



# ins&outs

“...an original, memorable, and endearing story.”

— Charmaine Wilkerson,  
New York Times bestselling  
author of *Black Cake*

DETAILS ON BACK





#### Locations

Aspen Drive Library  
701 Aspen Dr  
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: 12–5 pm

**Closed:**  
November 27: Thanksgiving Eve  
(close at 5 pm)  
November 28: Thanksgiving Day  
December 6: 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:**  
Deb Ader President  
Phyllis Dobbs Treasurer  
Karen Singer Secretary  
Sara Lawton  
Lisa Michaluk  
Kristen Palic

**Library Director:** David Archer  
**Newsletter Editor:** Bronwyn Gardner  
**Graphic Designer:** Andrew J. Traynor

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

### Director's Letter



#### Children's Renewal Project

Since its opening in 2011 as part of the Cook Park Library renovation in Libertyville, the children's area has welcomed thousands of children and their families. Feedback from the 2022 library survey, along with comments from social media and in-person interactions, highlighted the need to revitalize this space to enhance the experience for all who use it. Beginning in mid-December, we will embark on a four-month renewal project to transform the area with vibrant new furniture, flexible and engaging spaces, and an updated collection area.

Our team has been busy working with design professionals to plan a colorful, inviting redesign that we know you'll love. The renderings on these pages offer a sneak peek of the changes ahead and some of the new features our staff is most excited about.

To minimize disruption and reduce costs by doing the project all at once, the current children's area will close in mid-December, with services temporarily relocating to the lower-level Meeting Room at Cook Park Library. We invite you to visit us there, where you'll find a curated collection and the same familiar faces of our librarians, ready to help you find that perfect book.

Thanks to thoughtful planning and careful budgeting, the Library Board has allocated \$970,000 from reserves to fully fund this project. These reserves, designated for improvements across both of our locations, keep our buildings well-maintained and attractive for your comfort, safety, and enjoyment.

– David Archer,  
Library Director

#### Project Timeline

##### > Mid-December 2024

The children's area at Cook Park Library will close in mid-December 2024 and temporarily relocate to the lower-level Meeting Room where a selection of books and Library staff will be available.

##### > January–April 2025

Major updates begin, including moving shelves, installing new electrical outlets, and refreshing the flooring.

##### > Mid-April 2025

The new and improved children's area will reopen! Watch for more information on our website and in our spring newsletter.

*How cool is this? The desktop of our new Information Desk is made of recycled materials! Not only is it functional and beautiful, it's also helping the environment.*

– Rob,  
Children's Librarian



#### Extended Hours at Cook Park Library for Libertyville's Holiday Tree Lighting

On Friday, November 29, Cook Park Library will join other Libertyville businesses in staying open until 8 pm in celebration of the tree lighting in Cook Park. Stop by to warm up, grab a candy cane, and browse our holiday materials as you enjoy an evening of seasonal cheer with the community. The historic Cook Home will also be accessible through the Library. Festivities in the park start at 6:30 pm.





\* Renderings may not reflect actual furnishings.



One of my favorite little details is that Terry Crews – actor extraordinaire! – is the designer of one of our new, most comfortable chairs. What's more, he named the chair after his wife! Check out the Becca chair in the new Middle School area!  
– Heather, Assistant Manager of Children's Services



## What About Play Areas?

While Cook Park Library's play area will be unavailable during the renovation, the play area at Aspen Drive Library will remain fully open.



We're excited to add a calm space for parents to breastfeed or bottle-feed, or for children to take a break when overstimulated. It will have warm lighting, comfortable seating, and soothing sensory activities.

– Terri,  
Early Learning Services Coordinator



I'm excited to have a dedicated space for middle schoolers to hang out, attend programs, and enjoy everything the Library has to offer! This new space will only enhance what we already have!


– Kevin,  
Middle School Librarian



I can't wait for the beautiful new colors on everything from the furniture to the walls and floors! It brings so much life, energy, and fun to the children's area.

– Amy,  
Student Services Coordinator

## Will Programs Be Affected?

We will continue to offer children's programs, thanks to the generosity of the United Methodist Church of Libertyville, across the street from the Library. Some of our events will be hosted in their community hall during this time. Look for the  to identify programs taking place at this location.



Are you wondering about fish? Don't worry! Our favorite finny friends will still be a central part of the children's area in a new, more visible location.

– Melissa, Senior Manager of Children's Services

## More Information

Visit our website and watch our social media for project updates.

## Bookmobile Schedule

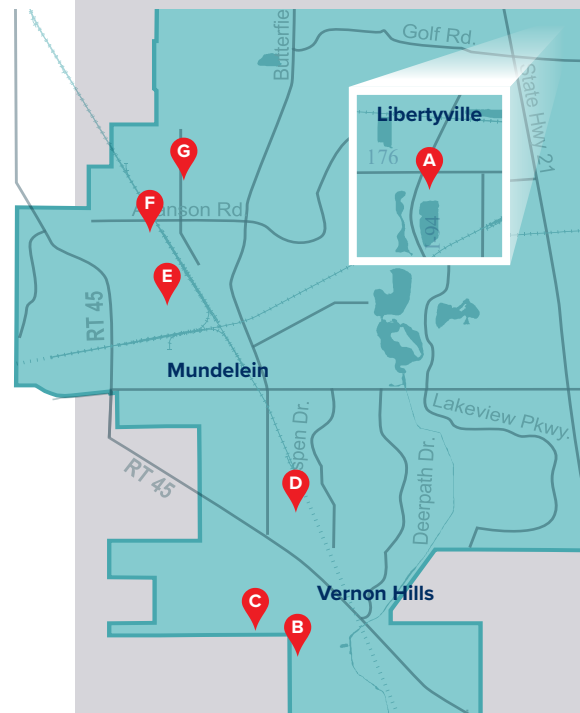
Hop on board to pick out materials, place holds, and sign up for a library card. Cut this bookmark out and put it on your fridge or visit [cooklib.org/bookmobile](http://cooklib.org/bookmobile).

### 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 6–6:30 pm**  
**Pebbleshire Apartments**  
Cherry Valley Rd & Lakeside Dr, Vernon Hills
- 6:45–7:45 pm**
- D 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



## Trustee Farewell

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Trustee Jim Larson as he steps down from the Library board due to his relocation outside the District. Jim has served on the board since 2015, including as vice president since 2020, and served on three committees. His leadership, particularly in facilities and technology, has significantly shaped the Library's progress. We wish him the best in his well-earned retirement and future endeavors. Thank you, Jim, for your years of dedicated service!



## Early Childhood (birth-age 5)

### Weekly Story Times

**SESSION 1:**  
Through December 13

**SESSION 2:**  
January 6–February 28

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

Baby Story Time is a lap-sit program. Children and their caregivers are guided through bounces, songs, movement rhymes, and stories.

