



A FREE quarterly publication for KPL patrons and community members.

December, January, February 2023-24

Library and *Lounge*

With the KPL Digital Catalog services!



Reading Together 2024

Meet the Author: R.F. Kuang, pg.4

Kalamazoo History Makers:

Celebrating Black History Month, pg.5

Don't miss your chance to meet author Aiden Thomas!

Stay up to date with our events, pgs. 4-19



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Branch 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)

Mon. - Thurs.:	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:	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)

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)

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

Loaves & Fishes



On September 21, KPL received the **2023 Marcia Jackson Hunger Advocacy Award** for distributing emergency food kits at all KPL locations. Other KPL efforts were also recognized including:

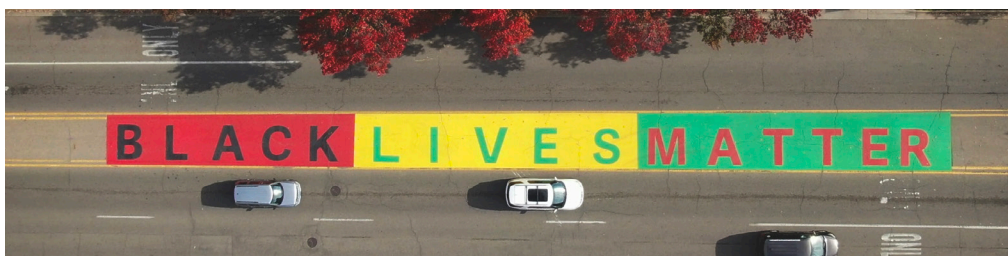
- Book distribution in food boxes at the height of the pandemic
- Volunteering to fill food boxes during the pandemic
- Collecting over 19,000 pounds of food

KPL Receives Literacy Award

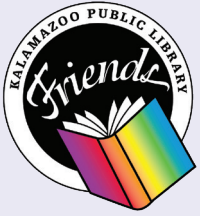


KPL trustee Kori Jock received the **Literacy Champion award on behalf of KPL from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Chapter** on October 14. KPL was recognized for "fostering a love of reading and meeting the needs of the community for more than 150 years."

Black Lives Matter Street Mural Makeover



The Black Lives Matter street mural located on the intersection of Rose Street between South and Lovell received a fresh new look on Saturday, November 4 after three years of driver wear and tear dulled its shine. Originally painted on June 19, 2020, the BLM street mural project was spearheaded by KPL Library Assistant Jermaine Jackson in celebration of Juneteenth and to honor the memory of George Floyd. In 2023, the City of Kalamazoo reached out to Jackson and offered grant money to fund the restoration project. **Special thanks to artists Jamari Taylor and Gerald King, co-sponsors NAACP, The Douglass Community Association, and project host, Kalamazoo Public Library.** *Photo credit: Brian Bankston*



FRIENDS Bookstore

Behind the scenes at the Friends Bookstore

This summer the Friends Bookstore has received an abundance of book donations from the Kalamazoo community. Do you ever wonder what happens to those donations? If so, here's a peek behind the scenes.

Browsing through the store, you'll find a well-ordered space with books, CDs, and DVDs shelved in categories. However, when those materials arrive in the garage on donation days, our volunteers begin organizing the chaos. Items are taken from the bins, then placed on carts sorted by fiction, nonfiction, children's, and audiovisual.



Books received during the previous week are moved downstairs, into the store where Monday morning sorters evaluate their condition. "Like New" books are moved into the Gift Books Collection, and more valuable books are considered for listing online. Fiction books are separated further into Mystery and General Fiction, then stored into the backroom, ready to be shelved, when space becomes available. Non-fiction is separated into various categories, organized in the backroom, then ready for the storefront.

On Tuesdays, volunteers Janice and Linda create spotlight carts and patio specials, then price and restock our shelves. Our hardworking and dedicated volunteers are essential in how the Friends Bookstore operations run smoothly every week. They take on these tasks behind the scenes to ensure the bookstore will be ready for customers when the store opens on Wednesdays at noon.

Volunteers

Join Janice, Linda, and the other folks who enjoy books and help support the library by becoming a Friends volunteer. Opportunities exist for those with varying interests, skills, and schedules. To apply, please email: Friendsbookstore@kpl.gov.

