



# BEST OF 2020

It was a year many of us are eager to put behind us. But there were still lots of things to celebrate in 2020, like new books, music, movies, and TV shows!

Inside, you'll find some of our staff favorites. Below are a few of the titles that your neighbors loved the most.

See them all at  
[skokielibrary.info/patronpicks](https://skokielibrary.info/patronpicks)



## Oona Out of Order

by Margarita Montimore (fiction)

It was light reading. It is an imaginary story. I enjoyed seeing what the author highlighted about each year and decade. It also had the reader relate to their own lives at that time. I am 65. I think you have had to live through these decades to appreciate Oona's time travel. Recommended by Sheryl G.

## Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents

by Isabel Wilkerson (nonfiction)

We knew these things, but this is a fresh framework for seeing them—one that recognizes blame but doesn't make that the main topic of discussion or allow it to paralyze action. Beautifully combines the historical, systemic, and personal aspects. Recommended by Caroline P.

## Deacon King Kong

by James McBride (fiction)

McBride captures the rhythms of a particular neighbor in the aftermath of a shooting. It was very satisfying discovering how the fates of all the characters are connected. Recommended by Delores N.



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FICTION

ROMANCE

SCI-FI/DYSTOPIA/FANTASY

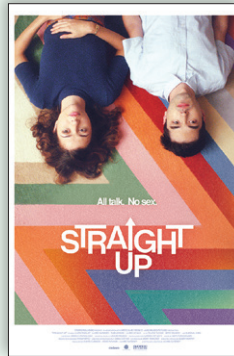
# BEST OF 2020 ADULTS

Believe 2020 or not, it was a great year for new titles! Here are just a few of our favorites to get you started. On our website you'll find more extensive lists of our picks, for all ages, at

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



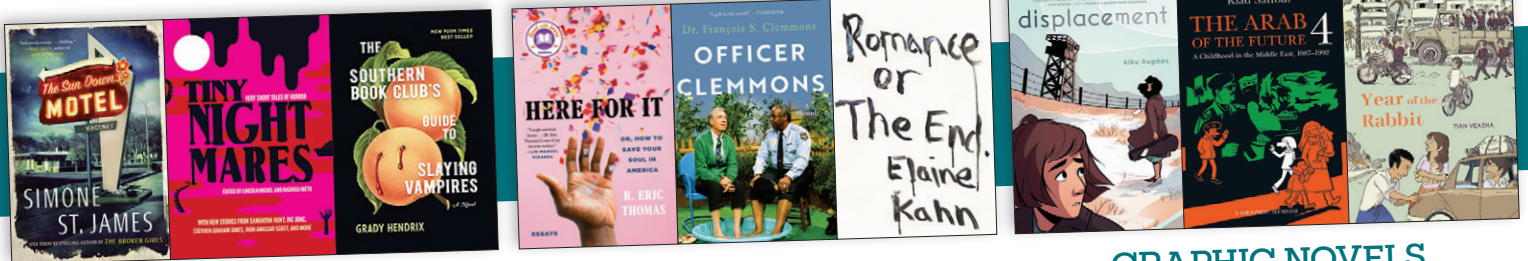
THRILLER/SUSPENSE/  
MYSTERY



## MOVIES

### Straight Up

Get ready for some extremely fast-paced, witty dialogue in this sweet movie about two unconventional twentysomethings. I loved the themes—confused sexuality, OCD, loneliness, being true to yourself (if you can figure out who you are)—all done with humor and sympathetic characters. Recommended by Lukie



HORROR

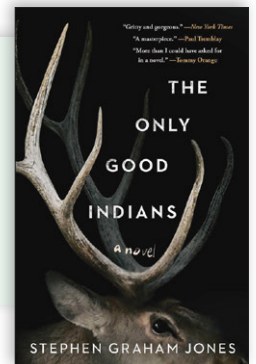
NONFICTION

GRAPHIC NOVELS

## FICTION

### *The Only Good Indians* by Stephen Graham Jones

Lyrical, super scary, and just plain terrific, this was the horror novel to read this year. Our dread kept mounting as characters who deserved better fell to an unstoppable supernatural vengeance on Montana's Blackfeet Reservation, seemingly regardless of what choices they made (pretty sure there was a metaphor in there). Recommended by Lynnanne and Andrew





