

SPRING 2024

PRISM

A complimentary quarterly publication available for KPL patrons and community members.

Reading Together 2024

Meet R.F. Kuang, author of *Yellowface*, on March 23.

R. F. Kuang



Please welcome Oliver James to Kalamazoo!

Mark your calendars to meet
the TikTok reading role model.

It's time to think Spring!

27th Annual Party in the Park, Washington Square Spring
Celebration, Spring Break, and more!



LOCATIONS AND HOURS



Central Library (CEN)

315 S. Rose St., 49007

Mon. - Thurs.: 9 am - 8 pm
 Friday: 9 am - 6 pm
 Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
 Sunday: 1 - 5 pm



Eastwood Branch (EAS)

1112 Gayle Ave., 49048

Monday: 1 - 8 pm
 Tuesday: 1 - 6 pm
 Wednesday: 1 - 6 pm
 Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
 Friday: 10 am - 5 pm
 Saturday: 10 am - 2 pm
 Sunday: Closed



Oshtemo Branch (OSH)

7265 W. Main St., 49009

Monday: 10 am - 8 pm
 Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm
 Wednesday: 10 am - 6 pm
 Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
 Friday: 10 am - 5 pm
 Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm
 Sunday: Closed



Washington Square Branch (WSQ)

1244 Portage St., 49001

Monday: 1 - 6 pm
 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

Joint Statement from KPL and Douglass Community Association

Temporary Suspension of Services at the Alma Powell Branch

To the patrons of the Douglass Community Association and the Alma Powell Branch of KPL:

Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL) Board of Trustees made the decision to temporarily suspend services at the Alma Powell branch located within the Douglass Community Association (DCA). KPL held two public forums to answer questions regarding this decision and to hear from those who are impacted by this decision.

Both DCA and KPL listened to all comments and input from the community and are working together to see how both entities can safely meet their constituents' needs.

In the interim, the DCA will continue to provide youth and community services through its other tenants (Boys & Girls Club, the NAACP, The Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research, Helen Fox Music Academy and Loaves & Fishes).

KPL will provide, in the interim, supplemental services through additional Mobile Library stops, programming in partnership with DCA, the Boys and Girls Club and other library partners, temporary materials collections at partner locations and pop-up computer labs until a plan is finalized.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to DCA by calling 269-385-6185 or KPL at 269-553-7931.

For the latest information please visit: kpl.gov/pow



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KPL Mobile Library (MBL)
kpl.gov/mobile-library



Credits on PRISM, Spring 2024 cover:
 R.F. Kuang, rfkuang.com
 Francine Orr, Los Angeles Times
 Brian Bankston, Kalamazoo Public Library

kpl.gov | (269) 553-7800

Kalamazoo Public Library's Marketing and Communications Office publishes *PRISM* with support from the Friends of the Library. Contact us with your comments or suggestions, call (269) 553-7879 or email mac@kpl.gov.



Friends Bookstore

Sharing our love of books with our community

Is there a common Friends Bookstore customer type? Not really. There are as many reasons to visit the Friends Bookstore as there are books on the shelves located on the lower level of the Central Library. All our customers, however, do believe in the importance of sharing.

We see sharing everywhere in our community. All books for sale in the Friends Bookstore have been donated by members of the community and by the library itself. This allows Friends to offer more than 50 categories of non-fiction and fiction titles for children—from picture books to manga—to adults, including large print books. DVDs, CDs, and audio books are also for sale.

Many customers vividly recall visiting when they were younger with their parents or guardians. Now, they are sharing that love of books with their own children and also returning the favor by selecting books for their loved ones who might not be able travel to the bookstore.

Many teachers visit at the start of the school year for the reasonable prices Friends offers, to start their own in-room library to share with students. Local college students who have discovered our hidden gem bring their visiting loved ones—many from out of state— to stop by and shop. One local volunteer has made it his goal to share his love of reading by regularly providing books to the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home.

Friends Bookstore is open four days a week and “Bag Sales” are scheduled twice a year. The next one is set for June 8, at the Central library location. Customers can share in the wonder of many books by filling a grocery-size bag with books for \$3. Learn more about this sale on our social media channels.

The bookstore itself exemplifies the notion of sharing by donating most of its profits to library programs and causes. *Since the bookstore was opened 25 years ago, the Friends organization has donated more than \$1,000,000* to support library programs like the Summer Reading Challenge, Reading Together, Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee, Ready to Read, and the Global Reading Challenge. Come visit Friends Bookstore, and let's share our love of books together.

Volunteers

Join Janice, Linda, and others who enjoy books and help support the library by becoming a Friends Bookstore volunteer. Opportunities exist for those with varying interests, skills, and schedules.

To apply, please email: Friendsbookstore@kpl.gov.

Members

Friends helps fund a number of library programs. You can help by becoming a Friends member. To learn more about the Friends organization or to join or renew your membership, please go online to kpl.gov/friends, and click on “Join Friends” in the right column.

You may pay either with a credit card or PayPal.



Reading Together highlights former KPL board member Martha Beverly



Can you describe your experience with the Reading Together program?

I've enjoyed the rich programming over the years: background discussions, cuisine, and local speakers about a wide range of topics.