Members

Friends help 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.



News & Services

2024 Reading Together

Save the Date!
Meet the Author R.F. Kuang
Saturday, March 23, 2024
3 pm | Chenery Auditorium

Yellowface takes on questions of diversity, racism, and cultural appropriation not only in the publishing industry but the persistent erasure of Asian-American voices and history by Western white society. R. F. Kuang's novel is timely, razor-sharp, and eminently readable.

About the Author

Rebecca F. Kuang is the award-winning, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Poppy War* trilogy, *Babel: An Arcane History*, and *Yellowface*. She has an MPhil in Chinese Studies from Cambridge and an MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies from Oxford; she is now pursuing a PhD. in East Asian Languages and Literatures from Yale.



YELLOWFACE

R. F. KUANG

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

To learn more about
the author, scan to
view their website:



Access Our Streaming Services at Home or Any KPL Location!

It's cold. It's dark. It's dreary. It's time to library & lounge. Huh? You read that right, instead of investing your hard-earned money on various online streaming subscriptions that you will inevitably forget you signed up for until the next bill comes, put your KPL card to use!

Access feature films, television series, documentaries, and instructional videos on your preferred device. Stream up to 10 titles per month from Kanopy, and 15 titles per month from Hoopla! Or, if you just feel like listening to an audiobook or music, we have got you covered! KPL offers eAudiobooks through Libby by overDrive and Hoopla, as well as streaming music from Hoopla's extensive catalog of albums. You can also browse Freegal's large selection of "free & legal" streaming music. Let the KPL streaming services warm you up, start to library & lounge today!

kpl.gov/digital-catalog



Honoring the Foundation of Kalamazoo During Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and KPL is honoring some of the formative Black men and women who have impacted the founding and growth of Kalamazoo. Visit our website during the month of February for stories about prominent Black figures in Kalamazoo, browse our special collections, and check out our dedicated Black History Month programming.



Learn more at kpl.gov/BHM.

Enoch and Deborah Harris: Kalamazoo County Black Pioneers

Among the earliest pioneers in Oshtemo Township were Enoch Harris and his family, the first Black settlers in Kalamazoo County. They arrived in Michigan from Marion County, Ohio, in approximately 1830, bringing with them seed from which they are said to have planted the first apple orchard in Kalamazoo County. Harris was sufficiently respected by his neighbors that he was often asked to mediate property disputes. The Harris family also owns the distinction of celebrating the first wedding in Oshtemo Township, when daughter Louisa Harris married Henry Powers in 1836.

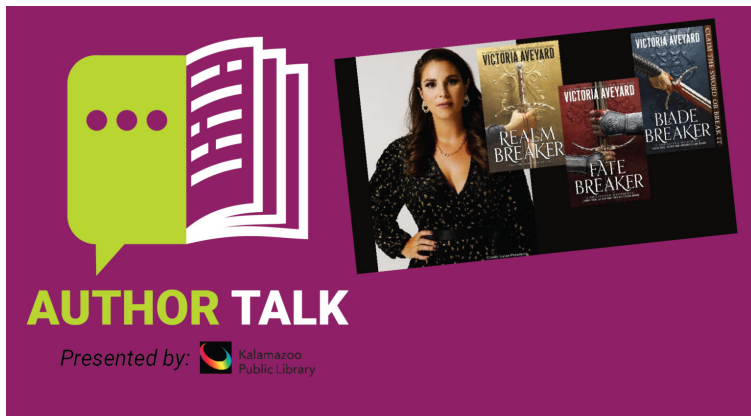
Enoch Harris was born in Virginia in 1785 and raised in Pennsylvania, where he married his wife Deborah, in 1812. She was born in 1793. They had settled more than once on the Ohio frontier before coming to Michigan.

Enoch Harris died on March 21, 1870, at the age of 85. Deborah died on May 2, 1881. Both are buried in Genesee Prairie Cemetery, located at the corner of Parkview Avenue and 11th Street, where a historical marker was dedicated in their honor in 1973. They left many descendants, some of whom still live in Kalamazoo County.