#### 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

#### TUESDAYS

**Family Story Time**  
10–10:45 am   
**DROP IN**

#### WEDNESDAYS

**Baby Story Time**  
9:30–10:15 am

#### FRIDAYS

**Family Story Time**  
10–10:45 am   
**DROP IN**

**Investing in Early Childhood Development**

#### Our New Play Space

As part of the Cook Park Library Children's Renewal Project (see page 2), we're excited to share more about the new play space that will replace the Room to Grow. This new space is designed to support early childhood development through play and caregiver connection. Learn more about how this space will nurture young minds and families on our blog at [cooklib.org/play-space](http://cooklib.org/play-space).



## Playful Learning @ the Library

#### Story Stretchers: The Gingerbread Man (ages 4-5 w/adult)

Come along and stretch your imaginations through stories, hands-on activities, and play with your favorite grown-up!

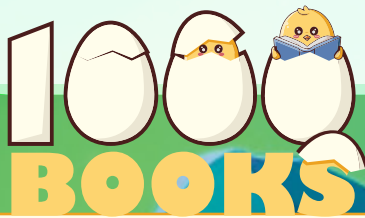
**Thursday, December 12, 4–4:45 pm**

Registration opens Tuesday, November 12 at 4 pm.

#### Saturday Morning Stories @ Aspen (birth-age 5 w/adult)

Start your Saturday off with a smile at our lively and play-based family story time event! Children must be accompanied by an adult. This event meets one Saturday a month. **DROP IN**

- ▶ **Bears**  
Saturday, December 14, 10–10:45 am
- ▶ **Puppy Dog Tales**  
Saturday, January 11, 10–10:45 am
- ▶ **Crazy Cool Cars**  
Saturday, February 15, 10–10:45 am



#### BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

Reading to your young child nurtures their development while building essential early literacy skills. Progress at your own pace and earn a rubber duckie for every 100 books read! Visit us at Cook Park Library, Aspen Drive Library, or on the Bookmobile to sign up.

#### New Program Location

From December 2024 to April 2025, the Children's Department at Cook Park Library will be temporarily moved to the lower-level Meeting Room, replacing the usual event space. **During this period, some programs will be held at the United Methodist Church of Libertyville, located at 429 Brainerd Ave.** Look for the to identify programs taking place at this location.

#### Toddlers @ the Library! (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-up!

- ▶ **Tuesday, December 17, 10–11 am**   
Registration opens Sunday, November 17 at 4 pm.
- ▶ **Thursday, January 23, 10–11 am**   
Registration opens Monday, December 23 at 4 pm.

#### Spanish Story Time (birth-age 5 w/adult)

Spanish Story Time is an immersive experience for families that speak Spanish or want their children exposed to a new language. **DROP IN**  
**Wednesday, January 22, 6:15–6:45 pm**

#### Hora del cuento en español (para edades 0-5 con un adulto)

La hora del cuento en español es una experiencia inmersiva para familias que hablan español o que quieren que sus niños estén expuestos a una nueva lengua. No es necesario registrarse.

**Wednesday, January 22, 6:15–6:45 pm**

#### Early Childhood Resource & Preschool Fair

Meet staff from local preschools and childcare centers to ask questions and learn more about their programs. Other early childhood service providers will also be available. **DROP IN**

**Saturday, January 25, 10 am–12 pm**







# Nanny Nikki

Family



## Nanny Nikki Concert

Join Grammy-nominated Nanny Nikki for a musical story time! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register each child attending.

**Saturday, December 7, 10–11 am**

Registration opens Thursday, November 7 at 4 pm.

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

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

► **Tuesday, December 10, 6–6:45 pm**

Registration opens Sunday, November 10 at 4 pm.

► **Thursday, February 27, 6–6:45 pm**

Registration opens Monday, January 27 at 4 pm.

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

Послушайте сказки на русском языке и сделайте забавную поделку! Родители остаются с детьми в течение программы. Программа ведется только на русском языке.

► **Вторник, 10 декабря, 18–18:45 в библиотеке Аспен**

Регистрация откроется в воскресенье, 10 ноября, в 16:00.

► **Четверг, 27 февраля, 18–18:45 в библиотеке Аспен**

Регистрация откроется в понедельник, 27 января, в 16:00.

## Family Maker @ the Library!

We'll provide all the supplies, you provide the family fun!

► **Wood Block Snowmen & Penguins**

Make an adorable set of wood block snowmen and penguins!

**Sunday, December 15, 2–3 pm**

Registration opens Friday, November 15 at 4 pm.

► **Heart Collage**

Make a beautiful heart collage pretty enough to hang on a wall!

**Sunday, February 23, 2–3 pm**

Registration opens Thursday, January 23 at 4 pm.

## Family Maker @ Home!

We'll provide all the supplies for you to have some family fun to go!

► **DIY Fluffy Snowman**

Make a fluffy snowman that won't melt away!

**Saturday, December 28**

Registration opens Friday, November 29 at 4 pm.

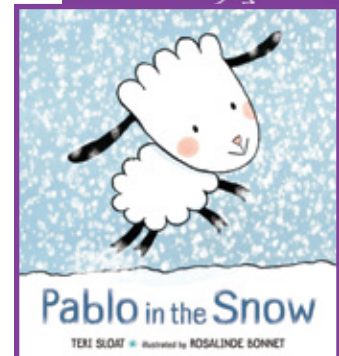
► **DIY Tic-Tac-Toe Boards**

Make an amazing, custom, reusable tic-tac-toe board!

**Saturday, January 18**

Registration opens Wednesday, December 18 at 4 pm.

## Winter Stories



## Extended Hours at Cook Park Library for Libertyville's Holiday Tree Lighting



On Friday, November 29, Cook Park Library will join other Libertyville businesses in staying open until 8 pm in celebration of the tree lighting in Cook Park. Stop by to warm up, grab a candy cane, and browse our holiday materials as you enjoy an evening of seasonal cheer with the community. The historic Cook Home will also be accessible through the Library. Festivities in the park start at 6:30 pm.



## Grades K-5




### American Girls (grades 2-5)

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

- ▶ Kirsten's Surprise  
**Friday, December 13, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Wednesday, November 13 at 4 pm.
- ▶ Meet Corinne  
**Wednesday, January 29, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Sunday, December 29 at 4 pm.


### Paws for Reading! (grades K-8)

Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy dogs are ready for story time! Please register each child for only one 15-minute session.


- ▶ **Tuesday, December 17, 6:45–8 pm**   
Registration opens Tuesday, December 3 at 4 pm.
- ▶ **Tuesday, January 28, 6:45–8 pm**   
Registration opens Tuesday, January 14 at 4 pm.
- ▶ **Tuesday, February 25, 6:45–8 pm**   
Registration opens Tuesday, February 11 at 4 pm.

