

Off The RACC

Richland Area
COMMUNITY
CENTER



“We sat around a makeshift sawhorse and plywood table covered by a sheet at the former Gull Lake Christian School.”

And so began the first meeting of a group of dedicated volunteers, working to make the “Hope Full Community Center” a reality. Like you, we’ve changed a lot in the last 15 years! What started as a place for teens and a site for an adult-day program, the Community Center has grown and evolved to meet the needs of our community.

The great thing? We’re still evolving, 15 years later. This year alone, 23,600 people walked through our doors.

And it’s all thanks to those who had the vision and a pair of sawhorses.

This year the sawhorses will be back, as we embrace what will be a “Year of Projects” with facility and grounds improvements. This is our way of giving back to you, our community, you who have supported us through all these years. You are at the heart of all we do. Please join us as we celebrate our success, our growth and our future.



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Richland Area Community Center
9400 East CD Ave.
Richland, MI 49083

THANK YOU!

We are so grateful to this wonderful community and your continued support that allows us to provide innovative programs and events that connect community. Last year we had **23,600 visitors** and ran **1,350 programs/events!** Our new intergenerational

program, How To Use Your Smart Phone/ Tablet Workshop, which paired high school students with older adults keenly reinforced the importance of a vital community center. Not only did the adults gain confidence and skill in using their smart devices, but the students

learned how to listen, be patient, and discovered the joy of helping others. **This class, and everything else we do, wouldn't be possible without your support!**

Thank you to our generous donors!

Anonymous
Scott & Holly Allen
Lisa and Andy Ambrosio
Joanne Anhalt
Joanne Arvidson
Kenneth & Carol Baker
Joan Beebe
Shirley & John Blakely
Mark Bonsignore
Randy & Janet Bonzheim
Drew and Monica Bordner
Boris Realtors
Sherwood & Sharon Boudeman
Jon & Susan Bowers
Judi Brown

In honor of Faye Koestner
Patricia Chipman
Lauretta Cillian-Chung
Wanda Clawson
In honor of Faye Koestner
Janet K. Clemons
Carol & Donald Coggan
Construction Labor Services, Inc.
Janine Cotungo
Patricia Crane
Jerry & Sharon Cross
Janet J. Deal-Koestner
The Deibler Family
Sid Durham
Raymond Ebert
Loyal & Barbara Eldridge
Trey & Becky Eldridge
William & Lisabeth English
Thomas English

Farley Estes Dowdle Funeral
Home - Richland Chapel
Wendy Field
June Filipowicz
In memory of Leo W. Filipowicz
Serena and Lloyd Fox
Patrick and Debra Gallagher
John Garside
Marilyn Gayda
Jack and Martha Gesmundo
Susan C. Gilmore
Sandra and Harold Gobble
Pete & Rusty Graham
Paul Gregory
William H. Griessel

In memory of Jane Griessel
Katherine L. Gross
Virginia T. Gross
David & Michelle Halley
B.J. Hooks
Marty Hettinga
Josephine A. Hopkins
Win & Leslie Howard
Abraham Huerta & Lucy Escandon
James and Mary Jasiak
Robert & Val Karam
Rolf & Judy Kletzien
Charles & Phyllis LaVene
Faye Koestner
In honor of Faye Koestner ©
Jerome and Elizabeth Kohel
Mark and Lisa-Largo Marsh
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Patricia L. Lawrence

George W. Lindenberg
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Patricia Maas
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Thomas & Pamela Mansager
Joel Markucki &
Maria Gagnon-Markucki
Constance Marlatt
David F. Marsac
Joseph & Barbara McAllister
Bob & Mary Mellema
Joyce & Bill Melvin *In memory of Marguerite Weber*
Larry & Suzanne Myland &
Family *In honor of Julie Pixley*
Robert O'Boyle
Robert L & Kay L. O'Boyle
Amy & Jeffrey O'Brian
Don & Cynthia Palmer
Don & Ann Parfet
Martha Parfet
Phyllis Pelletier
Karol Peterson
Julie Pixley
Tim Putney
DC & Kay Rackiewicz
Cheryl & Robert Reinhardt
Williams and Nancy Richardson
In honor of Val Karam
Richland Village Drug
The Ruis Family *In celebration of life in Richland and the RACC!*
Tom & Kristi Ryan
Doris Schuring