More great stories about the history of Kalamazoo can be found online. Visit kpl.gov/local-history today.

Author Talk



Victoria Aveyard

**Tuesday
December 5
2 pm EST**



Stephanie Land

**Tuesday
December 12
2 pm EST**



Rebecca Serle

**Wednesday
January 10
8 pm EST**

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.



Rajiv Nagaich

**Tuesday
January 23
2 pm EST**



Robert Lustig

**Tuesday
January 30
2 pm EST**



**Kalamazoo
Public Library**

Events for CHILDREN



Arm Knitting

Arm Knitting

Monday, December 4

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

Use your arms as knitting needles and create your very own chunky knit scarf or cowl. Yarn will be provided, please indicate a yarn color preference when you register. **Registration required. Ages 8 and up.**

Dragon Party

Dec. 4 | 4:30-6:00 pm | OSH/Comm Room

Jan. 23 | 4:00-5:30 pm | CEN/Children's Room

Calling all dragon fans! Can't get enough of *Wings of Fire*, *Dragon Masters*, or dragons in general? Celebrate the favorite fantastical creatures with crafts, games, and activities. Anyone who loves dragons is welcome to join the fun! **Best for ages 5 and up.**

Tween Graphic Novel Club

Wednesdays, December 6, January 3, February 7

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.

December: *The Cardboard Kingdom* by Chad Sell

January: *Speak Up!* by Rebecca Burgess

February: *March: Vol. 1* by John Lewis

Ready Readers: Creature Club



Ready Readers: Creature Club

Tuesdays, December 12, January 16, February 20

4-5 pm | EAS/Children's 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! **Registration required. For kids in grades 1-3.**

Read to Kenny

Tuesdays, December 12, January 16, February 20

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!



Creation Lab

Thursdays, December 14, January 18, January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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.**



Hot Wheels Racing

Wednesdays, December 27, January 17, February 28

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!

Mini Waffle Making

Wednesday, December 27

1-2 pm | OSH/Community Room

Come make a tiny waffle with us! All ingredients provided. **Registration required. Ages 8 and up.**

Graham Cracker Candy Houses

Wednesday, January 3

1-7 pm | WSQ

Drop in and create a masterpiece with graham crackers, frosting, and candy.

Mindful Minis with Miss Liv

Wednesday, January 3

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

Are you ready to start 2024? Nervous about heading back to school after winter break? Join us for a fun morning of mindfulness activities and relaxing yoga with local kids' yoga instructor Miss Liv! **Registration required. Best for ages 6 to 11.**

Kids Crafternoon

Thursdays, January 18, February 15

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

Come enjoy crafting with us! We'll do different crafts at each event. Let your creativity flow!



Tinker Time

Tinker Time

Mondays, January 22, February 19

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

Come explore, discover, and learn the wonders of science and engineering. **Registration required. Best for ages 6 and up.**

January 22: Balloon-powered cars

February 19: Bristlebots

Forts, Cocoa, and Cartoons

Saturday, February 3

11:00-12:30 pm | OSH/Community Room

Come in from the cold and build forts, drink hot cocoa, and watch cartoons!

Valentine Workshop

Valentine Workshop

Monday, February 5

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

Make valentines for your family, friends, and classmates! **Registration required.**

Candy Making

Monday, February 12

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

February is the sweetest month! Let's make it sweeter by making our own candy using candy melts and shaped trays. **Ages 8 and up. Registration required.**

Black History Month with Arty the Art Detective

Feb. 13 | 4 pm | OSH

Feb. 17 | 11 am | EAS

Feb. 20 | 4 pm | POW

Feb. 21 | 4 pm | CEN

Feb. 27 | 4 pm | WSQ

Read, make, and look! Arty Mouse and the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts are coming to each location for Black History Month. Each branch will read a different book about an African American artist, examine their work, and then create artwork to take home!

Princess in Black Party

Tuesday, February 20

4:00-5:30 pm | CEN/Children's Room

Celebrate both poofy pink princesses and secret super-hero identities as we do crafts and activities inspired by *The Princess in Black* books by Shannon Hale.

