



Bensenville Community Public Library

Program Guide | December-February 2023/24

Holiday Open House

Friday, December 15
from 4:30-7 pm



Despite the chilly weather, we invite everyone to our warm and festive Holiday Open House! The celebration begins at 4:30 p.m. with a musical performance by Fenton High School Band members with plenty of treats and beverages for everyone. For our younger guests, we will have fun crafts and the opportunity to take a picture with Santa. We will also have a holiday photo booth set up with a variety of props for family snapshots. The evening will end with an interactive live performance by BrightStar Theatre, as they take you on a musical journey with holiday songs from around the world from 6-7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join the festivities!

Winter Reading Challenge

December 20 thru January 31 | All Ages

For ages 0-18: Challenge yourself to read five hours this winter. Earn a free book, a drawing ticket for 1 of 3 prize baskets, and a free slice of cake from Portillos! Write a book review to earn a bonus prize from our treasure chest! Pick up your bookmark at the Youth Services Desk, or log your hours in BeanStack.

For ages 18+: Pick up a bookmark at the Adult Services Desk and complete four of the challenges to be entered to win an Amazon Fire 7 tablet!



Letters to (and from) Santa

November 27 thru December 15 | Ages 0-11

Santa wants to hear from you! We have a mailbox that goes straight to the North Pole, so drop off your letters to Santa Claus between November 27 and December 15. If you wish, you can leave a return address and Santa will write you back!



Pet Pictures with Santa

All Ages | December 5 from 6:30-8 PM

Don't forget your pet this Christmas! Santa is stopping at the library to take pictures with your furry friend. Stay for Family Art Night and make a gift for your pet or a frame to hold your photo. Suggested donation is \$5: all monies collected will be donated to New Start Dog Rescue.



Fireside Concert with Guitarist Brad Conroy

All Ages | December 2 from 1-2 PM

Come to the library for a fireside concert with Brad Conroy, a versatile guitarist, performer, and educator at the Music Institute of Chicago. Brad will perform three centuries of Classical Guitar Music as well as some holiday favorites at our stone fireplace.



ABOUT THE LIBRARY

HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 9 PM
Friday & Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday 1 PM - 5 PM

CLOSINGS

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve
Monday, December 25 Christmas Day
Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve
Monday, January 1 New Year's Day

LOCATION & CONTACT

Address: 200 S. Church Road, Bensenville, IL 60106
Phone: 630-766-4642
Website: benlib.org
Facebook: facebook.com/BensenvilleLibrary
Instagram: [bensenvillelib](https://instagram.com/bensenvillelib)
X: [@BensenvilleLib](https://twitter.com/BensenvilleLib)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Linda Weiss | President
Tina Lux | Vice President
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Susan Earley | Treasurer
Michele Janovsky | Trustee
Amy Labickas | Trustee
Dr. Consuelo Cabral-Marquez | Trustee
Chris Sloan | Library Director

PHOTO POLICY

The Bensenville Community Public Library staff may take photos of participants attending or taking part in Library programs and activities. These photos may appear in future Library publications or other Library publicity. Attendees and/or participants consent to having their photo taken and used for such purposes. If a library patron does not wish to be photographed, please notify a Library staff member.

GET A LIBRARY CARD

To register, renew, or replace a Bensenville Community Public Library card, you must bring a valid government-issued photo ID showing residence within the district, or a photo ID in combination with a recently issued document with a name and corresponding address within the district. These additional forms of documentation include, but are not limited to, utility bills, postmarked mail, a rental/mortgage agreement, or voter registration card.

For more information, visit benlib.org/get-a-card or give us a call at 630-766-4642 and ask for Circulation.

COPY & FAX SERVICES

The Library has one, black and white photocopier available for public use. Copies can be made for 10¢ per side. Faxing services are available anytime the Library is open. To fax anywhere in the United States, the charge is \$1 per side. If you are sending a fax internationally or overseas, the charge is \$5 per side. The Library can also receive faxes on your behalf. Please let the Library have your contact information before giving the sender the Library's fax number. This service costs \$1 per side incoming.

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE

Our Notary Public service is available to you for free! The Notary is accessible on weekdays from 9AM - 5PM. However, we recommend calling beforehand to verify their availability.

REGISTER TO VOTE

If you reside in DuPage County and have not yet registered to vote, you can easily do so by visiting our library during our regular business hours. Our staff will be available to assist you with on-site registration. Please remember to bring two forms of identification, with at least one showing your current address.

Questions? Please contact the Adult Services Desk at 630-766-4642.

ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNT

To renew materials, view the status of items on hold, and create wish lists, simply log in to bvd.swanlibraries.net or the **SWAN Library App**, found in your device's app store, using your library card number and PIN (which are the last 4 digits of the phone number on file). Alternatively, you can call the library for assistance.

SWAN LIBRARY APP

Download the SWAN Library App today and enjoy the extra perks the app has to offer!

- Access your library card barcode for when you forget your physical card at checkout.
- Check your due dates and holds.
- See a book at the store and want to know if the library has it? Use the barcode scanner and check! You can place a hold on the item once scanned as well.
- Download eBooks directly to your device.
- View current library events and the library's social media accounts.



SPECIAL LIBRARY EVENTS

Illinois Libraries Present

Virtual Zoom Events | All Ages

These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. **Register at benlib.org/calendar or call the Library at (630)-766-4642.**



Surviving the Holidays with Lori Gottlieb December 6 from 7–8 PM

Lori Gottlieb joins us for a thought-provoking conversation about mental health in anticipation of the winter holiday season.



Experience The Nutcracker at Home! All Day December 16 and December 17

Watch a stage recording of The Royal Ballet's The Nutcracker from home at your convenience between December 16 and December 17.



Speculating our AI Future with Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells January 11 from 7–8 PM

The three best selling sci-fi writers will discuss the promise, perils, and possible impacts that AI will have on our future.