James E. & Deborah C. Scott
Julia Shaw
In memory of Ross T. Griffith
Robert & Marilynn Simon
Donna Smith
Linda Spicketts Lass
Joan Split
Marie Stech *In memory of Jim Fish, Lee Teutsch & Dan Gibbs*
Marie Stech *Honoring the birth of Evelyn Marie Cole*
Mary Sutton
Michael Termaat
Andrea Trautman
Bill & Ruth Ann Uggen
Gary & Sandy Van De Weert
Lori VanderMolen Gibson
Courtenay & Jon VanderMolen
In honor of Jilisa Williams
John & Cathy VanderSalm
Bo & Mel VanPeenan
In honor of Jilisa Williams
Janice Waldorf
Marcia West
Mary & Joseph White
Shirley Wiegner
Brook & Emily Wilke
Jilisa and Mark Williams
In celebration of Lucy, Maria, Faye, Donna & Scott
Susan & Douglas Worgess
Laura Zervic
Marsha & Robert Zick

Thank you for all you do to make our community such a great place to live!





CELEBRATING 15 YEARS!

"Thanks for a wonderful Community Center!"
~ Janine

"I love teaching at the RACC!... Thank you for everything!"
~ Cathy

"Great programs...don't change a thing!"
~ Phil

As we begin our 15th year, we're really celebrating you and all you have accomplished.

Together we've learned and laughed, cooked and volunteered. Remember Battle of the Bands? Prom Night? Covenant? Richland Farmers' Market? Red Hat Society, Deanna House, Tracy Phelps Studios, KIA? Thousands of programs and events have been held here, all going back to that visionary group of volunteers and their mission to create "an oasis for all people who seek fellowship, encouragement, and peace."

Over the years our mission has expanded. We've evolved and grown to meet your needs. Thanks to your support, our commitment to our community is rock solid. Through the years, you've worked, danced, exercised, fed the hungry, helped, loved and cared. And along the way you have changed lives, made great friends and gotten to know your neighbors. Here's to you and the next 15 years!

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Richland, MI 49083



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269-629-6022

Charlie Johnson, Manager



Plan an exciting trip today! For details, please go to www.richlandareacc.org and click on the travel tab.

Thunder Over Louisville

April 21-23, \$599 pp. dbl. occ.

The Kentucky Derby

May 4-7, \$1,799 pp. dbl. occ.

A New England Summer

June 10-20, \$1,999 pp. dbl. occ.

Twilight on the Mississippi

August 6-10, \$1,049 pp. dbl. occ.

New York City

September 5-10, \$1,499 pp. dbl. occ.



Enrichment



THE KITCHEN HOUSE COOKING SERIES:

Cooking with Love!

February 6, 6-8:30 pm, \$50

Owner Jennifer Dykstra and Chef M. Otis from the popular Kitchen House restaurant will teach you how to prepare a delicious dinner for two! The menu will include culinary treats to “get you in the mood” and delicious wines that will pair perfectly with this romantic dinner. Your taste buds won’t be the only thing singing! Come Hungry!

Max 20



PRO-ACTIVE HEALTH SERIES WITH ELLEN BENNETT, L-CMT

Mondays, January 23 & 30, February 6 & 13, 9:30-11:30 am, \$60

Through these four **highly** energetic and inspiring classes, Ellen Bennett, L-CMT, of Balanced Body Health, LLC, will provide tools for you to pro-actively maintain a healthy and vital life. Learn about your anatomy and physiology, find out why your body hurts and what to do about it all while having fun!

Ellen has a terrific lineup of speakers who will help you understand your body to live the life you want.

Min 5/Max 20



SELF-DEFENSE CLASS WITH ED KEHOE

Saturday, February 25, 10:00 am-12:30 pm, \$35

We have had a great response to our self-defense classes with Ed! He provides you with tools to increase your awareness and confidence in threatening situations. You’ll learn how to defend yourself in a variety of encounters and gain confidence in your ability to keep yourself safe. Great for women, college students, or anyone wanting to learn basic self-defense techniques. *Min 7/Max 12*

FIT CLUB RETURNS!

