



Winnetka-Northfield
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

The Source



Discover
Something
New

2025
Winter
Dec – Feb

P3 **Chillin'**
with My
Gnomies!



Winnetka-Northfield
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Winnetka Library

768 Oak Street, Winnetka, IL 60093
(847) 446-7220 • eref@wnpld.org

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

Northfield Library

1785 Orchard Lane, Northfield, IL 60093
(847) 446-5990 • northfieldlibrary@wnpld.org

Monday – Thursday: 8am – 8pm
Friday: 8am – 5pm
Saturday: 9am – 5pm
Sunday: 1pm – 5pm

wnpld.org

Connect With Us



Library Closings

December 24: Christmas Eve
December 25: Christmas Day
December 31: New Year's Eve
January 1: New Year's Day

Library Trustees

President: Laura Freechack
Vice President: Ranjini Shankar
Treasurer: Matt Kinnich
Secretary: Sarah Tegel
Jenny Fisher
Lindsay Jenkins
Sarah Munoz

Management Team

Director: Monica Dombrowski
Adult Services: Nick Mall
Branch Services: Melissa Morgan
Digital Services: Laura Munoz
Information Technology: Mark Swenson
Marketing & Public Relations: Sarah Quish
Patron Services: Courtney Volny
Youth Services: Anna Newhouse

Friends of the Library

P.O. Box 8146, Northfield, IL 60093

Photography & Videography Policy: Library staff use photographs and videos to help convey the story of the library's impact on the community. Attendance at our programs and events constitutes consent to be photographed and/or filmed for use in our promotional materials (including social media platforms). Names and personally identifying information will not be used without the express permission of the subject or the subject's parent, legal guardian, or caregiver. Participants (or their legal representatives on their behalf) may opt out of being photographed or filmed by informing the staff member coordinating the program or event.

News

From Play to Purpose

Our Youth Services Department Supports 21st Century Learning

Did you know that our youth events are helping to raise curious, capable, and confident kids, one program at a time? Our youth librarians use a framework from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to guide our programs and ensure we're helping children learn and grow.

21st Century Skills to help young people succeed:

- Creativity & Innovation
- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Flexibility & Adaptability
- Initiative & Self-Direction
- Social & Cross-Cultural Skills
- Productivity & Accountability
- Leadership & Responsibility
- Information & Media Literacy



Discover our upcoming youth events that are designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, and inspire capable learners.

Bringing the Library to Your Door

Home Delivery Service Available

As the weather gets colder, what could be cozier than the library delivered right to your door? Home delivery of library materials is now available to all Winnetka-Northfield cardholders. Preference is given to those unable to come into the library for any reason, including access to transportation.

Please contact library staff at (847) 386-5273 or homedelivery@wnpld.org for more information.



Winnetka-Northfield
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

WINTER READING CHALLENGE IS HERE!

Whether you're diving into frosty adventures or curling up with cozy stories, our Winter Reading Challenge is all about chillin' with your gnomies and celebrating the magic of winter through reading.

Learn about prizes on the next page or at wnpld.org.

**WIN PRIZES
ALL AGES**



CHILLIN' WITH MY GNOMIES

DEC 1 - DEC 31

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15
Day 16	Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20

Count every day you read for at least 20 minutes by crossing off a square.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

Age Group ☐ Adult ☐ Teen ☐ Kid

School _____

Home Library ☐ Winnetka ☐ Northfield ☐ Other



Prizes

You did it!

Bring in your completed log between December 20 and January 11 to claim your finishing prize and enter to win one of our grand prizes!

Finishing Prizes



Kids
Get a Toy



Adults & Teens
Get a Peet's Gift Card

Grand Prize Raffles



\$100 Oberweis Gift Card



Picasso Tiles Racing
Track Set



Melissa & Doug Wooden
Pizza Food Truck Activity
Center



Polaroid Go
Generation 2



\$100 Airbnb Gift Card



Cozy Crafts
Bundle: Crochet &
Embroidery Kit

A Message From the Friends of the Library:

Friends of the Library Honors Retiring Directors and Welcomes New Leadership

The Friends of the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District extend our heartfelt thanks to our retiring board members Kim Byrnes, Pat Dietz, Jeanne Doherty, Jeanne Doll, Lois Greening, Liz Harvey, and Jeanne Smith, for their longtime service, leadership, and commitment. Their hard work made a lasting impact by raising significant funds to support library programming, and we are truly grateful for the time, energy, and wisdom they shared.

