



**BARRINGTON
AREA LIBRARY**

PROGRAM GUIDE
December 2023 – January 2024



Family Winter Read

Cozy up and enjoy our Family Winter Read! Join Duane the polar bear as he discovers a new home, new arctic friends, and new adventures in *The Very, Very Far North*.

The Very, Very Far North by Dan Bar-el



An inquisitive polar bear named Duane befriends an array of animals as he discovers where he belongs in this charming classic-in-the-making.

Read and complete fun winter activities to earn badges and prizes. Visit balibrary.beanstack.org to sign up and get started!

WINTER BREAK FAMILY FUN

Find more winter break programs inside!



Ben's Bubble Show

All ages w/caregiver

Thursday, Dec 28, 10 AM OR 11 AM

Amazing interactive bubble magic, illusions, and sculptures! Drop in. Meeting Room.

National Card Playing Day

Grades K – 5 w/families

Thursday, Dec 28, 2 – 3 PM

Celebrate National Card Playing Day playing Old Maid, Go Fish, and other fun games. Drop in. Program Room.

Celebration Dances of West Africa

All ages w/caregiver

Wednesday, Jan 3, 10:30 AM

Celebrate the indigenous cultures of Africa with Soli Performing Arts Company. Dancing, drumming, and wise, ancient proverbs, native instruments and authentic attire. Drop in. Meeting Room.



SNOW BALL

Friday, Jan 5, 6 – 8:30 PM

Brrring the family and come chill with us as the Library transforms into a wintry wonderland. Fun for all ages, including crafts, games, tasty treats, and live music from guitarist Josh Skaja. First floor. Drop in.

STORIES & MORE: Ages 0 – 6

Drop in, Story Room, except where noted.



Family Story Time

All ages w/caregiver

Mondays, Jan 8 – 29

10 AM OR 10:30 AM

Children (with a favorite adult) enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement activities while building language and literacy skills.

Baby Time: Lapsit

Ages 0 – 12 months w/caregiver

Tuesdays, Dec and Jan, 3:30 PM

Bond with your baby as we share rhymes and songs to build early language skills.

Baby Time: Wobbly Ones

Ages 12 – 24 months w/caregiver

Tuesdays, Dec and Jan

10 AM OR 10:30 AM

Enjoy songs, rhymes, and stories that support early language and motor skills.

Toddler Time

Ages 2 – 3 years w/caregiver

Wednesdays, Jan 10 – 31

10 AM OR 10:30 AM

Enjoy stories, songs, and rhymes in this energetic story time for toddlers.

Preschool Story Time

Ages 3 – 5 w/caregiver

Thursdays, Jan 11 – 25, 11 AM

Dance, sing, and enjoy stories especially for preschoolers.

Winter Wonderland Story Time

All ages w/caregiver

Monday, Dec 11, 10 AM OR 10:30 AM

Snuggle up with winter-themed stories, songs, and rhymes. Meeting Room.

Happy Birthday Story Time

All ages w/caregiver

Wednesday, Dec 13, 10:30 AM

Friday, Jan 19, 10:30 AM

Join us for a special story time during your birthday month and we'll celebrate YOU with stories, songs, and a craft! Register with the birthday child's name. Program Room.

Ukulele Baby Rhyme Time

Ages 0 – 24 months w/caregiver

Wednesday, Dec 13, 4 PM

Join our librarians and their ukuleles in this interactive, musical rhyme time, and learn the benefits of bathing your baby in song!

Urdu Story Time

All ages w/caregiver

Friday, Dec 15, 10 AM

The Language Labs present an Urdu language story time, including basic Urdu instruction, and a craft. [Register](#). Program Room.

Goodnight Story Time

All ages w/caregiver

Friday, Dec 15, 6:30 PM

Friday, Jan 19, 6:30 PM

Shake your sillies out, get cozy, and listen to bedtime stories in this calming evening story time designed to help kids get a good night's sleep. Program Room.

Little Kids, Big Feelings

Ages 3 – 6 w/caregiver

Monday, Dec 18, 10 AM

Mister Rogers often said that anything mentionable is manageable. Let's create a space to talk about all feelings, big and small, through books, songs, and mindfulness exercises.

