



WINTER PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 2024 | JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2025

PROGRAMS FOR EVERYONE

The Magic of Raina Telgemeier*

Tuesday, December 10 • 7pm

Online via Zoom or in Community Room 3

All Ages Online Conversation

Patrons of all ages are invited to join us online for a night with comic artist Raina Telgemeier, author and illustrator of the graphic novels *Smile*, *Drama*, *Sisters*, *Ghosts*, and *Guts*. New in 2025 is *The Cartoonists Club* – a one-of-a-kind graphic novel from Raina and Scott McCloud.

Register now at bit.ly/ILP_RainaTelgemeier to receive a link to watch this online program.

In-Person Watch Party for Older Kids & Teens

Teens and older elementary-school-aged children are invited to join us in-person for a watch party of the online event outlined above. Arrive at 6:30pm to begin the night with a discussion, a snack, and a related craft.

Beginning November 12, register for the watch party at bit.ly/bplraina.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Cora at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Little Women: The Musical*

Friday, December 20, at 2pm – Sunday, December 22

Online Recording

This virtual screening of *Little Women The Musical* is based on Louisa May Alcott's classic story of four sisters growing up in 19th-century Massachusetts. This 143-minute recording is the 2022 stage production at London's Park Theatre.

Register at bit.ly/ILP_LittleWomen. A link to the recording will arrive via email on December 20.

The recording can be viewed between 2pm on Friday, December 20 and 11:59pm, Sunday, December 22.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

CAST Presents: Charles Dickens

Monday, January 13 • 6:30pm & 7pm

Community Rooms 1 & 2

Come to the library and enjoy the literary genius of Charles Dickens as performed by the Crossroads Area Student Theatre! CAST presents a stage adaptation of Dickens' work. There will be two short performances, beginning at 6:30pm and 7pm.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Anna Elizabeth at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Diversity Mural

February 1 – 28 • Children's Activity Room

Join us in celebrating Black History Month by visiting the library during the month of February and creating a self-portrait to add to our Diversity Mural. While you're at the library, you're also encouraged to view our displays and check out materials featuring influential African American authors, illustrators, and characters.



Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

D&D for Kids*

Thursdays • 6pm • December 5 & 19; January 9 & 23;

February 6 & 20 • Children's Program Room 2

This Dungeons & Dragons experience for kids in grades 3-5 will include a simplified, rules-light adventure. All are welcome!

Registration is required and opens two weeks before the date of each session at bit.ly/ddforkids. Pre-generated characters will be provided.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Mr. Jesse at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Super Saturday Story Time

Saturdays • 10am • January 4 & February 1

Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us for an all-ages, raucous story time extravaganza. Swing by at 10am to dance, listen to music, read stories, and have a wondrous time.

This story time is perfect for kiddos ages birth-11 years and their caregivers. We'll see you there!

Story times will continue into March and April at the same cadence that story times meet in January and February.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Clare at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Fun & Games: Family Game Day

Sundays • 2 - 4pm • January 12 & February 9

Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us in the Children's Department for classic board games, card games, and puzzles for children and their families. Red Raccoon Games will also be on hand to demonstrate how to play a variety of hand-picked games which will be appropriate for children.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Miss Jill at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

Itsy Arts*

Mondays • 10am • January 13 & February 10
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Itsy Arts with the Illinois Art Station offers hands-on, transformative artmaking for young artists ages 2-5 years and their families. Attendees will enjoy story time and thematic artmaking inspired by artists, mediums, and story elements – all facilitated by an IAS art educator.

Beginning December 30, register for the January 13 session at bit.ly/itsy0113. Beginning January 27, register for the February 10 session at bit.ly/itsy0210.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



Lapsit Story Time

Tuesdays • 10am & 6pm • January 14, 21, 28;
February 4, 11, 18, 25 • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us at Lapsit Story Time for stories, music, movement, and play intended to help develop and enhance early literacy skills and your baby's development. This program is intended for children ages 0-18 months and their caregivers, but all are welcome.