Thursdays 5:30-6:30 pm, \$3 suggested

Marsha Drouin and Mary Jasiak are back with Fit Club! We will begin at 5:30 pm with lighter exercises and move to a moderately paced DVD the second half of the class. Friends and fun—what better way to get in shape! Suggested donation of \$3 or more. *Min 7/Max 15*



OIL PAINTING WITH ELLEN ARMSTRONG FROM ELLEN’S ATELIER

Saturday, February 11, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, \$45

Learn how to paint with oil! Ellen has an M.F.A. from WMU. She has served as WMU’s Graduate Advisor for their Gwen Frostic School of Art and instructs the Outdoor Encounter Studio classes to the Islands of South Manitou, North Manitou and Isle Royale. Her Plainwell studio is a popular stop on the regional Arts and Eats Tour. See materials list on our website.

Min 7/Max 15

CERAMIC HEART PENDANT WORKSHOP WITH MICHAEL KIFER

Saturdays, January 28 & February 4, 10 am-12:00 pm, \$45

Stretch your imagination in this pendant making class with Michael Kifer! Bring items with interesting textures or stamps from home and embrace your creativity to make several ceramic pendants as gifts for yourself or others for Valentine’s Day! Cut and design your pendants at the first class and glaze your creations during the second class.

Min 7/Max 15



Pinterest.com

Classes

MICHAEL DUNN: *SUMMER DREAMS*

Gallery Talk, Thursday, February 2, 6:00-7:00 pm, *FREE*

Join us for an informal discussion with Michael about his art, techniques and subject matter, right here at the RACC! Light refreshments will be provided.



UNDERSTANDING HINDUISM

Wednesday, February 22, 6:30-8:00 pm, \$12, *Must RSVP 629.9430*

Spend the evening exploring the history of Hinduism with GLHS World History/Religion teacher Scott Minehart and a guest speaker from the Hindu Temple, as well as Q & A. Light Indian fare will be served.

UNDERSTANDING BUDDHISM

Wednesday, March 8, 6:30-8:00 pm, \$12, *Must RSVP to 629.9430*

Discover the long and rich history of Buddhism. GLHS World History/Religion teacher Scott Minehart will provide a history of the religion, introduce the guest speaker for a Q & A session. Light Asian fare will be served.

FOAM ROLLER SELF-MASSAGE CLASS W/SHERRI LYNN KING

Wednesdays, Beginning January 11, 10:00-10:45 am, \$45/3 Classes, \$84/6 Classes, \$130/10 Classes-11th Class Free, \$18 Drop-in

Our first few classes were met with fantastic reviews, so we are adding this to our regular class schedule! We had several participants comment that they have no pain or less pain after taking a couple of these classes. Discover how great your body can feel after massage from head-to-toe with foam rollers.



YOGA AND POETRY WITH CATHY TUCCI

Wednesdays, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 9-11 am, \$90

Come enjoy a morning of writing before, during and after your yoga practice! Doing yoga moves us inside and brings out a curiosity to discover new layers which can then be shared outwardly through writing! The yoga portion will meet all levels between gentle and intermediate with modifications to allow everyone to feel safe. *Min 5/Max 10*

HOW TO USE YOUR SMART PHONE/TABLET WORKSHOP

Fridays, January 13 & 20, February 10 & 17, March 10 & 24, April 14 & 21, May 5 & 19, June 2 & 9, 9-11 am

FREE, Must Register at 629.9430

Sign up for a 30-minute slot during this workshop, and we will pair you with a Gateway student who will personalize instruction to your particular needs and device!



All classes require pre-payment. Please pay with check or cash; online at www.richlandareacc.org; or by phone by calling 629-9430. Class size is limited and they fill quickly, so please register early. We will notify you only if the class is full or has insufficient enrollment. Use this enrollment form if you're sending a check.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CLASS: _____ DATE/TIME: _____

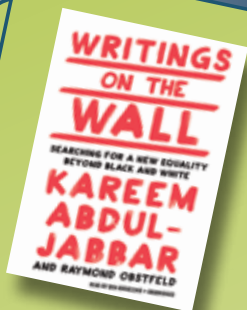
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

**Richland Area Community Center
9400 E. CD Ave. Richland, MI 49083
269.629.943**

Or pay online:

www.richlandareacc.org

We encourage students to sign up early. Classes may be canceled due to low enrollment or severe weather. In the event we cancel a class, full refunds will be issued. See our website for additional information on our cancellation policy.



Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group meets the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. Newcomers are welcome and encouraged!

