



**Sheba  
Marcus-Bey**  
Executive Director

## Message from the Director

This February, East Cleveland Public Library is pleased to celebrate the achievements of African Americans. As such, the contributions that have been made by this group have helped weave important attributes into our country's fabric to make America what it is today. Since 1976, the United States has chosen to expand upon Carter G. Woodson's idea of "National Negro Week into to what is now called "Black History Month." For Woodson, an educator and historian, the basic purpose of Black History Month was centered around the need for this community to reclaim the past in order to move forward. According to Woodson, "Those who have no record of what their forbearers have accomplished lose their inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history."

We welcome you to learn about our own local heroes through our various programs throughout the month:

- **If These Walls Could Talk: Film Screening with Chris Webb**  
FEBRUARY 3 & FEBRUARY 10, 2:00 pm  
Attend a special free screening of Chris Webb's award-winning film.
- **Djapo Cultural Arts Institute**  
FEBRUARY 21, 4:30 pm  
Join this incredible drumming performance by the Djapo Cultural Arts Institute.
- **Black History Saturdays**  
FEBRUARY 24, 1:00 pm  
A new all ages monthly program starting Saturday, February 24 in partnership with ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History). Join the inaugural event, featuring activities and crafts as we discuss and learn about three trailblazers: Carter G. Woodson, John Hope Franklin, and James Weldon Johnson. SMB

## Free Children's Books from the Imagination Library – Sign up at ECPL



Children from birth to age five can sign up at ECPL to receive books at home from the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The organization promotes reading and literacy among children with a simple plan: giving children books to keep. Growing children's opportunities to read at home with a personal library of books can develop into a lifetime of enjoyment reading. Since studies show that reading for fun as a child often translates into success in school and on the job – those free books may make a lifelong impact.

Launched in 1995, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library will reach an incredible milestone in early 2018, reaching 100 million books given away. ECPL joined this partnership last year. The Library mails in registration forms for patrons, so not even a postage stamp is needed for your children to start receiving their free books to keep! Processing takes about eight weeks, so the free books start arriving in about two months. Visit the Children's Department to sign your children up for their free home library.

# Ongoing Programs

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

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- **Kids' Café**, Monday–Friday, 3:30 PM. Enjoy an afternoon snack.
- **Storytime**, Monday & Wednesday, 11:00 AM
- **Pee Wee Reading Roundtable** and **Just Dance**, Alternating Tuesdays, 4:30 PM
- **Lego Lab**, Second Tuesdays, 4:00 PM
- **After School Tutoring**, Tuesdays & Thursdays  
No appointment needed.

## CHILDREN'S & YOUTH PROGRAMS

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- **Kids' Café**, Monday–Friday, 3:30 PM. Enjoy an afternoon snack.
- **Chess Club**, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays 3:30–5:30 PM,  
Learn and Play with Chess Mentor, Donald McClendon
- **Teen Zone**, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 4:30–5:30 PM  
Join the Teen Zone for special activities every week,  
from gaming, crafts, speakers, movies, more!
- **After School Tutoring**, Tuesdays & Thursdays  
No appointment needed.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

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**Computer Classes**, Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
Beginner and advanced classes. Register during library hours. Free.

**Tech Toys Mondays**, 4:00–5:00 PM

Learn about the latest cool devices available, from tablets, remote control drones, and Bluetooth blood pressure cuffs, and more.

**Wired Wednesdays**, 3:00–3:30 PM

Bring your kindle, laptop, or portable device for simple tech support.

**Fear Not Thursdays**, 4:00–5:00 PM

You've got questions, ECPL has answers! Bring in your mobile devices for troubleshooting and tech support.