### Fractured Fairy Tales (grades K-3)

We will read and compare two versions of a fairy tale to explore how perspective affects the story and create a craft to take home.

- ▶ The Princess and the Pea  
**Wednesday, December 18, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Monday, November 18 at 4 pm.
- ▶ The Little Mermaid  
**Wednesday, February 19, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Sunday, January 19 at 4 pm.

### New Program Location

From December 2024 to April 2025, the Children's Department at Cook Park Library will be temporarily moved to the lower-level Meeting Room, replacing the usual event space. **During this period, some programs will be held at the United Methodist Church of Libertyville, located at 429 Brainerd Ave.** Look for the  to identify programs taking place at this location.


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

Join other fun kids to talk about fabulous books!

- ▶ **Thursday, December 19, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Tuesday, November 19 at 4 pm.
- ▶ **Thursday, January 16, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Monday, December 16 at 4 pm.
- ▶ **Thursday, February 13, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Monday, January 13 at 4 pm.


### Artist Spotlight: Friedensreich Hundertwasser (grades K-5)

Learn about artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser and his style of art. Create and take home your own whimsical masterpiece!

**Thursday, January 2, 3–4 pm**   
Registration opens Monday, December 2 at 4 pm.


### Wellie Wishers (grades K-1)

Enjoy listening to a Wellie Wishers story, followed by fun activities and an amazing craft!

- ▶ Kendall's Snow Fort  
**Tuesday, January 14, 4:15–5 pm**   
Registration opens Saturday, December 14 at 4 pm.
- ▶ The Mystery of Mr. E  
**Wednesday, February 12, 4:15–5 pm**   
Registration opens Sunday, January 12 at 4 pm.

### Collectors Club (grades K-8)

Pokémon cards, baseball cards, Yu-Gi-Oh cards, oh my! Bring any type of trading card or memorabilia you want to trade or talk about with others.

**Thursday, February 6, 4:15–5 pm**   
Registration opens Monday, January 6 at 4 pm.


### Friendship Bracelets to Go (grades 4-5)

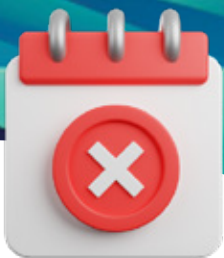
Register to reserve a kit of materials to create your own custom bracelet at home!

**Saturday, February 7**  
Registration opens Wednesday, January 8 at 4 pm.

### George Washington & the Cherry Tree (grades 2-5)

Celebrate the birthday of George Washington and learn about Ferry Farm, his boyhood home in Virginia.

**Saturday, February 22, 11 am–12 pm**   
Registration opens Wednesday January 22 at 4 pm.



**Has your schedule changed?**

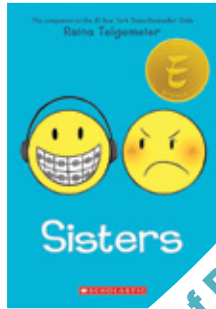
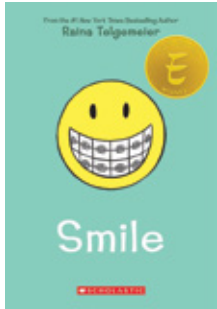
Life is busy, and things come up — we understand! If you are registered for a program and can no longer attend, please cancel so we don't mark you as a no-show. Others on the waiting list will thank you! It's easy to cancel:

- give us a call at 847-362-2330
- login to [cooklib.org/myevents](http://cooklib.org/myevents)
- visit us in person at any public desk





Grades K-5



The #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Smile*, *Sisters*, *Ghosts*, and *Guts* joins Oak Park Public Library Children's Librarian Genevieve Grove in conversation.

**Tuesday, December 10,**  
**7–8 pm** Zoom

Illinois Libraries Present: The Magic of Raina Telgemeier

## GET YOUR GAME ON

### Nintendo Club (grades 2-5)

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

- ▶ Mario Kart  
**Monday, December 2, 4:15–5 pm**   
Registration opens Thursday, November 7 at 4 pm.
- ▶ Super Smash Bros.  
**Thursday, January 23, 4:15–5 pm**   
Registration opens Monday, December 23 at 4 pm.
- ▶ Player's Choice  
**Thursday, February 27, 4:15–5 pm**   
Registration opens Monday, January 27 at 4 pm.

### LEGO Club (grades K-5)

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

- ▶ **Thursday, December 5, 4:15–5 pm**   
Registration opens Thursday, November 7 at 4 pm.
- ▶ **Monday, January 6, 4:15–5 pm**   
Registration opens Friday, December 6 at 4 pm.
- ▶ **Monday, February 10, 4:15–5 pm**   
Registration opens Friday, January 10 at 4 pm.

### Locked in the Library Escape Room (grades 4-5)

Put your puzzling skills to the test and work with others to put clues together, solve riddles, and escape!

- ▶ Diamond Heist  
**Friday, December 27, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Wednesday, November 27 at 4 pm.
- ▶ Wizard School  
**Friday, January 17, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Tuesday, December 17 at 4 pm.

## EXPLORE OUR WORLD

### World Explorers (grades 2-5)

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

- ▶ India  
**Wednesday, December 4, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Thursday, November 7 at 4 pm.
- ▶ Argentina  
**Wednesday, January 8, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Sunday, December 8 at 4 pm.
- ▶ Switzerland  
**Wednesday, February 5, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Sunday, January 5 at 4 pm.

### Linnea's Almanac: Enjoying Evergreens (grades 2-5)

Join us in Cook Park to visit the wonderful winter world of evergreens! We'll walk in the park and gather greens and pinecones for a nature craft.

**Wednesday, December 11, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
Registration opens Monday, November 11 at 4 pm.

### Trees! (grades 2-3)

Learn fun facts about trees and make a craft afterwards!

**Tuesday, January 21, 4–5 pm**   
Registration opens Saturday, December 21 at 4 pm.

### Chess Club (grades 2-5)

Learn the basics of chess and play against others. Players of any skill level welcome!

- ▶ **Saturday, December 28, 3:30–4:30 pm**   
Registration opens Friday, November 29 at 4 pm.
- ▶ **Saturday, January 18, 3:30–4:30 pm**   
Registration opens Wednesday, December 18 at 4 pm.
- ▶ **Saturday, February 15, 3:30–4:30 pm**   
Registration opens Wednesday, January 15 at 4 pm.

### Pokémon Club (grades K-8)

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

- ▶ **Monday, December 30, 4:15–5 pm**   
Registration opens Saturday, November 30 at 4 pm.
- ▶ **Thursday, January 9, 4:15–5 pm**   
Registration opens Monday, December 9 at 4 pm.

## 18<sup>th</sup> 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 24 - Friday, April 4**



## Middle School Grades 6-8

### New Program Location

From December 2024 to April 2025, the Children's Department at Cook Park Library will be temporarily moved to the lower-level Meeting Room, replacing the usual event space. **During this period, some programs will be held at the United Methodist Church of Libertyville, located at 429 Brainerd Ave.** Look for the  to identify programs taking place at this location.

