



# PRISM

A FREE quarterly publication for KPL patrons and community members.

December 2022, January & February 2023



**COME CELEBRATE EASTWOOD'S  
113TH ANNIVERSARY WITH US!**

Friday, February 3 | 5-7 pm | Eastwood  
See page 7 for more details...



**Save the date & start looking for  
your teammates.**

See page 8 for more details...

## Adult Reading Challenge



**READ A BOOK OF YOUR CHOICE FOR 3  
OF THE 10 PROMPTS TO EARN A PRIZE!**

Join us for the first season of the Adult Reading Challenge! Read a book of your choice for 3 of the 10 prompts to earn a prize. Bookmarks are available at all locations and include the reading prompts & a place to write down books you've read to claim the prize...

**Details on page 10...**

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## KPL Current 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

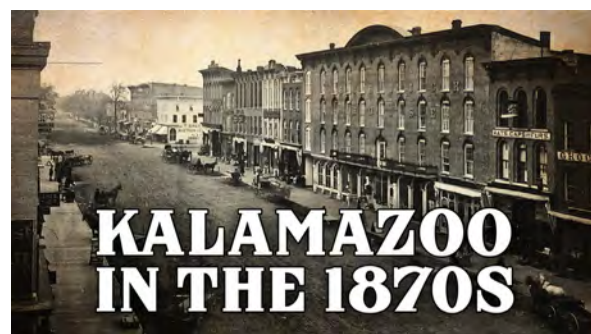
Library Hours are subject to change.

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

## KPL celebrates 150 Years of Service to Kalamazoo



KPL is keeping the celebration going! Be sure to visit our website [kpl.gov/150](http://kpl.gov/150) for updates on new programs as they are added. While you are there, visit our online timeline and learn about how KPL's commitment to access and innovation made a difference in Kalamazoo. ▲



Take a look back at the decade of the 1870s in the Village of Kalamazoo where a lot occurred including the school library becoming the Kalamazoo Public Library. Details on page 9.



The Eastwood Branch will celebrate the 113th birthday of the Eastside/Eastwood Branch of the library. There will be music, refreshments, crafts, and fun for the kids. More details on page 7. ▲

Thursday,  
December 1 | 6:30 pm |  
Central/Van Deusen

Friday,  
February 3 | 5-7 pm |  
Eastwood

# Welcome New KPL Board Members!



Kalamazoo Public Library extends a warm welcome and congratulations to our just-elected board members! Clockwise from top left: Linda S. Mah, Denise Miller, Emily Greenman Wright, and Kori Jock.

Mah, Miller, and Wright will serve a four-year term that will begin in January 2023 and conclude in December 2026. Jock will serve a partial term to end on December 31, 2024. Board elections will occur during the Board of Trustees meeting on December 12, 2022, 6 pm at Central Library. ▲

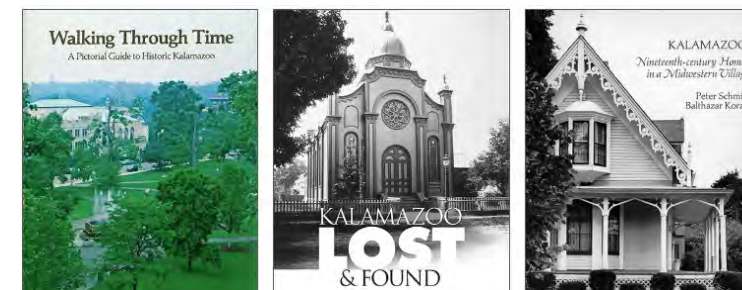
## New Service! Kalamazoo Gazette Historical Archive Collection



Explore *Kalamazoo Gazette* history through local news, events, and people with *Kalamazoo Gazette* Collection. Search current and archived issues with full-color newspaper

pages, full-text articles, and content only published online. This service is perfect for those conducting research on Kalamazoo history! Available remotely 24/7 on any device! Visit [kpl.gov/databases](http://kpl.gov/databases) and scroll down to *Kalamazoo Gazette* Collection. We hope you enjoy this new service.

