

the storyline

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THE STORYLINE

Summer 2022

EMPOWERING VOICES

After a pandemic hiatus, our library magazine is back! The Storyline is designed to share the information, services, and opportunities that fulfill Oak Park's aspirations, and to support the library's vision to empower every voice in our community.

We love to see how you use your public library!

If you have an idea or story to share with us for a future issue, please contact us at communications@oppl.org. You can also share stories, photos, and more at oppl.org/share.

Looking for events? Pick up monthly print calendars for families, adults, and teens in library locations, and find all details at oppl.org/calendar.

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Find board meeting information and meet the trustees at oppl.org/board.

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The search for a permanent executive director is underway. Contact our Interim Executive Director Lori Pulliam at 708.452.3410 and lorip@oppl.org.



Featured in this issue

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ON THE COVER

Summer means community festivities like Juneteenth, the farmers market, block parties, and lots of park time. We love to join in on the fun and bring the library's Book Bike! Learn more about our mobile library on wheels, and see where we'll be popping up, on page 8 and at oppl.org/bike.



We are here for you

What are your hopes for this summer? What do you look forward to?

We know your library experience is as unique as you are. That's why we hope to help you discover what brings you "knowledge, confidence, independence, and wonder"—as Virginia Bloom, Board Finance Officer and Anti-Racism Advisory Team member, put it this spring!

This summer, we look forward to building and strengthening relationships. For example, with local artist Tia Etu, who created the latest addition to our permanent art collection, and with more local Black creatives headlining events like our first Sankofa Arts Festival in June (page 7).

We're excited to pedal the Book Bike to events including Oak Park's Juneteenth parade and cookout (page 6); engage kids in fun activities and summer learning (pages 8–9); and recommend books that aren't your "typical" beach reads (page 11). And, as Bloom says, to provide "the safe spaces and meeting places that not only house information, but also generate new ideas," especially for teens (pages 4–5).

So come on in, cool off, and find free fun. Whatever you hope for, we are here for you.

—Lori Pulliam, Interim Executive Director
lorip@oppl.org



"Libraries provide a gateway to knowledge, confidence, independence, and wonder. It's important that we support libraries to be the safe spaces and meeting places that not only house information, but also generate new ideas."

—Virginia Bloom, Board Finance Officer & Anti-Racism Advisory Team member

More ways to use our public spaces

When some physical spaces were closed during the pandemic, we were working hard behind the scenes to secure funding for special projects from federal and state sources. We also benefited from advocacy and support from our State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford. Thank you, Rep. Ford! These efforts resulted in new and creative ways for us all to get more value out of our public library spaces (below), as well as amplify BIPOC voices in the arts (see pages 5 and 7).



Coming soon: A robust digital makerspace on the Main Library's third floor! Expected to be completed by the end of 2022, the new Creative Studio will offer 3D printers, a laser cutter, laptops, a large-format printer for posters and other oversize print jobs, and a sound booth for professional-quality audio and video content creation. Stay tuned for ways to give your input: oppl.org/creative-studio



We're making better use of available outdoor space, thanks to American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds distributed through an Illinois State Library grant. Come enjoy the great new outdoor furniture at the Main Library and Maze Branch!



Ten study carrels on the Main Library's third floor were also purchased thanks to ARPA funds and the Illinois State Library. They have nearby electrical outlets, can comfortably seat two, and are great alternatives when study rooms are booked (which is often).



Our Multicultural Collection at Dole Branch is evolving to make the collection's artifacts more accessible to the community. Look for more artifacts out on the shelves soon! More: oppl.org/multicultural



The place to be for teens

There's so much happening at the library all summer for patrons ages 13–17. Come and be social, play video and board games, check out books, access many other resources, and see what fun pops up during our **teen summer hours** at all three library locations. For all details, resources, and opportunities, sign up for emails at oppl.org/subscribe.

► TEEN SUMMER HOURS through August 10

Main Library Teen Space:
Mondays–Fridays, 1–5 pm

Dole Branch: Tuesdays, 1–5 pm

Maze Branch: Wednesdays, 1–5 pm

AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

TEEN PRIDE MONTH SERIES

oppl.org/calendar | Pop-up programs each week in June, with opportunities to celebrate and show your PRIDE!

POKÉMON CLUB

Wednesdays, June 22–July 27, 2–4 pm

Learn and play the Pokémon Trading Card Game. Pokémon GO gamers welcome!