Story times will continue into March and April at the same cadence that story times meet in January and February.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Preschool Story Time

Wednesdays • 10am • January 15, 22, 29;
February 5, 12, 19, 26 • Children's Program Room 2

Help your child build independent listening skills while learning and having fun! This story time – recommended for children ages 3-5 years old – will feature longer stories, flannel boards, music, puppets, and activities which will help get your pre-readers ready for school.

Story times will continue into March and April at the same cadence that story times meet in January and February.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Mr. Jesse at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Tales for Tails*

Wednesdays • 6pm • January 15, 22, 29;
February 5, 12, 19, 26 • Children's Department
This program pairs trained and certified therapy dogs with children in Grades K-5 who want to practice reading aloud. There will be 4 time slots available for kids to meet and read to a pup in the Children's Department.

Ms. Alex will personally email those who register to assign them a time slot and introduce them to the dog they'll be meeting!

Registration is required and opens two weeks before the date of each session at bit.ly/talesfortails.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alex at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Toddler Story Time

Thursdays • 10am • January 16, 23, 30;
February 6, 13, 20, 27 • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Toddlers are always on the go! Come to story time to encourage their emerging skills with books, rhymes, music, and lots of movement activities. This program is intended for children ages 18-36 months and their caregivers, but all are welcome to attend.

Story times will continue into March and April at the same cadence that story times meet in January and February.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alex at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Sensory Story Time*

Thursdays • 11am • January 16, 23, 30;
February 6, 13, 20, 27 • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

This inclusive story time offers stories, songs, and sensory-focused activities for children of all ages and abilities! After story time, stay for sensory play and socialization. Intended as a safe space for children with autism, this program is also open to siblings, caregivers, and any kids who would like to make friends.

Story times will continue into March and April at the same cadence that story times meet in January and February.

Registration is required and opens two weeks before the date of each session at bit.ly/bplsensorystory.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alex at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Winter Chess Club

Thursdays • 5:30 – 7pm • January 16 & February 13
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Come to the Children's Department for an informal chess drop-in event. All levels of chess skills are welcome! Bring a friend to play with

or come to meet a new checkmate (Ha ha! We couldn't help ourselves). The library will provide a limited number of chess sets for patrons to use. Please bring your own chess set and board if you can. This program is perfect for kids ages 5 - 12 and their caregivers.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Clare at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

Fun Friday Story Time

Fridays • 10am • January 17, 24, 31;

February 7, 14, 21, 28 • Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us every Friday from January 17 - February 28 for a 30-minute all-ages story time in the Children's Department. We'll enjoy music, lots of movement, stories, and of course FUN! This program is perfect for children ages birth-11 years and their caregivers.

Story times will continue into March and April at the same cadence that story times meet in January and February.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Clare at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Lego Construction

Saturdays • 9:30 - 11:30am • January 18 & February 15

Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us for Lego Construction, and have your picture taken with your creation. The challenge is to build whatever you want!

This program is suitable for children ages 3-11 years and their caregivers. There is no need to register for this drop-in program.

Please leave your blocks/bricks at home. Pictures of children and their creations will be taken by our staff and posted to the library's social media pages.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

School-Age Crafts

Mondays • 3 - 7pm • January 27 & February 24

Children's Program Room 1

Drop into the Children's Department to make a craft!

- January 27: Beaded Lizard

This craft contains smaller beads which could be a choking hazard for young children.

- February 24: Knights & Royalty Paper Dolls

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Lisa at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



STANDALONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Stuffed Animal Sleepover*

Wednesday, December 4 • 5 - 8pm

Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Stuffed Animal Sleepover drop-off runs from 5-8pm at the Children's Desk. Animal owners are welcome to attend the first activity - 6pm story time - with their stuffed friends. Throughout the night, we'll photograph the shenanigans that ensue.

