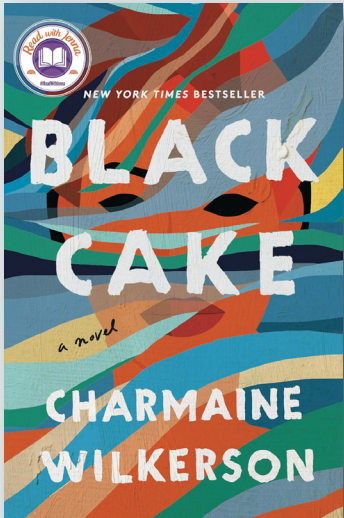


ON THE SAME PAGE 2025:

# BLACK CAKE

by **CHARMAINE WILKERSON**



In present-day California, Eleanor Bennett’s death leaves behind a puzzling inheritance for her two children, Byron and Benny: a black cake, made from a family recipe with a long history, and a voice recording. In her message, Eleanor shares a tumultuous story about a headstrong young swimmer who escapes her island home under suspicion of murder. The heartbreaking tale Eleanor unfolds, the secrets she still holds back, and the mystery of a long-lost child challenge everything the siblings thought they knew about their lineage and themselves.

Can Byron and Benny reclaim their once-close relationship, piece together Eleanor’s true history, and fulfill her final request to “share the black cake when the time is right”? Will their mother’s revelations bring them back together or leave them feeling more lost than ever?

## BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Join one of the following book discussions after reading **Black Cake** by Charmaine Wilkerson. A limited number of free books are available at each library. Please contact your home library for details.

**Between the Covers  
Book Club (RPLD)**

Thursday, October 9  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

We read fiction, mystery,  
science fiction, and  
everything in between.

**Beyond the Library  
Book Discussion  
(ICL)**

Monday, October 13  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Join us at our monthly  
meeting at the Fox & Turtle  
Restaurant in the  
Itasca Country Club.

**Evening Book  
Discussion (ICL)**

Tuesday, October 28  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**General Information:**

On The Same Page programs require registration unless noted as “drop-in” in the program description. Please contact the library or visit each library’s website for details and registration information.

**BLOOMINGDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

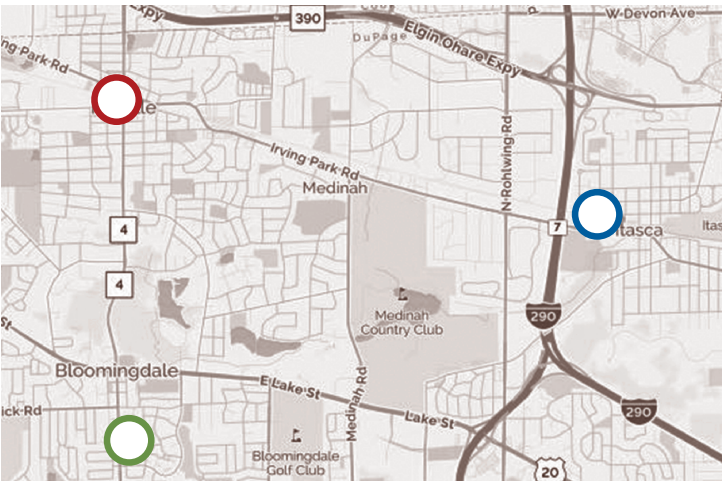
101 Fairfield Way  
Bloomington, IL 60108  
(630) 529-3120 • [www.mybpl.org](http://www.mybpl.org)

**ITASCA COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

500 West Irving Park Road  
Itasca, IL 60143  
(630) 773-1699 • [www.itascalibrary.org](http://www.itascalibrary.org)

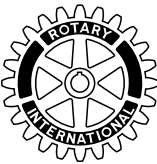
**ROSELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
DISTRICT**

40 South Park Street  
Roselle, IL 60172  
(630) 529-1641 • [www.rosellepld.org](http://www.rosellepld.org)

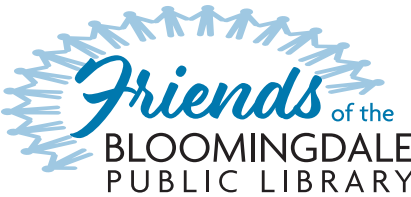


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**Films, Lectures, &  
Book Discussions**

**based on the book**

# BLACK CAKE

a novel by  
**CHARMAINE  
WILKERSON**

**2025 Program Guide**



# ON THE SAME PAGE

## OCTOBER 2025 PROGRAMS

### SUPPORTING OUR LOVED ONES: TOOLS FOR NAVIGATING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES (ICL)

Thursday, October 2 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Led by mental health professionals from NAMI DuPage, this program offers adults practical tools and compassionate guidance for supporting loved ones through mental health challenges. Participants will explore how to navigate emotional struggles, foster healthy communication, and care for their own well-being.



### REGGAE: THE BEATING HEART OF POPULAR MUSIC (BPL)

Tuesday, October 21 | 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

No other country has had such an influence on modern popular music as Jamaica. Bob Marley is a global symbol of Jamaican reggae music, but this tiny island of barely 3 million inhabitants has produced many other great artists and has pioneered new sounds and recording techniques. Reggae has directly influenced genres like Disco, Hip Hop, and Electronic Dance Music (EDM), while many popular artists, including the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Stevie Wonder, have recorded their own reggae songs. Through the use of music, video, and photographs from this treasured island, Dr. John F. Lyons traces the history and impact of reggae music.



### VIRTUAL: CARIBBEAN CUISINE WITH KRISTYN SLICK (ICL)

Tuesday, October 7 | 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Webinar

Travel through flavor and story in this Caribbean-inspired cooking class based on the novel **Black Cake** by Charmaine Wilkerson. We'll explore traditional island ingredients and prepare dishes that honor the novel's rich cultural roots—including a simplified take on the beloved black cake. Join us as we blend food, memory, and heritage in a celebration of Caribbean cuisine.



### THE RULE OF RUM (BPL)

Monday, October 27 | 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Food historian Cynthia Clampitt shares rum's historical importance. Learn how pirates got involved, who really said “yo ho ho” (not the pirates), and how rum helped unite the 13 Colonies, as it became one of the issues that led to the American Revolution. She'll also talk about how it led to a revolt in its home after the Caribbean: Australia, and how it affected their culture and history.



### MAKE AHEAD PASTRIES WITH CHEF CHERISE (RPLD)

Thursday, October 30 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Say goodbye to early mornings! Wouldn't it be great to greet your family with fresh pastries that you DIDN'T have to get up early to prepare? Chef Cherise Slattery will reveal her secrets for making scones, muffins, sweet rolls, and more – days and even weeks ahead of time.

Luscious Lemon Scones and Chocolate Chip Scones will be shared along with the recipes to make them, plus how to use inclusions to make many more varieties.



## DROP-IN MOVIES

### PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL (BPL)

Wednesday, October 8  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Rated: PG-13

A buccaneer tries to retrieve a haunted ship from the mutinous scalawags who seized it.



### THE RUM DIARY (RPLD)

Wednesday, October 22  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Rated: R

American journalist Paul Kemp takes on a freelance job in Puerto Rico for a local newspaper during the 1960s and struggles to find a balance between island culture and the expatriates who live there.



### AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES: THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES (ICL)

Friday, October 17  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Rated: PG-13

1964. Lily, a lonely teenager, flees from her home and reaches a small town in South Carolina. Once there, she finds herself in the company of the Boatwright sisters who introduce her to a new world.