How long have you participated in the program?

Every year since it began in 2003! As a librarian, I love to engage with others after reading a wonderful book.

Do you have a past favorite Reading Together book(s)?

I was a fan of Jacqueline Woodson's books for young people. That year (2021) was pure gold and I dove into titles I had not read yet.

Luis Alberto Urrea's *Into the Beautiful North* had stories of the border with Mexico, which brought a deeper understanding of the struggles of those who pass over freely and others who risk it all. I continue to read his work today.

What advice can you give to other community members who are curious about the Reading Together program?

Take advantage of a well-selected book and then explore it in depth with others. Surprising revelations surface and new connections emerge when you open yourself up to them. Expand your mind and enjoy some friendly company!

2024 Reading Together

Cultural Appropriation vs Cultural Appreciation

- Wednesday, February 28
6:00 - 7:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Publishing from the Inside

- Wednesday, March 6
6:30 - 7:30 pm | Online at readingtogether.us

Reading Race Book Group



- Tuesday, March 12
6:30 - 7:45 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

The Chinese American Experience

- Wednesday, March 13
6:30 - 7:30 pm | Portage Senior Center: 203 E. Centre Ave.

The Subtlety of Satire

- Tuesday, March 19
6:30 - 7:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Yellowface Through an Ethics Lens

- Thursday, March 21
6:30 - 7:30 pm | Fetzer Center, WMU Campus

Meet the Author: R.F. Kuang

- Saturday, March 23
3 pm | Chenery Auditorium: 714 S. Westnedge Ave.



Author Talk

Author Talk is a series of online presentations by bestselling authors and thought leaders brought to you in partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium.

Register online at libraryc.org/kpl today.



Nina Totenberg

Wednesday
March 6
4 pm EST



Christopher Paolini

Thursday
March 14
4 pm EST



Madeline Miller

Thursday
March 21
7 pm EDT



Paula J. Johnson

Tuesday
April 2
2 pm EDT



Diane Foley & Colum McCann

Tuesday
April 9
2 pm EDT



Xochitl Gonzalez

Wednesday
April 17
8 pm EDT

Presented by:



Kalamazoo
Public Library



WHAT'S UP

Literacy and Community
with Oliver James

I CAN'T READ

Partnering with the Kalamazoo Literacy Council, Kalamazoo Public Library welcomes Oliver James, TikTok reading role model, in a public call-to-action for proficient and accessible literacy in our community.

1 IN 8 KALAMAZOO RESIDENTS* FACE CHALLENGES WITH READING AND ADULT LITERACY.

Kalamazoo Public Library is hosting a community event in collaboration with reading role model Oliver James, known for chronicling his self-taught journey on TikTok of learning how to read as an adult. Since 2022, he has amassed over 301,000 followers and continues to grow every day.

James gained recognition for his efforts and was awarded the Barbara Bush National Honors Literacy Award by the American Library Association in 2023. He also successfully completed his personal goal of reading 100 books in the second year of his journey.

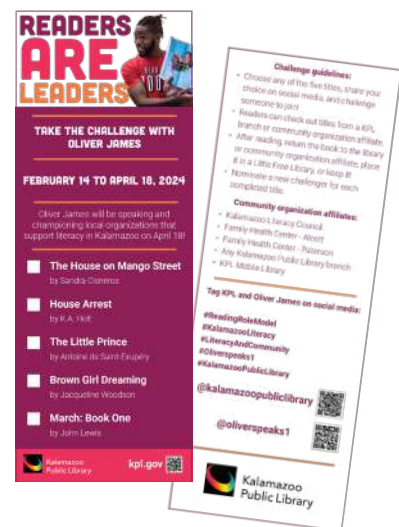
James's visit to Kalamazoo aims to draw attention to the widespread issue of illiteracy in the US. The library has partnered with James to educate the public about the relevance of illiteracy in our community and the various disadvantages it brings to social dynamics, mental health, and generational progress. Through our collaboration, the community will be introduced to several organizations already diligently working to empower adult readers and provide them with the confidence, dignity, and support needed to make a meaningful impact on illiteracy and inequity issues in Kalamazoo and the wider United States.

APRIL 18 | 5 TO 6:30 PM

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

120 Roberson Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Join us for a public speaking event with Oliver James, TikTok reading role model. In partnership with the Kalamazoo Literacy Council, this event aims to connect adult literacy support organizations and our community to raise awareness. Representatives from organizations supporting adult literacy in Kalamazoo will be available post-discussion.



**TAKE THE
READERS ARE LEADERS
CHALLENGE**

Grab a bookmark at any library location!

*Statistic obtained from the National Institute for Literacy and the National Adult Literacy Survey via kalamazooliteracy.org



PARTY IN THE PARK

May 22



10-11 am | Bronson Park

RSVP: kpl.gov/party-in-the-park

Let's celebrate early childhood literacy!

Join Kalamazoo Public Library for the 27th Annual Party in the Park! Bring your preschool children to enjoy this special story hour in Bronson Park featuring your favorite costumed characters and community readers. Please RSVP online at kpl.gov/party-in-the-park.

