



Cook Memorial Public Library District

# ins&outs

**WINTER 2023 - 2024**  
december - february



***Expanded Sunday Hours***

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***Preschool and Childcare Information***

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***What to Consider When Buying a Home***

***Feel the Love with Bridgerton Author Julia Quinn***

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***Teen Choice Awards: Get In Your Vote***

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***New! English Conversation Café for Kids!***



#### Locations

Aspen Drive Library  
701 Aspen Drive  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Cook Park Library  
413 N Milwaukee Ave  
Libertyville, IL 60048

847-362-2330  
para ayuda en  
español, oprima 3

[cooklib.org](http://cooklib.org)

Email: [info@cooklib.org](mailto:info@cooklib.org)  
Renewals: 847-362-0438  
Register: [cooklib.org/events](http://cooklib.org/events)

Hours:  
Monday–Thursday: 9 am–9 pm  
Friday: 9 am–6 pm  
Saturday: 9 am–5 pm  
Sunday: 1–5 pm  
Starting January 7: open 12–5 pm

Closed:  
December 8: Staff Training:  
open 1–6 pm  
December 24: Christmas Eve  
December 25: Christmas Day  
December 31: New Year's Eve  
January 1: New Year's Day

#### Board of Trustees:

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Listen to our podcast at [cooklib.org/podcast](http://cooklib.org/podcast)  
Download our app [lead.me/CookLibApp](http://lead.me/CookLibApp)



#### ADA Policy

If you need accommodation for a disability in order to access the benefits of the library's services, programs, or activities, email your request to: [ADA@cooklib.org](mailto:ADA@cooklib.org) or call 847-362-2330. If your request is for a program or meeting, please contact us at least five business days before it takes place.

#### Photo Policy

The Library may utilize photos and videos from public programs at CMLPD facilities for use in Library publicity. Those not wishing to be in a photograph or video should advise a staff member.

#### Safe Child Policy

The library is dedicated to providing a welcoming and safe environment for people of all ages. To accomplish this, the library relies on parents/caregivers to closely supervise their children. Please stick together! If a child under age 10 is participating in a program that does not require a parent/caregiver to attend, the accompanying adult must remain in the library throughout the program. To view the Safe Child Policy, visit [cooklib.org/policies](http://cooklib.org/policies).

in the **know**

## Expanded Sunday Hours

The Library Board of Trustees recently approved to permanently expand operating hours on Sundays at both Library locations. Beginning January 7, 2024, Cook Park Library and Aspen Drive Library will open an hour earlier at 12 pm instead of 1 pm.

#### Why? Because Sundays are very popular!

We see you, Weekend Warriors. Weekday visits don't fit everyone's schedule, but weekends at the Library are buzzing! On a per-hour basis, Sundays are by far our busiest day of the week. In fact, they are roughly 124% busier than the next busiest day of the week, Saturday. An extra hour on Sundays will provide more options for you to take advantage of all we have to offer.

Average # of visitors per hour in 2023	
Sunday	145
Saturday	118
Friday	106
Thursday	97
Monday	94
Tuesday	94
Wednesday	90

## Talk with a Trustee

Do you have questions, comments, or concerns about the Library? Your elected Trustees are here to listen! Chat and connect with them during their drop-in hours. The Library Board of Trustees are public servants elected by you. They serve in the best interest of the community by overseeing the operation, budget, and policies of the Library — among other duties. Learn more about them at [cooklib.org/board-of-library-trustees](http://cooklib.org/board-of-library-trustees) and mark your calendar.

Sunday, February 4, 12:30-1:30 pm **C** & **A**

## bookmobile schedule

Visit [cooklib.org/bookmobile](http://cooklib.org/bookmobile) for the most up-to-date stop information, or sign up for our email newsletter at [cooklib.org/newsletters](http://cooklib.org/newsletters). See you on the road!

#### WEDNESDAYS

- A 3–4 pm** – Lambs Farm Stone Apartments, 14245 Rockland Rd, Libertyville
- B 5:15–5:45 pm** – Court of Spruce/Court of Birch, Vernon Hills
- C 5:45–6:15 pm** – Pebbleshire Apartments, Cherry Valley Rd & Lakeside Dr, Vernon Hills
- D 6:30–8 pm** – Park Butterfield Apartments, Near the pool on Churchill Ct, Mundelein

#### SATURDAYS

- E 1:15–2 pm** – Deepwoods, Deepwoods Dr, Mundelein
- F 2:25–3 pm** – Lakeside Village, 313 S Hickory St, Mundelein
- G 3:15–4 pm** – Orchard Apartments, E Orchard St, between Shaddle Ave & Washington Blvd, Mundelein

kanopy

On November 1, Kanopy switched from play credits to tickets. With this update, you will easily see the number of tickets required and the viewing period for each film next to the play button.

The previous number of play credits for Cook Memorial Public Library District cardholders was 5 per month. With the new ticketing system, each card has 15 tickets to use each month. Films cost between 1-5 tickets to watch, as determined by the length of the film. Kanopy Kids will not require tickets for viewing.

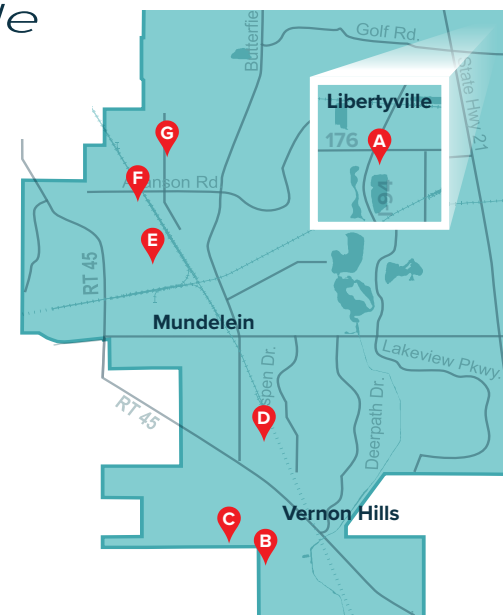
#### Never Used Kanopy Before?

That just means you've yet to discover the movies, documentaries, and bingeable shows that are available for you to stream, for free, with your Library card. Here's how it works:

1. Visit [cooklib.kanopy.com](http://cooklib.kanopy.com) or scan the code:
2. Add your CMLPD card.
3. Create a Kanopy account with your email address.
4. Search, browse, and start streaming!



**Need help?** You can find answers to frequently asked questions on Kanopy's Help site or contact a librarian by filling out the eLibrary Help Form at [cooklib.org/elibrary](http://cooklib.org/elibrary).





# 1 8th ANNUAL ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY



1book.org

One Book, One Community (OBOC) is a community-wide literature and learning experience hosted each year by Cook Memorial, Indian Trails, and Vernon Area public libraries. Whether you've been reading with us all along or are joining in for the first time this winter, come together with your neighbors in reading and discussing *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb.

Unless noted, registration is required for all programs at [1book.org](https://1book.org). For the full list of programs at all three libraries, visit the OBOC website or pick up a brochure at the Library.

## One Book, One Community Kickoff

Stop by either Library location's kickoff event and pick up a complimentary copy of *The Violin Conspiracy*, courtesy of the Friends of the Library while supplies last. One copy per household. Additional copies will be available for checkout.

