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EXCELSIOR

November 2022 · Volume 25, Issue 10



Phoenix Takes Flight

**MacArthur Genius Grant Winner
Inspires New Views on Birds**

(STORY AND PHOTOS ON PAGE 8)

KPS GRADS IN ACTION

Kelsey Socha Releases
Debut Novella

PAGE 12



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Giving Thanks for Gifts Both Big and Small

THANKSGIVING seems like it should be about big things.

After all, it is usually celebrated with a big gathering of family and friends.

We usually share a big meal with a big turkey.

There are usually “big” games on television for football fans.

All of those things make Thanksgiving fun and memorable. We know this because of the past few years of Thanksgiving celebrations. We’ve limited the size of our celebrations to help protect ourselves from exposure to Covid.

We have missed having everyone close for hugs and laughs and chaos in the kitchen.

That Thanksgiving meal can be a bit of a disappointment if the turkey is dry and tasteless.

And, we can all remember the groans and shouts coming from the family room

when the favorite team fumbles — or worse, loses — that big match-up.

The holiday, however, is just as memorable for the small things.

Maybe it is the unexpected call or video chat with a loved one who can’t be with you that brightens your day. That connection, hearing a smile in their voice, or seeing the curve of their cheek instantly brings a smile to your face and floods the day with warmth.

Sometimes the turkey is a little dry, but you nail the mashed potatoes, the Brussels sprouts are perfectly caramelized, and your pie crust is flaky — and flavorful.

A painful football loss can be mitigated by the unforgettable play. Or maybe you don’t really care who wins, you just enjoy the chance to trash talk your favorite uncle’s team and cheer for your favorites.

Thanksgiving can be a lesson in gratitude for the big things and the small things in life.

The work we do at Kalamazoo Public Schools is undoubtedly focused on the big things: graduation rates, test scores, improving our curriculum, finding innovative ways to serve those in need in our district, im-

plementing programs that provide unique opportunities for students to explore and develop their skills and knowledge.

Those big projects are often tackled in smaller steps from the design process, through piloting, and evaluation, and modification. We build community support, bring along partners, build strong foundations for our programs to create lasting change.

We always keep our eye on the end goal — the big picture of growing smart and confident children — but we take pride in every step along the way and in everyone who helps us move the district forward on our journey to improve outcomes for our students.

If you follow the district on Facebook — and I hope that you do because it is a good way to keep up to date on events and activities in the district — you’ll see we’ve started celebrating some of the little things in the district every Friday.

We call them Friday High Fives. The posts are celebrations of good news from around the district or news from alumni. You might see students doing good and kind things,

read about a grant your favorite teacher won for innovative programming, or learn about accomplishments of alumni.

I hope you will check these posts. These are not big announcements of major initiatives, but they are very much about the heart of KPS, celebrating all of the things that our students and staff do to make their classes, their schools, and this district an amazing place. They are often little things, but they are important things to celebrate.

Once again this year, I give thanks for all of our students’ and staff’s gifts and accomplishments — big and small. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

A Message from the Superintendent



Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri

A CORRECTION



A list of 2022 retirements in the October Excelsior had an incorrect job title for Karen Kempe. The district thanks her for her years of service as a music teacher at Washington Writers’ Academy, Greenwood Elementary, and Spring Valley Center for Exploration.



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This activity is brought to you in partnership with the City of Kalamazoo and support from other grant funding partners.

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From Cooling to Heating

Make Sure the Furnace’s Burners
are Free of Dust and Debris

Checking your furnace early can save you from making an emergency service call this winter.



ARTISTS' CORNER

Kyle Pfeuffer's fifth-grade artists at Arcadia Elementary celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by drawing Aztec suns. Artists found inspiration from the Mayan calendar to help come up with their

ideas. Students learned about radial symmetry by designing different patterns, shapes, and designs. Arcadia Elementary is proud of its diverse population of students from all over the world.