Sensory Playtime

All ages

Friday, Dec 22, 10 - 11:30 AM

Join us for a variety of play activities specifically designed to engage the senses. Meeting Room.

Story Time Dance Party

All ages w/caregiver

Wednesday, Dec 27, 10 AM

Bop to the beat and share some stories! Meeting Room.

Art Play

All ages w/caregiver

Friday, Dec 29, 10 AM

Thursdays, Jan 11 – 25, 10 AM

Join us for an open-ended, process-oriented art project, in which kids can explore their imaginations and develop creative thinking skills. For all ages and abilities: mess-makers welcome! Program Room.

Spanish Story Time

All ages w/caregiver

Friday, Jan 12, 10 AM

The Language Labs present a Spanish language story time, including basic Spanish instruction, and a craft. [Register](#). Program Room.

Ukulele Sing-Along Story Time

Ages 2 – 6 w/caregiver

Wednesday, Jan 31, 4 PM

Experience the joys of song and dance in this interactive, sing-along story time.



Virtual Programs on YouTube

Tune into our YouTube Channel for on-demand story times, rhymes, songs, and puppet shows! Search "Barrington Area Library Youth Services" to find us on YouTube.

LEARN – PLAY – CREATE

Register, Program Room, except where noted.

Spectacular Socks

Grades 3 – 5

Monday, Dec 4, 4:15 PM

Celebrate National Sock Day with stories and sock decorating. We provide a pair of socks – will you make them wacky, silly, or cute?

Star Wars Fan Club

Grades 3 – 6

Wednesdays, Dec 6 & Jan 10, 4 PM

Celebrate the classic sci-fi/fantasy stories with crafts and games.

LEGO Club

All ages w/caregiver

Fridays, Dec 8 & Jan 26

3:30 – 4:30 PM

Make LEGO robots, create stories, and build amazing creations. Drop in.

Star Wars Fan Club

Grades K – 2

Monday, Dec 11, 4:15 PM

Thursday, Jan 18, 4:15 PM

Bring your youngling and celebrate the classic sci-fi/fantasy stories with crafts and games!

Code Together

PreK – Grade 2 w/caregiver

Thursday, Dec 14, 6 PM

Friday, Jan 5, 1:30 PM

Kids team up with their adults to explore early coding concepts using Sphero Indi cars and LEGO WeDo Robots.

Design a Pencil Pouch

Grades 3 – 5

Wednesday, Dec 20, 4 PM

Design a pencil pouch for you or a friend.

Celebrate Winter Solstice

Grades K – 2

Thursday, Dec 21, 4:15 PM

Let's light up this dark night with stories and a craft!

Create a Vision Board

Grades K – 8 w/families

Tuesday, Dec 26, 1:30 PM

Thursday, Jan 4, 3:30 PM

Set the tone for your year by creating an artistic collage of your dreams and goals for 2024.

Tissue Paper Stained Glass Craft

Grades K – 5 w/caregiver

Wednesday, Dec 27, 2 – 3 PM

Create your own winter wonderland stained glass window! Drop in.

Tech Open Lab

All ages w/caregiver

Thursday, Dec 28, 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Families explore a variety of technology such as robots, circuits, iPads, and more. Drop in. Program Room.

A note on registration:

Some Youth Services Programs require registration. Registration for Dec and Jan programs opens Monday, Nov 27. To register, visit the Library's online calendar or call (847) 382-1300.

The Great Checkers Challenge

Grades 3 – 5

Wednesday, Jan 3, 2 PM

Test your strategic skills and compete against other players at our checkers tournament. Participants at any skill level are welcome – join the fun!

Art Studio

Grades 1 – 8, caregivers welcome

Monday, Jan 15, 3:30 – 4:30 PM

Create something amazing with the Library's art supplies on this no school day. Drop in. Program Room.

Rock Art!

Grades K – 2

Wednesday, Jan 17, 4 PM

Create a painting using different shapes and colors of rocks.

Make Your Own Rug

Grades 3 – 5

Wednesday, Jan 24, 4 PM

Learn the basics of latch hooking to create a cozy mini rug.



