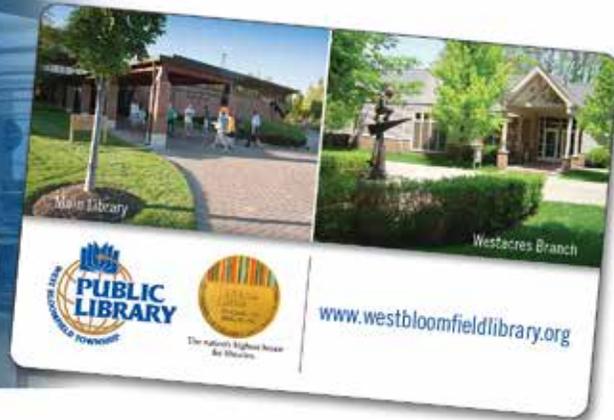


# A COMMUNITY OF READERS



## With a Little Help from Our Friends

The library and Friends of the West Bloomfield Township Public Library are meeting new challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Friends nonprofit group has been in existence since 1958, raising funds for initiatives that support the library's mission. Funding for the Friends comes from Friendship sales, special book sales, individual donations, and membership dues, all of which saw a decline during the pandemic.

"COVID has upended our usual fundraising avenues," said Friends President Iris Radner.

Now, the team is working to bring back funding to support new library innovations.



Wendy Osthaus, a West Bloomfield resident and the Friends of the Library Book Selling Chair, stands in front of the Friends' storage room. Osthaus is among several dedicated Friends members who sort through book donations most mornings.

### Fundraising Efforts

Changes are in store for the Friends. Without their usual two large annual book sales in 2020 and 2021, the Friends storage space is full.

To help resolve the storage issue, the Friends and the library are working together to update the Friendship, a store located in the Main Library's lobby. The update includes new carpet, new paint, and the repurposing of the library's copy center for additional Friendship space.

"There will be more space for used books—our most popular and most profitable [items]," said Radner. "[The store] will be more visible as you enter the library. We are very excited."

The updates will be funded entirely by the Friends. The added space is expected to allow the Friends to bring in more funding year-round to support library projects.

In another effort to raise funding for library initiatives, the Friends doubled down on benefits for members. The Friends usually run a handful of events, including an annual luncheon meeting, BOOKTalks, Music @ Main, and What's Cooking. However, most programs have been paused during the pandemic, though BOOKTalks have continued online.

*Continued on page 2*

## Bookmark this...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



**Gear up for a new experience**  
Page 2

**Start conversations about tender topics**  
Page 3



**Register for Black history events**  
Page 4

**Share your memories and ideas**  
Page 5



*Write a library valentine*

Page 7

Tuesday, January 25 at 7 PM will mark the first large-scale Friends program in a couple years: an Evening with Amor Towles, author of the New York Times bestsellers *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *The Lincoln Highway*. Registration for this highly anticipated online event opened to the general public in December, but Friends of the library members had the opportunity to pre-register in October and November.

## Friends-Sponsored Projects

The Friends approved funding for new library initiatives last June, including innovative kits for youth and adults, new statues, technology upgrades, and support for collections at the Westacres Branch.

The Friends sponsored library on the Go kits for youth; over 2,000 kits have been distributed since the series launched in Summer 2021.

“Our grandchildren have enjoyed each [Library on the Go kit] and look forward to what’s next,” Lori Issner, a West Bloomfield resident, said of the series. “The crafts are fun with great instructions, well thought-out, and nice variety.”

The library’s expanding collection of kits aren’t just for kids. Adult staff have developed a collection of Experience Kits and Creativebug Kits with financial support from the Friends of the Library.

**The Experience Kits** aim to empower adults and families to experience new activities beyond the library building. Staff expect eight Experience Kits to be available for checkout early this year at both branches: Birding & Birdwatching, Stargazing, Metal Detecting, Experience & Explore Michigan, Learn Yoga, Start a Conversation, Play the Ukulele, and Mind & Spirit.



*Each Experience Kit is funded by the Friends and contains books and supporting tools oriented around an activity. The Birding and Birdwatching Kit includes binoculars, field guides, and flashcards.*

Most Experience Kits will be requestable in the catalog. Oversize kits may be reserved by communicating with your preferred branch. The Experience Kits will check out to residents of West Bloomfield and contract communities for one week at a time.

**The Creativebug Kits** will include all supplies necessary to make a craft. Crafts correspond with video classes from Creativebug, an online resource provided and paid for by the Library. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

In an effort to improve community representation in the library, the Friends are in the process of purchasing new statues of non-white children from the Randolph Rose Collection.