Registration opens November 20 at bit.ly/bplsleeeover1204. Stuffed animals should be picked up by 5pm on December 8.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alex at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Duck Story Time

Wednesday, December 11 • 10am

Community Rooms 1 & 2

Ducks in December, a story time to remember - let's get quacking! We'll read some of our favorite duck-themed books, complete a duck-themed craft, color duck-themed



coloring sheets, and hand out a fun little duck-themed prize for the kiddos. Meet upstairs in Community Rooms 1-2.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Mr. Jesse at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

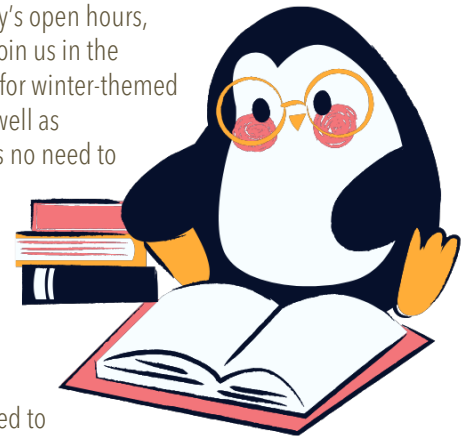
Winter Break Activities

December 21 - January 6[^] • Children's Department

During any of the library's open hours, children are invited to join us in the Children's Department for winter-themed crafts and activities, as well as Penguin Bingo. There is no need to register.

[^]The Library will be closed on December 24, 25, 31; & January 1.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Lisa at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



STANDALONE CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Sign and Sing Story Time

Monday, December 30 • 10am
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join Communication Junction at Bloomington Public Library for a 30-minute Sign + Sing Story Time with a Bedtime theme. We will be signing, singing, and reading books! This story time is geared for children ages 0-5 years old.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Jesse at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Kiddie Drive-In Movie

Thursday, January 2 • 10am
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

It's chilly outside, so why not warm up with a "drive-in" movie at the library?! You bring a box, and we'll provide supplies to turn that box into a car you can sit in as we watch a movie. You're also welcome to bring a stuffed animal or blanket to snuggle.

After you've finished decorating your car, we will show a short movie with popcorn. The library will make available a limited number of boxes.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Clare at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



New(ish) Year's Party!

Friday, January 3 • 10am – 12pm
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

We're doubling the fun as we celebrate both the New Year and Ms. Alex's birthday! There will be a variety of activities for kids ages 0-11, snacks, party favors, and take home crafts.

Questions about this program can be emailed to childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



MLK Day: Self-Portraits!

Monday, January 20 • 10am – 12pm
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us at the library on this non-school day to help celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day by creating a self-portrait! Materials will be provided, and pictures will be taken by staff to add to our social media pages and our Diversity Mural (coming in February).

Questions about this program can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Infant Safe Sleep Presentation

Tuesday, January 28 • 10:45am & 6:45pm
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Join us in Children's Program Rooms 1-2 immediately after Lapsit Story Time for an Infant Safe Sleep Presentation.

This conversation about safe sleep practices will be led by Brightpoint. The organization will also share handouts and community resources.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Ms. Alysha at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Love Your Library

Friday, February 14 • 11am – 4pm
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

Following our weekly Fun Friday Story Time, the following love-themed activities will be available in the Children's Department:

- 11am - 4pm: Book Character Scavenger Hunt; Love Your Library Crafts & Games
- 1 - 3pm: Puppets and books will be set out in the Children's Study Rooms. Kids are invited to choose their favorite puppet and read to it their favorite book.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Lisa at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Snowman Poppers & Winter Fun

Monday, February 17 • 10am – 7pm
Children's Program Rooms 1 & 2

On this day without school, join us at the library for some winter fun! Those who visit will have an opportunity to make Snowman Poppers and take part in snowy challenges.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Lisa at childrensstaff@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

TEEN PROGRAMS IN A SERIES

Teen Genre Book Club

Wednesdays • 6pm • December 11, January 15,
February 12 • Conference Room

The Teen Genre Book Club will meet on the second Wednesday of each month to discuss a different genre of book. Pick any book that fits the month's genre.

- December 11: **Fireplace Fiction**
- January 15: **Science Fiction**
- February 12: **Black Voices**

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Cora at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



Teen Writing Workshops

Wednesdays • 12 - 1pm • December 18, January 22,
February 26 • TeenZone

This teen writing workshop is for anyone in Grades 6 - 12 and is perfect

for homeschoolers! Drop by the TeenZone to learn tips and tricks and to talk about the art of prose. Essay help and personal creative writing projects are perfect for this program. All you need is a writing project to work on and an open mind! Mini lessons may be available upon request.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Cora at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

No-School Crafts for Teens

2pm • Friday, December 27; Monday, January 20;
Monday, February 17 • Community Rooms 2 & 3

Teens in Grades 6-12 are invited to join us this winter on three days when there is no school. Fight the boredom blues with these crafts.

