



SKOKIE  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

September & October 2023

This is your library. Whether you just moved to Skokie, you've been here awhile but never get around to visiting, or you're already a dedicated library regular—there's something for you to discover. Come on in!

Your library card is free and never expires as long as you live in Skokie. Bring us an ID or utility bill that shows your Skokie address and we'll set you up on the spot.

What can you do with a library card? Too much to fit on one page! Keep reading...

**Everyone  
is  
welcome  
here.**





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### HHM Hispanic Heritage Month events

Monday to Friday, 9 am to 9 pm  
 Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm  
 Sunday, noon to 6 pm  
**Closed September 4**

5215 Oakton Street  
 Skokie, IL 60077  
 847-673-7774  
 tellus@skokielibrary.info

[www.skokielibrary.info](http://www.skokielibrary.info)



# Come On In



Use our free public WiFi. Just select “Skokie Library” on your device—no password required. There are plenty of electrical outlets throughout the building for charging, too.

Adults and teens can use a computer on the second floor. Printing and scanning are also available. Kids through grade 8 can use computers in the Lab when it is open: [skokielibrary.info/lab](http://skokielibrary.info/lab).

Adults and teens can also use Chromebooks in the library. Check one out at the second floor Help Desk. Use it to check your email while your child is participating in a storytime session, or use it for whatever else you need to do.



## Attend an Event

Whether you want to learn something new, enjoy a concert or movie, or bring your little one to a storytime session, we have free events for everyone. Many require registration so we don't run out of supplies or space. You'll find many September and October events starting on page 12. Sometimes we add events too late to include here, so you can stay up-to-date online: [calendar.skokielibrary.info](http://calendar.skokielibrary.info).





## Hang Out

Sometimes you just need a place to be, and the library provides that rare indoor space that doesn't expect you to spend money to hang out. We've got spaces to read, play, and relax. Get some fresh air in one of our courtyards. Grab a snack from a vending machine in the Café. Teens can enjoy their own space on the first floor. Kids and families will find fun toys and activities in our play area. If you want quiet, the second floor offers a reading room for contemplation and reading.

# Get Stuff

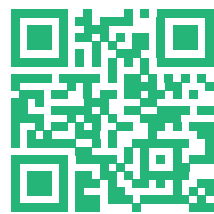
The library is full of books, movies, music. We also have tech gadgets like GoPro video cameras and WiFi hotspots, STEAM kits filled with things like air quality detectors and Hapi mini drums, and other stuff like umbrellas and bike locks that you can check out and take with you. It's a lot!

## Finding

There are three main ways to find things:

- Look around for things that catch your eye on our shelves and displays.
- Search our catalog if you're hunting for something specific.
- Let us help you find just the right thing by asking a staff member for an expert recommendation.

Once you have your items, use the self-check machines near either library entrance to check them out.



Questions about using our self-check machines? Watch a quick video.

[skokielibrary.info/selfcheck](https://skokielibrary.info/selfcheck)



## Reserving

If what you want isn't immediately available, you can log into your library account and place items on hold. We'll send you an email when they're ready for you, and you'll have seven days to pick them up. If you selected pickup at the library, your items will already be checked out to you. Just grab them from the shelves near the west entrance. If you selected pickup at the bookmobile, visit any of our scheduled stops.

Learn more about the bookmobile:  
[skokielibrary.info/bookmobile](https://skokielibrary.info/bookmobile)



## Renewing and Returning

We'll renew your eligible items for you automatically. Most things can be renewed up to three times if no one else is waiting. We don't charge overdue fines. If something is more than 21 days overdue, you won't be able to check out or renew anything until you return the overdue item.

Return things any time in the book drops on the south driveway of the library or at the southeast corner of the building. You can also return things inside either entrance when the library is open, or bring them to the bookmobile at any of its stops.

Find all the details:  
[skokielibrary.info/about/getting-items](https://skokielibrary.info/about/getting-items)

# Make Something

From sewing machines to hand looms to 3D printers to laser engravers, we have all kinds of equipment for you to explore. Adults and teens can visit the Studio on our second floor for introductory ready-to-make projects that you can drop in and try anytime. Our staff is always on hand to guide you through. Kids in grades K–8 will find interactive learning experiences in the BOOMbox.