**Get Real: Nonfiction Writing Lab**, 4:30-5:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 (3rd Wednesdays)

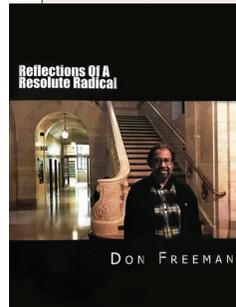
Drop-in for monthly sessions with your memoir chapters, school essays, grant proposals, blogs, cover letters, or other projects and get real. Bring in a copy of your project for feedback. Review fact-checking standards, source citation, editing tips, and more.

**Creative Writing Workshop**, 5:45-6:45 PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 (3rd Wednesdays)

Dialog and Pacing: Discuss techniques to develop realistic voices in your writing. Open to all genres.

## Friends of East Cleveland Public Library Upcoming Events



Don Freeman, author of *Reflections of a Resolute Radical*, will be at ECPL for a book signing on MARCH 17 from 2:00-3:30 pm in the Icabod Flewellen Room.

The Friends of East Cleveland Public Library Annual Meeting will be held on MARCH 10 at 12:00 pm in the Lower Auditorium.

Spring Book Sale will be held Thursday-Saturday, MARCH 29-31, from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. We have encyclopedia sets for \$5, hardcover books (fiction and nonfiction), paperback fiction, children's books, CDs and audiobooks, VHS, DVDs, and more!

For more info, call Friends of ECPL at 216-268-6290.

## Staff Picks: What We're Reading Now

***The Wait***

by Devon Franklin and Meagan Good

***The Mountain Story***

by Lori Lansens

***Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House***

by Michael Wolff

***Just Do Your Dream!***

by Montrie Rucker Adams  
(local author!)

***Tears We Cannot Stop***

by Michael Eric Dyson

***Pushout: the Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools***

by Monique W. Morris

## Libraries in the Civil Rights Movement

Public libraries exist as a safe space for people of all backgrounds to come together for events, share resources, explore information, learn, and engage in diverse community programs. But throughout the 20th century and especially during the height of the civil rights movement, libraries were also spaces of crucial protests and organized actions. Particularly among libraries in southern states, longstanding segregation policies were often the norm, even when they were in direct opposition to the professional values of librarians.



While the American Library Association did not regulate the practices of chapters and branches, the organization aimed to help expose and end segregation practices in libraries.

Such documented efforts date back to 1954, when the

“ALA banned states from having more than one chapter to eliminate separate white and African American chapters,” a decision that resulted in two states losing ALA affiliation (Lipscomb). The ALA took these efforts further in 1961, adding to the Library Bill of Rights, “The rights of an individual to the use of a library should not be denied or abridged because of his race, religion, national origins or political views.”

With increasing frequency, librarians find themselves again on the forefront of public debates about intellectual freedom, diversity and inclusiveness, patron privacy, net neutrality, and related social issues. ECPL is proud to participate with a variety of partnerships to bring timely and thought provoking programs, events, and conversations to East Cleveland.

*Cited:* Lipscomb, Carolyn. “Race and Librarianship: Part II.” *Journal of the Medical Library Association*. July 2005: 93(3), pp 308-310.

## Children’s Literacy Corner: February Fun & Facts



There are many great ways for children to practice literacy skills with fun, make-at-home-crafts. All you need is paper, pens or crayons, and your own creativity!

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- **Read Together:** Pick a few Black History Month heroes and check out some biographies from the library to learn about them together.
- **Explore ECPL:** We have thousands of children’s Black Heritage books – from biographies and histories to picture books, fiction, and more. See ECPL’s special Black History Month displays and explore the collection.
- **Black History Story Hour at ECPL:** Join us as we feature a special story about a famous African American every Wednesday in February at 4:30 pm.
- **Black History Fact of the Day at ECPL:** visit the Children’s Department for the fact of the day throughout February; encourage your children to collect the daily facts to add drawings or special notes to make a booklet.

### VALENTINE’S DAY

- **Valentine Cards:** Make cards at home to give to friends and family. ECPL’s card making activities will take place February 14 at 4:30 pm.
- **Valentine Poems:** Challenge your children to write funny poems with lines that start with each of the letters of the word “love” or for a bigger challenge, try the word “valentine.”

