



SKOKIE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

January & February 2023

Staff Picks '22

It was a great year for new titles! And we chose some of our favorites to suggest for you—many more than will fit in this newsletter. Be sure to browse the full lists, read what our staff had to say about the titles that interest you, and place holds on the ones you want to check out:

skokielibrary.info/staffpicks

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www.skokielibrary.info



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Monday to Friday, 9 am to 9 pm
Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm
Sunday, noon to 6 pm
Closed January 1



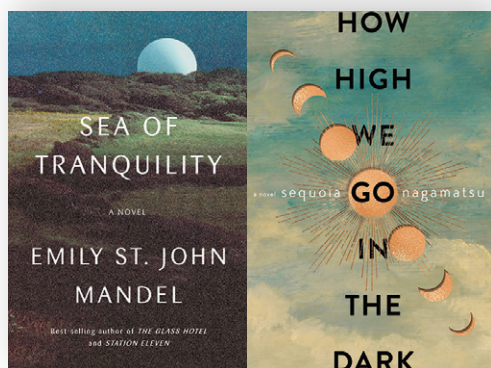
Romance



Thrillers

Get Some Great Recommendations

It feels like it's time to hunker down with a great story and maybe a warm beverage and a blanket. Let us recommend some books or movies just for you!



Science Fiction

Dinosaurs, baked goods, and wacky relatives combine in this fun tale. Hot and playful chemistry between the lead characters never goes beyond a kiss.

—Lynnanne



Fill out a short form to let us know something about your reading likes, and our experts will send you a custom list of titles we think you'll love.

skokielibrary.info/bookmatch

B
bookmatch

Staff Picks '22



Music

See complete lists



skokielibrary.info/staffpicks



Film



screenmatch

We'll connect you with films and TV shows in your favorite formats, from Blu-ray to DVD to streaming.



skokielibrary.info/screenmatch



Television

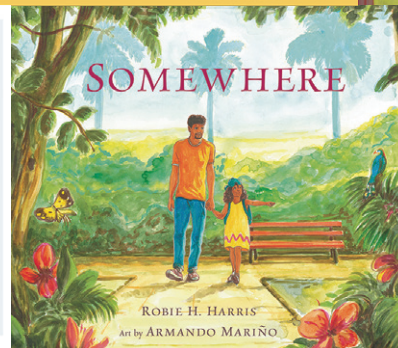
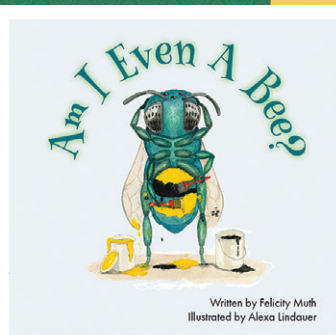
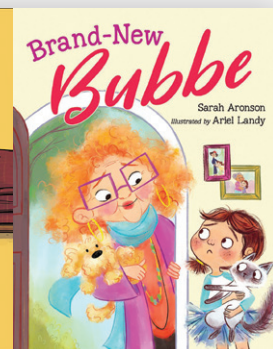
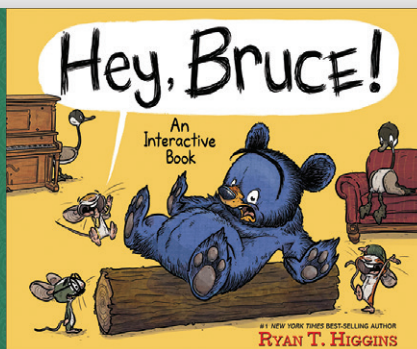
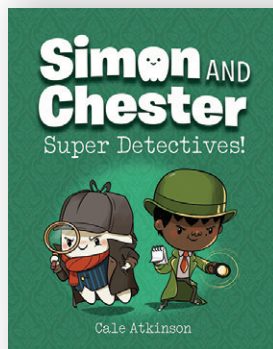
Try
kanopy

Use your library card to stream thousands of documentaries, art films, and indie movies.



