



## **DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

1050 Curtiss Street  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
630-960-1200

May 18, 2022

A message from the Board of Library Trustees and Director Julie Milavec:

To the Downers Grove community:

In the wake of the Buffalo, NY supermarket shooting, the Downers Grove Public Library reaffirms its commitment to standing in solidarity with the Black community. DGPL strongly condemns the horrendous hate and conspiracy theories that led to the brutal murder of 10 individuals. We extend our deepest sympathy to the family, friends, and communities impacted by the tragedy. The harm, pain, and racism the African American community continues to face today reiterates the significance of the anti-racist work we are dedicated to.

Let us say their names:

Roberta A. Drury, 32  
Margus D. Morrison, 52  
Andre Mackneil, 53  
Aaron Salter, 55  
Geraldine Talley, 62  
Celestine Chaney, 65  
Heyward Patterson, 67  
Katherine Massey, 72  
Pearl Young, 77  
Ruth Whitfield, 86

The violence exhibited on May 14, which resulted in the senseless death of 10 individuals and injured three others, is nothing short of domestic terrorism, defined as heinous acts dangerous to human life that are aimed at furthering ideological goals stemming from domestic influences ([ACLU](#), [FBI](#)). The motives for these murders are rooted in extremism found in conspiracy theories that are propelled by major media outlets and social media platforms. The Buffalo shooting is just one of many appalling examples to be attributed to the “Great Replacement” theory, which falsely claims there is a plot to replace the power and culture of white people through immigration ([AP](#), [NPR](#)). Theories such as the “Great Replacement” are baseless, feed on fear, further foster racial injustice, and continue to divide us. We denounce these theories and celebrate our nation’s diversity, a cornerstone of our country’s strength and identity.

The hate and violence that disproportionately impacts the Black community is deeply troubling and cannot be ignored. Black Lives Matter. The library recognizes the need to continue to speak out against bigotry and brutality against marginalized communities, and vows to persist. To our African American staff, partners, and community members: we see you, stand with you, and acknowledge your ongoing oppression.

The library reiterates its pledge to be an inclusive space that is welcoming to everyone and invites all community members to join us. The following resources have been gathered for our community to learn more:

## Upcoming Programming:

How to Be a Better Ally

with partner Heather Hathaway Miranda

Wednesday, June 15, 6:30 p.m.

Learn about actionable steps to being a better ally and how to support marginalized community members.

[Register Now.](#)

Diversity 101

with partner Heather Hathaway Miranda

Rescheduled date TBA

Get answers to the questions you've been wondering, and find out why diversity of all kinds makes our community stronger.

## Book lists:

- [Adult](#)
- [Teen](#)
- [Grade School](#)
- [Picture Books](#)

[Cover to Cover Podcast](#)

- Episode 37: Film Discussion: The Friendliest Town
- Episode 27: Book Discussion: How to Be an Anti-Racist by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

[The Color of Law & Reversing Segregation with Richard Rothstein](#)

Author & researcher Richard Rothstein presents on the policies that led to racial segregation in American communities, and what can be done to reverse these practices and work towards racial equity. Co-sponsored by multiple Illinois libraries and held in partnership with Racial Awareness in the North Shore (RAIN), Together is Better Alliance (TiBA). Additional Video: [Segregated By Design](#) (17 mins)