### DROP IN

Sunday, December 10, 1–3 pm **C** & **A**

## Violins, Music & Lore

Luthier Spencer Hamann of Classic Violins shares the history of the violin, including their construction and evolution through the ages. Spencer brings tools and instruments to see and touch.

Q&A to follow. **DROP IN**

Monday, January 29, 7–8:30 pm **H** **C**

## Movie Matinee:

### *The Red Violin* (R | 1998 | 2h 11m)

This drama spans four centuries and five countries to tell the story of a mysterious red-colored violin and its owners. With Samuel L. Jackson, Carlo Cecchi, and Sylvia Chang.

Thursday, February 8, 1:30 pm • Libertyville Civic Center

Friday, February 9, 1:30 pm **A**

## Book Discussions

Come together and discuss our 2024 selection. **DROP IN**

- ▶ Afternoon Book Discussion  
Tuesday, February 13, 2–3 pm **H** **C**
- ▶ Evening Book Discussion  
Thursday, February 22, 7–8 pm **H** **A**

## Black Contributions to Classical Music

Join LaRob K. Rafael, WFMT weekend host and classical vocalist, for a discussion of the contributions of Black artists to classical music. **DROP IN**

Thursday, February 15, 7–8 pm **A**

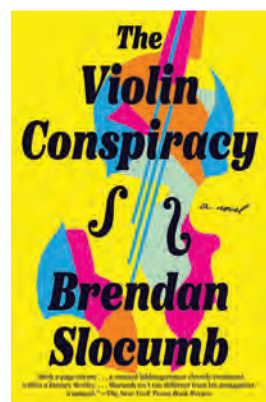
## Meet Author Brendan Slocumb

Brendan Slocumb joins us in person to share the inspiration behind *The Violin Conspiracy*. To kick off the afternoon, enjoy live string music performed by students from the Libertyville High School orchestra. Copies of Brendan's books may be purchased at the event, courtesy of the Book Bin of Northbrook.

Sunday, February 25, 1 pm

Stevenson High School, West Auditorium

1 Stevenson Dr, Lincolnshire



## About the Book

Growing up Black in rural North Carolina, "world-class professional violinist" is not an obvious career choice for Ray McMillian. But Ray has a gift and a dream, and nothing will stand in his way.

When he discovers that his beat-up family fiddle is a priceless Stradivarius, his dream suddenly seems within reach. But on the eve of the renowned Tchaikovsky Competition — the Olympics of classical music — the violin disappears, a ransom note left in its place. As the competition approaches, Ray must not only reclaim his precious violin, but prove to himself and the world that no matter the outcome, there has always been a truly great musician within him.



Photo credit David Bickley

## About the Author

Brendan Nicholas Slocumb was raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and holds a degree in music education (with concentrations in violin and viola) from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. For the past two decades, he has been a public and private school music educator for elementary through high school students. He also serves as an educational consultant for the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. His second novel, *Symphony of Secrets*, was published in April 2023 to critical acclaim. He is currently working on a third novel, to be published in early 2025.

**birth**-age 5

# Playful Learning @ the Library

## Weekly Story Times

Session 1: October 23–December 15

Session 2: January 8–March 1

**Baby Story Time (birth-12 mos w/adult)**

Children and their caregivers are guided through bounces, movement, rhymes, and stories in this lap-sit program.

**Family Story Time (birth-age 5 w/adult)**Family Story Times are lively and play-based programs for children and their caregivers. **DROP IN****Mondays****Baby Story Time**9:30–10:15 am **C****Tuesdays****Family Story Time**10–10:45 am **A** **DROP IN****Wednesdays****Baby Story Time**9:30–10:15 am **A****Fridays****Family Story Time**10–10:45 am **C** **DROP IN****Preschool and Childcare Fair**

Finding a preschool or childcare center that meets the needs of your family is an important decision. Browse, ask questions, and collect information from area preschool and childcare center representatives. Copies of the 2024 Preschool & Childcare Directory will also be available. **DROP IN**  
**Saturday, January 20, 10 am–12 pm** **A**

**Math is Magic (ages 3-5 w/adult)**

Math is all around us! Join us for a special math-themed story time with hands-on activities that support learning through play! Registration opens February 8 at 4 pm.

**Monday, March 4, 10–10:45 am** **C****Toddlers @ the Library!****(ages 13-35 mos w/adult)**

Celebrate and support your toddler's physical growth and development at this special program for toddlers and their favorite grown-ups at the Library!

**Thursday, January 25, 10–11 am** **A****Preschoolers @ the Library!****(ages 3-5 w/adult)**

Explore hands-on activities with your preschooler through play in a group setting at the Library!

**Thursday, January 25, 1–2 pm** **A****Growing & Changing Booklists**

Librarian-recommended picture books that support the many milestone events you and your little one experience from birth–age five. Booklists are available at both Library locations.

**Booklist topics:**

- ▶ Community Helpers
- ▶ Diversity
- ▶ Emotions
- ▶ Friendship
- ▶ Going to the Doctor
- ▶ Healthy Eating
- ▶ New Baby
- ▶ Potty Training
- ▶ Preschool

**211**

Get Connected. Get Help.™

211 is Lake County's free, one-stop shop for help. 211 is an easy to remember, 24-hour information and referral telephone helpline, texting chatline, and website. It's designed to reduce time and frustration by acting as a central access point to the health and human services in Lake County. Speak to a live person when you call in English or Spanish. The 211 team will also interpret more than 150 other languages.

[211lakecounty.org](http://211lakecounty.org)**Recommended Resource**

**Seek & Find**  
 Some of your favorite characters are on the loose and hiding in the Children's department. Earn a sticker every time you find one, and remember, these characters change spots every week! **DROP IN**







# Curl Up with a Good Book

## Winter Reading Club

December 15–February 15

Winter is a great time to curl up with a good book or get cozy and listen to an audiobook with the family. Join the Winter Reading Club and earn points for reading or listening. When you reach the goal, you'll receive a prize — a book of your choice to keep! **REGISTER** starting Friday, December 15 online at [cooklib.readsquared.com](http://cooklib.readsquared.com) or in person at any CPLD location.



## Family Maker @ the Library (grades K-8 w/family)

We provide all the supplies to have some family fun at the Library!

- ▶ **Wood Block Snowman**  
Make an adorable snowman out of paint and wood!  
**Sunday, December 3, 2–3 pm**
- ▶ **"Stained Glass" Lanterns**  
Make a beautiful stained glass-like lantern that warmly glows!  
**Sunday, January 14, 2–3 pm**

## Stories in Russian (ages 3+ w/adult)

Listen to stories in Russian and take home a fun craft! Parents and children stay together. Program held entirely in Russian.

**Monday, December 11, 6–6:45 pm**   
**Monday, February 5, 6–6:45 pm**

## Истории на русском языке (от 3 лет со взрослыми)

Послушайте истории на русском языке и возьмите домой забавные поделки! Родители и дети остаются вместе. Программа ведется полностью на русском языке.

**Понедельник, 11 декабря, 18:00–18:45**   
**Понедельник, 5 февраля, 18:00–18:45**

## Family Maker @ Home

We provide all the supplies to have some family fun at home!