### 18<sup>th</sup> 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 24 - Friday, April 4**


#### Paint & Snack

Relax and let your creativity flow as you enjoy snacks and learn painting techniques.

- ▶ Watercolor Techniques  
**Tuesday, December 3, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
*Registration opens Thursday, November 7 at 4 pm.*
- ▶ Texture Painting  
**Tuesday, January 28, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
*Registration opens Saturday, December 28 at 4 pm.*


#### After-Hours Middle School Celebration

Decorate cookies, build gingerbread houses, and play games at the Library after hours.

- Friday, December 13, 6–8 pm**   
*Registration opens Wednesday, November 13 at 4 pm.*




#### International Snack Exploration

Taste and explore different snacks from a variety of countries around the world.

- Tuesday, December 17, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
*Registration opens Sunday, November 17 at 4 pm.*




#### Paws for Reading! (grades K-8)

Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy dogs are ready for story time! Please register each child for only one 15-minute session.

- ▶ **Tuesday, December 17, 6:45–8 pm**   
*Registration opens Tuesday, December 3 at 4 pm.*
- ▶ **Tuesday, January 28, 6:45–8 pm**   
*Registration opens Tuesday, January 14 at 4 pm.*
- ▶ **Tuesday, February 25, 6:45–8 pm**   
*Registration opens Tuesday, February 11 at 4 pm.*

#### In the Middle Book Club

A book club just for middle schoolers! Join us for a fun and lively book discussion with awesome books. February's meeting is a special after-hours event where we chat about the book, watch the movie, and munch on snacks! *Registration is open.*

- ▶ **Wednesday, December 18, 6:30–7:30 pm** 
- ▶ **Wednesday, January 15, 6:30–7:30 pm** 
- ▶ **Friday, February 21, 6–8 pm**   
**After-Hours Book & Movie Event**



#### In the Middle Book Club @ Home

Love reading and want something that fits your schedule? Join this book club just for middle schoolers and participate at your own pace! We provide discussion questions, prompts, guides, and activities for you to enjoy at home. *Registration is open.*

- ▶ **Thursday, December 19**
- ▶ **Thursday, January 16**
- ▶ **Thursday, February 2**


#### Pokémon Club (grades K-8)

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

- ▶ **Monday, December 30, 4:15–5 pm**   
*Registration opens Saturday, November 30 at 4 pm.*
- ▶ **Thursday, January 9, 4:15–5 pm**   
*Registration opens Monday, December 9 at 4 pm.*



#### Game On! Player's Choice

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

- Friday, January 3, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
*Registration opens Tuesday, December 3 at 4 pm.*


#### Service Craft

Get involved in the community and earn volunteer hours by crafting projects for others.

- ▶ No-Sew Blanket  
**Wednesday, January 22, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
*Registration opens Sunday, December 22 at 4 pm.*
- ▶ Sensory Crafting  
**Wednesday, February 26, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
*Registration opens Sunday, January 26 at 4 pm.*


#### After-Hours DIY Building: Mini Golf Course & Games

Join us to create your own mini golf course and build your own games at the Library after hours.

- Friday, January 24, 6–8 pm**   
*Registration opens Monday, December 23 at 4 pm.*


#### Tech Take-Apart

Dismantle old pieces of technology to discover how they work!

- Tuesday, February 4, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
*Registration opens Saturday, January 4 at 4 pm.*


#### Collectors Club (grades K-8)

Pokémon cards, baseball cards, Yu-Gi-Oh cards, oh my! Bring any type of trading card or memorabilia you want to trade or talk about with others.

- Thursday, February 6, 4:15–5 pm**   
*Registration opens Monday, January 6 at 4 pm.*


#### Indoor Tie-Dye

You bring the shirts and other fabric items, we'll supply the dye and teach you totally rad, indoor-safe techniques.

- Tuesday, February 11, 4:30–5:30 pm**   
*Registration opens Saturday, January 11 at 4 pm.*

#### T(w)een Advisory Board Meeting

Join us to get involved with the Library! Bring your ideas about programs or new services for middle schoolers.

- Wednesday, February 19, 6:30–7:15 pm**   
*Registration opens Sunday, January 19 at 4 pm.*





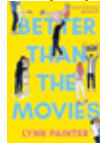
## High School Grades 9-12



## High School Book Club

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

- ▶ *The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich* by Deya Muniz  
Wednesday, December 4, 6:30–7:30 pm **A**
- ▶ *Stateless* by Elizabeth Wein  
Wednesday, January 8, 6:30–7:30 pm **C**
- ▶ *Better Than the Movies* by Lynn Painter  
Wednesday, February 12, 6:30–7:30 pm **A**



## Librarian in the Zone

Meet your high school librarian! Stop by the high school area once a month for activities, games, challenges, book recommendations, and more. **DROP IN**

Cook Park Library **C**

- ▶ Retro-Style Crafts  
Friday, December 6, 4–5 pm
- ▶ DIY Buttons & Keychains  
Friday, January 3, 4–5 pm
- ▶ Mario Kart & Super Smash Bros.  
Friday, February 7, 4–5 pm

Aspen Drive Library **A**

- ▶ Retro-Style Crafts  
Friday, December 13, 4–5 pm
- ▶ DIY Buttons & Keychains  
Friday, January 10, 4–5 pm
- ▶ Mario Kart & Super Smash Bros.  
Friday, February 28, 4–5 pm

## Frosted Luminaries

Welcome winter by crafting a festive frosted luminary that will cast a warm, soft glow in any room you choose to decorate. Materials provided.

Wednesday, December 11, 6:30–8:30 pm **A**

Registration opens Monday, November 11 at 9 am.

## Finals Open Study

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

- ▶ Friday, December 13, 3–6 pm **C**
- ▶ Saturday, December 14, 9 am–5 pm **A C**
- ▶ Sunday, December 15, 12–5 pm **A C**

## Study Night at the Library

Get help from LHS & VHHS teachers! Plus, S-N-A-C-K-S. **DROP IN**

Monday, December 16, 3–9 pm **A & C**

## Crochet Basics

Come learn the basics of crochet, including how to cast on, cast off, single crochets, changing colors, and more! Yarn and crochet hooks provided.

Wednesday, January 15, 5:30–7:30 pm **C**

## UV Resin Dice

Create your own set of custom UV resin dice, perfect for gaming or gifting. Materials provided.

Monday, January 20, 6:30–8:30 pm **A**

Registration opens Saturday, December 21 at 9 am.

## Um, Actually... Library Edition

Can you recite Chappell Roan lyrics by heart? Are you an expert on TikTok memes? Use your nerdy knowledge to win candy and prizes by correcting the librarian about your favorite fandoms. **DROP IN**

Thursday, January 23, 6–7:30 pm **A**

## No-Sew Avocado Pillow

Come unwind while learning how to make your own adorable no-sew avocado pillow. Materials provided.