TEEN TALENT SHOWCASE

Thursday, July 21, 4–6:30 pm

Showcase your talents among peers and a live audience.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS BOOTCAMP

oppl.org/calendar | Train to become an Adventurer and/or a Game Master, in two-day training programs throughout summer, plus game nights!

ARTISTS AT WORK

All summer, five local BIPOC student artists and professional artist Paul Branton (whose work is shown at right) will be bringing color and life to the white walls of our already vibrant Teen Space. Learn more about the artist at paulbranton.com, and stay tuned for the official unveiling of the Teen Space murals this fall.





Celebrating Juneteenth

On Sunday, June 19, all library locations will be closed in celebration of Juneteenth. Look for Oak Park's Book Bike (aka the Paperback Rider) and library staff marching in the Oak Park Juneteenth parade, one of the events organized by community members and co-sponsored by the Village of Oak Park. Find details and more festivities: oppl.org/juneteenth

JUNETEENTH IN OAK PARK

Flag-Raising Ceremony

Saturday, June 11, 12–1:30 pm, Village Hall Courtyard, 123 Madison St. The ceremony will include speeches, live music, and a dance performance. Free and open to the public.

Parade & Cookout

Sunday, June 19

- **Parade:** Starts at 11 am from Longfellow Park, 610 S. Ridgeland Ave., and heads north on Ridgeland Avenue to Augusta Street.
- **Community cookout:** Starts after the parade, around 12 pm, at Taylor Park, 400 W. Division St. There will be music, food, drinks, games, and more, all free to the community.

AT YOUR LIBRARY

Kids & Families Juneteenth Storytime

June 9, 10–11 am, Scoville Park (outside the Main Library)

Celebrate Freedom Day outside the library with Ms. Juanta and Ms. Jenny. We'll have call-and-response singing, dancing, and Juneteenth literature, plus a puppet or two!

Tia Etu Art Exhibit

June 16–30, with artist reception on Saturday, June 18, 1–3 pm, Main Library Idea Box. Local artist Tia Etu will unveil a Juneteenth-inspired artwork commissioned for the library's permanent art collection (see more on next page).

ABOUT JUNETEENTH

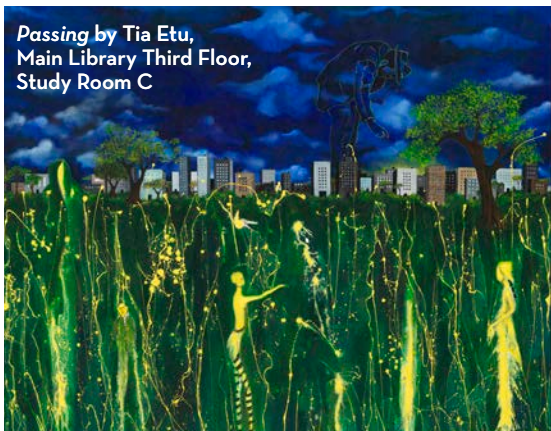
Juneteenth, which celebrates the end of slavery in the United States, is now a federal, state, and Village of Oak Park holiday.

It commemorates June 19, 1865, the day when a U.S. Army general in Galveston, Texas, read orders that all enslaved people were free—two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation had formally freed them.

Learn more and watch a locally produced documentary: oppl.org/juneteenth



Tia Etu with *The Call* in her Whatever Comes to Mind studio and gallery on Harrison Street



Passing by by Tia Etu, Main Library Third Floor, Study Room C



The call of freedom

Tia Etu will unveil her latest contribution to art at the library this June, when she presents her mixed-media painting *The Call* in a Main Library Idea Box exhibit (see previous page).

The Call refers to owl calls that Harriet Tubman would make to let enslaved people know it was safe to move through the Underground Railroad network of the 1800s.

“Tubman is in the piece to show the struggle and her commitment to free her people,” Etu says. “While it is about the freedom of slaves, it deals with the fact that African Americans are still not free. It is not true that we were freed, but freedom is still possible. There is hope.”

More symbolism, in Etu’s words:

- The painting’s glossy surface shows “how glossed over the truth is.” The numbers in 1865 (the year the Civil War ended) corrode as they progress, “symbolizing the reality.”
- The falling man in orange “represents the new plantation: the prison system.”
- The protractor symbolizes “degrees of cover-up” and Martin Luther King Jr.’s quote: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”
- The boy in a hoodie represents Trayvon Martin.
- The flower, made from a broken record, represents “both the broken record of enslavement and that hope is possible.”