SATURDAY SMILES

Read With Me™

Grades 1 – 5

Saturdays, Dec 9 & Jan 13, 10 AM

SOUL Harbour Ranch brings their Pet Partners registered therapy dogs for cozy one-on-one reading time. The Pet Partners Read With Me™ initiative incorporates therapy animals to support readers of all ages and abilities. Register

Family Story Time

All ages w/caregiver

Saturdays, Dec 16 & Jan 20, 10 AM

Baby Time

Ages 0 – 24 months w/caregiver

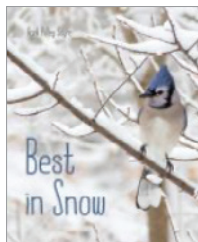
Saturdays, Dec 16 & Jan 20, 11 AM

Family Explorers: Snow

PreK – Grade 2 w/caregiver

Saturday, Dec 16, 1:30 PM

Join us in reading *Best in Snow* by April Pulley Sayre while we learn about all kinds of snowflakes and create family snowflakes! Register. Program Room.



TEENS



FINALS CAFÉ

Monday, Dec 18 – Thursday, Dec 21
1 – 9 PM

Drop in for study space, light refreshments, and stress relief during exam week. Our large meeting room will be reserved just for high school students! Drop in. Meeting Room.

Trivia: Winter Break Edition

Thursday, Jan 4, 7 PM

Grades 9 – 12

Join us for a trivia night full of school subjects and other favorite topics. Test your knowledge and declare victory over friends or siblings. Light refreshments served. Register as a team of up to six or individually. Meeting Room.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

Candle Making

Grades 5 – 8

Wednesday, Dec 27, 3:30 PM

Monday, Jan 8, 2 PM

Create your own personalized candle using scents and colors! Register. Program Room.

Loom Knit a Bookmark

Grades 5 – 8

Monday, Jan 15, 1:30 PM

Use a loom to knit a bookmark. Register. Program Room.

FOR CRAFTERS



Winter Village Houses

Monday, Dec 4, 3 PM OR 6 PM

Create a cozy, mini decorated house using our laser cutter, paint, and some wintry extras. Ages 14+. BALibrary card required. Register. Meeting Room.

MAKE with a Mission:

Card Making

Wednesday, Dec 6, 2:30 – 4:30 PM

All ages are welcome!

With Billet-Doux Couture Stationery and Marvin's Toy Store

Make a card for kids and families staying at Lurie's Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House over the holidays. We'll have supplies on hand and take care of delivery. Drop-ins welcome or register for a reminder. Atrium.



Snow Globe Craft

Thursday, Dec 14, 2 PM OR 6 PM

Warm up with a cup of coffee or tea and this craft project. Register. Meeting Room.

Winter Hoop Decoration

Tuesday, Jan 16, 3 PM OR 7 PM

Create a sparkling winter forest scene! No sewing skills needed. Priority registration for BALibrary cardholders. Meeting Room.



FOR MUSIC LOVERS



Elgin Symphony's Listeners Club

Tuesday, Jan 9, 1 PM

Delve deep into the concert experience with a personal guided tour by ESO musicians. Hear them perform live and share personal insights about each concert program. [Register](#). Meeting Room.

SECOND FRIDAYS



Multiplicity Jazz Band

Friday, Dec 8, 7 PM

Get into the seasonal spirit with songs like *Skating in Central Park*, *I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm*, and *Winter Wonderland*. [Register](#). Meeting Room.



Martini Lunch Trio

Friday, Jan 12, 7 PM

Flash back to the Mad Men era, with martini lunches accompanied by Sinatra, Bobby Darin, and company. Martini Lunch also puts their classic spin on soul, blues, and pop tunes. [Register](#). Meeting Room.



Seed Library Launch

Thursday, Feb 1,

10 AM – 4 PM

BALibrary cardholders only

Stop by on Feb 1 to see what we're offering in the Seed Library this season. During the day, experts will be on hand to answer questions and help you make your selections. **From 10 AM to 4 PM, seeds are only available to BALibrary cardholders, with a limit of two packets per variety per person present. After the launch event, the Seed Library will be available to everyone, during all regular Library hours.**

Seeds are free and available while supplies last. Seeds are organic and non-GMO.

For more information about the Seed Library, including the seeds we'll stock in 2024, visit balibrary.org/garden.

