

# THE STORYLINE

A quarterly publication of the Oak Park Public Library

WINTER 2018/19

News | Events | Impact



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OAK PARK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
oppl.org



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Vol. 4, No. 1  
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## CONTACT US

**oppl.org/contact**  
Main Library  
708.383.8200

Dole Branch  
708.386.9032

Maze Branch  
708.386.4751

## BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Find board meeting  
dates and locations  
at **oppl.org/board**,  
and get in touch at  
**board@oppl.org**.

## LIBRARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David J. Seleb  
708.697.6911  
**d.seleb@oppl.org**

Get to know us and  
our core values at  
**oppl.org/about**.



## ON THE COVER

*Unity and Growth* by  
Carole Harrison. This  
9x12x4-foot brass and  
copper sculpture was  
donated to the library in  
1966 and now welcomes  
visitors in the Main Library  
vestibule. More about our  
permanent art collection:  
**oppl.org/art**



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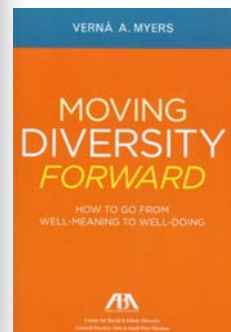
📅 This issue showcases select events and classes at the library this winter. View all at **oppl.org/calendar**.

The Storyline is published quarterly for the Oak Park Public Library community. Contact us at **communications@oppl.org**: Kristen Romanowski, Writer/Editor; Rebecca Lang, Graphic Designer; Jodi Kolo, Director of Communications. Many thanks to library staff and community photographers who contributed to this issue, including Ashley Boyer, Tina Harle, Juanita Harrell, Stephen Jackson, Cythnia Martz, and Power of Partnerships.





Image courtesy of Kartemquin Films



## WHAT WE'RE *reading, watching, and discussing*

### MOVING DIVERSITY FORWARD

As part of our intentional, ongoing efforts to foster more equitable thinking and actions in our everyday work, library staff have been reading, discussing, and reflecting on Vernā A. Myers' *Moving Diversity Forward: How to Go From Well-Meaning to Well-Doing*.

Since January 2018, more than 50 related staff learning opportunities have encouraged us to reflect on what's already changing or still needs to change—both within ourselves and within systems at the library. This includes:

- Being aware of white privilege
- Interrupting implicit biases
- Increasing diversity in our collections
- Fostering diverse cultural experiences
- Responding to microaggressions
- Admitting mistakes and not hiding behind good intent

Looking ahead, we will continue working to identify and remove barriers to equitable access, toward our vision of empowering every voice in our community.

### AMERICA TO ME

Many of us watched, shared, and reflected on the experiences captured in Steve James'

10-part *America to Me* documentary. There is much unpacking going on now, and so much work to be done. To keep momentum flowing, the library will continue to join and lead conversations and to host new public events to inspire honest dialogue, deeper learning, and stronger empathy among us all. In 2019, expect more events such as the Race Conscious Readers series (page 11), Restorative Justice conference (page 12), Black Minds Matter series (back cover), and Emerging Leaders Speaker Series presenting Dr. Chala Holland, part of our collaboration with Triton College and the Equity Team (pages 6–7).

### WHISTLING VIVALDI

At the start of the 2018-19 school year, Oak Park Elementary School District 97 Superintendent Dr. Carol Kelley invited a group of local school and library leaders to read and discuss Claude M. Steele's *Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do*. During the discussion I facilitated, readers called the book startling, motivating, intriguing, validating, enlightening, convincing, and thought-provoking. One participant said, "The conversation about equity has to

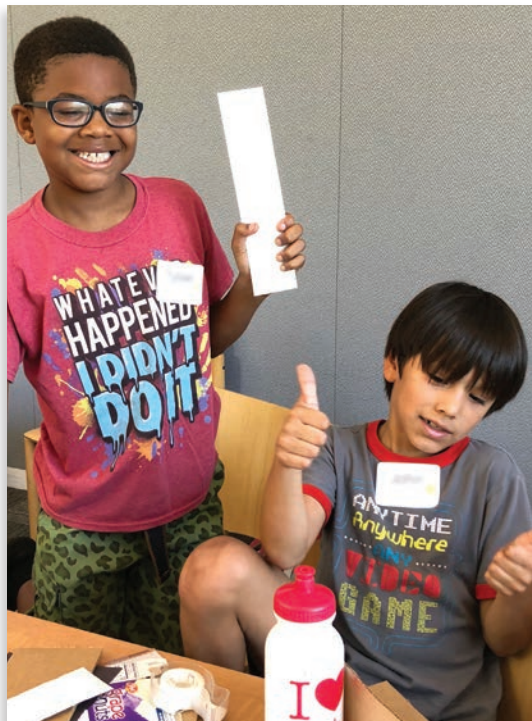
bring to light that it benefits everyone. There are still a lot of people who aren't convinced this is true."

### YOUR REFERENDUM VOTE

On Nov. 6, Oak Parkers approved a non-binding referendum to study the merger and consolidation of Oak Park taxing bodies, including the Village of Oak Park, Oak Park Township, the Oak Park Public Library, and the Park District of Oak Park.

What now? At press time, two days after the vote, all next steps are to be determined. Because this referendum was nonbinding, no direct action is tied to its approval. The library, the park district, and the township will continue to provide quality services, programs, and resources accessible to everyone in our community with a fiscally responsible approach. We know that we must work together with all other local governmental entities to effect positive change for our community.

—David J. Seleb,  
Executive Director



## EMPOWERING ALL VOICES

*means making some noise*

Visitors to the Main Library over four weeks this summer may have noticed it was a little noisier than usual on the second and third floors. From July 16 to Aug. 10, we hosted a lively weekday summer school designed to reimagine learning and achievement for elementary and middle school students who had been struggling in the previous school year, including those with lower Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) scores.