TV SERIES



MUSIC

# BEST OF 2020

TEEN & KIDS



TEEN



TEEN

**You Should See Me in a Crown**  
by Leah Johnson

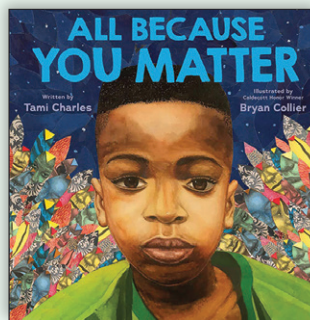
Sometimes you finish a book and it just makes you feel better, and this was that book. Full of strong friendships, a beginning romance and all the craziness of senior year, we couldn't put it down. If you need a book where you're wholeheartedly rooting for the main character, this is it. Recommended by Denise and Tiffany



GRADES 6-8



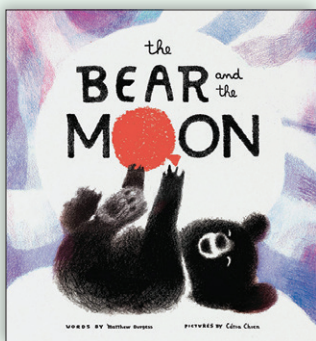
GRADES 4-5



GRADES K-3

**All Because You Matter**  
by Tami Charles

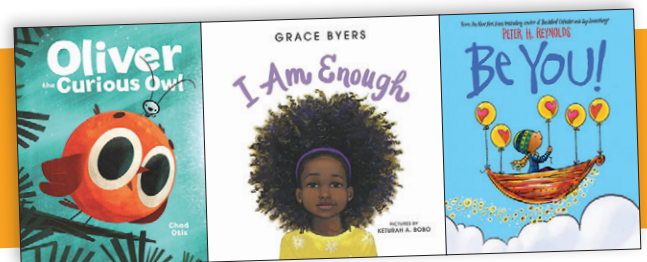
This gorgeous book is for all ages. Share the beautiful, almost glowing pictures with the youngest readers and the impactful, lyrical text with older children and adults. The message resonates: You matter! Recommended by Caitlin S.



AGES 0-5

**The Bear and the Moon**  
by Matthew Burgess

Bear has a blast with the beautiful red balloon that magically floats into his life. His play gets more and more rambunctious and, sadly, the balloon bursts. I love how this is such a true-to-life experience of exuberant toddlers everywhere. Recommended by Gudrun



AGES 0-5

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

# FOR ADULTS

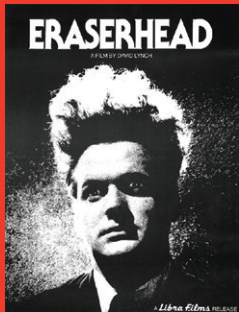
All events are held online.  
Sign up for all events at  
[events.skokiellibrary.info](https://events.skokiellibrary.info).

## ESL Café

Wednesdays, 12:30–2 pm  
(except January 3)

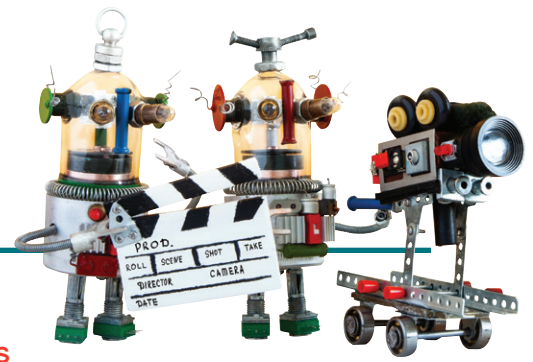
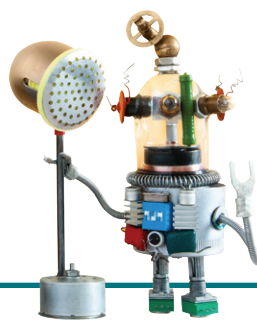
## Job Talk