- ▶ **Sock Penguins**  
Make a fun and friendly sock penguin, a perfect pal for the winter season!  
**Saturday, December 16**
- ▶ **Huggable Hearts**  
Create your own soft, squishy, huggable heart!  
**Saturday, February 10**

## Firefly Family Theatre: Spark's Snow Day! (ages 2-7 w/family)

Spark the Firefly gets to experience her first snow day! Join us at this performance which includes puppets, original music, interactive movement, and lots of winter fun for families!

**Saturday, January 13, 10–10:45 am**

## An Evening with Jerry Craft

Meet the American cartoonist and New York Times bestselling author of the graphic novels *New Kid* and *Class Act*. An all ages event!

**Tuesday, February 6, 7–8 pm** Zoom

## Improv Playhouse: *The Little Prince* (grades K-8 w/family)

Revisit this whimsical, imaginative tale of a prince from outer space, an aviator stranded in a desert, and their emotional and everlasting bond!

**Saturday, February 10, 11 am–12 pm**

**Has your schedule changed?**



Life is busy, and things come up — we understand! If you or your child are registered for a program and can no longer attend, please cancel so we don't mark you as a no-show. Others on the waiting list will thank you! It's easy to cancel:

- give us a call
- visit [cooklib.org/myevents](http://cooklib.org/myevents)
- visit us in person at the reference desk



## grades K-5

### Our annual Design a Bookmark Contest is back!

(grades K-8)

Express your artistic side and create a bookmark inspired by your favorite book or character!

#### How to Enter:

Beginning **Monday, November 27**, students who live or attend school in the Library District may pick up a blank bookmark and contest rules at Cook Park Library, Aspen Drive Library, the Bookmobile, or any participating school.

Completed bookmarks must be submitted by **Wednesday, January 10**. Winners will be announced no later than Wednesday, January 31. Watch for displays at the libraries in February!

### 17th Annual Creative Writing Contest

(grades 4-8)

Make sure your pencils are sharpened because our annual Creative Writing Contest is coming soon! Look for more details in our spring newsletter and on our website.

**Monday, February 19–Wednesday, April 10**

## Curl Up with a Good Book

### Winter Reading Club

**December 15–February 15**

Winter is a great time to curl up with a good book or get cozy and listen to an audiobook with the family. Join the Winter Reading Club and earn points for reading or listening. When you reach the goal, you'll receive a prize — a book of your choice to keep! **REGISTER** starting Friday, December 15 online at [cooklib.readsquared.com](http://cooklib.readsquared.com) or in person at any CPLD location.



### Linnea's Adventures (grades 2-5)

Come along and join Linnea on her adventures learning about the world around her.

- ▶ **Linnea in Monet's Garden**  
**Friday, December 29, 3–4 pm** **A**
- ▶ **Linnea's Almanac: Winter Birds**  
**Tuesday, January 16, 4–5 pm** **A**
- ▶ **Linnea's Almanac: Indoor Gardening**  
**Friday, February 16, 4–5 pm** **C**

### Little Bookworms: My Lucky Day (grades K-1)

Read and chat about a story, then do a fun craft with other little bookworms and their favorite grown-ups. Caregivers are welcome and encouraged to attend with their child.

**Thursday, January 18, 4:15–5 pm** **C**

### English Conversation Café for Kids (grades K-5)

Learn new vocabulary, practice your English conversation skills, and make friends!

**Monday, January 29, 4:30–5:30 pm** **A**

### The Lighthouse Family: The Bear (grades 2-5)

Come meet a sleepy and loveable bear who is just waking up from his winter's nap.

**Tuesday, February 20, 4–5 pm** **A**

### Hoppy Leap Day (grades K-3)

Celebrate Leap Day at the Library! Wear green and come learn about Leap Days and participate in leap-themed stories, games, and crafts.

**Thursday, February 29, 4–5 pm** **C**

### American Girls (grades 2-5)

Bring your favorite doll and let's meet some incredible American Girls! Listen to their stories and make a craft.

- ▶ **Meet Rebecca**  
**Tuesday, December 5, 4–5 pm** **C**
- ▶ **Meet Felicity**  
**Thursday, January 4, 3–4 pm** **A**
- ▶ **Meet the 2024 American Girl of the Year**  
**Tuesday, January 30, 4–5 pm** **C**
- ▶ **Meet Claudie**  
**Tuesday, February 27, 4–5 pm** **A**

### Page Turners Book Club (grades 4-5)

Join other fun kids to talk about fabulous books!

- ▶ **Friday, December 22, 4–5 pm** **A**
- ▶ **Friday, January 26, 4–5 pm** **C**

### NOT a Box (grades 2-5)

Let's read *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis and then transform a box into a new creation. Bring any size box from home; other materials provided.

**Thursday, December 28, 2–3 pm** **C**







## EXPLORE OUR WORLD

### Life in the Middle Ages (grades 2-3)

Learn interesting (and sometimes disgusting) details of living in Medieval society and make a craft!

Friday, December 1, 4–5 pm

### World Explorers (grades 2-5)

Immerse yourself in different cultures through stories, crafts, and games!

#### ► Iceland

Wednesday, December 6, 4–5 pm

#### ► Norway

Friday, January 12, 4–5 pm

#### ► China

Friday, February 9, 4–5 pm

### Winter Wonderlights (grades K-3)

Explore how light is featured in many different winter celebrations across the world, play games, and do a fun craft!

Tuesday, December 12, 6–7 pm

### What Do You See When You Look at a Winter Tree? (grades K-1)

It's winter and the trees look different — except for the evergreen! Weather permitting, let's take a short walk in Cook Park, then come inside for a story and craft.

Saturday, December 16, 11 am–12 pm

### Hello Winter! (grades 2-3)

It's the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year! Let's make the most of it and welcome the magical winter season in Cook Park.

Thursday, December 21, 4–5 pm

### Life in a Rainforest (grades 2-3)

Let's explore rainforests, learn who lives there, and make a craft to take home!

Monday, January 22, 4–5 pm

### Kangaroos Up Close! (grades 2-3)

Did you know that kangaroos are unable to jump backwards? Learn fun facts about these amazing jumpers and make a craft!

Friday, February 23, 4–5 pm

## GET YOUR GAME ON

### LEGO Adventure (grades K-5)

Bring your imagination and building talents, and have a creatively good time with our LEGO collection.

► Monday, December 4, 4–5 pm

► Thursday, January 11, 4–5 pm

► Thursday, February 22, 4–5 pm

### Let's Game! (grades K-5)

Join us for an epic video game battle! We provide the games and system; you provide the fun!

#### ► Mario Kart

Monday, December 11, 4–5 pm

#### ► Player's Choice

Thursday, January 25, 4–5 pm

#### ► Smash Bros.

Monday, February 26, 4–5 pm

### Pokémon Club (grades K-5)

Battle it out with your cards and go head-to-head in epic battles. Bring your best deck and cards to trade.

► Thursday, December 14, 4–5 pm

► Monday, January 15, 4–5 pm

► Monday, February 5, 4–5 pm

### Artist Spotlight: Pablo Picasso (grades K-5)

Learn about artist Pablo Picasso and his style of art, then create and take home your own Picasso-inspired snowman!

Wednesday, January 3, 3–4 pm

### STEM Challenge: Zany Zip Lines (grades 4-5)

Put your skills and know-how to the test!

Wednesday, January 24, 4–5 pm

### Friendship Bracelets (grades 4-5)

Relax with other crafters and create your own bracelet!