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Justice Allah



Lena Al Rahhal



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A woman and a young girl are standing in a grocery store aisle, looking at a display of fresh produce. The girl is holding a small basket.

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First Day Shoes Provide First Rate Smiles

FIRST DAY Shoe Fund, the local nonprofit that provides free athletic shoes for kindergarten through fifth grade students in Kalamazoo County, distributed almost 5,000 pairs of socks and shoes this fall. About 300 volunteers contributed more than 600 hours to help sort and deliver the shoes at the start of the school year. Maggie Hesketh, the group's new executive director, said this was the first time since 2020 that volunteers were able to return to fully in-person shoe distribution in the schools. "It was very special for all of us!" she said.



Eve Bongers laces up new athletic shoes at Spring Valley Center for Exploration.



Kai'zhon Matthews talks with a volunteer as he's fitted for new shoes at Woodward School for Technology and Research.



Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri, right, and a volunteer help Tristan Campbell try on a new pair of shoes at Milwood Elementary School. In the background, another volunteer works with Phoenix Fischer.



R'moni Cullom shows off her stylish shoes at Woodward.



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Dr. Rita Raichoudhuri

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Inquiries by students and/or their parents/guardians should be directed to:

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Kalamazoo, MI 49008
(269) 337-0161

All other inquiries should be directed to:

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District Directory at :

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Recipe**from the KPS Food Service, Chartwells****Kirsten Strong, registered dietician****Samuel Dunn, executive chef****Fall Harvest Quesadillas**

MEXICAN flavors team up with Michigan autumn vibes in this fall-inspired quesadilla. Next time you pass a roadside produce stand or visit an apple orchard, stop and grab some apples and butternut squash to make this recipe happen while supporting your local farmers!

**INGREDIENTS**

4 8-inch flour tortillas
1½ cup cheddar,
shredded, divided into
four even portions
2 apples, peeled, cored,
and diced
2 cups butternut squash,
diced
1 medium onion, diced
½ teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon chili powder
Juice from ½ of a lime
2 tablespoons olive oil,
plus additional
Salt and pepper to taste
¼ cup fresh cilantro,
chopped

½ cup plain yogurt
¼ cup BBQ sauce

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F.
2. Combine the apples, squash, onions, cinnamon, chili powder, olive oil, salt, and pepper in a bowl. Toss until well combined, and the olive oil is lightly coating ingredients. Spread onto a baking sheet and bake for 10-15 minutes, toss ingredients halfway through.

3. Return the cooked mixture back to the bowl. Toss with lime juice and cilantro. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Divide mixture into 4 even portions.
4. Combine yogurt and BBQ sauce and divide into four small dipping bowls.
5. Heat a nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add enough olive oil to coat the pan lightly. Place 1 tortilla flat into the pan. Spread one portion of apple filling evenly over

half of the tortilla. Top the entire tortilla with one portion of cheese. Cook until the cheese is melted.
6. Fold the side with only cheese over the top of the tortilla with the filling. Press down with a spatula. Carefully flip the folded tortilla and cook for 3 more minutes.
6. Cut the quesadilla into three triangle wedges. Repeat this process with the remaining ingredients. Use the BBQ yogurt for dipping.



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Administrators Bring Wealth of Experience to New Positions

KALAMAZOO Public Schools appointed four employees to new administrative positions at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.



Mike Hughes

Mike Hughes, the former principal of Winchell Elementary School, became the principal at Linden Grove Middle School. Hughes, a Michigan native who grew up in Battle Creek, was principal of Winchell for 16 years.

He attended Marquette University in Milwaukee and began his career teaching third and fourth grade with Milwaukee Public Schools. He moved back to Michigan in 2016, when he was hired to be the principal at Winchell.



Craig McCane

Hughes replaced **Craig McCane**, who was named the director of secondary education for KPS. McCane came to Kalamazoo Public Schools in 2007 when he was named principal of Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts.

Two years later, he was named the first principal of the new Lin-

den Grove Middle School. Before coming to Kalamazoo, McCane served as principal of Saginaw South Middle School.