Thursdays, January 7 and 14,  
February 18 and 25, 3–4 pm



Notes from  
Underground:  
Understanding  
Countercultural  
Art

Mondays, January  
11, 18, and 25,  
6:30–7:30 pm

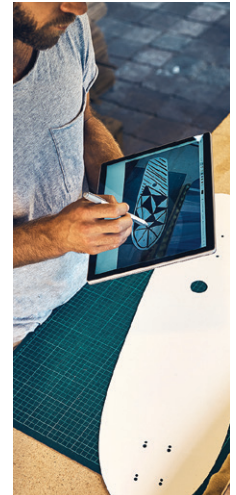


## Introductory Workshop: Making Videos and Podcasts

Thursdays, January 7, 14, and 21, 6:30–8 pm

## Introduction to Yoga

Fridays, January 15 and February 19, 1–2 pm



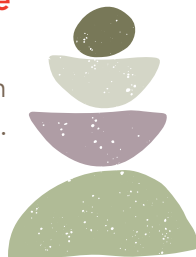
## Low Vision Support Group

Tuesdays, January 12 and  
February 9, 1:30–2:30 pm

## The Art and Science of Mindfulness

Explore fact and fiction  
in this workshop series.

Tuesdays,  
January 12 and  
February 9, 7–8 pm



## Project Sharing Roundtable

If you designed it, created it, or are in the middle of a project,  
share it with us. This event is also an opportunity to brainstorm  
and find inspiration for new projects.

Saturday, January 16, 4:30–6 pm

## Zoom into the Movies

Wednesdays, 8–9 pm

**BHM** Daughters of the Dust  
January 20

**BHM** John Lewis: Good Trouble  
February 17

## Navigating the Job Search

Thursdays, 3–4 pm

Looking for a Job Today  
January 21

Informational Interviewing  
February 4

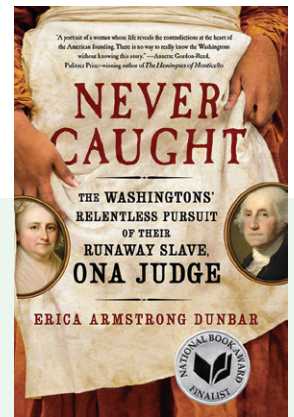
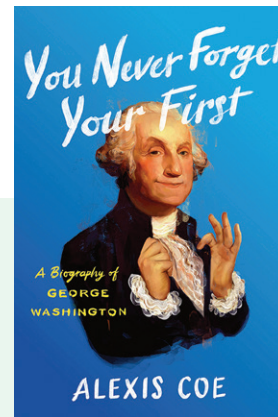
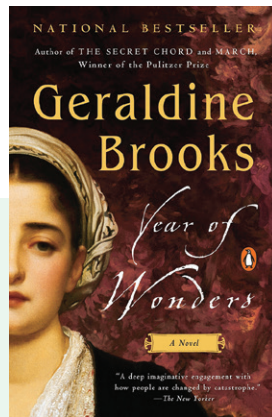
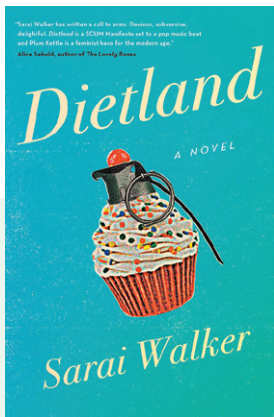
Resumes and Marketing Material  
January 28

Interviewing in the Virtual Age  
February 11

CELEBRATE  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Cosponsored by Wilmette Public Library, Glenview Public Library,  
Morton Grove Public Library, Evanston Public Library,  
Lincolnwood Public Library, and Nilis-Maine District Library.