Hydro-dipped Mugs

Monday, January 29

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

Create a fun swirly mug by hydro-dipping! All materials provided. This activity is messy, so please dress accordingly.

Registration required. Ages 8 and up.

KPL Curbside Reminder



Don't forget that all KPL locations offer curbside service! If you don't want to venture out into the cold, just put your materials on hold and pick them up at your preferred KPL location!

Visit kpl.gov/curbside for more information.



Events for FAMILIES & ALL AGES

Family Events

Storytimes:

Family Storytimes

Join us for stories, songs and fun activities!

***No Storytime on December 7.**

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

Baby Time!

Fridays, December through February
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.

***No Baby Time on Dec. 22, Dec. 29, Jan. 5, Jan. 12.**



First Saturday at Alma Powell

Saturdays, December 2, February 3
11:30 am-1:00 pm | Barnabee Gallery

Join us for the first Saturday of each month and enjoy fun for children and families in collaboration with KCReady4s. Visit with community organizations and enjoy crafts and activities along with special storytime guests.

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.

- **OSH/Community Room:** Come for open playtimes, resources, musical story times, and more. Wellspring Dancy Academy will join us the third Tuesday of each month for dancing, movement, and fun exercises.
Dec. 5 to Feb. 20 | 10:30-11:30 am
- **WSQ/Community Room:** This playgroup meets weekly. Caregivers have the opportunity to ask questions or chat with a registered nurse during play time.
Dec. 14 to Feb. 29 | 10:30 am-12:00 pm



Gift-Making Workshop

Wednesday, December 6
5-7 pm | CEN/Children's Room

Don't have the perfect gift for that special person in your life? Come use your creativity to make something for them! We will have several stations to make a holiday present for those you love. **Best for ages 5 and up, younger children permitted to join with help.**



Life-Size Candyland

Saturday, December 16
10:00 am-4:00 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

The classic game is back—and this time it's super-sized! Join us to play a life-sized version of the game with your family or group. Up to three groups can play at a time. Crafts available for those waiting to participate.
Best for ages 4 and up.

Fairy Tale Escape Room

Wednesday, January 3 to Saturday, January 6
Open hours | CEN/Children's Room

Can you find the clues, solve puzzles, and escape the room? This special fairy tale-themed escape room is for kids and families to experience and solve together!

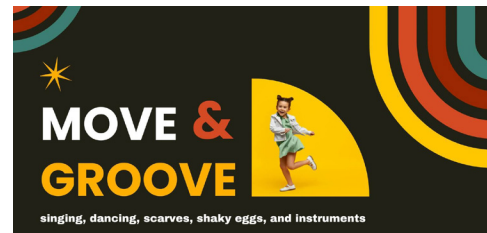
Best for ages 6 and up. Registration required.
Please call (269) 553-7804 to register your group (up to 8) for a time slot.



Library Mini Golf

Saturday, January 13
10:00 am-4:00 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Play a round of book-themed golf in the library! Bring a friend, play as a family, or take on the challenge yourself!



Move and Groove

Tuesdays December through February
10:00 am-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 Dec. 19, Dec. 26, Jan. 2, Jan. 9.**

All Ages:



Quiet Time with Sue

Tuesdays, Dec. 5 and 19, Jan. 2, 9, and 23, Feb. 6 and 20

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 pet toys for donation to pet shelters. **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!

Crazy, Unusual, Weird, Bizarre, and Funny Highway Signs

Tuesday, December 5

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

Dr. John Giesler has been collecting strange highway signs since he was 14 years old! He has an abiding interest in roads and highways—collecting over 100 signs—and will present his findings as part of an interesting and enjoyable program.

Coffee and Connections

Mondays, December 18, January 29

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.



Envisioning 2024 (With Yoga!)

Saturday, December 30

1:00-2:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Plan your best 2024 with Joy Morris, from Move with Joy studios. Create a vision board, participate in mindful meditation and gentle yoga practice. **All refreshments and craft supplies provided.**

Limited yoga mats available.

Write to Your Future Self

January 1-31

All locations | Open hours

Write a letter to your future self. Write about your day, or what you hope to do in the future, or anything else you want your future self to know. Address the envelope and leave it with staff to mail out later in the year.