Stephanie Perry

Stephanie Perry, the guidance counselor at Linden Grove Middle School for the past eight years, moved to Loy Norrix High School to become the assistant principal/academic dean. Before joining Linden Grove, she was a climate/culture coach at

Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts. She began her career as a teacher at KPS's Arcadia Elementary School, White Pines Middle School in Saginaw Township, and Chippewa Hills Intermediate Program.

She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Central Michigan University, a master's degree in educational leadership from Saginaw Valley State University and a master's degree in professional school counseling from Lamar University.



Judi Mentzer

Judi Mentzer, a long-time guidance counselor at Kalamazoo Central High School, was named the assistant principal/academic dean for KC. Mentzer has a bachelor's degree in mathematics, and a master's degree in educational counseling and counseling psychology from Western

Michigan University.

Mentzer spent 24 years as a guidance counselor/math teacher at Climax Scotts junior/senior high schools before joining Kalamazoo Central in 2019.

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Watching Birds, Learning About the Environment and Ourselves

"CANARIES in the coal mine" refers to the practice of bringing birds into mines to serve as carbon monoxide detectors, but birds also can serve as "canaries in the coal mine" for the general ecological health of our communities.

Clemson University ornithologist and poet J. Drew Lanham visited Phoenix High School in September and shared his insights about birds and about how ornithology also can be used as a tool for examining society. Just weeks after his visit to Kalamazoo, Lanham was named a 2022 MacArthur Fellow, an award also known as the "Genius Grants."

"A lot of what we talk about will be about how we identify birds, but it's not just about how we identify birds — but how we identify *with* birds. I

won't just objectify birds as whats, but we will talk about birds as whos," Lanham told students in teacher Dan Keto's forensic science class and from the Newcomer Center in Phoenix.

"In many cultures, birds aren't just things to count and watch through binoculars. They have very specific roles in culture and a lot of what I do today is to

try and wind social consciousness into birding."

Lanham is the Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology Master Teacher at Clemson and a certified wildlife biologist in the department of forestry and environmental conservation. He is also the author of "The Home Place — Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature." Lanham visited

Phoenix, while in Kalamazoo to deliver a speech for the Kalamazoo Nature Center's Terry Todd International Speaker Series.

It was Keto who brought up the term "canary in the coal mine," telling students that the birds were used to warn miners of dangerous carbon monoxide levels in the mines. Air moves quickly through birds' sensitive physiology, and if the canaries passed out or died, it was a warning to miners to abandon the area.

"Every bird you see today is in theory its own canary in the coal mine, they are our environmental indicators," Keto said. "If you see birds in your neighborhood now and don't see them years later, that tells us we're doing something to our environment that's not positive. Same with frogs, because they're sensitive to chemicals, because they go through their skin so easily.

"By being aware of the world around you, you know if your neighborhood is being poisoned or if the environmental quality is going down."

Lanham said that it is not just birds and other animals that are affected by changes to the environment. The quality of human life is impacted by issues such as water and air quality — and those negative issues more severely impact poor, racially segregated neighborhoods. The result in effect turns people — especially people of color — into



Dr. J. Drew Lanham, a poet and ornithologist from Clemson University spoke with students at Phoenix High School on Sept. 12 before delivering a speech for the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

ON THE FRONT COVER:

Phoenix students scan the skies for birds.



Phoenix Student Nafsa Mwambile talks to Dr. J. Drew Lanham about the birds in her native Tanzania.





Dakota Ray, left, and science teacher Dan Keto look for wildlife.

“canaries in the coal mine” for communities.

“In Michigan, of course, everyone is talking about Flint (and the lead poisoning of the city’s water), but we know there are other communities that have the same problems,” Lanham said. “Look at Jackson, Mississippi; look at Memphis, Tennessee; look at Barnwell, South Carolina. Look at the rates of almost everything bad you can think of, on indigenous lands and reservations.”