Thursday, February 1, 4:30–5:30 pm

## create

### Cartooning (grades K-3 & grades 4-5)

Learn to draw with the help of cartoonist Mark Anderson.

#### Grades K-3

##### ► Winter Wildlife

Draw animals that like it cold: arctic foxes, polar bears, snow monkeys, and the ruffed grouse!

Friday, December 8, 5–6 pm

##### ► Monster Maker

Assemble your own hilariously horrible cartoon monsters.

Thursday, February 8, 5–6 pm

#### Grades 4-5

##### ► Weirdo Heroes

Create cartoon drawings of your own oddball heroes!

Thursday, December 7, 5–6 pm

##### ► Cartoon Cryptids

Let's draw mysterious creatures like the Loch Ness Monster and Bigfoot.

Wednesday, February 7, 5–6 pm

### Ice Cube Painting (grades K-1)

Use colored ice cubes to create your own masterpiece!

Wednesday, December 27, 2:15–3 pm



## *middle school* grades 6-8

### *Our annual Design a Bookmark Contest is back!*

*(grades K-8)*

Express your artistic side and create a bookmark inspired by your favorite book or character!

#### How to Enter:

Beginning **Monday, November 27**, students who live or attend school in the Library District may pick up a blank bookmark and contest rules at Cook Park Library, Aspen Drive Library, the Bookmobile, or any participating school.

Completed bookmarks must be submitted by **Wednesday, January 10**. Winners will be announced no later than Wednesday, January 31. Watch for displays at the libraries in February!

### *17th Annual Creative Writing Contest*

*(grades 4-8)*

Make sure your pencils are sharpened because our annual Creative Writing Contest is coming soon! Look for more details in our spring newsletter and on our website.

**Monday, February 19–  
Wednesday, April 10**

## *Curl Up with a Good Book*

### Winter Reading Club

**December 15–February 15**

Winter is a great time to curl up with a good book or get cozy and listen to an audiobook with the family. Join the Winter Reading Club and earn points for reading or listening. When you reach the goal, you'll receive a prize — a book of your choice to keep! **REGISTER** starting Friday, December 15 online at [cooklib.readsquared.com](http://cooklib.readsquared.com) or in person at any CMPLD location.



### Service Crafts

Learn about community service and make a fun craft! Volunteer hours are available for those who are interested.

- ▶ **No-Sew Blankets**  
Tuesday, December 12, 4:30–5:30 pm **C**
- ▶ **Placemat Decorating**  
Tuesday, January 23, 4:30–5:30 pm **C**

### In the Middle Book Club

A book club just for middle schoolers! Join us for a fun and lively book discussion with awesome books. January's meeting is a special, after-hours discussion where we chat about the book then watch the movie! Snacks and drinks provided.

- ▶ **Wednesday, December 13, 6:30–7:30 pm** **C**
- ▶ **Friday, January 19, 5–8 pm** **A**
- ▶ **Wednesday, February 14, 6:30–7:30 pm** **C**

### Life-Sized Candy Land

Race to the end and play a version of life-sized Candy Land throughout the Library after hours for a chance to win prizes!

**Friday, December 15, 6–8 pm** **A**

### International Snack Exploration

Taste and rank unique snacks from around the world while learning about new countries.

**Tuesday, December 19, 4:30–5:30 pm** **C**

### Dungeons and Dragons

Come play the role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons! Let's fight monsters, solve puzzles, and save the day! No experience required.

- ▶ **Tuesday, January 9, 5–7 pm** **A**
- ▶ **Wednesday, January 31, 5–7 pm** **A**
- ▶ **Tuesday, February 13, 5–7 pm** **C**
- ▶ **Thursday, February 29, 5–7 pm** **A**

### T(w)een Advisory Board Meeting

Get involved with the Library! Bring your ideas about programs or new services for middle schoolers and earn volunteer hours.

- ▶ **Wednesday, January 10, 6:30–7:30 pm** **C**
- ▶ **Wednesday, February 21, 4:30–5:30 pm** **A**

### English Conversation Café for Kids

Learn new vocabulary, practice your English conversation skills, and make friends!

**Wednesday, January 17, 4:30–5:30 pm** **A**

### Paint & Snack: Middle School Hangout Winter Edition

Relax and taste new winter-themed snacks and drinks while learning to paint your own creative artwork. Materials provided.

**Tuesday, February 6, 4:30–5:30 pm** **A**

### NERF Video Game Extravaganza

Play video games and re-create some of the games with NERF throughout the Library after hours.

**Friday, February 9, 6–8 pm** **A**

### Pokémon Club

Battle it out with your cards and go head-to-head in epic battles. Bring your best deck and cards to trade.

**Thursday, February 15, 4–5 pm** **C**

### Terra Cotta Pot Painting

Look ahead to spring and paint your own pot. Materials provided.

**Wednesday, February 28, 4:30–5:30 pm** **C**







# TEEN CHOICE AWARDS

December 1–31

What are your favorite movies, books, games, and music from 2023? Tell us, grab a piece of candy, and you may be chosen to receive a \$25 Amazon gift card during our end-of-the-year Teen Choice Awards drawing!

## How to Vote:

- ▶ In person at the Cook Park Library lower level Reference Desk or the Aspen Drive Library Reference Desk
- ▶ Online at [cooklib.org/teenchoiceawards](https://cooklib.org/teenchoiceawards) or by scanning the code



## study

### Finals Open Study

Escape outside distractions and study for finals at the Library. **DROP IN**

#### Cook Park Library

- ▶ Friday, December 15, 3–6 pm
- ▶ Saturday, December 16, 9 am–5 pm
- ▶ Sunday, December 17, 1–5 pm



#### Aspen Drive Library

- ▶ Saturday, December 16, 9 am–5 pm
- ▶ Sunday, December 17, 1–5 pm

### Teacher Study Night at the Library

Get help from LHS & VHHS teachers!

Plus, S-N-A-C-K-S. **DROP IN**




Monday, December 18, 3–9 pm  and 

## high school grades 9-12

## read

### High School Book Club


Register for a free copy of the book (limited to the first 10). Questions? Contact Leah at [lhotchkiss@cooklib.org](mailto:lhotchkiss@cooklib.org).

- ▶ *Ace of Spades* by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé  
Wednesday, December 6, 6:30–7:30 pm 
- ▶ *Squire* by Nadia Shammas  
Wednesday, January 3, 6:30–7:30 pm 
- ▶ *All My Rage* by Sabaa Tahir  
Wednesday, February 7, 6:30–7:30 pm 

## create


### Candle Making

Learn the art of handcrafting your own scented candles. These handmade candles make a great holiday gift. Materials provided. Registration opens November 10 at 9 am.

Monday, December 4, 6:30–9 pm 


### DIY Bath Bombs

Fizz! Boom! Relax! Create enchanting bath bombs that add a splash of fun to your self-care routine. Materials provided. Registration opens December 25 at 9 am.

Monday, January 22, 6:30–9 pm 


### Make Your Own Mini Disco Ball!

Disco is not dead! Drop in to the Cook Park Library Teen Zone and make a mini disco ball to hang up in your locker or room. **DROP IN**

Friday, February 9, 4–6 pm 

### DIY Morse Code Bracelets

Learn Morse code while you combine fashion and cryptography to make a bracelet that spells out personalized messages. Materials provided. Registration opens January 29 at 9 am.

