Harriet Tubman - Journey to Freedom

From April 1st through June 30th, the Harriet Tubman – Journey to Freedom sculpture by Wesley Wofford will be on display in Renaissance Plaza in downtown White Plains. In conjunction with this historic visit by the sculpture, the Library and many other community partners are organizing events related to Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad, and more, throughout April, May, and June.

The third and final StoryWalk featuring the picture book is Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free - The True Story of the Grandmother of Juneteenth by Alice Faye Duncan, illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo, and is available for viewing on the Library Plaza now through June 30.

Josh hosted Navigating by the Stars on April 17. Several adults and a few children were in attendance to learn about the history of navigation and how people such as Harriet Tubman were able to navigate their way north on the Underground Railroad. The Q&A following demonstrated that the audience was quite interested in the program.
Caroline hosted the second Harriet Tubman related Book Bunch for Grades 4-6, featuring the title, *Eliza’s Freedom Road: An Underground Railroad Diary* by Jerdine Nolen. The author joined the discussion virtually with the six participants. Caroline notes, “The kids were very engaged and asked her many wonderful questions.”

A full listing of the Library’s events through June can be found here: [https://whiteplainslibrary.org/2022/03/harriet-tubman-programs-and-events/](https://whiteplainslibrary.org/2022/03/harriet-tubman-programs-and-events/)
Programs

Now that the weather is nice and we are offering Storytimes for Ages 2-6 outside weekly and on the first Saturday each month, attendance is growing! By the end of May, Caroline reported 12 families attended.

Caroline ran a session of Stories & Stuff for ages 4-8. She reports, “I created ten origami kits for the program. The theme was Asian Pacific Month and I chose three books from the display to use for our program. One kid showed up for that program. Jason and his mother enjoyed the origami craft and took some additional picture kits home. They also ended up taking out a few books on origami.”

Erik and Ashley hosted a Teens Battle of the Books book discussion. Erik reports, “The discussion was on two of the Teen Battle of the Books titles, Skyward by Brandon Sanderson and Wink by Rob Harrell. Teens and Tweens got a chance to discuss their favorite parts of these books.”

Josh hosted the first four (of five) sessions of Chinese Language & Culture, a virtual program for ages 5-15 to learn some basic Mandarin and a bit about Chinese culture. Each week the program features a different theme, from street foods, to basic greetings, to jokes. Josh reports, “the kids in attendance all did great, picked up words and pronunciation quickly, and had a lot of fun doing so!” There is one more session in the first week of June.
Move Along

*bào quán lǐ*

How to do a proper 抱拳礼？

1. In the ancient time, Chinese people wouldn't speak to each other before finishing 抱拳礼.
2. Make your right hand a fist and arch your left palm, then press your right fist to your left palm and make sure your left thumb does not point at yourself.

Culture Neulingo

奇特的中国食物

Chinese Delicacies

- I can recognize popular exotic foods in Chinese culture.
- I can answer and ask questions about personal preferences of Chinese delicacies.
- I can use proper descriptive words when talking about Chinese delicacies.

Fun Fact

Street Food plays an essential part in Chinese food culture. To some extent, they are considered to be the most authentic food that people can find in the city. A lot of strange food are hidden in the local alley.
Ashley and Erik hosted two sessions of **Hybrid Tabletop Gaming**. Erik reported, “Using Board Game Arena, students at home AND in the Library could challenge each other to a variety of games and socialize.”

Ben and Erik ran two sessions of **Virtual Dungeons & Dragons for Teens**. Erik reports,

“The campaign left off in the middle of a large battle at sea. Their ship was boarded by pirates. The Pirate captain they would soon find out is a Druid, and can shapeshift. The battle climaxed when the druid turned themself into a Kraken, a large sea creature. The group tried to fight off the Kraken that was trying to take down the ship, but could not defeat it. The ship sank with everyone living left on it. Miraculously the group of heroes
survived, including a Satyr that couldn’t swim and was wearing a heavy, metal helmet when the ship sank. They were all dragged out of the sea onto an island by the local habitants. They have no idea if these people are friends of foes, nor where this island is and how they will be able to reach their original destination and bring the army commander back.”

Erik hosted Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners with Dungeon Master Jessy Stanley. Erik reports, “Two teens and I chose pre-made characters and started a short adventure. They were hired to help a merchant deliver a large statue across a desert full of goblins, mercenaries, and giants who live on clouds and create large storms. The group learned about using their characters to rob an Orc merchant who was trying to over charge them for healing potions, and battled a small group of goblins. The campaign ended too soon as time ran out.”

Austin held sessions of several youth STEAM programs: Create a Minecraft World, Engineering Time for Youth, and Game Design for Youth.

**Professional Development, Displays, Staffing Changes, Outreach and Other**

Erik helped patrons with four Drop-in Cricut Projects:

- A patron printed vinyl decals for beer glasses that will be a gift to their friend.
- A patron printed 50 iron-on transfer decals for sweaters she is giving out for her daughter Bat-Mitzvah.
- Patrons created greeting cards for a birthday and anniversary.
Ashley conducted an Outreach Storytime at United Preschool.
Erik and Ashley attended the WP School District Book Giveaway at Eastview School. Erik reports, “At the table we had two activities. For kids, we had Quiver coloring sheets. These are AR generated images that come to life using an iPad and the Quiver app. Teens and Tweens got to build using Strawbees. We also gave away blank Library cards to Adults, Teens and Kids. These cards could be brought in and activated. Kids and Teens had all fines removed when they came in. We also had fliers for events and programs at the Library.”
The Castle opened Monday afternoon, May 16, as a Grades 4-6 space, like a pre-Edge space. The hours it is open are: Monday-Thursday: 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., Fridays: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. More info here: [https://whiteplainslibrary.org/2022/05/the-castle-a-space-for-tweens/](https://whiteplainslibrary.org/2022/05/the-castle-a-space-for-tweens/) Apparently, in addition to being a welcoming space for youth in grades 4-6, it is a welcoming space for Minions!
Edge Displays
Library Assistants Kelly and Alain created book displays in the Edge. Alain’s display is for faith in YA literature, while Kelly’s features horror titles.
Trove Displays and Exhibits
Congrats to White Plains Student Artists, Juneteenth, Pride, Caribbean American Heritage, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Oceans of Possibilities (Summer Reading theme), and more.
Some Toys Back in the Story Trove Area

We’ve returned some of the LEGOs to the LEGO Table and the Magnatiles to the Light Box Table in the Story Trove, and the kids are so happy to play with them again!

Staffing Changes

Ashley Bressingham has resigned from her position as Librarian. Lauren Lichtenthal will be moving into a new role in Collection Management within the Library. As such, we will be over the next few months hiring two new Librarians in Youth Services.