- What Alice Forgot*
by **Liane Moriarty** 1/19
- Writings on the Wall*
by **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** 2/16
- Last Bus to Wisdom*
by **Ivan Doig** 3/16



Gull Lake Area Rotary Club

Kay Gross, Director of Kellogg Biological Station. "Teaching Science outdoors to Elementary children 1/19

Mike Gallagher,
Monitoring of Gull Lake water 1/26

TBA 2/2, 2/9, 2/16

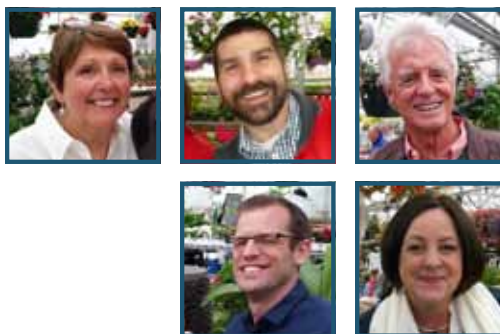
Dr. Jorge Gonzalez,
President of Kalamazoo College 2/23

The Gull Lake Area Rotary Club meets every Thursday morning at 7:30 am. Guests are welcome.



The Richland/Gull Lake Area Lions Club

All are welcome. The Lions Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm.



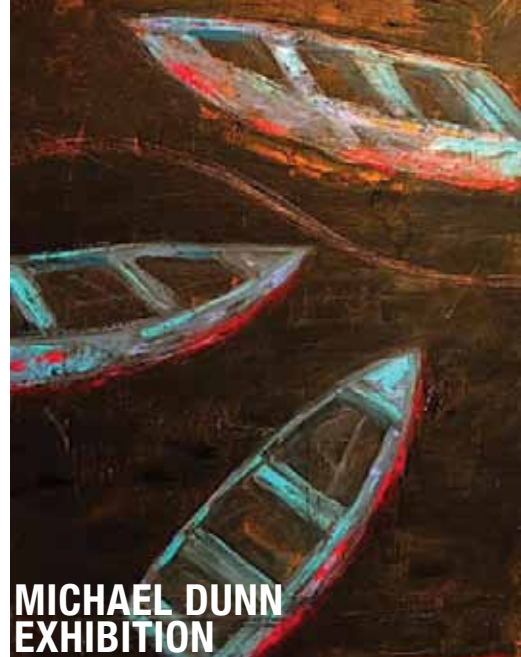
BOARD MEMBERS BID ADIEU

In 2016, several Board members left to pursue other adventures. Thank you so much to **John McCann, Drew Bordner, Rob Brinkerhoff, Nancy Land** and **Betty Miller**! While John served for six years, he and Drew both rotated through the Vice President and President slots, overseeing tremendous growth at the RACC as well as such projects as the barrier-free path and trail system, and the addition of the Gull Lake Partnership. Betty Miller served as Secretary and both she and Nancy Land were instrumental in making our "Plant Yourself!" event a rousing success. Rob spent countless hours expertly leading us through the strategic planning process, with good humor and great advice. We appreciate all our Board members and know we'll see some exciting projects this year with **Val Karam**, President; **Betsi English**, Vice President; **Jason Henderson**, Treasurer; **Lori Nay Tomlinson** at the helm. All of our Board members have spent a great amount of time and energy volunteering to make the RACC the special place that it is.

Thank you all and best of luck!

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT RELIGIONS

As part of our Understanding Religions series, we continue this year with a look at Hinduism and Buddhism. Both sessions will last one night, with a brief informative talk given by GLHS World History and Religions teacher Scott Minehart and will include a guest speaker/Q&A from the different temples. Sample some light Indian food during the Hindu-focused evening and Asian fare will be available during the session on Buddhism. More than 90 people attended last year's "Understanding Islam" event. We hope to see you there. Cost is \$12 pp and you must call 629-9430 to RSVP and hold your spot.



Beginning in 2017, we will showcase the artwork of several talented artists! Our first exhibition, "Summer Dreams" will feature local architect and photographer, Michael Dunn. "Summer Dreams" will take a fresh look at boats and watercraft, just when we need to dream of a summer sail!

In his artist's statement, Dunn said, "I paint from memories and feelings...art for me is about expression and reaction to each mark or brush stroke. After a long winter there is a longing for warmth and water. It's that feeling that my work is trying to connect."

