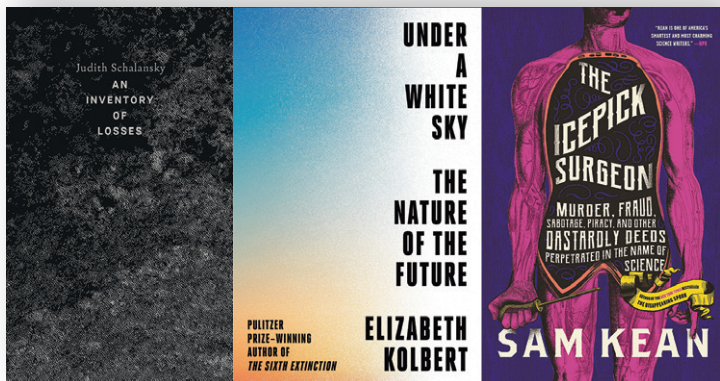


STAFF PICKS  
2021



Ages 0–5



Adult Nonfiction

It should come as no surprise that people who work in libraries love books, movies, and music throughout every year! We came together to list some of our favorite things that were published or released during 2021, and it's much more than we ever could fit in this newsletter.

Here you'll find just a few of our picks. Be sure to browse the full lists, read our staff's personal recommendations, and place holds on the ones that pique your interest by visiting:

[skokieliibrary.info/staffpicks](https://skokieliibrary.info/staffpicks)

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# STAFF PICKS 2021

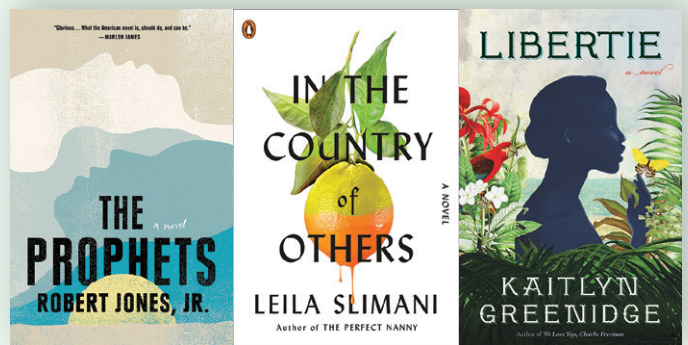
Here are just a few of our favorites to get you started. On our website you'll find more extensive lists of our picks, at [skokielibrary.info/staffpicks](http://skokielibrary.info/staffpicks)



## Literary Fiction



## Teen



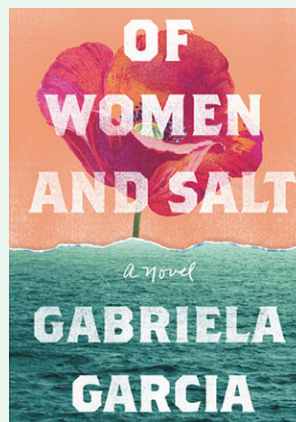
## Historical Fiction



## Grades K-3



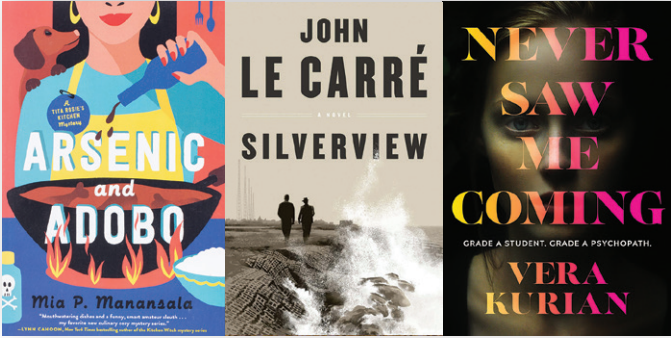
## Movies



"The reverberations of the past haunt the women of a Cuban immigrant family in this riveting debut novel. The past and present storylines were equally interesting, and what seemed like separate storylines came together nicely in the end."

