOCUS ON YOUTH

You can also view this email as a [web page](#).



Four Steps for Giving Motivating Feedback

Getting feedback is an important part of learning to solve problems. The way you give that feedback can make a big difference in how it will motivate (or deflate) young people. Here are four steps you can use when young people seek your help in solving problems:

1. Why?

Care: Begin by showing that you are interested in the young person. You care about her or his learning, growth, and success.

Progress: Focus on feedback that will help the young person make progress toward what he or she wants to accomplish, learn, or improve.

Confidence: Be clear that you're giving feedback because you believe he or she can do it.

2. What?

When and Where: Give feedback that's timely (but not before he or she is ready). Give it privately to avoid embarrassment.



(2. What?, Continued)

Specific: Describe specific actions or behaviors you noticed that can be changed and practiced. Give concrete examples.

Strengths and Gaps: What was he or she doing that helped? What was getting in the way? Knowing both increases learning.

3. So What?

Listen, Then Share: Listen first for her or his ideas for steps to improve based on what you saw. Offer additional ideas, if needed.

Connect to Goals: Talk together about the connections to goals that motivate ongoing practice and improvement.

Build Confidence: Reinforce the young person's self-feedback and ideas for growth. It builds internal motivation and commitment.

4. Now What?

Reaction: Pay attention to reactions. Does the feedback ring true? Does he or she understand? Is it overwhelming?

Doable: Identify one or two changes that can make a difference now, and focus on those.

Repeat: As the young person tries new things, keep giving feedback that helps her or him grow. Celebrate progress along the way.

Follow Search On-Line