



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Learning Online

I love learning new skills and exploring new topics. I have slogged through my share of instruction books and learn well when someone shows me how to do a craft, but I am old enough to know I don't want to pay tuition and drive somewhere to sit in a classroom. I don't need the degree, I just want to learn! Enter THE INTERNET. There is a world of free online video instruction on the Internet for learning most any topic from A to Z. Here are a few popular providers to spark your interest. (For each provider, examples given are just a sampling to illustrate their breadth of content.)

One of the best known sources for online education is **Khan Academy**. It began in 2006 when Salman Khan was tutoring his cousin in math and began posting lessons on Youtube to share with relatives and friends. Over a decade later, Khan Academy hosts thousands of instructional videos tailored for grade school, high school, college and adult learners. They have partnered with prominent academic institutions and organizations to build their curriculum. You will find lessons on arithmetic, grammar, biology, engineering, art history, microeconomics, and personal finance to name a few.

Coursera is one of several websites that aggregate courses from a number of universities and organizations around the world. You can explore lectures and non graded material for free. Registration is free, but there is a fee if you take a course for certification. Course offerings are as varied as script writing, digital marketing, astronomy, Buddhism, and the French Revolution. While **Coursera** offers a sampling from many universities, some institutions have their own platform for free online courses, such as **Stanford Online** or **Open Yale Courses**.

YouTube is worth mentioning in its own right. Yes, it has thousands of music videos and film clips and crazy antics, but it is a wonderful source for 'how-to' information. You can find videos on yoga, picture framing, cooking, container gardening, dry walling, computer instruction (need to put a formula in your Excel spreadsheet?), repairing a broken zipper, and more.

If you like a good lecture, **Ted Talks** has online video talks by experts from around the world, many of whom are on the leading edge of their respective field. Each talk is 18 minutes or less. You can search by topic (e.g. refugees, fashion, comedy, work-life balance) or sort by categories like newest, funny, courageous, or jaw-dropping. **Ted Talks** are endlessly entertaining and informative.

The opportunity to learn whatever you want from a host of experts is only a few clicks away. You can find links to **Khan Academy**, **Coursera**, **YouTube**, and **Ted Talks** on our website at: westchesterpl.org/online-tools/websites/

Ann Weaver is head of the Adult Reference Department

Adult Programs

FRIENDS' FEBRUARY SWEETHEART SALE

The Friends of the Library want to help you beat the winter blues with a special deal —

50% OFF SWEETHEART SALE throughout February!

Hardcover books are 50¢, paperbacks 25¢ and magazines 10¢ .

Buy a present for yourself or, better yet, for your sweetheart on Valentine's Day! 

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Awards Ceremony!

Westchester students in *grades 1 through 8* who participated in the annual **Art Contest** are invited to attend the Awards Ceremony!

Sunday, February 18 at 2:00 pm

ZOO CREW!

No elephants or piggies, but other animals will visit with our favorite Zoo Keeper, Dan Powell!

Saturday, February 10 at 10:00 am

★ WATCH FOR FUN SPRING PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS ★
IN THE UPCOMING MARCH NEWSLETTER!!!

Vivian Maier: A Photographer's Life & Afterlife

Join us as author and Northwestern University Professor **Pamela Bannos** discusses the life and work of Vivian Maier — an unlikely master of twentieth-century American street photography from Chicago. You won't want to miss this engrossing presentation on how Meier went from an unassuming, fiercely private nanny to world-renown, artistic visionary.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 — 7:00 PM

Advance registration requested — Contact Adult dept: 708-562-3573



ILLINOIS AT 200

THE STORYTELLING & TRIVIA GAME SHOW

Take one part history, one part storytelling, and one part trivia game, add prizes and what do you get? Author and entertainer **William Pack** returns with a once-in-200-years chance to celebrate the Bicentennial of Illinois. Guaranteed to be **fun, funny, and informative!**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 3
2:00 PM**

**DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO WIN FUN
BICENTENNIAL-THEMED PRIZES!**

Advance registration requested — Contact Adult dept: 708-562-3573



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY • 10700 Canterbury Street • Westchester, IL 60154

708-562-3573 • TTY/TDD 708-562-9364 • askus@westchesterpl.org • www.westchesterpl.org

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 am-9:00 pm, Friday 9:30 am-6:00 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-5:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 pm-5:00 pm.

Library Director Fidencio Marbella • Board of Trustees John Lamberti, president, Gerald Chenski, Demitrus Evans, Jenice Hampton, Elizabeth Hunter, Janette Maldonado, and Fred Poppe • Board Meetings on 4th Monday of every month.