Recommended by  
Rummanah





Mystery



Television



Science Fiction



Grades 6-8



Grades 4-5



Romance



Graphic Novels



Music



## Angela

Youth and Family Program Coordinator

Is a trained social worker with a background in public policy and community systems with an emphasis on human development across the lifecycle

Currently reading: *The Cot in the Living Room* by Hilda Eunice Burgos

"I love that I get to create opportunities and experiences for children and families who otherwise might not have them. There are so many children who have attended events at our library where they've learned a new skill, found out about a new corner of the world, a new word, or a new fact and then become excited about that thing and build on it within our community when they go home. I consider the library's stated values, community wants and needs, and current popular interests or hot topics when planning events. It's also very important that everything that we offer families does not cost them anything to participate."

# Meet Our Events Team

If you've ever attended an event at the library or online, you know that we offer an incredible variety of engaging experiences for all ages. And if you haven't attended an event, now's your chance to sign up! Here are some of the folks whose planning, preparation, patience, and pluck produced more than 1,300 incredible events at the library in 2020.



## Lynna

Program Assistant

Loves Broadway music as well as punk and metal

Currently reading:  
*Stage 4 Cancer: Verdict or Choice*  
by John Delameter (the author is her grandpa!)

"I love getting messy with the kiddos during craft programs. It's a good day at work when I go home with paint all over my hands! Even though it is sometimes literally fun and games, I have to be able to adjust quickly between events or when the unexpected happens! It's all about people as individuals, what can I do so you can learn/create/celebrate with us today?"



## Rick

Program Assistant

Loves furniture and decor of the '60s and '70s and collects vintage toys

Currently reading:  
*But What If We're Wrong?*  
by Chuck Klosterman

"I love being part of a team that provides the community with such an important resource. I also find the problem-solving aspect of my position really fun. I love the challenge! I have overseen more than 500 Zoom events at the library. There are a lot of moving parts behind the scenes during our programs and events. Anything can happen."





## Mariah

Adult Program Coordinator

Ran a *Babysitters Club* lending library out of a milk crate under her desk in fourth grade

Currently watching: *Party Down*

"One thing I love about working in libraries is that I get to help connect people with the things they're excited about! My job can get much more rambunctious than folks might imagine. I'm new to this library, but in the past I've had to figure out how to fit a room-sized one-man-band setup into an elevator, booked a goat to visit a library, helped set up a collaboratively made synthesizer, gotten my hands inky teaching folks how to use a letterpress, and organized craft expos and record fairs."

"I love thinking about all the logistics involved with an event and making a solid plan to ensure that everyone participating learns something new and has the best experience possible. Then seeing everything unfold as planned brings me a lot of joy. We research and always update our equipment and processes based on feedback we receive from our patrons and presenters. Making the events accessible and enjoyable is at the forefront of every decision and upgrade that we make."



## Christie

Performance Coordinator

Grew up on her great grandfather's homestead in southern Oregon

Currently listening to: *The Enneagram Prison Project* Podcast

"I consider it a big responsibility to provide the widest possible variety of free events for our community to enjoy. During Young Steinway concerts, when I've been backstage interacting with these immensely skilled young musicians, seeing them go from "kid" backstage to "practiced professional" as soon as they walk out on stage is really impressive. A favorite memory is making a faux moose head for Summer Reading decor one year. Who knew a wire hanger could make fabric antlers stand up?"



## Calin

Program Supervisor

Writes, records, and edits videos for his YouTube channel in his spare time

Currently reading: *One Second After* by William R. Forstchen



## Laurel

Teen Services Manager

Strongly prefers Marvel over DC

Currently reading: *The Plague of Doves* by Louise Erdrich

"My biggest influence is the input of teens in our community. Participants in Teen Library Collaborative and the people who hang out in the Teen Room are our trusted advisors when it comes to planning teen events. I also take into account the kinds of events and resources available through our schools and other community organizations. The author visit we had with Jason Reynolds definitely stands out as a favorite. I got to bring several students to hang out and have pizza with Jason before he gave his talk, and he was so authentic and down-to-earth."