Critchlow Alligators

Jan. 4 | 2-3 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Jan. 5 | 1-2 pm | 2:30-3:30 pm | OSH/Comm. Room

Join us for reptile fun! Meet crocodilians, lizards, and amphibians from Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary. All animals are secured for public contact and handling.

Registration required.

Yoga for All Ages

Wednesday, January 24

3:30 pm-4:30 pm | EAS/Community Room

Life is 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.

African Americans and the Arts Collage

Thursdays, February 1-29

1-6 pm | EAS/Community Room

In honor of African Americans and the Arts, we will create a collage for all ages to add to throughout the entire month!

Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration

Tuesday, February 2

6-7:30 pm | OSH/Community Room

Join us to welcome the Year of the Dragon with the WMU Haenicke Institute's Chinese Language and Culture Programming.



Fontana Chamber Arts and KPL Present: Live Music at the DCA!

Tuesday, February 6

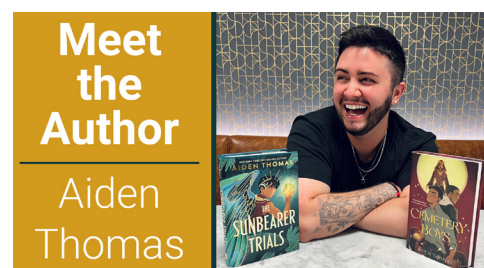
6:30-7:30 pm | Douglass Community Center

Enjoy amazing musical performances by WMU School of Music students presented by the Kalamazoo Public Library and Fontana Chamber Arts.

Kalamazoo History-Makers: Celebrating Black History Month

Join us for this three-part series showcasing community members, Peace During War LLC, Kenji, Ny'Shawn Scott, and more. Each guest will discuss topics like community violence reduction, local youth and art, and educational membership for the Black community in Kalamazoo.

- **Feb. 17 | 1-3 pm | Black Arts and Cultural Center/Gallery**
- **Feb. 21 | 5:30-7 pm | Douglass Community Association/Community Room**
- **Feb. 26 | 5:30-7 pm | CEN/ Van Deusen**



Meet the Author: Aiden Thomas

Monday, February 19

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

Young Adult fantasy novelist Aiden Thomas, NYT bestselling author of *Cemetery Boys*, *Lost in the Never Wood*, *The Sunbearer Trials*, focuses on the intersection of Latinx and LGBTQ+ identities. Join us for refreshments and hear from him on his journey and accomplishments along the way.

Events and More for TEENS



Reindeer Hot Chocolate Bags

4-5pm

Dec. 5 | EAS/Community Room

Dec. 8 | CEN/Teen Studio

Dec. 12 | WSQ

Dec. 14 | POW/Barnabee Room

Love hot chocolate? Come make reindeer-inspired hot chocolate bags to take home.

While supplies last.

Anime in the Afternoon

Wednesdays, December 6 and 13, January 10 to February 7, February 21 and 28

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. Winter break is between December 20 to January 10.

Banned Book Club **NEW!**

Wednesdays, Dec. 6, Jan. 10, Feb. 7

5:30-7:30 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

A new club for middle and high school teens to promote literacy and freedom of expression through the celebration of Banned Books. We invite you to attend a monthly book club with a parent or caregiver to discuss the importance of making and keeping space to express oneself, enjoy snacks and participate in fun activities.

December 6:

Middle school: *Melissa* by Alex Gino

High school: *Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell

January 10:

Middle school: *New Kid* by Jerry Craft

High school: *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

February 7:

Middle school: *The Moon Within* by Aida Salazar

High school: *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei

Free copies available while supplies last. Max 2 per family.

Blacklight Paint and Sip

Saturday, December 9

1-3 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Back by popular demand! Come get creative with our paint and sip party, in the dark!

While supplies last.

Turning It Around with Ny'Shawn Scott

Wednesday, December 13

5:30-7:30 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Ny'Shawn Scott isn't just a Kalamazoo Central High School senior; he's a top student who turned his future around and got back on track. He was recently featured on WOODTV-8 about the new African American Males Program, started by Principle Valeria Boggan, to help teens graduate after the COVID-19 pandemic. Come meet Ny'Shawn and hear his inspiring story. Refreshments provided. Best for teens in grades 6th through 12th, caregivers welcome to join.