Lanham, along with staff and volunteers from the Kalamazoo Nature Center and the Kalamazoo chapter of the Audubon Society, took the Phoenix students to the fields behind Phoenix to look for birds.

They observed blue jays, woodpeckers and a red tail hawk, as well as rabbits and deer in the nearby forest and the marsh created in a water retention pond. He showed the students the native plants that Keto had planted around the school and urged



Camera Burroughs, Tracy Moore, Traci Fuller, Ke’Niya Brown, Phoenix Principal Mark Hill, Emery McShan, and Moses Palacios present Dr. J. Drew Lanham with a Phoenix High School T-shirt that says “Still We Rise.”



Dr. J. Drew Lanham points out a red tail hawk to the Phoenix High School students.

students to think about how changes in plants and insects can affect the health of the bird habitat around them.

While birds can be instruments indicating environmental foreboding, for Lanham they remain a joy. Taking time to be in nature, to enjoy their beauty and song, provides him with respite from the tragedies of the world. He still marvels at birds’ feats of strength and endurance, and he looks to them as a symbol of hope and possibility.

Lanham said he has been fascinated by birds since he was a child growing up in rural South Carolina.

“I came to love birds because I wanted to fly,” he said. “I wanted to be three things when I was a little kid. I wanted to be a cowboy. I wanted to be a fighter pilot and to fly P51 Mustangs specifically, and I wanted to be an ornithologist.”

But it wasn’t an easy path, because the media didn’t share images of people doing the things he dreamed of — and some people actively discouraged him from pursuing his dreams.

“I’d tell people I wanted to be an ornithologist and people would say, ‘What is that?’ and then, ‘Oh, Black people don’t do that.’ People had their eyes on me but they had different expectations of me because of how I appeared and the skin that I am proudly in.

“When we watch birds, when we’re out in nature we can be out in a way that joins us across time and space. There are birds flying over your head at night, that in a few days will be close to Antarctica. In thinking about that, think about who it is that you are, why do you do what you do, why are you here? Where do you want to be, what do you aspire to? Birds can bring all of that to us. Birds bring the world to us. Birds bring dreams to us.”

American Chemistry Society Plants Scientific SEEDs, Inspires Students

FOR THREE Kalamazoo Central High School students summer wasn't about sun, sand and water — it was about oleoresin, tricepyridinum and digital transformation.

The three participated in the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemistry Society's Project SEED, which introduces students to the world of professional chemists through hands-on internships.

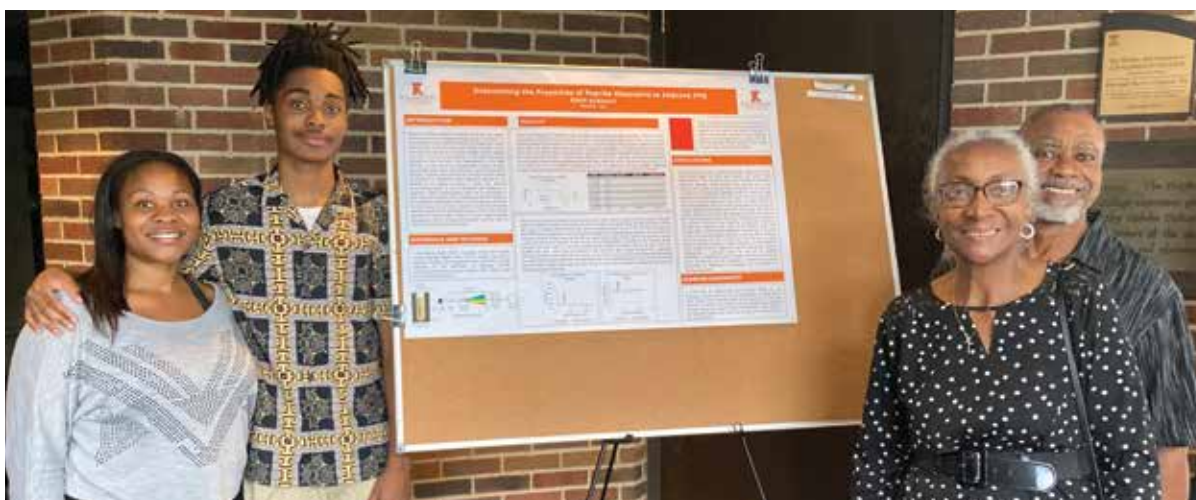
This year's SEED fellows were Kalamazoo Central and Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center senior Alejandro Alvarez and KC juniors Eddie Anderson and Sadaya Hamby.