# Learn Something New



# Get Expert Help

Our staff can help you find an absolutely perfect book or movie, and we can also help you find answers to your questions about...almost anything! Maybe you're looking for a job, starting or running a business, trying to become a US citizen, are a parent or caregiver in need of support, or you're just stuck on a homework problem? Wherever you're starting from, and whatever you want to learn to get there, we're here with you.

We have resources for all of these and more:

- Personal finances and taxes
- Consumer information
- Elections and voter information
- Health and medicine
- Real estate
- Family history
- Learning a language



# Get More Online

Download eBooks and audiobooks, stream movies and TV shows, listen to music, read digital comics, get online access to magazines and newspapers including *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*, take online classes with LinkedIn Learning and Creativebug, and much more.

Learn more at:  
[skokielibrary.info/library-at-home](https://skokielibrary.info/library-at-home)

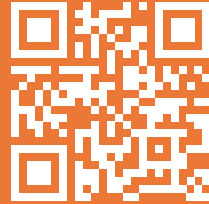




## Our New Podcast for Parents

We launched a podcast called *Your Family, Your Library* in the spring. Two of our youth librarians chat about their experiences as parents and recommend library resources for caregivers looking for support. They are ably supported by our behind-the-scenes staff, Amber and Paul. We asked our cohosts to share their thoughts about the podcast, and we hope you enjoy both their responses here and listening to the podcast.

[skokiellibrary.info/YFYL](http://skokiellibrary.info/YFYL)



### What do you most enjoy about making the podcast?

**Katie** I love the collaboration that is involved—not only with my superstar costar Caitlin, but also with Amber, our producer, and Paul, our sound engineer. We make a great team!

**Caitlin** Katie and I have an easy friendship and chemistry that make what could be (and often is!) very complicated feel not just easy, but joyful.

### How do you come up with the ideas for each episode?

**Caitlin** Katie and I are both parents, and most of what we talk about is pretty universal to that experience. We talk with patrons about what they're experiencing, and a lot of the time, it's either what we are also currently experiencing as parents, or something that we've recently been through. It turns out that parenting is not that easy! And a lot of the time it's pretty ridiculous.

**Katie** The four of us brainstorm the episode topics. Each person brings a unique perspective to the podcast and that's what we want to showcase to our listeners.



### How does the podcast fit in with the rest of your job?

**Caitlin** Quite naturally! Part of being a good children's librarian is keeping an eye on shifts and trends in parenting, pedagogy, and general child development. We spend time talking to patrons who are looking to us for resources and, often, commiseration. We have lots of both!

**Katie** I learn a lot from our patrons by listening to what they are looking for or wanting more of from our library. And, chances are, if one person is eager for more of something, then many people are.

### What has surprised you so far about producing the podcast?

**Caitlin** How naturally and how quickly it comes together! I knew our team was going to work together really well, but I didn't expect it to happen as fast as it did.

**Katie** I am surprised by how easily the conversation has flowed. I still definitely have some nerves before recording, but they always quickly melt away once Caitlin and I get the conversation going. We have a special rapport, and I believe that it comes through in our conversations.

### What would you like listeners to know about you?

**Katie** I love being a mom and a librarian—I hope this is evident, but it can never be said enough.

**Caitlin** That we are not experts! Just parents working alongside the rest of the parents out there who are doing their best at shuffling through the goo.

### Have any patrons mentioned the podcast to you?

**Caitlin** Yes! A parent in the community told me that they found us from the library's regular email update, and they were really impressed at how professional it sounded. They commented on how cool the library was for hosting it.

**Katie** We received an email from a listener that was super cool! It makes it feel like we are not just sending our voices into the void. We also have a few 5-star ratings on Apple podcasts that can't be Caitlin or I and our husbands, so that is also reassuring.

### What else would you like people to know about the podcast?

**Caitlin** We want people to interact with us! Tell us what you're interested in hearing about. Let us know you're listening.

**Katie** I feel really proud of the work we have done so far and excited by what we can do as we get more episodes out into the world.



### What's a favorite book that you find yourself recommending to families these days?

**Katie** One of my favorite recent picture books is *Farmhouse* by Sophie Blackall. It is on our Breezy Summer Reads list this year. It is a beautiful work of historical fiction, but also fun to gaze at the amazing illustrations. You cannot go wrong with anything by Sophie Blackall. Her book *Hello, Lighthouse* is another favorite of my kids. We have our own well-worn copy at home.