*These bronze statues will be the Library's first statues representing children of color.*

“The existing statues are well-loved by our community, and families enjoy posing for photos with them,” said Jill Bickford, Coordinator of Youth Services at the library. “We look forward to adding statues of non-white children to ensure children see themselves represented not only in collections, but in the aesthetics of the library.”

To improve the library’s technology, new video game consoles will be purchased for the library’s after-school and summer gaming events. The Friends will also support the repurposing of the former Computer Lab at the Main Library as a Community Learning space.

“The details about our plans for the Community Learning room are in the preliminary stages right now,” said Library Director Cathy Russ. “But the reimagined space will better meet the community’s modern technology needs.”

The Friends also approved support for a couple initiatives unique to the Westacres Branch, including the acquisition of popular book club titles and new bins to make it easier for pre-readers to browse picture books.

## Become a Friend

The Friends currently has around 650 members.

“Working at book sales and in the Friendship gives me the chance to meet many wonderful patrons of West Bloomfield,” said Trudi Hill, who has volunteered with the nonprofit for about 10 years, including three as President. “Even during COVID, where the Friends would meet on Zoom monthly, this library and the Friends give real meaning to my life.”

Those interested in donating or becoming a member of the Friends of the Library can learn more at [wblib.org/friends](http://wblib.org/friends). A printed mail-in membership application is available on page 7.

# The library is where parents can find support.

As the proverb goes, “It takes a village to raise a child.”

Public libraries provide important support for parents and children, including resources to help prepare children for school and assist with homework. Youth education is among the most important investments a community can make in its future. A growing body of research indicates that childhood literacy initiatives improve the community’s long-term success.



**58%** of parents say there is so much parenting information available that it’s hard to know who to trust.

The parent/teacher collection at the Main Library consists of over 600 books of interest to parents, caregivers, and teachers of kids from birth through Grade 5.



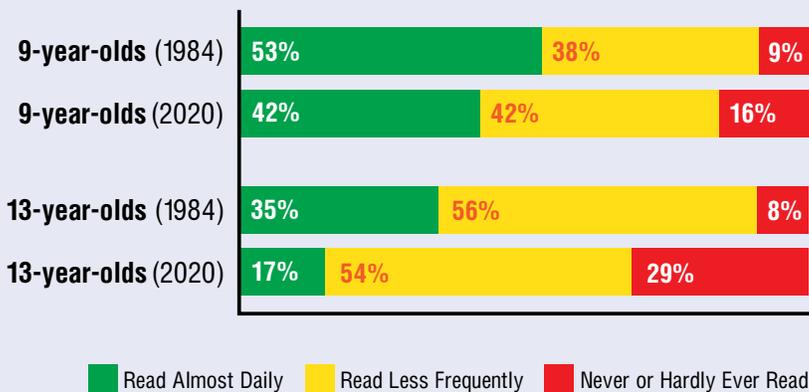
**39%** of parents want information from child development experts delivered directly to them via email, **18%** via text message.

The library regularly sends emails and texts with information for parents and caregivers. Subscribe to Parenting Tips, Grow Up Reading™, or For Your Teen alerts at [wblib.org](http://wblib.org).

## Children read for fun less often than children in 1984

Studies show that reading for fun is associated with higher standardized reading test scores, vocabulary, general knowledge, and understanding of other cultures. The library’s annual Winter Reading Program was launched in 2020 to encourage children to read for fun year-round.

Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding. “Read less frequently” combines students who reported reading once or twice a week, month, or year.



Sources: Pearson, Pew Research Center, Urban Libraries Council, U.S. Census Bureau, Zero to Three



**85%** Children spend 85% of their waking hours outside of school.

The library provides out-of-school activities for children of all ages, including youth and family events, literacy kits, discovery tablets, and video games.

Approximately **1 in 5** 

minors in our service area have a West Bloomfield Township Public Library card.

Signing children up for their own library card encourages library use and promotes lifelong reading. West Bloomfield’s “My First Library Card” is designed especially for young children.



Each Tender Topic Literacy Kit includes related books and other resources. The Mental Health Kit is for families with children aged 4-10 years.

## Tender Topic Literacy Kits

This new collection of literacy kits allows children to learn and explore social issues happening in their own lives. With a variety of resources, the kits can open the door to conversations about tender topics. Kits provide guidance for parents while validating children’s feelings and answering some questions.

Kits vary in recommended age from 2-10 years. Tender Topic kit titles include adoption, all kinds of families, divorce/separation, food allergies, hearing impairments, mental health, moving, new siblings, picky eaters, serious illness, and vision impairments.