- Dress appropriately and bring a blanket to sit on.
- Portable toilets will be available on site.
- Weather cancellations may apply.
- Limited delivery of classroom early literacy bags will be available for childcare and preschool locations that are unable to travel to Bronson Park. Please email r2r@kpl.gov to arrange delivery.

Mobile Library

Northside Schedule



March 7	3:30-5:00 pm	Interfaith Homes
March 11	11 am-12 pm	Ecumenical Senior Center
March 14	3:30-5:00 pm	Interfaith Homes
March 20	3:30-4:30 pm	Douglass Community Association (DCA)
March 21	4-6 pm	Interfaith Homes with the Kalamazoo Literacy Council and CAPS
March 26	3-4 pm	Maple Grove Apartments

Douglass Community Association: 1000 W. Paterson Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
Ecumenical Senior Center: 702 North Burdick Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
Interfaith Homes: 1037 Interfaith Boulevard, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
Maple Grove Apartments: 735 Summit Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006

Visit kpl.gov/mobile-library for new information on where you can visit the Mobile Library!



Two special events with **Emmy Kastner**

Nocturnal Animal Storytime

Saturday, May 4

11 am-12 pm | OSH/Community Room

Celebrate her new book
While You're Asleep with a
special storytime.

Learn more on page 13.



Making Picture Books

May 4

1-2:30 pm | OSH/Community Room

Teens will explore some picture books together, taking a deeper look at how text and visual art work together in a book to tell a story. Learn more on page 14.

Emmy is an author and illustrator of children's books, like *While You're Asleep* (Simon and Schuster), *A Very Big Fall* (Harper), and the non-fiction series, *Nerdy Babies* (Macmillan). She's co-founder of the nonprofit youth writing center, Read and Write Kalamazoo (RAWK). Emmy lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan with her husband and three kids, their dog and two cats. She spends most days writing and making art in her studio above her family's coffee shop.

Events for Children

Creation Lab

Thursdays, March, April, May

4:30-5:30 pm | CEN/Children's Room

Come create awesome art or a cool project! We will provide the materials, you provide the imagination! **Ages 6 and up. No Creation Lab on March 7, March 14, and April 18.**

Candy Sushi

Monday, March 4

4:30-5:30 pm | CEN/Children's Room

Use rice puffs and other assorted candy to create "sushi" of the sweetest kind.

All ingredients provided. **Ages 8 and up.**

Registration required.

Tween Graphic Novel Club

FREE COMICS!

Wednesdays, March 6, April 3, May 1

4:30-5:30 pm | OSH/Community Room

Come to the library each month to discuss the monthly graphic novel selection. Enjoy snacks, an activity, and discussion with fellow comic lovers! Free copies to keep can be picked up at the Oshtemo Branch Library one month prior to the discussion date. **For grades 3 to 6.**

March: *Stargazing* by Jen Wang

April: *A First Time for Everything* by Dan Santat

May: *Calvin and Hobbes* by Bill Waterson

Read to Kenny

Tuesdays, March 12, April 9, May 14

4:30-6:00 pm | OSH/Children's Room

Come get cozy with a therapy dog! Kenny is a certified therapy dog who loves to spend time with kids and hear stories. Sign up for a 15-minute time slot and pick a book to read to Kenny. After, you get to keep the book! **Call (269) 553-7985 or email abbeyf@kpl.gov to reserve your time slot.** Stay tuned for other therapy dog events at other branch locations.

Dog Man Release Party! WIN A COPY!

Tuesday, March 19

4-5 pm | CEN/Children's Room

He's back! Celebrate the release of *Dog Man 12: The Scarlet Shedder* with crafts and activities. Enter the raffle drawing to win a free copy!

Ready Readers: Creature Club

INTERACT WITH ANIMALS!

Tuesdays, March 19, April 16, May 21

4-5 pm | EAS/Community Room

Let's practice reading and meet cool animals! Get a free book that we will read together and meet an animal ambassador from Kalamazoo Nature Center! **For grades 1-3.**

Registration required.

Build It!

Wednesdays, March 20, April 24, May 22

4-5 pm | CEN/Children's Room

Build something spectacular with LEGO®. Creations will be displayed until the next month's club. LEGO® bricks will be provided. Please leave personal collections at home. **Ages 6 and up.**

Mini Bookshelf Dioramas

Monday, March 25

1-2 pm | OSH/Community Room

Make a mini bookshelf out of ALTOLD® tins. Let your imagination run wild! **Registration required.**

Spring Break Extravaganza

March 25-29

CEN/Children's Room

It's Spring Break and we're celebrating all week! **See page 11 for event details.**

Dino Dig

Wednesday, March 27

2-4 pm | OSH/Community Room

Join us on an expedition to dig up some dinosaur fossils! Enjoy dino-themed crafts and activities.

Future Veterinarian Career

Exploration with Dr. Turnera Croom

INTERACT WITH ANIMALS!