Meet American Cartoonist Jerry Craft to Learn How to Draw Your Own Comics

February 6 from 7–8 PM

Learn about life, art, and telling your story with bestselling author, illustrator and syndicated cartoonist, Jerry Craft. Includes a drawing demo!



Julia Quinn Discusses Bridgerton and All Things Romance

February 20 from 7–8 PM

Julia Quinn helps us feel the romance all month with a discussion about Bridgerton and all things romance.

Improv Playhouse: The Little Prince

Thursday, January 25 from 7–8 PM

Presented in Blackhawk Middle School's Auditorium
All Ages

Improv Playhouse Theater presents an original adaptation of The Little Prince! This whimsical and imaginative tale is about a Prince from Outer Space that meets an Aviator stranded in a desert, and forms an emotional and everlasting bond. A beautifully theatrical exploration of love, loss, empathy, memory, and self-fulfillment, this story reminds us that, though there are many things that adults can teach children, there are quite a few more things that children can teach adults. **Register at benlib.org/calendar or call the Library at (630)-766-4642.**



Puzzle Exchange

December 11 – January 15 | All Ages



What do you do after you finish your puzzles? Are they just lying around? Come to the library and exchange one of your puzzles for a new one! We will have a table set up in the Adult Services Department with puzzles and when you bring one in, you will be able to take another one home. Exchange one at a time, and make sure your puzzles have all of their pieces!

Blood Drive: Versiti Blood Center of Illinois

Tuesday, February 6 from 12:30–5 PM

Ages 18+ (16 & 17 with parental consent)



Versiti Blood Center of Illinois will be hosting a blood drive at the library. Donating blood is one of the quickest, yet most impactful ways to help your community.

Walk-ins are welcome, but it is recommended to reserve an appointment at: bit.ly/BloodDrive-2-6-24 (or scan the QR code). Please bring a photo ID and expect your appointment to take 45-60 minutes.



Did You Know?

Black History Display

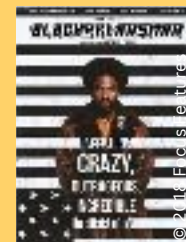
February 1 – February 29 | All Ages

Did you know that Harold Washington was the first Black Mayor of the City of Chicago in 1983? Throughout the entire month, the library will showcase portraits and biographical information highlighting the remarkable achievements of Illinois' own Black figures. Stop by the library and discover what you'll learn.

Trivia & Eats

February 29, 6:30–7:30 PM | All Ages

Come out and put your trivia game cap on as we test our knowledge of Black culture. This all-ages event will be a fun opportunity to put your knowledge to the test by answering questions about Black History, pop culture, and beyond. And the best part? We will have something delicious to eat!



Movie Night at the Library

February 14 at 6 pm | Ages 18+

Join us for a thrilling and humorous evening as we screen "BlacKkKlansman," directed by the legendary Spike Lee. This true event comedy follows the incredible story of Ron Stallworth, an African American police officer who ingeniously infiltrates the local Ku Klux Klan branch.

FAMILY FUN



DIY Stained Glass Luminary

December 11 from 6:30–7:30 PM
All Ages

Illuminate your space with your creativity! Paint your own unique and colorful mason jar luminary.

Write Your Own Book

Wednesday, December 6 from 6:30–7:30 PM | All Ages

Have you ever wanted to write and illustrate your own book? Well come on down to the library! Blank books and supplies will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Teens and adults welcome to join in on the fun!

Elf on the Shelf

December 1 thru December 22 | Ages 0–11

That tricky little Elf on the Shelf is hiding out in the library this holiday season. If you find him, you can enter the drawing that will happen on December 22 to win a fun elf-themed grand prize.



Bilingual Family Nights

Bad Art Night: Holiday Edition

December 14 from 6:30–7:30 PM | All Ages

Winter and the holiday stress getting to 'ya?! Join us for the chance to unwind and create without the expectations of making something beautiful. Create, paint, sculpt, or design whatever you can dream up. An award will be given to the piece voted Worst Art. No judgment and no registration required. Let's make something dreadful together!



Mardi Gras Masks

January 18 from 6:30–7:30 PM | All Ages

Mardi Gras is coming! Join us as we sample a Mardi Gras treat and create colorful masks for everyone in the family.



Bird Feeder Garland

February 22 from 6:30–7:30 PM | All Ages

February is National Bird Feeding Month. What better way to help birds survive the winter than by to make colorful garlands to decorate your yard and feed the birds at the same time? Make one for the library garden and several more to take home.



Mug Decorating

Wednesday, January 10 from 6:30–7:30 PM | All Ages

Do you like hot chocolate? Would you like a custom mug? Come on down to the library and decorate your very own mug! At the end of the night take home a packet of hot chocolate. All supplies will be provided.



Scavenger Hunts

All Ages | Drop-In

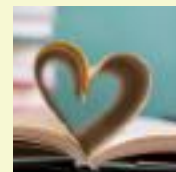
Stop by the Library and find all of the images hiding throughout the Youth Services Department to earn a prize from our treasure chest!



December Holidays
December 10–17



Winter Animals
January 14–20



Love Your Library
February 11–17

Drop-In Winter Break Crafts

All day December 26–28 and January 2–4
Ages 0–18

Bored over winter break? Stop by the library to make a craft and shake the winter blues! Please note that the library will be closed December 31 and January 1.

Mini Canvas Painting

January 24 and February 28 from 6:30–7:30 PM

All Ages, Teens and Adults Welcome!

Join us for a night of painting! Take a mini canvas and decorate it however you'd like. Please wear something you won't mind getting dirty! All materials will be provided.



Get access to free and discounted tickets to museums, zoos, parks, science centers, sporting events, cultural venues, and more!

Explore More Illinois can be accessed 24/7 from any computer, tablet, or smartphone.

To get started, scan the QR code or call **(630)-766-4642** and ask for Youth Services.



Family Art Night

Ages 0–11

Join us the last Tuesdays of the month from September to November to create amazing crafts with your family!