"We're trying to show all kids there is no limit to what you can achieve," said Frances Kraft, co-founder of the Equity Team, which collaborated with the library, Dominican University, and Oak Park Elementary School District 97 on the free Power of Partnerships summer school program.

In the Silent Reading Room and other library spaces, 55 students going into grades 2–8 worked in small groups and one-on-one with instructors in math, reading, and writing. They did yoga, built architectural models, programmed robots, sang, danced, and performed spoken word.

*"Maybe the system  
can change."*

—FRANCES KRAFT, E-TEAM

When your goal is to empower all voices, you're bound to make some noise.

The library's Executive Director David J. Seleb thanked library users for their patience as more traditionally quiet library areas were temporarily repurposed. "Libraries are some of the most trusted spaces in our community," Seleb said. "If we can look beyond some of the traditional roles we have ascribed for ourselves or allowed others to ascribe to us, we have an incredible opportunity."

The library is a neutral community space, and "a welcoming place where families can go not just to get a book, but to get support for their families," Kraft added. "That's why it made perfect sense to ground this work at the library."

To make the program's inquiry-based learning possible, "we had amazing people from the community come in," Kraft said, including Dominican University reading specialists, a Spoken Word teacher from Oak Park and River Forest High School, and staff from the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Keys2Broadway Educational



## E-TEAM

EXCELLENCE WITH EQUITY

The E-Team is a local nonprofit committed to helping every student feel prepared academically and socially to have a successful school experience. Learn more on page 7 and at [e-teamoakpark.com](http://e-teamoakpark.com).

Find them on Facebook:

[facebook.com/groups/ETeamOakPark](https://facebook.com/groups/ETeamOakPark)



Theater Company, and the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry. Some teen counselors themselves had been tutored and mentored at the library the previous school year in the IMLS-Triton College Activating Community Opportunities program (see pages 6-7).

For each child who participated, the E-Team tracked their progress and reported results back to District 97, with the goal of helping families and school staff work together as partners in the future.

Kraft said the Power of Partnerships program was meant to be an incubator for new approaches. "For decades, Oak Park has been having conversations about the achievement gap, or the opportunity gap. That is the measurable gap between white and black students, between low-income and non-low-income students, in meeting or exceeding academic measures," she said. "But Oak Park has every resource possible, and the issue is not with our students or families. To really address this issue, systems have to change. People see this kind of summer school and say, maybe the system can change."



## STEPPING UP *to the challenge*

**P**oet Luis Tubens has been working with young people at the Main Library since January 2017. That's when he became the library's first artist in residence, consistently drawing lots of middle schoolers to his after-school writing workshops and open mics.

Although his residency ended in summer 2017, Tubens hasn't stopped working with kids at the library. Every Tuesday afternoon he leads Chess Club Champs for kids ages 5-13.

"I teach chess to challenge the young minds of our future to think critically," Tubens said. "Chess teaches sacrifice and strategy, and it exercises the ability to think ahead."

Tiffany Rowoldt, whose 7-year-

old son attends every week, said, "It's Rocky's favorite thing. He always talks about what strategies Luis is going to teach him."

Kyle Netisingha said his daughter Savi, age 7, has been attending for the past year, ever since Tubens encouraged her to join.

"We like how he engages kids and does the lessons," Netisingha said, adding that his daughter is typically the only girl who attends. "We like to see her step up to the challenge."

Savi was encouraged after watching *The Queen of Katwe*, a film that depicts the life of a real Ugandan girl who grew up in a slum and became a top chess player. "It's empowering for young girls," Netisingha said.

*Chess Club*  
**CHAMPS**

Tuesdays through Dec. 18, 4:30-6:30 pm,  
Main Library. Check [oppl.org/calendar](http://oppl.org/calendar) for  
2019 dates and times.



## *a college & career* **CATALYST**

**S**ince October 2017, the Main Library has been the core site for a family and student mentoring and coaching initiative. Grounded at the library, the program is sparking action and opportunities that radiate outward.

IMLS-Triton College Activating Community Opportunities is a collaboration between the library, Triton College, and the Equity Team. With funding from a Community Catalyst grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the initiative has been attracting a growing network of mentors, students, community leaders, and institutions working together to improve student success and address gaps in college and career readiness.

### **TUTORING & PEER LEARNING**

On weekday afternoons, students and adults gather at the Main Library to work on homework and social-emotional skills. Triton College manages a network of volunteer tutors and mentors, including some Oak Park and River Forest high schoolers receiving educational benefits in the AmeriCorps Affiliate program.

Daysha Walker, a busy junior at Oak Park and River





(1) The IMLS-Triton College Activating Community Opportunities initiative is growing a network of mentors and volunteers to improve student success and address gaps in college and career readiness. At the Main Library, the initiative has drawn speakers like Omar Yamini, author of the book *What's Wrong With You! What You, Your Children, and Our Students Need to Know About My 15 Year Imprisonment From Age 20-35*. "This was so interesting and a learning experience and I'm going to be mindful about my friend choices," one student said. (2) Students and mentors attended a college fair at McCormick Place in September. (3) Young people and adults affiliated with the initiative participated in October's Restorative Justice Youth Conference at the Main Library (see page 12). (4) On weekdays, the Main Library is a tutoring and study hub for middle and high school students.

Forest High School, helps middle schoolers with math, essays, history, and research. She said she's motivated to volunteer as a tutor because the initiative can help level the playing field for students with different backgrounds and resources. "The fact that this is a free space where anyone can come in and get help from people who know this stuff is really important," Walker said.

