Winter 2018-2019

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Our Library certified first sensory-inclusive system in the USA

The Akron-Summit County Public Library recently became the first library system in the country to be designated as a sensory-inclusive space for those on the autism spectrum and those with dementia, PTSD, and other related conditions. Visiting the library is now a better experience for all of its customers, including those with sensory-processing needs, thanks to a new collaborative project with KultureCity.

Celebrating the October launch of this important partnership were speakers Pam Hickson-Stevenson, Library Director; Barb White, Deputy Director and Library liaison for project; Amy Belles, KultureCity team member; Lawrence L. Williams, Vietnam vet and two-time Purple Heart recipient; Tonya Gardella, Goodyear Branch Library Manager; and over 60 community members. The Library and KultureCity announced the following new resources now available at all 19 Library locations:

Sensory Bags with noise-cancelling headphones, fidgets, and other resources are available at our Main Library Security and Children’s Library desks, and at all circulation desks in our Branch Libraries.

Weighted lap pads are also available at those locations. (Sensory Bags and weighted lap pads are for use while visiting the Library. We’ll ask to hold your library card or other form of ID while you are using these resources.)

Quiet Zones are available for those who need a moment to regroup.

Social Stories for all Akron-Summit County Public Library locations are available through the KultureCity app: https://www.kulturecity.org/sensory-inclusive-app/.

Inclusion is one of our Library’s core values, and almost 400 library staff were trained as part of this new initiative, ensuring a welcoming environment for all.
Stay Alive with Britt Ahart:
Survivalist from The History Channel’s Alone

Saturday, January 12, 2019
1 – 2:30 pm
Main Library Meeting Room 2

Britt Ahart, a survivalist from The History Channel’s TV show Alone will speak about his experience braving the wilderness of Mongolia and Patagonia, and his participation on the show. Ahart was a contestant on Seasons 3 and 5. He used his skills to survive alone while living off the land and trying to outlast his fellow competitors. His presentation will include a question and answer session. Contact the Science & Technology Division to register at 330-643-9075.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture

Sunday, January 20, 2019
2 pm
Main Library Auditorium

Carl Westmoreland, Senior Historian
National Underground Railroad
Freedom Center in Cincinnati

Sponsored by the Akron-Summit County Public Library and the Eta Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

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Dr. Bernard E. Powers, Jr., Professor Emeritus of History at the College of Charleston in South Carolina, will discuss the June 2015 murder of nine members of Charleston’s Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and also the origins and nature of the AME denomination.

Books will be available for purchase from the Friends of Main Library.

Honor a Loved One with a Gift That Keeps on Giving

To make a current gift, bequest, or planned gift to the Akron-Summit County Public Library Endowment Fund, visit www.akroncf.org/give/akronsummitlibrary.
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**Introducing Our New Free On-Demand Streaming Video Service**

Kanopy, an on-demand film streaming service, is now available using your library card! Access Kanopy and sign up to start streaming films instantly by visiting akronlibrary.kanopy.com. Films can be streamed at no cost from any computer, television, mobile device, or platform by downloading the Kanopy app for iOS, Android, AppleTV, Chromecast, or Roku.

Kanopy showcases more than 30,000 of the world’s best films, including award-winning documentaries, rare and hard-to-find titles, film festival favorites, indie and classic films, and world cinema with collections from Kino Lorber, Music Box Films, Samuel Goldwyn, The Orchard, The Great Courses, PBS, and thousands of independent filmmakers.

For the younger set, Kanopy Kids is available and offers thoughtful entertainment for children ages preschool and up. Parents and caregivers can stream videos from a curated selection of educational and enriching videos with developmentally appropriate, age-based ratings from Common Sense Media, as well as additional parental controls to help keep kids safe.