



PRISM

A FREE quarterly publication for KPL patrons and community members.

December 2021, January & February 2022

2022
**Reading
Together
for
20
YEARS**



**THE
BEST
WE
COULD
DO**



SAVE THE DATE

Meet the Author: Thi Bui

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

7 pm | Chenery Auditorium

714 S. Westnedge Ave.

Online Resources and Patron Services, Made Easy

See page 2 ...

Enjoy these services and more:



OverDrive

LinkedIn LEARNING



Friends of KPL Bookstore Celebrates 25 Years!

See page 3 ...



Delve into the minds of authors
with our Five Author Questions
podcast! Hosted by librarians,
each podcast is 15-30 minutes.

See page 7 ...

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Dates and times for programming may change due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit kpl.gov for up-to-date information.

KPL Winter Hours

Alma Powell Branch (POW)

Monday, 1-6 pm | Tuesday, 1-8 pm
Wednesday, 1-6 pm | Thursday, 10 am-6 pm
Friday, 10 am-5 pm | Saturday, 10 am-2 pm
Sunday, CLOSED

Central Library (CEN)

Monday-Thursday, 9 am-8 pm
Friday, 9 am-6 pm | Saturday, 10 am-5 pm
Sunday, 1-5 pm

Eastwood Branch (EAS)

Monday, 1-8 pm
Tuesday-Wednesday, 1-6 pm
Thursday, 10 am-6 pm | Friday, 10 am-5 pm
Saturday, 10 am-2 pm | Sunday, CLOSED

Oshtemo Branch (OSH)

Monday-Tuesday, 10 am-8 pm
Wednesday-Thursday, 10 am-6 pm
Friday-Saturday, 10 am-5 pm
Sunday, CLOSED

Washington Square Branch (WSQ)

Monday-Tuesday, 1-6 pm
Wednesday, 1-8 pm | Thursday, 10 am-6 pm
Friday, 10 am-5 pm | Saturday, 10 am-2 pm
Sunday, CLOSED

Library Hours are subject to change.

Please visit kpl.gov or call (269) 553-7800 for current information about library service locations and hours.

Continuing Education

Advance your skills with **eLearning**: Are you brand new to using a computer and need help getting started? *KPL Digital Learn* is for you. If you are looking for professional development opportunities, how-to instruction or to learn a new skill, check out our collection from LinkedIn Learning. Feeling crafty? Learn a new skill or tackle a more advanced project with Creativebug. Hoopla also offers a wide variety of instructional videos on various topics. kpl.gov/elearn

Get help or do it yourself with **KPL Resource Databases**, a reliable way to research for school projects, consumer information, or any other informational needs. kpl.gov/databases

Learn a new language with **Rocket Languages**, an award-winning, interactive online language learning system. Languages available include Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese, Hindi, French, Italian, and more! app.rocketlanguages.com/library/jcwYjliYm

Explore your lineage with **AncestryLibrary.com**: Trace your family timeline and make connections. kpl.gov/ancestry

Patron Services

Pick up your holds via Curbside KPL available at all five KPL locations. kpl.gov/curbside

Have materials delivered to you via **ViaMail**: Patrons unable to travel to KPL may still borrow materials. Library staff can help you find materials and mail them to your home with a free return envelope. kpl.gov/viamail

Have a question? **Ask a Librarian**: Do you have questions about your account, how to navigate our website, or need recommendations for something great to read, listen to, or watch? Ask a Librarian online! Just visit kpl.gov and click the red chat button in the left-hand corner.

Want book suggestions? Try **Reader's Advisory**: Are you interested in trying a new author or genre and don't know where to start? Do you want to provide your child or teen with the latest new releases but don't know what to look for? Call (269) 553-7800 or contact us via Ask a Librarian online chat.