### FAMILY SUPPORT & BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Among its many initiatives, the Equity Team is growing a Family Resource Network that partners families who can serve as coaches with families who need support navigating the community and school system. "We ask all families what they need and what they can give," said Frances Kraft, E-Team co-founder. (See pages 4-5 for more about the E-Team.)

### COURAGE FOR COLLEGE

"We have come to the realization that many of our students are terrified of going to college," said Kara Lester, Triton College project manager for the grant.

The initiative tackles this fear in part with a network of mentors. In September, mentors guided students through a college fair at McCormick Place, and in October they

attended a scholarship fair at the University of Illinois at Chicago. One volunteer has set up time in a library study room to help kids navigate the college process, and another speaks to students about nontraditional paths to college.

Students from TRIUMPH and SURGE, organizations for students of color at Triton College, also serve as mentors. These students are able to use their experiences to make meaningful connections with middle and high school students.

### ADVANCING THE COLLABORATION

The 18-month grant ends this spring, yet it has sparked opportunities and relationships that will continue beyond March 2019. One example: a two-day Community Building Blocks Workshop was held at the library in July to build on the IMLS initiative. Led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Community Revitalization, the IMLS, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, it drew more than 50 area leaders, elected officials, and community members to discuss equity and education, housing affordability, access to healthy food, and transportation. Learn more and read the 33-page report: [oppl.org/building-blocks](http://oppl.org/building-blocks)

# MORE THAN A MONTH

**MORE THAN A MONTH** celebrates black history, art, and culture all year long. Inspired by filmmaker Shukree Hassan Tilghman, who called for Black History Month to be expanded beyond its typical February observance, we offer programs and conversations that promote year-round enrichment. Find events and resources: [oppl.org/more](http://oppl.org/more)

## IT'S FOR EVERYONE

"You don't have to be black or African-American to learn about and celebrate black history and culture," said Larry Nance, Maze Branch Supervisor. "Everyone is invited and welcome." Join us to learn, ask questions, have meaningful discussions, and discover related books, movies, magazines, and music at your library.

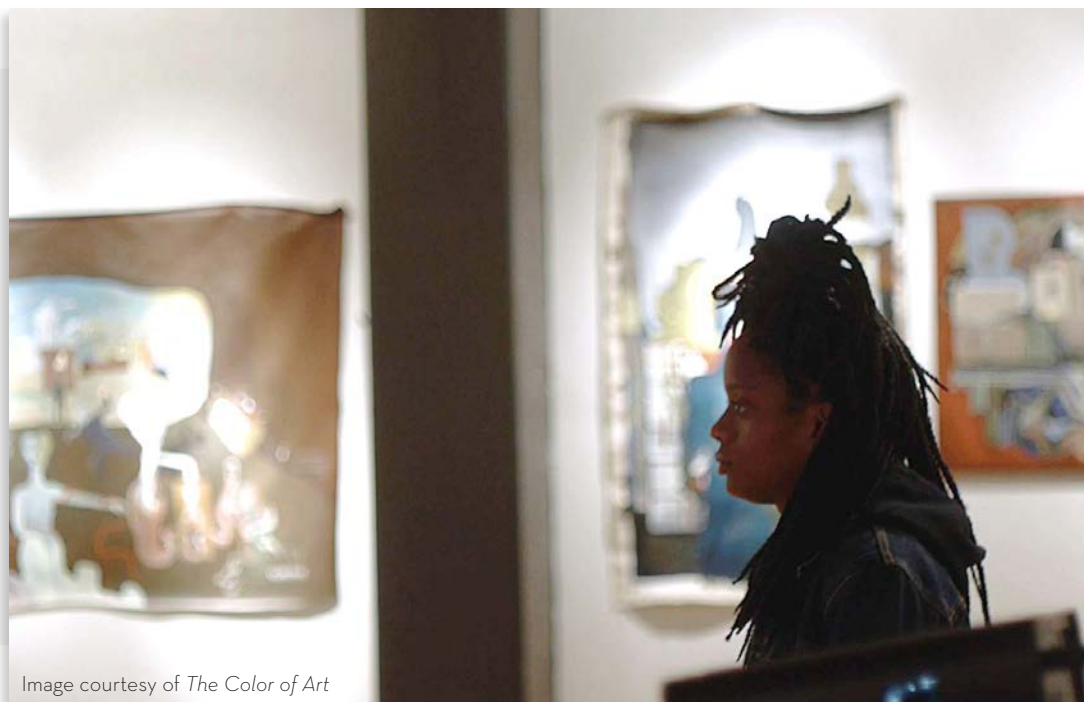


Image courtesy of *The Color of Art*

## WINTER *programs*

### FILM SCREENING: *THE COLOR OF ART*

**Tuesday, Dec. 11, 7–8:30 pm,  
Main Library Veterans Room.**

Watch and discuss this documentary exploring the current renaissance of black art in Chicago. With filmmaker David Weathersby and artist Jesse Howard. In partnership with the Oak Park Art League.

### COMMUNITY KWANZAA CELEBRATION

**Sunday, Dec. 30, 2–5 pm,  
Main Library Veterans Room**

### MORE THAN A MONTH: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FILM FESTIVAL

**Main Library Veterans Room, 2–4 pm**

**Saturday, Jan. 5:** *More Than a Month*

**Sunday, Jan. 6:** *I Am Not Your Negro*

**Sunday, Jan. 13:** *Cry Freedom*

**Saturday, Jan. 19:** *The Ladies #1  
Detective Agency*

**Saturday, Jan. 26:** *Marcus Garvey:  
Look for Me in the Whirlwind*

### ® BLACK HISTORY QUIZ SHOW PARTY

**Saturdays, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, 1–3 pm,  
Main Library Community  
Engagement Space.** Register now.

### BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES: AFROFUTURISM

**Saturdays, 1–2 pm, Dole Branch.**  
Afrofuturism combines science fiction and fantasy, rooted in black identity and African traditions.

**Feb. 9:** *Kindred* by Octavia Butler

**March 9:** *The Book of Phoenix*  
by Nnedi Okorafor

**April 13:** *The Between*  
by Tananarive Due

### ARTIFACT DISCOVERY: AFRICAN DIASPORA

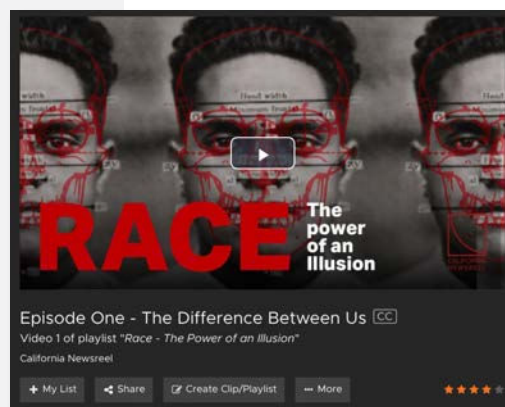
**Wednesday, Feb. 27, 3:30–4:30 pm, Dole Branch.** In honor of Black History Month, celebrate communities that are part of the African diaspora, in the Caribbean, South America, and beyond, with artifacts, music, and stories from the Multicultural Collection. Best for families with kids 5+.







Hand mirror from Haiti



## LEARN *from anywhere*

Now streaming on Kanopy:  
800 documentaries in  
the Ethnicity and Identity  
collection.

Such as *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, a documentary series that dismantles so-called scientific beliefs about racial hierarchies, and shows how faulty science has been ingrained in our social and political systems.

### OPPL.KANOPY.COM

- Kanopy is a digital video platform for library cardholders
- Watch on a computer, mobile device, or streaming TV device
- Check out 10 items per month—simultaneous access, no waiting
- Lending period: 3 days

## DISCOVER MORE *in our collections*

In 2019, we're focusing on the African diaspora, the mass scattering of peoples from Africa starting with the transatlantic slave trades, in which more than 10 million people were taken from Western and Central Africa to regions throughout the Americas and the Caribbean.

"This year we are bringing light to the experiences of people of African descent all around the world, not only in the United States, but also in places like Haiti, Cuba, South America, and Europe," said Niki Yeldell, Dole Branch Supervisor and More Than a Month co-creator.

"It's important to recognize the horrors and atrocities committed in the transatlantic slave trades," said Naomi Priddy, Multicultural Learning Librarian. "But I really love that More Than a Month shines light on opportunities to celebrate as well. It balances the bitter with the sweet, and honors the ways new traditions came out of terrible circumstances."

Two artifacts—a hand mirror and a stone from Haiti—help show how pieces of African traditions survived by merging with local cultures.

Carved on the back of the stone, called a *vèvè*, is "Erzulie," the name of the Haitian Vodou spirit who embodies love and feminine energy. Vodou emerged in Haiti when the religions of enslaved West Africans blended with beliefs of indigenous Taino people, plus European Roman Catholicism.

On the back of the hand mirror is what looks like Catholic imagery of the Virgin Mary and child. But the mirror is actually connected to Haitian Vodou as well, Priddy said.

Although enslaved West Africans and native Taino were forced to convert to Catholicism in Haiti, they continued worshipping spirits such as Erzulie by disguising them as Catholic saints. So while Erzulie can be represented as a goddess of love and a warrior mother, she also can be depicted as the Virgin Mary. Erzulie is a protector, and a response to the horrible abuses women suffered at the hands of slave masters.

### THIS FEBRUARY

Join us to discover more artifacts from the Multicultural Collection and celebrate African diaspora communities (see page 8).



Vèvè stone  
from Haiti



## ARTIFACTS, STORIES, CRAFTS, GAMES & MORE

### HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 4–5 pm,  
Dole Branch. Best for ages 4+.

### COMMUNITY KWANZAA CELEBRATION

Sunday, Dec. 30, 2–5 pm, Main Library  
Veterans Room. All ages.

### ORIZOMEGAMI

Sunday, Jan. 13, 2–4 pm, Main Library  
Book Discussion Room. Experiment  
with this Japanese art of decorating  
papers with natural dyes and folding.  
Supplies included. For adults, teens, and  
families with kids ages 10+. Register now.

### TU BISHVAT: “NEW YEAR OF TREES”

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 3–4 pm, Dole  
Branch. Learn more about Tu BiShvat,  
a day trees are planted in celebration,  
and one of the four “New Years” on  
the Jewish calendar. Best for ages 5+.

### LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 4–5 pm, Dole Branch.  
Discover more about the Lunar New  
Year, or Spring Festival. Best for ages 4+.

### MULTICULTURAL CRAFTING

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 3:30–4:30 pm,  
Dole Branch & Thursday, Feb. 7, 4–5 pm,  
Maze Branch. Best for ages 5+.

### ARTIFACT DISCOVERY: SUMMER IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 3:30–4:30 pm,  
Dole Branch

### ARTIFACT DISCOVERY: AFRICAN DIASPORA

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 3:30–4:30 pm,  
Dole Branch. In honor of Black  
History Month and in partnership  
with More Than a Month (see pages  
8–9). Best for families with kids 5+.