Pet Blankets and Photo Frames

December 5 from 6:30–8 PM

We'll be making no-sew fleece pet blankets and a special frame for their photo with Santa, who'll be our special visitor that night! Ho, ho, ho!



No Sew Fleece Heart Pillow

January 30 from 6:30–7:30 PM

Looking for a super sweet valentine pillow to share? These easy peasy fleece tie pillows are the perfect craft just in time for Valentine's Day.



Lucky Leprechaun Jar

February 27 from 6:30–7:30 PM

This little leprechaun is all ready to hold your favorite candy or whatever else you choose. Popping up just in time for St. Patrick's Day too!

Trivia Night at Green St. Grille

Mondays from 7–9 PM

December 4, January 8, and February 5

Gather your friends and family to compete against other teams by answering questions about history, pop culture, and more. The top 3 teams with the most points win gift cards! **Walk-ins are welcome, but we recommend calling (630)-474-1201 to reserve a table at Green St. Grille.**

English / Español Conversation Group

Mondays from 7–9 PM

December 11 through January 15

Join our English/ Spanish Conversation Group, where you will meet new people, practice your English/ Spanish, and socialize.



**Where Adventure
& Discovery are
Waiting For You!**

Get a **Museum Adventure Pass** with your library card at the Youth Services Desk. Enjoy free or discounted access to 24 different museums and attractions in the Chicagoland area.

To view all of the attractions and available passes, scan the QR code or call **(630)-766-4642** and ask for Youth Services.



Family Movie Night

January 9 and February 6 from 6:30–8:30 PM | All Ages

A night at the movies is always fun! We will be showing films that are sure to delight children and adults alike with family friendly themes and positive messages. Bring in your own favorite snacks and enjoy! Movies will be announced at the library one month prior to showing.

Crafting for a Cause: Project Linus

Monday, January 15 from 6:30–8 PM | All Ages

Make no-sew blankets to donate to Project Linus. All blankets will go to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. This is a great opportunity to earn community service hours.



Crafty Card Nights



Holiday Card Decorating Party

December 13 from 6:30–7:30 PM | All Ages

Craft a festive holiday card tailored for someone dear to your heart! We've got all the supplies covered.



Valentine's Day Card Decorating Party

February 7 from 6:30–7:30 PM | All Ages

Stop by the library and create a Valentine's Day card for a special someone in your life! We've got all the supplies covered.

EARLY READER STORYTIMES AGES 0-KINDERGARTEN

Early Learning Storytimes To-Go

Ages 0-5

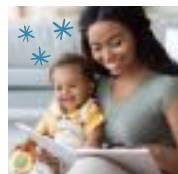
Would you like to do your own storytime at home? Check out one of our bundles that will include a book, a craft, an activity page and a song or rhyme. Just grab-and-go to make your own special moment at home. These kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Tons of Holiday Cheer!

Pickup on Saturday, December 16 from 9-5

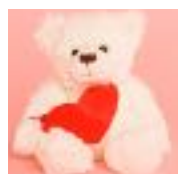
Celebrate the wonders of this season with a fun story and craft that will have your jingle bells ringing!



Wonderful Winter Tales

Pickup on Saturday, January 20 from 9-5

Snuggle up with your favorite blanket and share one of our winter-themed books and a craft, sure to chase away the cold and warm your heart.



I Love You SOOO Much!

Pickup on Saturday, February 17 from 9-5

Love is the sweetest thing! Share a story of love with your little one and enjoy making a heart craft together too.

Cuentos en Español

Thursdays from 6:30-7 PM | Ages 4-8
December 7
January 11, 25
February 8, 29

Looking to promote early literacy in Spanish? Come and join us as we read our favorite books and craft something wonderful - all in Spanish!



Polish Storytime

First Thursdays of the month from 10-10:30 AM | Ages 0-6
December 7, January 4, February 1

Join Ms. Maggie for a family storytime! We will be reading books both from American and Polish authors. Later children are encouraged to make fun crafts and play interactive games!



Little Learners

Tuesdays from 11:30 AM-12 PM | Ages 3-5
December 5 thru February 27 (No Dec 26 or Jan 2)

Come on down for a story time geared towards preschool students! Afterwards we will do a fun craft and play!

Book Buddies

Wednesdays from 10:30-11:15 AM | Ages 0-5
December 6, 13, 20
January 10, 17, 24, 31
February 7, 14, 21, 28

You and your little ones are invited to join Ms. Diane for an enchanting themed storytime experience with picture books that will warm your heart. For a special touch, we'll end each session by making a delightful craft for you to take home.

Yoga Storytime

Thursdays from 11:30 AM-12 PM | Ages 4 and up
December 7 thru February 29

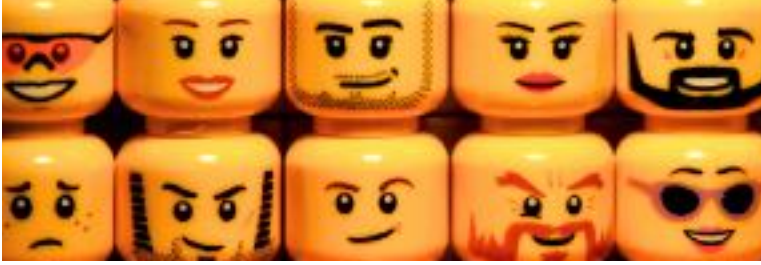
Join Ms. Stephanie for a yoga storytime! Practice and learn new yoga poses with your little ones, and enjoy a yoga-themed story too. Due to restricted space, this program is limited to 10 yogis- we recommend arriving a few minutes early to secure a spot.



Winter Reading Challenge

Challenge yourself to read five hours this winter. Earn a free book, a drawing ticket for 1 of 3 prize baskets, and a free slice of cake from Portillos! Write a book review to earn a bonus prize from our treasure chest!