Friends of KPL Bookstore Celebrates 25 Years



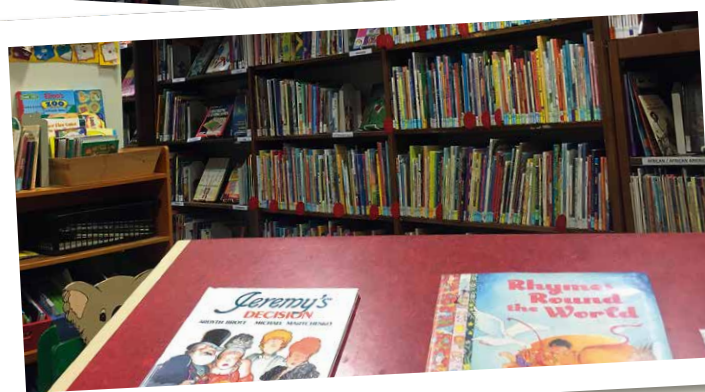
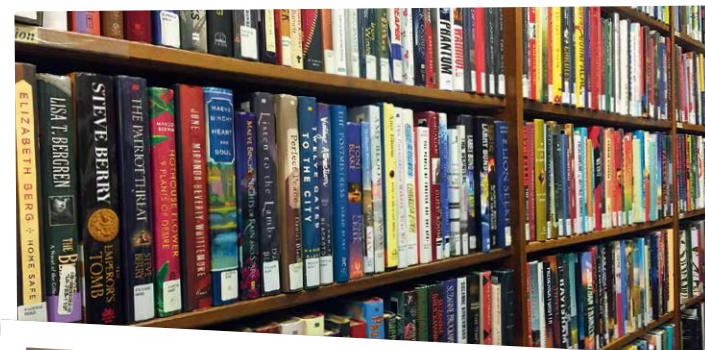
Nestled in the lower level of the Kalamazoo Public Library's Central location, the Friends of KPL (FKPL) Bookstore is stocked with thousands of gently used books, movies, and music. The bookstore is staffed by FKPL members and volunteers who are dedicated to

their mission of encouraging literacy and reading by making quality books available at very low prices.

Janice Snell has been involved with the bookstore since its inception and was the first manager. "Originally, the bookstore was going to take over the space vacated by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum during a planned renovation of Central Library. When the decision was made to completely remodel the library instead, the bookstore rented a space in the Prange building, which was located across the street from the library. Two years later, in 1998, the bookstore moved to its current location in the library's lower level. Many of our loyal customers still remember shopping with us during our early years at the Prange!"

Did you know that the funds raised by FKPL support KPL programming? In fact, since the bookstore has opened, FKPL has donated more than a million dollars helping to fund popular library programs such as the *Summer Reading Challenge*, *Reading Together*, *Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee*, *Ready to Read*, and *Global Reading Challenge*. FKPL has also funded scholarships for KPL staff for continuing education and program innovations. FKPL raises money through bookstore sales, monetary donations, and membership dues. You can help support their efforts by shopping the bookstore, becoming a member, or by making a donation. Visit their website at kpl.gov/friends to learn more.

Another way FKPL raises money is by hosting grand sale events. One of the most popular is the *Bag of Books* sale where customers may choose from thousands of books to fill a bag for \$3. "We typically have three *Bag of Books* sales annually and we hope to host our next one in June to coincide with the Art Fair and the Doo Dah Parade," said Janice Snell. Currently, FKPL is hosting its *Gift Book Sale* which began after Thanksgiving and will run until Christmas. Give your loved ones the gift of reading and purchase beautiful, like-new books at very low prices! Shop in person at the bookstore or at FKPL's new online store at shop.friendsofkpl.org.



Interior photos of the bookstore.

Snell noted that despite their many dedicated volunteers and Friends members, there is always a need for more. Membership is open to everyone and benefits of membership include special discounts. Join online at kpl.gov/friends and click "Join Friends."

If you are interested in volunteering, you can call the bookstore at (269) 553-7820 and leave your name, telephone number, and email address. The Friends will forward you a volunteer application.

The Friends Bookstore is currently accepting donations of used books, DVDs, CDs, and CD audiobooks in clean, good condition by appointment only. **Please call (269) 553-7950.** ▲

Events and More for CHILDREN, ALL AGES, & FAMILY

Parenting and Birth-5

It's Storytime

Wednesdays | 10:30-11am | KPL Facebook
It's KPL's online storytime program! Join us for songs, rhymes, movement, and great readalouds! New programs posted every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m.

