I never had much interest in genealogy. Then about a year ago my sister-in-law dumped the family's genealogy e-records on me, saying she was tired of sorting through Kenneys and besides, I was a librarian, so it was de facto my job.

After ignoring Ancestry for a few months, I dove in. And I found it fascinating. Not just learning about my family, but learning about history from an entirely new, and personal, perspective. By the time I discovered that a great-great-great-great-great uncle had died in the Battle of White Plains--not far from the Library!--I was hooked.

Whether you're thinking about getting involved in genealogy, or already have experience, we've got two great workshops in May. Be sure to sign up for the second one to reserve a space.

**Getting the Most Out of Your Ancestry.com DNA Results**
Monday, May 17th
7:00–8:00 p.m.
[Click here](#) for the zoom link.
DNA test results offer so much more than just finding out your ethnicity percentage. Gain a greater understanding of how you inherit your DNA and the difference between your genetic family tree vs your genealogical family tree. Find out how to analyze DNA matches and explore the benefits of Ancestry.com Thrulines.
Presented by Sarah Gutmann.

**A Rosenberg is a Rosen is a Rose: How and Why Our Ancestors Changed their**
Names
Monday, May 24th
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Click here to register. Registration is required.
Our immigrant ancestors came with baggage. Clothing, photographs, candlesticks, recipes… and their names. All were cherished reminders of the “Old Country” except the names which were sometimes readily jettisoned when arriving in The Golden Land. Through a series of stories, the how, when and why of name changes will be explored. There will be time for participants to share stories of their own family name changes and to find out how to learn what the name originally was. Presented by Alan Steinfeld.

Take care,

Brian Kenney
Library Director
bkenney@whiteplainslibrary.org

Sit Down & Write
Thursday, April 29th
4:00-4:30 p.m.
Set aside 30 minutes for some creative writing time. Each week, we'll spend quiet time working on a different writing prompt. This program is intended for grades 4-8; teens who would like to attend are welcome to do so. Click here for the Zoom link.

English Conversation Group
Friday, April 30th
2:00-3:00 p.m.
ESL speakers, come practice your English conversation skills in this fun, supportive virtual setting! Feel free to bring your own conversation topics. Click here for the Zoom Link.
Understanding the Process of Becoming a U.S. Citizen
RESCHEDULED:
Tuesday, May 4th
2:00-3:15 p.m.
Community Relations Officer for the NYC District Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services Shyconia Burden will discuss the naturalization application process. Shyconia will cover what the eligibility requirements are before you apply and how you may qualify for any exceptions and accommodations. She will answer any questions about citizenship and the naturalization process. Click here to register.

5 Simple Spring Cleaning Shortcuts
Sunday, May 2nd
2:00–3:00 p.m.
If spring cleaning is on your mind, then you won't want to miss this virtual program. Skip the two page to-do list and learn the spring cleaning shortcuts the pros use! Organizing humorist and bestselling author Jamie Novak will share her five shortcuts and guide you through crafting your own spring cleaning cheat sheet. Click here to register.

May Gardening Events
Spring is here and if you are struggling with starting a garden, join us for one of our upcoming events with Master Gardener Jacqui Bergonzi or Co-Founder of Fruition Seeds Petra Page-Mann. Click here for more information and to register.
Book Discussion:  
*K Deacon King Kong*  
Tuesday, May 25th  
7:00-8:30 p.m  

Based on enthusiasm from the community, the Foundation is hosting a pop-up book group next month. The discussion will be moderated by Beth Kava, President of the White Plains Library Foundation and Heather Miller, Executive Director of the Thomas H. Slater Center. Click here to register.

Reminder: A highlight from next week's calendar is a [Conversation with James McBride](#) on the evening of May 4th. There's a few more spots, click here for details.

May LibraryReads  
[Here](#) are the top ten books published this month that librarians across the country love.
BIKING IN NEW YORK & BEYOND
Finding the Best Urban, Suburban & Rural Bike Trails
Tuesday, May 11 - 11 - 11:45 a.m.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

New York offers thousands of miles of bike trails — through urban centers, quaint towns, idyllic villages, rural areas and mountains. With trails for riders of all ages and skill levels, biking in New York is never boring. Join AAA and bicycling experts for safe biking information and to get tips on finding your perfect trail.

Around the Web

Facts on Coronavirus.

The most popular J&J vaccine story on Facebook? A conspiracy theorist posted it.

In war zones, social media disinformation is costing lives.
Imagine your ideal artist’s retreat in this breathtakingly beautiful forest library.

New study looks at race and gender representation in award-winning children’s books.

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Photo of the Week

Left: *Spring has sprung!* by Mary K.

We want your photos! In each issue of This Week on Martine we feature one patron submitted photo that was taken in White Plains. To submit your photography for a chance to be featured, visit our submission page, upload a photo, and fill out our form with a short description of the photo and your name.

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White Plains, NY 10601
914-422-1400
librarian@whiteplainslibrary.org

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