Monday, February 26, 6:30–9 pm 

## new young adult



December



January



February

Meet Your High School Librarian, Leah!

### Currently reading:

*The Red Palace* by June Hur

### Currently watching:

*Tokyo Mew Mew New*

### What are you most excited for this winter?

Hot chocolate and cozy sweaters

### POV: you're snowed in the house with a YA series character. Who do you choose?!

There are so many options, but Katniss Everdeen seems like a good choice. She's got the skills to survive whatever might come our way during a blizzard!

### If you were in the Winter Olympics, what sport would you compete in?

Is there a competitive form of swaddling yourself in blankets? Because that is what I will be doing when it is cold outside.





## technology classes

### SMARTPHONES

#### Android Phone Basics

Get started with your Android! Learn about button functions, using apps, and personalizing your phone.

**Tuesday, December 12, 7–8 pm**

#### Backing Up Photos from a Mobile Device

Get an overview of free storage tools, such as Google Drive, OneDrive, and Flickr.

**Monday, December 18, 6:30–8 pm**

#### iPhone Basics

Get started with your iPhone! Learn about button functions, using apps, and personalizing your phone.

**Tuesday, January 9, 7–8 pm**

#### Phone Photography

Learn the basics of taking great photos with your phone and various techniques used by photographers to take stunning photos.

**Wednesday, February 7, 6:30–8 pm**

### MICROSOFT OFFICE

#### Mail Merge

Create letters, envelopes, and labels for mailings.

**Wednesday, December 20, 6:30–8 pm**

#### Excel for Beginners: Creating a Budget

Learn how to make a basic household budget in Excel.

**Thursday, January 25, 6:30–8 pm**

#### Basic Excel

Learn the basics of Excel from navigating a spreadsheet to building tables and editing data.

**Wednesday, February 21, 6:30–8 pm**

#### Intro to Word

Learn to create, format, save, revise, and print documents.

**Tuesday, February 27, 6:30–8 pm**

#### Advanced Excel

Take your Excel skills to the next level! This class focuses on dynamic features in Excel including formulas, charts, Pivots, and much more.

**Wednesday, February 28, 6:30–8 pm**

### DESIGN & CREATE

#### Canva

Learn how to navigate this popular graphic design website, including how to create dynamic flyers, edit documents, and even start building a webpage.

**Wednesday, January 3, 6:30–8 pm**

#### YouTube & Video Editing

Learn how to quickly edit videos and upload them to YouTube to store or share with others.

**Wednesday, January 10, 6:30–8 pm**

#### Canva for Resumes

Get comfortable with Canva and learn how to create a professional resume.

**Wednesday, January 31, 6:30–8 pm**

**Monday, February 5, 6:30–8 pm**

#### Photoshop Elements

Learn how to quickly and easily edit photos, from removing backgrounds to creating printable items.

**Monday, February 12, 6:30–8 pm**

### SPECIAL TOPICS

#### Coupons & Rebates

Review several of the most popular rebate options when online shopping, such as Rakuten and Honey.

**Wednesday, December 13, 6:30–8 pm**

#### Online Garage Sale

Learn different aspects of selling items online, including best practices for local pickup, options for exchanging funds, and strategies.

**Thursday, December 14, 6:30–8 pm**

#### Etsy

Etsy is the perfect place to sell your handmade crafts!

Learn how to post items for sale and use Etsy's platform to turn a hobby into a small business.

**Monday, January 8, 6:30–8 pm**

#### Is This Photo Real or Fake?

Discern if an online photo is real or fake in a four-layered approach. Learn more about media literacy and fact-checking with lateral-reading, then play along in a game of real or fake.

**Wednesday, January 17, 4–5 pm**

#### What is AI?

Are you hearing about ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence platforms and wonder what this means?

This presentation discusses what AI is and covers some examples of how it is used today.

**Wednesday, January 17, 6:30–8 pm**

#### Tech Topics: Electric Cars

Grab a cup of coffee and participate in a thoughtful discussion around technology. What are the pros and cons of electric cars, and will we ever go completely electric?

**Friday, January 26, 9:30–10:30 am**



Join tech instructor John for a short, 30-minute workshop!

#### Digital Studio Workshops

Set aside 30 minutes and learn how to:

- Set up recording sessions for music or podcasts.
- Digitize VHS tapes, cassettes, and vinyl records.
- Scan photos, slides, and negatives.

Visit [cooklib.org/digital-studios](http://cooklib.org/digital-studios) to view the schedule and register.



Digital Studios Workshops



## The Lone Ranger Rides Again!

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Lone Ranger. Learn the fascinating story of how he and Tonto were created and how they were reinvented for each new generation. Enjoy rare photos courtesy of the family of actor Clayton Moore, who portrayed the Lone Ranger on television and the movies. Presented by College of Lake County professors John Tenuto and Maria Jose Tenuto.  
**Tuesday, December 5, 6:30–8:30 pm V Zoom**

## Elvis in Hollywood

Yes, he was a rock icon, but Elvis also made 31 films in three years, making him one of the wealthiest movie stars in Hollywood. Professor Brian Rose examines Presley's triumphs and failures in Tinseltown.  
**Tuesday, December 12, 6:30–7:30 pm V Zoom**

## The Life of Alex Trebek: A Jeopardy! Legend

Who is Alex Trebek? The TV game show host of *Jeopardy!* brought joy to many through his personality and enthusiasm. Historian Jim Gibbons discusses Trebek's life before, during, and after *Jeopardy!*  
**Tuesday, January 9, 6:30–8:30 pm V Zoom**

## American Heroes

Award-winning historian Barry Bradford shares the stories behind some of America's heroes.

- ▶ **Paul Revere**  
He raced a horse to warn that the British were coming, but what else is significant about this historical figure? Learn the rest of the story.  
**Thursday, January 18, 6:30–8 pm V Zoom**
- ▶ **Harriet Tubman**  
Her outstanding work as an abolitionist is well known. Less familiar is her impact on the Civil War and the women's suffrage movement.  
**Thursday, February 1, 6:30–8 pm V Zoom**
- ▶ **Jewish Allies of the Civil Rights Movement**  
Learn why many Jewish people rallied to help Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in protests against segregation. Explore the stories of these Civil Rights allies who put their liberty on the line.  
**Thursday, February 29, 6:30–8 pm V Zoom**

## history

### History of the Hershey Chocolate Company

Milton S. Hershey worked hard and failed often. After finding success, he and his wife gave away their fortune to help tens of thousands of orphans. Historian Laura Keyes dishes about this sweet success story.

**Thursday, February 8, 6:30–8 pm V Zoom**

### A Night at the Oscars: Academy Award History

Learn about the history of the Academy Awards, memorable moments, and Best Picture contenders from film historian Dr. Annette Bochenek.

**Thursday, February 22, 6:30–8 pm V Zoom**

## Start Up Business Binder

Get your business questions answered and connect with local entrepreneur support networks in Lake County with our printable Start-Up Business Binder. This one-stop-shop informational guide is designed to help prospective and early-stage entrepreneurs hit the ground running. Available now at [cooklib.org/research](http://cooklib.org/research).

## business & finance

### Lawyer in the Library: Wills & Trusts

Meet with licensed local attorney Michael A. Goldberg for an individual, 15-minute session for general guidance and advice only.