Grades K-5

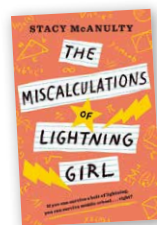
Cat Kid Comic Club 2: Perspectives

Beginning Wednesday, December 1

Open Hours | All Locations + Pick-up

It was so much fun last time that we're doing it again! Get a copy of *Cat Kid Comic Club 2: Perspectives*, with some art supplies, to keep! Then dream up your own stories and unleash your own creativity with some inspiration from Li'l Petey, Flippy, and Molly! **Pick-up books during the month of December.**

Please register as supplies are limited. R



Bookworms

Saturdays, December 18, January 15

& February 12 | 4-4:40 pm | Zoom + Pick-up

Join us online for this book club aimed at readers ages 8-11. Read the book and then join us on the date listed for discussion.

Books are available for pick up one month prior to the discussion date and all titles have an eAudiobook edition available on Hoopla/Libby. This event will be hosted on Zoom.

Please register to receive the Zoom link, a copy of the book and select your preferred KPL pickup location. **R**

December: *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* by Stacy McAnulty

January: *Maya and the Rising Dark* by Rena Barron

February: *Goldie Vance: The Hotel Whodunit* by Lilliam Rivera



Let's Paint!

Beginning Monday, January 3

Open Hours | All Locations

Let's chase away those Winter blues with a fun painting craft! Each participant will receive a kit that includes a small wooden shadow box, paint, and brushes. **No registration is required; kits will be available at all branches in limited supply.**

All Ages



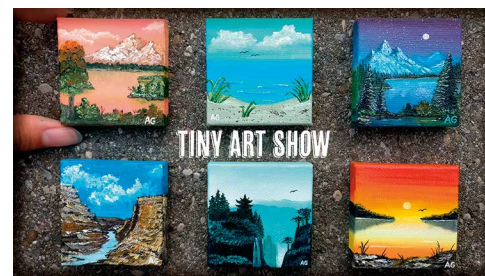
Movie Night Challenge

Saturday, January 1-Monday, January 31

Open Hours | All Locations

Let's pop some popcorn because we're doing a Movie Night Challenge! Pick up a *Movie Night Challenge* card at any location, watch one movie from each of the following categories and then turn your challenge card in at any library location for a chance to win a raffle prize!

- Animated movie
- Based on a true story
- Action
- Movie made before the year 2000
- Comedy



Tiny Art Show

January | All Locations

Pick-up kits December 10-January 3

Paint a tiny masterpiece and join our Tiny Art Show. **Pick up a supply kit starting December 10 at any KPL location. Put your tiny canvas together and bring it back to any KPL location on or before January 3.** Each pick-up kit will include a tiny canvas and a set of acrylic paints and brushes. Adding to the provided supplies is encouraged as long as everything fits on the KPL-provided tiny canvas. We will display the art through January 31 in our locations. All youth participants will receive a free book to keep. All participants will be entered to win a package of art supplies.

Please register. R

Fleece, Love, and Kindness

Beginning Tuesday, February 1

Open Hours | CEN/First Floor Lobby

The new year is a great time to focus on kindness, and giving back to the community. Open to craft lovers of all ages, we are hosting a blanket drive. At the KPL location of your choice, you can request to pick up a no-sew throw blanket kit and make a blanket for a child in need with Project Linus.

Bring the finished project back to the library by Friday April 1st to be sent to charity, or pass it on to someone in need of kindness.



Family

Books and Bellies


Tuesdays, December 21, January 18, & February 15 | 10:30-11:30 am | KPL TV

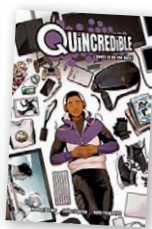
Join Healthy Babies Healthy Start and Kalamazoo Public Library for book talks for expecting parents. Learn about books for baby before baby arrives and start reading. This is a great way to connect with parenting resources in our community and with great books to keep about child rearing and great read-alouds for baby for before and after they arrive.

