

T

The Ford Connection

The Thomas Ford Memorial Library

SPRING 2024

you

belong

here

*Cover Painting
by Gary Ainge*

800 Chestnut Street | fordlibrary.org | (708) 246-0520

ADULT

Registration opens on **Wednesday, February 28** for all Adult programs.

Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. Register online, in person, or by calling (708) 246-0520.

📌 Registration required

Singing Bird and the Importance of Native American Women in Illinois History 📌

Wednesday, March 13, 7 p.m.

Dressed in her native regalia, Kim Sigafus will talk about the key role native women, considered “The Hidden Half,” played in both their family units and Illinois history. Kim will explore the stories of women like Singing Bird, Blackhawk’s wife, and Hononegah of the Rock River Valley. Through their stories, you will experience their day-to-day lives, learn native language and music, and see and hold native items similar to ones the women would have used.

The Great North American Eclipse 📌

Monday, March 25, 7 p.m.

There is an impressive solar eclipse just around the corner on April 8! Learn what eclipses are, where to see them, when to look, and how to view solar eclipses safely. All program attendees will also receive a solar eclipse viewer!

Open Mic Night!

Wednesday, April 10 📌

6:30 p.m.

All Ages Welcome!

Read, perform, or sing your heart out! All ages and genres are invited to read or perform a piece of their own original work that is no longer than five minutes. This event is co-hosted by the Western Springs Writers’ Society, and anyone is welcome to attend as part of the audience!

Water-Wise Gardening 📌

Monday, April 15, 7 p.m.

Even if it’s not a drought year, proper watering is very important for our gardens. This program by Sharon Yiesla Horticulture Services covers basic watering techniques, tools, and water-efficient plans.

AI: ChatGPT and Beyond 📌

Wednesday, April 24, 7 p.m.

ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence technologies are taking the world by storm. Learn more about AI with Mike Gershbein of Very Smart People, who will explore the most talked about image generation and large language models, as well as offer a glimpse of the future implications of AI on the workplace and society.



Looking for our Spring Crafts? You can find them on the back cover of this newsletter!



Building Mental Muscle 📌

Tuesday, May 7, 10 a.m.

Work out your brain in this fun interactive presentation! Learn how the brain works, what activities you can do to keep it healthy, and play some “brain games” with Patti Terkovich, Certified Dementia Practitioner at The Birches of Clarendon Hills.

Yellow Peril Past and Present: Understanding Asian America through Personal and Historical Stories 📌

Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m.

Educator-turned-artist Dr. Ada Cheng will weave personal stories to highlight the myth of the model minority, the image of the perpetual foreigner, and the negative impact of stereotypes and practices on Asian Americans and their mental health under the global pandemic. Ada will also describe the historical context of laws and regulations that have contributed to the construction of Asian Americans as the “other” historically.



Spring Virtual Programming

The following virtual events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration between public libraries offering high-quality events. ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility. To request accommodations, please email illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com. View full program details and the most up-to-date information at fordlibrary.org.

7 p.m. start time for all



Ruth E. Carter 📌

Wednesday, March 20
The Academy Award-winning costume designer explores the balance between tradition and imagination, including her work on Malcolm X, Selma, and Black Panther.



Dr. Temple Grandin 📌

Wednesday, April 3
Learn about the hidden gifts of neurodiversity from the one of the world’s most accomplished and well-known adults and activists with autism.



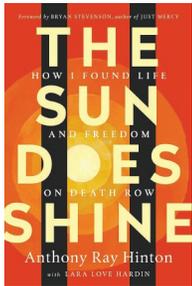
Kal Penn 📌

Wednesday, May 7
The multi-hyphenate talks about his varied experience as an actor, writer, producer, and his former role as the Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.

books

Library book club discussion groups are open to anyone who enjoys good books! Extra copies are available at the Library one month before the discussion.

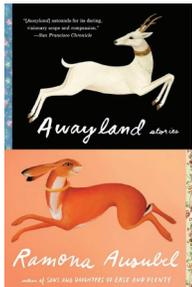
7:30 p.m. start time for all



Wednesday, March 6
The Sun Does Shine
by Anthony Ray Hinton
Memoir

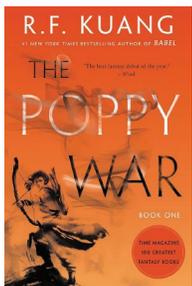


Wednesday, April 3
Mockingbird Summer
by Lynda Rutledge
Fiction



Wednesday, May 1
Awayland
by Ramona Ausubel
Fiction

Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club



Monday, May 13
The Poppy War
by R.F. Kuang
Sci-Fi & Fantasy

JOIN THE CLUB!