Started as a way to introduce students to research and chemistry concepts, the national SEED program has been in existence for more than 50 years. The Kalamazoo chapter has participated for 26 years.

High school students participate in paid summer research projects for eight to 10 weeks during the program, which pairs them with chemist mentors in academia and industry. The program also exposes them to college readiness, professional development and lab preparedness. At the end of the summer, the students presented their summer research at a program at Kalamazoo College.

"I have always been interested in science and engineering, it was not until my sophomore year that I realized I really enjoyed chemistry," Anderson wrote in a project summary. "Through Project SEED, I am able to experience hundreds of scientific techniques and meet many professional scientists."

Working at Kalsec with Dr. Joe Chemler, he exam-



Kalamazoo Central student Eddie Anderson with his mother Alexis Plair and his grandparents Patricia and Alexander Plair.

ined paprika oleoresin to improve the percentage of product made correctly without any need for rework or correction.

Anderson said he appreciated his mentors at Kalsec and their willingness to help him understand the complexities of the scientific world.

"The most important thing I learned at Kalsec is, always ask other scientists about their work, because it can provide valuable information about what you can do in the future," Anderson said.

Alvarez worked with David Bolliet and Michael Horton at Kalsec where he used his programming skills to help modernize the company's gas chromatography-mass spectrometry library of essential oil analyses and created a searchable database of the library.

Hamby worked with Kalamazoo College chemistry professor Dr. Dwight Williams to create an antimicrobial using synthesis and hybrids. She said she appreciated the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning, which vastly expanded her understanding of the scientific world.

She advised future participants to embrace the challenges of the program. "I know sometimes you might get a little overwhelmed at first at maybe even the thought of working with people who have more knowledge and experience than you, but that's part of what you're here for. You are here to learn and especially in a way that you can't get sitting in a classroom."

Doug Williams, a research fellow at Kalsec, is the Project SEED coordinator and treasurer of the Ka-

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ACS Project SEED (continued from page 10)



Kalamazoo Central student Sadaya Hamby with Kalamazoo College professor Dr. Dwight Williams.



Kalamazoo Central student Alejandro Alvarez and Michael Horton of Kalsec Inc.

lamazoo section of ACS. He said he'd love to see more students participate in the program. He encouraged teachers, students and families to look for the application process, which opens in January. GPA is not a selection factor and applicants do not need to be star students, but they should have a year of chemistry and a general interest in science. A teacher referral is also recommended. Williams said the program pays the interns for the eight-week program. Although some of it is

covered by funding from the national organization, the remainder is paid for through local fundraising. People interested in donating or serving as professional mentors can contact Williams at treasurer@kalamazooacs.org. Anderson encouraged other students to apply to the program as a valuable way to learn about science careers and to expand their understanding of the scientific process. "Try to experience science through other lenses

than your own, to understand why it is that scientists do what they do," he said. "ACS Project SEED is a fantastic way to see what you like and don't like in the scientific world, and even what you could change."

WHAT'S NEW

@

Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo

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Kelsey Socha Releases First Novella

ONE OF KELSEY SOCHA'S first writing gigs was when she was a Kalamazoo Central High school senior — and she was asked to document a visit from one of the country's most famous citizens.

"I was part of the class of 2010 that wrote essays to get President Obama to come to our graduation through the Race to the Top Commencement Challenge," Socha said. "I can't remember how I ended up getting to be the one to write a blog post for the White House, but it was very cool!"