- December 27 - **Salt Ornaments**
- January 20 - **MLK Inspirational Quote Buttons**
- February 17 - **Faux Crystal Lights**

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Tiffany at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

STANDALONE TEEN PROGRAMS

LED Silhouette Holiday Cards*

Monday, December 2 • 5:30pm • Innovation Lab

Teens will design silhouettes on a computer, which will then be cut out on the Glowforge Laser Engraver or Cricut Machine to create the beginnings of a greeting card. The top layer will consist of the cutout, followed by colorful layers of tissue paper, backed by a paper frame filled with circuitry and LEDs which will light up the background. Supplies will be provided.

Beginning November 18, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplcardmaking.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Drop a BEAT!*

Wednesday, December 4 • 6pm • TeenZone

In this hands-on, two-hour session, teens will explore the fundamentals of beat making and digital audio production. Participants will create their own beats using easy-to-use software, discover essential techniques for layering sounds, and gain insights into music-production basics. Please bring a portable USB drive to the program.

Beginning November 20, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/dropabeat1204.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



Custom Plywood Holiday Ornaments*

Thursday, December 12 • 5:30pm • Innovation Lab

Teens who register for this program will create custom plywood holiday ornament designs using Canva and the library's Glowforge Pro laser engraver. After the program ends, Library staff will print the designs. Completed projects will need to be picked up at a later date.

Beginning November 21, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplornaments.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Olivia at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Teen Winter Break Craft

December 23 - January 6[^] • TeenZone

Are you a teen who's looking for a fun activity this winter break? Join us in the TeenZone during any of the library's open hours to make coffee filter snowflakes! You can either take your snowflakes home or leave them for use as TeenZone decorations.

[^]The Library will be closed on December 24, 25, 31; & January 1.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Cora at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

D&D: Follow the Lights*

Saturday, January 4 • 12:45-4:45pm • TeenZone

Teens will play a D&D adventure full of twists and turns! Players will need to create a Level 3 character using D&D Beyond or use a provided

STANDALONE TEEN PROGRAMS

premade character. If you've never played D&D, that's no problem. This adventure was designed to teach you to play!

Beginning December 13, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/ddteens104.

Questions about this program can be emailed to DJ at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Teen Winter Wind Down

Monday, January 6 • 6:30pm • Community Room 3

Before the new semester begins, teens are invited to come to the library to enjoy the last day of Winter Break. Join us for cocoa, snacks, and a cozy holiday movie! The movie will be voted on by participants, from a selection of three – *Home Alone*, *Shrek the Halls*, & *Elf*.

Feel free to wear comfy clothes and bring a blanket.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Cora at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



Retro Gaming Night*

Monday, January 13 • 5:30pm • TeenZone

Teens will enjoy free pizza while learning the history of video games before competing for prizes as they play classic gaming systems such as Sega Genesis, Atari, Playstation 1, and the Commodore 64!

Beginning December 30, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/retrogames0113.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Get Mixing!*

Wednesday, January 15 • 6pm • TeenZone

Are you a teen musician, teen podcaster, teen content creator, or just a teen who's curious about how to take your audio recordings to the next level? Now is your time to learn! Join us in the TeenZone to Get Mixing! This program will be led by an experienced audio engineer and will provide a hands-on introduction to audio editing and mixing. Please bring a portable USB drive to the program.

Beginning January 1, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/mixing0115.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Teen Trivia Night

Monday, January 20 • 5:30pm • TeenZone

Join us for a night of trivia in the Teen Zone! You can bring friends to play as a group or play on your own. The team with the most points will receive a prize.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Olivia at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Teen Book Valentines

February 1 – 28 • TeenZone

In the TeenZone, throughout the month of February, teens are encouraged to take some time to write a love letter to their favorite book to let the book know what it means to them.