The show will run from January to February 28, with a Gallery Talk with Michael on Thursday, February 2nd, at 6 pm. Paintings will be for sale during the exhibit. Come and experience the gorgeous and dynamic artwork of the very talented Michael Dunn!



RACC Announcements!

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

All year we're going to be looking back at the people who made RACC what it is. Did you volunteer here? Have a memory of time spent here? Take a class? We need you to mail, email, post, or call in memories or stories to us as part of the RACC History. Tell us your experience, and we may use it in an enews or Facebook post.



SHOW ME THE WAY TO GO HOME

If you're out walking our trails this winter, keep an eye peeled for the new signs! Eagle Scout candidate Carson Neff is in the process of adding wayfaring signs along the trail. For those of you who found yourselves "wandering" a bit too much, now you'll be able to find the way back to your car! Watch enews for more about the Eagle Scout project.

TRY US YOU'LL LIKE US!

Our goal is to get to 800 "Likes" on Facebook this year! Will you help us? It would be great to get to 1,500 likes in honor of 15 years, but... we'll start with 800! While that's one of our goals, it's really about engaging with us, sharing your story and information. Let us know what you like, what classes you enjoyed/would like to see here. Let us know how we can serve you better!



FIT CLUB RETURNS

Thursdays at 5:30 pm, Marsha Drouin and/or Mary Jasiak, are back with Fit Club! We begin the class with lighter exercises and move to a moderately paced DVD the second half of the class. Fitness, friends, and fun—what better way to get in shape! Since Mrs. J. retired from the library, this may be the best place to see our ever exuberant Queen of Fitness! Suggested donation of \$3.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Let's do the nice thing! February 12-18 is National Random Acts of Kindness week. For one week, everyone is encouraged to focus on the positive! Do something kind—whether it is a kind word or act for someone else or yourself—it all counts! Then call and tell us, take a photo, email or send a note and post it on the RACC Facebook page—we want to hear what you did, no matter how small or big!

VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE!

Do you love to volunteer? We have several volunteer opportunities throughout the upcoming year. We need volunteers for several events: including "Plant Yourself!" (Spring), Meet Up and Eat Up (Summer), Road Rally (Fall). We also are seeking a volunteer to update our bulletin board on a monthly basis. If you are interested or want to know more, please call Jilisa at 629.9430 to discuss the details.

TIME TO GET PLANTED!

Think spring! Mark your calendar for April 27, 6-9 pm, and join us at River Street Flowerland for our "Plant

Yourself!" fundraiser. Don't miss this fantastic evening of food, fun and friends when the greenhouse will be in full bloom! You asked for it, and we heard you...Chinn Chinn will be back!

SIGN UP FOR LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be here on Friday, May 12, 2017 at the Richland Area Community Center. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include: Carotid Artery, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Peripheral Arterial Disease, a Heart Rhythm Screening and an Osteoporosis Risk Assessment for men and women. Register at www.lifelinescreening.com/advantageclub and receive a discount and your preferred appointment time. Stay healthy in 2017!



OLDER BUNCH FOR LUNCH 2017 CALENDAR

Luncheon begins at 12:00 noon. All reservations must be called in to the host by Tuesday. Please be generous with your donations.

February 4 - NO LUNCHEON
March 2 - St. Ann Catholic Church
April 6 - New Hope Church
May 4 - St. Timothy's Church
June 1 - Gull Lake Methodist Church
July 6 - NO LUNCHEON
August 3 - First Presbyterian Church
September 7 - RACC
October 5 - Yorkville Community Church
November 2 - NO LUNCHEON
December 14 - Gull Lake Middle