**As a frizzy
redhead
growing up,
I related to
Marlene's
frustration with
her curly hair
that everyone,
especially her
mother, wants
to mess with!**

-Shelley



Age 0-Grade 3

If you or someone you love is in grades K–8, we know that it can be hard to find a really good book and we'd like to help!
skokiellibrary.info/bookmatchforkids



bookmatch
FOR KIDS



Grades 6-8



Grades 3-5



Teen



This book was similar to Spirited Away, one of my favorite Studio Ghibli films.

-Amber



Graphic Novels



Fantasy





This book provides the perfect combination of deep learning in all aspects of paleontology with vivid prose that any novelist would envy.

-Steven



Nonfiction

Staff Picks '22



Horror



Literary Fiction

See complete lists



skoki.library.info/staffpicks



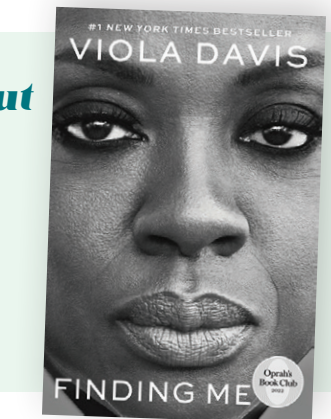
Mysteries



Biography & Memoir

A heart-wrenching, raw, candid, yet uplifting book about how Viola Davis found her voice and ultimately herself through the pain and the trauma of her childhood.

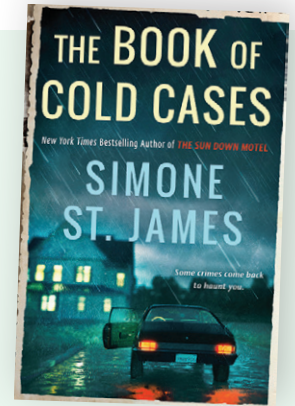
—Megan, Michelle, Monica, Rummanah, and Van



Historical Fiction

I have tried to read everything St. James has written since I first discovered her last year. This one doesn't disappoint. It's a slow burn with well-developed characters.

—Becca





Tune into the Library

On our YouTube channel, you can watch interviews with authors and artists, cooking demonstrations, craft how-tos, live concerts, tours of our building, instructions on using the equipment in our Studio, profiles of various staff members, Rise and Shine Storytimes, STEAM Engines, and more. We also post videos to Instagram that include booktalks, scenes around the library, and staff just having some fun. Meet the members of our Communications and Multimedia Engagement team who make these videos for you to enjoy.





Paul
Videographer

Taught himself to throw a Nolan Ryan curveball in high school by studying an article in the *Chicago Tribune* that had illustrations of the grip and wrist-turn technique
Currently watching *Cobra Kai*

"As the library's videographer, making videos is my primary responsibility, and it's what I love to do! I work with various departments and community members to imagine, create, and produce a variety of videos for the public and for staff.

Each project has a message, or a story to tell, and each one is unique. One of my favorite parts of video making is uncovering the story and discovering how to tell it visually in a compelling and accurate way. One of my favorite videos was a feature on our bookmobile for its 60th anniversary. Being in the community and capturing the bookmobile in action was truly a highlight. I was able to interview our amazing bookmobile staff and patrons about what makes the bookmobile so special and why it has been an outstanding library service for so many decades.

Making videos is equal parts creative and technical work and has three distinct stages: preproduction, production, and postproduction. Each stage will set you up for success, or failure, in the next stage, and each requires a lot of organization and problem-solving. I once needed to set up a camera on the dashboard of a car to get a second angle during a video shoot. The only camera that would fit was my cell phone, but it didn't work in the camera mount so I had to use a bent paper clip woven ever-so-perfectly through the holder. It was a bumpy and nerve-racking car ride, but it worked!"



Is learning to crochet
Currently reading *Raven Unveiled* by Grace Draven



Amber
Communications
Coordinator

"I create short-form videos for the library's Instagram page. I also do some final steps on the videos we feature on the library's YouTube channel by providing closed captioning and search terms.

Short-form videos are fun because inspiration can strike anywhere! I could be talking to colleagues and have an idea, or hear a song and know immediately how to use it. If you know anything about social media, you know that it's a very fast-paced environment, and videos are even faster! Most videos have a shelf life of about two weeks, so I'm never not brainstorming or filming new short-form videos. I enjoy how collaborative the work is! I work with some seriously talented people. I worked with colleagues in different departments to film a "Things That Scare Librarians" reel right before Halloween that was really silly to film, and I had a lot of fun laughing with colleagues. A lot of patrons enjoyed the video as well."