If the library owns the title, letter writers are encouraged to find a copy and tuck the book valentine inside for the next person who picks it up. If the library doesn't own the title, or if the letter writer prefers that their literary love be made more visible, letters can be given to a library staff member so they can be posted in the TeenZone.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Cora at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Super Smash Brothers Tournament*

Saturday, February 8 • 2pm • TeenZone

Join us in the TeenZone for a Super Smash Brothers Tournament! Teens who register for this program will face-off in a bracket-style tournament playing Super Smash Brothers on the Nintendo Switch. First and second place winners will each receive a prize.

Beginning January 18, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/smash0208.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Olivia at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

D&D: A Ship in the Mist*

Saturday, February 15 • 12:45-4:45pm • TeenZone

In this program, teens will navigate through a D&D adventure full of tense encounters and terrifying situations! Players will need to create a level 2 character using D&D Beyond or use a provided premade character. The program will take place in the library's TeenZone. Writing utensils, premade characters, and paper will be provided.

Beginning January 24, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/ddteens0215.

Questions about this program can be emailed to DJ at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Teen UnValentine Day Party

Saturday, February 15 • 2 – 4:30pm
Community Rooms 1 – 3

Are you a teen who's over the romance and the sappiness of Valentine's Day? Are you ready to celebrate the "day of love" being over? Then join us in Community Rooms 1-3 for an afternoon of No Romance and UnValentine activities.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Tiffany at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



PROGRAMS FOR TEENS & ADULTS

FAFSA Application Workshop

Tuesday, December 3 • 5:30 – 7:30pm • Computer Lab

Join us for help filling out your FAFSA* (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2025-2026 School Year. A representative from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will be at the library to assist students and their families.

You'll need the following information:

- Social Security Number
- Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Most recent federal income tax returns, W-2s, & other records of money earned
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

*FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Tiffany at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Meditation as a Healing Practice*

Thursday, February 6 • 6pm • Online via Zoom

Meditation has been valued for centuries as being beneficial to physical, mental, and spiritual health. These days, Western medicine is also recognizing the efficacy of meditation for improving wellness in the areas of emotional health, brain function, and performance.

Join Gaurav Singh, long-time meditator, for this program which is being offered online via Zoom. Registration is required and can be completed

online at bit.ly/meditation0206.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Creating Quilted Hearts*

Monday, February 10 • 6pm • Innovation Lab

Teens and adults will learn how to sew small, quilted hearts. The library will provide an assortment of fabrics, sewing tools, and thread. Completed hearts can be kept or "hidden" for others to find in the spirit of the I Found a Quilted Heart Project (ifoundaquiltedheart.com).

Beginning January 27, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/hearts0210.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Kerrie at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

English Language Conversation Group*

Monday, February 17 • 5:30pm • Community Room 3

This program meets monthly from February to November and is designed for adults for whom English is a second language. Native English speakers are welcome as conversation partners to help others in the community. We work on conversation skills with guided topics. (**The theme in February is Time**). This program is being held in partnership with STAR Adult Literacy. New participants are welcome at any time.

Registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplenglish.

Questions about these programs can be emailed to Nazma at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Recording Studio Basics*

Wednesday, February 19 • 6pm • Computer Lab

If you're unsure how to use the library's Recording Studios, register for this program to learn how to use the equipment and software in those rooms. You can join us in person at the library or watch the livestream on the BPL YouTube page at bit.ly/blmlibyoutube.

Beginning February 5, registration for in-person attendees can be completed online at bit.ly/record0219. Registration is limited and required of in-person attendees.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Intro to Self Defense

Saturday, December 7 • 1pm • Community Rooms 1 & 2

Learn the basic knowledge and skills of self-defense in this introduction class presented by the Illinois State University Police Department's Community Engagement Unit. This lecture and demonstration will cover topics such as situational awareness, making a self-defense plan, and best practices for responding to threats to your personal safety.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Handmade Holidays*

Wednesday, December 11 • 6pm • Innovation Lab

In this adult crafting program, design your own custom ornament or bookmark using Canva design software and the library's Glowforge Pro laser cutter. After the program ends, Library staff will print the designs and participants will pick up their completed projects at a later date. This program will take place in the library's Innovation Lab. Laptops will be provided.