You can still read the blog post on the archived site: <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2010/06/09/my-graduation-day-with-president-obama>

You can also read something more current by Socha. Her first novella, "An Archive of Brightness" was recently published by Lanternhouse.

Publishers Weekly says: "Socha's melancholy debut novella is a set of nonlinear, dialogue-light queer human romances as documented by the birds that watch the stories unfolding. ... Interspersed are musings on the birds themselves and the ways in which finding and losing love can feel apocalyptic."

Socha grew up in Kalamazoo. Her father, Greg Socha, was principal of Arcadia Elementary School, and her mother, Tracy Wilson, was a teacher at Prairie Ridge Elementary School — and Socha credits them with being her first (and her most influential) teachers. She attended Milwood and Arcadia elementary schools, Hillside Middle School and Kalamazoo Central High School. She also participated in the Academically Talented Youth Program, Education for the Arts and Education for Employment — now called Career & Technical Education.

Socha, who lives in Massachusetts, recently answered some questions about her career and writing by email:

Did you always enjoy writing?

I did always love writing, although it hasn't always been my main focus.

My second grade teacher, Jackie Bynum at Milwood Elementary, was the first teacher who ever asked my class to write stories. We wrote a lot of (very

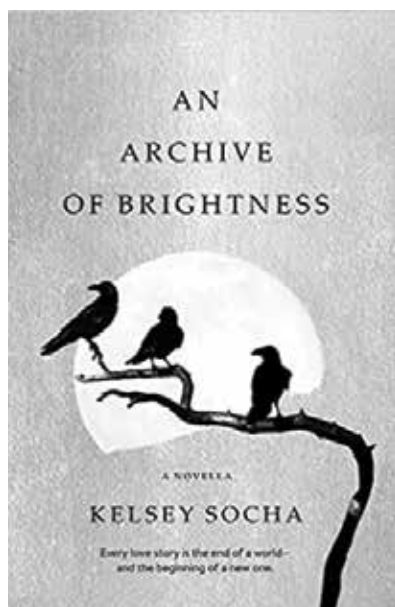


Kelsey Socha, Kalamazoo Central class of 2010, is a librarian and author.

short) books in her class, and that was the first time I learned that I wanted to write and thought of myself as a writer! In high school, I did the EFA class with Tucker Rafferty. It was a class that really allowed for writing to be an open and sort of generative experience. My ATYP teacher, Becky Cooper, and my ninth-grade English teacher, Jennifer Heymoss (who now works for the Kalamazoo Community Foundation)

(continued on page 13)

"The Kalamazoo Promise ... affected where I chose to go to school, and what I chose to study, which in turn affected, well, everything else."



Kelsey Socha *(continued from page 12)*

also were both teachers who allowed for a lot of possibilities for what writing, and English classes in general, could look like and I'm very grateful for both of their classes.

Where did you go to college? Were you a Promise scholar?

I was fully a Promise scholar. I went to the University of Michigan, where I got a BFA in theatrical design and production focusing on costume design and stage management, and a minor in performing arts management. Having The Kalamazoo Promise has had a long and lasting impact: It affected where I chose to go to school, and what I chose to study, which in turn affected, well, everything else. It also allowed me to take professional and artistic risks, and later, being able to go to grad school without being totally overwhelmed by undergraduate loan debt. I am very grateful for The Promise.

Can you tell me about your career path?

I've had an unexpected career trajectory. I went to school for theatrical design and worked in costume shops before deciding to go back to school to become a librarian. I went to library school at Simmons University, and then worked in the Boston area as an academic librarian and a children's and teen librarian, before becoming a public services manager. Recently, I transitioned again from public

libraries to working in digital preservation, specifically in preserving websites on the Internet.

When I was in grad school, I couldn't stop thinking about birds, and so I started writing about them. I think good art is about paying attention, and my work in theater really prepared me to pay a lot of attention. Working in libraries and archives does offer the chance to see and get to know a lot of different stories, which also helps a great deal.

