



Summer reading “makes dreams come true” in so many different ways. We asked our staff what makes summer reading special. Do you have a favorite memory? Please share it with us at [skokiellibrary.info/summer-reading-memories](https://skokiellibrary.info/summer-reading-memories)



# Summer Reading 2023 Favorite Summer Reading Memories



**Amy B**  
Learning Experiences

I worked at another library where a young girl and her dad came and asked so sweetly if they could still turn in their reading log after the deadline. Elated when the answer was yes, this girl started looking through the prize packs of comics. She got excited and accidentally raised her voice “Oh, you have Strawberry Shortcake?! Ooh, Pete the Cat!” Then, suddenly, the phrase that will stick with me forever: **“Daddy look! All of my dreams have come true! It’s Hello Kitty and the Smurfs!!”** I will always take with me that summer reading can help make dreams come true.



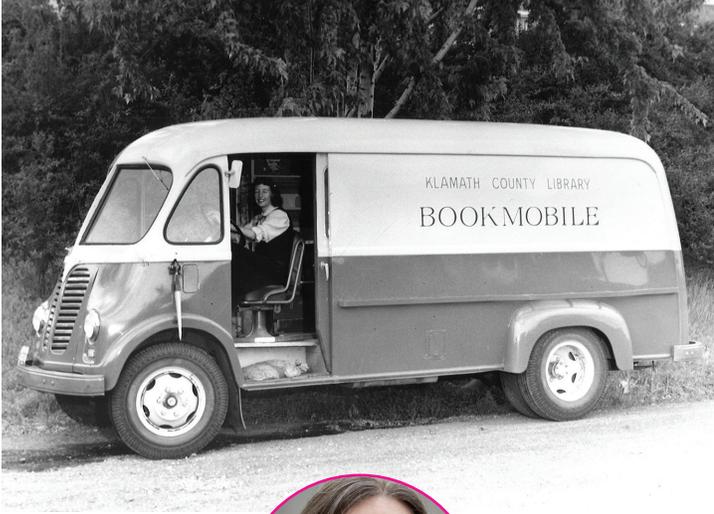
**Summer Reading  
ends July 31**



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## Christie

Communications and Multimedia Engagement

Trips to town in the summer left no time to go to the library, as they were mostly just to get a part for some farm machine that had broken down in the field in southern Oregon. That made the bookmobile's appearance a lifeline for me and my brother when we were in grade school. The bookmobile came to Mac's Store—a tiny rural store with gas pumps that mostly hosted a truck scale for the farm trucks. The store would give us each a piece of candy when we showed them which books we had checked out, and a popsicle when we finished summer reading.



When I was in middle school, my best friend's mom worked for our county library system. She knew I was already interested in being a librarian, and she asked me off-handedly one day if I had any ideas for a summer reading theme. I said "Midsummer Magic" (we had just read *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in school) and promptly forgot about the conversation. When I visited the library that summer, I was surprised and excited to see a "Midsummer Magic" display for the summer reading desk!



## Lorrie

Community Engagement

Summer reading has been special to me since I was a child, and when I had daughters of my own, sharing that joy with them was a parenting highlight. From *Feed Your Need to Read to Reading Rocks!*



and *Lights, Camera, Read!* we talked about what books fit, checked them out, read them, then reported back to the library after each milestone. I also made separate lists of the book titles, which are fun to look back at now that the girls are adults. Small treasures like a bookmark, sticker, or certificate made us look forward to the check-ins, and the annual T-shirts were much loved and frequently worn. Summer reading at the library continues to be as important to summer as rays of sunshine and ice cream!



## Amy K

Learning Experiences



## Caitlin

Youth Services

I grew up in rural Indiana with no TV and hippie parents who chose to creatively homeschool me until I was 8. We spent hours at our nearby library. It was as comfortable

**PATRON PORTRAIT**



Little Caitlin Blackwell is only three years old, but she will be four on April 5th, very appropriately, the first day of National Library Week, 1981. That's very appropriate because Caitlin is a real library user. She comes in at least once a week with her parents, Mark and Gretchen Blackwell, to attend story hour and select her books and records. In addition to her parents, she has a brand new baby sister, Emmy, and she is looking forward to teaching Emmy to read and swing and talk and walk.