**Caitlin** It totally depends on the kid/family and their specific request. My absolute favorite books to recommend are ones that also make excellent family read-alouds. There are so many benefits to sharing a book in this way—even, and maybe even especially—with school-aged kids. *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown is pretty nearly perfect. It's an excellent robot/nature adventure, but it's also a beautiful story about what it means to be a mother and a caretaker.

### What are you currently reading/watching/listening to?

**Caitlin** I'm always reading (usually via audiobook), and it's usually something for kids or something scary for grown-ups. Right now I'm listening to *The Perfectionist's Guide to Losing Control* by Katherine Morgan Schafner—I'm a "Parisian Perfectionist with Procrastinator Edges." I'm also really enjoying the podcast *If Books Could Kill*. I'd listen to Michael Hobbs tell me anything.

**Katie** I have been thinking a lot about climate change and its effects on me, my family, and my kids' future—everyone's future! I listened to an episode of the podcast *The Gray Area* with Sean Illing called "Parenting Through the Climate Crisis." The episode features the author Elizabeth Cripps whose book *Parenting on Earth: A Philosopher's Guide to Doing Right by Your Kids and Everyone Else* is now on my to-read list.

# When Did Mystery Stories Begin? Is It a Mystery?!



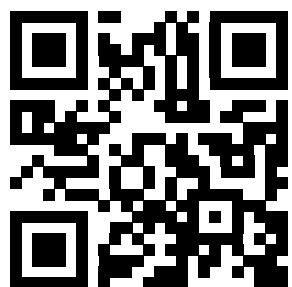
**Andrew**  
Advisory Specialist

Stories about the uncovering of hidden crimes (with or without supernatural assistance) go back a long way in many cultures. In Sophocles' play *Oedipus the King*, first performed in Athens in about 425 B.C.E., the city of Thebes was suffering from a variety of calamities. The Oracle at Delphi diagnosed the problem as being divine wrath over the Thebans' failure to avenge the murder of their previous king. Fortunately, the new king of Thebes was a man greatly esteemed as a solver of impossible riddles. Modestly deciding that "once more I must bring what is dark to light," the king questioned anyone who might have knowledge of the cold case. The result wasn't what he had anticipated; the solution was really something.

In another famous tragedy written some 2,000 years later, Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, prudently not taking a Ghost's word as to his father's murderer, laid plans to "catch the conscience of the king." And in China, Di Renjie and Bao Zheng, two real-life officials during the Tang and Song Dynasties, respectively, went on to achieve a kind of immortality as "Judge Dee" and "Judge Bao," mystery-solving heroes in the gong'an tradition of Chinese popular literature.

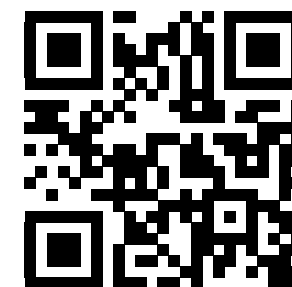
When exactly the solvers of crime riddles became "detectives" is open to some interpretation. I once attended a webinar where the presenter quite confidently stated that Sherlock Holmes was the beginning of detective fiction. However, when Arthur Conan Doyle introduced the character in *A Study in Scarlet*, he has the Great Detective proclaim his superiority to a few of his obvious fictional predecessors. The very fact that Holmes's creator felt the need to insist that his character was an improvement over what had come before meant that he understood there was a "before" he could be measured against. Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins had already imagined Scotland Yard detectives by that point, Collins most famously in *The Moonstone*.

And that's just the question of origins. Trying to delineate what a "detective story" or "mystery story" is is a bit like trying to nail the proverbial Jello to the wall. The 1920s saw the beginning of the so-called "Golden Age" of detective fiction, and of numerous attempts to come up with "rules" for the genre, most of which were promptly subverted by some of its leading practitioners. It was the era that produced both "fair play" mysteries, scrupulously designed to give the reader no more clues than the detective, and "hardboiled" fiction featuring detectives with no desire to be "erudite solver(s) of riddles in the Sherlock Holmes manner," as Dashiell Hammett described them. Never mind that at the end of *The Maltese Falcon*, Sam Spade, whom Hammett was talking about, uses a detail mentioned in passing much earlier in the book to solve the central mystery in a decidedly Holmesian manner. The borders are always blurry.



Regardless of when mysteries began or how they developed, they are fun to read, and our staff have opinions and favorites. You can find their suggestions in our Beginner's Guide to Mystery Fiction and in two lists of staff recommendations:

[skokielibrary.info/beginners-guide-mystery](https://skokielibrary.info/beginners-guide-mystery)



Take a look at all of our beginner's guides: world cinema, audiobooks, horror, romance, manga, thrillers, mysteries, and young adult fiction.