**Wednesday, December 13, 10 am–4 pm C**

### Estate Planning Explained

Learn the difference between a will and a trust and gain an understanding of probate, power of attorney for healthcare and financial matters, and guardianship appointments. Presented by Bentron Financial Group, Inc.

**Wednesday, January 17, 1–2 pm C**

### Free AARP Tax Preparation Appointments

AARP volunteers provide free tax assistance to anyone, with a special focus on taxpayers 50 and older or those who have low/moderate income. To register for a one-hour appointment and for more information on documents to bring, please visit [cooklib.org/taxes](http://cooklib.org/taxes) or call the Library. Registration opens Tuesday, January 9 at 9 am.

**One-hour appointments: Tuesdays and Thursdays, February 1–April 11 A**

## genealogy

### DAR Genealogy Workshop

Interested in joining the DAR? Stop by for one-on-one research help by representatives from the DAR.

#### DROP IN

- ▶ **Wednesday, December 6, 10 am–1 pm C**
- ▶ **Saturday, January 6, 10 am–1 pm C**
- ▶ **Wednesday, February 7, 10 am–1 pm C**

### Genealogy Networking Group

Share genealogy tips and resources with other family history enthusiasts. All levels welcome.

- ▶ **Thursday, December 7, 7–8:30 pm H C**
- ▶ **Thursday, January 4, 7–8:30 pm H C**
- ▶ **Thursday, February 1, 7–8:30 pm H C**

### Organizing Genealogy: Fewer Piles, Better Files

Streamline your genealogy research with Jacquie Shattner's handy tips for organizing paper, computer files, heirlooms, photos, and USB drives.

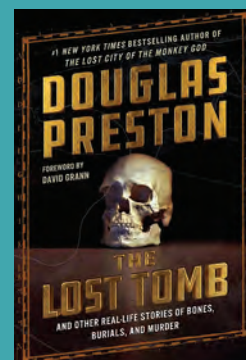
**Thursday, January 11, 7–8:30 pm V Zoom**

### Voyages to America

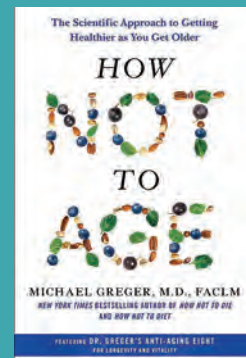
What did Europeans experience during their voyages to America in the 19th and 20th century? Learn about emigrants' journey preparations, immigration restrictions, journey length, ticket costs, major ports of departure and arrival, ship accommodations, and first day's arrival in America.

**Thursday, February 15, 7–8:30 pm V Zoom**

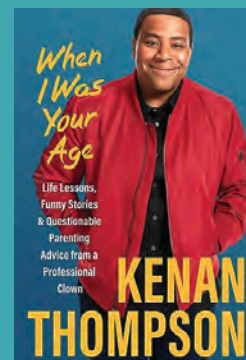
## new nonfiction



December



December



December



## arts & culture

### Homemade Lavender Syrup

Add a touch of holiday magic to your culinary creations and learn the art of crafting syrup, perfect for your holiday beverages and treats. Materials provided. Registration opens November 10 at 9 am.

**Tuesday, December 5, 6:30–9 pm** **A**



### Needlework Meetup

If you knit, crochet, needlepoint, or enjoy any other handicraft, here is a great opportunity to work on it at the Library with new friends. All levels are welcome.

**Wednesday, December 20, 6:30–8:40 pm** **C**



### DIY Paper Flower Displays

Create a keepsake that will add a bit of elegance to your home décor. Materials provided. Registration opens December 11 at 9 am.

**Monday, January 8, 6:30–9 pm** **A**



### Classic Winter Comfort Foods

Chef Maddox demonstrates some wonderful classic winter foods, including hearty Texas-style vegetarian chili, Smoky Mountain Brunswick stew, and country pot roast. Delicious samples provided!

**Tuesday, January 30, 6:30–8 pm** **A**

### Love in Bloom: Valentine's Day Wreaths

Fashion a charming decoration for your special someone. Materials provided. Registration opens January 15 at 9 am.

**Monday, February 12, 6:30–9 pm** **A**

### A Traditional Chinese Tea Demonstration

Celebrate Chinese New Year and taste two types of Chinese tea as you engage in the ancient ritual of tea handling and proper tea steeping. Presented by intercultural consultant Yvonne Wolf.

**Tuesday, February 13, 6:30–8 pm** **A**

## MOVIES & MUSIC

### Movie Matinees

Free screenings of popular and acclaimed movies. For titles and ratings, call the Library, pick up a flyer at either location, or sign up to receive monthly Movie Matinee event emails at [cooklib.org/newsletters](http://cooklib.org/newsletters). See page 3 for a special One Book, One Community screening. **DROP IN**

- ▶ **Thursdays, 1:30 pm** • Libertyville Civic Center
- ▶ **Fridays, 1:30 pm** **A**



### Afternoon Concert: Frank Lee

Join Frank Lee for a lively performance of highly popular soul, rock & roll, reggae, and gospel songs. In partnership with the Libertyville Senior Center.

**Monday, December 11, 1–2 pm**  
**Libertyville Civic Center**



### Afternoon Concert: Bossa Nova Brazilian Jazz

Be transported to the sun-kissed beaches of Rio de Janeiro with a performance by Shaken not Stirred, a flute and guitar duo that explores the well-known bossa nova standards and lesser-known musical gems.

**Saturday, December 16, 2–3 pm** **A**



### Afternoon Concert: A Special Holiday Show!

Join us for a festive afternoon with the Buffalo Grove Singers Encore in this high-energy show comprised entirely of holiday pop and oldies songs. In partnership with the Libertyville Senior Center.

**Friday, December 22, 1–2 pm**  
**Libertyville Civic Center**



### Afternoon Concert:

#### Rock & Roll Fun with Edizon Dayao

Join us for a rocking good time with Edizon Dayao, a multicultural and multi-talented musician who knows how to bring the beat to a dance party! In partnership with the Libertyville Senior Center.

**Monday, January 15, 1–2 pm**  
**Libertyville Civic Center**



### Cinema Club

Monthly film screenings and discussions. Sign up to receive our Cinema Club emails full of reviews and neat tidbits about the screenings at [cooklib.org/newsletters](http://cooklib.org/newsletters). **DROP IN**

- ▶ *The Assistant* (R | 2019 | 1h 27m)  
**Monday, January 15, 6:30–9 pm** **A**
- ▶ *The Lady Eve* (Unrated | 1941 | 1h 34m)  
**Monday, February 19, 6:30–9 pm** **A**



### Afternoon Concert:

#### Valentine's Fun with Mike Valentine

Get ready to feel the love with singer/guitarist Mike Valentine's tribute to musical legends who make us swoon, from Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin to Neil Diamond. This is a show not to be missed! In partnership with the Libertyville Senior Center.

**Monday, February 5, 1–2 pm**  
**Libertyville Civic Center**







Discovery. Discussion. Decision.

## GREAT DECISIONS

INSPIRING LEARNING ABOUT THE WORLD

Join us on the second Sunday of each month February through November (skipping June and July) for the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions discussion group. This international program is designed to engage lifelong learners about current foreign policy concerns while emphasizing a lively nonpartisan discussion. The patron cost is \$15 towards the briefing book. Registering for one session secures your spot for all eight.