Spice of the Month

Feeling inspired by flavor? Pick up a Spice of the Month kit! Each kit will come with the necessary spice, a recipe to try, and cookbook recommendations that feature more meals with each month's theme. While supplies last.

March 26: Tarragon
April 30: Cloves
May 28: Everything Spice

Special Seasonal Opportunities

FREE Eclipse Glasses

All Ages
Starting Monday, March 4
Stop by so you can safely view the upcoming eclipse on April 8! Glasses will be available at the Reference Desk on a first come, first serve basis. One per person. While supplies last.

FREE Comic Book Day

All Ages
Saturday, May 4
Free comic books will be available all day! While supplies last.

Reader's Night In

Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.
Need some reading inspiration or want to share some reading inspiration? Socialize with other readers and share favorite titles or recent reads. Light refreshments will be provided.

Classroom Kitchen

Virtual Programs with Kristyn Slick



Baking with Tea [®]
Wednesday, March 20
6:30 p.m.
Learn how to use this aromatic ingredient to liven up your baking!



Springtime in Italy [®]
Wednesday, April 17
6:30 p.m.
Capture the essence of Italian cuisine with seasonal flavors!



Picnic Perfection [®]
Wednesday, May 22
6:30 p.m.
Create fresh salads, gourmet sandwiches, and portable desserts to enjoy outdoors!

films

A series of independent, foreign, and documentary films with optional discussion after each screening. Registration required.

6 p.m. start time for all

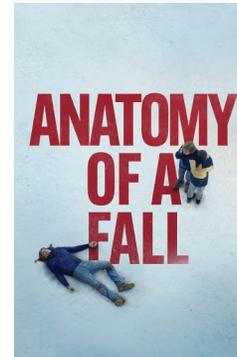
OSCARS Edition!



Barbie
Thursday, March 14 [®]
Comedy/Drama
Barbie embarks on a journey of self-discovery following an existential crisis and a visit to the Real World with Ken.



Oppenheimer
Thursday, April 11 [®]
Historical Drama
The story of American scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer and his role in the development of the atomic bomb.



Anatomy of a Fall
Thursday, May 9 [®]
Crime Drama
A woman is suspected of her husband's murder, and their blind son faces a moral dilemma as the main witness.

TEEN/TWEEN

Registration opens on **Wednesday, February 28** for all Teen & Tween programs. *Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. Teen programs are open to those in grades 5–12.*

Ⓡ Registration required

College Planning Strategies and Testing Updates Ⓡ

Monday, March 4, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Join us for a webinar about changes in college planning as well as new strategies you can use to get the best opportunities for admission, scholarships, and financial aid.



Nintendo Switch Series!

Open Play Ⓡ

Friday, March 15, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

Join the multiplayer fun and choose which games to play! Snacks will be provided.

Party Golf Ⓡ

Friday, April 12, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

It's a Nintendo Switch golf party! Race to be the first to sink your putt. Snacks will be provided.

Ultimate Chicken Horse Ⓡ

Friday, May 20, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

Dodge traps and create your own in this obstacle course game on Nintendo Switch! Snacks will be provided.

Mother's Day Pancakes!

Wednesday, May 8 Ⓡ

3:45–4:45 p.m.

Learn to make pancakes from scratch, just in time for Mother's Day! Participants will have hands-on experience and receive a recipe to try at home.



St. Patrick's Day Glowing Garlands Ⓡ

Wednesday, March 6, 4–5 p.m.

Make a fun light up garland for St. Patrick's Day! Create your own garland design, then use LED stickers and conductive fabric tape to make it glow.

Book Hedgehog Kit

Monday, March 25

Celebrate spring by creating an adorable hedgehog from repurposed books. Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

Upcycled Planter Kit

Monday, April 22

Earth Day is every day! Reuse a tin can and transform it into a planter, just in time for May flowers! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

Baby Yoda Sewing Kit

Saturday, May 4

May the 4th be with you! Celebrate Star Wars Day by making a Baby Yoda plushie out of felt. No sewing experience necessary! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

Teen Writers Workshop

Grades 6–12

Second Thursdays, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

March 14 at Brookfield;

April 11 at La Grange

Love to write, but want audience feedback? Share your talent and comments with peers in this writing and critique style program. We meet once per month and rotate between the La Grange, Thomas Ford Memorial, and Linda Sokol Francis Brookfield Libraries. Registration is encouraged, but drop-ins are welcome!