➔ Watch a video about the value  
of using artifacts to develop global  
citizens: [oppl.org/multicultural](https://oppl.org/multicultural)



## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL *learning series*

Wondering how to broach certain topics with your children and promote social-emotional learning in your family? This family workshop series promotes the use of books and activities to start some of those conversations. Previous sessions focused on compassion and gender identity. “It’s been wonderful to see children not only sharing stories but also supporting and listening to one another,” said Children’s Outreach and Programming Specialist Jenny Jackson.

### WORLD RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS

Thursday, Jan. 10, 4:30–5:30 pm,  
Dole Branch. For children ages  
5–10 with caregivers.





## CURATED LISTS

Explore the Multicultural Collection at Dole Branch. And browse reading lists, including African American History & Culture, Latinx Reads, Native Reads, and Asian American & Pacific Islander. More: [oppl.org/reading-lists](http://oppl.org/reading-lists)

Create a personal reading list with the Our Story app from We Need Diverse books. A free version is available by web browser: [diversebooks.org/ourstory](http://diversebooks.org/ourstory)

## RAISING *race-conscious readers*

“Picture books are great places to start conversations about race and inequity,” said Multicultural Learning Librarian Naomi Priddy. “Kids as young as 2 notice difference. They also notice power dynamics. They notice when an adult flinches at a sensitive question. They notice and absorb these things. They absorb all of it.”

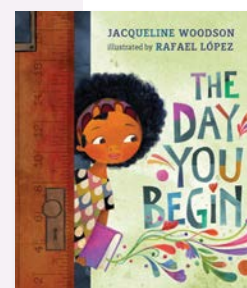
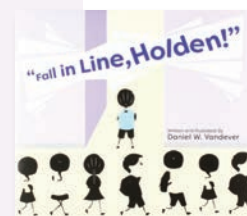
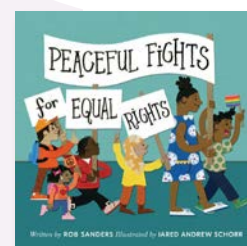
In our Race Conscious Readers series this fall, families, especially those who are white, came together to find ways to talk about race with kids in early elementary school, using books that celebrate, empower, and speak truth.

One parent said: “It’s important my kids hear these conversations around them all the time, not just at home. It reinforces how important it is.”

### #OWNVOICES: WHO WRITES THE STORY?

“We are so lucky in this era we live in, to have these books that show all kinds of hair, skin color, foods you eat, how you worship,” said Library Assistant Beronica Garcia-Puhr. “When I was growing up, I didn’t see any of this. I wish I would have.”

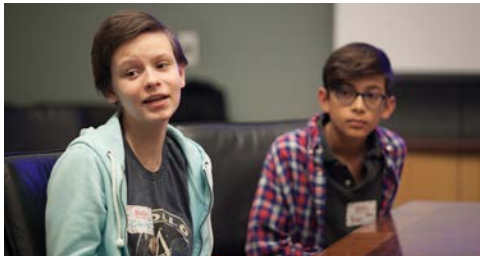
While more children’s books about people of color are being published, the number being authored by people of color is still relatively very low, notes multicultural publisher Lee & Low. In October, we highlighted the #OwnVoices movement, which calls for more authors from marginalized communities to tell their stories. For example, author Daniel Vandever’s *Fall in Line, Holden!*, based on his experiences attending Western schools and growing up in the Navajo Nation.



## ROOM TO GROW

By its purpose, the library’s Multicultural Collection is diverse. Yet there’s always room to grow, which is why we audited it for diversity in 2018, along with other library collections. What we found:

- Of the collection’s picture books and YA fiction, **89% are racially diverse** (with nonwhite main characters), **53% reflect #OwnVoices** (written by a member of the community the item is about), and **56% are set outside the United States**.
- Nonfiction books in the collection’s “Around the World” category are often created by white authors and illustrators. We will seek out more international titles that have been translated to English, in keeping with #OwnVoices.



## WHAT GROWS *with restorative justice?*

“Closer communities, meaningful relationships, a step toward equity.” “A chance for healing.” “Real justice.” These are a few responses we heard from participants in October’s Restorative Justice Youth Conference. The two-day event brought restorative justice practitioners together for workshops, peace circles, and panel discussions at the Main Library. “We are a public institution, and we love to share information,” said Social Services Specialist Stephen Jackson, who organized the conference with young people and library staff. “That’s what libraries do.”



### REPAIRING HARM

Restorative justice focuses on repairing harm caused by crime and injustice, for those involved and for the larger community. All parties come together in “circles” to talk about how an injustice can be healed, how amends can be made.

“Restorative justice is not about abdicating accountability,” conference participant Susan Lucci wrote in a blog post. “Instead, this model relies on proven techniques of forgiveness and empowerment, which are far more successful than our current system of punishment.”

Practitioners from Heartland Alliance, Catherine Cook School, and others spoke and led workshops.

“We were a gathering of teachers and students, police officers and people with records, elders and newbies, student deans, spoken word artists, bridge-builders, circle keepers and community organizers,” Lucci wrote.

### BRIDGING DIVIDES

Chicago police officer and panelist Tim Crawford spoke about his work with YMCA of Metro Chicago’s Bridging the Divide, which builds relationships between youth and police officers. Although skeptical at first, Crawford said he has seen restorative justice circles work. “Especially with people who experience trauma on a regular basis. You’ve got to have a

place to vent, to speak your truth.”

Panelist Darrius Lightfoot, co-founder of Fearless Leading by the Youth, which trains community organizers, said for a long time he did not want to sit down with police officers in a circle. “These are the people I’m afraid of shooting me,” Lightfoot said. “I’m very traumatized by the police.” Eventually, after hearing officers say they too are afraid of being shot every day on the job, “I connected my struggle to their struggle,” Lightfoot said.