Has worked at the library
for more than 21 years

Currently watching
Warrior Nun season 2

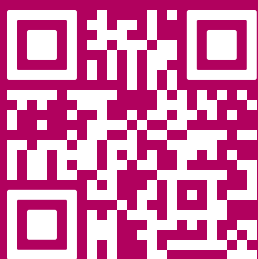
Rocio

Graphic Designer

"I do motion graphics for most of the videos we produce at the library. Motion graphics is essentially animated graphic design—I apply movement to design elements such as text, shapes, objects, and images.

The Rise and Shine Storytime and STEAM Engines series are two of my favorite projects. I'm particularly proud of the opening sequences, and each took about a month and a half to complete. I designed the whole shebang: storyboarded, animated, and plugged-in music and sound effects. The puffing effect in the title reveal of STEAM engines was my first attempt at frame-by-frame animation!

I enjoy the varying complexity each project brings. I'm still discovering the world of motion graphics. I've been doing it for about three years now, and I've only scratched the surface of it all but love the way it pushes my growth as an artist. Actually, I feel like a game character racking up XP points at the end of every mission and gearing up for the next! It's challenging, stressful at times, and there's a bit of a learning curve with every project, but seeing the final product always amazes and delights me."



Explore our YouTube channel for
events, how-tos, and much more.

We also post short videos to Instagram.

youtube.com/skokiellibrary | instagram.com/skokiellibrary





Is afraid of heights but loves rock climbing
Currently listening to the *Radio Rental* podcast

Meghan

Photographer

"I sometimes assist Paul with filming more complicated projects. If he needs to be very involved in directing the action, I might operate the camera, making sure things are in focus, recording, and capturing audio properly. I once had to figure out how to set a tripod at the absolute lowest possible setting—the camera was just about on the floor! But it made for a good angle and a good shot! I particularly loved working on the Breezy Summer Reads video, which featured some younger kids sharing what they loved about the books. The kids we interviewed were so fun and so excited to be helping us!

Our video production team does great work, and it's extremely rewarding to assist them in creating the final product. You might be surprised to learn that the animations in our videos are done in-house. I think that is amazing and we're so lucky to have Rocio on our team."

KIDS & FAMILIES

Check the online calendar for added events, and sign up at events.skokiellibrary.info. Capacity for individual events is limited.

Small Hands Crafts

Mondays, 10:30–11 am

Library Dance Party

Tuesdays, 10:30–11 am

First Moves with Incite Dance

18 months–3 years

Tuesdays, starting January 10
1:30–2 pm

Preschool Puppet Playtime

Wednesdays, January 4
February 1, 10:30–11 am (online)

Adventure Club

Tuesdays, 4:30–5:15 pm

Puerto Rico
January 10



Egypt
February 7

STEAM Saturday

For kids younger than 6

Saturdays, January 14, 28, February 11, 25, 10:30–11 am



Family Book Club

Grades 1–3 with an adult
Saturdays, 1:30–2:30 pm

You Are Stardust

by Elin Kelsky

January 14

Your Name Is a Song

by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

February 18



Fun with Rainbow Therapy Dogs

Sundays, January 15, February 19, 11:15 am–noon



OBSERVING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Visit skokiellibrary.info/bhm to learn about all of our Black History Month events!