Events and More for TEENS

Teen Yoga and Journaling

Saturday, December 4, January 8 & February 5 | 1–3 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Feeling stressed out? Have a lot on your mind? Come to the library and get it all out with a yoga and journaling session! A certified yoga instructor will teach gentle yoga positions and breathing techniques to promote stress relief and stimulate your mind in between journal prompts, followed by a healthy snack. Yoga mats provided, for yogis of all experience levels. **For grades 6th through 12th, please register. **



Pizza and Pages


Tuesday, December 7

6–7 pm | Alma Powell/ Barnabee Gallery

Tuesday, January 11 | 6–7 pm | OSH

Tuesday, February 8 | 6–7 pm

CEN/Teen Studio

Please register to receive a free copy of the book and to reserve your place for free pizza at the library and to discuss the book. 

December: *Shuri: A Black Panther Novel #1* by Nic Stone

January: *That Time I Got Reincarnated as a Slime* by Fuse

February: *Quincredible Volume #1: Quest to Be the Best!* by Rodney Barnes



DIY No-Sew Handwarmers

Thursday, December 9

6–7 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Monday, December 13

6–7 pm | OSH/Community Room

Wednesday, December 15

6–7 pm | EAS/Community Room

Keep toasty with these cozy hand warmers.

Please register. 



So You Wanna Play Dungeons & Dragons...

Wednesdays, December 8, January 19 & February 16 | 5–7 pm | CEN/Teen Studio


Play *Dungeons & Dragons* with KPL Staff! We'll have a oneshot campaign for all skill levels, led by Dungeon Master Teen Librarian Miss Natalie. No dice or other supplies necessary, just bring your imagination and a sense of adventure.



YA Paint and Sip

Saturday, December 18 | 2–4:30 pm

CEN/Teen Studio

We will hold a paint and sip with an image for everyone to paint, while drinking hot chocolate and having some holiday music in the background. **Please register. **



ASMR Lab

Tuesday, January 4

3–4:30 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Tuesdays, January 18

4–5:30 pm | OSH/Community Room

Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response (ASMR) is that cool feeling you get when a sound gives you tingles and goosebumps. It could be tapping, brushing hair, squeezing a bean bag, or rolling your hands through beads. Come to the library and experiment with all the different sensory options provided. You can even create your own ASMR video! **No registration necessary. Grades 6–12.**

Comic Book Club

Thursday, January 20

3:30–4:30 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

This is no ordinary book club. This is a chance to hang out with other manga and comic book fans; chat about what we're reading, watch some anime, eat some snacks, and enjoy a craft or activity. **No registration required, grades 6–12 only.**

Reading Race Book Group For Teens

Tuesday, January 25

6–7 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Pick-up


This book club, co-sponsored by the Society for History and Racial Equity (SHARE) and KPL's Antiracism Transformation Team, focuses on race and racism in American society. We will be reading *The Black Flamingo* by Dean Atta. **Please register. **



DIY Mason Jar Candles

Saturday, January 29

1–3 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Try your hand at candle making with our Teen Librarians in the Van Deusen Room. **Please register. **

Crystals with Tasleem

Monday, February 14

6–7 pm | EAS/Community Room

Teens and adults are welcome to join Tasleem to learn more about the wonders of crystals.

Zombie Barbie

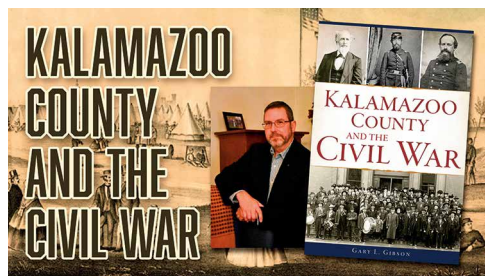
Tuesday, February 15

4–5 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Friday, February 18 | 3:30–4:30 pm | OSH

This is not your typical Valentine's Day themed event! Each participant will be zombie-fying a Barbie doll, using scissors, paint, and your imaginations. Registration isn't required, however supplies will be limited. **Grades 6–12.**