[skokielibrary.info/blog/beginners-guide](https://skokielibrary.info/blog/beginners-guide)

# KIDS & FAMILIES

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

## Preschool Puppet Playtime

Age 2-5

Wednesdays, September 6, October 4  
10:30-11 am (online)

## Lego Challenge

Age 8+

Thursdays, September 7, October 12  
4:30-5:30 pm

## Family Movies



### The Super Mario Bros. Movie

Saturday, September 9 at 1:30 pm

### Sensory-Friendly Family Movie

#### The Peanuts Movie

Saturday, October 21 at 1:30 pm

## Kosher Challah for Families

Sunday, September 10, 1-2 pm or 3-4 pm

## Nature Play

Age 2-6

Mondays, September 11-October 16  
10:30-11:30 am



## Introduction to Oaxacan Cuisine for Families

Enjoy a meal and learn about unique aspects of Oaxacan cuisine and culture.

Saturday, September 16, 4-5 pm



## Mr. Rogers in Our Neighborhood

Age K-5

Saturday, September 23, 3-4 pm

## Total T Magic at the Farmer's Market

Sunday, September 24, 10:30-11:30 am

## Snack Attack: Back to School

Age 8-12

Sunday, September 24  
3-4 pm



## Family Book Club

Grade 1-3 and adult

Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 pm

**HHM** Areli Is a Dreamer: September 28

Gustavo the Shy Ghost: October 26



## Family Photoshoot

Saturday, September 30, 2-3:30 pm

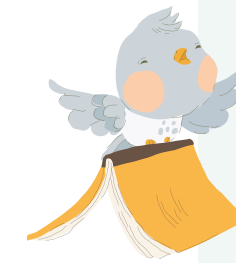
## STEAM Engines

Thursday, October 5, 4:30-5:15 pm

## Learn Balinese Dance and Music

Explore Indonesian culture through learning basic dance steps and trying instruments.

Saturday, October 7  
1:30-2:30 pm



## Storytimes

### Book Babies Storytime:

Babies to 11 months who are not yet walking

Wednesdays

9:30-9:50 am: indoors

10:30-10:50 am: outdoors

### Wonderful Ones Storytime:

Age 1

Wednesdays

10-10:20 am: indoors

11-11:20 am: outdoors

### Weekend Storytime

Saturdays, September 2, 16, 30,  
October 14, 28, 10:30-11 am

### Stories and Savasana

Thursdays, September 14, 21,  
and 28, 10:30-11 am

## Bilingual Storytime and Craft: Spanish

Tuesday, September 26

1:30-2:15 pm

### Family Fun Storytime

Wednesdays in October, 6:30-7 pm

### Terrific Twos Storytime

Age 2

Thursdays in October

10:30-11 am or 11:15-11:45 am

## Great Reads for Indigenous People's Day: A Collection Preview

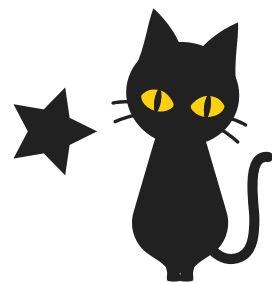
Learn about library resources that highlight the experiences of Indigenous peoples. For parents and educators of children ages 0–11.  
Monday, October 9, noon–1:30 pm



**HHM Adventure Club: Paraguay**  
Grade K–3  
Tuesday, October 10, 4:30–5:15 pm

## The Secret Yes: A Family Scavenger Hunt

Filament Theater leads a scavenger hunt focused on strengthening family resilience.  
Sunday, October 15, 1:30–3 pm



**Be the Scientist: Surprise Edition**  
Grade 3–5  
Tuesday, October 17, 4:30–5:15 pm

**Small Hands Crafts**  
Age 3–5  
Mondays, October 23 and 30  
10:30–11:30 am

**Make Your Own I Spy Book**  
Grade K–5  
Tuesday, October 24, 4:30–5:15 pm

**Juggling Funny Stories at the Farmer's Market**  
Sunday, October 29, 10:30–11:15 am



**Halloween Costume Parade**  
Tuesday, October 31, 10:30–11:30 am



## TEENS

Check the online calendar for more teen events and events that can include teens, along with other ages. Sign up at [events.skokiellibrary.info](https://events.skokiellibrary.info).

