“Freedom is not a state; it is an act. It is not some enchanted garden perched high on a distant plateau where we can finally sit down and rest. Freedom is the continuous action we all must take and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society.” These words from the late Senator John Lewis grace the entrance to a redesigned space at Messiah University’s Murray Library.

On Tuesday, January 18, a dedication ceremony was held to unveil a new reading space and children’s collection. The Bridge to Freedom Collection provides educational resources for children centered on the Civil Rights Movement and other historical experiences with themes of equality, freedom, justice, and reconciliation. The dedication event featured a ribbon cutting ceremony and remarks from campus leaders. About 75 attendees from the campus and local community heard from University President Dr. Kim S. Phipps, Library Director Linda Poston, Vice President for Diversity Affairs Dr. Todd Allen, and Teaching Ministries Pastor Emily Bingham.
This collection was generously established through the donation of 133 children's books from Dr. Todd, Lonette, and Bryce Allen. Dr. Allen is founder of the Common Ground Project, a nonprofit dedicated to teaching the history of the Civil Rights Movement. He initiated the creation of the Bridge to Freedom collection after he, Library Director Linda Poston, and other Messiah colleagues returned from a summer 2021 tour of Civil Rights historic sites throughout the southern states. Linda Poston states, “One of my favorite photos from the dedication ceremony and reception is of a little girl absorbed in reading one of the books. That's what it's all about and that is what makes it worthwhile!”

The resources will be primarily used by students in the university’s education department for coursework and field experiences, yet the reading space and books are open to all. From brightly colored furniture to framed prints of book illustrations, the welcoming collection and space is meant for readers to enter into stories that illustrate the human experience. The public may visit the Bridge to Freedom Room within Murray Library during regular open hours. The collection will continue to grow with new additions each year.
February Exhibits

Trophy Case – The trophy case display, “Black Achievement: Honoring the past, celebrating the present, inspiring the future” focuses on black pioneers of the past as well as the current and future leaders for whom they paved the way.

Foyer – Our foyer display focuses on opportunities to follow Dr. King’s lead through service here on campus and in the community.


On Wednesday, March 30th, Murray Library and the Office of Diversity Affairs will be hosting the Human Library. The Human Library is designed to build a positive framework for conversations that can challenge stereotypes and prejudices through dialogue. “And what library is complete without books?” If you would like the opportunity to be a book and tell your story, please sign up at this link: https://messiah.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_37v5VgYD95A3g5D.

For more information contact Liz Kielley at ekielley@messiah.edu.

To learn more about the Human Library organization, visit this website: http://humanlibrary.org/.

Chat with a librarian! Murray Library offers an instant message, chat tool located on our library webpages to help you get the answers you’re seeking. Click the green button in the bottom, right corner to get started. Receive fast, friendly and helpful librarian assistance in about a minute. For all other times, leave a librarian a message. Librarians will respond as soon as they can.

There are no silly questions, so ask away!

Live chat hours during Spring 2022: Monday-Thursday: 8:30 AM-5 PM & 7-9 PM

Murray’s new e-resources

Murray Library gets new e-resources all the time. Below are a few of our newest ebooks. Be sure to check out our streaming resources & scores, too!

Ebooks:

Fast facts for nurse practitioners : practice essentials for clinical subspecialties / Aktan, Nadine M., author. 2021 (CREDOfree+reference All Content)

Learners Without Borders : New Learning Pathways for All Students / Zhao, Yong. 2021 (Ebook Central)

Courageous Conversations About Race : A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools and Beyond / Singleton, Glenn E. 2021 (Ebook Central)

Science Fiction Criticism : An Anthology of Essential Writings / Latham, Rob, author. 2020 (Ebook Central)

The hidden wealth of cities : creating, financing, and managing public spaces / Kaw, Jon Kher, author. 2020 (Ebook Central)

From smart cities to smart clusters : re-thinking regional collaboration and development. 2020 (Ebook Central)
“By the time I was in fourth grade, I knew I would be an artist someday,” claims Wendell Minor, who was born and raised in Aurora, Illinois, where he inherited his love for the country. After completing studies at the Ringling School of Art and Design in Florida, Minor found a niche creating original designs for book publishers in New York. His cover illustrations have enhanced nearly 2,000 works, and he has illustrated more than thirty children’s picture books. Over the years, his paintings and cover art have garnered more than 200 awards. Minor believes his illustrations benefit by direct contact with nature and travels to research the subject of each book he illustrates—making sketches, shooting photographs, taking copious notes. His travels have taken him throughout the United States, from the tropical Everglades of Florida to Barrow, Alaska, in the Arctic Circle.

Murray is now taking reservations for our two group study rooms, 118 and 119. You can make a reservation ahead of time by contacting the circulation desk in-person or by phone (717.691.6006) or in-person the day of by using the sign-up sheets located at the rooms.

Bias in the Stacks: Seeking Justice on the Shelves
February 22, 7:30-8:30 PM Murray Library

To make materials findable, libraries have relied on subject headings and classification numbers to organize their resources. Have you ever wondered how these subjects or classification numbers were developed? Have you questioned why Christianity has more than 50,000 possible call numbers, while Islam only receives 610? Or why the book, The Hemingses of Monticello, is classed under Jefferson – Homes and Haunts, and not under Family, Family Life? Both the Dewey Decimal Classification and Library of Congress Classification were developed with a Western-centric, white, Christian, male perspective. How does the language we use in our subject headings reinforce marginalization? In what ways can libraries reconcile the inequalities found in these standardized policies to be inclusive of diverse and multicultural perspectives? What is Messiah’s Murray Library and other institutions doing to create balance?

Are you in need of a study space for a small group of 2-4?

Murray is now taking reservations for our two group study rooms, 118 and 119. You can make a reservation ahead of time by contacting the circulation desk in-person or by phone (717.691.6006) or in-person the day of by using the sign-up sheets located at the rooms.

Book Title: **Snow Bear**
Author: Jean Craighead George
Illustrator: Wendell Minor
Year of Publication: 1999

Notes: “By the time I was in fourth grade, I knew I would be an artist someday,” claims Wendell Minor, who was born and raised in Aurora, Illinois, where he inherited his love for the country. After completing studies at the Ringling School of Art and Design in Florida, Minor found a niche creating original designs for book publishers in New York. His cover illustrations have enhanced nearly 2,000 works, and he has illustrated more than thirty children’s picture books. Over the years, his paintings and cover art have garnered more than 200 awards. Minor believes his illustrations benefit by direct contact with nature and travels to research the subject of each book he illustrates—making sketches, shooting photographs, taking copious notes. His travels have taken him throughout the United States, from the tropical Everglades of Florida to Barrow, Alaska, in the Arctic Circle. [Part of Murray Library’s Engle Collection]

**SWANK Film of the month: The Way I See It**
The life and career of Pete Souza, former Chief Official White House Photographer. Candid interviews with Souza and his acquaintances reveal the depth of position of photographer yields, as Souza was one of the only individuals on the White House staff to possess complete, uninhibited access to the President and his family.