# FOR ADULTS



## Online Events

Except for the adult book discussions, you will receive your link to attend in the email that confirms your registration. Registration opens January 2 at [calendar.skokiellibrary.info](http://calendar.skokiellibrary.info).

### LitLounge

Wednesdays, 7:30–9 pm

142 Ostriches

by April Dávila

January 12

The Five

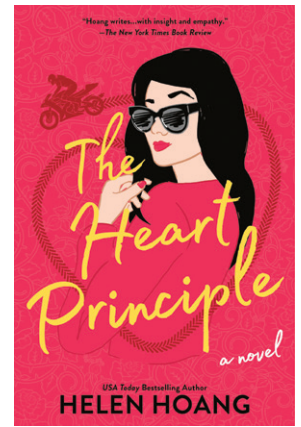
by Hallie Rubenhold

February 9

## John Green's The Anthropocene Reviewed: Online Podcast Discussion

How do you make art about something you've never seen, or maybe never will see? Based on the "Orbital Sunrise" episode of this podcast, we'll explore this question and more.

Thursday, February 3, 7:30–9 pm



### Adult Book Discussions

#### All Systems Red

by Martha Wells

Goodreads: Thursday, January 20, 8–9 pm

Instagram Live: Tuesday, January 25, 7:30–8 pm

#### Diasporadic: Living in a Multicultural Household

A discussion space for those who grew up where multiple languages and cultures intersect.

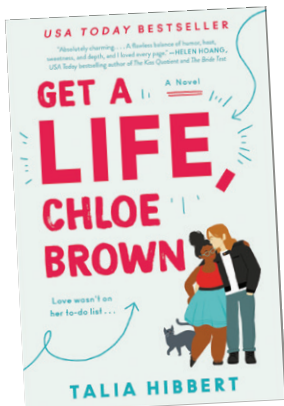
Mondays, 4–5 pm

The American Dream

February 7

Nostalgia

February 21



#### Get a Life, Chloe Brown

by Talia Hibbert

Goodreads: Thursday,  
February 17, 8–9 pm

Instagram Live: Tuesday,  
February 22, 7:30–8 pm



#### Community Book Discussion:

*The Selected Works of Audre Lorde*

Tuesday, February 8, 7–8 pm

#### Happily Ever After Romance Discussion:

*The Heart Principle*

Thursday, February 10, 8–9 pm



# In-Person Events

Check for event details and sign up at [calendar.skokiellibrary.info](http://calendar.skokiellibrary.info). Registration opens January 2.

## ESL Cafe

Wednesdays, 12:30–2 pm

In person: January 5, 19, February 2, 16

Online: January 12, 26, February 9, 23

## Technology Classes

### Google Docs for Beginners

Tuesday, January 11, 6:30–7:30 pm

Saturday, February 19, 10:30–11:30 am

### Beginning Word 2019

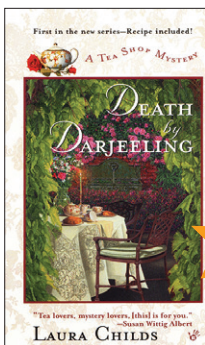
Wednesday, February 2, 6:30–8 pm

### Beginning Excel 2019

Wednesday, February 23, 2:30–4 pm

## ELL Literacy Circle

Tuesdays, January 18–March 22, 10 am–noon



## Talking Books

Wednesdays, 1:30–2:30 pm

### Death by Darjeeling

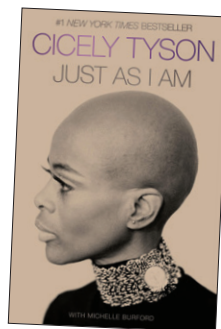
by Laura Childs

January 19

### BHM Just As I Am

by Cicely Tyson

February 16



# OBSERVING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Visit [skokiellibrary.info/bhm](http://skokiellibrary.info/bhm) to learn about all of our Black History Month events!

