

National Library Week

By Shawnta S. Barnes – April 11, 2018



Observed the second week of April and sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA), this year, April 8-14 is National Library Week, marking the 60th year of this initiative. This year's theme is "Libraries Lead." American Ballet Theatre principal dancer Misty Copeland is the honorary chair; she is

the first black woman to ever serve in this capacity. Copeland wants people to, “Discover your passions and achieve your goals at the library.”

National Library Week first began in 1958. According to the ALA, evidence showed, “Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments.” This week was created, “based on the idea that once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries.”

Libraries are more than a place to read books. Community groups meet at the library, family activities are offered, and classes from the youngest to the oldest learner are available. The Indianapolis Public Library highlighted a few activities available this week at various library branches across the city:

Teens are invited to the program, “Paint Your ‘Art’ Out,” on April 13 at 3 p.m. at the Decatur Branch and on April 14 at 12 noon at the West Indianapolis Branch, where they can paint like a pro with techniques that include color blending, gradation of color and layering. Parents can bring their children ages 5 – 11 for the “Not So Ugly Duckling: Children’s Opera” on April 12 at 6:30 p.m at the Brightwood Branch. The Indianapolis Opera will present a variation of this classic children’s story.

Also throughout the week, adults are invited for a variety of programs that include craft workshops, book discussions and technology programs.

If you have not been to your local library lately, check it out and explore all the opportunities available. Activities vary at each library across the city, so check with your local branch for specific details.

Next year, National Library Week will take place April 7-13.