# Book Discussions

## LitLounge

### Dietland

by Sarai Walker

Wednesday, January 13, 7:30–9 pm

### The Right Swipe

by Alisha Rai

Wednesday, February 10, 7:30–9 pm

## Talking Books

### Year of Wonders

by Geraldine Brooks

Wednesday, January 20, 1:30–2:30 pm

### You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington

by Alexis Coe

Wednesday, February 17, 1:30–2:30 pm

## Adult Book Discussion

Titles TBA

Goodreads: Thursdays, January 21 and February 18, 8–9 pm

Instagram Live: Tuesdays, January 26 and February 23, 7:30–8 pm

## BHM Pages through History

### Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge

by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

Monday, February 16, 7–8:30 pm

## Content Strategy and COVID-19

Wednesday, January 27, 7–8 pm

## Food Science for the Win

Thursdays, 11–11:30 am

### Hearty Stew

January 28

### Simple Fried Rice

February 25



## Naturalization 101: Becoming a United States Citizen

Tuesday, February 2, 6–8 pm

## Diasporadic: Growing up in a Multilingual Home

Discuss experiences and challenges of growing up with intersecting cultural backgrounds.

Saturdays, 1–2 pm

### February 6: Food

### February 13: Language

### February 20: Technology

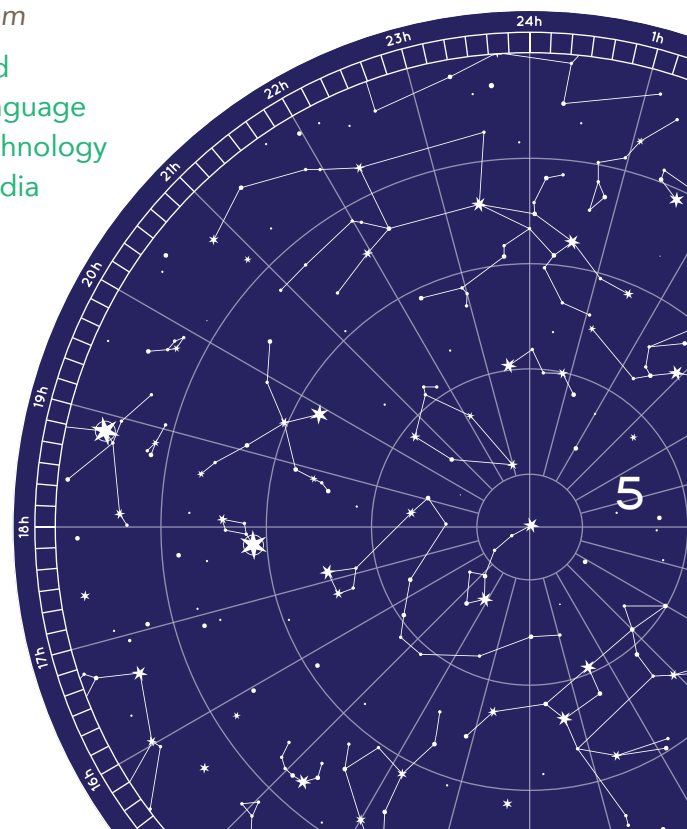
### February 27: Media

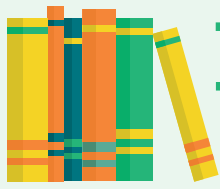
## The Whys and Whens of Car Maintenance

Monday, February 8, 7–8:30 pm

## Constellation Embroidery Workshop

Wednesday, February 24, 7:30–8:30 pm





# Meet the Advisory Services Staff

There's something magical about finding a book, movie, or music that fits your taste so perfectly it feels like it was made just for you. But with so many choices, it's hard to find those titles without help. Fortunately, we have 11 friendly experts! Let's find out a little more about them and their craft.

## Get Recommendations from Our Team

Browse lists created by our staff: [skokiellibrary.info/lists](http://skokiellibrary.info/lists)

Get a personalized list of suggestions with Bookmatch or Screenmatch: [skokiellibrary.info/bookmatch](http://skokiellibrary.info/bookmatch) or [skokiellibrary.info/screenmatch](http://skokiellibrary.info/screenmatch)

Follow [@skokiellibraryadvisoryteam](https://www.instagram.com/skokiellibraryadvisoryteam) on Instagram

Email [patronengagement@skokiellibrary.info](mailto:patronengagement@skokiellibrary.info)

Use the chat box on our website

Call us: 847-673-7774



## How do you stay up on all the titles



**Chris**

"Book reviews via *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Kirkus*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, etc. Movie reviews via *Cineaste*, *Sight & Sound*, various podcasts and #FilmTwitter. Music reviews via various online sites and record stores—Boomkat, for example, a record label operating out of Manchester, offers great reviews of some of the most cutting-edge electronic music."