Storytimes

Book Babies Storytime

Babies to 11 months who are not yet walking

Wednesdays, except January 25

Indoors: 9:30–9:50 am

Outdoors: 10:30–10:50 am

Wonderful Ones Storytime

Age 1

Wednesdays, except January 25

Indoors: 10–10:20 am

Outdoors: 11–11:20 am

Family Fun Storytime

Wednesdays, 6:30–7 pm

Terrific Twos Storytime

Age 2

Thursdays, 10:30–11 am or 11:15–11:45 am

Weekend Storytime

Saturdays, January 7, 21, February 4, 18, 10:30–11 am





Open Chess

Sundays, January 15, February 19, 2–4 pm

Be the Scientist

Tuesdays, 4:30–5:15 pm

Northern Lights

January 17



Who Invented the Potato Chip

February 14



Lego Challenge

Thursdays, January 19, February 16, 4:30–5:30 pm



Family Bingo

Fridays, January 20, 27, 6:30–7:15 pm

Dog Man Crafts

Saturday, January 28, 4–5:30 pm

Tuesday, February 21, 4:30–5:30 pm



Hebru Brantley Art Exploration

Monday, February 20, 2:30–3:30 pm

Geronimo Stilton Crafts

Saturday, February 25
4–5:30 pm



**ede2: On Your Mark...
Family Dance Performance**
Sunday, February 26, 3–4 pm

Teens

Check the online calendar for added events or events that can include teens, along with other ages. Sign up at events.skokiellibrary.info.

Newcomers Club

Mondays, January 9, February 13
5:30–6:30 pm

Reverse Glass Painting

Wednesday, January 18, 6–7 pm

Queerness and Judaism on the Same Page

Sunday,
February 12
2–3 pm



Teen Library Collaborative

Grades 6–12

Thursdays,
January 12,
February 9
5:30–6:30 pm

Anime and Manga Appreciation Club

Wednesdays,
January 25,
February 22
6–7:30 pm

FOR ADULTS

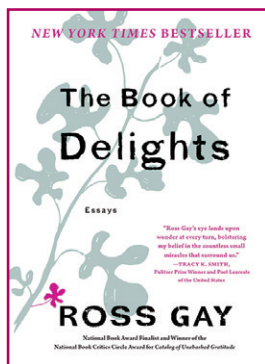
Check for event details and sign up at calendar.skokiellibrary.info. Registration opens January 2 except for events during the first week of January, which are already open.

ESL Café

Wednesdays, 12:30–2 pm (drop in)

Low Vision Support Group

Tuesdays, January 10, February 14
1:30–2:30 pm



Inciting Joy: A Conversation with Ross Gay (online)

Wednesday
January 11
7–8 pm

Government Contracting 101

Thursday, January 19, 7–8 pm

Introduction to Yoga

Fridays, January 20, February 17, 1–2 pm

Staying Smart and Safe with Technology: Cybersecurity

Tuesday, January 24, 6:30–7:30 pm

Your Energy-Smart Home

Decarbonization 101

Save money, make your home more comfortable, and reduce your carbon footprint.

Wednesday, January 25
6:30–7:30 pm



Mental Health Self-Care Kits

Learn ways to support your mental health using your five senses.

Thursday, January 26
6:30–7:30 pm



Practice Citizenship Interviews with HIAS

Tuesday, February 7, 6:30–8 pm

CULTURA AND CAFÉ: EXPLORING THE LATINX EXPERIENCE

Cultura y Cafe: Explorando la Experiencia Latinx



Come share about the diverse cultures and languages of Latin America through games and casual discussion.

Wednesday, February 22, 6–7 pm

Mental Health 101

Thursday, February 23, 6:30–7:30 pm



Movies

Morning Movie

Wednesdays at 10 am

Cinderella
January 11

Luca
February 8

Friday Film

Fridays at 1:30 pm

Elvis
January 13

Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris
February 24

Movie Night

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Ava
January 18

Writing with Fire
February 15



Make Things



Introduction to the Embroidery Machine

Friday, January 6, 4–5 pm

Wednesday, February 8, 6:30–7:30 pm

Introduction to CorelDRAW Laser Projects

Wednesday, January 18, 6:30–7:30 pm

Friday, February 24, 4–5 pm

Learn How to Hand Embroider

Thursday, January 19, 7–8:30 pm

Laser Engrave a Custom Bookmark or Greeting Card

Thursday, February 9, 7–8:30 pm

Learn to Sew

Tuesday, February 21, 7–8:30 pm

Thursday, February 23, 7–8:30 pm

Performances

Tickets given to those present starting at 2:30 pm

Young Steinway Concerts

Prasad Piano Duo and Samuel Kim, Piano

Sunday, January 8 at 3 pm

Serge Kalinovsky, Cello, and Melody Xu, Piano

Sunday, February 5 at 3 pm



The Roots of Chicago Blues

Chicago Blues Hall of Fame inductee Donna Herula, acoustic blues slide guitar, Marc Edelstein, upright bass, and Tony Wittrock, on acoustic guitar/mandolin