Teen Board

Third Thursdays: March 21, April 18, May 16; 7 p.m.

Teen Board can be a great way to earn volunteer hours! If you have ideas for how the Library can better serve teens and tweens, come join us! The Teen Board implements programming suggestions, recommends books, and gives input for ways to entice other teens to visit the Library. We do a fun craft or activity every meeting! Open to students in grades 5–12. Meet in the Teen/Tween Room.

Teen Trivia Ⓡ

Wednesday, April 24, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

Show what you know! Compete against other teens for the title of Trivia Champion. Snacks will be provided.

Study & Snacks

May 28 & 29, 3–8:45 p.m.

Stop by the Reading Room for some snacks and goodies to fuel your studying!

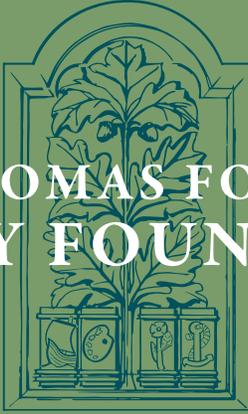
Bubble Tea Creations!

Monday, April 1 Ⓡ

3:45–4:45 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what goes into bubble tea? Now you can learn and make your own! Fun flavors and mix-ins will be provided.





THOMAS FORD LIBRARY FOUNDATION

We deeply appreciate all of the Library lovers who supported the Foundation through their gifts in 2023. Your generosity allows us to carry out our mission to advance Library services by funding projects identified by the Library Board and staff.

Most recently, we funded the Library's interior signage system, as well as the replacement of the Library's exterior doors. 2024 promises to provide the Foundation with new opportunities to underwrite further improvements.

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Marie & Robert Anderson *in honor of the Western Springs Writers' Society*
Mary Jane & Bob Anthony
Andrew & Brooke Ariens
Katherine Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Avina
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David & Rita Beata
William & Joan Binder
The Bodewes Family
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Marcia Buell *in memory of Maxine Allison*
Robert & Debra Bularzik
Tara & Rich Bulger
Carol Bures *in memory of Robert Bures*
Bill & Mary Burke
Liz Burns
Marilyn & Tom Cahill *in honor of Ann Lawrence*
The Capone Family
Jim & Amy Casey
Terrance & Katharine Cullen
William Curry
Bob & Linda Daman
Wendy Davies
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Nancy DiBiase
Blair & Jodie Distler Hanzlik
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Mary Ann Duda
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Mike & Sue Durkin *in appreciation of Library Staff*
John & Fran Dzuryak
Bonnie Engel *in honor of her family*
John Ericson & Lisa DenBesten
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Randy & Joyce Ferrari *in appreciation of Library Staff*
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Mary & Steve Greska
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Anita & Gerald Gustis
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Thomas & Sheila Hansen *in memory of Cecelia Hansen*
Shelley Hebert
Jim & Paula Hellige
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Mark & Linda Hussey
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Karin & Tim Janowski
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Linda Johnson *in memory of Ed & Audrey Johnson*
Harry & Karen Kanny
Leslie & Paul Karas
The Munson Family
Wayne Kennedy
John & Susan Kienzle
Lisa Marco Kouba
Barbara & Patrick Lamb
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Chuck Macke
Tom Davy & Mary Kay Malas
Patricia & Mark Manetti *in appreciation of Library Staff*
The McGinnis Family *in appreciation of Library Staff*
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Michael & Jaynellen Mikulski
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Lori Mitchell & Scott Edwards
Dan & Marilyn Montgomery
Jenny & Bob Morgan *in memory of Bob Olds*
Mary Jo & Tom Mulcahy *in honor of Meredith Onion*

Win & Linda Murray
Edward J. Neafsey
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Gwen Quackenbush *in honor of Anne Purdy & Liz Burns*
MaryJo & Jack Ramm
Jim & Suzanne Rielly
Ara N. Robinson
Tom Rohan
Andrew Schreiber
The Paul Scriba Family
Terry & Kerry Sheehan
Eugene Stall
Stephanie Stomberg
Donna Strunk *in memory of Henry Strunk*
Tom & Beth Sullivan
James & Karen Swinehart
Elaine Szablewski
Karen & Tom Teegarden
Jill Thornberg
The Thornton Family *in honor of Nancy Bertucci*
James & Lauren Tvrdik
Anne Valentin *in memory of Richard Valentin*
Nancy Kidston Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Winans
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Geraldine Woods *in memory of Patrick H. Woods*
Jim Ols & Mamie Yee
Bernadette Zaczek
Anonymous (6 donors)
Kirkland & Ellis LLP *matching gift*
UBS Wealth Management *matching gift*

To learn more about becoming an Oak Leaf Society member and/or investing in the Library's future by leaving a gift in your will, contact us at foundation@fordlibrary.org or (708) 246-0520.