LEGO Night

Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM | Ages 3-11
December 12, January 16, February 13

Hang out with other LEGO lovers as you create your own one-of-a-kind builds. When building time is up, you will have the opportunity to take a photo with your awesome creation and even grab a yummy snack to take home.

Bingo For Kids

Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM | Ages 3-11
December 19, January 23, February 20

Test your luck with Ms. Diane and Ms. Penny for a night of gaming fun as we play bingo at the library! Every child that joins us will receive a fun bag of prizes at the end of play.



Monday Mayhem

December 4, 11, 18 from 3:30-4:30 PM | Ages 8-13


Monday Mayhem is a time to kick-back, relax, and have some fun. It might be a game, a craft, a film, a project - who knows? You might even learn something. The only guarantee - it will be fun!

School Holiday Cookies & Crafts

January 15 (Martin Luther King Day) from 11 AM-12 PM
February 19 (President's Day) from 11 AM-12 PM
Ages 0-11

Are you looking for a fun activity to do on your no-school holiday? Drop in and join Ms. Diane and Ms. Penny to create some awesome winter-themed crafts. You will be able to sample a delicious cookie while you create too!






Wonderbook

THE READ-ALONG BY PLAYAWAY™

A Wonderbook is a print book with a ready-to-play audiobook inside. Kids press play to read along with their favorite books and then switch to learning mode for literacy learning fun!



DECEMBER 20 THRU JANUARY 31
AGES 0-18

Visit the library to pick up your bookmark at the Youth Services Desk, or log your hours online in BeanStack.



TWEENS AND TEENS 6TH-12TH GRADE

After School Gaming

Tuesdays from 2:30-4 PM | Grades 6th-8th
December 5 thru February 27 (No Dec 26 or Jan 2)



Join us on early dismissal days for some gaming fun on the library's Nintendo Switch! Play Mario Kart, Mario Party, Smash Bros., Kirby, and more!

Super Smash Bros. Club

Monday, February 19 from 2:30-4 PM
Grades 6th-12th



Need something to do on your day off from school? Come on down to the library and play Super Smash Bros.! No experience necessary.



DUNGEONS & DRAGONS®

D&D: A Starry Breach

January 24 from 3:30-5 PM
Ages 12-18

Make some new friends while playing this casual and new-player-friendly role-playing game. Decide what character you want to be and explore a cosmic rift at an abandoned arctic outpost in this D&D one-shot.

Hot Chocolate and Movie Night for Teens!

Ages 13 and up

Are you looking for something to do on a cold winter's night? Let's make some hot chocolate together and watch a movie at the library!



Castle in the Sky (Rated PG)

Wednesday, January 17 from 5:30-8 PM

"Castle in the Sky" is a Studio Ghibli masterpiece about a boy and a girl seeking a legendary floating castle, battling pirates and robots while uncovering ancient mysteries in a fantastical world.



Twilight (Rated PG-13)

Wednesday, February 14 from 5:30-8 PM

In "Twilight," a teenage girl falls in love with a vampire, sparking a dangerous romance amid a supernatural world. Their relationship is tested by vampires, werewolves, and mortal challenges.

Book Speed Dating

Wednesday, February 14 from 3:30-4:30 PM
Ages 12-18

Sample our hottest new YA books, enjoy a Valentine's Day treat, and spin the wheel to win a prize!



LIBRARY OF THINGS

Discover a new hobby
or try something
different by borrowing
an item using your
library card!



Karaoke Microphone



Ring Light



Pickleball Set



Instax Mini 9 Camera

Digital Art Contest for Teens

Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2024 | Ages 12-18

Do you like to make digital art of any kind? Submit up to 3 pieces of original artwork by January 31 to enter our first ever virtual art contest! All artwork will be displayed in the library. Three gift card winners will be selected by library staff based on creativity and execution.

Contest Rules:

- All artists must be between the ages of 12-18 and live in our service area.
- Up to 3 submissions per artist, please.
- All artwork must be submitted in digital format as a JPG, JPEG, PNG, PDF, or GIF to the Youth Services email: youthservices@benlib.org
- Artwork must not be derogatory, threatening, defamatory, or contain any content that is deemed inappropriate by library staff.
- Please include your name, age, and contact information with your submission. Only first names will be displayed with the artwork.



6TH-12TH GRADE **TWEENS AND TEENS**

FSA ID Workshop

December 16 from 2-3:30 PM | Grades 12 and up

ISAC representatives will lead college applicants and their parents through the process of creating the username and password needed to apply for financial aid. Bring a laptop to fill out the online application.

FAFSA Completion Workshop

January 13 from 2-3:30 PM | Grades 12 and up

ISAC representatives will lead college applicants and their parents through the process of filling out the free application for financial aid. Bring a laptop to fill out the online application.



Middle School Anime Club

December 7, January 11, and February 1 from 3:30-4:30 PM
Grades 6th-8th

Drop by after school and watch some anime with friends. Snacks will be provided!



Black Talent on Display: Featuring Delightfully Sweet!

February 15 from 6-7:30 PM | Ages 8-16

Join us for a night of marshmallow decorating with Vivian Lopez, a local Illinois resident and the owner of Delightfully Sweet. Vivian will share her tips and tricks on dipping and decorating sweet treats as she shows us how to create our own marshmallow masterpieces. Families will be given two marshmallows per child to decorate.



Space is limited to 15 participants. Registration is required online at bit.ly/Sweet-Marshmallows or call (630)-766-4642.

JOIN THE CONVO



Discord



Connect with other teens who share your interests, get access to exclusive library news and events, have a safe space to ask questions, seek advice, and more!



To join, visit bit.ly/Teen-Space or scan the QR code today!



**COMICS
PLUS**
TEEN LIBRARY

SCAN ME
TO START
READING
DIGITALLY!



