BARRINGTON AREA LIBRARY

PROGRAM GUIDE

December 2026 – January 2027

WINTER READING

BARRINGTON AREA LIBRARY

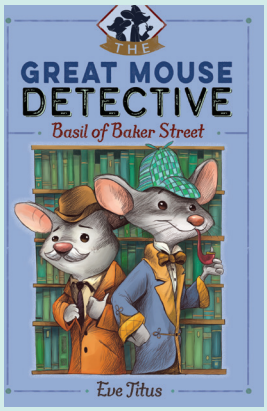


Dec 14 – Feb 28

For kids, teens, and adults

Read and complete fun winter activities to earn badges, prizes, and a coupon for a free bundtlet from Nothing Bundt Cakes.

Visit balibrary.beanstack.org to sign up and get started!



Family Winter Read

The Great Mouse Detective
by Eve Titus

Basil is the Sherlock Holmes of the Mouse World! Join him on an exciting adventure as he solves a kidnapping mystery.

Look for the ❄ to find Winter Break Fun!



Family Movie: *The Great Mouse Detective* ❄

All ages w/caregiver
Monday, Jan 4, 10 AM

Let's watch the Family Winter Read, *The Great Mouse Detective*, on our big screen. The whole family, including wigglers and wailers, is welcome. Enjoy popcorn and movie-friendly activities, too. Drop in.



Magic with Scott Green ❄

All ages w/caregiver
Tuesday, Jan 5
10 AM OR 11:30 AM

Packed with amazing magic, audience participation, and hilarious humor. Bring the family and expect a fantastically fun time. Drop in.

REGISTRATION:

Some programs require registration. Registration for December and January programs opens Monday, November 30. Register using the Library's online calendar or call (847) 382-1300.

Family Math Night

Grades K–8 w/adult participant
Tuesday, Dec 8, 6:30-8 PM
Exciting, hands-on math games and activities presented by Mathnasium of Barrington! Math Night is fun, accessible, and engaging, with interactive stations that support STEM learning and spark curiosity. For elementary/middle school students and their families, whether your child loves math or needs a confidence boost, this is a great opportunity to play, learn, and explore — together. Light snacks provided! Register for a reminder. Meeting Room.

Crafting for a Cause

All ages w/caregiver
Thursday, Jan 7, 4:15 PM
Partner with us and Bacoa to create snowman lanterns that will brighten the winter season for seniors in our community. Sign up today to share your creativity and kind heart. Register.

STORY TIMES BY AGE GROUP

DROP IN, STORY ROOM, UNLESS NOTED.

Family Story Time

All ages w/adult participant
Mondays, Jan 11–25
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

Ages 0–12 months w/adult participant
Tuesdays, Jan 12–26
3:30 PM
Bond with your baby as we share rhymes and songs to build early language skills.

Wobbly 1s

Ages 12–23 months w/adult participant
Tuesdays, Jan 12–26
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/adult participant
Wednesdays, Jan 13–27
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/adult participant
Thursdays, Jan 21–28, 11 AM
Time to dance, sing, and build essential skills! Enjoy delightful stories and fun activities that promote early literacy and social skills.

Saturday Story Time

All ages w/adult participant
Saturdays, Dec 19 & Jan 16
10 AM
Children (with a favorite adult) enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement activities while building language and literacy skills.



Art Play

All ages w/adult participant
Thursdays, Jan 21–28
10 AM
Through process-oriented art, kids explore their imagination and develop creative thinking skills. Join us for an open-ended art project for all ages and abilities. Mess-makers welcome!



STORIES & MORE: FOR AGES 0 – 6

DROP IN, UNLESS NOTED.

Family Feast Story Time
All ages w/adult participant
Wednesday, Dec 9, 10 AM
Let's share stories, songs, and rhymes all about feasting with our families. Story Room.

Books + Beats
Ages 0–5 w/adult participant
Thursdays, Dec 10 & Jan 7
10 OR 10:30 AM
Practice making rhythm with our shakers and sticks in this interactive, musical story time. Story Room.

Story Time Dance Party
All ages w/adult participant
Tuesday, Dec 15, 10 AM
Bop to the beat and share some stories! Meeting Room.