Friday, March 29

12-2 pm | EAS/Community Room

Join retired Army Veterinary Major Dr. Turnera Croom and her team to explore animal habitats, enrichment, feeding habits, and examine X-rays of various animal species. Don't miss this opportunity to interact with live animals and learn about animal compassion and understanding. Each participant will get a "Future Vet" coloring book and stethoscope. **Registration required. Participation limited to 60 participants.**

Mo Willems Party

Tuesday, April 16

4-5 pm | CEN/Children's Room

Celebrate the iconic characters Gerald, Piggie, and Pigeon! Enjoy crafts, games, and activities.

DIY Stress Busters

Monday, April 22

4:30-5:30 pm | CEN/Children's Room

Are you stressed? Let's make tools that can help—stress balls and calming jars. Who knew glitter was therapeutic? **Ages 8 and up. Registration required.**

Tangled Party

Saturday, April 27

2-4 pm | OSH/Community Room

Calling all Rapunzel, Flynn Rider, and Pascal fans! Join us for all sorts of fun, cozy activities inspired by the movie *Tangled*.

Preschool Prom

Saturday, May 11

11 am-12 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Get fancy and dance-y! Attendees are invited to get dressed up, dance, and play. **Ages 2 to 6, accompanied by their caregivers.**

Fairy Party

Tuesday, May 14

4-5 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Celebrate all things sparkly, swishy, fluffy, and magical! Fairy and flowery crafts include creating wings, wands, and more!

Tie Dye

Monday, May 20

4:30-5:30 pm | CEN/Children's Room

Transform plain white shirts into explosions of color! Materials provided. This activity is messy, so please dress accordingly. **Ages 8 and up. Registration required. Enter shirt size upon registration.**

SPRING BREAK EXTRAVAGANZA

Come celebrate all week at the Central location!
Books, games, and activities galore!

March 25-29

Activities for preschool kids:
10 am (Monday-Friday)

Activities for elementary kids:
2 pm (Monday, Wednesday-Friday)

Washington Square SPRING CELEBRATION

May 15

5:30 to 7:00 pm | WSQ

Balloon animals • Crafts
Face painting • Food
Games • Music • and more!



Family and All Age Events

Family Events

Baby Time!

Fridays, March, April, May

9:30-10:00 am | CEN/Children's Room

Baby's first story time! Babies and their caregivers are invited to read, sing, and bounce along with books and songs chosen especially for our youngest patrons.

For babies ages 6 weeks to 24 months.

Family Storytimes

Join us for stories, songs and fun activities!

- **Eastwood**
Thursdays
10:30-11:00 am | Play to Learn Room
- **Oshtemo**
Thursdays
10:30-11:00 am | Community Room
- **Central**
Fridays
10:30-11:00 am | Children's Room

Talk, Read, Sing Playgroup

"Talking Is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" is a public awareness and action campaign that helps parents recognize their power to boost their children's early brain and vocabulary development. Come for this drop-in event to connect and play with others in the community. Educational toys will be available. Each month has a different topic and early literacy take-home kit.

- **WSQ/Community Room:** This playgroup meets weekly. Caregivers have the opportunity to ask questions or chat with a registered nurse during play time.
Thursdays, March 7 to May 30
10:30-12:00 pm

First Saturday: Eastwood Branch Library

Saturdays, March 2, April 6, May 4
11:30-1:00 pm | EAS

Join us on the first Saturday of each month to enjoy fun children's and family activities in collaboration with KCRReady4s and Talking Is Teaching. Visit community organizations and enjoy crafts, fun programming, and special storytime guests.

Move and Groove

Tuesdays, March, April, May

10:00-10:45 am | CEN/Children's Room

Young children and their caregivers are invited to join our music and movement fun with singing, dancing, scarves, shaky eggs, and instruments. Everyone dances in this program—come ready to groove!

Ages 18 months to five years old. No Move and Groove on April 2 and May 7.

Quiet Time with Sue

Tuesdays, March 12, March 26, April 9, May 7, May 21

3:30-5:00 pm | EAS/Study Room

Come spend quiet time with certified therapy dog Sue. Drop in to unwind, and either read aloud, or make a pet toy to donate to the pet shelter. **To reserve a 15-minute one-on-one session, please call (269) 553-7893, or email milano@kpl.gov.** Stay tuned for other therapy dog events at other branch locations.

Musical Storybooks:

***They All Saw a Cat* by Brendan Wenzel**

Perfect for preschoolers! This story explores different ways to see and hear the world, accompanied by a string quartet from the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra.

- **March 13 | 4:30-5 pm**
EAS/Community Room
- **April 29 | 10:30-11:00 am**
CEN/Van Deusen Room
- **May 1 | 9:30-10:00 am and 10:30-11:00 am | Northside Association for Community Development: 612 N. Park Street**
- **May 9 | 10:30-11:00 am**
EAS/Community Room
- **May 16 | 10:30-11:00 am and 11:30 am-12:00 pm | OSH/Comm. Room**
Registration required.
- **May 17 | 9:30-10:00 am and 10:30-11:00 am | WSQ**

Hot Wheels Racing

Wednesdays, April 10 and May 1

6:30-7:30 pm | WSQ

Build tracks, race cars, crash into LEGO® buildings, jump block towers, and whatever else! STEM education has never been so much fun!