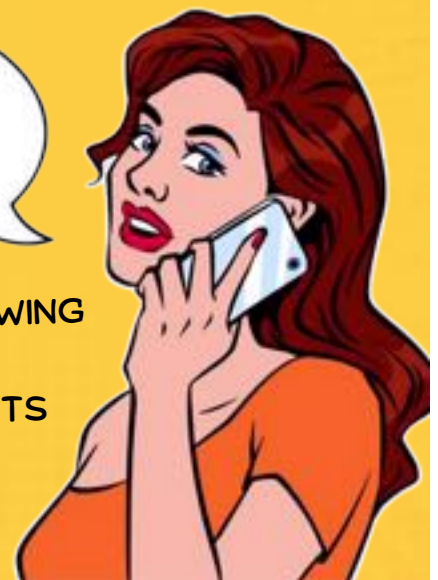
BENLIB.ORG/COMICSPLUS

DID YOU KNOW
YOU HAVE UNLIMITED
ACCESS TO 1000'S
OF DIGITAL COMICS,
GRAPHIC NOVELS,
AND MANGA?

**NO! BORROWING
LIMITS**

NO! WAITLISTS

NO! HOLDS





The History of The Beatles in One Hour


Wednesday, February 21 from 7–8 PM | Virtual Zoom Event
Adults and Teens Welcome

Help us celebrate the 60th anniversary of The Beatles' first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show with music historian Gary Wenstrup and his rockin' presentation of the history of The Beatles on Zoom. **Register online at bit.ly/Beatles-60, scan the code, or call (630)-766-4642.**

President Who? Lesser-Known Presidents in America

Wednesday, January 31 from 7–8 PM | Virtual Zoom Event
For Adults

Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Kennedy: these are familiar names to most Americans. But have you heard of Millard Fillmore, Chester A. Arthur, or Benjamin Harrison? We will discuss these and other lesser-known Presidents and have a conversation about who these men were, how they became President, and what they did once they had achieved that office. We will also discuss their spouses, families, and lives after their presidency.

 **Register online at bit.ly/President-Who**
Scan the QR code to register,
or call (630)-766-4642.



Winter Prairie Wonders with Cindy Crosby

Wednesday, January 17 from 7–8 PM | Virtual Zoom Event
Adults and Teens Welcome

Enjoy lovely photography of the snow-covered prairie as you hear stories of how animals, pollinators, and birds use the prairie for overwintering... then listen to prairie readings that will warm your soul. **Registration is required at bit.ly/Winter-Prairie, or call (630)-766-4642.**

Downsize and Declutter Without the Dumpster

Thursday, January 18 from 7–8 PM | All Ages

Did you do some decluttering of your holiday decorations? Looking to downsize your home as you or a family member move to a new home this spring? Learn how to minimize your impact on the planet while minimizing your possessions with a presenter from SCARCE. We will go over where to donate, what to recycle, and how to safely dispose of items as you clean out your home.

Resident Rights: Advocating for Loved Ones in Long-Term Care Facilities

Thursday, January 18 from 7–8:15 PM | For Adults

The Illinois Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program presents how to advocate for residents of nursing homes and other types of long-term care facilities. Ombudsman will share how they problem-solve for individuals and influence policy.



Fashionable: The Life and Fame of Edith Head

Thursday, February 15 from 7–8 PM
Adults and Teens Welcome

Historical presenter Michelle Gibbons will explore the influential costume designer Edith Head and her collaborations with famous Hollywood stars. Head's innovative work not only shaped the fashion industry but also established the iconic presence it maintains today.

Estate Planning: What You Need to Know

Thursday, January 25 from 7–8:15 PM
For Adults

Most people know that they should have a will, but why? Join Attorney Robert Varak to learn all the basics of the estate planning process, how to go about finding a qualified attorney, what is involved on their part, and how much the process should cost them. It's the perfect one-stop primer to learn about wills, trusts, guardianship, powers of attorney, and other sometimes intimidating but universally important topics.



Dementia 101 for Caregivers

Saturday, January 20 from 1–2 PM | For Adults

Joyce Molino discusses the impact of Alzheimer's and other progressive dementias on loved ones who are caretakers. More than 70% of people with these diseases continue to live at home where family and friends provide most of their care. Joyce will discuss the heavy emotional, physical, and financial stress on caregivers and will offer insights into medical and financial decisions that will help caregivers find support and coping strategies.



Winter Sowing

Thursday, February 1 from 7–8 PM
For Adults

Have you heard of winter sowing? It's a simple technique for starting seeds because it's easy, doesn't take up indoor space, uses recycled materials, and is a low-cost way to produce a lot of seedlings. It's very effective for many types of vegetable, perennial, annual, and herb seeds. You will get step-by-step instructions for sowing seeds in milk jugs and take some home to get you started.

Christmas on State Street with Historian Leslie Goddard

Wednesday, December 13 from 7–8 PM
Virtual Zoom Event
Adults and Teens Welcome

Historian Leslie Goddard's illustrated talk traces the history of opulent and traditional Christmas celebrations on State Street through vintage photographs, ads, postcards, menus, and memorabilia. Register at bit.ly/Leslie-G, scan the QR code, or call (630)-766-4642.



Intro to Computers

For Adults 18 and older

Have you ever wanted to learn how to use a computer, but don't know where to get started? In this two part class, you will learn the basics to get you comfortable using a computer. **Registration is required and limited to 8 students. Visit benlib.org/calendar or call (630)-766-4642.**



Intro to Computers: Part 1

Wednesday, January 24 from 6–7 PM

We will start with the basic knowledge you need to know about how to use a computer.



Intro to Computers: Part 2

Wednesday, February 21 from 6–7 PM

In this second part, we will learn how to access the internet and open different tabs.



Jump Start Your Genealogy: Ancestry Library Edition

January 20 and February 17 from 2–3 PM

Adults and Teens Welcome

Come to the library to learn how to use Ancestry Library Edition to get help with your family tree project, or for help on your existing genealogy project. All levels of experience are welcome to attend. Don't forget to bring a USB drive or external hard drive if you want to save your work.