Science Sprouts
Ages 3–5 w/adult participant
Wednesdays, Dec 16 & Jan 20
11:30 AM
Does your curious preschooler love to ask why? Encourage that curiosity as we explore exciting science topics and hands-on experiments. Register. Program Room.

Potty Palooza Story Time
Ages 2–4 w/caregiver
Friday, Dec 18, 10 AM
Time to ditch the diapers and get this potty started! Songs and stories will get littles excited for this big milestone. Ideas for caregivers help make this transition a positive experience for everyone. Register. Program Room.

Bigfoot, Yeti, and Nessie Oh My!
All ages w/caregiver
Tuesday, Jan 12, 6 pm
Join us for a monstrously good time. Enjoy rhymes, stories, and songs, as we discover mysterious creatures around the world. Story Room.

Cozy Pajama Story Time
All ages w/adult participant
Friday, Jan 15, 10 AM
Dress in your coziest pajamas, grab your favorite stuffed friend (and grown-up!) and cuddle up for relaxing stories, rhymes, and songs. Story Room.

Winter Wonderland Story Time
All ages w/adult participant
Friday, Jan 22, 10 AM
Get cozy and embrace the magic of winter! Join us for enchanting winter-themed stories, songs, and rhymes. It's sure to be "snow" much fun! Meeting Room.

Little Kids, Big Feelings
Ages 3–5 w/adult participant
Friday, Jan 29, 10 AM
Mister Rogers 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. Story Room.

Bilingual English/Chinese Story Time
All ages w/caregiver
Saturday, Jan 30, 11 AM
With Starlink Global Education
Enjoy stories, songs, and an introduction to Chinese in this interactive Lunar New Year story time. Then take a family photo with a festive Lunar New Year backdrop. Register. Program Room.



LEARN-PLAY-CREATE

Look for the snowflake ❄ to find programs during Winter Break.

Make a Foam Stamp
Grades K-8
Wednesday, Dec 9, 4 PM ❄
Wednesday, Jan 6, 2 PM
Personalize handheld stamps to take home. Drop in.

Kids for Kindness
Grade 2-5
Thursday, Dec 10, 4:15 PM
Partner with us and Bacoa to create snowman lanterns that will brighten the winter season for seniors in our community. Sign up today to share your creativity and kind heart. Register.

Read With Me™ Therapy Dogs
Grades 1-5
Saturdays, Dec 12 & Jan 9
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.

Snowflake Earrings
Grades 3-8
Monday, Dec 14, 4:15 PM
Personalize your own pair of snowflake earrings, laser-cut in the Library's MakerLab. Register.

Marble Cards
Grades K-8
Tuesday, Dec 15, 4:15 PM
Let your creativity swirl! Let's create whimsical cards with mesmerizing marble patterns. Register.

Stop Motion Animation
Grades 4-8
Wednesday, Dec 16, 4 PM
Make a short film using stop motion animation! Register.

Stories & STEAM
Grades K-2
Thursdays, Dec 17 & Jan 21
4:15 PM
Listen to a story and participate in a related STEAM activity. Register.

Art Studio
Grades K-8
Monday, Dec 28, 2 PM ❄
Monday, Jan 18, 3:30 PM
Create something amazing with the Library's art supplies. Drop in.

Tinkering with TinkerCad: 3D Magnets
Grades 3-8
Tuesday, Jan 5, 1 PM ❄
Want to learn more about 3D printing? Learn some basics of Tinkercad and create a 3D-printed magnet. Register with your BALibrary card. MakerLab.



Family Trivia Night
Grade K and up w/family
Monday, Jan 4, 6:30 PM
Bring the whole family for a fun night of trivia questions about Disney, dinosaurs, and more! Register. Meeting Room.

Fluffy Rock Pets
Grades K–8
Monday, Jan 4, 2 PM
Do you want a little fluffy pet rock? Join us and create your very own extraordinary friend! Register.

Salty Snowflake & Craft
Grade 3-5
Monday, Jan 11, 4:15 PM
Let's share a story about snowflakes and then make a craft. Register.

Winter Lanterns
Grades K-8
Wednesday, Jan 13, 4 PM
Light up the dark days of winter with a fun crafty lantern. Register.

