

20 libraries partner in reading program

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Fans of Detroit history, African American history, courtroom dramas and the Jazz Age will find something of interest in Kevin Boyle's "Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights and Murder in the Jazz Age" (Henry Holt and Company \$15). The 2004 National Book Award winner is this year's selection for the Everybody's Reading community program. Twenty southeastern Michigan libraries, including 10 in Macomb County and the Detroit Public Library's main branch, take part with book discussion groups and other special events.

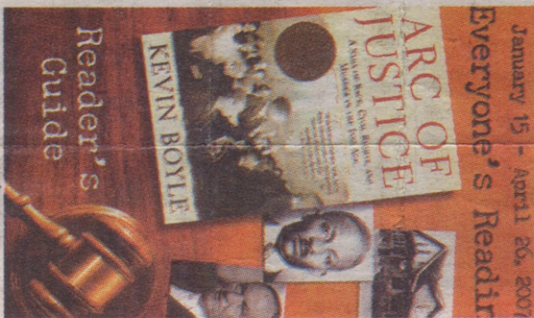
You can read at your own pace, but Everybody's Reading officially ends April 26.

The communitywide reading program, now in its sixth year, is sponsored by public libraries in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties to pro-

note "community dialogue through the shared experience of reading and discussing the same book."

In the case of "Arc," it's also about the community. Set in 1925 Detroit, the book resurrects a forgotten but significant event, the trial of Ossian Sweet, an African American doctor. Accused of murder when a member of a racist mob surrounding his home was shot and killed, Sweet was defended by the recently formed NAACP and renowned "Scopes Monkey Trial" lawyer Clarence Darrow.

There will be reading group discussions of "Arc of Justice," 7 p.m. Feb. 1 at Roseville Public Library; 6:45-8 p.m. Feb. 14 at Chesterfield Public Library; 1 p.m. Feb. 15 at Shelby Township Library; 10 a.m. Feb. 20 at Clinton-Macomb Public Library-North Branch; 10:30 a.m. Feb. 27 at Lenox Township



Library; 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Macomb County Library; noon March 3 at Clinton-Macomb Public Library-South Branch; 1 p.m. March 12 at Chesterfield Public Library; 6:30 p.m. March 13 at Shelby Township Library; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. March 22 at

MacDonald Public Library; 10 a.m. March 24 at Romeo Kezar Library; 7 p.m. March 26 at St. Clair Shores Public Library; 7 p.m. March 27 at Clinton-Macomb Public Library-Main; and 2 p.m. April 16, sponsored by Chesterfield Library at Presbyterian Harbor East.

Other library events include presentations on Jazz Age history, culture, architecture, automobiles and music, of courtroom dramas and films, and of Dr. Sweet.

In addition to the various library events, the University of Detroit Mercy Theatre Company (<http://theatre.udmercy.edu> or 313-993-3270) will perform Arthur J. Beer's play "Malice Aforethought: The Sweet Trials," Feb. 2-4, 9-11 and 16-18.

And you can see the special traveling exhibit "Sweet's Project Exhibit," which features "Images of the era," at various

locations, including the St. Clair Shores Public Library, Feb. 7-13; Shelby Township Library, Feb. 15-21; the Macomb County Library, Feb. 23; March 1; and Chesterfield Public Library, March 3-11.

You can meet the author, native Detroitier Kevin Boyle, 1 p.m. April 16 in the Main Library Auditorium at Clinton-Macomb Public Library (40900 Romeo Plank Road in Clinton Township; www.cmpl.org or 586-226-5040). Sponsored by the Macomb County Bar Foundation, admission is free but you must register after April 2. Other meet-the-author events are scheduled for Wayne and Oakland counties.

For more information, including discussion questions and discussion group times and locations, visit www.everyonesreading.info or participating libraries.

—Stephen Bitsofi, Macomb Daily staff writer