Loves recommending a great foreign movie, U.S. political history, Chicago House music

"I subscribe to book-related newsletters. I also talk about books with literally anyone, so I love hearing from friends, family, fellow staff members, and patrons about what they're reading and loving. Novelist is one of my favorite places to start when I'm recommending books in a genre that I'm not familiar with."

Loves recommending darkly humorous literary fiction. It doesn't happen that often, but when it does...



**Becca**



**Sharon**

"I listen to podcasts that highlight new and trending titles, and various reviews, interviews, lists, and descriptions posted on Goodreads, B&N, IndieWire, and NPR. Also, there are always great suggestions from colleagues."

Loves recommending fantasy (especially when it features dragons, mythology, or steampunk) and independent movies

"I attend webinars by publishers. I also follow a ton of bookstores on Twitter. My coworkers are great resources. I learn so much just by listening to what they are reading. Even if I haven't read or watched something, I feel confident recommending a book or movie if I know that my coworkers have read it and loved it."

Loves recommending fantasy books or a good thriller



**Lynnanne**

# What is 'Advisory'?

"Fundamentally, advisory is about finding materials patrons want, or, more important, finding something they didn't even know they'd want before you recommended it."

Loves recommending classics, history, philosophy



**Mike**

"I'm a book concierge. Or a book sommelier. A book matchmaker. When I suggest books to people, I remind them that I didn't write it and I won't be offended if they decide not to check it out. Or if they do end up reading it but hating it—that's ok! We never want patrons to feel obligated to read, watch, or like something we suggest. One great thing about library staff is that we don't work on commission!"



**Allyson**

Loves recommending anything with "royal" in the title

"If you're looking for something, but you're not sure exactly what it is, I'm the person who helps you find it."

Loves recommending poetry, self-help, books about sleep



**Paul**

"Advisory to me is like being a treasure hunter. Patrons come in not knowing what to look for or where to look. We provide the map of how to find what they want. Asking questions about their likes and needs is sometimes all it takes to get the flow going."



**Cecilia**

Loves recommending classic movies and British mysteries

# What are you currently reading, watching, or listening to?

"*All the Devils Are Here* by Louise Penny; *World on Fire*, season one; listening to *The French Album*, by Jorge Frederico Osoria (a local pianist who is incredibly talented) on Cedille Records."



**Mary**

Loves recommending international TV series—especially Scandinavian noir

"*Beneath the Surface: Killer Whales*, *SeaWorld*, and *the Truth beyond Blackfish* by John Hargrove. I'm watching *The Crown* with my mother (we're still in season 1, but so far we like it a lot)."



**Penny**

Loves recommending romance novels, graphic novels (especially manga) and action and sci-fi movies

"*Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce; *The Queen's Gambit* on Netflix"