## Pages From the Past: Open Access Digital Editions



These books, published by the City of Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission (KHPC), represent nearly a half-century of work in the KHPC's endeavor to fulfill one of

the duties it was assigned at its 1965 creation:

"It shall be the duty of the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission to prepare and keep current an inventory of historic resources within the City which, in its judgment, have such value as to warrant preservation and/or redevelopment; to publish such inventory..."

Well-referenced, popular, and successful, the books can be found in libraries, museums, and personal collections in Kalamazoo and beyond. In 2021, the KHPC decided they should be more accessible and were fortunate to find a partner in the Kalamazoo Public Library for these digital versions.

While many people would prefer to see all the buildings represented standing and unaltered, disaster, time, and "other plans" have taken their toll. Some are gone, others are substantially altered, and those outcomes are noted on the Introduction page for each book. KPL is pleased to present these books in digital format to be accessed by everyone in our community. Check them out [kpl.gov/150](http://kpl.gov/150). ▲



# FRIENDS Bookstore News!



**Friends Bookstore is located at Central Library on the Lower Level.**  
**Hours: Wednesday, 12-6 pm, Thursday–Saturday, 10 am–4 pm. Visit [kpl.gov/friends](http://kpl.gov/friends) for more information.**

## Winter News from the Friends!

The Friends of the Kalamazoo Public Library (FKPL) is thriving! This year we have sold more than 10,000 titles in our June and September Bag of Books sales and look forward to our Holiday Gift Book Sale beginning November 25 with hundreds of like-new books for gift-minded shoppers.

**FKPL makes books affordable for all** - prices start at 25 cents and most materials cost \$3.00 or less. Through its Bookstore, Bag of Books and online sales, the Friends organization functions to redistribute terrific books in the community and to keep thousands of titles out of landfills.

Our online bookstore at <https://shop.friendsofkpl.org/> has an inventory of more than 1,000 titles not sold in the Friends Bookstore. Our online purchases can be paid by credit card, or by cash on delivery and can be picked up either by curbside (call 269.553.7950 when you arrive in Central's parking lot) or inside the Friends Bookstore during open hours.

Check out our Weekly Specials at [www.kpl.gov/friends](http://www.kpl.gov/friends). Each week we list our bookstore spotlights and patio sales as well as special features in our online store.

We are accepting donations! Call **269.553.7950**, and a FKPL volunteer will discuss your collection and set up a delivery appointment. We accept materials in very good to excellent condition only.

**Become a member!** Apply online at [kpl.gov/friends](http://kpl.gov/friends) and click on Join Friends on the upper right-hand corner. Payment can be mailed or delivered to the Friends Bookstore. Memberships support reading programs in the Kalamazoo Public Library including The Summer Reading Challenge, Reading Together, KPL staff scholarships, the Great Grown-up Spelling Bee, and Ready to Read. Become a member and receive an invitation to our Gift Book Preview Sale and in-store coupons. ▲

## Events for CHILDREN



### Tween Graphic Novel Club

**Wednesdays, December 7, January 4 & February 14–5 pm | OSH/Community Room**

Come to the library each month to discuss the monthly graphic novel selection. Enjoy snacks, an activity, and a discussion with fellow comic lovers!

Free copies to keep can be picked up at Central Library and Oshtemo Branch Library one month prior to the discussion date. Ebook copies are also available. **No registration necessary. Grades 3–6 only.**

**December:** *Scarlett Hart: Monster Hunter* by Marcus Sedgwick

**January:** *Wonder Woman: Tempest Tossed* by Laurie Halse Anderson

**February:** *Once Upon a Space-Time!* by Jeffrey Brown



### NERF Mobile Games @ the Library

**Thursday, December 29  
2–3 pm | CEN/Van Deusen**

**Tuesday, January 3**

**2–3 pm | EAS/Community Room**

Join in the NERF fun as you run, dodge, dive, and take down the competition! From "Capture the Flag" to "Eliminator" to "Zombie vs Humans," players will put their physical and mental skills to the test. NERF blasters and darts are provided, but you can also bring your own equipment. Are you NERF enough?!