All About Bears
Grades K-2
Tuesday, Jan 26, 4:15 PM
Learn all about bears and make a craft. Register.

Coding Jam
Grades 6-8
Wednesday, Jan 27, 4 PM
Learn introductory coding using Scratch Jr. and other coding tools. Register.

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Pokémon Club
Grades K-8
Wednesday, Jan 20, 4 PM
Pokémon Club is a structured program where club members learn, play, and make friends through the Pokémon Trading Card Game (TCG) and other activities. Pokémon Club aims to be inclusive and welcoming to all participants, regardless of skill level or familiarity with Pokémon. This is a non-competitive space exclusively for casual play and learning. Please note: BALibrary is not responsible for any cards traded at the Library. Register.



FOR YOUNG ADULTS



Personal Safety and Self Defense Workshop

Tuesday, Jan 5, 6:30 PM

Lindsey Daehnke with Strictly Self Defense introduces personal safety strategies and basic physical self-defense skills to empower high schoolers, young adults, and parents. Training will focus on three key areas: Mindset, Skill Set, and Planning. Register.

Strictly self defense

Teen Advisory Group

Meets monthly in December & January. Learn more at balibrary.org/teen-advisory-group.

2027 Bingo Cards

Teens and Young Adults

Tuesday, Jan 12, 6 PM

Get inspired for 2027 by creating a custom bingo card to keep track of your goals and stay motivated all year! Register.

CAPSTONE CAFÉ



DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Wednesday – Friday, Dec 16 – Dec 18

Monday, Dec 21

2 – 9 PM

Drop by the Library to study, have some snacks, and de-stress during exam week.

4 – 5 PM on Capstone Café days: Laser-etch a wooden bag charm in the MakerLab.

Thurs, Dec 17 only, 4 - 5 PM: SOUL Harbour Ranch therapy animal visit.

Program Guide

is published by the 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

Phone:
847-382-1300

Library Closings:
Thursday, Dec 24, Christmas Eve
Friday, Dec 25, Christmas Day
Thursday, Dec 31, New Year's Eve
Friday, Jan 1, New Year's Day
Thursday, Jan 14, Staff Training
Closed until 1 PM

REGISTRATION

Some programs require registration. To register, visit our online calendar or call (847) 382-1300.

To request accommodations for BALibrary programs, please email Accessibility@BALibrary.org.

Attendance at Library programs, events, or within Library spaces constitutes consent to be photographed or filmed for use in print and/or electronic publicity of the Library.

FOR MUSIC LOVERS



Second Fridays: WWII Radio Hour

Friday, Dec 11, 7 PM

Nostalgia Entertainment reenacts a 1940s radio hour, featuring favorites such as “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” “In the Mood,” and “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree.” Patti, Maxine, and Andrew entertain the “studio audience” with classic tunes and choreography, Abbott and Costello comedy sketches, and a touching tribute to Veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Register.



Second Fridays: A Neil Diamond Story

Friday, Jan 8, 7 PM

The Denny Diamond duo celebrates the legendary Neil Diamond, while spilling the tea on the tales behind the melodies. Whether you're a die-hard fan or a newbie, enjoy a crash course in everything Neil Diamond. An unforgettable tribute overflowing with love. Register.



Elgin Symphony’s Listeners Club

Tuesday, Feb 2, 1 PM

Your chance to delve deep into the concert experience with a personal guided tour, including insights about each concert program. Register.





Reel Talk Film Club

Wednesday, Jan 6, 7 PM

Can’t stop talking about your favorite movie? Join fellow film fans for our new bi-monthly film club. Watch in advance through Kanopy, then let’s discuss your thoughts. This month’s choice: *The Imitation Game*. Register.

kanopy

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Singing Bowl Meditation

Wednesday, Dec 9, 7 PM

Bring your mat and unwind with this immersive singing bowl meditation from Jenny Bergold. Register.



Chair Tai Chi for Stress Relief

Wednesday, Jan 6, 10 AM

De-stress from the holidays with this in-person session from Allison Deputy. Register.