**Register between Thursday, November 9 and Friday, December 15 at 6 pm.**

### Versiti Blood Drive

Make an appointment to help our community. For minimum requirements and to sign up for an appointment, please visit [cooklib.org/events](http://cooklib.org/events) or call the Library.

**Saturday, December 2, 9 am–1 pm** **A**

### Psychotherapist Lori Gottlieb

Psychotherapist and New York Times bestselling author of *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* Lori Gottlieb helps us survive the holidays.

**Wednesday, December 6, 7–8 pm** **V** Zoom

### Managing Your Medications: A Pharmacist's Perspective

With over 20 years of experience, pharmacist Nadya Northrop shares the importance of being medication savvy. She also shares strategies for remembering to take your meds and understanding which side effects can be dangerous. Sponsored by Brookdale Hawthorn Lakes.

**Wednesday, December 20, 1–2 pm** **A**

### Chinese Medicine & Acupuncture

Dr. Alexandria Fedro, owner of The Warm Heart of Healing in Libertyville, gives a brief overview of Chinese medicine, acupuncture, its benefits, and more. Q&A and optional, free auricular (ear) seed acupressure treatment to follow.

**Wednesday, February 7, 1–2:30 pm** **C**

## health & wellness

### WEEKLY CLASSES

#### Morning Meditation

Experience the numerous physiological and emotional benefits of different styles of meditation during our weekly circle.

**Fridays, December 1–February 23, 9–10 am**

**V** Zoom

#### Tai Chi 101

Clear your mind and lower the effects of stress on your life. Tai Chi can be done seated or standing.

**Tuesdays, December 5–February 27, 9–10 am**

**V** Zoom

#### Chair Yoga for Everyone

This class is great for anyone who stays seated or standing for long periods of time. No experience needed.

**Wednesdays, December 6–February 28, 9–10 am**

**V** Zoom

#### Yoga Basics

Ana Santos Gitzinger, founder of Orinoco Fitness in Libertyville, introduces basic yoga poses, healthy alignment, yogic breathing, and other relaxation techniques for stress relief.

**Wednesdays, January 17–February 28, 1–2 pm** **A**

## general interest

### Cut the Chaos, Reduce the Stress

Professional organizer Jennifer Barnes shares tips for managing tasks and time, setting boundaries, and maintaining chaos-limiting habits over time to help us reduce stress.

**Tuesday, January 16, 6:30–7:45 pm** **V** Zoom

### Preschool and Childcare Fair

Finding a preschool or childcare center that meets the needs of your family is an important decision. Browse, ask questions, and collect information from area preschool and childcare center representatives. Copies of the 2024 Preschool & Childcare Directory will also be available. **DROP IN**

**Saturday, January 20, 10 am–12 pm** **A**

### Time & Information Management: Organizing in a Digital World

Organizer Jennifer Barnes shares how to tackle digital clutter. Explore how we use our time, how we receive information, and how we can use technology to be more efficient at managing both.

**Tuesday, January 23, 6:30–7:45 pm** **V** Zoom

### What's It Worth?

#### Old Coins, Currency & Jewelry

Meet with Dave Ekstrom, lifelong coin collector and member of the American Numismatic Association, for a free, 15-minute appraisal of your coins, currency, and gold and silver jewelry. **DROP IN**

**Tuesday, January 23, 2–7 pm** **C**

### Feng Shui Your Space

Learn how the principles of feng shui can enhance your business, relationships, health success, and more. In partnership with the GLMV Chamber of Commerce.

**Wednesday, January 24, 11 am–1:30 pm** **C**

### Home Value & Trends

What should you consider when looking for your next home? In partnership with the GLMV Chamber of Commerce.

**Wednesday, February 28, 12–1:30 pm** **C**



### Gale Courses: Free Personal & Professional Development Classes

Enhance your skills in business, computer applications, medical and legal topics, personal development, and more with six-week, instructor-led online classes from Gale Courses. A passing grade merits a certificate of completion. New sessions begin every month. Start learning at [cooklib.org/research](http://cooklib.org/research).



## authors & writing



These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration between public libraries.



### Psychotherapist Lori Gottlieb

Psychotherapist and New York Times bestselling author of *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*. Lori Gottlieb helps us survive the holidays.

Wednesday, December 6, 7-8 pm Zoom



### The Royal Ballet Nutcracker

Register to receive an email with a special YouTube link and instructions on how to watch the 2016 stage recording of *The Nutcracker*, danced by the United Kingdom's Royal Ballet with music played by Royal Opera House Orchestra.

Saturday, December 16-Sunday, December 17

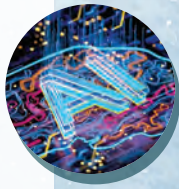
YouTube



### Artificial Intelligence with Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu & Martha Wells

Speculate about the future of AI with sci-fi author, journalist, and activist Cory Doctorow, Hugo and Nebula award-winning author Ken Liu, AND New York Times bestselling author Martha Wells.

Thursday, January 11, 7-8 pm Zoom



### An Evening with Jerry Craft

Meet the American cartoonist and New York Times bestselling author of the graphic novels *New Kid* and *Class Act*. An all ages event!

Tuesday, February 6, 7-8 pm Zoom



### Romance with Julia Quinn

The author of 19 consecutive New York Times bestsellers, Julia Quinn helps us feel the love all month with a discussion about *Bridgerton* and all things romance.

Tuesday, February 20, 7-8 pm Zoom



### 2023 Adult Winter Reading Club

January 1-March 31 &

Toast to a year of good reading with our 2024 Adult Winter Reading Club! Do you still have a book on your reading list from last year? Want to see what our librarians recommend? Now's your chance to ring in a new year of reading possibilities!

Complete three reading challenges for your chance to win a \$100 Amazon gift card, as well as grab a free prize book.

Participate online starting Monday, January 1 at [cooklib.readsquared.com](http://cooklib.readsquared.com), or in person starting Tuesday, January 2 by picking up a bookmark from the Adult Reference Desk at either Library location.



### Cook Writers' Critique Group

Join other area writers to give feedback on each other's work. This group is currently seeking a moderator. For more information or to volunteer as moderator, contact Erica O'Rourke at [eorourke@cooklib.org](mailto:eorourke@cooklib.org).

**NEW DATE:** Second Thursday of Every Month, 7 pm

Zoom

Coming this Spring!

Local  
Authors  
Fair

The Local Authors Fair returns this spring! Meet a variety of Lake County authors and find out more about their most recent books. Authors interested in participating should contact Erica O'Rourke at [eorourke@cooklib.org](mailto:eorourke@cooklib.org) by March 1. Space is limited.