For more information, including availability and check out instructions, please visit the Youth Services Information Desk, call (248) 232-2250, or email [wbyouth@wblib.org](mailto:wbyouth@wblib.org).

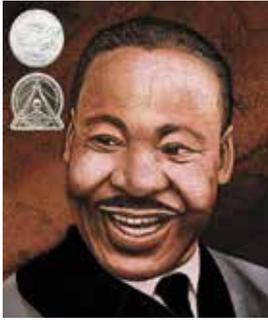
# MLK Day Online

Join the library for an MLK Day celebration on Monday, January 17. All events will take place on Zoom. Registration is required and open to anyone with a library card in our system. More programs and registration details can be found at [wblib.org](http://wblib.org); select "Services," then select "Virtual Programs."

## I Have a Dream Storytime

10:30 AM

Listen to stories that embrace MLK's dreams of treating others equally while respecting, accepting and celebrating differences, working together and dreaming big. For all ages.



*Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport and Brian Collier

## African American Storytelling Journey with Miz Rosie

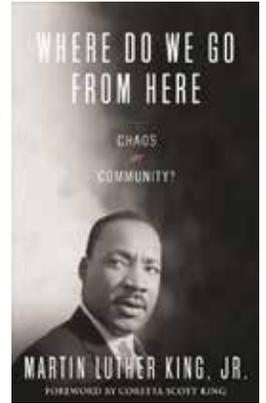
1 PM

Join Miz Rosie on a storytelling journey as she takes the audience through the Civil Rights Movement and the life of Rosa Parks. Miz Rosie's interactive 'edutainment' will educate, enlighten, and entertain. For all ages.

## Booked for the Evening

7 PM

Dr. Tara Hayes will facilitate a stimulating discussion on the last book written by Martin Luther King, Jr. Visit [wblib.org](http://wblib.org) and click on the Event Calendar or call (248) 232-2290 to learn more about other upcoming monthly discussions with Dr. Tara Hayes.



# Black History Month



The West Bloomfield Diversity Task Force is excited to announce a new lineup of events to celebrate Black History Month. This series is organized by the West Bloomfield Diversity Task Force and hosted in partnership with the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, Township, and Parks. It is sponsored by the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital. Register at [wbparcs.org/blackhistory](http://wbparcs.org/blackhistory) or (248) 451-1900.



Dr. Khalid el-Hakim

## Black History 101 Lecture

Saturday, February 5, 10 AM – 12 PM

West Bloomfield Library Meeting Room

Hear Dr. Khalid el-Hakim deliver a special lecture about the Black History 101 Mobile Museum. Registration is required at [wbparcs.org/blackhistory](http://wbparcs.org/blackhistory).

## Black History 101 Mobile Museum

Saturday, February 5, 12 – 3 PM

West Bloomfield Library Meeting Room

The Black History 101 Mobile Museum is an award-winning collection of original artifacts of Black memorabilia dating from the trans-Atlantic slave trade era and spanning to current hip-hop culture. Registration is encouraged at [wbparcs.org/blackhistory](http://wbparcs.org/blackhistory). For all ages.

## LOVE YOURSELF: Wellness While Black

Saturday, February 12, 9 – 11:30 AM

West Bloomfield Parks Connect at Orchard Mall, 6335A Orchard Lake Road

Make a date with yourself! Celebrate Black History and Heart Health Months with an interactive event. This information-packed morning will include a doctor's roundtable on heart disease, hypertension, and nutrition. Activities include free trials of yoga, Zumba, dance lessons, and healthy treats. Ages 16+. Goodie bags available to those who register at [wbparcs.org/blackhistory](http://wbparcs.org/blackhistory).

## Virtual History of the Tuskegee Airmen

Wednesday, February 16, 7 – 8:30 PM

Hear from Major William H. Burnett, President of the Macon-Thomas West Bloomfield Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. This event will take place on Zoom. Registration is required at [wbparcs.org/blackhistory](http://wbparcs.org/blackhistory).

## Black Expo

Saturday, February 26, 10 AM – 2 PM

Orchard Mall, 6445 Orchard Lake Road

This family-friendly event features live music, demos, and displays highlighting careers, resources, and Black-owned businesses. See [wbparcs.org/blackhistory](http://wbparcs.org/blackhistory) for an updated list of vendors and more.