Forest Therapy Walk at Crabtree Nature Center

Thursday, Jan 7, 1 PM

Forest Therapy Guide, Horticultural Therapist, and Yoga Instructor Navraaz Basati leads an immersive and therapeutic winter walk followed by a tea ceremony. Dress comfortably and for the weather. Priority registration for BALibrary cardholders. Crabtree, 3 Stover Rd, Barrington.

Yoga

Wednesday, Jan 13, 10 AM

Start your morning with a relaxing class from Karen Fotopoulos. Register.

FOR BOOK LOVERS

Cover To Cover

Cover to Cover
Discuss popular titles in an afternoon book club for adults. Register.

***You Are Here* by David Nicholls**
Wednesday, Dec 9, 1 PM

***Five* by Ilona Bannister**
Wednesday, Jan 13, 1 PM

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Join Adult Services librarians to discuss popular titles in a social book club for adults. Register.

Book Potluck
Monday, Dec 14, 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.

***Mad Mabel* by Sally Hepworth**
Monday, Jan 11, 7 PM

Cooks With Books

Chicago's Candyland History
Tuesday, Dec 15, 7 PM
Satisfy your sweet tooth with this delightful presentation on the rich and decadent history of Chicago's candy. Register.

American Cookbooks
Tuesday, Jan 26, 7 PM
Join Leslie Goddard as she explores notable cookbooks that shaped how we cook and eat in the United States. Register.

STORYTELLING AND COMMUNITY

Illinois Libraries Present:
Funny on Purpose with Sasheer Zamata
Tuesday, Jan 19, 7 PM

Comedy has the power to challenge, connect, and bring people together, and few voices do that as effortlessly as Sasheer Zamata.

Known for her four seasons on Saturday Night Live, Zamata has built a career defined by sharp humor, thoughtful storytelling, and memorable performances across television, film, and stand-up comedy. Zamata will discuss her creative journey, the evolving landscape of comedy, and how humor can create space for connection and conversation. From live performance to television and advocacy work, her perspective offers an honest and often hilarious look at storytelling, identity, and finding purpose through creativity.



SASHEER ZAMATA

The State of Local News: Challenges, Sustainability & Innovation
Wednesday, Jan 20, 6:30 PM
Local journalism plays a vital role in keeping communities informed and connected, but news organizations today face unprecedented challenges, from declining advertising revenue and changing reader habits to newsroom closures and the rise of news deserts. Explore the current state of local news and discover the important work of the Local News Initiative at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. Register. Virtual.



FEATHERED FRIENDS

Christmas Bird Count

Tuesday, Dec 15, 7 PM

Join Jeff Aufmann from the McHenry County Audubon Society to learn about more than 125 years of the Christmas Bird Count and some of the fascinating birds that have turned up in the area. Register



Who's Who of Owls

Sunday, Jan 17, 2 PM

With Citizens For Conservation

To some people, owls are symbols of wisdom - others find their hoots ominous. Get the facts about many of our North American owls and other raptors, and learn about their amazing hunting adaptations. We may be joined by special feathered guests to illustrate who's who! More details coming soon. Hybrid. Register.

PRAIRIE PAGES

Prairie Pages: What An Owl Knows

Tuesday, Jan 19, 1 PM

Join Adult Services Librarians and Crabtree Nature Center naturalists to discuss *What An Owl Knows* by Jennifer Ackerman in this afternoon book club for adults. Register. Meets at Crabtree Nature Center, 3 Stover Road, Barrington.

LET'S GET GROWING

SEED LIBRARY LAUNCH



Saturday, Jan 30:
10 AM – 1 PM (BALibrary cardholders only)
1 – 2 PM (Everyone)

Stop by and see what we're offering in the Seed Library this season. Seeds available to Barrington Area Library cardholders only from 10 AM to 1 PM, and from 1 to 2 PM for everyone else. Limit of two packets per variety per person present, unless otherwise noted.



Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and help you make your selections. After the launch, the Seed Library is open to everyone during normal Library hours. Seeds are free and available while supplies last. Produce seeds are organic and non-GMO.

For more information about the Seed Library, including the seeds we'll stock in 2027, visit balibrary.org/garden.