Caitlin does read by herself and she can write, too. If you ask her about her Welsh name — "Kafeilynn? How do you spell that?" — she will write it for you, but she can also write other good words. "Alice in Wonderland" is the book she likes best for reading to herself, and "Stick-in-the-Mud Turtle" by Lillian Hoban is her number one favorite because "it has a good story."

Sometimes Mark and Gretchen read to Caitlin, too, as they did last summer when she joined the Summer Reading Club, or when they borrow bird and animal books from the adult section. Caitlin especially likes the bird books which help her to identify the birds she sees outside. Actually she likes any book at all, even comic books. The Blackwells don't have a television and Caitlin doesn't seem to need one.

Life isn't all books for Caitlin, though. She also collects fossils and works in her parents' organic garden where she helps to plant the seeds and to smash the Mexican bean beetles. She likes "writing" her own stories and does this by dictating them to her mother. Caitlin enjoyed coming to the special pajama party story hour at the library and she also uses our other media: gentle nudge packages, films and records. When she plays the records she also dances and sings with them.

Caitlin left her interview after singing "Three Blind Mice," with the promise that she would write the librarian a story about a cat and a mouse and a dog and a monster for next week.

and familiar as my own living room. The summer reading program was my introduction to structured (but fun!) learning: read a book, affix a sticker to the form...BLISS! I can still remember the

way the stickers felt: papery, and prone to fall off, and the feeling of accomplishment I had each time I added one to my form. I STILL feel this way about summer reading, and I'm thrilled to be a part of the team that provides these meaningful, joyful learning opportunities to my own kids and kids in the community. I only wish I could replicate that hot, heady smell of ditto-printed paper.



## Mariah

Learning Experiences

I **loved** being outside, but I also loved reading, so going up into my treehouse with a stack of books was one of my favorite ways to spend a summer afternoon!



## Jane

### Communications and Multimedia Engagement

When I was seven years old, my library had a safari-themed summer reading program called "The Great Book Hunt" (think pith helmets and binoculars). One of the activities was to find a special book hidden somewhere in the stacks. I made it my absolute mission to find this gold-foil-wrapped book and systematically searched the stacks for hours until I did indeed find it. I don't remember whether I got a reward for it—the thrill was just in the chase!

# 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.

## Make Your Own Projects

Age pre-K and up

Fridays, July 14, 28, 2–3 pm

Saturdays, July 1, 15, 29, August 12  
10:30–11:30 am

## Together Time

Age 0–23 months

Wednesdays except August 23 and 30  
10–11:30 am

## Preschool Puppet Playtime

Age 2–5

Wednesdays, July 5, August 2  
10:30–11 am (online)

## Teen-Led STEAM Projects for Kids

Grades 1–5

Thursday, July 6, 2–3 pm

## Lego Challenge

Age 8+

Thursdays, July 6, August 10  
4:30–5:30 pm



## Mexican Folk Dance: A Performance and Lesson

Friday, July 7, 3–3:45 pm

## What to Do with the Banana Peel?

## Composting 101 for Families

Saturday, July 8 or 22, 1:30–2:15 pm

## Nature Play

Age 2–6

Mondays starting July 10, 10:30–11:30 am



## We Are in a Performance! A Mo Willems Reader's Theater Experience

We'll select roles, work on characterization while reading aloud, then have a brief performance.