Building Better Habits: Goal Setting for Success

Monday, January 15 from 7–8 PM | All Ages

Do you find yourself setting New Year's resolutions each year only to have them fall by the wayside? Join registered dietician-nutritionist Katie Fischer for a presentation and goal-setting workshop to set yourself up for success this year! Learn some strategies to overcome hurdles that come with the normal flow of life and set some sustainable goals this year.

ADULTS CRAFTS AND GAMES

Anytime Craft Kits

For Adults

Get crafty on your own time with Anytime Craft Kits! Kits are available all week long beginning on the first Saturday of the month at the Circulation Desk, or while supplies last. Each kit includes materials and instructions for one project. Anytime Craft Kits are for adults only on a first-come, first-served basis. Limit one craft per adult and holds are not allowed.



Jenga Block Ornament

Pickup beginning Saturday, December 2

Repurpose jenga blocks and make these adorable mini frame Christmas ornaments.



Clay Pot Snowman

Pickup beginning Saturday, January 6

This clay pot snowman craft will be an adorable addition to your winter decorations.



Heart Paper Wreath

Pickup beginning Saturday, February 3

Decorative scrapbook paper will be the highlight of this lovely paper wreath, perfect to put up on display before Valentine's Day.



DIY Mixed Media Crafting

For Adults | Virtual Zoom Event

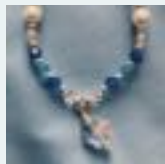
Get ready for a crafty adventure with Mary as your virtual guide on Zoom! Follow her step-by-step instructions and create these stunning crafts that will leave your friends and family in awe! **Registration is required at benlib.org/calendar. Registration ends 1 week before each event, and an email confirmation will be sent to pickup your craft kit at the library. Each craft is limited to 15 participants.**



Clothespin Snowflake

Wednesday, December 6 from 7–8 PM on Zoom

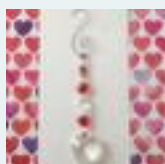
Craft this simple rustic snowflake/star ornament with clothespins and a hot glue gun, then use it to decorate a wreath, door, or your holiday tree.



Ice & Snow Bracelet

Thursday, January 11 from 7–8 PM on Zoom

Using glass pearls, a snowflake charm, and crystals in icy winter hues, join Mary to create this lovely stretch cord bracelet.



Crystal Heart Suncatcher

Thursday, February 8 from 7–8 PM on Zoom

Celebrate "Hearts Day" by stringing this sweet and sparkly suncatcher to give as a gift or to remind you of a special loved one!



Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, December 2 from 10 AM – 1 PM

Sunday, December 3 from 1–4 PM

Looking for a unique gift for someone special in your life? Our local artists and crafters are selling their handmade arts and crafts, just in time for the holiday season! Be sure to stop in on both days.



Gifts in a Jar

Tuesday, December 12 from 7–8 PM

For Adults

Some of the best gifts come in mason jars and are handmade with love. Making edible and homemade gifts in these jars is easy and fun. Come join us as we make and decorate two jars that you can either give as gifts or keep for yourself.



Bow Making

Saturday, December 16 from 2–3 PM

For Adults

What makes a gift stand out from others? The presentation, of course! Visit the library on December 13th to learn how to make bows to decorate your house or your gifts. All materials will be supplied and you will make your own bow maker.



Heart Pinch Bowl

Tuesday, February 13 from 6–7 PM

For Adults

Do you need a last minute Valentine's Day gift that comes from the heart? Join us and make your own personalized pinched heart bowl that can be used as catch all.

Cards & Games Social Club

Thursdays from 6:30–8 PM

December 14, January 11, and February 8

For Adults

Join us on Thursday evenings for quality adult time playing cards and board games. Bring a friend and a game of your own if you can!

Needle Guild

Tuesdays from 6–7 PM

December 5 and 19

January 9 and 23

February 6 and 20

For Adults

Calling all knitting, crochet, and embroidery enthusiasts! Are you eager to expand your skills and meet fellow crafters? Look no further than The Needle Guild, your ultimate creative hub.



Lit Chicks Book Club

Teens and Adults Welcome | Virtual

We read a variety of subgenres in young adult fiction, including but not limited to realistic fiction, mystery, fantasy, and more!

Register online at
benlib.org/calendar
or call (630)-766-4642.



December 18
from 7–8 PM
on Zoom

If I Tell You by J.W. Lynne

My name is Jenna. I'm 16. And I think my dad is a serial killer. If you like suspenseful murder mystery thrillers, you will love this book!



January 15
from 7–8 PM
on Zoom

Brighter Than The Sun by Daniel Aleman

This is a thought-provoking story about a teen girl shouldering impossibly large responsibilities and learning she doesn't have to do it all alone.



February 19
from 7–8 PM
on Zoom

All That's Left to Say by Emery Lord

A poignant and powerful story of a grieving girl willing to risk everything.

True Stories Book Club

Ages 18+ | Virtual

Join us for fascinating biographies, memoirs, and true stories this winter. Books will be available one month before the discussion at the Circulation Desk. **Register online at**

benlib.org/calendar
or call (630)-766-4642.



**Monday,
December 11**
from 1–2 PM

George by Frieda Hughes

In the Welsh countryside, Frieda Hughes' plans shifted unexpectedly. She rescued a baby magpie, sparking a life-changing obsession.



**Monday,
January 8**
from 1–2 PM

The Power of Trees by Peter Wohlleben

Wohlleben explores how forests shape climates, tree adaptation, and their survival strategies for climate change.



**Monday,
February 12**
from 1–2 PM

Walking with Sam by Andrew M.

Andrew and his son embarked on a 500-mile journey across Spain's Camino de Santiago to strengthen their bond.

Thursday Night Book Club

Ages 18+ | Virtual

We explore a diverse selection of books including popular titles, best-sellers, and more! Books will be available one month before the discussion at the Circulation Desk.

Register online at
benlib.org/calendar
or call (630)-766-4642.



