

What Does Black History Mean to You?

Dear Durham Community,

In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day last month, we asked you, our library community, what Black History means to you. February is Black History Month, and what better way to start than to hear from the community about the importance of Black History? Here's a small selection of what you had to say:

I believe in education to conquer actions of ignorance. All of us learning Black History and honoring it will advance everyone in our nation.

-Anonymous

Black History is a chance to joyously celebrate the diverse cultures and traditions of all Americans. It's also a way to enjoy and highlight the many contributions of African Americans to science, the arts, sports, and many other fields throughout our long and rich history.

-Laura

Black History enables me to continue to learn the richness of the history of this country's Black citizens. Telling that story works to undo the whitewashed history I learned from grade school through university.

-Judith



Black History Month Programs

Black History Month has its origins in 1926 with the legendary historian Carter G. Woodson. As a founding member of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Woodson pushed for the second week of February to be Negro History Week. The week coincides with the birthdays of the abolitionist Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln. Durham has played and continues to play an important role in Black History. To celebrate this month, below is a small selection of our available programs. For a full selection, [view our events calendar](#).

Black Voices of the Past, Colors of the Future
Tuesday, February 18, 4 - 5 p.m.
[Bragtown Branch Library](#)
[Registration Required](#)

Celebrate Black History Month through art and inspiration! This interactive program invites you to explore the powerful stories, quotes, and figures that have shaped Black History. Using vibrant paint sticks, you can contribute your own creative expressions to honor the legacy and future of Black culture. Come reflect, create, and be inspired by the strength and resilience that continues to impact our world.

Negro Durham Marches On: An Examination of the Past and Future of Hayti in Durham
Saturday, February 22, 3 - 4:30 p.m.
[Main Library](#)
[Registration Required](#)

Join Durham County Library's North Carolina Collection for a special screening of the historic 1948 film [Negro Durham Marches On](#) by Don Parish. The film was commissioned by the Durham Business and Professional Chain, and it depicts many of the thriving businesses, organizations, and residential homes in Durham's Hayti community before they were lost to the construction of the Durham Freeway in the 1970s. In 2021, the library received funding from the National Film Preservation Foundation to restore and preserve the film for the future. After viewing the film, we will have a panel discussion on the history of the film itself, the grant project to preserve it, and its role in preserving the history of Hayti. We will also hear from community leaders and stakeholders who will discuss Hayti's more recent history in the community and share a vision for its future in an ever-changing and growing Durham.

Kids' Black History Month Celebration
Tuesday, February 25, 4 - 4:45 p.m.
[Main Library](#)
[Registration Not Required](#)

Join us at Main Library to celebrate Black History Month with crafts, stories, and games! All children from preschool to tween age are welcome.

Colorful Reads Book Club
Wednesday, February 26, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
[Southwest Regional Library](#)
[Registration Required](#)

Do you love reading stories from diverse authors? Do you find yourself seeking out books with a diverse array of characters and experiences? Join the Colorful Reads Book Club, where we will read different fiction books every month that are from diverse authors and feature characters with varied identities, orientations, and backgrounds. New members are always welcome! Light refreshments will be provided. February's book is [The Secret Lives of Church Ladies](#), which is also available as an e-audiobook.



Valentine's Day Programs

Diamond Painting: Valentine's Day Cards
Saturday, February 8, 3 - 4:30 p.m.
[East Regional Library](#)
[Registration Required](#)

Interested in Diamond Painting but don't know how to start? Come create a diamond painted Valentine's Day card! Participants will receive all of the materials they need to create a Valentine's Day card, and a librarian will walk them through each step of the process.

What is Diamond Painting? Diamond Painting is a mix between Paint by Numbers and Cross Stitch. With Diamond Painting, the crafter applies tiny resin "diamonds" to a coded adhesive canvas to create shimmering Diamond Art.

Valentine's Day Paper Wreaths Craft
Thursday, February 13, 11 a.m. - Noon
[Bragtown Branch Library](#)
[Registration Required](#)

Join us at Bragtown Branch Library to make a heart-shaped paper wreath for Valentine's Day. This step-by-step activity is fun and deceptively simple to make. When you're finished, you can hang it up wherever you'd like!