**Lukie**

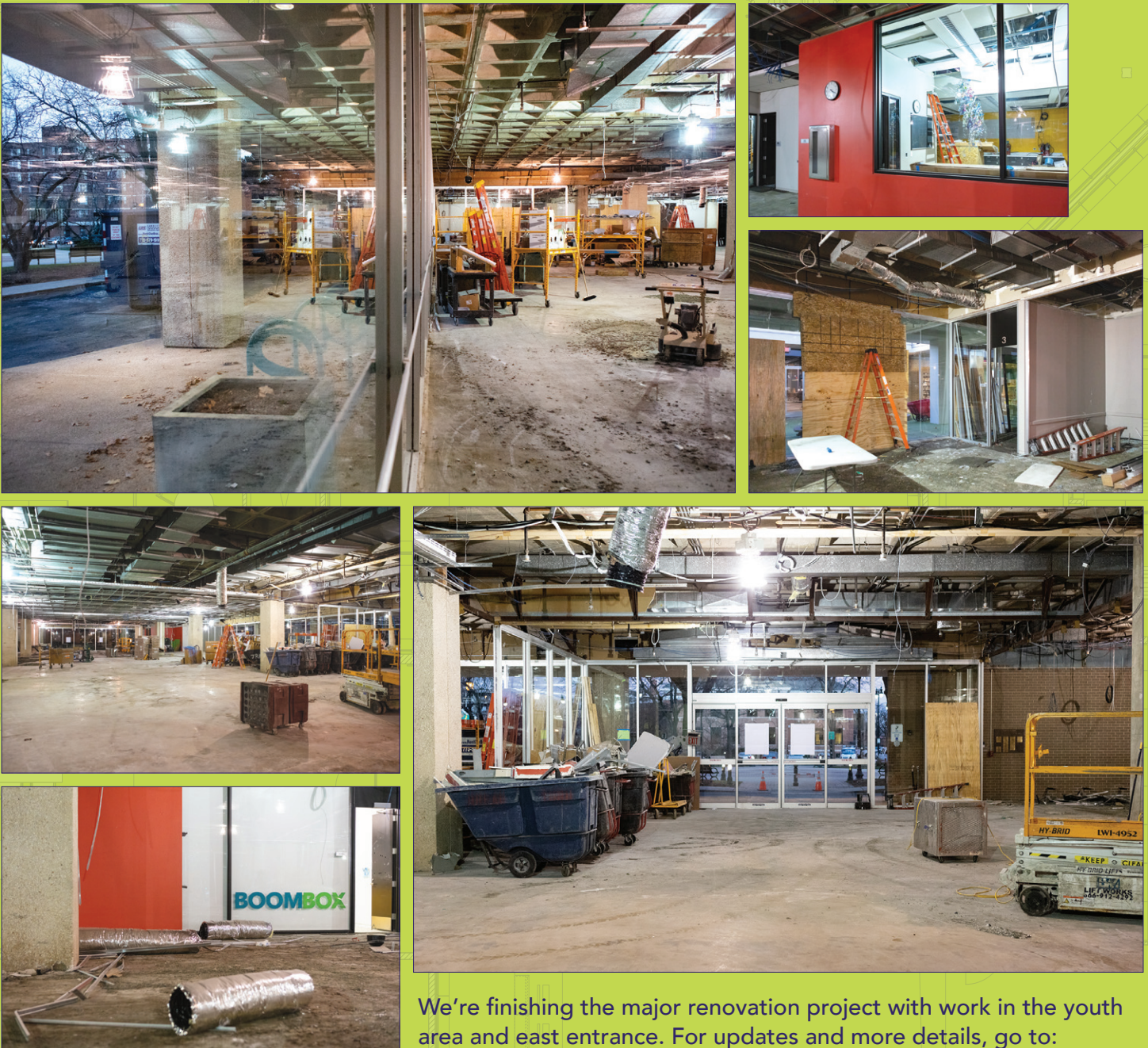
Loves recommending literary fiction or narrative nonfiction with lyrical writing and a nature theme, also quirky short stories





# RENOVATION 2020

## PHASE THREE: The East Side

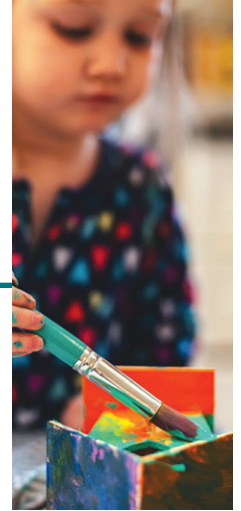
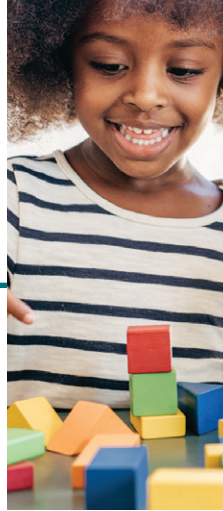


We're finishing the major renovation project with work in the youth area and east entrance. For updates and more details, go to:

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

# KIDS & FAMILIES

All events are held online. Sign up for all events at [events.skokiellibrary.info](https://events.skokiellibrary.info). Check the deadlines to sign up, and we'll let you know how to pick up supplies if needed.