Events and More for ADULTS

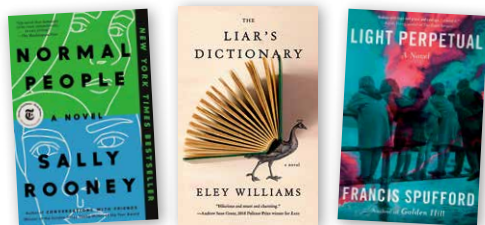


Kalamazoo County and the Civil War

Thursday, December 2

6:30–7:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen

More than 3,000 Kalamazoo County men served in the Union forces during the Civil War. They fought in the most horrific battles from Blackburn's Ford to Appomattox, and 396 did not return home. The war tested the area not just on the battlefield but in its collective back yard and, at times, its front yard. A "peace rally" held by local Democrats was interrupted by Lincoln supporters who viewed the Democrats as traitors. Residents reacted jubilantly to the capture of Richmond, the Confederate capital, and mourned the assassination of Lincoln, who had visited the village of Kalamazoo before the war. As veterans, the former combatants left behind indelible reminders of their sacrifice. Author Gary L. Gibson will discuss his new book about the impact of the Civil War on Kalamazoo County.



Page Turners

Mondays, December 6, January 3

& February 7 | 6:30–7:30 pm | Zoom

Engage in a thought-provoking conversation about books, exchange perspectives, and get to know your neighbors—virtually!

Please register so we can contact you with information on when and how to connect online! **R**

December: *Normal People* by Sally Rooney

January: *The Liar's Dictionary* by Eley Williams

February: *Light Perpetual* by Francis Spufford

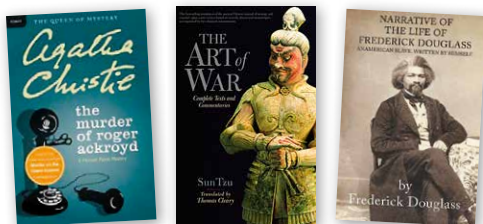


The Christmas Tree Ship and Other Ghost Ships of the Great Lakes

Wednesday, December 8

6:30–7:30 pm | KPL Live

Join Author Shetan Noir as she talks about the history of the Christmas Tree Ship and the hauntings of ghost ships like the Rouse Simmons.



Classics Revisited

Thursdays, December 16, January 20

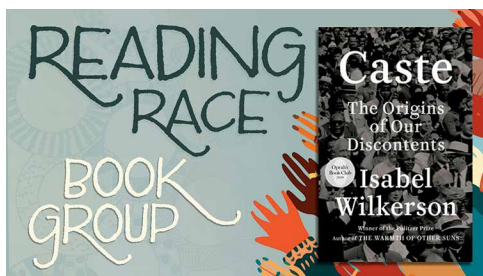
& February 17 | 2:30–4 pm | CEN/Board Room

Join us for lively discussions of a variety of classic titles, antique to modern.

December: *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie.

January: *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu.

February: *Narrative of the Life...* by Frederick Douglass



Reading Race Book Group

Tuesday, January 11

6:30–8 pm | Zoom

This book club, co-sponsored by the Society for History and Racial Equity (SHARE) and KPL's Antiracism Transformation Team, focuses on race and racism in American society. Join us virtually for a discussion of *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson.

Please register. **R**

Job Searching Assistance from Michigan WORKS!

Interviewing: Tips to Help You Land the Job
Tuesday, January 11

3–5 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Create a Resumé You Are Proud Of
Friday, January 28

9:30–11:30 am | CEN/Van Deusen Room

In these two workshops, we explore best practices for interviewing in the digital age and how to create a standout and strategic resumé. Participate in mock job interviews, style your best resumé that highlights your skills and experience, and get one-on-one career coaching.