### Graham Cracker Candy Houses

**Tuesday, December 20  
5–7 pm | POW**

**Wednesday, January 4**

**1–7 pm | WSQ**

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



### Mad Scientist Slime Party

**Monday, January 23**

**4–5 pm | OSH/Community Room**

Ever wondered how many different types of slime you could make? Come experiment with multiple different types of slime and take home a jar with your favorite creation when you're done. Ideal for grades 2-6. **Please register. R**



### Bookworms

**Tuesdays, December 13, January 10, & February 14  
4–4:30 pm | OSH/Community Room**

Bookworms is a book club for readers in grades 3–5. Pick up a free-to-keep copy of the book at the Oshtemo Branch or Central Library (or check out an e-copy), read it, and then join us on the date listed for discussion. **Books are available one month before the discussion date.**

**December:** *A Thousand Questions* by Saadia Faruqi

**January:** *Bloom* by Nicola Skinner

**February:** *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli



### Grade School Masterminds

**Fridays, December 30, January 27, February 24  
4–5:30 pm | CEN/Children's Room**

Join us for a STEM club where each month we'll perform fun experiments and learn about new topics. **Registration is not required; recommended for children 1st-5th grade.**

## KPL Events

New events are added all the time or happen on an ongoing basis, so be sure to check [kpl.gov/events](http://kpl.gov/events) for up-to-the-minute event listings.



# Events for CHILDREN & FAMILIES

## Family



### 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 to the library for this drop-in event to connect and play with other caregivers and children in the community. **Educational toys will be available. Each month will have a topic and an early literacy take-home kit.**

#### Tuesdays

10:30 am–12 pm | OSH

Come to the OSH Community Room for open playtime and activities. Check KPL's website and social media accounts for notifications about special guest appearances.

#### Thursdays

10:30 am–12 pm | WSQ

On a weekly basis, WSQ's playgroup will feature a partnership with Bronson's Baby Talk and Toddler Talk groups. Caregivers will have the opportunity to speak with a registered nurse about any childcare questions and concerns while their children play and interact with other children.



### Bedtime Stories

#### Mondays

6:30–7:30 pm | EAS/Play to Learn Center

Let's end the day with sing-song lullabies and bedtime stories for little ones. **An evening storytime for families with children ages 0-5.**



### Family Storytime

Thursdays, December 1 through February 23  
10:30 am | OSH/Community Room

Fridays, December 2 through February 24  
10:30 am | CEN/Children's Room

Join us for stories, songs, and fun activities. Check social media and the website for any notifications about guest appearances.



### First Saturday at the Alma Powell Branch Library

Saturdays, December 3, February 4  
11:30–1 pm | POW/Barnabee Gallery

The First Saturday of the month is happening for children and families at the Alma Powell Branch! Visit with community organizations, enjoy special crafts and activities, and enjoy the latest and greatest that KPL has for you along with local agencies that support your community! Anytime is a great time to visit the Powell Branch Library but first Saturdays are special! This community event is a collaboration of Kalamazoo Public Library and KCReady4s. <https://kcready4s.org/>



### Snowed In at the Library

Tuesday, December 27

1–3 pm | OSH/Community Room

Come in from the cold! Join us for an afternoon of activities while it snows outside. Build a fort, sip some cocoa, and snuggle up in your PJs to read your favorite stories.

**No registration necessary.**



### Chinese New Year Celebration

Monday, January 23

5:30–7 pm | OSH/Community Room

Join us for activities celebrating the Year of the Rabbit with friends from the Light Center for Chinese Studies at WMU!



### Overnight Oats

Saturday, January 28

1–3 pm | OSH/Community Room

Want to learn a recipe that's delicious and simple? Join us in celebrating National Oatmeal Month by learning to make different overnight oats recipes. All ingredients, including a mason jar, are provided.

**Please register. R**



### Love Your Library

Saturday, February 25

10 am–2 pm | OSH/Community Room

Come celebrate everything you love about libraries with us! We will be celebrating everything bookish, drinking hot chocolate, and making "bookshelf alleys" (miniature scenes that you can insert on your bookshelf). Drop in and share what you love most about your library. **No registration necessary.**

# Events for FAMILIES & ALL AGES

## All Ages



### Tiny Art Show

January 3–15

Open Hours | All Locations

Paint a tiny masterpiece and join our Tiny Art Show. Pick up a supply kit starting December 10 at any KPL location. Create your tiny canvas and bring it back to any KPL location on or before December 30. 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 15 in our locations. All participants will be entered to win a package of art supplies.