**Teen Self-Care Kits with NAMI**  
Learn to support your mental health in school and at home.  
Thursday, September 7, 6–7:30 pm



**Teen Book Chat with Conchas** **HHM**  
Sunday, September 24  
3–4 pm

## Changes in the College Planning Process You Need to Know

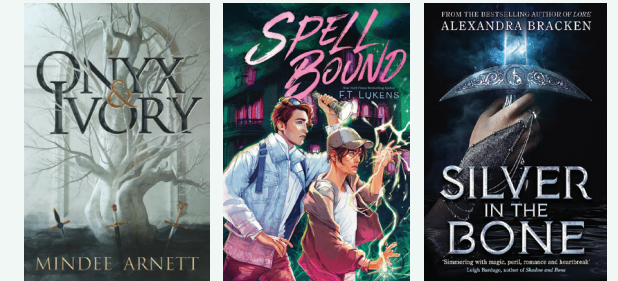
Some of the most significant changes to the college planning process in decades have taken place in the past year. Learn how these changes may affect college-bound students and their families, how to improve your odds of admission, and how to maximize financial aid.

Tuesday, September 26  
6:30–7:30 pm (online)



## Finding Good Books for Teens

Did you know that we have specialized lists suggesting books that our staff know teens will love? Here are a few:



Fantastical Stories for Teens Who Love Role-Playing Adventures



Talk That Talk, Read That Book: Joyful K-Inspired Teen Fiction



First Loves: The Best of Young Adult Romance

Find more at [skokiellibrary.info/lists/#/teens](https://skokiellibrary.info/lists/#/teens)



And, remember, our teen staff love to talk books with teens!



# FOR ADULTS

Check for event details and sign up at [calendar.skokiellibrary.info](http://calendar.skokiellibrary.info). Registration opens September 1 except for events during the first week of September, which are already open.

## ESL Café

Wednesdays, 12:30–2 pm (drop in)



### The Power of Story with Colson Whitehead

Wednesday, September 6, 7–8 pm (online)

### Build Your Business Brand on Social Media

Thursday, September 7, 7–8 pm (online)

### Low Vision Support Group

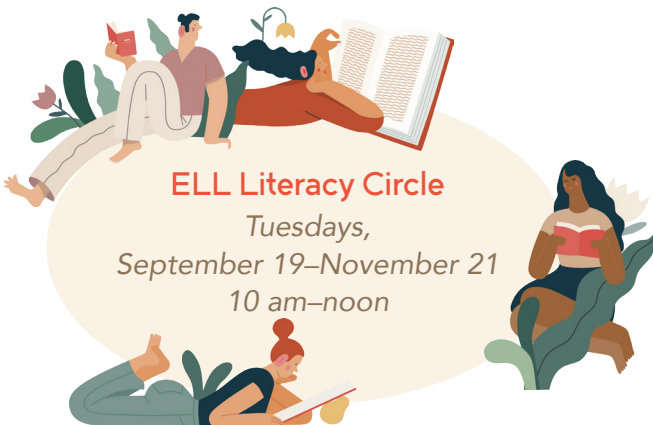
Tuesdays, September 12, October 10  
1:30–2:30 pm

### Fair Housing 101 with Open Communities

Thursday, September 14, 6–8 pm

### Introduction to Yoga

Fridays, September 15, October 20, 1–2 pm



### ELL Literacy Circle

Tuesdays,  
September 19–November 21  
10 am–noon



## Training in Youth Mental Health First Aid

Learn how to help an adolescent who is in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge.

Saturday, September 23, 10 am–3:30 pm

### Birds in the Garden: Creating and Enjoying a Bird Oasis

Thursday, September 28, 6:30–8 pm



## Art, Identity, and the Seen and Unseen Artist Talk by Mobeen Ansari

Explore with photographer and filmmaker Mobeen Ansari how art and artists can help us reflect on what—and who—is seen and unseen.