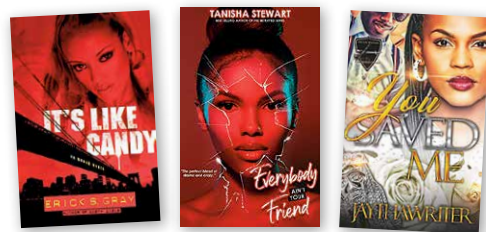
Dungeons and Dragons 101

Saturdays, January 22 & February 19

1–2:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Wednesdays, January 26 & February 23
6–7:30 pm | WSQ

Come learn the basics of playing Dungeons and Dragons with KPL's own Dungeon Master Amy! This program is intended for people who have little or no previous experience playing but want to learn more. We will go over the basics of the game, do some demonstrations, and have time to ask questions. No dice or other supplies needed. **This program is for adults 18+, and registration is required due to limited seating. Please register for one date only as the content will be the same for each.** **R**



Urban Fiction Book Club

Tuesdays, December 28, January 25

& February 22

6–7 pm | POW/Barnabee Gallery

If you love to read Urban Fiction, join us for a fun-filled and open-minded discussion of some of the hottest titles around. All urban readers are welcome! **Please register.** **R**

December: *It's Like Candy* by Erick S. Gray

January: *Everybody Ain't Your Friend* by Tanisha Stewart

February: *You Saved Me: Standalone* by Jay Tha Writer

For events marked KPL Live, visit kpl.gov/live on day/time of the event to join.

Events and More for ADULTS

Continued from page 2.

Entertainment

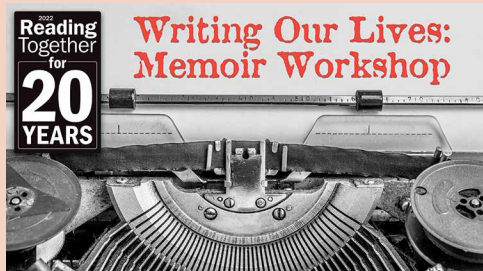


Visual Storytelling

Saturday, February 12

11 am–12:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Spend some time with Aubrey Jewel Rodgers, Animation/Game Art Program Coordinator and Graphic Arts Instructor at KVCC, as she helps us explore visual storytelling in this interactive program. Playing with classic stories as well as contemporary, we will learn to draw from the mind's eye with the power of words. From there, we will learn to identify clues in a visual narrative that will help us invoke curiosity, emotion, and a stronger connection to story. **Please register. R**



Writing Our Lives: Memoir Workshop

Saturday, February 26

1–4 pm | CEN/Van Duesen Room

This workshop requires no expertise or experience—just a willingness to explore and share. Participants will write a brief memoir-sketch to share with others, and take away some tips for doing good writing about the mysterious self.

Gail Griffin taught writing for 36 years at Kalamazoo College and has offered several very popular workshops for community members. She is the author of four books of nonfiction (including the recent *Grief's Country: A Memoir in Pieces*, a Michigan Notable Book for 2021) along with many memoir essays and poems published in journals and anthologies.

Please register. R



Look for more *Reading Together* events in the Spring *Prism* or pick up a standalone *Reading Together* brochure at any library location after the first of the year.

Celebrate Black History Month @ Eastwood

Black Health and Wellness is the theme for this year's celebration.

The Eastwood Branch will host these free events and programs.



Crystals with Tasleem

Monday, February 14

6–7 pm | EAS/Community Room

Teens and adults are welcome to join Tasleem to learn more about the wonders of crystals.

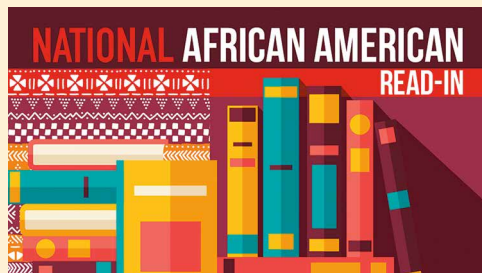


Healthy Soul Food

Monday, February 21

5:30–6:30 pm | KPL Live

Join Kama Mitchell on KPL Live as she demonstrates healthy cooking for Black health and wellness.



National African American Read-In

Monday, February 28

4–7 pm | EAS/Community Room

Make literacy a significant part of Black History Month by checking out materials on display that foster health and wellness. Pick up recipes, watch documentaries on healthy living and habits, listen to soothing meditative sounds, and more.