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Party **BOOK GIVEAWAY!**

Saturday, April 13

11 am-1 pm | EAS/Community Room

Celebrate reading and learning! Don't miss the ultra-special-fantastic storytime performance, balloons and a book giveaway! **For ages 18 months to five years old.**

Fresh Food Is Fun

Monday, April 22

4:30-6:30 pm | OSH/Community Room

Explore the joy of fresh food through activities like eating, touching, and creating with vegetables. Our "eating a rainbow" presentation aims to introduce kids to different vegetables, make them familiar with both common and uncommon ones, and spark excitement about the variety of fresh food. Participants can also enjoy creating their own smoothie or slushie on the smoothie bike.

Registration required.

Dia de los Niños **FREE BOOK!**

Tuesday, April 30

Open hours | All locations

Honor the "Day of the Child" with fun Latin-inspired crafts and games! Each participant will get a *free book. Drop by any time during the open hours. ***One book per child, while supplies last.**

- **CEN | 4 pm: Spanish stories and songs for all ages**

Nocturnal Animal Storytime

Saturday, May 4

11 am-12 pm | OSH/Community Room

Celebrate the release of Emmy Kastner's newest book with a special storytime reading of *While You're Asleep*, and a craft. Light refreshments provided.

Dragon Boat Festival

Monday, May 20

6:30-7:30 pm | OSH/Community Room

Discover the history and cultural significance of the Dragon Boat Festival with our friends from Asian Initiatives at Western Michigan University. **Registration required.**

Party in the Park

Wednesday, May 22

10-11 am | Bronson Park

Join us for our 27th annual celebration of early childhood literacy! Enjoy this very special story hour in Bronson Park with your favorite literary characters and community readers. Grab your early literacy gift, including a book and snack. **Please RSVP. Ages 3-5. See page 8 for event details.**

Birds and Beaks

INTERACT WITH BIRDS!

Saturday May 25

11:00-11:45 am and 12-12:45 pm

OSH/Community Room

Get up close and personal with Birds and Beaks Rescue from Battle Creek, a parrot rescue that provides care for neglected birds and education on proper nurture for these animals. **Registration required.**

All Ages:

Eclipse Glasses GIVEAWAY!

Beginning Monday, March 4

Open hours | All locations

Pick up a pair of eclipse glasses at any KPL location or Mobile Library stop. Glasses are limited to five pairs per patron. Exceptions may be considered for families or groups larger than five. Each location will decide based on current supplies. The event is while supplies last. Holds will not be allowed. The Total Solar Eclipse will take place on April 8.

Thank you to Kalamazoo Valley Museum and Kalamazoo Astronomical Society for supplying some of the glasses!

Coffee and Connections

Mondays, March 25, April 22, May 20

9-11 am | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Please join us for complimentary coffee, donuts, fruit, and other refreshments for this open-door event. It's the perfect opportunity to have a friendly chat with neighbors and local library staff. Other activities include crosswords, puzzles, and more.

LEGO® Dinosaur Display

March 28-30

Open hours | OSH/Community Room

Admire the incredible work of Western Michigan LEGO® Users Group featuring dinosaurs!

Taylor Swift Party

Saturday, April 13

2-4 pm | OSH/Community Room

Are you a Swiftie? Fans of all ages are welcome to hang out with us as we celebrate our love for Taylor Swift with crafts and activities inspired by our favorite superstar! Friendship bracelets, fanmail writing, and a dance party are planned! Dressing up as your favorite era is encouraged.

Washington Square Spring Celebration

Wednesday, May 15

5:30-7 pm | WSQ

Come celebrate the return of warmer weather with food, music, face painting, balloon animals, crafts, games, and more! **See page 9 for event details.**

Events for Teens

Anime in the Afternoon

Wednesdays, March, April, May
3-5 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Come hang out with other manga and comic book fans to chat about what we're reading, watch anime, eat snacks, and enjoy a craft or activity.

Washi Tape Painting

4-5 pm
March 4 | CEN/Teen Studio
March 7 | WSQ
March 11 | EAS

Come decorate your own canvas with our collection of washi tape and paint!
While supplies last.

Blacklight Paint and Sip

11 am-1 pm
March 9 | WSQ
May 11 | EAS

Come get creative with our paint and sip party, in the dark! **While supplies last.**

Cozy Coffee Club

Tuesday, March 19
3-4 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

A cozy club for coffee drinkers! This slow-paced club will offer a variety of hot beverages, toppings, free books, and a comfy place to relax. **For grades 6th through 12th.**

Yoga for All

Tuesday, March 12
3:30-5 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Life can be stressful! Come learn mindfulness and relaxation techniques from a certified yoga instructor from Move with Joy Studios. They will lead a class focusing on yoga flow and meditation techniques. **All experience levels are welcome. Limited yoga mats available. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own mats.**

Pinecone Succulents

4-5 pm
March 14 | CEN/Teen Studio
March 21 | EAS
March 28 | WSQ

Create a succulent garden using pinecones, paint, and a little creativity! **While supplies last.**

Bujo and Chill

Saturdays, March 23, April 20, May 18
10:30 am- 12:00 pm | OSH/Community Room
Join us for a morning of chill music and bullet journaling. Bring your own bujo or get started among friends. **All skill levels welcome. Materials and inspiration provided.**