# Make Something

## Knit and Crochet with Fiber Friends

Tuesdays, 4–6 pm (drop in)

## Learn to Use the Laser Engraver and Cutter

Wednesday, January 5,  
6:30–7:30 pm

## Mend or Alter Your Clothes

Sundays, January 16 and  
February 13, 12:30–1:30  
or 1:30–2:30 pm

## Learn to Embroider on a Scarf

Saturday, January 22,  
1:30–3 pm

## Learn to Crochet

Wednesday, February 9, 7–8 pm

## Learn to Use the Laser: Engrave a Small Slate Serving Board

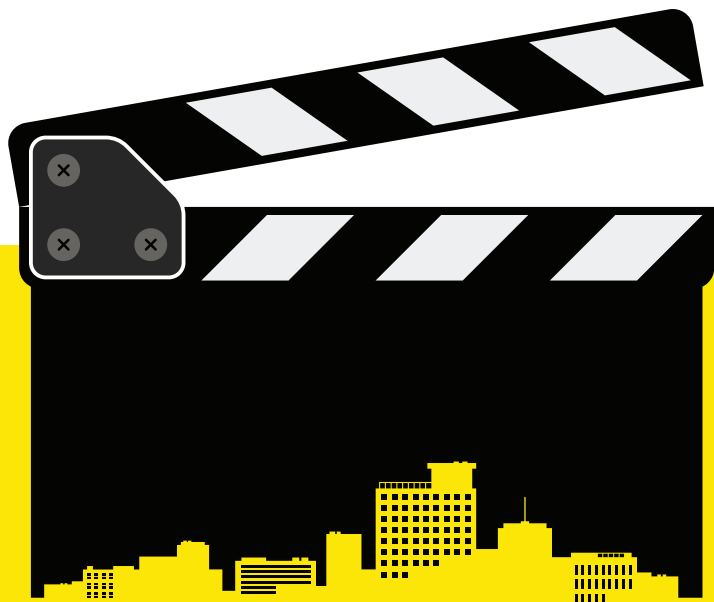
Saturday, February 12,  
11 am–noon

## Embroider Your Jean Jacket

Wednesday, February 23,  
6–7:30 pm







# Teens

Check the online calendar for more events or events that can include teens and other ages. Sign up for online and in-person events at [calendar.skokiellibrary.info](http://calendar.skokiellibrary.info).

## Teen Library Collaborative

Grades 6–12

Thursdays, 5:30–6:30 pm

In person: January 6, February 3

Online: January 20, February 17



### Movie Night (drop in)

The Cakemaker

Wednesday, January 19, 6:30 pm

Pain and Glory

Wednesday, February 16, 6:30 pm

### Friday Film (drop in)

Harriet

Friday, January 28, 1:30 pm

Emma

Friday, February 11, 1:30 pm

### Introduction to Yoga

When you sign up, choose to attend online or in person.

Fridays, January 21 and February 18, 1–2 pm

## Finding and Nurturing the Right Houseplant for You: 'Plant Parenthood'

Wednesday, January 26, 7–8:30 pm

### Practice Citizenship Interviews

Tuesday, February 1, 6:30–8 pm (drop in)

### BHM Pages through History

The Black Cabinet

by Jill Watts

Wednesday, February 23, 7–9 pm



### Friend Squad

Ages 11–16

Wednesdays, January 12, February 9, 6–7:30 pm

### Teen Theater Council

Saturdays, January 22, February 19, 12:30–1:30 pm

### Anime and Manga Appreciation Club

Thursday, January 27, February 24, 6–7:30 pm



## OBSERVING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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# Free News for You

We have copies of newspapers on the second floor, so if you like to hold a paper while reading the news, grab one and find a comfy chair.

We also provide online access to hundreds of newspapers—some provide full page views, others single articles. Some go back years or decades, many include today's headlines. Here are just a few that we offer. Find the full selection at: [skoki.library.info/current-newspapers](http://skoki.library.info/current-newspapers)

**Library PressReader:** Read papers from 150 countries written in 65 languages, as well as the *Chicago Tribune* and *Sun-Times*.