## Families

### Family Cooking Workshop

Mondays, January 11 and 25, 4:30–5:30 pm

### Fun with Rainbow Therapy Dogs

Children with disabilities and their families

Sundays, January 17 and February 21, 11:30 am–12:30 pm



## Project Roundtable for Families

This sharing session is for elementary-age creators of all skill levels and their families. What projects have you tried at home? If you designed it, created it, or are in the middle of a project, share it with us.

Sunday, January 17, 2–3 pm

### Be the Artist

Mondays, January 18 and February 15, 5:30–6 pm

### Adventure Club Goes on a World Tea Tour

Tuesday, January 19, 3:30–4:15 pm

### Family Art Party in a Bag: Reserve Your Kit

Sign up by Friday, January 29 or February 26

### Adventure Club: Kenya

Tuesday, February 23, 3:30–4:15 pm



## BHM We're Connected: Interactive Stories with Oba William King

Enjoy stories in the Black tradition of call and response and share your own with Oba William King.

Saturday, February 6, 11:15 am–noon

### Love Crafts

Saturday, February 13, 2:30–3 pm OR 3:30–4 pm

**CELEBRATE  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

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



# Little Kids

## Face-to-Face Time

Mondays,  
1:30–2:30 pm



### Library Dance Party

Tuesdays, 10:30–11 am

### Storytime

Thursdays, 1:30–2 pm

### Family Fun Storytime

Fridays, starting January 8,  
10:30–11 am

### Weekend Storytime

Saturdays, 10:30–11 am



# School-Age Kids



### Cartooning with Blue Rose Art Studio

Saturdays, January 9 and 30, 2–3 pm

### Unicorn Crafts

Sunday, January 24,  
2–2:45 pm OR  
3:30–4:15 pm



### Write Stuff

Tuesdays, January 26 and February 16,  
4–4:45 pm, Grades 4–5

## Love Storytime

Sunday,  
February 7,  
1:30–2 pm



# TEENS

See all of our teen events at  
[skokie.library.info/events/teens](http://skokie.library.info/events/teens)

### Teen Library Council

Thursdays, 4:30–5:30 pm, Grades 6–12

### Connect, Transform, Act:

### Teens Take Action and Take Care

Fridays, starting January 8, 3:30–4:30 pm

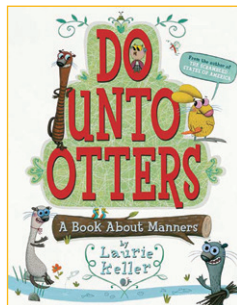
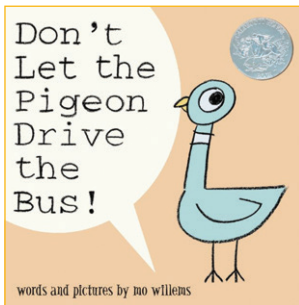
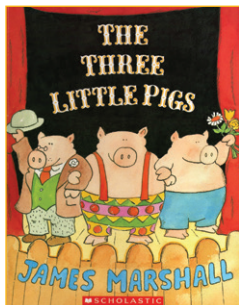
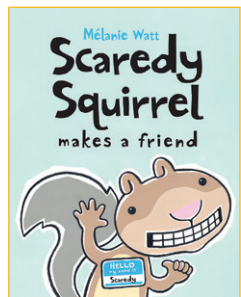
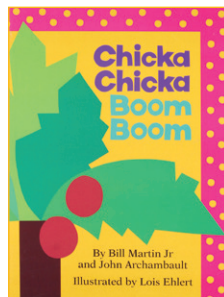
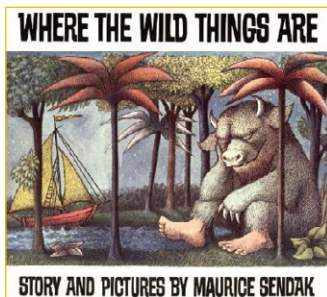
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

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**kids**

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