Monday, February 10, 6:30–8:30 pm **A**

Registration opens Saturday, January 11 at 9 am.

## Building Care Packages

Earn service hours by crafting care packages to be delivered to at-risk community members by local non-profits.

Wednesday, February 19, 5:30–7:30 pm **C**

Winter  
Young Adult

Solve the Secret of the Library Escape Room

A secret note in a library book hints that there might be a hidden treasure in the library — can you find it before time runs out? Challenge our escape room with your friends! **DROP IN**

Thursday, February 13, 4–7:30 pm **C**



## Arts & Culture

### Movie Matinees

Free screenings of popular and acclaimed movies. For movie titles and ratings, call the Library, pick up a flyer at either location, or sign up to receive the monthly email at [cooklib.org/newsletters](http://cooklib.org/newsletters). **DROP IN Fridays, 1:30–4 pm**

### What's It Worth?

#### Old Coins, Currency & Jewelry

Uncover your collection's value with a free 15-minute appraisal from Dave Ekstrom, a top coin expert. Bring your coins, currency, and gold or silver jewelry for a quick evaluation.

**Tuesday, December 3, 2–7 pm**

#### Big Sky Acoustic Duo in Concert

The Big Sky Acoustic Duo performs a mix of bluegrass, blues, and American roots music, creating an enchanting experience for Midwest audiences.

**Thursday, December 5, 6:30–7:30 pm**

### Afternoon Concert: Ludy Live

Immerse yourself in the magic of classic American jazz as John Ludy Puleo performs timeless hits from legends like Sinatra, Bennett, and Darin. In partnership with the Libertyville Senior Center.

**Monday, December 9, 1–2 pm**  
Libertyville Civic Center

### Encore for My Baby: Exploring Frank Sinatra's Hollywood Songbook

Uncover the allure of Frank Sinatra's Hollywood era! From his Tommy Dorsey beginnings to the Rat Pack's golden days, experience the defining moments of his legendary career. Presented by Brian Rose, professor emeritus at Fordham University.

**Thursday, January 9, 6:30–8 pm** Zoom

### Timeless Grooves: The Ultimate Dance Celebration with Matt & Cynthia

Dance through the decades with Matt and Cynthia of Nostalgia Entertainment! Enjoy lively hits from the 1920s to the 1960s from this piano/vocal duo, plus fun stories about the iconic composers and performers behind the music. In partnership with the Libertyville Senior Center.

**Monday, January 13, 1–2 pm** • Libertyville Civic Center

### Lessons Learned from the Hard Winter

*The Long Winter* by Laura Ingalls Wilder recounts her family's survival during the harsh winter of 1880-1881. Laura Keyes, director of the Dunlap Public Library, shares her passionate knowledge of literary history, reminding us to have faith, hope, and seek help when needed.

**Tuesday, January 14, 6:30–8 pm** Zoom

### Cinema Club

Monthly film screening and discussion. **DROP IN**

▶ *The Zone of Interest* (PG-13 | 2023 | 1h 45m)  
**Monday, January 20, 6:30–9 pm**

▶ *Casablanca* (PG | 1942 | 1h 42m)  
**Monday, February 17, 6:30–9 pm**

### Cupid's Countdown:

#### George Holmes Valentine's Kickoff

Kick off your Valentine's celebration with Chicagoland entertainer George Holmes. Enjoy a mix of classic love songs from Sinatra and Bennett, paired with opera hits from Lanza and Bocelli. In partnership with the Libertyville Senior Center.

**Monday, February 3, 1–2 pm**  
Libertyville Civic Center

### Eisenhower: Duty, Honor & Legacy – The Life of a Nation's Leader

Explore Dwight D. Eisenhower's life, shaped by West Point's motto: "Duty, Honor, Country." Historian Jim Gibbons reveals Ike's legacy of courage, vision, and leadership.

**Thursday, February 20, 6:30–8 pm**



## Genealogy

### DAR Genealogy Workshop

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

**Wednesday, December 4, 10 am–1 pm**

**Saturday, January 4, 10 am–1 pm**

**Wednesday, February 5, 10 am–1 pm**

### Genealogy Networking Group

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

**Thursday, December 5, 7–8:30 pm**

**Thursday, January 2, 7–8:30 pm**

**Thursday, February 6, 7 pm–8:30 pm**

### Holiday Family Traditions

'Tis the season! Come and share your holiday family traditions and learn how they can contain helpful genealogical information. Your family will thank you for preserving and writing about them!

**Thursday, December 12, 7–8:30 pm** Zoom

### Independent Genealogy Research Lab

Hit a brick wall in your research? Need another pair of eyes to help you decipher a document? Bring your documents and laptop (or use ours)! A genealogist will be available for help or consultation.

**Wednesday, December 18, 3–5 pm**

**Wednesday, January 22, 3–5 pm**

**Wednesday, February 26, 3–5 pm**

### Genealogy 101:

#### Exploring Library Databases & Resources

Did you make a resolution to learn more about your family? Come and learn the basics of genealogy and get an introduction to Library databases and resources. You'll be climbing your family tree in no time!

**Thursday, January 9, 7–8:30 pm**

### Taking Grandma's Recipes to the Roadshow

#### ▶ PART 1: Recipes as Historical Documents

Recipes can tell us about family origins and traditions. Come learn more from the Culinary Historians of Northern Illinois (CHNI).

**Saturday, January 18, 1-2 pm**

#### ▶ PART 2: Historic Recipe Roadshow

In-person participants from Part 1 are invited to contribute a historic family recipe to the growing CHNI archive and learn more about their recipe in the process.

**Saturday, January 18, 2-4 pm**

### Moving North & West:

#### A Genealogy of Migration

Learn about the migration of African Americans to the Northwest Territory during the antebellum period as Denyce Peyton explores a diverse collection of genealogical records.

**Thursday, February 20, 7–8:30 pm** Zoom





## Technology Classes



### Draw with Procreate on iPad

Bring your iPad and Apple Pencil or Logitech Crayon to explore essential tools and techniques. Make sure to download the Procreate app on your iPad before the class.

**Wednesday, December 4, 6:30–7:30 pm**

### Digital Scrapbooking

Learn how to easily create your holiday scrapbooks in Canva! Preserve and share your memories to cherish with loved ones for years to come.

**Thursday, December 5, 6:30–8:30 pm**

### ChatGPT

Learn more about ChatGPT, such as generating AI-written essays and creating images. We will also talk about AI's increasing presence in mainstream applications.

**Wednesday, December 11, 6:30–8:30 pm**

### Intermediate Microsoft Word

Learn how to set tabs, create headers and footers, adjust margins, and insert bullets. Prior experience with Word is required.