### 60th Anniversary Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream" speech

Monday, January 9

6–7 pm | EAS/Community Room

It is the 60th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream" speech, and we will ask ourselves where we are as a community today. "Is Dr. King's Dream Deferred?" This interactive event will consist of a Powerpoint, conversation, group writing prompts, and exercises to access and analyze where we are today and what healing needs to take place to reach Dr. King's dream. And a discussion on whether the vision needs reimagining.



### Eastwood's Eastside 113th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, February 3

5–7 pm | EAS

The Eastwood Branch will celebrate the 113th birthday of the Eastside/Eastwood Branch of the library. The first branch was opened in the Eastside Elementary School on February 10, 1910. We will have a party on Friday, February 3 to celebrate. There will be music, refreshments, crafts and fun for the kids and special guests to talk about Eastwood's history. We will pay a special tribute to Mrs. Gwendolyn Tulk, who recently passed away at 105, and was one of the Eastside's oldest living residents. Mrs. Tulk was the first Eastside school librarian and a dedicated Eastside mentor.

**Music, refreshments, and guest speakers.**



### Sand Candle Making with Kalamazoo Candle Company

Saturday, December 3

10am–12 pm | CEN/Van Deusen

Kalamazoo Public Library has partnered with Kalamazoo Candle Company for a sand candle-making session. **One candle per registrant. Please Register. R**



### Block Party!

January 13-14 | Open Hours | OSH

Visit the Oshtemo Branch to build, explore, and play with LEGO®s during our Block Party weekend. Create a build to put on display at KPL, search for minifigures in the branch, enter to win prizes, and complete a LEGO® themed challenge in the children's room. Visit a city built from bricks by the Western Michigan LEGO® Users Group in the Community Room. See if you can spy everything on the bookmark in your hand within the display. The fun will be available all-day Friday and Saturday during open hours.



## Events and More for TEENS



### Tough Topics: Engagement for Teens

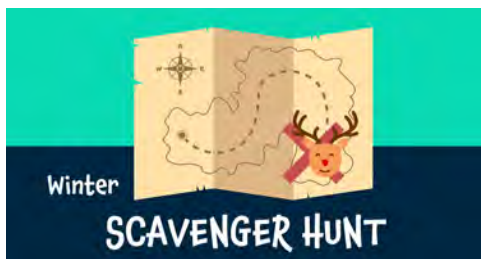
Got difficult questions and not sure who to ask? The new Tough Topics: Engagement for Teens series is designed to create a safe space to discuss difficult subjects with knowledgeable, compassionate professionals from our community. Beginning in December 2022, we will offer engagement opportunities which cover a range of such topics: gun violence in Kalamazoo, mental health, body positivity, anti-racism, queer life, and so much more. These free events are open to teens in grades 6th-12th, no registration necessary, unless otherwise stated in the event description.

**As librarians, we're here to help, not to judge.**



### Peace During War

**Thursday, Dec 8 | 4-6 PM | CEN/Teen Studio**  
**Tuesday, Dec 13 | 4-6 PM | POW/Barnabee Room**  
**Saturday, Jan 7 | 11-1 PM | OSH/Community Room**  
**Tuesday, Jan 17 | 3:30-5:30 PM | EAS/Community Room**  
**Wednesday, Feb 8 | 4-6 PM | WSQ/Community Room**  
 KPL is proud to announce our new partnership with Peace During War, a local nonprofit run by Michael Wilder and Yafinceio Harris, long-time Kalamazoo residents. This intrepid organization aims to reduce gun-related violence by building community, specifically by reaching at-risk youths. Their stories are powerful and poignant. As part of the Tough Topics engagement series, we have invited PDW members to KPL locations for conversation and community-building. Refreshments and food provided at each event. Teens aged 11-18 are invited to come and hear these incredible men and women tell their stories about the life, ask questions, and make connections that could last a lifetime. **No registration necessary. For grades 6th-12th only.**



### Wintertime Scavenger Hunt

**December 1 through December 31**  
**Open hours | CEN/Teen Department**  
 Oh, deer! We've lost our reindeer! Help us find them for a chance to win a gift certificate to either Rocket Fizz or Pop City Popcorn.