The Foundation is an independent 501(C)(3) non-profit organization, and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

YOUTH

Registration is required for ALL programs unless otherwise noted.

Storytime Registration begins on Tuesday, March 5 at 9:30 a.m. for Lapsit, Toddler Time, and Preschool Pals only.

For all other programs, Youth Services Program Registration begins on Wednesday, March 6 at 9:30 a.m.

Register online at fordlibrary.org.

Have your library card ready to register online, in person, or by calling (708) 246-0520.

First preference will be given to Western Springs residents.

Ⓡ Registration required

Baby & Toddler Playgroup Ⓡ

Birth-2

Monday, March 11

10–11 a.m.

Explore the power of play! Join us for playtime and stories that support the development of social and early literacy skills.

Pre-K Fingerprint Art Ⓡ

Ages 3-5

Friday, March 15

10:30–11 a.m.

Make an impression! Along with their parent or caretaker, children will create beautiful pieces of art using their unique fingerprints.

Read & Create: Tap the Magic Tree Ⓡ

Grades K-1

Thursday, March 14

4:30–5 p.m.

Spring is almost here! Come and listen to Christie Matheson's *Tap the Magic Tree* and then create your own tree in bloom using glue, popcorn, and tissue paper.

R.E.A.D. to a Therapaws Pet Ⓡ

Grades K-2

Tuesdays: March 19 OR April 16

6:30–7:30 p.m.

Beginning or independent readers can practice reading aloud to one of the dogs from Hinsdale Humane Society's Therapaws Program. Each child will have a 10-minute slot during the hour. We will advise you of your time slot via email prior to the session, which is allotted on a first come, first served basis. *Due to the popularity of this program, we request that you register your child on one day only.*

Read & Create: Plant the Tiny Seed Ⓡ

Grades 2-4

Wednesday, April 10

4:30–5 p.m.

Learn and grow at the Library! After reading *Plant the Tiny Seed* by Christie Matheson, we will plant our own seeds in a small pot to take home.

Fire & Ice Show Ⓡ

Families Welcome

Monday, April 22

4:30–5:30 p.m.

This highly interactive show includes fascinating science demonstrations with air pressure, fire, and more! We'll explore observations and hypotheses, and conduct experiments with "Eggbert," a flamboyant egg that can't fit into his house, as well as make a "Bubbling Potion" and a "Mad Science Bubble Bath."

LEGO Family Night Ⓡ

Families Welcome

Thursdays: March 21 & April 25

6–7 p.m.

Families of LEGO enthusiasts are invited to join us each month to practice and learn LEGO building techniques. Using teamwork and your imagination, build a creation that will be on display in the Youth Services Department for one month. LEGOs will be provided by the Library for this program.

LEGO Inventors Ⓡ

Grades K-4

Wednesday, May 1

4:15–5 p.m.

Bring your ideas and imagination to the Library to create a model invention that we will put on display! LEGOs will be provided by the Library for this program.

Teddy Bear Tea Party!

Saturday, April 20 Ⓡ

2–3 p.m.

Ages 3-5

You are invited to an afternoon teddy bear tea party at Thomas Ford Memorial Library! We will read *Teddy Bear of the Year* by Vikki VanSickle with a tea time of cookies and lemonade to follow. Teddy bears are encouraged to attend!



Little Miss Ann Spring Concert!

Wednesday, March 20 [®]

4:30 – 5:15 p.m.

Families Welcome!

Little Miss Ann plays upbeat, interactive, fun songs that kids will sing, jump and dance along to! She is a Chicago-based, Filipina-American, nationally touring kids musician who has made 7 award-winning Family Music albums. She is also a former Chicago Public School teacher, an instructor at Chicago's iconic Old Town School of Folk Music, and a social justice activist. Whether Ann is singing about Ube, a Filipino purple yam, or the 606 trail in Chicago, her musical themes will inspire kids to let their light shine in their own families, as well as in their communities!