FOR NON-PROFIT LEADERS



Digital Storytelling

Tuesday, Dec 12, 1 PM

Use material from Prof. Ngonzi's Candid course on digital storytelling to craft a compelling narrative and develop a high-level strategy for engaging with supporters. Stay and workshop your ideas after the presentation. [Register](#). Meeting Room.

Local Leaders Learning: Civility Rules!

Wednesday, Jan 17

10 AM doors, 10:30 start

With Barrington Area Development Council and Barrington Area Community Foundation

Join peers from the local nonprofit, civic, and business communities to grow your leadership and networks. We'll use curated GLS material as a starting point for group discussions. Lunch will be served. [Register](#). Offsite: Barrington's White House, 145 W. Main Street, Barrington IL 60010.



Cooks with Books: Chili Take and Make kit

Monday, Dec 11 – Friday, Dec 15

Stay cozy with this comfort food kit. [Register](#).

Cooks with Books Book Club

Tuesday, Jan 30, 7 PM

Start the New Year with balance. Local restaurant Organic Rootz talks about their unique menu – try a few samples! [Register](#). Meeting Room.

ADULT LEARNING & ENRICHMENT

Artificial(ish) Intelligence: Students vs. The Machine

Tuesday, Dec 5, 7 PM

Dr. Timothy Henningsen is a Professor of English at College of DuPage. His presentation provides a brief background on ChatGPT, along with how this new technology is changing 21st century education. [Register](#). Meeting Room.

Pearl Harbor

Thursday, Dec 7, 7 PM

Adjunct professor Melanie Bemben from College of DuPage takes an in-depth look at Pearl Harbor and the lives of those who survived the attack. [Register](#). Meeting Room.

QPR Suicide Prevention

Tuesday, Dec 12, 7 PM

With BStrong Together and Ascension Illinois Behavioral Health
Mandy Burbank, LCSW & certified QPR trainer, shares what to do when you're concerned that someone is contemplating self-harm. Participants will receive material to support what they've learned. [Register](#). Virtual.



Estate Planning with Greg Corey

Wednesday, Dec 13, 7 PM

Greg Corey, Financial Advisor, shares different options and preferences for estate planning. Learn to maximize the transfer of wealth (as intended), minimizing or avoiding unnecessary taxes along the way, and preserve relationships between friends and family. [Register](#). Meeting Room.

Singing Bowl Meditation

Wednesday, Dec 13, 7 PM

Melt away the stress of the season with this online meditation session! [Register](#). Virtual.

True Chicago Stories

Wednesday, Jan 10, 7 PM

Decipher fact from fiction as Martina Mathisen walks us through Chicago's Roaring 20s. [Register](#). Meeting Room.

Food Insecurity and Solutions

Monday, Jan 15, 10 AM

With Barrington Township Food Pantry
Meet us at the recently-renovated Barrington Township Food Pantry to learn about food insecurity in our area, efforts to fix the issue, and how you can help. [Register](#). Offsite: Barrington Township, 602 S Hough St.

Life Lessons from the Happiest People on Earth

Tuesday, Jan 23, 7 PM

Every year, the World Happiness Report is dominated by the same countries: Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Sweden, and Norway. What makes it so pleasant to live in the Nordic countries, and how can you bring those qualities into your own life? [Register](#). Meeting Room.

Ghettoization During the Holocaust

Thursday, Jan 25, 7 PM

With the guidance of the Illinois Holocaust Museum, explore life behind ghetto walls in occupied Europe and the Soviet Union. [Register](#). Virtual.



Game-O-Rama

Tuesdays, Dec 12 and Jan 9, 2 PM

Bring your friends for an afternoon of card and dice games. Dave Tuszynski leads simple and fun games for 2-4 players, like Polish Poker, Wichita, Sevens, and many others. For those 65 and older. [Register](#). Meeting Room.

FOR BOOK LOVERS



Join Adult Services librarians to discuss popular titles in a social book club for adults. [Register](#). Meeting Room.

Book Potluck

Monday, Dec 11, 7 PM

Bring two books to talk about: one you love, and one you hate. Bonus points if it's a book you feel like you *should* love.

America the Beautiful?

by Blythe Roberson

**Monday, Jan 8
7 PM**

A comedian travels the US in search of the great American road trip.