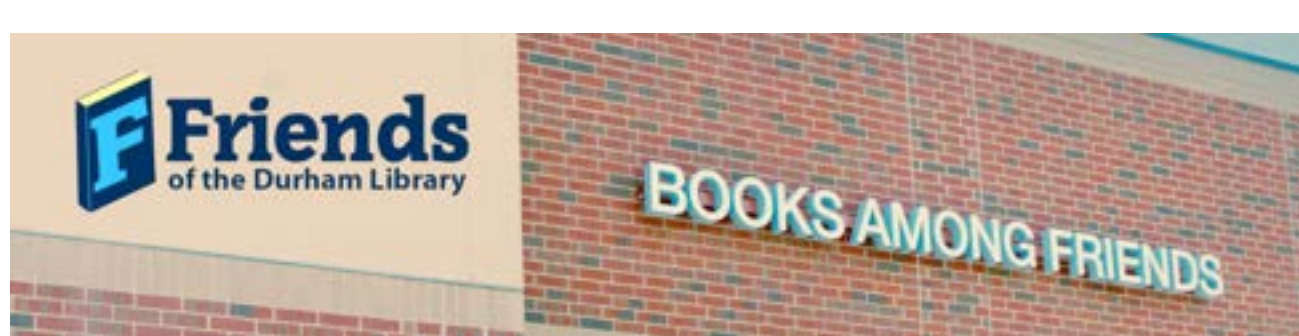


Durham County Library Annual Report

At the end of each calendar year, we release our Annual Report to celebrate our accomplishments in the previous fiscal year. This year's report covers the library's activities from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. In the report, you'll read about our wide variety of programs and learn some interesting statistics about Durham County Library. Be sure to [check out our YouTube channel](#) for our playlist of Annual Report videos. In these six videos, we interviewed some of our biggest fans about what they love about the library! See below for our interview with local playwright and library regular Ira Knight.

[Read the Annual Report](#)

Ira Knight Annual Report Video:



Upcoming Friends of the Durham Library Events

The Friends of the Durham Library is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports Durham County Library through staff scholarships, programming grants, and more. The Friends sell gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and games donated by the community. For upcoming events, membership information, donation instructions, and more, please [visit the Friends' website](#).

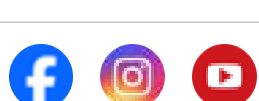
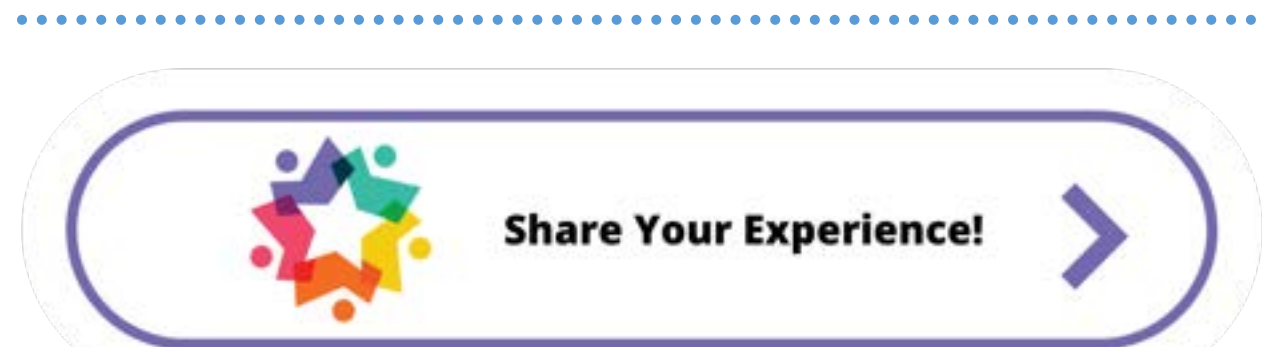
You can shop for books any time at the [Friends' online storefront](#). Each month, the Friends discount books in certain categories in their online store by 25%, so be sure to check their website for this month's discount!

Pop-Up DVD Sale
[Main Library](#)
Saturday, February 15, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Friends of the Durham Library will host a pop-up DVD sale at Main Library on Saturday, February 15. There will be thousands of DVDs from every genre. Most are single DVDs or two-disc sets, but many outstanding special sets will also be available. Some DVDs are new and still in the shrink-wrap, all for just \$1 each. Multi-disc sets are just \$1 per disc.

In-Person Sale Booksale
[Books Among Friends, 3825 S. Roxboro Street](#)
Friday, March 7, 3 - 7 p.m. *Members Only*
Saturday, March 8, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Friends of the Durham Library will host an in-person sale at their bookstore, Books Among Friends. With over 20,000 fine donated books, there is something suitable for readers of all ages and interest. There will also be a wide selection of puzzles and games. The Friday sale is reserved for members and will be 25% off the Friends' already-low prices. [Become a member on the Friends' website](#), or feel free to sign up at the door. The Saturday sale will be open to the general public.



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