Leprechaun's Alphabet Hunt

March 1–31

Leprechaun is learning to read! Find where he is hiding and what letter of the alphabet he is working on each day and receive a fun prize.



Guess Who? Book Character Scavenger Hunt

April 1–30

Some of your favorite book characters are hiding in the department! Pick up a *Guess Who?* checklist and start roaming the shelves. Find them and earn a fun sticker reward.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Scavenger Hunt

May 1–31

The Very Hungry Caterpillar has been munching his way through the department! Report what food he has eaten each day to the Youth Services Desk and receive a fun sticker. After all that munching, find out if he turns into a beautiful butterfly!

Storytimes!

March 18 – April 26

[®] Registration required

Registration is required for all storytimes and begins on **Tuesday, March 5 at 9:30 a.m.** online at fordlibrary.org. First preference will be given to Western Springs residents.

Due to the popularity of our storytimes, we request that you register your child for one session only.

Lapsit Storytime [®]

Birth-23 months w/ adult

Wednesdays or Thursdays or Fridays
10–10:30 a.m.

Help your baby grow up to love books! Share stories, songs, and rhymes with your little one in this lapsit program and introduce them to a lifetime of reading and language enjoyment.

Toddler Time [®]

2-3.5 years w/ adult

Mondays: 10–10:30 a.m.
or Mondays: 11–11:30 a.m.
or Tuesdays: 10–10:30 a.m.

Introduce your toddler to early literacy and help build a foundation of reading. We pair short books with songs and rhymes to engage them. Toddlers love to wander and listen during our time together.

Preschool Pals [®]

3.5-5 years

Mondays or Tuesdays
1–1:30 p.m.

Hear stories, sing songs, and have fun with your friends! Storytime will highlight early literacy skills that children need to learn before they can read independently. Children attend this storytime **without** their grown-ups so that they can practice being independent.

**Thomas Ford
Memorial Library**

800 Chestnut Street
Western Springs, IL 60558
(708) 246-0520
fordlibrary.org

Library Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
9:30 a.m - 5 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Library Closings

The Library will be closed on Sunday, March 31 for Easter and Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

Board of Trustee Meeting Dates

The Board meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
Spring 2024 dates: March 26, April 23, May 28.

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Everyday Resources

Thomas Ford Memorial Library offers so much more beyond books and community programming!

From high-speed internet, computer, and printing access to meeting room reservations and more, we're here to be your convenient one-stop destination for all things learning, connecting, and growing. Ask us about our services any time to take advantage of everything!

Library of Things

We have a variety of cool and useful tools available for checkout in our Library of Things collection, including:

- Roku with Apple TV, Disney +, etc.
- LED Therapy Lamp
- GoPro Camera
- Travel Accessories
- Metal Detector
- Collapsible Projection Screen
- Memory Kits for Dementia
- ...and so much more!

GROUPS & DISCUSSIONS

These ongoing Library groups are free for all to attend. No registration required.

Knitting Circle

Every other Thursday: March 14, 28; April 11, 25; May 9, 23
1 p.m.
Join us for knitting, conversation, and light refreshments.

Western Springs Writers' Society

Second & Fourth Thursdays: March 14, 28, April 11, 25, May 9, 23;
7 p.m
Discuss and hone your craft with other writers from the community! Whether this is your career or hobby, writers of all levels and genres are invited. Questions in advance? Please contact Jim Swinehart at jrswinehart10@gmail.com.

Investment Discussion Group

Second Tuesdays: March 12, April 9, May 14; 7:15 p.m.
Amateur investors meet to discuss trends in stocks, bonds, and more.



Adult Crafts

First preference will be given to Western Springs residents. Thomas Ford cardholders: please enter your Library card number when registering. Otherwise, you will be put on a waitlist and are not guaranteed a spot.

Flower Keychains ^R

Monday, March 11, 7 p.m.
Create a floral keychain using the popular method of diamond painting. All supplies provided.

Second Chance Crafts ^R

April 22-26
Missed a craft at the Library but still want to participate? Sign up for a craft kit, based on one of our previous crafts! Pick up a kit of your choice with instructions the Reference Desk. Choice of kit will be first come, first serve.

Paint & Sip: Watercolor Cards ^R

Monday, May 6, 7 p.m.
Create a set of painted cards in this instructor-led art class. All materials and a non-alcoholic beverage will be provided.