Tuesday, October 3, 6:30–8 pm

### Practice Citizenship Interviews with HIAS

Tuesday, October 3, 6:30–8 pm

### Chills and Thrills with Stephen Graham Jones

Wednesday, October 4, 7–8 pm (online)

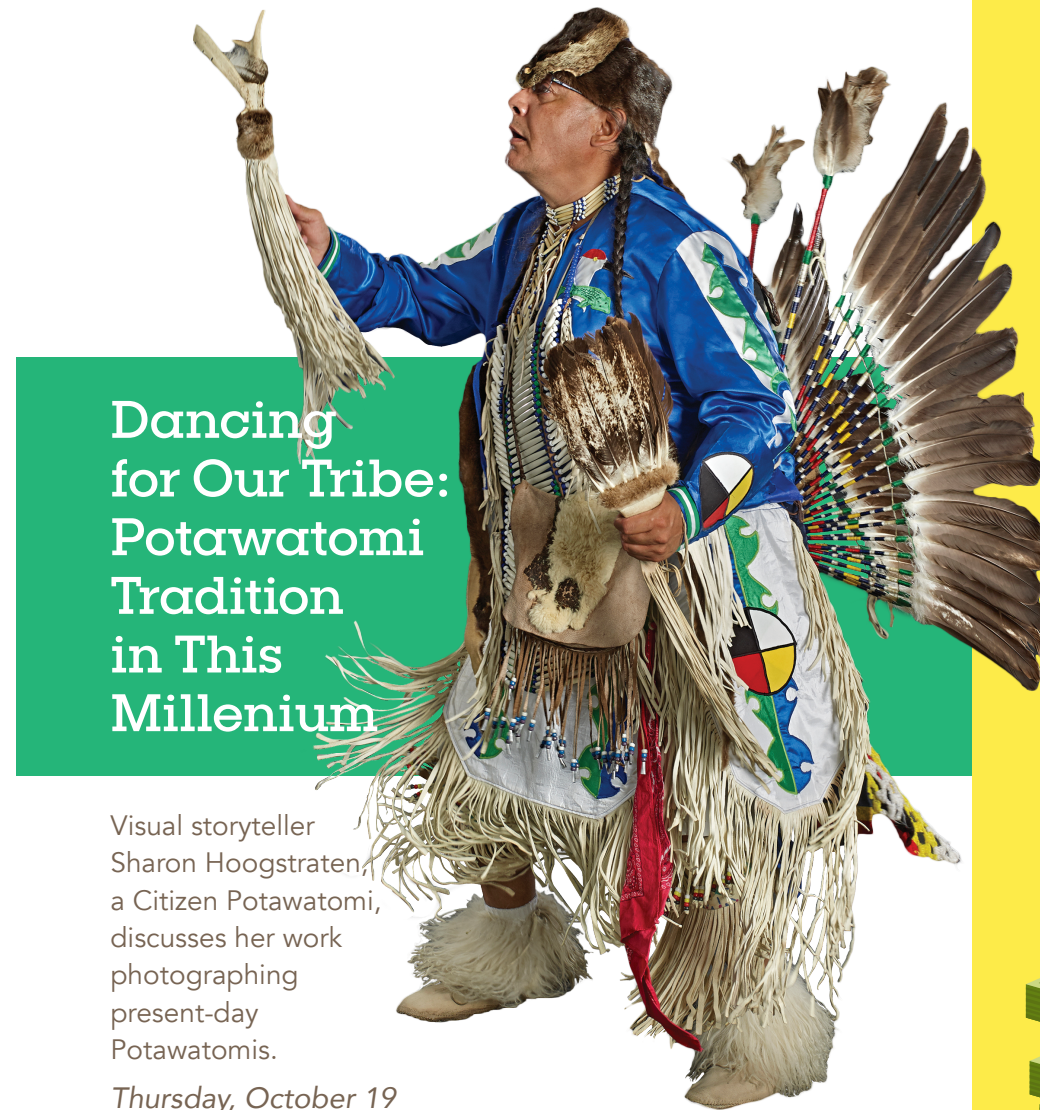


### Stories of Love and Allyship

Wednesday, October 11  
6:30–7:30 pm

### Renter's Guide to Sustainable Energy

Thursday, October 12, 6:30–7:30 pm



## Dancing for Our Tribe: Potawatomi Tradition in This Millenium

Visual storyteller Sharon Hoogstraten, a Citizen Potawatomi, discusses her work photographing present-day Potatomis.

Thursday, October 19  
7–8 pm



## Financial Fitness

### Investing Made Simple

Tuesday, October 3  
7–8:30 pm (online)

### Preparing for Retirement

Thursday,  
October 5  
6–8 pm

### Developing Retirement Income Strategies in Today's Markets

Wednesday, October 11  
7–8:30 pm (online)

### Money and Financial Fitness

Wednesday, October 18  
7–8:30 pm (online)



# Performances

Tickets for Sunday concerts given to those present starting at 2:30 pm

## Orchard Village Standing Ovarions Theater Group

Thursday, September 7  
6 pm



## KAIA String Quartet

Enjoy the rich and colorful music of Latin America, including works by Julian Orbon, Astor Piazzolla, Paquito D'Rivera, and more.