The Call will join Etu’s painting *Passing* in the library’s permanent art collection. More: oppl.org/art

Celebrating Black Futures

Thursday, June 16, 7–8:30 pm, Main Library

Join us as visual artist Tia Etu, rapper F.U.R.Y., fine art photographer Tye Moores, and rapper Jsteezzy share live performance, art, and intergenerational conversation in celebration of Black futures and Juneteenth.

Sankofa Arts Festival

Sunday, June 26, 2–4 pm, Scoville Park (outside the Main Library)

Sankofa, from the Twi language of Ghana, means “to go back and retrieve.” We call on our ancestors as we go back to our African roots, to bring forth all the greatness of our past and manifest it in our future! Join us to celebrate Black excellence and amplify Black voices through music, dance, and artistic expressions.



Meet us outside!

We're thrilled to bring the library to you with the Oak Park Book Bike. We pedal library resources to storytimes in the parks, apartment residences, block parties, local businesses, summer camps, and more (weather permitting). You can check out books, get a library card, and sign up for summer reading via the Book Bike!

Find us at the Park District of Oak Park events listed below, and see where else we're popping up: oppl.org/bike

Nature Days: Things in Our Illinois Garden

Saturdays, 10 am–12 pm, Oak Park Conservatory, 615 Garfield St., Oak Park

- **June 11:** Illinois Birds in Your Garden
- **July 9:** Insects in Your Garden
- **August 13:** Native Illinois Plants in Your Garden



Join us for weekly storytimes in neighborhood parks!
See the schedule: oppl.org/storytimes

Movies in the Park

Thursdays at dusk, Scoville Park (outside the Main Library)
Book Bike pops up an hour before the show.

- **June 23:** *In the Heights* | PG-13, 2h 23m
- **July 21:** *Spider-Man: No Way Home* | PG-13, 2h 28m
- **August 18:** *Babe* | G, 1h 31m



PARK DISTRICT of OAK PARK

SUMMER READING

June 1-August 31



Oceans of Possibilities

Earn beads, stickers & raffle prizes
Open to babies through middle schoolers

Sign up today:
oppl.org/summer

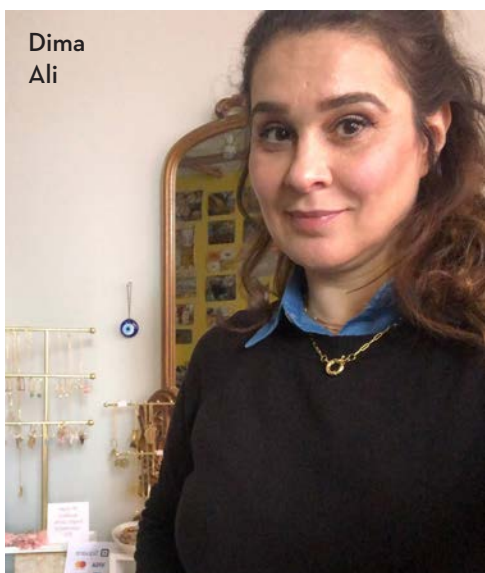




Nzingha
Nommo

'Libraries are invaluable'

Did you know every Oak Park resident, student, educator, and business owner can get full access to public library services and resources? Learn more about the benefits of a library card—including free streaming services, expert-led courses, 24/7 item pickup, and more—and see how to sign up at oppl.org/card.



Dima
Ali

“I’ve enjoyed using **interlibrary loan** for hard-to-find articles, or ones that need a paid subscription to view. When I lived in Oak Park, I used my card to use the **computers** and view reference material for Black inventors. ... Libraries are invaluable to the community.” —Nzingha Nommo, owner of Afriware Books in Maywood, afriwarebooks.com

“I use the library as a **source of info and for inspiration**, especially the craft books section. I also use the **printing service** when I need it.”
—Dima Ali, owner of Dima Jewelry Atelier + Boutique, facebook.com/dimajewels



Korin
Heinz

“I was delighted when I recently found out that all Oak Park educators can get a library card! I’m an avid reader and currently use the system to check out books. **Historical fiction is a favorite**. I also participate in **French Conversation Hour and Adult Improv**, and plan to explore the foreign language teaching resources over the summer. Merci!”
—Korin Heinz, French teacher at Fenwick High School

Not your typical beach read

By Collection Management Librarians Kathy Sexton & Dontaná McPherson-Joseph

We hear a beach read is supposed to be a light, often feel-good, easy read. But some of us prefer a little horror, some suspense, a nonfiction deep dive, or even something just plain strange to fill our long summer days. So grab your beachwear, towel, and lounge chair and start reading! Find more picks, plus links to all available formats in the catalog, at oppl.org/we-suggest.