### RESTORING COMMUNITY

“One of the most poignant moments was when Stephen Jackson asked the panelists to name individuals who had guided, inspired, uplifted, and loved them. Hearts broke open with gratitude,” Lucci wrote. “It turns out that not one of us successfully navigates life solo. ... We can’t become ourselves by ourselves.” More: [2big4words.org/blog-sues-spark](https://2big4words.org/blog-sues-spark)

*“We love to share information.  
That’s what libraries do.”*

—STEPHEN JACKSON, SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST





## *too early*

Did you know all Oak Park residents, even babies, can get their own library card? And it's never too early to participate in our free early literacy programs.

**WE SHARE BOOKS, SONGS, STORIES, WORDS, RHYMES, SOUNDS, AND PLAY,** giving little ones the building blocks they need to learn how to read later.

- **Storytimes all week** for different age groups, at all three locations
- **1,000 Books Before Kindergarten**, a long-term reading program for families with babies, toddlers, and preschoolers
- **Tips by text and videos** from the Early Bird Readers team

You Tube

Learn more about our research-based early literacy programs:  
[oppl.org/early](http://oppl.org/early)

## *for the stars*

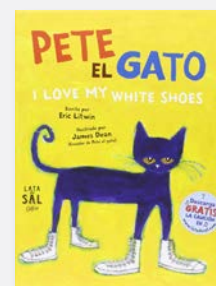
After finishing our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program last spring, 3-year-old Bronson kept reaching for the stars. Seeing a model of the solar system at the Main Library last summer sparked his curiosity, so Bronson and his caregiver checked out lots of books about stars, planets, and the galaxy. The “powerhouse team” visit the library frequently and read books in both English and Spanish, said Early Literacy Librarian Shelley Harris.

“We have always been avid readers,” said Bronson’s mom, Sarah Watson. “And we can’t really think of a time when we weren’t reading to him. He has always enjoyed stories, and we are happy to indulge him.”

Learn more about 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, the library’s long-term reading program to prepare our community’s babies, toddlers, and preschoolers to arrive “ready to learn” come kindergarten: [oppl.org/early](http://oppl.org/early)



Librarian Jose Cruz (aka Mr. Jose) often weaves Spanish words and songs into storytime. Here are a few bilingual and Spanish-language picture books he recommends.



From helping you put together a resume, to giving you tips for applying online, to helping with interview coaching, the library has some wonderful seminars and speakers that have helped me tremendously.

—PATRON AMY NIEVES

Thursdays, 2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Presented by David Preciado, Chicago Federation of Labor Workforce and Community Initiative. Register now.

Jan. 24: The Importance of a Strong Resume

Feb. 28: Tips for Submitting Online Job Applications



## FINANCIAL PLANNING *at the library*

### FINANCIAL LITERACY SERIES:

#### BUILDING WEALTH AND ASSET ACCUMULATION

Saturday, Dec. 1, 2–4 pm, Main Library Community Engagement Space. Learn how to earn a reasonable rate of return, how time and taxes affect asset growth, and how to take care of your children's college planning. In partnership with Illinois State Representatives Camille Y. Lilly and LaShawn K. Ford and the WSB National Financial Literacy Campaign.

#### 📌 GET THAT SCHOLARSHIP!

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 6:30–8 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission will guide you through online resources that will help you get you the college funds you need. For high school juniors, seniors, and their parents. Register now.

#### 📌 3 STEPS TO COLLEGE PLANNING & CAREER SUCCESS

Thursday, Jan. 24, 7–8:30 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Oak Brook-based Partners for Achievement shares best practices of the college admissions, financial aid, and career planning process. For parents and students in grades 8–11. Register now.

### ONLINE RESOURCES

Use your library card number and PIN to access career and financial tools: [oppl.org/online-resources](http://oppl.org/online-resources)



*“Great place for job seekers to get help with resumes and research companies.”*



*“I wanted to learn how to invest in stocks and track certain funds. Online resources helped me focus my long-term goals.”*

### *makes for a better library*

We always want to know what you think and how you'd rate your library experience. Here's what some Financial Literacy Series participants shared on program surveys this fall:

- “That no one was trying to sell me anything. Just information.”
- “Speaker knew what he was talking about and was refreshingly honest.”





## DIGITAL LEARNING *at the library*

### ● BASIC AND INTERMEDIATE TECH WORKSHOPS

Mondays in January and February, 7–8 pm, Main Library Computer Classroom. Register now.

### TECH TIME DROP-IN

Tuesdays, 9–11 am, Main Library Computer Classroom.  
Stop by with questions. No appointment needed.

### ● APPS AND WEBSITES CLASSES

Wednesdays, 7–8 pm, Main Library Computer Classroom.  
Register now.

Jan. 9: Healthy New Year Apps and Websites

Feb. 6: Travel (Cheaply) Apps and Websites

Feb. 20: Introduction to Facebook

### ● MAKER SERIES: OPEN LABS

Saturdays, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, 10 am–12 pm, Main Library Computer Classroom.  
Work on 3D-printing projects, create designs using the vinyl cutter, or laser cut a hobby piece. Experience with computers and applications is required.  
Register now.

## LEARNING *labs*

For personal help with specific tech topics, schedule a one-on-one Learning Lab appointment at any library location. Device repair not available. Book your appointment: [oppl.org/digital-learning](http://oppl.org/digital-learning)

## *from anywhere*

Your neighbors are using the library's online subscription resources to learn, grow, and meet their goals.