### Wintertime Matinee

**Wednesday, December 7, 14, 21, 28, January 4**  
**3-5 pm | CEN/Teen Department**  
 Ready for Winter Break? Get a headstart at your local library with our Wintertime Matinee series. **Snacks and crafts are to be provided.**



### Overnight Oats for Teens

**Friday, January 6**  
**1-3 pm | OSH/Community Room**  
 Want to learn a recipe that's delicious and simple? Join us in celebrating National Oatmeal Month by learning to make different overnight oats recipes. All ingredients, including a mason jar, are provided. **Please register. R**



### Library League

**Every Thursday, December-February**  
**3:30-5 pm | OSH**  
 Drop in at OSH for snacks, socializing, and different activities including games, guests, books, and more!



### Three Book Battle 2023—Save the Date!

Three Book Battle is back in person on Saturday, April 22, 2023! Save the date in your calendar and start looking for your teammates. Group registration and titles available on March 1st, 2023. Grades 6th through 12th.



### Anime in the Afternoon

**Tuesday, January 10, 24, February 7, 21**  
**3-4:30 pm | CEN/Teen Studio**  
 We've rebranded! Comic Book Club is now Anime in the Afternoon. Come hang out with other manga and comics book fans, chat about what we're reading, watch some anime, eat some snacks, and enjoy a craft or activity.



### Bullet Journal Blast

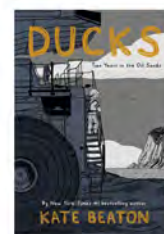
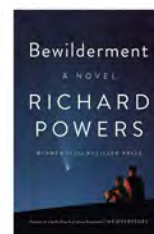
**Wednesday, Jan 4 | 4-5 PM | Cen/Teen Studio**  
**Wednesday, Jan 18 | 4-5 PM | OSH/Community Room**  
 Learn the secrets of bujo with us and ring in 2023 with a new journal.

## Events and More for ADULTS



### Kalamazoo in the 1870s

**Thursday, December 1**  
**6:30-7:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen**  
 As part of the library's 150th anniversary, join Lynn Houghton, Regional History Curator of the WMU Archives and Regional History Collection, as she takes us back to life in 1870s Kalamazoo.



### Page Turners Book Club

**Mondays, December 5 & February 6**  
**6:30-7:30 pm | OSH/Community Room/Zoom**  
 Engage in a thought-provoking conversation about books, exchange perspectives, and get to know your neighbors. Meetings will be held simultaneously in-person at Oshstemo and online via Zoom. **Please register! R**  
**December:** *Bewilderment* by Richard Powers  
**February:** *Ducks* by Kate Beaton



### Coffee Talk

**Wednesdays, December 14, January 11, February 8**  
**10-11:30 am | OSH/Community Room**  
 Watch a short talk on a large screen and engage in lively discussion about big ideas while drinking coffee. Each session will present a new video to discuss.  
**December:** *The Rise of Boring Architecture—and the Case for Radically Human Buildings* with Thomas Heatherwick  
**January:** *Can a Computer write Poetry?* with Oscar Schwartz  
**February:** *You Don't Actually Know What Your Future Self Wants* with Shankar Vedantam



### Music and Memories

**Mondays, December 19, January 23, February 13**  
**10:45 am-12 pm | OSH/Community Room**  
 Join Board-Certified Music Therapist, Caitlyn Bodine, for this special hour of engagement through music for adults. Sing the old songs together, let the music move you, and see what stories and memories the music brings up. Singing along is enthusiastically encouraged but not required. Music selections will be guided by the interests of the group, so don't be shy about suggesting your favorites! Caitlyn's expertise is in using music to help address the social and emotional wellness of older adults as they age, particularly those experiencing dementia or memory loss. **Coffee & light refreshments available at 10:45 am. Music at 11 am.**



### Koekje, Cooky, or Cookie?

*A History of American Christmas Cookies*

### Koekje, Cooky, or Cookie? A History of American Christmas Cookies

**Tuesday, December 20**  
**7-8 pm | OSH/Community Room**  
 Why do the Brits call them biscuits and we call them cookies? The answer lies in the 17th century Dutch colony of New Netherland. But cookies have a peculiar history. Once the purview only of the wealthy, their flavors, shapes, and textures have changed over time. Influenced by changing technologies, household labor, slavery, social status, agricultural innovations, and immigration, cookies have become the standard American Christmas-time treat. But how did we get there? In this illustrated virtual presentation, food historian Sarah Wassberg Johnson discusses the history of cookies in America, Christmas traditions through the ages, and why we eat so many cookies during the holiday season.