**The New York Times Online:** Free access for 72 hours using the link on the library's website. Once the time is up, start again.

**Washington Post:** Get a free 7-day pass, use, then repeat if you'd like.

**Wall Street Journal:** Access provided by ProQuest includes full-text newspaper articles from 1984 to now and full-text *Wall Street Journal Online* articles starting with 2010.

**Chicago Community Collection:** Search full-text articles from more than 250 local news sources, including the *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Daily Herald*, *Daily Southtown*, and *Evanston Review*.

**Newspaper Source from EBSCOhost:** This resource provides full-text articles from hundreds of U.S. and international newspapers such as *USA Today*. It also features transcripts from CNN, Fox News, and NPR.

**Chicago Tribune**

**CHICAGO SUN TIMES**

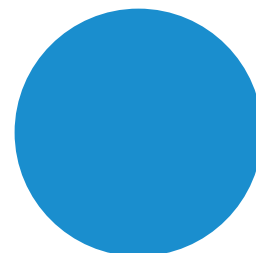
**The New York Times**

**The Washington Post**

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

**Daily Herald**

**DAILY Southtown**



**USA TODAY**  
A GANNETT COMPANY

# KIDS & FAMILIES

Check the online calendar for added events, and sign up for online and in-person events at [calendar.skokiellibrary.info](http://calendar.skokiellibrary.info). Capacity for individual events is limited.

## In-Person Events

### Small Hands Crafts

Ages 3–5 (drop in)  
Tuesdays, 10:30–11 am  
(except February 22)

### Book Babies Storytime

Outside event for babies to 11 months who are not yet walking  
Wednesdays, 9:30–10 am

### Wonderful Ones Storytime

Outside event for age 1  
Wednesdays,  
10:30–11 am

### Terrific Twos

Age 2  
Thursdays,  
10:30–11 am

### Storytime

Ages 3–5  
Thursdays,  
1:30–2 pm



## Be the Chef: Make and Take It

Grades 3–5  
Tuesdays,  
4:30–5:30 pm  
Italian Wedding Soup  
January 11  
Veggie Lasagna  
January 18  
Pizza  
January 25