**Thursday,
December 7**
from 7–8 PM

Carrie Soto is Back by Taylor J. Reid

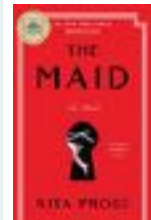
Retired tennis champ Carrie Soto, 37, returns after witnessing her 20 Grand Slam titles broken, determined to reclaim her title.



**Thursday,
January 4**
from 7–8 PM

The Light Pirate by Lily Brooks

This story of survival and resilience follows Wanda—a child born out of a devastating hurricane—as she navigates a rapidly changing world.



**Thursday,
February 1**
from 7–8 PM

The Maid by Nita Prose

Explores sameness, uniqueness, and solving mysteries through deep connections to the human heart.

Book Brunch

Ages 18+

We explore a diverse selection of literature including popular titles, best-selling books, award-winning works, and more! Books will be available one month before the discussion at the Circulation Desk.



**Wednesday,
December 13**
from 2–3 PM

Carrie Soto is Back by Taylor J. Reid

Retired tennis champ Carrie Soto, 37, returns after witnessing her 20 Grand Slam titles broken, determined to reclaim her title.



**Wednesday,
January 10**
from 2–3 PM

The Light Pirate by Lily Brooks

This story of survival and resilience follows Wanda—a child born out of a devastating hurricane—as she navigates a rapidly changing world.



**Wednesday,
February 14**
from 2–3 PM

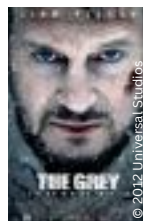
The Maid by Nita Prose

Explores sameness, uniqueness, and solving mysteries through deep connections to the human heart.

Not a Book Club – Film Talk

Ages 18+

Share your perspectives with fellow movie enthusiasts in vibrant discussions about these hand-picked titles by Emily every month. Copies of the movies will be available one month before the discussion at the Circulation Desk.



**Wednesday,
December 20**
from 7–8 PM

The Grey

After their plane crashes in Alaska, seven oil workers are led by a skilled huntsman to survival, but a pack of wolves haunts their every step.



**Wednesday,
January 17**
from 7–8 PM

In Time

In a future where aging stops at 25, Will Salas faces murder accusations, navigating immortality and rebellion.



**Wednesday,
February 21**
from 7–8 PM


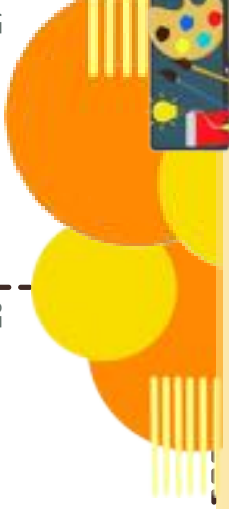
Groundhog Day

"What would you do if you were stuck in one place, and everything that you did was the same, and nothing mattered?"

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Ages 0-18: Challenge yourself to read 5 hours this winter. Earn a free book, a drawing ticket for 1 of 3 prize baskets, and a slice of Portillos cake! Write a book review to earn a bonus prize from our treasure chest! Visit the library to pick up your bookmark at the Youth Desk, or log your hours in BeanStack.</p> <p>Arts & Crafts Fair 1-4 PM</p>	<p>Ages 18+: Pick up a bookmark at the Adult Services Desk and complete 4 of the challenges to be entered to win an Amazon Fire 7 tablet!</p> <p>Winter Reading Challenge for All Ages December 20-January 31</p>					
<p>3</p> <p>Arts & Crafts Fair 1-4 PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Monday Mayhem 3:30 PM</p> <p>Trivia Night @ Green St 7 PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Little Learners 11:30 AM</p> <p>Pet Pictures with Santa & Pet Blankets & Frames 6:30 PM</p> <p>After School Gaming 2:30 PM</p> <p>Needle Guild 6 PM</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Book Buddies 10:30 AM</p> <p>DIY Mixed Media Crafting 7 PM</p> <p>Write Your Own Book 6:30 PM</p> <p>ILP-Lori Gottlieb 7 PM</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Polish Storytime 10 AM</p> <p>Yoga Storytime 11:30 AM</p> <p>M. School Anime Club 3:30 PM</p> <p>Cuentos en Español 6:30 PM</p> <p>Thursday Night Book Club 7 PM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Elf on the Shelf Begins! Dec 1 thru Dec 22</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Fireside Concert with Brad Conroy 1 PM</p> <p>Arts & Crafts Fair 10 AM - 1 PM</p> <p>Anytime Craft Kits All Day Pickup</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Scavenger Hunt: December Holidays Dec 10 thru Dec 17</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Puzzle Exchange Begins! True Stories Book Club 1 PM</p> <p>Monday Mayhem 3:30 PM</p> <p>DIY Stained Luminary 6:30 PM</p> <p>Eng/Esp Conversation Group 7 PM</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Little Learners 11:30 AM</p> <p>After School Gaming 2:30 PM</p> <p>LEGO Night 6:30 PM</p> <p>Gifts in a Jar 7 PM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Book Buddies 10:30 AM</p> <p>Book Brunch 2 PM</p> <p>Holiday Card Party 6:30 PM</p> <p>Christmas on State St. 7 PM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Yoga Storytime 11:30 AM</p> <p>Bad Art Night: Holiday Ed. 6:30 PM</p> <p>Cards & Games Social Club 6:30 PM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Holiday Open House 4:30-7 PM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Early Learning Storytimes To-Go 9 AM - 5 PM</p> <p>ILP-The Nutcracker All Day</p> <p>FSA ID Workshop 2 PM</p> <p>Bow Making 2 PM</p>
<p>17</p> <p>ILP-The Nutcracker All Day</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Monday Mayhem 3:30 PM</p> <p>Lit Chicks Book Club 7 PM</p> <p>Eng/Esp Conversation Group 7 PM</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Little Learners 11:30 AM</p> <p>Bingo for Kids 6:30 PM</p> <p>After School Gaming 2:30 PM</p> <p>Needle Guild 6 PM</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Winter Reading Challenge Begins!</p> <p>Book Buddies 10:30 AM</p> <p>Not a Book Club-Film Talk 7 PM</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Yoga Storytime 11:30 AM</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Library is Closed</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Library is Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Drop-in Winter Break Crafts Starts Today! All Day</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Drop-in Winter Break Crafts All Day</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Drop-in Winter Break Crafts All Day</p> <p>Yoga Storytime 11:30 AM</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Library is Closed</p>	<p>merry Christmas</p>				<p>Hot tip! You can keep track of library events happening every day of the week by cutting out these calendar pages and hanging them on your fridge!</p>	