### Ask A Lawyer Family Law Clinic

**Wednesdays, January 4, February 1**  
**10-12 pm | CEN/Study Room 1**  
**Thursdays, January 19, February 16**  
**3-5 pm | CEN/Study Room 1**  
 The Law Library, in partnership with the Kalamazoo County Bar Association, offers free family law clinics at the Central Library. Attorneys address legal questions about divorce, custody, child support or other family law questions. This clinic is for lower-income persons who cannot afford to hire a lawyer and who earn up to 200% of the annual poverty level. Ask a Lawyer is one private session; it does not include any follow-up appointments. **Registration is required; R please call the Law Library at 269-553-7920 to register or for more information. Registration begins two weeks before each clinic.**



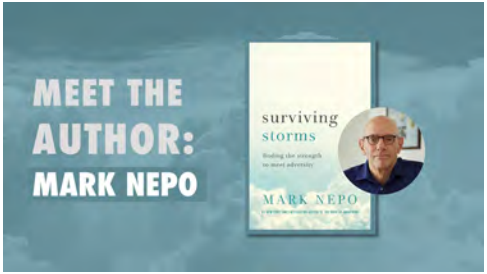
### Reading Race Book Group

**Tuesday, January 10**  
**6:30-8 pm | CEN/Board Room**  
 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 an in-person discussion of *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi.





# Events and More for ADULTS



**Meet the Author: Mark Nepo**  
**Wednesday, January 18**  
**5:30–7:30 pm | CEN/Van Deusen**  
We live in a turbulent time. Storms are everywhere, of every size and shape. And like every generation before us, like every soul's journey on Earth, we must learn the art of surviving storms, so we can help each other endure. Based on his new book, *Surviving Storms*, spiritual teacher and poet Mark Nepo will explore the art and practice of finding the strength to meet adversity by using the timeless teachings of the heart.



**Classics Revisited**  
**Thursdays, December 15, January 19, and February 16**  
**2:30 –4:30 pm | CEN/Board Room/Zoom**  
Join local book-lovers for a lively discussion about favorite classic literature. Meet with us in person or join us on Zoom! **Registration is required for Zoom. R**  
**December:** *Maus* volumes 1 & 2 by Art Spiegelman  
**January:** *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith  
**February:** *Selected Poems* by Gwendolyn Brooks



**Black History Month Bingo**  
**Monday, February 6**  
**6–7:30 pm | OSH/Community Room**  
**Tuesday, February 21**  
**6–7:30 pm | OSH/Community Room**  
Join in the enrichment of expanding one's knowledge with an educational program that mixes local history with the fun of BINGO. In celebration of our community's rich African American heritage during Black History Month, join Chianté' Lymon, Executive Director of Society for History and Racial Equity (S.H.A.R.E.) for an evening of playful learning. Based on oral interviews conducted over the last 20 years that highlight the resonant accomplishments of people from this community. **Please register! R**



**PRIZES INCLUDED**  
**Adult Reading Challenge Great Books Discussion**  
**Wednesday, February 8**  
**6–7:30 pm | WSQ**  
Did you read a great book and want to share it with others? Or are you interested in hearing about great books you don't want to miss? If so, join us in celebrating the Winter Adult Reading Challenge with a discussion of our favorite books at the cozy Washington Square Branch. Come ready to share a book, listen to what others are reading, or pick up ideas for our Spring Adult Reading Challenge. Refreshments will be provided.