Pressed Flower Bookmarks

4-5 pm
April 4 | WSQ
April 5 | CEN
April 8 | EAS

Ring in spring with these decorative floral bookmarks. **While supplies last.**

Mindful Line Art

Saturday, April 6
10:30-11:30 am | OSH/Community Room
Led by artist and mindfulness guide Erica Isham, come relax and create art with simple art supplies. A retired art teacher, Isham teaches classes and works at Eastend Studio and Gallery in Marshall, Michigan. **Art supplies provided. Registration required.**

Paint a Piggy

4-5 pm
April 15 | EAS
April 22 | CEN
April 25 | WSQ

Come paint a piggy bank and learn how to be more savvy about financial literacy during April, National Financial Literacy month. **While supplies last.**

Free Comic Book Day **FREE COMICS!**

Saturday, May 4
Open hours | CEN, EAS, OSH, WSQ
We will be giving away free comics! Come start your comic book collection or discover a new superhero! **While supplies last.**

May the 4th Be With You: Teen Edition

Saturday, May 4
1-3 pm | CEN/Teen Studio
Join us as we celebrate the intergalactic phenomenon *Star Wars*! We'll be watching a movie, crafting, and enjoying snacks. **While supplies last.**

Making Picture Books with Emmy Kastner

Saturday, May 4
1:00-2:30 pm | OSH/Community Room
Explore the art of the picture book with author/illustrator Emmy Kastner. We'll explore some picture books together, taking a deeper look at how text and visual art work together in a book to tell a story. Participants will experiment with different traditional methods of making art and create their own picture book spread. All supplies provided. **Registration required.**

Sharpie® Tiles

4-5:30 pm
May 6 | CEN/Teen Studio
May 9 | WSQ
May 13 | EAS
Learn how to color your own tile using Sharpie® markers and rubbing alcohol. **While supplies last.**

Mental Health and Wellness

Saturday, May 18
2-4 pm | OSH/Community Room
Come create DIY fidgets and participate in art therapy as we learn and discuss coping strategies and skills for mental wellness.

Please note: Banned Book Club is taking a brief break. Stay tuned!



CALLING ALL COMIC FANS!

TWEEN GRAPHIC NOVEL CLUB

March 6, April 3, May 1
4:30-5:30 pm
OSH/Community Room

For grades 3 to 6.

Free comics!

While supplies last.

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

May 4
1-3 pm
CEN/Teen Studio

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

May 4
Open hours
CEN, EAS, OSH, WSQ

While supplies last.



Events for Adults

Cultural Appropriation vs Cultural Appreciation

Reading Together

Wednesday, February 28

6:00-7:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Denise Miller, Nathan Nguyen, and Namita Sharma will share their experiences central to the plot of *Yellowface*. Moderated by Aimee Jachym, Miller Johnson.

Tiny Reference Desk Concert

Fridays, March 1, May 3

6-8 pm | CEN/First floor lobby

Join us during Art Hops throughout 2024 for after-hours acoustic performances featuring local musicians. In partnership with Sounds of the Zoo.

March: Dede Alder

May: Santino Jones

Publishing from the Inside

Reading Together

Wednesday, March 6

6:30-7:30 pm

Virtual presentation | Online at readingtogether.us

Get an insider's view into the publishing industry with R.F. Kuang's agent Hannah Bowman, Liza Dawson Associates and others.

Reading Race Book Group

Reading Together

Tuesday, March 12 | 6:30-7:45 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Tuesday, May 14 | 6:30-7:45 pm | SHARE Garden: 741 W. South St.

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 for a discussion of *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang in March, and *Before the Streetlights Come On: Black America's Urgent Call for Climate Solutions* by Heather McTeer Toney in May.

Discover all public discussions and engage with others about *Yellowface* at readingtogether.us.

Creativebug Crafts for Adults: Make a Book Safe

March 12 | 4-5 pm | WSQ

March 18 | 5:30-6:30 pm | EAS/Comm. Room

March 30 | 2-3 pm | OSH/Community Room

Learn how to create a book safe by hollowing out a real book to create a secret spot for your treasures! **Registration required.**

The Chinese American Experience

Reading Together

Wednesday, March 13

6:30-7:30 pm

Portage Senior Center: 203 E. Centre Ave.

Dr. Ying Zeng, Director of Asian Initiatives at the Haenicke Institute for Global Education of Western Michigan University, will provide historical context in this discussion of the Chinese American experience. In partnership with Portage District Library.

2024 Celery City Chapbooks

Saturday, March 16

3-4 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Join us for a reading presentation in partnership with Friends of Poetry. Allison Kennedy, Kevin Griffin, and Kathleen McGookey will read from their winning chapbooks. Celery City Books publishes chapbooks through an annual competition.

The Subtlety of Satire

Reading Together

Tuesday, March 19

6:30-7:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Local author Andy Mozina, author of *Tandem*, *Contrary Motion*, *Quality Snacks*, will discuss satire in *Yellowface* and other works, and share writing techniques to try at home.