Tuesdays, July 11 or 25, 4–5:30 pm  
Friday, August 4, 1:30–3 pm



## Music 'n' Me at the Farmer's Market

Sunday, July 16, 10:30–11 am

## Let's Take a Walk

Age 3–5

Fridays, July 21, 28, 10:30–11:15 am

## Open Chess

Sundays, July 23, August 13, 2–4 pm

### Dinosaur Discovery

Grades K-5

Saturday, July 29, 2-3 pm

## Dog Days of Summer

Crafts and activities celebrating our favorite pups

Grades K-5

Saturday, August 5  
3-4 pm



### Digital Storytelling Project

Grades 3-5

Monday, August 7, Tuesday, August 8,  
and Friday, August 11, 4-5:30 pm

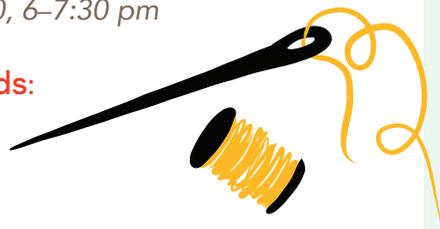
### Summer Reading Finale

Thursday, August 10, 6-7:30 pm

### Simple Sew for Kids: Basic Skills and Projects

Grades 1-5

Saturday, August 12, 1-2 pm



### Family Movie:

#### *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*

Saturday, August 19, 1:30-3:30 pm



# Honoring Our Differences

### Music for Milestones: An Experience for Neurodivergent Children and Families

Saturday, July 8, 3-3:45 pm

## Red Kite Theater: Red Kite Green Mountain

Sensory-friendly performance for youth of all ages on the autism spectrum

Tuesday, July 18  
4-4:30 pm or 5-5:30 pm



### Sensory-Friendly Family Movie:

#### *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*

Friday, August 18, 3-5 pm





NorthShore University Health System  
 Skokie Hospital  
 Fifth Third Bank  
 NorthShore Community Bank & Trust  
 First Bank Chicago  
 Kiwanis Club of Skokie Valley

# 2023 Summer Reading Kids Book Prize Sponsors



## Little Miss Ann at the Farmers Market

Sunday, August 20  
 10:30–11:15 am

## Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Grades K–2

Monday, August 28, and  
 Tuesday, August 29  
 4:30–5:15 pm

Wednesdays  
 on the Green

Family entertainment  
 on Wednesdays  
 through August 16

[Wednesdaysonthegreen.com](http://Wednesdaysonthegreen.com)

## Storytimes

### Book Babies Storytime: Outdoor Edition

Babies to 11 months who are  
 not yet walking

Wednesdays, except August 30  
 9:30–9:50 am

### Wonderful Ones Storytime: Outdoor Edition

Age 1

Wednesdays, except August 30  
 10–10:20 am

### Terrific Twos Storytime

Age 2

Thursdays through August 17  
 10:30–11 am or 11:15–11:45 am

### Weekend Storytime

Saturdays, July 8, 22, August 5  
 10:30–11 am

## Find and Write a Poem in the Park with the Bookmobile at Emerson Park

Monday, July 17, 1–2 pm

## Party in the Park with the Bookmobile at Terminal Park

Saturday, July 22, 2023, 1–2:30 pm

## Children's Books from around the World with the Bookmobile at Gliess Park

Monday, August 14, 4:30–5:30 pm

## Party in the Park with the Bookmobile at Lawler Park

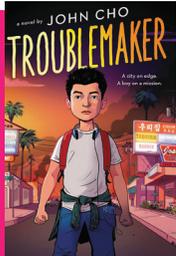
Saturday, August 26, 1–2:30 pm

# Bookmobile at the Park

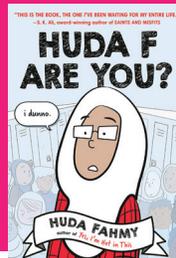


# TEENS

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



**Hot Summer Reads Book Discussion**  
Sunday, July 9  
1:30 pm–2:30 pm  
Friday, July 28, 3–4 pm



**Monarch Community Science Project**  
Monday, July 10, 11:30 am–noon

## Self-Care and Mental Health for Teens

Explore how you can understand what you're feeling, advocate for what you need, and take care of yourself.

Tuesday, July 18  
5:30–7:30 pm



## Teen Summer Service

### Crafting for a Cause

Put your creative skills to use in projects that benefit local organizations such as Bears of Hope and Community Animal Rescue Effort.

Sundays, July 2, 16, and 30, 12:30–2 pm

### Book Worms

Read great books and get people excited about summer reading. Create book displays, write reviews, make videos, and more!