Use your library card number and PIN to access them:  
[oppl.org/online-resources](http://oppl.org/online-resources)

*"I wanted to learn Italian before my trip, and Mango was amazing."*



*"We were able to fill in a lot of our family's genealogy using library resources."*



*"Great place for SAT and ACT practice tests."*

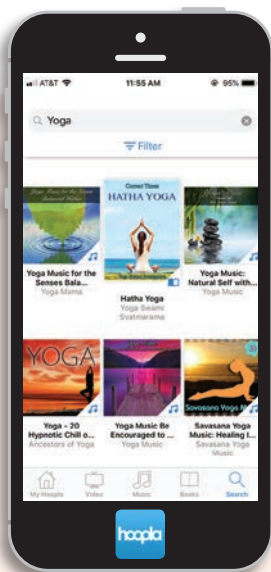




## Meet Juanita

HEALTH & WELLNESS  
LIBRARIAN

“ In coordinating programs and events with the community, I approach health and wellness holistically: from a mental, physical, and spiritual perspective. ”



## Stream Videos

Get the Hoopla app and learn more: [oppl.org/apps](http://oppl.org/apps)



## HEALTH & WELLNESS *programs*



### EVENTS WITH SUGAR BEET FOOD CO-OP

Free demonstrations and goodies to take home.  
Registration required.

#### ® FUN FOR ALL AGES: ELDERBERRY GUMMIES

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2–3:30 pm,  
Main Library Veterans Room

#### ® FALL IN LOVE WITH TEA BLENDS

Saturday, Feb. 9, 1–2:30 pm,  
Main Library Veterans Room

#### THE ASK

Thursdays, Dec. 6, Feb. 7, March 7,  
6–7 pm, Main Library Veterans  
Room. Honest answers from agencies  
that specialize in youth and health,  
including peer educators. For kids in  
grades 6–12. With the Illinois Caucus  
for Adolescent Health.

#### MIDDAY MEDITATION SERIES

Thursdays, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, March 7,  
12–12:30 pm, Main Library Book  
Discussion Room. Led by Nature  
Yoga Sanctuary.

#### ® HEALTHY NEW YEAR APPS AND WEBSITES

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7–8 pm, Main

Library Computer Classroom.  
Register now.

#### ® HEALTHY HABITS, HEALTHY LIFE

Sundays, Jan. 13 through March 3,  
4–5 pm, Main Library Small  
Meeting Room. Eight-week coaching  
series with Molly Kate Wellness.  
Register now.

#### ASTHMA, ECZEMA, HIVES & YOU

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 6:30–7:30 pm,  
Main Library Community  
Engagement Space. With allergist  
and immunologist Dr. Pitud  
Rangsithienchai.





Photos courtesy of The Conservation Center

## CONSERVING *a piece of the past*

Special Collections curates, houses, and conserves Oak Park's historical treasures, and makes them publicly available both in person and digitally. In 2018 we worked with the Conservation Center in Chicago to conserve a work of art of special significance to the library—a rare window from the Scoville Institute, the late 19th-century building that once stood at 834 Lake St., now home to the Main Library.

### THE SCOVILLE INSTITUTE

Before the Oak Park Public Library, there was the Scoville Institute. Originally a private subscription library built in 1888 with funds donated by resident James W. Scoville, it became Oak Park's first public library in 1902.

In the early 1960s, it was torn down to make way for a new library building. The current Main Library, opened in 2003, is the second to be built on the old Scoville site.

### THE SCOVILLE WINDOW

When the Scoville Institute was demolished, local hardware store owner Don Peaslee bought an art glass window from the building at auction, refurbished it, and later donated it to the library, where it hung on the wall of the Main Library's third-floor Special Collections Reading Room.

In early 2018, staff noticed that parts of the window's frame, which is not original, had started to separate. "The glass itself is in excellent condition," said

Archivist Emily Reiher. "But the window is heavy. Gravity took its toll on the frame."

They contacted the Conservation Center, a leader in art preservation, which in 2016 had conserved the library's Grand Army of the Republic volumes, full of photos and information about local Civil War veterans.

### A SPECIAL PLACE

The Conservation Center crafted a new frame, plus a custom easel to display the window upon its return to Special Collections.

"So few objects from the original library building exist, and that's why the Scoville Window is so special to us," said Leigh Tarullo, Curator of Special Collections. "We will make sure it always has a prominent place."

Other Scoville Institute items at the library include rare books and correspondence between librarians and local authors. More: [oppl.org/special-collections](http://oppl.org/special-collections)

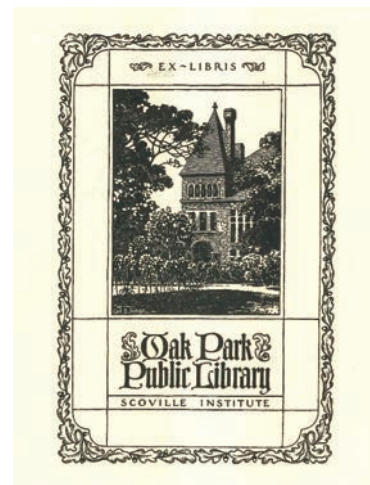


Image courtesy of the West Chicago Public Library, Cornelia Neltner Anthony and Frank D. Anthony Book Plate Collection

### SOUND FAMILIAR?

The Scoville name graces Scoville Park, Scoville Avenue, and the Main Library Scoville Room, where the library board of trustees typically meets. It's also etched into the cornerstone still at 834 Lake St.



## BOOKS *worth reading*

### TOP READS IN 2018

In November, our librarians who monitor holds and purchase new fiction materials took a look at the most circulated items of 2018 and generated this list.