Check out these great picks for young readers:

- *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney
- *One Love* by Cedella Marley
- *Mama, Do you Love Me?* by Barbara Joose
- *I Have a Dream* by Martin Luther King, Jr.
- *Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges
- *To Keep The Waters Troubled: The Life of Ida B. Wells* by Linda McMurry Edwards
- *The Civil Rights Movement: an Illustrated History* by Brenda Scott Wilkinson
- *A Sweet Smell of Roses* by Angela Johnson

## Special Events / Save the Date

### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

AGES 4–12, 4:30 PM

**Afternoon Story Hour Wednesdays**  
Special afternoon story hour about a famous African American.

**Black History Trivia Contest**  
FEBRUARY 12-16 / Win prizes and have fun by answering our Black History question of the day!

**Valentine's Day Craft**  
FEBRUARY 14 / Make a special gift for your favorite Valentine.

**Black History Fact of the Day**  
Learn a different historical fact each day this month. Collect all the facts and make your own booklet!

**Black History Computer Scavenger Hunt** / FEBRUARY 21 / How well do you know your heritage? Use clues to solve this quiz on the computer.



*Our mission is to provide life enhancing, consciousness raising, library services and cultural activities that reflect the needs of the East Cleveland community and the patrons of the institution.*

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#### HOURS:

Monday – Thursday  
10:00 am – 7:00 pm  
Friday & Saturday  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm

[eastclevelandpubliclibrary.org](http://eastclevelandpubliclibrary.org)

### TEEN ACTIVITIES

AGES 13-19, 4:30 PM

**QR Code Black: A Scavenger Hunt Exploring African American History** / FEBRUARY 1

Follow clues, solve problems, and decode messages hidden throughout the Library – just like real spies!

**Teen Book Look** / FEBRUARY 7  
ECPL teens read! Earn fun eats and treats! Students will have to borrow a book from the Teen Zone collection.

**Job Interviewing Skills**  
FEBRUARY 14  
New series of job readiness programs that cover: job applications, social media, mock interviews, resumes, job hunting, the value of volunteering, more!

**Dress for Success** / FEBRUARY 15  
Learn how to properly prepare for any job interview.

**“I Spy” Cleveland** / FEBRUARY 22  
Uncover the rich African American history in and of “The Land.” How much do you know about Cleveland’s Black History? In this game of trivia, teens will have fun guessing the answers to our city’s rich African American legacy.

### ADULT ACTIVITIES

**My People, Our Poetry & Soul Food**  
THURSDAYS, FEBRUARY 8, 15, 22  
4:00 PM

Explore African American culture through accomplishments, poets, and food!

**Resume Check-up**  
FEBRUARY 13, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
When was the last time you updated your resume? Bring a copy of your resume for a basic operation! Assistance provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

**ECPL Book Club**  
FEBRUARY 27, 5:30 PM  
Read *The Wait*, by Devon Franklin and Meagan Good and join us for a discussion!

MARCH 29, 5:45 PM  
Join Dr. Mary Weems and Sheba Marcus-Bey, Executive Director of ECPL to discuss this groundbreaking book. Open to students, parents, teachers, and administrators invested in addressing the impact of criminalizing Black girls in schools.

Get the book, *Pushout*, by Monique W. Morris at ECPL and join the conversation!

## BLACK HISTORY SATURDAYS All Ages

FEBRUARY 24, 1:00–3:00 PM

In partnership with ASALH, ECPL is delighted to host Black History Saturdays, a new monthly program. Activities will explore the lives of Carter G. Woodson, John Hope Franklin and James Weldon Johnson.

*About ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History): Founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1915 to address the gaps in scholarship and research of African American history. In 1926, their week-long event recognizing milestones and accomplishments of African Americans throughout history laid the groundwork for what eventually became Black History Month.*