Browse Our Digital Collection:

eBooks; eAudiobooks; eVideos; eMagazines and eMusic online.

kpl.gov/digital-catalog

Listen to KPL Podcasts:

Presented by the Kalamazoo Public Library, "Five Author Questions" or "5AQ," is an interview podcast that asks five questions to delve into the minds of authors. kpl.gov/podcasts

Watch KPL TV:

View an assortment of recorded KPL events including some fun archival videos! kpl.gov/kpltv

Participate in KPL Events, Online:

We offer events for all ages online including book clubs, author visits, instructional programs, storytimes and more! kpl.gov/events

Give the Gift of Reading This Year

Shop the Friends of KPL Bookstore Gift Books Sale!

Happening Now Through December 23.

Shop hundreds of gift-quality, like-new books at a fraction of retail cost.

Shop in person at The Friends Bookstore located in the lower level of Central Library or online at shop.friendsofkpl.org.

Please note KPL is closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day so be sure to pick up your purchases by Thursday, December 23 at 4 pm. Online purchases can be picked up via curbside during open bookstore hours.



Friends of KPL Bookstore
Central Library, lower level
315 S. Rose St.
(269) 553-7820

kpl.gov/friends

Shop online at shop.friendsofkpl.org

Hours: Wednesday 12–7 pm | Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10 am–4 pm

Note from the Director



Ryan Wieber
KPL Director

KPL is open and ready to serve you by offering the best in selection of books, movies, audios, and more. The pandemic did not slow down authors and creators and we have the latest from your favorites and so much more to newly discover at a branch or on-line. Digital content is abundant with great choices and availability through Overdrive, Hoopla, and Freegal. If you have yet to try KPL for ebooks or e-audios, give it a shot—and we are here to help introduce it to you! Just give us a call or use the Ask a Librarian feature at kpl.gov.

In-person programming is slowly yet safely returning to library locations with some superb activities in the lineup this winter, and be sure to check out the KPL Live options which offer the convenience of attending programs remotely.

Last year, the library fully closed for three months at the onset of the pandemic, then reopened with restrictions and reduced hours for five months—and then went curbside-only for another four months. As a result, patron visits decreased 75% from a typical year; however, overall circulation went down only 25%. That potentially reveals two things: 1) patrons took advantage of curbside and online services to access their library items, and 2) many of the visits to KPL locations that happen during a given year are for purposes other than checking out books and DVDs. Folks know the library is a place for gathering and studying, attending story times and programs, and accessing computers and wi-fi—but the library represents more than a physical place. The past year-plus has proven that our community can adapt to a virtual and online public library, yet it is also true that the magic and discovery found within pages of books must sometimes be hand-delivered face to face to folks and kids who may otherwise never visit a library building.

Library outreach into the community is vital for the promotion and encouragement of reading and improving literacy for all ages, and for introducing library services and resources to those who may be in need, or those who may face barriers visiting a building. KPL traditionally has done much to partner with organizations and schools in outreach efforts, and those efforts continue today in many ways including the reintroduction of a mobile library to serve patrons. So, as the library continues to rebound from the pandemic and welcomes patrons safely back to KPL, this public library here in Kalamazoo, Michigan is eager to once again serve all—at a branch, in a virtual environment, or by way of the new mobile library. ▲

KPL LOCATION INFO:



CEN 553-7800
Central Library
315 S. Rose St.



EAS 553-7810
Eastwood Branch Library
1112 Gayle Ave.



OSH 553-7980
Oshemo Branch Library
7265 W. Main St.



POW 553-7960
Alma Powell Branch Library
1000 W. Paterson St.



WSQ 553-7970
Washington Square Branch Library
1244 Portage St.

2021–22 LIBRARY BOARD

Jannie Williams <i>President</i>	Lisa Godfrey <i>Trustee</i>
Christine Kindy <i>Vice President</i>	Christy Roth <i>Trustee</i>
Jennifer Moore <i>Treasurer</i>	Annee Dunn <i>Trustee</i>
Anna M. Moss <i>Secretary</i>	

CREDITS

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This edition of *PRISM*
is printed on
recycled paper.