

Ray Bradbury, An Inspiration to Many

Famous writers, movie directors, and artists admired Ray Bradbury greatly. These and many others said he inspired their creativity: R. L. Stine, Steven Spielberg, Stephen King, Alice Hoffman, Neil Gaiman, Margaret Atwood, Mort Castle, LeVar Burton.

Today, Ray Bradbury continues to inspire his readers everywhere.

"All of his life, and especially during his formative years, Ray Bradbury was a voracious reader. He realized that reading fiction makes us more empathetic human beings – a quality that is more necessary than ever."

— Kenneth Massey, Author, Zion, IL

"Ray Bradbury is the embodiment of what can be accomplished with hard work and a whole lot of imagination. He has taken the reality of Waukegan and transformed it into something for people to read about worldwide."

— Carolina Fabian, Educator,
Waukegan Public Schools

"Since I heard the news that my space dreamer and fantastic man Ray Bradbury had passed away, my permanent goal in life is to show people how talented he was, to adore his books in the way that I do. For me Ray Bradbury is more than just a favorite author. He is like a wise spirit who always helps me find a right pass. As a librarian, I try to make people interested in his heritage."

— Mariya Andreyanova, A. S. Griboedov
Library, St. Petersburg, Russia

The Ray Bradbury Centennial

August 22, 2020

On August 22, 2020, Waukegan celebrates the centennial of native son Ray Bradbury. He was born August 22, 1920, at 11 S. St. James St., Waukegan, Illinois.

"I was born in Waukegan in 1920 and had my second birth at the Carnegie Library in Waukegan. I came to full bloom there and when I was twelve, after reading most of the books in that fantastic library, I became Ray Bradbury. What more could I ask? What a wonderful town to be born in. What a library to grow in. What a town to come back to; a town that I know and love with all my heart."

— Ray Bradbury, 2009

This series of three Ray Bradbury Centennial posters highlights his roots in Waukegan, his lasting fame as an author, and his hungry imagination.

The Ray Bradbury Centennial Poster Series was made possible by Illinois Humanities through annual support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Illinois General Assembly.

The Ray Bradbury Centennial Poster Series

RAY BRADBURY

1920 2020
Centennial Celebration

Live Forever in Green Town
Ray Bradbury's 100th Birthday
AUGUST 22, 2020

R B E M
13 N. Genesee Street
Waukegan, IL

- Exhibit Preview
- Virtual Reality Tour
- Martian Encounter
- and More!

Social distancing and masks required.

R B E M
Ray Bradbury Experience Museum

www.RayBradburyExperienceMuseum.org

ILLINOIS HUMANITIES

Ray Bradbury Centennial
Waukegan, Illinois

R B E M
Ray Bradbury Experience Museum

Ray Bradbury and Green Town

Globally famous, beloved author Ray Bradbury, born in Waukegan, Illinois, affectionately called his hometown Green Town. He loved the grass lawns and tree-lined streets, parks, and ravines that he explored day and night as a boy. Countless readers have accompanied Bradbury's characters in his novel *Dandelion Wine*, set in Green Town, exploring action based on the author's memories, including scary scenes set in a ravine. Decades and decades later, the author maintained that Green Town had not changed much when he visited: "Is the ravine real and deep and dark at night? It was, it is. I took my daughters there a few years back, fearful that the ravine might have gone shallow with time. I am relieved and happy to report that the ravine is deeper, darker, and more mysterious than ever."

— *Dandelion Wine*, Introduction, 1974 edition

Today visitors to Waukegan still come to the ravines and other Green Town places familiar from Ray's *Dandelion Wine*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, and *Farewell Summer*. Around the world, millions of readers have visited Green Town in their imagination.

The Bradbury Centennial August 22, 2020

Waukegan celebrates the 100th year of this author of masterpieces including *The Martian Chronicles*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and hundreds of short stories, screenplays, and nonfiction titles. Ray Bradbury's hometown is the site of key Centennial celebrations on his 100th birthday, including the in-development Ray Bradbury Experience Museum.

Mask Up!

The Centennial occurs during the novel coronavirus pandemic, and the poster shows an artist's depiction of Ray in a face mask. Bradbury considered pandemics. In *The Martian Chronicles*, space travelers from Earth discover that a different virus has attacked the defenseless population of Martians.

"What did they die of?" ...

"You won't believe it."

"What killed them?"

Hathaway said simply, "chicken pox."

The Wonderful Suit

The poster also depicts Ray in a white suit like the one in his story *The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit*. The suit is emblazoned with Ray Bradbury Experience Museum icons including

- A rocket ship to represent the future exhibits inspired by *The Martian Chronicles*.
- A burning book to represent exhibits inspired by *Fahrenheit 451*.
- A "Mr. Dark" figure to represent exhibits about *Something Wicked This Way Comes*.

Live Forever

Ray Bradbury often spoke and wrote about living forever. "Space travel is life-enhancing, and anything that's life-enhancing is worth doing. It makes you want to live forever."

"This is the emotional thing, you see – you must galvanize people, so they want to be completely alive and live forever, or the next thing to it. And out of that comes art."

"When you reach the stars, boy, yes, and live there forever, all the fears will go, and Death himself will die."

Will Bradbury Live Forever?

Many readers believe Ray Bradbury will "live forever" through his writing. His stories entertain and inspire people and will continue to do so for generations to come. That could be considered magical, and LeVar Burton, actor and storyteller, has said, "There is magic in Ray Bradbury's writing."

Bradbury, in *Fahrenheit 451*, warned of a society that burned books, but he also imagined people keeping the world's books and their wisdom alive forever.

The Ray Bradbury Experience Museum will help Ray "live forever" for readers, media viewers, and thinkers in Waukegan, as well as visitors from around the world!

Ray Bradbury Experience Museum

13 North Genesee Street
Waukegan, IL 60085

www.RayBradburyExperienceMuseum.org