

THIRD ANNUAL

# JUNETEENTH IN THE WB

2023

COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH  
NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH**  
**10AM-2PM**

WEST BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL  
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COMMUNITY / ENTERTAINMENT / REFRESHMENTS

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June 17, 2023

### **Welcome to the third-annual Juneteenth in the WB!**

It is a joy and an honor to commemorate Juneteenth in West Bloomfield at our high school, the heart of our community. This program is a labor of love and respect brought forth through hours of work and planning by our volunteers, our Township partners, and the generosity of the sponsors noted within these pages. Thanks to this kind support, we are able to keep this event free and open to all.

### **What is Juneteenth?**

On June 19, 1865, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln emancipated enslaved Africans in America, Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas, with news of freedom. More than 250,000 African Americans embraced freedom by executive decree in what became known as Juneteenth, a word combining June and 19th, or Freedom Day. With the principles of self-determination, citizenship, and democracy magnifying their hopes and dreams, those Texans held fast to the promise of true liberty for all.\*

In 2021, the US established Juneteenth as a federal holiday. Juneteenth observances recognize the ongoing fight for human rights and equality and are often commemorated with art, music, poetry, drama, and storytelling, as well as family cookouts and faith services. Juneteenth celebrates African American resilience and achievement, as well as provides a better understanding of the evolution of our nation and its people.

### **West Bloomfield Twp. recognizes National Freedom Day**

In May, for the third year in a row, the Township Board voted unanimously to recognize Juneteenth and to continue to promote diversity, equity and a strong sense of community in West Bloomfield.

### **Why is Juneteenth in the WB a family-friendly event?**

The more we share our history with children, the stronger their sense of history will become. Storytelling allows children to better hold complex ideas such as freedom, justice, slavery, and resistance. Sharing our history lets children know that learning about events or people from long ago is relevant and not something to fear. History teaches us valuable lessons, inspires resilience, and affirms the worthiness of ourselves and others to exist freely and fairly.

Through our work together, we have learned that each of us can do something to make a difference in the world and ensure our community and our leaders respect, honor and protect us all. Thank you for your support!

*Juneteenth in the WB Steering Committee*

The West Bloomfield Social Justice Committee

\*Some content courtesy of NMAAHC.



# PROGRAM

**Pastor Dr. John Tolbert, Trinity Missionary Baptist**  
**Benediction and opening remarks**

**Tobi Walker Performing "Lift Every Voice and Sing."**

*Often referred to as "The Black National Anthem," the hymn was written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson in 1900. His brother, John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), composed the music for the lyrics. A choir of 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal, first performed the song in public in Jacksonville, Florida to celebrate President Abraham Lincoln's birthday.*

**DJ and Emcee: Mr. Rick Williams**

**Gospel Deliverers**

The Gospel Deliverers perform amazing a capella Gospel music. They cover songs like "This Old Soul of Mine" and "God Got It." For Booking Info contact Deacon John Lumpkin or Brother Alfred Jefferson on [gospeldeliverers5@gmail.com](mailto:gospeldeliverers5@gmail.com)

**Remarks by Shanna Johnson**

President, Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital

**WBHS Student Performances**

An array of student talent including original dramatic monologues, vocalists, spoken word poetry.  
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WBHS African American Awareness Club

The Story and meaning of Juneteenth

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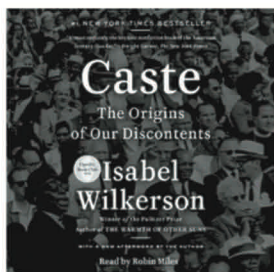
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# West Bloomfield Twp Public Library Juneteenth Books

Find more Juneteenth titles for all ages at [wblib.org](http://wblib.org).

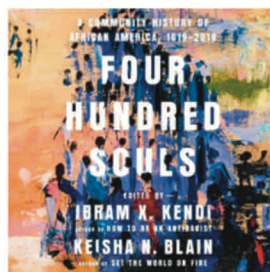
## Adult Books



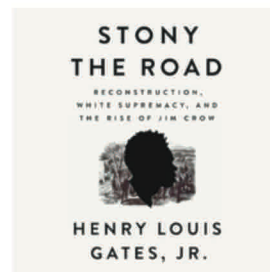
*Caste: The Origins...*  
Isabel Wilkerson