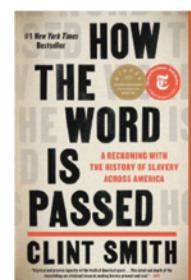
Book Discussions with Lanny Ori

Professional book discussion leader Lanny Ori leads thought-provoking discussions of notable titles. There will be no December discussion. [Register](#). Meeting Room.

How the Word is Passed by Clint Smith

Thursday, Jan 18, 2 PM

A tour of the monuments and landmarks that illustrate the ways by which slavery has fundamentally impacted America.



AUTHOR EXPERIENCES

Surviving the Holidays with Lori Gottlieb

Wednesday, Dec 6, 7 PM

Lori Gottlieb, psychotherapist, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*, and co-host of the “Dear Therapists” podcast, joins us for a thought-provoking conversation about mental health in anticipation of the winter holiday season. Gottlieb will share tools to help in everyday life and especially as you prepare for the holidays.

In addition to her clinical practice, she has been on the *TODAY Show*, *Good Morning America*, *CNN*, and NPR’s *Fresh Air* as a therapy expert. Her 2019 Ted Talk was one of the most watched of the year. [Register](#). Virtual.

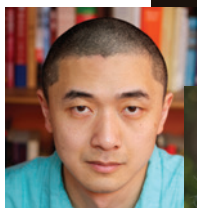


Speculating About Our AI Future with Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells

Thursday, Jan 11, 7 PM

Join us for a panel discussion featuring three best-selling science fiction writers: Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells. They discuss the promise, perils, and possible impacts that AI will have on our future, as well as AI in contemporary and future science fiction writing. [Register](#). Virtual.

Cory Doctorow is a science fiction author, activist and journalist. Ken Liu is an American author of speculative fiction. Martha Wells has been a science fiction/fantasy writer since 1993. Learn more about the authors on our Events Calendar.



Experience The Nutcracker at Home!

Saturday, Dec 16 – Sunday, Dec 17

Get in the spirit of the season with a recorded online performance of Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker* performed by the United Kingdom’s internationally renowned Royal Ballet. View anytime from Saturday, Dec 16, through Sunday, Dec 17. Registrants will receive an email with a link to the performance. Sumptuous period designs, spellbinding stage effects, and Tchaikovsky’s iconic score will enchant audiences of all ages. [Register](#). Virtual.



Events made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Program Guide

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Barrington Area Library.

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Library Hours:

Mon – Fri: 9 AM – 9 PM

Sat: 9 AM – 5 PM

Sun: 1 PM – 5 PM

Direct Numbers:

Customer Service: 847-382-1300 x1

Adult Services: 847-382-1300 x2

Youth Services: 847-382-1300 x3

Library Closings:

Sunday, Dec 24, Christmas Eve

Monday, Dec 25, Christmas

Sunday, Dec 31, New Year’s Eve

Monday, Jan 1, New Year’s Day



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AREA LIBRARY**



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Library Closings:

Sunday, Dec 24, Christmas Eve
Monday, Dec 25, Christmas Day
Sunday, Dec 31, New Year's Eve
Monday, Jan 1, New Year's Day

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TECH TOPICS

Password Management

Thursday, Jan 11, 3 PM

Discover tips and tricks for managing your passwords, like using passkeys as a way to securely access your account without any password. [Register](#). Meeting Room.

Google Docs Basics

Monday, Jan 22, 7 PM

Learn to use Google Docs on your own and as an easy way to collaborate on a document. [Register](#). Meeting Room.

Digital Photo Organization

Monday, Jan 29, 7 PM

Explore options for managing your digital photos with Google Photos and Apple Photos. [Register](#). Meeting Room.



LIBRARY NEWS

Exciting improvements are coming to the Barrington Area Library in 2024. Construction work on a number of projects will begin early in the new year.

These projects include a larger, completely redesigned MakerLab and a welcoming new Baby Garden in Youth Services.

Watch your Library email newsletters for more details.

MCHENRY CO LIBRARY LOVERS EXPEDITION

February-March 2024: take a tour of McHenry County libraries, enjoy fun activities and the chance to win gift cards to local businesses! Watch for details in the next Program Guide.