# Community Journals



Add an entry to our community journals! The library will offer a variety of journals for library cardholders to check out and write inside. Content from a series of "Collecting Memories" journals will be collected and preserved by the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society (GWBHS). Each month, a new themed "Collecting Memories" journal will be available at the library for residents to record their related memories:

**January:** Winter

**February:** Valentine's Day

**March:** 1976 West Bloomfield Tornado

**April:** Spring and spring break

**May:** Family traditions and home life

**June:** Apple Island

**July:** Summer and summer camp

**August:** Vintage car

**September:** School

**October:** Fall and Halloween

**November:** Veteran

**December:** Holiday

A series of "Sharing Ideas" journals will offer library visitors a chance to share ideas year-round. Journals from this ongoing collection are themed around shared interests, like sketching and recommending books, movies, and recipes.

The journals are expected to be available for pickup from the Main Library early this year. Stories for the "Collecting Memories" project can also be submitted directly to the GWBHS online at [gwbhs.org/research/collecting-memories](http://gwbhs.org/research/collecting-memories).



## Dessert with Authors!

**Tuesday, May 10 at 7 PM**

*The Jewish Community Center  
6600 W. Maple Road*

Bring your friends for a dessert reception and book discussion with Pam Jenoff and Janice Kaplan, two exceptional authors celebrating the untold stories of women. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center and West Bloomfield Township Public Library. Tickets will be available for purchase at [culturalarts.jccdet.org/bookfair](http://culturalarts.jccdet.org/bookfair).



*Pam Jenoff*



*Janice Kaplan*



## New AWE Tablets

Library tablets for children ages 3-12 have been upgraded recently. The tablets are preloaded with over 70 award-winning games aimed at improving literacy, problem solving, math, science, and other skills. Games include popular characters like Garfield, the Berenstain Bears, Sid the Science Kid, and Arthur.

AWE tablets are available at both library branches for in-building use with a library card in good standing.

# Virtual Events

All events will take place on Zoom. Registration is required. More programs and registration details can be found at [wblib.org](http://wblib.org); select "Services," then select "Virtual Programs."

## Graphically Diverse: YA Graphic Novel Club

Join us each month as we discuss a graphic novel from a different genre. Participants will receive a kit containing a copy of the graphic novel, a snack, questions to think about before the discussion, and a surprise gift--and everything is yours to keep! For grades 6-12.



### **My Hero Academia, Volume 1**

by Kohei Horikoshi

**Wednesday, January 26 at 7 PM**

Registration opens Monday, January 3



### **Mister Miracle**

by Varian Johnson

**Wednesday, February 16 at 7 PM**

Registration opens Tuesday, February 1

*Kit includes a ticket for a reception with author Varian Johnson*



### **Nimona**

by Noelle Stevenson

**Wednesday, March 16 at 7 PM**

Registration opens Monday, February 28

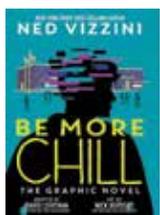


### **Eat and Love Yourself**

by Sweeney Boo

**Wednesday, April 20 at 7 PM**

Registration opens Monday, April 4



### **Be More Chill**

by Ned Vizzini & David Levithan

**Wednesday, May 18 at 7 PM**

Registration opens Monday, May 2

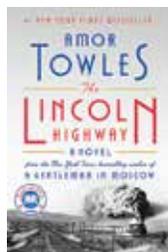
## How-To: eBooks and eAudiobooks

**Wednesday, January 12, 6:30 – 7:30 PM**

Learn how to download eBooks and eAudiobooks from cloudLibrary, the library's largest collection of digital books! You'll also learn how to access hoopla, an app that allows you to stream and download music, videos, graphic novels, eBooks, and eAudiobooks. Registration is open to West Bloomfield library cardholders.

## BOOK Talks

Registration for these book discussions begins one month before the program date. *Organized and funded by the Friends of the Library.*



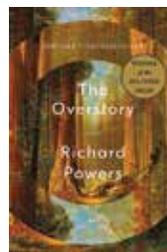
### **The Lincoln Highway**

by Amor Towles

Discussion Leader Diane Henderson

**Thursday, February 10 at 7 PM**

**OR Friday, February 11 at 10 AM**



### **The Overstory**

by Richard Powers

Discussion Leader Jaema Berman

**Thursday, March 10 at 7 PM**

**OR Friday, March 11 at 10 AM**



### **The World According to Fannie Davis**

by Bridgett Davis

Discussion Leader Ann Finn

**Thursday, April 7 at 7 PM**

**OR Friday, April 8 at 10 AM**



### **The Vanishing Half**

by Brit Bennett

Discussion Leader Naomi Frenkel

**Thursday, May 12 at 7 PM**

**OR Friday, May 13 at 10 AM**

## Don't Miss Out!

The library has plenty of other virtual events in store for the upcoming months, including:

- a Holocaust Remembrance Day event
- a youth storytelling event with La'Ron Williams
- timely health presentations by Jewish Family Services
- Michigan history talks with authors Paul Vachon, Alice Randall, and Tobin Buhk
- a BOOKED for the Evening series on mythic retellings
- a Film Discussion series on the comic genius of Keaton, Chaplin, and the Marx Brothers
- and much more!

