



MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Joy Testa Cinquino, testaj@buffalolib.org 716-858-7182

FIND THE LIBRARY AT YOUR PLACE - THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Celebrate Virtually with Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries April 19 - 25

Sunday, April 19 is the start of National Library Week and all 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries invite the community to take advantage of the easily accessible online services, resources and all the fun things available through the Library System website at www.BuffaloLib.org and on our social media pages. While the Library's physical spaces may be temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, libraries remain "virtually open" to the public. With a free eLibraryCard or using a standard Library Card, Erie County residents can borrow eBooks and audiobooks, as well as participate in online storytimes, LEGO clubs, art and photo challenges, cookbook club demonstrations, health and wellness lectures, family history panel discussions and much more- all for free from a computer or device.

"In these times of uncertainty, our libraries continue to make a difference in people's lives as we respond to community needs in innovative and inspiring ways," stated Library Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "We encourage you to virtually discover our great libraries and 'Find the Library at Your Place,' be it through digital programs, online databases on topics ranging from history to healthcare to parenting, or by downloading eBooks, eAudiobooks and music of which there are literally tens of thousands of choices. Need a library card? To submit a quick application for an eLibraryCard, (for Erie County residents, property owners, students or those who work in the county, age 13 and older) it's as easy as 1 - 2- 3...just follow this link: <http://vf.buffalolib.org/vufind/OnlineSignup/Home/>."

Launched in 1958, National Library Week (April 19 -25) is sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and observed in libraries across the country each year. It is a time to highlight the valuable role all types of libraries, librarians and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening communities.

When speaking about library closures related to COVID-19, Ms. Jakubowski gave this update: "On behalf of our staff and trustees, we miss being able to serve the community in person. For the safety of all, Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries shall remain closed until such time as the guidance of the Governor of the State of New York supports reopening. Additionally, due

dates for library materials checked out on or after February 11, 2020 are being extended to June 1, 2020. We hope everyone stays safe and healthy and our libraries look forward to seeing you as soon as possible.”

For more information, call the Library System helpline Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 716-858-8900 or visit the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library website at www.BuffaloLib.org or Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/buffalolibrary.central/>. To see the calendar featuring 300+ virtual programs, click here: <https://buffalolib.libcal.com/calendar/events/?cid=8851&t=m&d=0000-00-00&cal=8851>.

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