Cozy Coffee Club

CEN/Teen Studio

Dec. 29 | 2-4 pm

Jan. 15 | 2-5 pm

Feb. 12 | 2-5 pm

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. Best for grades 6th through 12th.

Accordion Books with KBAC

Tuesday, January 2

1-2:30 pm | OSH/Community Room

Come learn how to make a folded accordion book with our friends from the Kalamazoo Book Arts Center. Materials provided. Registration required.

Meet the Author: Christine Webb

Saturday January 6

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

Local author Christine Webb's young adult novel *The Art of Insanity* has received rave reviews for its humor and insightful portrayal of a high school senior navigating love, art, and a recent bipolar disorder diagnosis. Join us for refreshments, author talk, book discussion and writing workshop led by Webb. Materials provided. Pick up book copies at Oshtemo Branch during the month of December. Teens and adults welcome.

No-Sew Handwarmers

4-5 pm

Jan. 8 | EAS

Jan. 12 | WSQ

Jan. 19 | CEN/Teen Studio

Jan. 29 | POW/Community Room

Create your own toasty, cozy hand warmers. While supplies last.

Bullet Journal Blast

4-5 pm

Jan. 11 | CEN/Teen Studio

Jan. 18 | WSQ

Jan. 22 | POW/Community Room

Jan. 25 | EAS/Community Room

Ring in the new 2024 year with a journal. Come learn the secrets of "bujo."

While supplies last.

Just Dance Party

Thursdays, Feb. 1, Feb. 15, Feb. 29

4-5 pm | CEN/Teen Room

Let's get moving with the game Just Dance! Bring your best dance moves and get ready to groove.

Celebrating Black Art

4-5 pm

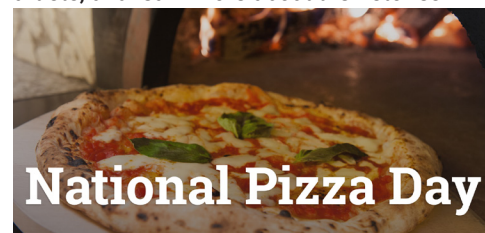
Feb. 8 | CEN/Teen Studio

Feb. 19 | EAS/Community Room

Feb. 22 | WSQ

Feb. 26 | POW/Community Room

Come create a painting inspired by Black artists, and learn more about their stories.



It's National Pizza Day

Friday, February 9

4-5 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Celebrate your favorite food! Pizza and drinks provided. While refreshments last.

Valentine's Day vs. Anti-Valentine's Day Party

Wednesday, February 14

3-5 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Celebrate Valentine's Day or don't! We have snacks and crafts for both occasions.

While supplies last.

Gotta Catch 'Em All

Tuesday, February 27

4-5 pm | CEN/Teen Studio

Did you know that on 2/27/96 the first Pokemon games were released? We're celebrating National Pokemon Day with your own DIY terrariums. While supplies last.

Self-care Spa

Wednesday, February 28

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

Take some time to relax and pamper yourself with self-care activities, relaxing music, and snacks.



2023 *Year in Review*

KPL's Mobile Library had a fun-filled 2023, meeting over 5,000 library patrons in our community.

With monthly stops to:

- Ecumenical Senior Center
- Heather Gardens & New Village Park
- Lodge House
- Maple Grove
- Park Street Market
- Texas Township Hall

Partnerships with:

- Kalamazoo Literacy Council
- Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS)
- KRESA Head Start
- Kzoo Parks

By attending celebrations and festivals:

- Black Arts Festival Youth Day
- Family Health Center - Back to School Bash
- Gryphon Place Suicide Prevention Walk
- Juneteenth
- Kalamazoo Farmers Market
- Latinx Festival
- Lunchtime Live! in Bronson Park
- Pride Festival
- Project Connect
- Wellness and Recovery Festival

A highlight of the year was the continued partnership with the Kalamazoo Literacy Council for Family Literacy Days, held in their Read and Seed Garden monthly from May through November.