**Thursday, December 12, 6:30–8:30 pm**

### Coupons & Rebates

Get ready for the holiday shopping season! Explore popular rebate and coupon options to help you save money and earn cash back.

**Tuesday, December 17, 6:30–8:30 pm**

### Android Phone Basics

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

**Wednesday, December 18, 7–8 pm**

### YouTube & Video Editing

Learn how to effortlessly edit and upload your videos to YouTube so you can share memorable moments.

**Tuesday, January 7, 6:30–8:30 pm**

### Microsoft Word Basics

Learn how to format text, layout pages, save, share, and do more with Microsoft Word documents.

**Monday, January 13, 7–8 pm**

### Photoshop Elements

Learn about the various functions of Photoshop Elements so you can easily edit, redesign, and share your photos.

**Wednesday, January 15, 6:30–8:30 pm**

### iPhone Basics

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

**Wednesday, January 15, 7–8 pm**

### Fun Features of Your Apple Watch

Whether you're new to the Apple Watch or simply want to learn more, join us to review some fun and practical features to enhance your wearable experience.

**Thursday, January 16, 6:30–7:30 pm**

### Facebook Marketplace

Discover how to sell your products easily on Facebook Marketplace. We'll cover how to create listings and interact with potential buyers interested in purchasing items online.

**Tuesday, January 21, 6:30–8:30 pm**

### Cut the Cable Cord:

#### Explore Streaming Alternatives

Is ditching cable TV the right decision for you? Join us to weigh the pros and cons, plus get an overview of the latest streaming video platforms and equipment.

**Monday, January 27, 7–8 pm**

### Computer Basics

Learn the fundamentals of operating systems, getting started with the Internet, troubleshooting, and security.

**Thursday, January 30, 10–11 am**

### Advanced Microsoft Excel

Take your Excel skills to the next level. This advanced course delves into formulas and demonstrates creating and using PivotCharts and PivotTables.

**Thursday, January 30, 6:30–8:30 pm**

### Canva

Discover how to effortlessly design eye-catching flyers, beautiful greeting cards, engaging social media posts, and more with user-friendly tools and customizable templates in Canva.

**Wednesday, February 5, 6:30–8:30 pm**

### Phone Photography

Learn how to capture amazing photos with your iPhone or Android. This course demonstrates how to utilize the features in your photo apps to snap the perfect shot.

**Tuesday, February 18, 6:30–8:30 pm**

### Back Up Your Phone Photos

Learn to automatically back up your iPhone or Android photos to OneDrive, Google Drive, or Flickr.

**Wednesday, February 26, 6:30–8:30 pm**

## STUDIO WORKSHOPS

### • Join tech instructor Kristina for a short, 30-minute workshop!

- Set up recording sessions for music or podcasts.
- Digitize VHS tapes, cassettes, and vinyl records.
- Scan photos, slides, and negatives.
- Get familiar with the Cricut machine.

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



### Database Pop-Ups

One of the Library's best-kept secrets is our large collection of databases. They're not just for research – they can provide info on so much more! Drop by at your leisure and learn about our offerings. Staff will be on hand to provide brief demos and answer questions.



Give yourself the gift of language this holiday season. Let us show you how to learn a new language with the convenient Mango app. **DROP IN**  
**Wednesday, December 11, 3–5 pm**



Looking for a new job? Want to learn more about a company or find a person? Stop by to learn about AtoZ, a powerful resource to help with your job hunt, create mailing lists, find sales leads, and more! **DROP IN**  
**Wednesday, January 22, 10 am–12 pm**





## Health & Lifestyle

### Chair Yoga for Everyone

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

**Tuesdays, December 3–February 25, 9–10 am** Zoom

### Tai Chi 101

Enjoy gentle movements that promote wellness for body, mind, and spirit. All levels welcome!

**Wednesdays, December 4–February 26, 9–10 am** Zoom

### Sound Bath Meditation

Let the soothing vibrations of crystal sound bowls relax your mind and body. No experience needed, just come ready to unwind. Please bring a yoga mat, blanket, and pillow. Dress comfortably in layers. Chairs will be provided for those who prefer to remain seated. Presented by Brittney Lace, owner of Laced in Harmony.

► **Saturday, December 14, 1–2 pm**

► **Thursday, February 6, 6:30–7:30 pm**

### Family Medicine Physician from Advocate Medical Group

Dr. Nukala joins us at the Library to talk about her care philosophy. Learn more about how she emphasizes active listening and preventative medicine to deliver comprehensive healthcare for patients of all ages and backgrounds, fostering partnerships for healthier, happier lives. In partnership with the GLMV Chamber of Commerce.

**Wednesday, December 18, 1:30–2:30 pm**

### Holiday Preserves for Gifting

Join Andrea Pracht from My Kitchen Clatter as she demonstrates the process of creating a delicious spiced cranberry jam, a perfect homemade gift for this holiday season.

**Thursday, December 19, 6:30–7:30 pm**

### Résumé-Writing Workshop

Learn tips to improve your résumé. Laptops will be provided. Please bring a flash drive or have access to your email to save your work. Basic knowledge of Microsoft Word required.

**Wednesday, January 15, 4–5:30 pm**

## One-on-One Résumé-Building

Would you like to take your résumé to the next level? Email Information Services Librarian Allie Mendelson at [amendelson@cooklib.org](mailto:amendelson@cooklib.org) with your résumé draft, job posting (if applicable), and details of what you hope to focus on. She will get back to you to schedule a time for a one-hour session (in-person only). Please allow 2-3 business days for her reply. She looks forward to working with you!

RESUME  
RESUME  
RESUME

### Mindful Energy for Success with Mark Ratfelders Coaching

Discover how an awareness of your own personal energy can lead to greater results in any endeavor you choose, raise consciousness, and inspire leadership. In partnership with the GLMV Chamber of Commerce.

**Wednesday, January 22, 1:30–2:30 pm**

### Basic Self-Defense Techniques & Tips

Learn basic self-defense strikes, escape techniques, and situational awareness. Practice with a partner and master effective threat responses. Presented by Lindsey Daehnke, founder and lead instructor at Strictly Self-Defense.

**Saturday, January 25, 1–2:30 pm**

### Post-Election Update with WGN-TV's Paul Lisnek

WGN-TV's political analyst discusses life after the election and what to expect in the next four years. In partnership with Schaumburg Township District Library, the League of Women Voters of the Palatine Area, and multiple Illinois libraries.

**Tuesday, January 28, 7–8 pm** Zoom  
Registration opens Thursday, November 28.

### Knife Skills:

#### Selection, Sharpening & Handling

Join award-winning chef Susan Maddox to master knife skills! Learn techniques for cleaning and slicing, and how to julienne and dice veggies.