Yellowface Through an Ethics Lens

Reading Together

Thursday, March 21

6:30-7:30 pm | Fetzer Center | WMU Campus

This multidisciplinary panel discussion will explore major themes including personal responsibility, morally compromised cultures, and questionable social norms. Presented by the Center for the Study of Ethics in Society in partnership with University Libraries at Western Michigan University.

Senior Citizen Breakfast

Fridays, March 22, April 26, May 24

10:30 am-12:00 pm | EAS/Community Room

Special guest Rootead will provide music, rhythm and movement, and guide us on self-care, personal well-being, and inner peace to help lead a healthier lifestyle. Breakfast and beverages will be provided.

Classics Revisited HYBRID

Thursdays, March 21, April 18, May 16

2:30 pm- 4:00 pm

In-person: CEN/Board Room

Virtual: Microsoft Teams

Join local book lovers for a lively discussion about favorite classic literature. This group meets in person and virtually. **Registration required for the virtual discussion.**

March: *Dog Soldiers* by Robert Stone

April: *Letters to a Young Poet* by Rainer Maria Rilke

May: *The Leopard* by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa

Meet the Author: R.F. Kuang

Reading Together

BOOK SIGNING OPPORTUNITY!

Saturday, March 23

3-5 pm

Chenery Auditorium: 714 S. Westnedge Ave.

Join us to hear the author's prepared remarks, followed by an audience Q&A session and book signing opportunity. **Copies of *Yellowface* will be available for purchase from Michigan News Agency.**

Bujo and Chill

Saturdays, March 23, April 20, May 18

10:30 am-12:00 pm | OSH/Community Room

Join us for a morning of chill music and bullet journaling. Bring your own bujo or get started among friends. **All skill levels welcome. Materials and inspiration provided.**

Confections with Convictions

Monday, March 25

6:30-7:30 pm | EAS/Community Room

Talk about chocolate and social impact with Dale Anderson, owner of local fair-trade chocolate shop Confections with Convictions. Sample sweet treats and learn about their mission and the origins and process of their handmade, artisanal products.

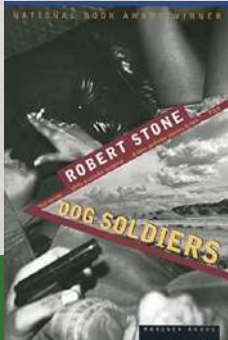
Space limited. This event may have products exposed to tree nuts. Registration required.



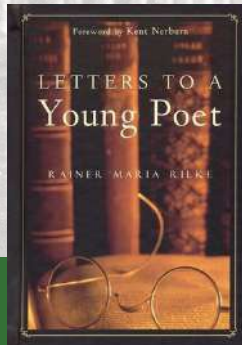
Each month, Kalamazoo Public Library's Classics Revisited program guides an in-depth discussion about the works of renowned writers from Achebe to Zola.

Classics Revisited has a broad understanding of classics that includes old masters like Shakespeare and Mark Twain, modern titles like *Voyage of the Narwhal*, and graphic novels like *Maus*. We also read short stories, plays, poetry, and nonfiction from various cultures and countries. Please join us for Spring 2024's line-up.

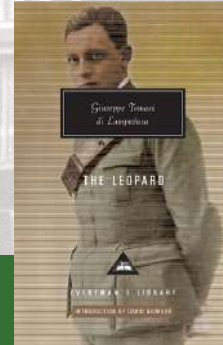
Classics *Revisited*



March 21



April 18



May 16

CONFECTIONS 
with CONVICTIONS

Monday, March 25
6:30 - 7:30 pm
EAS/Community Room



Events for Adults

Creativebug Crafts for Adults: Vegetable Printed Tea Towels

April 6 | 2-3 pm | OSH/Community Room

April 8 | 5:30-6:30 pm | EAS

April 16 | 4-5 pm | WSQ

Experiment with printing an assortment of vegetables from broccoli to bok choy to create interesting and unexpected prints on tea towels to liven up your space! **Registration required.**

Mindful Line Art

Saturday, April 6

10:30-11:30 am | OSH/Community Room

Led by artist and mindfulness guide Erica Isham, come relax and create art with simple art supplies. A retired art teacher, Isham teaches classes and works at Eastend Studio and Gallery in Marshall, Michigan. **Art supplies provided. Registration required.**

Visiting Poet: Dr. Parvinder Mehta

Tuesday, April 16

6:30-7:30 pm | OSH/Community Room

Celebrate National Poetry month with Dr. Parvinder Mehta! Join us for a poetry reading where she'll share from her recent anthology *On Wings of Words*. Dr. Mehta, poet and author, seeks to engage listeners through the topics of social justice and human potential for a more ethical and compassionate world. Light refreshments provided.

What's Up? I Can't Read with Oliver James

Thursday, April 18

5:00-6:30 pm | Mt. Zion Baptist Church:
120 Roberson Street

Welcome Oliver James, TikTok reading role model, to Kalamazoo! In partnership with the Kalamazoo Literacy Council, this event aims to connect adult literacy support organizations and our community to raise awareness. **See page 7 for details.**

Computer Scams and What NOT to Click On!