Fridays, July 7, 14, and 21, 3–4:30 pm

# FOR ADULTS

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

## ESL Café

Wednesdays, 12:30–2 pm (drop in)



## Mah Jongg for Beginners: Four-Week Workshop

Thursdays, July 6–27  
10:30 am–noon

## Minority Business Certification Workshop: Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Thursday, July 6, 6–7:30 pm

## Layers at the Library: Conversations on the Mixed-Race Experience

Thursday, July 6, 6:30–7:30 pm

## Exercise at the Library: The Otago Exercise Program

Mondays, July 10–August 28, 4–4:30 pm



## Learn to Sew in Urdu

Thursday, July 6, 6:30–8 pm

Monday, July 10, 10–11:30 am

## Low Vision Support Group

Tuesday, July 11, August 8

1:30–2:30 pm

## Access to Capital for Your Small Business: A Workshop with Allies for Community Business

Tuesday, July 11, 6:30–8 pm (online)

## Arab Cooking School

Thursday, July 20, 3:30–5 pm





## The Right to Read: Film Screening and Community Discussion

Watch this documentary on the challenges facing students who struggle with reading, then panelists will discuss support for emerging and struggling readers in Skokie.

Thursday, July 20, 6:30–8:30 pm  
(drop in)

## Practice Citizenship Interviews with HIAS

Tuesday, August 1, 6:30–8 pm



## Introduction to Yoga

Fridays, July 21, August 18, 1–2 pm

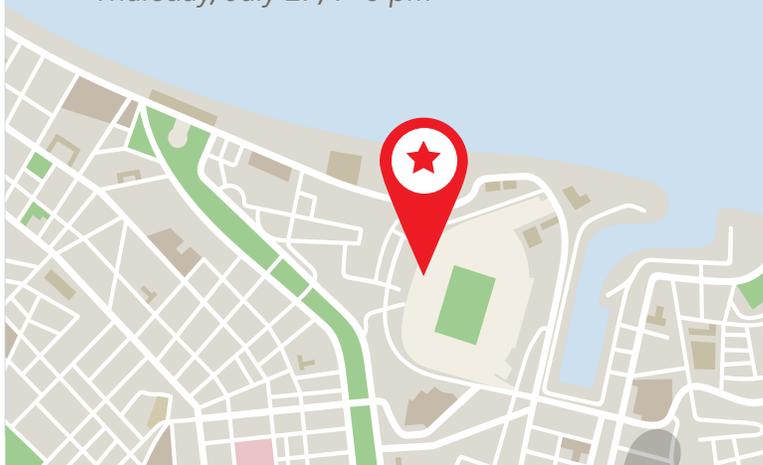
## Purchasing a Home 101

Tuesday, July 25, 6–7:30 pm

## Chicago Scavenger Hunt

Author Jessica Mlinaric will connect you with the city like never before—little-known museums, nature areas, charming cafes, architectural oddities, and more.

Thursday, July 27, 7–8 pm



## Getting Started with Composting: The What, the How, the Why

Thursday, August 10, 6:30–7:30 pm

## Scoliosis and Back Care Workshop

Thursday, August 17, 3:30–5 pm

## Expungement Clinic: Two-Part Information Session and Workshop

Thursdays, August 17, September 21  
6:30–8 pm

## Gallery Talk: Marcia Whitney-Schenck

Sunday, August 20, 1:30–2:30 pm



# Book Discussions and Book Talks

## LitLounge

Wednesdays  
7:30–9 pm (online)

Remarkably Bright Creatures  
July 12

Litera-cheers  
August 9

## Talking Books Discussion Group

Wednesdays, 1:30–2:30 pm

Marrying the Ketchups  
July 19

Me & Patsy Kickin' Up Dust  
August 16

## Golden Age of YA Book Club

The Hunger Games  
Tuesday, July 25, 6:30–7:30 pm

## Genres on My Mind

Fantasy  
Thursday, July 27, 2–2:30 pm (online)

Science Fiction  
Thursday, August 31, 2–2:30 pm (online)