**Thursday, January 30, 6:30–8 pm**

### Hands-Only CPR

Learn hands-only CPR with an easy, effective technique to save lives during a cardiac emergency. Join us to master this life-saving skill, proven as effective as traditional CPR. Please note: no certification will be awarded.

**Wednesday, February 5, 1:30–2:30 pm**

### A Taste of Romance:

#### Three-Course Valentine's Day Dinner

Chef Susan Maddox guides you through the creation of a delightful and romantic three-course dinner.

**Tuesday, February 11, 6:30–8 pm**

### Your Home Inspection

Join Yale Wolk of Erison Home Inspections as he provides expert insights and practical recommendations for effective home maintenance. In partnership with the GLMV Chamber of Commerce.

**Wednesday, February 26, 1:30–2:30 pm**

## Social Services Consultations

Meet with an intake specialist from Art of Recovery, a local nonprofit organization, to get connected to services that can help with:

- addiction treatment
- mental health services
- finding housing
- and more

Sessions are available on a first-come, first-served basis from 3–6 pm. No appointment is necessary. **DROP IN**

- **Aspen Drive Library, Vernon Hills:**  
1st, 3rd, and 5th Mondays of the month, 3–6 pm
- **Cook Park Library, Libertyville:**  
2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 3–6 pm







## Crafting & Maker

Unless otherwise noted, materials are provided for all crafting and maker programs and a CMPLD card is required to register. For programs with multiple dates, participants may only register for one session.

### Winter Candle

Create a cozy winter candle, perfect for adding a bit of warmth this winter.

- **Monday, December 2, 6:30–8:30 pm A**  
Registration opens Monday, November 11 at 9 am.
- **Monday, December 9, 6:30–8:30 pm A**  
Registration opens Monday, November 11 at 9 am.

### Felt Winter Trees

Immerse yourself in the wintertime spirit by crafting décor that will really “spruce” up your home.

**Tuesday, December 3, 6:30–8:30 pm A**  
Registration opens Tuesday, November 12 at 9 am.

### DIY Essential Oil Room Spray

Create your own all-natural signature spritz by blending essential oils and making a custom label. A materials fee of \$10 is due at the beginning of class.

**Tuesday, December 10, 6:30–8:30 pm A**  
Registration opens Wednesday, November 13 at 9 am.

### Sewing 101

Learn the basic parts of the sewing machine, how to select materials, and sewing techniques. This winter, make a cozy infinity scarf.

- **Thursday, December 12, 10 am–12 pm A**  
Registration opens Thursday, November 14 at 9 am.
- **Thursday, January 9, 10 am–12 pm A**  
Registration opens Monday, December 9 at 9 am.
- **Thursday, February 13, 10 am–12 pm A**  
Registration opens Monday, January 13 at 9 am.

### 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. A CMPLD card is not required to participate. **DROP IN Wednesday, December 18, 6:30–8:30 pm C**



## Talk with a Trustee

Do you have questions, comments or concerns about the Library? One of the Library Board Trustees will be ready to listen, so drop in any time between 1–2 pm. The Library Board of Trustees, elected by the community, serves in your best interests by overseeing Library operations, budget, and policies. Learn more about them at [cooklib.org/trustee](http://cooklib.org/trustee) and mark your calendar. **DROP IN Sunday, January 5, 1–2 pm A & C**

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.

**One-hour appointments: Tuesdays & Thursdays, February 4–April 10 A**  
Registration opens Tuesday, January 7 at 9 am.

## Free AARP Tax Preparation Appointments



### DIY Bath Bombs

Unwind while crafting custom bath bombs.

- **Monday, January 6, 6:30–8:30 pm A**  
Registration opens Saturday, December 7 at 9 am.
- **Monday, January 13, 6:30–8:30 pm A**  
Registration opens Saturday, December 14 at 9 am.

### Crochet Simple Flowers

Create charming flowers for various projects. We'll provide the yarn; you bring a hook H (5mm)! Prior crochet experience required.

**Saturday, January 11, 1–3 pm A**  
Registration opens Wednesday, December 11 at 9 am.

### Crane Garland

Learn how to make origami cranes and string them into a garland.

**Wednesday, January 29, 6:30–8:30 pm A**  
Registration opens Monday, December 30 at 9 am.

### Paper Circuit Art

Combine creativity and technology with paper circuits, and add a glowing touch to your artwork.

- **Monday, February 3, 6:30–8:30 pm A**  
Registration opens Saturday, January 4 at 9 am.
- **Wednesday, February 5, 6:30–8:30 pm A**  
Registration opens Saturday, January 4 at 9 am.

### Knotted Bead Bracelet-Making

Design your own stylish-yet-timeless knotted bead bracelet.

**Thursday, February 20, 6:30–8:30 pm A**  
Registration opens Monday, January 20 at 9 am.

## Winter Nonfiction





## Authors & Writing



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



### ▶ The Magic of Raina Telgemeier

The #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Smile*, *Sisters*, *Ghosts*, and *Guts* joins Oak Park Public Library Children's Librarian Genevieve Grove in conversation.

**Tuesday, December 10, 7–8 pm** ▼ Zoom



### ▶ Little Women: The Musical (2022)

Enjoy the Park Theatre of London's performance of this beloved tale of family, self-discovery, and hope from the comfort of your home! Registrants will receive a link to view the prerecorded show.

**Friday, December 20 & Sunday, December 22** ▼



### ▶ Chicago Pizza - Past, Present & Future with Steve Dolinsky

Well-known Food Guy reporter at NBC 5 Chicago dishes on *The Ultimate Chicago Pizza Guide: A History of Squares & Slices in the Windy City*, his comprehensive guide to what makes the Windy City a prime destination for slices and pies.

**Thursday, January 9, 7–8 pm** ▼ Zoom



### ▶ Love & Laughs with Michelle Bateau

Join us for an evening with this accomplished American stand-up comedian, actor, and author of *Survival of the Thickest*, which was adapted into a Netflix series.

**Thursday, January 23, 7–8 pm** ▼ Zoom



### ▶ An Evening with James McBride

Tune in for an evening with this award-winning author, musician, and screenwriter. His novel, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, was named one of the *New York Times*' 100 Notable Books of 2023.

**Tuesday, February 4, 7–8 pm** ▼ Zoom

## Winter Fiction



## Read in Community: 2025 Adult & Teen Winter Reading Club

**January 1–March 31** A & C

Now is the time to take your friends' bestseller recommendations to heart, join a new book club, or explore what others in your library community are enjoying! Complete three reading challenges to receive a free book and a chance to win one of two \$50 gift cards to local bookstores.

### How to Sign Up:

- **Online:** Beginning Monday, January 1, sign up or login at [cooklib.readsquared.com](http://cooklib.readsquared.com).
- **In Person:** Beginning Tuesday, January 2, pick up a bookmark from the Adult Information Desk at either Library location.