**Adult Reading Challenge**  
**December 1 through February 28**  
**All Branches**  
Join us for the first season of the Adult Reading Challenge! Bookmarks are available at all locations for pickup. The 10 reading prompts are included in the bookmark. Read a book of your choice for 3 of the 10 prompts to earn a prize. When you've read 3 (or more!) books from the challenge, there are two ways to claim your prize:  
1. Fill out this bookmark with your name, the books you've read, email (optional) and demographics information (also optional). Bring it in to any branch and trade it in for your prize.  
2. Fill out the online form (same information will be asked). Then, come into any branch to claim your prize. If you need inspiration, visit [kpl.gov](http://kpl.gov) for suggested reading lists. Prizes can be claimed starting Feb 1st.

# In Memoriam: Gwendolyn Tulk

Kalamazoo Public Library will be celebrating the life of Gwendolyn Tulk during Eastwood's Eastside 113th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, February 3, 5–7 pm at Eastwood Branch Library. Details on page 7.

Gwendolyn Tulk, who passed away at age 105 on September 5, 2022, was one of Eastside's oldest living residents. Mrs. Tulk was the first Eastside school librarian and a dedicated Eastside mentor. Judi Rambow, KPL Branch Manager at Eastwood, had the honor of interviewing Mrs. Tulk just prior to her passing.

Gwendolyn Tulk was born on April 20, 1917. She grew up in Mattawan and was the middle of three children. Her father was a trucker for a grist mill, and her mother did sewing projects for hire. During the Depression, the family worked together to make extra money by selling honey squares from the family bees. And though they were the only black family in the neighborhood, she never felt discriminated against.

Mrs. Tulk loved school as a girl and particularly loved reading. She did homework diligently at the urging of her parents and her strict but inspiring teachers. She even remembers competing with neighbors on grades and being proud of her perfect attendance. In her spare time, she enjoyed playing outdoors, skating, and swimming, as well as playing cards, watching movies, and attending plays. She listened to radio programs as diverse as opera, comedy, horror, classical, country, and gospel music.

Tulk graduated from Mattawan High School in 1935 as part of a class of only twelve students. Soon after, she attended Western Michigan University as one of only two black students in a class of 365. To offset the lack of a scholarship, she paid her tuition by grape picking and working as a live-in nanny.

During World War II Tulk married Charles A. Fullbright and moved to Chicago, eventually taking a job teaching illiterate soldiers who had been drafted into service and had just eight weeks to reach a 4th-grade reading level. The men were eager to read, not only to be useful in combat, but to reply to personal letters. It was an exciting opportunity in a world made anew by President Franklin Roosevelt's work projects that helped circulate money and improve living conditions after the Depression. Tulk even saw Martin Luther King, Jr. give a speech and was very inspired by his words.

After the death of her mother and first husband, Tulk returned to Kalamazoo and pursued a master's degree in library science at WMU. Upon receiving her degree, she began working in the public schools. She remarried and she and her husband Henry P. Tulk led an active social life.

Over the years Mrs. Tulk worked as typist, census crew leader, and hospital clerk. She thought optimistically about the onset of the digital age as well as the continuing changes in society, which have allowed greater participation from and greater support for people of color. She credited much of her success to her optimism and ability to push on through difficulty. ▲







# KPL 150th Anniversary Merch!



- Custom Grayling Ceramics mug: \$25
- Canvas tote bag: \$20
- Water bottle: \$15
- Commemorative metal bookmark: \$5

Are you looking for a great gift for the library lover in your life? Visit any KPL location and ask to see our 150th Anniversary limited edition merchandise! We have custom mugs created by Grayling Ceramics in four different colors, luxurious tote bags to carry home all your library materials, gorgeous powder-coated water bottles in three different colors, and a commemorative metal bookmark featuring our custom designed 150th Anniversary logo!

Best of all, you can feel good about your purchase as all proceeds will benefit our Amanda Green Scholarship Fund! The Amanda Green Scholarship, named after a former library assistant in Teen Services at KPL, promotes the library profession to people of color. By providing monetary assistance to individuals seeking a master's degree from an accredited library science program, the library hopes to promote the training and hiring of more librarians of color in Kalamazoo and other communities. Learn more at [kpl.gov/amandagreen](http://kpl.gov/amandagreen). Happy Holidays, Kalamazoo!



## 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**

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