## book clubs

### Agatha Mystery Book Club

For a copy of the book and the Zoom link, contact Erica O'Rourke at [eorourke@cooklib.org](mailto:eorourke@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**

- ▶ Year-End Roundup  
**Monday, December 18, 11 am–1 pm C**
- ▶ *None of This Is True* by Lisa Jewell  
**Monday, January 22, 11 am–12 pm H C**
- ▶ *The Kingdoms of Savannah*  
by George Dawes Green  
**Monday, February 26, 11 am–12 pm H C**

### Aspen Drive Book Club

For a copy of the book, contact Becky King at [bking@cooklib.org](mailto:bking@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**

- ▶ *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*  
by Gabrielle Zevin  
**Tuesday, December 5, 7–8 pm A**
- ▶ *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb  
**Tuesday, February 6, 7–8 pm A**

### Classics Book Club

For a copy of the book, contact Mary Thompson at [mtompson@cooklib.org](mailto:mtompson@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**

- ▶ *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf  
**Monday, January 8, 7–8 pm C**

### Cook Park Morning Book Club

This club is temporarily full. To see if any spaces are available, please contact Andrea Larson at [alarson@cooklib.org](mailto:alarson@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**

- ▶ *Take My Hand* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez  
**Wednesday, January 10, 10–11 am C**
- ▶ *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb  
**Wednesday, February 14, 10–11 am C**

### Fourth Wednesday Book Club

For a copy of the book and the Zoom link, contact Marianne Charles at [mcharles@cooklib.org](mailto:mcharles@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**

- ▶ *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb  
**Wednesday, January 24, 7–8 pm C**
- ▶ *The Guncle* by Steven Rowley  
**Wednesday, February 28, 7–8 pm C**

### Nonfiction Book Club

For a copy of the book and the Zoom link, contact Natalie Torres at [ntorres@cooklib.org](mailto:ntorres@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**

- ▶ *River of the Gods* by Candace Millard  
**Friday, December 1, 2–3:30 pm C**
- ▶ *Fuzz* by Mary Roach  
**Friday, February 2, 2–3:30 pm C**

### Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club

For a copy of the book, contact Mary Thompson at [mtompson@cooklib.org](mailto:mtompson@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**

- ▶ *The Kaiju Preservation Society* by John Scalzi  
**Tuesday, December 19, 7–8 pm A**
- ▶ *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng  
**Tuesday, February 20, 7–8 pm A**

### Shelftalkers Roundtable

Our “no-homework” book club lets you share which books you’ve loved lately and get recommendations for your next great read! For the Zoom link, contact Erica O'Rourke at [eorourke@cooklib.org](mailto:eorourke@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**

- ▶ **Tuesday, January 23, 7–8:30 pm H C**
- ▶ **Tuesday, February 27, 7–8:30 pm H C**

### Teen Lit for Grownups Book Club

For a copy of the book, contact Hannah Dove at [hdove@cooklib.org](mailto:hdove@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**

- ▶ *Loveless* by Alice Oseman  
**Tuesday, January 16, 7–8 pm A**

## english language learners

### English Language Learners' Book Club

Do you like to read and discuss your reading with other interesting people? Do you also want to practice your English in conversation? Join us! For more information and to register, contact Darek Makowski at [dmakowski@cooklib.org](mailto:dmakowski@cooklib.org) or 847-362-2330 x1139.

**Every Other Monday January 22–May 13,  
10:30 am–12 pm (No Class March 4) C**

### English Conversation Café

Improve your English conversation skills at this informal weekly café. To register, email Darek Makowski at [dmakowski@cooklib.org](mailto:dmakowski@cooklib.org) with your name, email address, and telephone number.

**Tuesdays, January 2–March 5, 10–11:15 am A**

### Free English Classes C & A

Free English as a Second Language classes held in conjunction with Mundelein High School Adult Education program. Dates and time vary by location. For more information, pick up a flyer at the Library, visit [facebook.com/adulteducationMHS](https://facebook.com/adulteducationMHS) or call Yuli at 847-949-2200 x1399.

### Looking for your next great book club read?

Let us get the books you need for your neighborhood/friend/colleague group! Check out the amazing Book Club collection and register your club with the Library at [cooklib.org/book-clubs](https://cooklib.org/book-clubs) or by scanning the code.

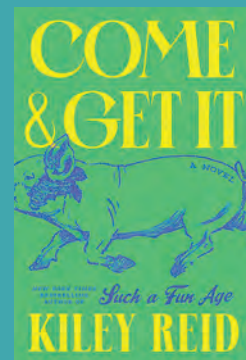


Questions? Contact Book Club Coordinator Amy Becker-Perez at 847-362-2330 x1145 or [aperez@cooklib.org](mailto:aperez@cooklib.org).

## new fiction



December



January



February



## Bookies Talk Podcast

Hear about the Bookies' latest and greatest reads on the CMPLD Podcast, no matter where you are. Listen in the car, on the treadmill, or even while you're doing the dishes! Find us at [cooklib.org/podcast](https://cooklib.org/podcast) or search for Cook Memorial Library on your favorite platform. **New episodes drop the third Friday of every month.**

# ECRWSS Residential Customer

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## Q&A with **One Book, One Community** **Author Brendan Slocumb**

See page 3 for the lineup of One Book, One Community events.

1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
**ONE  
BOOK  
ONE  
COMMUNITY**

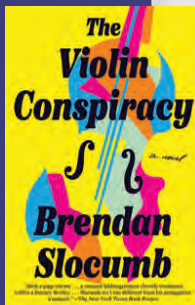


**Q:** Your bio and author's note reveal that elements of Ray's story parallel your own. What do you and Ray share? In what ways are you different?

**A:** Like Ray, I started playing violin very young; I was 9 years old. Nobody in my family really understood the

attraction — nobody in the neighborhood was even remotely interested. In the beginning, playing was great — it was something different, and I loved it from the moment I picked up my first violin.

Throughout elementary school, junior high, and high school, my classmates didn't understand what I saw in music, and they called me every name in the book, like Ray. Since my college was a school of music within a larger university, I was finally around more like-minded people, so on some level life became much easier. I differ from Ray in that he is much more adept at playing jazz. I'm terrible at it. I'm actually kind of jealous of him in that regard.



**Q:** Are there ways that writing a novel is like performing in a symphony or as a soloist?

**A:** Writing and performing are closely connected for me. I approach writing like a piece of music. Start with an overture that sets everything up. Next comes the introduction, middle section, climax, and finale. I outline everything and really focus in on each part like in a concerto or symphony. It's second nature to me because of playing violin for so many years.

**Q:** Ray's story involves a few key people and events that greatly affect his trajectory: a loving and supportive grandma, a caring college mentor, a significant gift. Is there a person or moment in your life that you recognize as life-changing?

**A:** My first teacher in college told me to quit because he thought my hands were too big to ever play violin in tune. My second teacher, Dr. Rachel Vetter Huang, really taught me how to play my instrument and to this day, I'm extremely grateful to her.

Has it changed my life? Absolutely. The violin allowed me to travel, fly for the first time, go to college, meet incredible people and help those in need — as well as the opportunity to express myself musically.

**Q:** Parts of *The Violin Conspiracy* are a pleasure to read: the peek behind the curtain of classical music competition, which will be new to many readers, and the "whodunnit" aspect of the story, for example. Other parts are difficult, but necessary on many levels. How did you approach bringing those voices together?

**A:** My goal was to tell a good story. It's an honest account of the life of a Black violinist. I was given great advice, which was to write honestly. I believe the difficult sections to read reinforce the message that anything worth fighting for may be tough at times, but when you make it through, it will all be worthwhile.

**Q:** As a successful musician, teacher, and author, what advice do you have for young people who have a passion for the arts?

**A:** If you have a passion for the arts, always remember why you began to love it. Do your best and give one hundred percent all the time, not just when someone is watching.

**Q:** What do you hope readers take away from *The Violin Conspiracy*?

**A:** I really want people to do what they love because they love it. Never ever ever let someone tell you you can't do something. If you love it, do it.