## 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**

- ▶ *Mother-Daughter Murder Night* by Nina Simon  
**Monday, January 27, 11 am–12 pm** **H C**
- ▶ *All the Sinners Bled* by S.A. Cosby  
**Monday, February 24, 11 am–12 pm** **H C**

### Aspen Drive Book Club

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

- ▶ *The Music of Bees* by Eileen Garvin  
**Tuesday, December 3, 7–8 pm** **A**
- ▶ *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters  
**Tuesday, February 4, 7–8 pm** **A**

### Classics Book Club

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

- ▶ *Passing* by Nella Larsen  
**Monday, January 6, 7–8 pm** **H C**

### Friday Morning Book Club

For a copy of the book, contact Amy Becker-Perez at [aperez@cooklib.org](mailto:aperez@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**

- ▶ *The Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff  
**Friday, December 13, 10–11 am** **C**
- ▶ *The Kingdoms of Savannah* by George Dawes Green  
**Friday, January 10, 10–11 am** **C**
- ▶ *Maame* by Jessica George  
**Friday, February 14, 10–11 am** **C**

### Nonfiction Book Club

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

- ▶ *The Best Strangers in the World* by Ari Shapiro  
**Friday, December 6, 2–3:30 pm** **H C**
- ▶ *Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA* by Liza Mundy  
**Friday, February 7, 2–3:30 pm** **H C**

### Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club

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

- ▶ *Vanished Birds* by Simon Jimenez  
**Tuesday, December 17, 7–8:30 pm** **H A**
- ▶ *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke  
**Tuesday, February 18, 7–8:30 pm** **H A**

### Shelftalkers Roundtable

Share what you've been reading and get recommendations at our "no-homework" book club! For the Zoom link, contact Erica O'Rourke at [eorourke@cooklib.org](mailto:eorourke@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**

- ▶ **Tuesday, January 28, 7–8:30 pm** **H C**
- ▶ **Tuesday, February 25, 7–8:30 pm** **H C**

### Silent Book Club

Join us after hours for a peaceful reading session at the Library during our quarterly, drop-in club! Bring your own book or pick one up here, and enjoy some quiet reading time. At the end, you'll have the chance to share what you're reading with others, or you can simply slip out. **DROP IN**

**Friday, January 10, 7–8:30 pm** **A**

### Speculative Fiction Book Club

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

- ▶ *Foundation* by Isaac Asimov  
**Wednesday, December 11, 7–8 pm** **C**
- ▶ *Ink Blood Sister Scribe* by Emma Törzs  
**Wednesday, February 12, 7–8 pm** **C**

### Wednesday Evening 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 Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff  
**Wednesday, January 22, 7–8 pm** **H A**
- ▶ *These Precious Days* by Ann Patchett  
**Wednesday, February 26, 7–8 pm** **H A**

### Wednesday Morning Book Club

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

- ▶ *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon  
**Wednesday, January 8, 10–11 am** **H C**
- ▶ *The Bandit Queens* by Parini Shroff  
**Wednesday, February 12, 10–11 am** **H C**



### English Language Learners' Book Club

Read and then discuss books with other interesting people while practicing your English in conversation. Join us! For more information and to register, email Darek Makowski at [dmakowski@cooklib.org](mailto:dmakowski@cooklib.org). **DROP IN**  
**Every Other Monday, January 27–May 19, 10:30 am–12 pm** **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).  
**Tuesdays, January 7–March 11, 10–11:15 am** **A**

### Free ESL Classes

Free English as a Second Language classes held in conjunction with Mundelein High School's 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 Hilda at 847-949-2200 x1399.



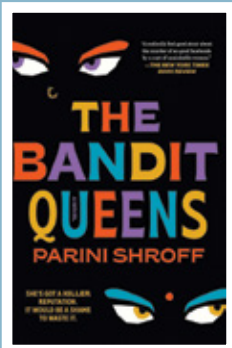
### Great Decisions

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. **A**  
*Register between Monday, November 11 and Friday, December 13 at 6 pm.*



### 25 to '25

Count down to a new reading year with the Bookies! Starting December 7, we'll reveal one of our 25 most-anticipated winter titles each day on our social media and in-library displays until 2025 arrives. Share your own top picks by tagging the Library (@cooklibrary) and using the #25to25 hashtag.



#### About the Book

When Geeta's no-good husband vanishes, rumors swirl in her rural Indian village that she killed him, giving her a dangerous reputation that comes with perks—no one bothers her, and her jewelry business thrives. Though she convinces herself she enjoys the freedom,

the isolation weighs on her, especially when other wives seek her help in getting rid of their own husbands. As her reputation becomes a double-edged sword, Geeta must protect the life she's built while navigating the demands of a group of would-be widows.

For fans of *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri or the series "Dead to Me," *The Bandit Queens* is a razor-sharp tale of female friendship filled with clever criminals, second chances, and wry and witty women.



#### About the Author

Parini Shroff holds an MFA from the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied under Elizabeth McCracken, Alexander Chee, and Cristina García. She is a practicing attorney who currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and has family in Gujarat, India. *The Bandit Queens* is her debut novel and a national bestseller.

## ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY

Now in its ninth year, One Book, One Community (OBOC) is a partnership among Cook Memorial, Indian Trails, and Vernon Area public library districts to encourage dialogue and build community through a shared experience of literature.

Registration opens  
**December 8 at**  
**1book.org**



Stop by a library kick-off event in celebration of this year's One Book, One Community series and pick up a complimentary copy of *The Bandit Queens* while supplies last. One copy per household. Additional copies will be available for checkout. **DROP IN**

#### Sunday, December 8

- ▶ Cook Park Library: 12–2 pm
- ▶ Aspen Drive Library: 12–2 pm
- ▶ Indian Trails Public Library: 12–2 pm
- ▶ Vernon Area Public Library: 1–2 pm

#### Book Discussions

Come together to discuss our 2025 One Book, One Community selection.

- ▶ Tuesday, January 14, 7–8 pm **H A**
- ▶ Monday, January 20, 10–11 am **H A**
- ▶ Tuesday, January 28, 7–8 pm **H A**

#### Music of India

Join us for an evening of music and storytelling presented by Ochin Pakhi, a group of musicians of Indian descent. Learn about the caste system, spirituality, and traditional musical instruments all while enjoying amazing music.

**Monday, January 27, 7–8 pm **A****

#### Cuisine Inspired by *The Bandit Queens*

Learn about Indian food, including regional differences, ingredients, recipes, and the evolution of this delicious cuisine.

**Wednesday, February 5, 7–8 pm **A****

#### Meet Author Parini Shroff

Parini Shroff shares the inspiration behind *The Bandit Queens*. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing at the event, courtesy of the Book Bin of Northbrook. This is a hybrid event; choose to attend in person or virtually on Zoom.

**Sunday, February 16, 1–2 pm • Stevenson High School, 1 Stevenson Dr, Lincolnshire, IL**