Friday, April 26

12:30-1:30 pm | OSH/Community Room

Learn how to avoid computer scams with special guest instructor Michael Wilson, who will share tips and advice on what is safe and what is unsafe to click on. Wilson will guide this session on topics like scams, suspicious popups and advertisements, best practices for email safety, and more. Wilson has more than 19 years of experience teaching computer literacy to older adults. Bring your laptop/tablet for practice and a notebook and writing utensil. **Registration required.**

Page Turners Book Club

Mondays, April 8, May 13

6:30-7:30 pm | OSH/Community Room

Engage in a thought-provoking conversation, hear perspectives, and chat with neighbors. Hybrid meetings are in person at Oshtemo and online. Book club picks are available at the Oshtemo Branch. **Registration required for online attendance.**

April: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

May: *Happiness Falls* by Angie Kim

Kalamazoo Lyceum: Hope for Our Community

Saturday, April 27

2-4 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Hear from local leaders about the ways we can find hope and change within our Kalamazoo community. Join us for an in-depth conversation with community members. Refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP: tinyurl.com/4mncu85a

Changing the Narrative with Aubrey Bergauer

Monday, April 29

11 am-12 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

KPL is pleased to partner with the Irving S. Gilmore International Piano Competition in presenting guest speaker Aubrey Bergauer, whose book, *Run It Like a Business: Strategies for Arts Organizations to Increase Audiences, Remain Relevant, and Multiply Money—Without Losing the Art*, was released in Feb. 2024.

For the People Poetry Workshop

Tuesday, April 30

6:30-7:30 pm | Northside Association for
Community Development: 612 N. Park Street

April is National Poetry Month! We welcome those new to poetry and seasoned poets looking for a space to write and share. Write your self-love poem, affirmation or liberation song. Join us for this workshop with internationally award-winning poet, Tasleem Jamila. Participants can share poetry and listen to others. The workshop aims to help writers of all skill levels.

Tea Talk

May 6 | 2-3 pm | EAS/Community Room

May 13 | 11 am-12 pm | Ecumenical Senior
Center with Eastwood Branch staff and the
Mobile Library

Tony Ethridge will share his story and his love for tea. He will share information about the health benefits and the results from numerous studies that show how teas may boost your immune system and lower bad cholesterol.

Mark Nepo: Drinking from the River of Light

Monday, May 6

2-3 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

KPL is pleased to partner with the Irving S. Gilmore International Piano Competition in presenting local poet, philosopher, author, and educator, Mark Nepo. He will explore the lifelong process of listening, reflecting, and expressing how bearing witness to the truth of living reveals the mysteries of life while introducing each of us to our own voice.

Creative Writing with Ghassan Zeineddine

Saturday, May 11

10:30 am-12:00 pm | OSH/Community Room

Join visiting author, Ghassan Zeineddine, professor of Creative Writing at Oberlin College and author of the debut short story collection, *Dearborn*, for a writers' workshop. Light refreshments provided. **Registration required.**

Stories and Songs of Dearborn

Saturday, May 11

2-3 pm | OSH/Community Room

Join us for an engaging afternoon of music with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's Bahar Ensemble, paired with stories shared by Ghassan Zeineddine, author of *Dearborn*, a 2023 collection of stories set in Dearborn, MI. Light refreshments provided.

Researching Your African American- Native American Heritage: Beginner

Saturday, May 18

10:30 am-12:30 pm | EAS/Comm. Room

Are you ready to discover and explore your family legends? Learn how to begin your research journey by understanding the history, migration, affiliations, and documentation of Indigenous and tribal peoples in North America. **Registration required.**

Encounter Tai Chi

Saturday, May 25

2-3 pm | OSH/Community Room

Join us for an introduction to Tai Chi, presented by Asian Initiatives of Western Michigan University. Learn some basic moves and try them yourself at home! No prior experience necessary.

Creative *Writing* with Ghassan Zeineddine

Saturday, May 11
10:30 am-12:00 pm | OSH/Community Room

Ghassan Zeineddine was born in Washington, DC, and raised in the Middle East. Spanning several decades, Zeineddine's debut collection *Dearborn* examines the diverse range and complexities of the Arab American community in Dearborn, Michigan. In ten tragicomic stories, Zeineddine explores themes of identity, generational conflicts, home and belonging, and more. Zeineddine is an assistant professor of creative writing at Oberlin College, and co-editor of the creative nonfiction anthology *Hadha Baladuna: Arab American Narratives of Boundary and Belonging*. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Ohio.

Songs and Stories of *Dearborn*

Saturday, May 11
2-3 pm | OSH/Community Room



The Bahar Ensemble originated in 2017 when Kurdish-Iraqi violinist Ahmed Tofiq came to the US to pursue a master's degree in violin performance at Western Michigan University. The current Bahar members have been working together for four years. The ensemble, featuring violin, cello, oud, and two percussionists, performs a growing repertoire that spans centuries and originates from Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish, Persian, North African, Andalusian and related traditions. Members include Ahmed Tofiq, violin, Liz Youker, cello, Beau Bothwell, oud and bass, and percussionists Dede Alder and Carolyn Koebel.



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June 8

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