Family Literacy Day is free, open to the community, and featuring art, literacy activities, snacks, and a free book! We are happy to provide books to help families build their home libraries!

Research shows having books in the home benefits children's educational achievement and attainment.



Over
5,000
patrons served!



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



Events and More for ADULTS

Creativebug Crafts: Make a Winter Wreath

Dec. 2 | 2-3 pm | OSH/Community Room

Dec. 5 | 4-5 pm | WSQ

Dec. 11 | 5:30-6:30 pm | EAS/Comm. Room

Celebrate the beauty of winter by making a festive wreath out of evergreen branches and other natural materials! We will walk through the building process using various types of foliage—creating a wild, organic look—that's individual to each artist. **Registration required.**

Telling a Community's Story: 50 Years of *Encore Magazine*

Tuesday, December 5

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

Owner and editor Marie Lee will discuss the 50-year history of Southwest Michigan's *Encore* magazine, the importance of documenting a community's story, and the magazine's future in the digital age.



Music and Memories

Mondays, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12

10:45 am-12:00 pm | OSH/Community Room

Join board-certified music therapist Caitlyn Bodine of Fiddlehead Music Therapy for this special hour of engagement through music. Sing, move, and reflect on your musical memories. Music selections will be guided by the interests of the group, requests are encouraged. Caitlyn's expertise can help address social and emotional wellness of older adults, particularly in dementia or memory loss. **Coffee and light refreshments available at 10:45 am. Music begins at 11 am.**

Bujo & Chill

Saturdays, Dec. 16, Jan. 27, Feb. 24

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

Join us for a morning of chill music and bullet journaling. Bring your bujo and relax.

Materials (starter journals provided for new participants) and inspiration provided.

Page Turners Book Club

Mondays, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12

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

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

December: *The Twilight World* by Werner Herzog

January: *Loot* by Tania James

February: *If I Survive You* by Jonathan Escoffery

Classics Revisited

Thursdays, Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 15.

2:30-4:00 pm | CEN/Board Room **HYBRID**

Join local book lovers for a lively discussion about your favorite classic literature.

Registration required for Zoom.

December: *The Complete Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi

January: *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton

February: *Beowulf*, translated by Seamus Heaney



Rose Street Poetry Club

Saturdays, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 9

10-11 am | CEN/Board Room

This club meets monthly to share and encourage reading and writing poetry along with learning new poetry forms. Geared towards adults who seek to promote literacy, inclusion, and friendship in a relaxed setting.



Dungeons and Dragons Game Night

Thursdays, Dec. 14, Feb. 15

5:30-7:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen

Wednesday, Jan. 24

5:30-7:30 pm | WSQ

Let's play! This is your opportunity to come together and have a blast. Beginners and experienced tables are available—all experience levels are welcome. Players can bring their own Level 5 character (no additional magic items) or use a pre-made character provided by Dungeon Master Amy. All other necessary equipment (character minis, dice, and dice trays) will be available to borrow, but players can bring their own. **For adults 18+.** **Registration required.**

Senior Citizen Breakfast

Fridays, Dec. 29, Jan. 26, Feb. 23

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

Join us for a tasty breakfast and a hot cup of coffee or share information and plan events.

Creativebug Crafts: Create Your Own Signature Scent

Jan. 8 | 5:30-6:30 pm | EAS/Comm. Room

Jan. 16 | 4-5 pm | WSQ

Jan. 20 | 2-3 pm | OSH/Comm. Room

Scent has the power to inspire emotions and evoke memories—what do your favorite scents say about you? Come learn how perfumes and colognes are constructed and go home with your own customized fragrance!

Registration required.

Events and More for ADULTS

Reading Race

2024 Book Group

Reading Race Book Group

Tuesday, January 9

6:30–7:45 pm | OSH/Community Room

Co-sponsored by the Society for History and Racial Equity (SHARE) and the Antiracism Transformation Team at KPL, the club focuses on race and racism in American society. Join us for a discussion on *The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America*, by Carol Anderson.

Kalamazoo Lyceum: Finding Hope in Our Community

Saturday, January 20

2–4 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Hope for Ourselves

Do you get frustrated and aspire to change for the better? Take this opportunity to hear from peers in your community with unique insight into the question, "Why?" and listen to their experiences in how they made radical changes in their own lives and the subject of what it takes and what it means to be human.