Beginning November 18, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/bplhandmade.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Molly at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Drop a BEAT!*

Wednesday, December 18 • 6pm • Computer Lab

In this hands-on, two-hour session, adults will explore the fundamentals of beat making and digital audio production. Participants will create their own beats using easy-to-use software, discover essential techniques for layering sounds, and gain insights into music-production basics. Please bring a portable USB drive to the program.

Beginning December 4, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/dropabeat1218.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Chicago Pizza with Steve Dolinsky*

Thursday, January 9 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

Steve Dolinsky, Food Guy reporter at NBC 5 (Chicago) and James Beard Award winner, is co-host of *The Feed Podcast*. He is also the creator of Pizza City Fest. Join him to dish on *The Ultimate Chicago Pizza Guide*, his comprehensive guide to the styles, locales, and people that make Chicago a prime destination for slices and pies.



Register at bit.ly/ILP_SteveDolinsky to receive a link to this online program.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

International Yumz*

Saturday, January 18 • 1:30pm • Community Room 3

Do you have an adventurous palate? Do you want to travel the world without leaving the library? If so, plan to join us for an afternoon of sampling snacks from various countries.

Beginning December 28, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/yumz0118.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Nazma at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



Explaining Veteran Affairs

Caregiver Support Programs

Thursday, January 23 • 10am • Community Room 1

Veterans and their caregivers may be eligible for support services through the Veterans Affairs Department. This presentation is aimed at veterans, their families, and caregivers. The two different Caregiver Support programs will be explained:

- the Program of General Caregiver Support Services
- the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

The Caregiver Support Program offers clinical services to caregivers of eligible Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Love and Laughs with Michelle Buteau*

Thursday, January 23 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

Comedian, actor, and author Michelle Buteau will have you rolling with laughter as she discusses her work and her life. Her collection of essays *Survival of the Thickest*, published in 2020, has been adapted into a TV series by Netflix.

Register at bit.ly/ILP_MichelleButeau to receive a link to this online program.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Get Mixing!*

Wednesday, January 29 • 6pm • Computer Lab

If you're a musician, podcaster, content creator, or just someone with a desire to take your audio recordings to the next level, join us in the Computer Lab for this hands-on introduction to audio editing and mixing. Please bring a portable USB drive to the program.

Beginning January 15, registration can be completed online at bit.ly/mixing0129.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Gene at techprogramming@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

An Evening with Author James McBride*

Tuesday, February 4 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

James McBride is an award-winning author, musician, and screenwriter. His memoir *The Color of Water* sold millions of copies and spent more than two years on *The New York Times*' bestseller list. His recent novel *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* is a moving study of race and class in 1970s Pennsylvania.

Register at bit.ly/ILP_JamesMcBride to receive a link to this online program.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Slowing Down with Author Amy Tan*

Wednesday, February 19 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

Author Amy Tan has entranced millions with her stories about Chinese people. Her newest book, *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*, is nonfiction and focuses on what she learned about backyard birds during the pandemic. She is also a member of the literary garage band Rock Bottom Reminders, whose members include Stephen King, Dave Barry, and Scott Turow.

Register at bit.ly/ILP_AmyTan to receive a link to this online program.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Night at the Oscars: Academy Awards History*

Thursday, February 20 • 7pm • Online via Zoom

Join film historian Annette Bochenek, Ph.D., online via Zoom as she presents the history of the Academy Awards and some of its memorable moments. She will showcase previous Best Picture winners and this year's Best Picture nominees.

Registration can be completed online at bit.ly/oscars0220. Once registration is complete, you will receive an email with a link to access the online discussion.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Sara at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

BOOK CLUBS

Books On Tap Book Club*

Mondays • 6pm • Lil Beaver Brewery

- **December 2** - *Dating Dr. Dil* by Nisha Sharma
- **January 6** - *Tiny Beautiful Things* by Cheryl Strayed
- **February 3** - *Symphony of Secrets* by Brendan Slocumb

Learn more or register online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Molly at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

True Colors Book Club*

Thursday, December 5 • 6:30pm

Unitarian Universalist Church & Online

The True Colors Book Club – hosted by Bloomington Library, PFLAG Bloomington-Normal, and Prairie Pride Coalition – meets quarterly to discuss books with themes relevant to the LGBTQ+ community.