I loved being a costume designer, and I loved being a librarian, and I also love my work now.

Can you give us an overview of "An Archive of Brightness"?

"An Archive of Brightness" is a novella, made up of intertwined stories, and it does frequently veer into prose poetry — there's not a lot of dialogue, and most characters don't have names, and it is fairly poetic in scope. A murder of crows builds an "archive of brightness" by observing and collecting moments of tenderness in a series of human relationships. These interwoven stories offer hope that the very mundane will become extraordinary under the right circumstances.

What is your writing process like and how long have you been working on the book?

My writing process is very goal-oriented — I'm much better at writing in short, fast bursts than really consistently, so I'll often set timers to get my

words in. It's also much easier to edit once you have the words on the page. In a perfect world, I'd always write at a cafe or in a group, but that's not often practical.

For students who may be interested in writing, what advice would you offer?

I think the most important advice would just be... if you really want to write, don't wait until you feel like you're fully ready, and all the conditions and stars in the sky align, because it's unlikely that that will happen. Just start, even if you don't feel ready at all. Even if your first draft of something ends up not being very good, that just means that you have something to build off of.

I would also just say that it's okay for writing not to be your primary focus at any point: you don't have to prove that you love writing above everything else to be successful at it. Reading broadly, and having other interesting experiences — whether those experiences are playing a sport, or doing art or science, or doing something else entirely — are all things that can help in becoming a better and more informed writer.

What's next for you?

I am working on another book: this one is a haunted house story centered around a house on the drive to the local roller rink. I'm excited to see where it goes!



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'And Then There Was One' at Maple Street Magnet School

MAPLE STREET Magnet School for the Arts presents "And Then There Was One ... A Spoof," Nov. 11-13 in the school cafeteria. A spoof of one of the most famous stage mysteries is filled with sight gags and high energy hijinks. Ten people are brought together by an invitation from a mysterious host to the Reef Mansion. The guests begin to die one by one. Luckily, Inspector Miles is among the guests, but even he is stymied as to who the murderer could be. But the evening ends with a surprise farcical twist! The show is directed by teacher Taryn Fooy.

The show plays: 7 p.m. Nov. 11-13 and 3 p.m. Nov. 12. Tickets are \$5 adults, \$3 for students and can be purchased at the door.



Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts presents their fall play, "And Then There Was One," Nov. 11-13.

KALAMAZOO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

Disney

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

ON STAGE!

SHOW DATES:
NOVEMBER 11, 12, 17, 18, 19 AT 7:30PM
NOVEMBER 13TH AT 3PM

TICKET PRICES: \$12 ADULTS
\$10 STUDENTS & SENIORS
\$35 FAMILY TICKET

TO PURCHASE PERFORMANCE TICKETS ONLINE:
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KCHS AUDITORIUM - CALL 337-0330, EXT 341 FOR TICKET INFO

Gift Book Sale!
Begins Friday, Nov 25
Holiday Books for All Ages

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Hundreds of gift quality,
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RE-ELECT
JENNIE HILL
For Kalamazoo Public Schools
Board of Education



"I am committed to helping ensure the **promise** of a bright future for all Kalamazoo Public Schools students."

Vote November 8th

Find me on Facebook or email jahill1231@yahoo.com
Paid for by Jennie Hill for KPS
3106 Bobolink Lane, Kalamazoo, MI. 49008

District Accomplishments as a Board Member

- Enthusiastically worked to pass **350 million dollars** in district bonds and a millage with voters' support
- Strengthened **student safety** and increased **Social Emotional Learning** opportunities
- **Career Pathways Program** launched in 2021
- **Newcomers Centers** for students new to the country
- Working to increase graduation rates for all

Issues I will continue to advocate for

- Increase **Career Exploration** for students
- Greater focus on nontraditional pathways of learning so that all students have the **opportunity** to reach their potential
- Ensure all **KPS Students & Staff** are in **safe and secure schools**
- Continued commitment to **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**
- Emphasis on Pre-Kindergarten - Secondary enrollment & curriculum that better prepares all students for their school experience

RE-ELECT JENNIE HILL

Milwood Open House Offered Hidden Treasures

MILWOOD Magnet School held its 'Find The Hidden Jewels Treasure Hunt', Open House this fall. Families were sent on a mission to find out about all of the wonderful things Milwood has to offer. During this event, families met the Milwood Magnet Staff, visited all of their students' teachers and learned about school expectations and classroom learning goals.