Continue to check the Event Calendar at [wblib.org](http://wblib.org) for updates, or visit the homepage to subscribe to email or text alerts for adult, teen, and/or youth programs.

## Google Docs & Drive

**Wednesday, February 16, 6:30 – 7:30 PM**

Learn how to create, save, and share documents and files with Google Docs and Google Drive. Registration opens to West Bloomfield Library cardholders on February 2.

## Love Your Library?

Share your valentines with us! Cut and complete this card telling us why you love your library. Drop off your completed cards to the circulation desk at the Main Library or Westacres Branch before February. We'll put the cards on display and share them on social media. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to see what is shared!

*I love the West Bloomfield Township Public Library because...*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Become a Friends Member

The easiest way to support the library is to become a member of the Friends! If you would like to join or renew your membership, cut and complete this form, then drop it off with your check to the Circulation Desk at the Main Library or Westacres Branch, or mail it with your check to:

**Friends of the West Bloomfield Library**  
4600 Walnut Lake Road  
West Bloomfield, MI, 48323



Friends members Wendy Osthaus and Carol A. Kravetz sort through book donations.



## Friends of the Library Membership Application

Please indicate type of membership:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Patron     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sponsor    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Family     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Benefactor |

Each year the Friends plan many exciting programs. Please indicate if you'd like to help.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendship      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music @ Main       | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Sorting    | <input type="checkbox"/> What's Cooking?    | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends Annual Luncheon                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Used Book Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> At-home projects:<br>mailings, phoning, etc. |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



The nation's highest honor for libraries.

4600 Walnut Lake Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit 63  
Southfield MI



## Support for Parents & Caregivers

Details on page 3



# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

It is difficult for me to believe that I have reached my first anniversary as Director of the West Bloomfield Township Public Library. 2021 has flown by, and it is amazing to me that I have already been here for a year. Time flies when you are having fun! I have enjoyed my first year here very much. The community has been so welcoming, and I have enjoyed participating on various committees, especially the Michigan Week Committee, as we gear up for the 50th anniversary of Michigan Week in 2022! I've also had the pleasure of working on projects with the Rotary Club, the West Bloomfield Township staff, and the West Bloomfield Parks staff, all of which have been great program partners.

I have especially enjoyed working with the Friends of the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, who are highlighted throughout this newsletter. The Friends are a volunteer

organization made up of residents and non-residents who actively give their time and talents to support the library. They put on the Music @ Main series, the What's Cooking programs, and the marvelous BOOKTalks book discussions. They donate proceeds from book sales to the library so we can enhance the library's services beyond what the budget provides—the best example of this is the upcoming program with New York Times bestselling author Amor Towles, author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* and *The Lincoln Highway*. I hope you will join me and the Friends for what will surely be a fascinating conversation. Thank you to the Friends for making this happen!

*Please know that you are always welcome at the library.*

*Cathy Russ*

### MAIN LIBRARY

4600 Walnut Lake Road  
(248) 682-2120 FAX (248) 232-2291  
TTD (248) 232-2292  
Email: [wbref@wblib.org](mailto:wbref@wblib.org)  
Text: (248) 648-3368

### WESTACRES BRANCH

7321 Commerce Road  
(248) 363-4022 FAX (248) 363-7243  
Email: [wacref@wblib.org](mailto:wacref@wblib.org)

### HOURS OF SERVICE

Monday – Thursday: 9 AM – 9 PM  
Friday & Saturday: 9 AM – 6 PM  
Sunday (Main): Noon – 6 PM  
Sunday (Westacres): Noon – 5 PM

### ONLINE LIBRARY

Open 24 hours every day  
[wblib.org](http://wblib.org)



### The library will be closed:

Sunday, April 17  
EASTER

Saturday, May 28 to Monday, May 30  
MEMORIAL DAY

Cathleen Russ, Library Director

### Board of Trustees

Carol A. Kravetz, President  
Judith A. Holtz, Vice-President  
Ken Macon, Treasurer  
Michael Dorfman, Secretary  
Kari Eickemeyer, Deputy Secretary/Treasurer  
Raman Singh, Trustee



## From the Director's Shelf