NEW Kalamazoo Public Library is pleased to announce it will be the new home for Kalamazoo Lyceum events. Started in January 2023 with its national partner, The Lyceum Movement, the mission of Kalamazoo Lyceum is to help build meaningful communities by providing a space for neighbors to learn together in friendship. The core of Lyceum event offerings is a blend of lecture, panel, presentation, and conversation.

The above event is the first of four planned for 2024, under the overarching theme *Finding Hope in Our Community*.

Confections with Convictions

Monday, January 22

6–7 pm | OSH/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, the origins and process of their handmade, artisanal products.

***Space limited. This event may have products exposed to tree nut allergies. Registration required.**

Creativebug Crafts: Water Marbling

Feb. 5 | 5:30–6:30 pm | EAS/Comm. Room

Feb. 13 | 4–5 pm | WSQ

Feb. 24 | 2–3 pm | OSH/Comm. Room

Play around with this ancient mono-printing process which involves floating pigment on the surface of thickened water transferred to paper. Find unexpected beauty in experimentation—no artistic skills required. **Registration required.**

Merze Tate: Her Life, Her Legacy

Monday, February 12

6–7 pm | EAS/Community Room

Sonya Bernard Hollins will share some of the Merze Tate story and talk about her new children's book.

Partnered Yoga

Wednesday, February 14 | 7:30–8:30 pm

1103 Portage St. Kalamazoo, 49001

Better with a friend! Learn gentle breathing and stretching techniques. **For all experience levels. Ages 13+.**

Kalamazoo Puzzle Swap

Saturday, February 17

10:30–12 pm | OSH/Community Room

Stop by and swap puzzles! If you're a puzzle enthusiast, join us for snacks, swapping, a raffle and more! **Please swap gently used puzzles with all pieces accounted for. Bring as many puzzles as you wish!**



Silent Disco Party honoring:

Michael Jackson

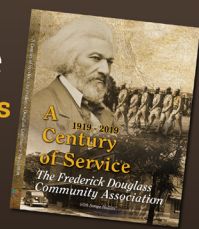
Monday, February 19

6:00–7:30 pm | EAS/Community Room

Celebrate the 2024 theme from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, "African American and the Arts," with a silent disco party in honor of Michael Jackson.

Refreshments will be provided.

History of the Frederick Douglass Community Association



History of the Frederick Douglass Community Association

Tuesday, February 27

6:00–7:15 pm | CEN/Van Deusen Room

Author, publisher, and freelance journalist Sonya Bernard-Hollins and husband Sean will discuss the history and importance of one of the oldest local nonprofits—founded shortly after WWI—based on her 2020 book, *A Century of Service: The Frederick Douglass Community Association*. Sean will also discuss the importance of photo restoration and preservation.

Chinese Painting Workshop

Saturday, March 2

10:30–12:00 pm | OSH/Community Room

Learn the fundamentals of Chinese ink painting in this workshop with a visiting artist brought to you by WMU Haenicke Institute's Chinese Language and Culture Programming.

Director Search

The KPL Board of Trustees has contracted with executive leadership search firm Ray & Associates, Inc. to lead the new executive director search. Focus groups with KPL staff, community members, and library partners took place in November and the information collected will be used to inform the selection process.

Important upcoming dates for the search include:

- December 1, 2023 - January 1, 2024: Job will be posted nationally
- January 23-24, 2024: First round of interviews (virtual)
- February 6-7, 2024: Second round of interviews (in-person)

Additional photos of Black Lives Matter Street Mural Makeover



Photo credit: Brian Bankston

KPL LOCATIONS:



Central Library (CEN)
315 S. Rose St.



Eastwood Branch Library (EAS)
1112 Gayle Ave.



Oshtemo Branch Library (OSH)
7265 W. Main St.



Alma Powell Branch Library (POW)
1000 W. Paterson St.



Washington Square Branch Library (WSQ)
1244 Portage St.

**For more information,
please call our main number,
(269) 553-7800**

2023-24 LIBRARY BOARD

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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.



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