### Local Author Showcase

Thursday, January 13, 3–5 pm

### STEAM Saturday (in person or online)

Ages 6 and younger  
Saturdays, January 15, 29, February 12, 26, 10:30–11 am

### Fun with Rainbow Therapy Dogs

Sundays, January 16, February 20, 11:15 am–noon

### Be the Artist

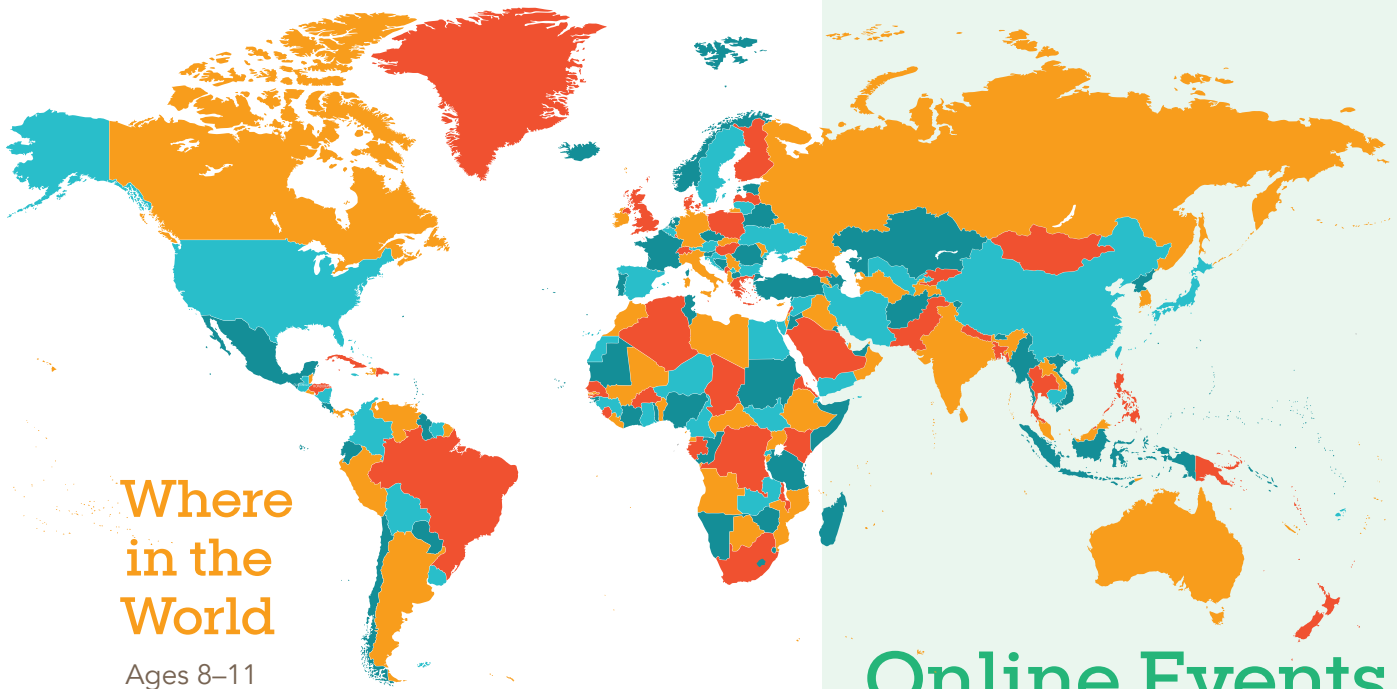
Grades 3–5  
Mondays, January 17,  
February 21, 5:30–6:30 pm

### Code Monsters

Grades 3–5  
Tuesdays, January 18,  
February 15, 4–6 pm







## Where in the World

Ages 8–11

Wednesdays, 4–4:45 pm

Africa      South America      The Caribbean  
February 2      February 9      February 16

### **BHM** Eyes on the Prize

Screenings

Saturday, February 5, noon–5 pm

Monday, February 21, noon–5 pm

Discussions

Thursday, February 10, 5:30–6:30 pm (in person)

Tuesday, February 22, 5:30–6:30 pm (online)



### **Craft Your Love**

Tuesday, February 8, 3:30–4:30 pm (drop in)

### **BHM** Adventure Club: Jamaica

Grades K-2

Tuesday, February 8, 4:30–5:30 pm

## Online Events

### Preschool Puppet Playtime

Wednesdays, January 5 or February 2,  
10:30–11 am

### Family Fun Storytime

Fridays, 10:30–11 am

### Weekend Storytime

Saturdays, January 8, 22, February 5, 19,  
10:30–11 am

### Pajama Storytime

Mondays, January 10, February 14,  
6:30–6:50 pm

### Kids Book Chat

Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30 pm on Facebook Live

### Cozy Books to Warm Your Heart

January 26

Books You Will  
Fall in Love With

February 23



## OBSERVING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

This time of year makes us want to stay on the couch with a blanket and a great story. Let us recommend one for you! (A story, that is. But if you want to learn to knit or crochet a blanket, we've got resources for that too!)

### Bookmatch

Finding the perfect book is easy when you have a whole team of experts ready to pick things just for you. Fill out a short form to tell us what you're into, and we'll send you a custom list of titles we think you'll really love.  
[skokielibrary.info/bookmatch](http://skokielibrary.info/bookmatch)

### Bookmatch for Kids

You know your kids and we know books! Personalized recommendations are also available for readers in grades K-8.  
[skokielibrary.info/bookmatch-kids](http://skokielibrary.info/bookmatch-kids)

### Screenmatch

Your next binge-worthy TV series or favorite movie is just a few clicks away. Our expert watchers are ready to connect you with films and shows in your favorite formats from Blu-ray to DVD to streaming.  
[skokielibrary.info/screenmatch](http://skokielibrary.info/screenmatch)