Sunday, January 22 at 3 pm

ede2: On Your Mark...Family Dance Performance

Sunday, February 26 at 3 pm

Technology

Google Slides for Beginners

Saturday, January 7, 10:30–11:30 am

All about Android

Thursday, January 12, 10:30–11:30 am

Microsoft Word 2021 Drop-in

Wednesday, January 18, 10–11:30 am

Microsoft Excel 2021 Drop-in

Monday, January 23, 3–4 pm

Google Docs for Beginners

Saturday, February 4
10:30–11:30 am

Introduction to Google Photos

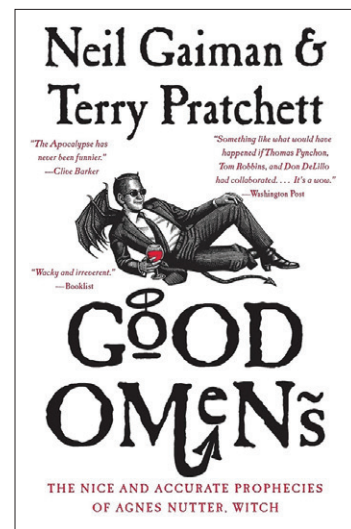
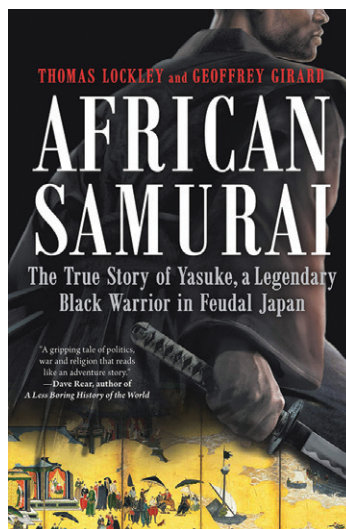
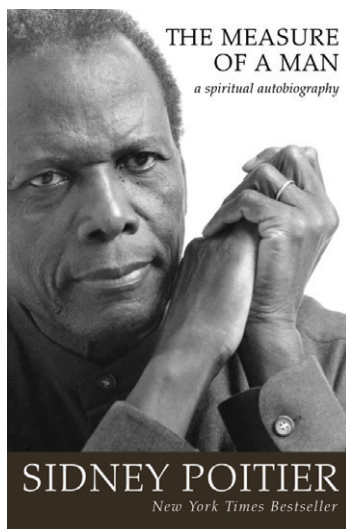
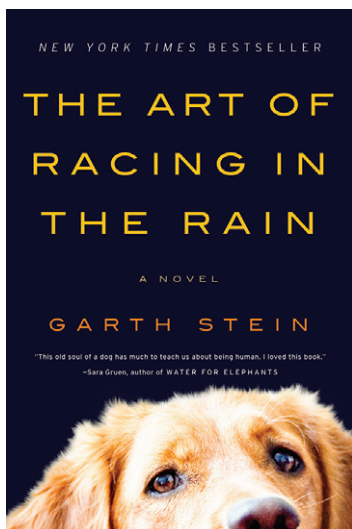
Wednesday, February 15, 10–11:30 am

All about iPhones

Thursday, February 23, 10:30–11:30 am

One-on-One
Tech Help

Wednesdays
3–5 pm



Book Discussions

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

The Art of Racing in the Rain
January 18

BHM *The Measure of a Man*
February 15

Adult Book Discussions

Staff Picks 2022

Goodreads: Thursday
January 26, 9 am–9 pm

Instagram Live: Tuesday
January 31, 7:30–8 pm

What We're Reading

Goodreads: Thursday
February 23, 9 am–9 pm

Instagram Live: Tuesday
February 28, 7:30–8 pm

Pages through History

African Samurai:
The True Story of Yasuke
Wednesday, February 22
7–9 pm (in person and online)

Lit Lounge

Good Omens
Wednesday, January 11
7:30–9 pm (online)

**OBSERVING
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Visit skokieliibrary.info/bhm
to learn about all of our
Black History Month events!