Families were also introduced to the community partners that assist Milwood Magnet School in supporting children and families of Milwood. These partners included: El Concilio, The Urban Alliance, Kalamazoo Public Library, Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation, Kids In Tune of Kalamazoo, Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo, The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kalamazoo, Gryphon Place and New Connections.

Students who located all of the hidden treasures were entered into a raffle and were awarded prizes during the morning announcements, the following week. The evening ended with a meal prepared by the Kalamazoo Public Schools' Food Service Department.

Thanks to all of the families at Milwood Magnet School, staff, and community partners that help make Milwood Magnet School a proud community.

Kalamazoo Public Schools

Every child. Every opportunity. Every time.

Become a Substitute Teacher!

Do you want to help our
students fulfill their
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APPLY AT [KPSJOBS.COM](https://kpsjobs.com)
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Substitute Teacher Requirements

Per State of Michigan law, applicants must
have one of the following to become
a substitute teacher:

- Current Michigan Teaching Certificate
- Expired Michigan Teaching Certificate
- 60+ credit hours from an accredited college
- Paraprofessional Test (District paid)
- Out of State Teaching Certificate



*Anyone working in a K-12 setting must be fingerprinted and pass a criminal history background check.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE



Henrietta
Lacks

PLAY ENCORE

NOV. 13 & JAN. 15
AT 1:30 P.M. | FREE

A HeLa Story: MOTHER OF MODERN MEDICINE

See a video recording of the play that premiered at the museum in September about Kalamazoo resident Jermaine Jackson's late aunt Henrietta Lacks and her immortal cells, which led to major medical breakthroughs.



EVENT DEC. 2 AT 6 P.M. & 7:15 P.M. | FREE

ART HOP: KALAMAZOO MANDOLIN AND GUITAR ORCHESTRA

The KMGO will perform festive songs to start the season off with merriment.

COMING UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The museum is proud to support the Tree Lighting in Bronson Park and the Holiday Parade in downtown Kalamazoo. Look for more information about upcoming free craft activities on kalamazoomuseum.org.



EXHIBIT

NOW - JUNE 4, 2023 | FREE
**MOMENTS IN TIME:
THE KALAMAZOO
COUNTY PHOTO
DOCUMENTARY PROJECT**

See photos about life in Kalamazoo County that have been collected since 1984 and learn about the people who made it all happen. A public reception is planned for 1:30 p.m. **Saturday, Jan. 21**, to celebrate the immense achievement of completing this important history project.

PLANETARIUM EXPERIENCE

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS | NOV. 4 - 26 | \$3 / PERSON

One World, One Sky | Preschool - 1st Grade | 11 a.m. | 30 min.

Join Big Bird, Elmo and their Chinese friend, Hu Hu Zhu, exploring the sky they share. Discover the Big Dipper and North Star, and take an imaginary trip to the moon with Elmo and Hu Hu Zhu.

CAPCOM GO! The Apollo Story | All Ages | 2 p.m. | 24 min.

Why did we go to the moon, and what is Apollo's lasting legacy? Learn about the goals and missions of the Apollo program that placed twelve men on the moon from 1969 to 1972 and examine what it took to get there 50 years ago.

PUBLIC HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday | Noon - 4 p.m.

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

Note: Some areas of the museum may be closed due to exhibit changes, staffing needs, special programs or collections care. We thank you for your patience.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.



230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo
kalamazoomuseum.org | 269.373.7990