- *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles
- *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders
- *The Power* by Naomi Alderman
- *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg
- *The Perfect Nanny* by Leïla Slimani
- *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones
- *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward
- *The Wedding Date* by Jasmine Guillory
- *The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin
- *Chicago* by David Mamet



### SUBSCRIBE FOR SUGGESTIONS

Receive emails with lists of what's new and what's trending, curated by our librarians. More: [oppl.org/subscribe](https://oppl.org/subscribe)



### READ TO ORDER

Answer a few simple questions about what you like—and what you don't—and our librarians respond with unique titles just for you. More: [oppl.org/read-to-order](https://oppl.org/read-to-order)



### FOLLOW US

Follow #OPSuggests on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to see what our librarians are loving each week.

Find all of this and more at [oppl.org/we-suggest](https://oppl.org/we-suggest).

### AUTHOR EVENTS AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

**DON EVANS: AN OFF-WHITE CHRISTMAS**  
Saturday, Dec. 1, 2–4 pm

**WILLIAM HAZELGROVE: WRIGHT BROTHERS, WRONG STORY**  
Saturday, Jan. 12, 3–5 pm

**DENNIS FOLEY AND PATTY MCNAIR**  
Sunday, Dec. 2, 2–4 pm

**LOU MACALUSO: THE GREATEST ESCAPE**  
Sunday, Jan. 20, 2–4 pm





## BY THE NUMBERS

**5<sup>TH</sup>**  
summer  
of the series

**1<sup>ST</sup>**  
time selecting  
a poetry title

**510**  
physical and digital  
checkouts and renewals

**16** events  
WITH  
**400+**  
people attending

**17**  
videos of library staff  
reading their favorites  
WITH  
**7,000+**  
video views on social media



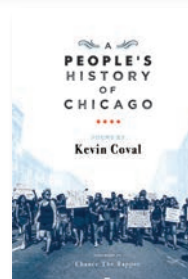
## ONE BOOK *in the community*

**T**he poetry collection *A People's History of Chicago* was at the center of our One Book, One Oak Park series in 2018. In 77 poems, author Kevin Coval traces the city's history through often untold perspectives, including African-American, Latinx, LGBTQ, and working-class experiences.

From May through August, we discussed the poems both inside and outside the library, including at four senior centers in Oak Park. A resident of Mills Park Tower told Librarian Rashmi Swain he particularly responded to "The Eastland Disaster," which humanizes the tragic 1915 sinking of a ship full of working-class families in the Chicago River.

One thread running through the series: the poems illustrate Chicago history, but their themes bridge time and place. In five Poem & Place discussions, we met on street corners around Oak Park, relating the poems to events, people, and places in Oak Park's own history. "We're finding we're part of not only this story but many stories," said Supervisor Kelly Knowles, who worked with Deputy Director Jim Madigan to lead the Poem & Place series. "We want to shake, wake, provoke curiosity."

And as one book discussion participant at Dole Branch told us: "While reading the references to the people and movements that rose up, I asked myself: How can I make a difference? Can I find something that I am good at and contribute?" More: [oppl.org/one-book](http://oppl.org/one-book)



## WORKING FOR YOU

### WE ORDER FOR BOOK CLUBS

Have a book club? Let us help you find copies for your club members, in the formats you want. We'll have them ready for each member to check out at the library location you choose. Learn more about this service and see library-led book groups at [oppl.org/authors-books](http://oppl.org/authors-books).

### WE DELIVER TO YOU

Home Delivery is available to all Oak Park cardholders unable to come into a library location, either indefinitely or for a short time—for example, while recovering from surgery or caring for a newborn. Learn more at [oppl.org/home-delivery](http://oppl.org/home-delivery).

**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: 1-6 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: 1-6 pm

**MAZE BRANCH**

845 Gunderson Ave. | 708.386.4751  
Monday-Thursday: 10 am-9 pm  
Friday: Closed  
Saturday: 10 am-5 pm  
Sunday: 1-6 pm



**REGISTRATION**

Some events require registration.  
Call 708.383.8200 or visit  
[oppl.org/calendar](http://oppl.org/calendar) for the latest  
information and all events.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

For accommodations at an  
event or class, please contact  
us, allowing seven days' notice  
to best serve you. More:  
[oppl.org/accessibility](http://oppl.org/accessibility)

**PROMOTION**

Library programs and classes  
are often photographed and/or  
recorded for promotional purposes.  
Please let us know if you prefer not  
to be photographed or recorded.



Printed on recycled paper.  
More: [fsc.org](http://fsc.org)

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*Celebrating*  
**25 YEARS**

**RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE  
FOR JIM MADIGAN**

Sunday, Feb. 3, 2-4 pm, Main Library.  
Join us to say farewell to Deputy  
Director Jim Madigan, who will retire  
in February after 25 years with the  
library. Refreshments will be served.

Jim poses with artwork by Margaret Burroughs  
and a copy of *A People's History of Chicago*,  
our One Book pick last summer (see page 19).



**BLACK MINDS MATTER SERIES**

Through February: Various Tuesdays,  
6-8 pm, Main Library. Ongoing  
video and discussion series to increase  
consciousness about education issues  
facing black boys and men, emphasizing  
strategies and practices to support  
success. Join anytime, for any number  
of sessions. In collaboration with  
IMLS-Triton College Activating  
Community Opportunities (see pages  
6-7). More: [oppl.org/calendar](http://oppl.org/calendar)

**DECEMBER 2018**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**JANUARY 2019**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**HOLIDAY HOURS**

**Friday, Dec. 7 (Staff Engagement Day)**

- Main Library open 2-6 pm
- Dole Branch open 2-6 pm
- Maze Branch closed

All library buildings  
will be closed **Monday,**  
**Dec. 24, Tuesday, Dec. 25,**  
and **Tuesday, Jan. 1.**

Main Library and Maze  
Branch close at 5 pm on  
**Monday, Dec. 31.** Dole  
Branch closed all day.