NON-PROFIT KNOW-HOW

Volunteer Management

Tuesday, Jan 12, 1 PM

With Barrington Area Volunteer Connection

Enhance volunteer engagement to help your non-profit thrive. We'll discuss the local volunteer-matching service, Barrington Area Volunteer Connection, plus best practices for recruiting, on-boarding, tracking, and recognition. Register.



ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Pearl Harbor
Monday, Dec 7, 7 PM
Explore the relationship between the United States and Japan leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor and the reactions of world leaders. Register.



North & Northwest Iceland
Tuesday, Jan 12, 7 PM
Explore the history, nature, and stories of the north and northwest of Iceland with Wild Bird Shack Speakeasy. Register.





Seeing Stars
Wednesday, Jan 20
6 OR 7:30 PM
Take a trip to the stars and learn about the constellations and planets inside the Discovery Center Museum's portable planetarium. Please reach out if you will need accommodations to enter the planetarium: Accessibility@BALibrary.org. Register.



Celebrating the Lunar New Year
Thursday, Jan 21, 6 PM
Lunar New Year is a holiday observed by about 20% of the world's population, yet many are unfamiliar with it. Educator Yvonne Wolf discusses the rites, activities, symbols, and foods of Lunar New Year in different Asian countries and how you can participate in your own home. Get stoked for the upcoming Year of the Fire Goat! Register.

FUN & GAMES

Dewey Decimal Day Scavenger Hunt
Thursday, Dec 10, 9 AM – 8 PM
Thinking caps on! Drop in and explore the Library with this whimsical but challenging hunt in honor of Dewey Decimal Day!

Mahjong Open Play
Wednesdays, Dec 23 & Jan 27
1 PM
Chinese Mahjong tiles and cards available for teams of four. Beginners, experts, and everyone in between are welcome! Register.





Game-O-Rama
Tuesday, Dec 8, 2 PM
Simple and fun card and dice games for 2-4 players – bring your friends! For those 65 and older. Register.



TECH & MAKER WORKSHOPS

Register with your BALibrary card. MakerLab, except where noted.

Tinkering with TinkerCad: 3D Magnets



Tuesday, Jan 5, 1 PM
Grades 3 – 8
Want to learn more about 3D printing? Learn some basics of Tinkercad and create a 3D-printed magnet.

How to Submit 3D Models for Printing

Wednesday, Jan 6, 6 PM
Discover online platforms to download free 3D models, then learn how to submit them to our 3D printing queue.

Laser-Cut Winter Scene Decor



Monday, Jan 11, 6 PM
OR Tuesday, Jan 12, 10 AM
Using pre-selected shapes in Inkscape, design a winter scene to laser cut into a bear sign. Then paint the background so it stands out.

Crafting With Creativebug

Wednesday, Jan 13, 6 PM
Learn the basics of using our online service Creativebug to find your next craft project.

creativebug

Intro to the Library's Sewing Machine



Monday, Jan 18, 6 PM
OR Tuesday, Jan 19, 10 AM
In this no-project, no-stress program, learn the basics of the Eversewn Sewing Machine. The Library uses this machine in our sewing programs and you may check one out in the Library of Things.

Annual Book Tracker



Wednesday, Jan 20, 6 PM
Customize a book tracker and count all of your great reads this year.

All About eBooks: Libby

Tuesday, Jan 26, 10 AM
Learn how you can borrow free eBooks from the Library using your computer, phone, or Kindle! Meeting Room.

Hand Sew a Button

Thursday, Jan 28, 2 PM
Learn how to add a machine-made button hole, then hand sew a button onto a piece of fabric.



LEARN TO SCAN YOUR PHOTOS, SLIDES, AND MORE

Scanning Workshops

Wednesday, Dec 9, 6 PM
Friday, Dec 11, 10 AM
Wednesday, Jan 13, 6 PM
Friday, Jan 15, 10 AM
Learn how to digitize irreplaceable family pictures, slides, and other memorabilia using the Library's scanners in a hands-on class. Our genealogy librarian will explain the self-service equipment we have for scanning photographs and other media. Bring some photos, documents, slides, or negatives, as well as a USB flash drive, to try the equipment yourself. Register. Conference Room.



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