REGULAR EVENTS CALENDAR

ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS AND GATHERINGS		
ASYO	MONTHLY	
COFFEE HOUR	TUES. AND THURS.	9:30-10:30 AM
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP	3RD THURSDAY	9:30 AM
GULL LAKE AREA ROTARY CLUB	THURSDAY	7:30-8:30 AM
GULL LAKE QUALITY ORGANIZATION	BY. APPT.	7-9 PM
KNITTING FOR CHARITY	4TH SUNDAY	2-5 PM
SENIOR DINING COUPONS	TUES. AND WEDS.	9 AM-5 PM
CARD GROUPS		
BRIDGE	MONDAY	12:30-3:30 PM
EUCHRE	WEDNESDAY	12:30-3:30 PM
HAND & FOOT	WEDNESDAY	1-3:30 PM
DANCE, SPORTS, FITNESS, MUSIC, AND ART		
CRESCENDO "MUSIC TOGETHER"	TUESDAY, 6 WEEKS	5:30 PM,
FIT CLUB	THURSDAY	5:30 PM
FOAM ROLLER MASSAGE	WEDNESDAY	10-10:45 AM
FOOT CLINIC	4TH TUESDAY BI-MONTHLY	BY APPT.
PING PONG	WEDNESDAY	3-5 PM
SENIOR BALLROOM DANCE	RETURNS APRIL 23	
SQUARE DANCE	RETURNS MARCH 18	
SWINGIN' WITH SUSAN	TUES. AND THURS.	10:30-11:30 AM
TAI CHI, BEGINNING	MONDAY	6-7 PM
TAI CHI, INTERMEDIATE	WEDNESDAY	4:30-5:30 PM
YOGA WITH SHERRY	MONDAY	10:30-11:30 AM
YOGA, GENTLE WITH CATHY	TUES. AND THURS.	10:15-11:15 AM
YOGA, INTERMEDIATE WITH CATHY	TUES. AND THURS.	9-10 AM
YOGA, HVINYASA WITH KATHLEEN	TUESDAY	6-7 PM
YOGA & POETRY WITH CATHY	WED., 6 WEEKS JAN 25-MAR 1	9-11 AM
WEIGHT WATCHERS	THURSDAY	5-6 PM

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

SMART DEVICE WORKSHOP
JAN. 20, FEB. 10 & 17, MAR. 10 & 24, APR. 14 & 21,
MAY 5 & 19, JUN. 2 & 9, 9-11 AM

MICHAEL DUNN EXHIBITION:
SUMMER BREEZE
JAN - FEB. 28

PRO-ACTIVE HEALTH SERIES
WITH ELLEN BENNETT
JAN.23, 30, FEB 6, FEB. 13, 9:30-11:30 AM, \$60

HEART PENDANT WORKSHOP
WITH MICHAEL KIFER
SAT. JAN 28, FEB 4, \$45 10 AM -12 PM

MICHAEL DUNN: GALLERY TALK
THURS. FEB. 2, 6-7PM, FREE

KITCHEN HOUSE COOKING CLASS:
COOKING WITH LOVE
MON. FEB 6, 6-8:30 PM, \$50

ELLEN'S ATELIER OIL PAINTING CLASS
SAT. FEB. 11, 10 AM -2 PM, \$45

SELF-DEFENSE CLASS
WITH ED KEHOE
SAT. FEB 25, 10 AM-12:30 PM, \$35

UNDERSTANDING HINDUISM
WED. FEB 22, 6:30 TO 8 PM, \$12 MUST RSVP

UNDERSTANDING BUDDHISM
WED. MAR 8, 6:30 TO 8 PM, \$12 MUST RSVP

Off The RACC

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR
THE RICHLAND AREA COMMUNITY CENTER

Off The RACC is a quarterly publication of the Richland Area Community Center, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located in Richland, Michigan.

Please direct all correspondence to:

Richland Area Community Center
9400 East CD Ave.
Richland, MI 49083
(269) 629-9430

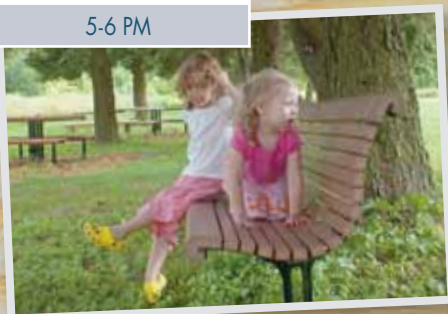
Jilisa Grooters Williams
Executive Director

Richland Area Community Center
Board of Directors

Val Karam, President
Betsi English, Vice President
Jason Henderson, Treasurer
Lori Nay Tomlinson

Richland Area Community Center
Board Meetings are held on the
3rd Tues. of every month at 5:30 pm.

Community participation is welcomed at RACC board meetings. A written request to speak is required at least 24 hours before the board meeting. Individuals are allowed 5 minutes to make their presentation.



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