Sunday, September 17, 3 pm



## Looking Back and Looking Forward

### African-American Composers with Crossing Borders Music

Composers of yesterday and today, including Five Folksongs in Counterpoint by trailblazing, early 20th century Chicagoan Florence Price.

Sunday, October 8, 3 pm



### Nikki O'Neill Band

Singer-songwriter Nikki O'Neill's influences are soul music, rhythm & blues, and gospel.

Sunday, October 22  
3 pm

# Movies

(drop in)

## Morning Movie

Wednesdays at 10 am

Champions September 13      Hocus Pocus October 11

## Friday Film

Fridays at 1:30 pm

Living September 8      Armageddon Time September 22

She Said October 6      A Man Called Otto October 13

## Movie Night

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Los Lobos September 20      Falls around Her October 18

## Monster Movie Marathon

All at 6:30 pm

A Quiet Place Monday, October 23

The Mummy Tuesday, October 24

Godzilla vs. Kong Wednesday, October 25

Love and Monsters Thursday, October 26

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark Friday, October 27



# Technology

## One-on-One Tech Help

Wednesdays, 2–4 pm



## Using Portable Document Format (PDF)

Thursday, September 7  
10:30–noon

## Introduction to Google Forms

Thursday, September 14, 5:30–7 pm

## Windows Desktop Organization

Friday, September 22, 3–4:30 pm

## Microsoft Excel 2021 for Beginners

Saturday, September 30  
10:30–11:30 am

## Getting Started with Gmail

Monday, October 9, 1:30–3 pm



## Google Photos for Beginners

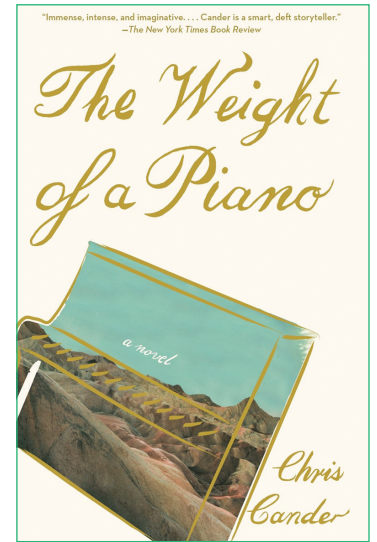
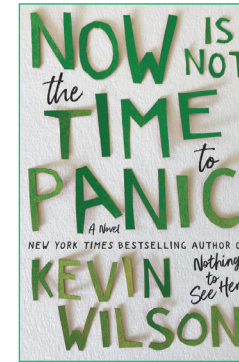
Friday, October 13, 3–4:30 pm

## Introduction to Google Sheets

Saturday, October 21, 10:30–11:30 am

## Microsoft Word 2021 for Beginners

Wednesday, October 25  
10–11:30 am



# Book Discussions and Book Talks

## LitLounge

Wednesdays  
7:30–9 pm (online)

Thank You for Listening  
September 13

Now Is Not the Time to Panic  
October 11

Talking Books Discussion Group  
Wednesdays, 1:30–2:30 pm

The Weight of a Piano  
September 20

Taste: My Life through Food  
October 18

## Genres on My Mind

Thursdays, 2–2:30 pm  
(online)

Thrillers  
September 28

Horror  
October 26

## Article Discussion

The Last Gamble of Tokyo Joe  
Tuesday, October 10  
7–8:30 pm

## Golden Age of YA Book Club

The Selection  
Tuesday, October 24  
6:30–7:30 pm

## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



### New Web Page for Families

Back-to-school time can be both joyous and stressful. We're here to support our parents and caregivers so that your kids can thrive at home and in school.

With the brand new Families page on our website, we've made it easier to find out more about our resources for children from birth through elementary school.



Learn about the collections, online resources, events and programs, spaces, and other services we offer. You'll also find information about local schools, homework help, and access to Tutor.com.

Check out a museum pass, watch sing-along videos, find a changing list of fun things to do, and more!

[skokielibrary.info/services/families](https://skokielibrary.info/services/families)