Meetings are held both in person at the Unitarian Church



(1613 E. Emerson Street) and online via Zoom.

The December 5 meeting will discuss *Written in the Stars* by Alexandria Bellefleur.

Learn more or register online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

BOOK CLUBS

Let's Dish! A Cookbook Club*

Mondays • 6:30pm • December 9 & February 10
Community Room 3

Participants are asked to prepare and share a dish from the month's chosen cookbook. Those who bring a dish can sample dishes brought by others as food and cooking are discussed.

- **December 9** - *Half Baked Harvest: Recipes for Balanced, Flexible, Feel-Good Meals Every Day* by Tieghan Gerard
- **February 10** - *In Bibi's Kitchen: The Recipes & Stories of Grandmothers from the Eight African Countries that Touch the Indian Ocean* by Hawa Hassan

Learn more or register online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Nazma at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Book Ends

Tuesday, December 10 • 7pm
Conference Room & Online via Zoom

You're invited to share some favorite books that you've read this year. It doesn't matter if you read them for a book club, by recommendation, or by chance... if they've been around for a while or are newly published. Come and share these worthy titles with other readers and leave with ideas for books to add to your reading list.

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at bit.ly/bookends2024.

Questions about this program can be emailed to Marcie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

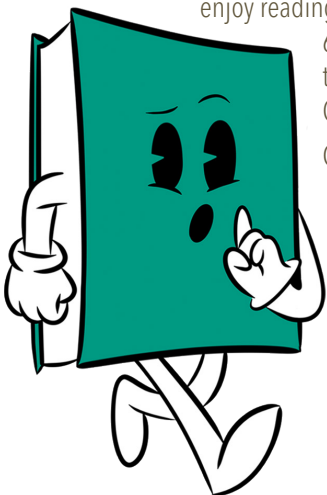
Silent Book Club

Thursdays • 6pm • December 12, January 9,
February 13 • Quiet Reading Room

Are you looking for a book club without assigned reading? Do you just need to spend a peaceful hour with a book? The Silent Book Club offers this! Bring a book with you or find a new favorite in the stacks to

enjoy reading in our Quiet Reading Room from 6-7pm. After 7pm, you have the option to socialize with other readers in our Conference Room until 7:30pm.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



Lock Your Doors: A True Crime Book Club*

Mondays • 7pm • December 16 & February 24
Conference Room & Online

Lock Your Doors: A True Crime Book Club meets quarterly and is for all fans of true crime – whether you're a devotee or you just discovered the genre.

- **December 16** - *Bitter Harvest* by Ann Rule
- **February 24** - *Long Haul: Hunting the Highway Serial Killers* by Frank Figliuzzi

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Mystery Book Club*

Tuesdays • 7pm • Conference Room & Online

- **January 14** - *The Golden Gate* by Amy Chua
- **February 11** - *A Peculiar Combination* by Ashley Weaver

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Marcie at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Fiction Book Club*

Tuesdays • 7pm • Conference Room & Online

- **January 21** - *The Lonely Hearts Book Club* by Lucy Gilmore
- **February 18** - *Book Lovers* by Emily Henry

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Mimi at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

History Reads Book Club*

Tuesday, February 4 • 7pm • Conference Room & Online

In partnership with the McLean County Museum of History, the History Reads Book Club meets quarterly and focuses on books about Illinois history.

The February 4 meeting will discuss *Abe and Fido: Lincoln's Love of Animals and the Touching Story of His Favorite Canine Companion* by Matthew Algeo.

Registration is only required for online participants and can be completed online at bit.ly/bplbookclubs.

Questions about this book club can be emailed to Sara at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



ADDRESS:

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Bloomington, IL 61701

WEBSITE:

BloomingtonLibrary.org

PHONE:

309.828.6091

HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 9am - 9pm
Friday - Saturday: 9am - 5pm
Sunday: 1 - 5pm

LIBRARY CLOSURES:

December 24, 25, 31 - All Day
January 1 - All Day