*On Juneteenth*  
Annette Gordon-Reed

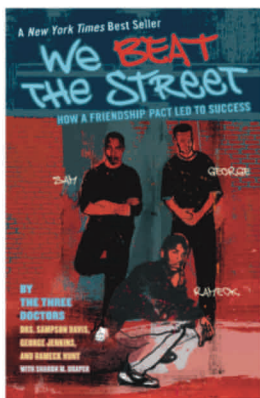


*Four Hundred Souls*  
Ibram X. Kendi

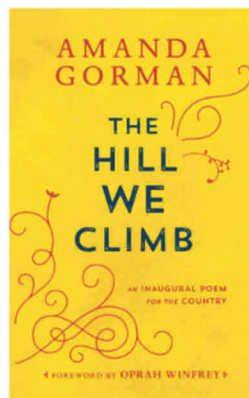


*Stony the Road*  
Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

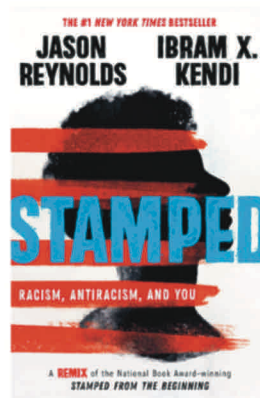
## Young Adult Books



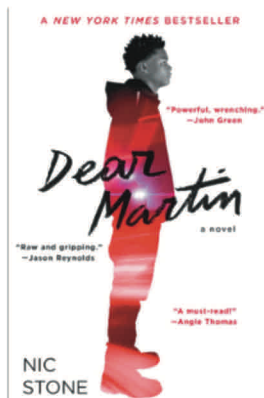
*We Beat the Street*  
Sampson Davis



*The Hill We Climb*  
Amanda Gorman

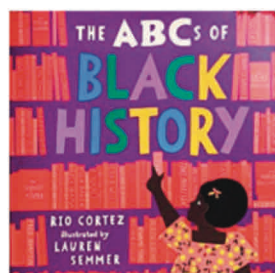


*Stamped: Racism...*  
Ibram X. Kendi &  
Jason Reynolds

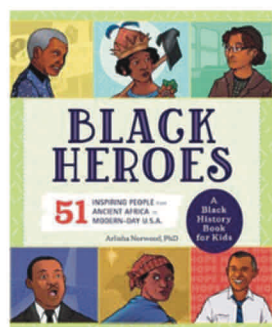


*Dear Martin*  
Nic Stone

## Youth Books



*ABCs of Black History*  
Rio Cortez



*Black Heroes*  
Arlisha Norwood



*Juneteenth for Mazie*  
Floyd Cooper



*All Different Now*  
Angela Johnson



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# **JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DAY**

The third Saturday in June is known as Juneteenth National Freedom Day. We pause and reflect on the strong survival instinct of the African American people and the great joy with which African Americans first celebrated the abolition of slavery. It is a reminder to all Americans of the importance of African Americans in our society.

—from the West Bloomfield Township Resolution, 2022.

*chair@wbldems.org*



I am honored to participate in this great community event in my hometown of West Bloomfield.

Thank you to the WBSJC for your hard work in making this a memorable day.

**Derryl Reed**  
2023 Chair  
Juneteenth in the WB

*“Juneteenth has never been a celebration of victory or an acceptance of the way things are.  
It’s a celebration of progress.  
It’s an affirmation that despite the most painful parts of our history, change is possible — and there is still so much work to do.”*

*President Barack H. Obama*





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Nancy Quarles, OCDP Chair



The OCDP DEI Committee Meeting  
Is the 4th Thursday of Each Month, 6:30-8:00 PM  
Derryl L. Reed, Chairman

The objective of the OCDP DEI committee is to build bridges of mutual respect and understanding among cultural groups in Oakland County and the surrounding areas.



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*Rochelle & Barry Rubin*

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."  
- Helen Keller*



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# Happy Juneteenth

*I wish you a joyous celebration  
& remain committed to the fight  
for freedom & justice for ALL.*

*With love & respect,  
Rosemary*

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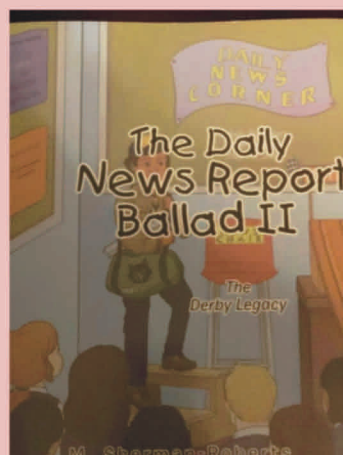
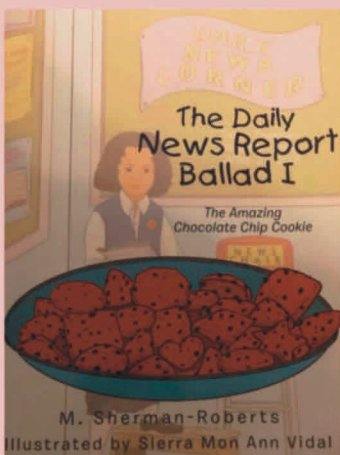



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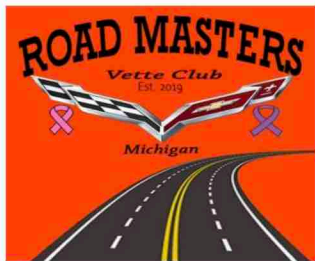
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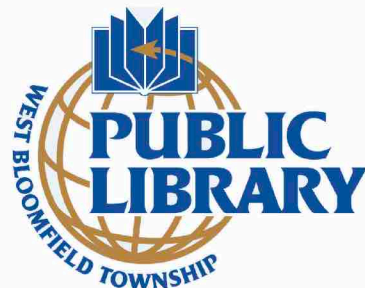


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June 19, 1865

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Thanks to the event committee: Stephanie Crider, Linda Fiscus, Margaret Hall, Carolyn Lowe, Dr. Kim Matthews, Amy Mindell, Semaj Morgan, Marcie Paul, Rochelle Rubin, Felecia Tyson-Waters, Ronnie Waters, Lisa Wigent, Sherri-Anne Wynter, Teri Weingarden, Event Chair Derryl Reed. Thanks to the WB Social Justice Committee. Thanks to Ms. Jennifer Graham, United We Walk/MLK365; graphic artist Ann Bieneman. A special thanks to Sonja James, Executive Director of Educational Equity and Inclusion, WBSD.

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