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Library is Closed 	2 Drop-in Winter Break Crafts All Day	3 Drop-in Winter Break Crafts All Day	4 Drop-in Winter Break Crafts All Day Polish Storytime 10 AM Yoga Storytime 11:30 AM Thursday Night Book Club 7 PM	5 	6 Anytime Craft Kits All Day Pickup
	7 True Stories Book Club 1 PM Trivia Night @ Green St 7 PM Eng/Esp Conversation Group 7 PM	8 Little Learners 11:30 AM After School Gaming 2:30 PM Needle Guild 6 PM Family Movie Night 6:30 PM	9 Book Buddies 10:30 AM Book Brunch 2 PM Mug Decorating 6:30 PM	10 Yoga Storytime 11:30 AM M. School Anime Club 3:30 PM Cards & Games 6:30 PM Cuentos en Español 6:30 PM ILP-AI Future 7 PM DIY Mixed Media Crafting 7 PM	12 FAFSA Workshop 2 PM	13
14 Scavenger Hunt: Winter Animals Jan 14 thru Jan 20	15 School Holiday Cookies & Crafts 11 AM Crafting for a Cause 6:30 PM Building Better Habits 7 PM Lit Chicks Book Club 7 PM Eng/Esp Conversation Group 7 PM	16 Little Learners 11:30 AM After School Gaming 2:30 PM LEGO Night 6:30 PM	17 Book Buddies 10:30 AM Hot Cocoa & Movie Night for Teens 5:30 PM Winter Prairie 7 PM Not a Book Club-Film Talk 7 PM	18 Yoga Storytime 11:30 AM Mardi Gras Masks 6:30 PM Downsize & Declutter 7 PM Resident Rights 7 PM	19 Early Learning Storytimes To-Go 9 AM - 5 PM Dementia 101 1 PM Jump Start Genealogy 2 PM	20
21 	22 Little Learners 11:30 AM After School Gaming 2:30 PM Needle Guild 6 PM Bingo for Kids 6:30 PM	23 Little Learners 11:30 AM After School Gaming 2:30 PM Needle Guild 6 PM Bingo for Kids 6:30 PM	24 Book Buddies 10:30 AM D&D: A Starry Breach 3:30 PM Intro to Computers: Pt. 1 7 PM Mini Canvas Painting 6:30 PM	25 Yoga Storytime 11:30 AM Cuentos en Español 6:30 PM Estate Planning 7 PM Improv Playhouse at Blackhawk Middle School 7 PM	26 	27
28 	29 Little Learners 11:30 AM After School Gaming 2:30 PM No Sew Heart Pillow 6:30 PM	30 Little Learners 11:30 AM After School Gaming 2:30 PM No Sew Heart Pillow 6:30 PM	31 Book Buddies 10:30 AM President Who? 7 PM Last Day to Submit Art for Digital Art Contest	<div>  <h2>Digital Art Contest for Teens</h2> <p>Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2024 Ages 12-18</p> <p>Do you like to make digital art of any kind? Submit up to 3 pieces of original artwork by January 31 to enter our first ever virtual art contest! All artwork will be displayed in the library. Three gift card winners will be selected by library based on creativity and execution.</p> </div>		

February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div><div>Did You Know?</div><div>BLACK HISTORY DISPLAY</div><div>On display all month long in February</div></div> <div></div>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Trivia Night @ Green St 7 PM	Little Learners 11:30 AM Versiti Blood Drive 12:30-5 PM After School Gaming 2:30 PM Needle Guild 6 PM Family Movie Night 6:30 PM ILP-Jerry Craft 7 PM	Book Buddies 10:30 AM Valentine's Card Party 6:30 PM	Yoga Storytime 11:30 AM Cards & Games Social Club 6:30 PM Cuentos en Español 6:30 PM DIY Mixed Media Crafting 7 PM		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Scavenger Hunt: Love Your Library Feb 11 thru Feb 17	True Stories Book Club 1 PM	Little Learners 11:30 AM After School Gaming 2:30 PM Heart Pinch Bowl 6 PM LEGO Night 6:30 PM	Book Buddies 10:30 AM Book Brunch 2 PM Book Speed Dating 3:30 PM Hot Cocoa & Movie Night for Teens 5:30 PM Movie Night @ BCPL 6 PM	Yoga Storytime 11:30 AM Delightfully Sweet 6 PM Life & Fame of Edith Head 7 PM		Early Learning Storytimes To-Go 9 AM - 5 PM Jump Start Genealogy 2 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
School Holiday Cookies & Crafts 11 AM Super Smash Bros. Club 2:30 PM Lit Chicks Book Club 7 PM	Little Learners 11:30 AM After School Gaming 2:30 PM Needle Guild 6 PM Bingo for Kids 6:30 PM ILP-Julia Quinn 7 PM	Book Buddies 10:30 AM Intro to Computers: Pt. 2 6 PM The Beatles in One Hour 7 PM Not a Book Club-Film Talk 7 PM	Yoga Storytime 11:30 AM Bird Feeder Garland 6:30 PM			
25	26	27	28	29	<div><div>Spring is around the corner!</div><div></div><div>The Seed Library opens March 1st!</div></div>	