## Article Discussion:

*The Wild World of Music*

Tuesday, August 8, 7–8:30 pm

## Pages through History

The Bright Ages—  
A New History of  
Medieval Europe

Wednesday, August 30  
7–9 pm

# Technology

Getting Started with Gmail  
Tuesday, July 11, 4–5 pm

Facebook Basics  
Wednesday, July 12, 1–2 pm  
Friday, August 18, 7–8 pm

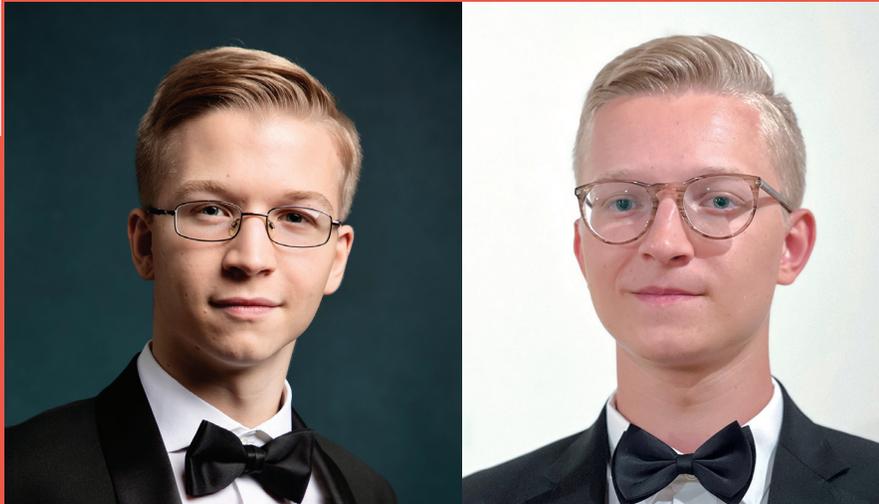
Google Slides for Beginners  
Saturday, July 22, 10:30–11:30 am

Next Steps with Microsoft  
Excel 2021: PivotTables  
Thursday, July 27, 3–4:30 pm



# Performances

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



## Concert by Brothers Mykhailenko

Pianist Myroslav Mykhailenko and baritone Nazarii Mykhailenko, born in Kviv, Ukraine, bring us classical piano and vocal music, including some by Ukrainian composers.

Sunday, July 9 at 3 pm

## YIVO Presents *The Wheel Keeps Turning:* Yiddish Song, Humor, and Lore with Stewart Figa

Tuesday, July 11, 3–5 pm

## Getting Starting with Libby

Thursday, August 3, 5:30–7 pm

## Notes on a Phone

Sunday, August 6, 2–3:30 pm

## Microsoft PowerPoint 2021 for Beginners

Saturday, August 12, 10:30–11:30 am

## Getting Started with Google Drive

Tuesday, August 22, 3:30–5 pm



# Movies

(drop in)

## Morning Movie

Wednesdays at 10 am

The Call  
of the Wild  
July 12

Strange World  
August 9

## Friday Film

Fridays at 1:30 pm

Ticket  
to Paradise  
July 14

Whitney Houston:  
I Wanna Dance  
with Somebody  
July 21

Empire of  
Light  
August 11

Women Talking  
August 25

## Movie Night

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Paris, Je T'aime  
July 18

Carmen  
August 22

## YIVO presents

American Matchmaker

Tuesday, August 15 at 2 pm

## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

# NoveList

## Finding Your Next Read

**SO  
MANY  
BOOKS  
SO  
LITTLE  
TIME**

What's your favorite way to choose the next book you want to read? A friend talking about their current favorite? That can be great—assuming you have the same taste in books. Asking a librarian? That's a solid bet. Hearing an author talking about their new book on a podcast? Browsing book displays? Reading book reviews? Sometimes, there are too many options.

If you are looking for something very particular, or if you like to browse, we offer another resource that can help you narrow things down pretty quickly. NoveList Plus, available free with your library card, is a massive collection of book recommendations, covering hundreds of thousands of fiction and nonfiction titles. If you want, you can start with a simple keyword search. The results will include read-alikes, or “if you like X, you might also like Y,” and this can lead you into a delightful exploration very quickly.

One fun feature is to browse by “appeal.” Here you can choose from characteristics like “lush and descriptive” or “creepy and atmospheric,” or you can mix up your own appeal list with three different categories and characteristics for each one. The results might amaze you.

Dive into NoveList Plus, or ask our staff for help, and enjoy your summer reading—wherever and whenever it takes you!

**[skokielibrary.info/novelistplus](http://skokielibrary.info/novelistplus)**