Shine Bright: A Very Personal History of Black Women in Pop by Danyel Smith

Why you should try it:

A beach day spent listening to the music of Mahalia Jackson, Aretha Franklin, Mariah Carey, and Jody Watley followed by reading Smith's personal history of Black women in pop music sounds pretty perfect.



The Hacienda by Isabel Canas

Why you should try it:

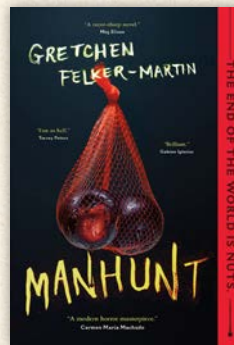
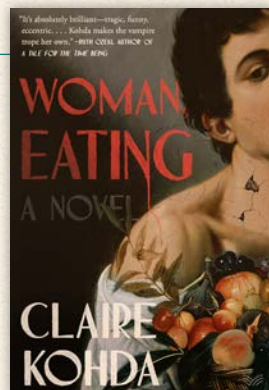
A haunted house story sounds like a perfectly beachy read. Plus, who wouldn't want to read a book billed as *Mexican Gothic* meets *Rebecca*?



Woman, Eating by Claire Kohda

Why you should try it:

Take it from author Ruth Ozeki who calls this novel, "Absolutely brilliant—tragic, funny, eccentric and so perfectly suited to this particularly weird time."



Manhunt by Gretchen Felker-Martin

Why you should try it:

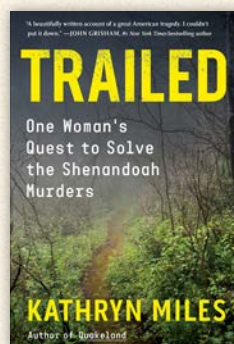
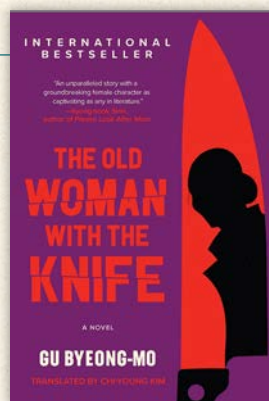
If your idea of recreational reading includes zombie-like creatures, a dystopian future, and some seriously intense gore, then this is your beach read.



The Old Woman With the Knife by Gu Byeong-Mo

Why you should try it:

A page-turner with action-packed fight scenes? Perhaps your typical thriller. Not so typical? A 65-year-old Korean woman assassin trying to navigate retirement.



Trailed: One Woman's Quest to Solve the Shenandoah Murders by Kathryn Miles

Why you should try it:

If true crime is your jam, this is perfect for the beach but (word of warning) probably not for camping.

MAIN LIBRARY

834 Lake St.

708.383.8200

Monday-Thursday: 9 am-9 pm

Friday: 9 am-6 pm

Saturday: 9 am-5 pm

Sunday: 12-5 pm

DOLE BRANCH

255 Augusta St.

708.386.9032

Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Thursday: 10 am-9 pm

Friday: 10 am-6 pm

Saturday: 10 am-5 pm

Sunday: 12-5 pm

MAZE BRANCH

845 Gunderson Ave.

708.386.4751

Monday-Thursday: 10 am-9 pm

Friday: Closed

Saturday: 10 am-5 pm

Sunday: 12-5 pm



SUMMER 2022 CLOSINGS
OPPL.ORG/VISIT

Juneteenth:

Sunday, June 19

All buildings closed

Independence Day:

Monday, July 4

All buildings closed

Labor Day:

Monday, September 5

All buildings closed

Looking for events at
the library? Find all of them
at oppl.org/calendar.

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER



Get the most out of your public library

Sign up for email updates on the topics you care about most.
Like our newest Older Adults (60+) newsletter, focused on monthly
health, wellness, and daytime events, plus title suggestions.

[OPPL.ORG/SUBSCRIBE](https://oppl.org/subscribe)

Book fair at Main Library

Mark your calendars for a small book fair, August 5-7
at the Main Library. Find all details, including info
about donating materials, on our website.

[OPPL.ORG/FAIR](https://oppl.org/fair)



Printed on recycled paper.
More: fsc.org