Additionally, the Friends are excited to welcome our new officers and board members. We look forward to growing our support of the library with their leadership!

President, Christine Timcheck
Vice President, Anne Peterson
Treasurer, Elizabeth Rohner
Assistant Treasurer, Eliza Earle
Secretary, Lyanna Berkowitz

Directors: Chrissy Adams, Jennifer Adams, Sarah Cohn, Kathy Hamburger, Elinor Hite, Carma Pagni, Lara Scarbrough, Lindy Stanley, Malcolm Sturgis, Cammie Tavakoli, Samantha Tideman

Since 2000, the Friends of the Library have collected donations totaling over \$600,000 to allow all patrons to enjoy valuable library programs. Watch for our annual letter and consider making a donation to help enrich and enhance your library experience and continue to foster a thriving community.



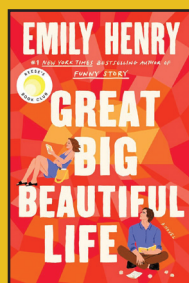
Friends
OF THE LIBRARY



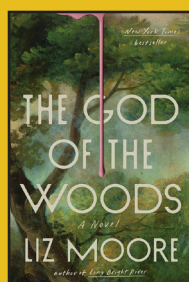
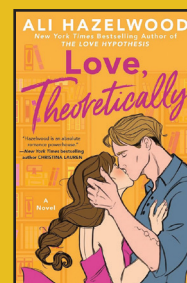
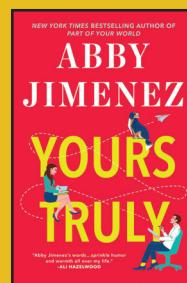
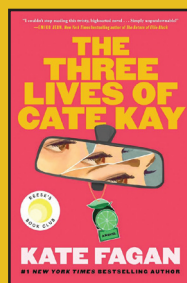
Winnetka-Northfield
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

WNPLD's 2025 Favorites

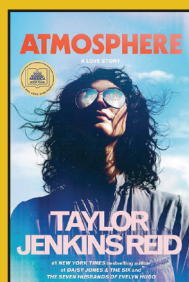
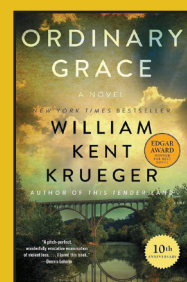
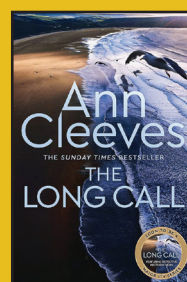
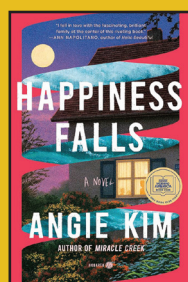
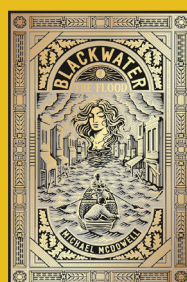
Loved one of this year's top picks? We've rounded up readalikes that share similar stories, themes, and vibes — so you can keep the good reads going.



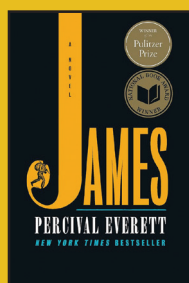
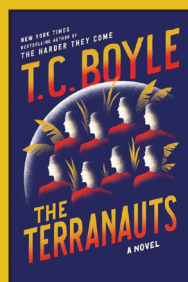
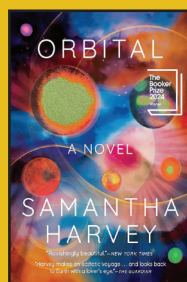
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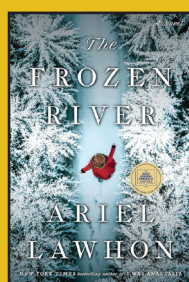
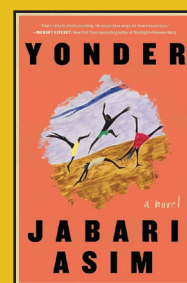
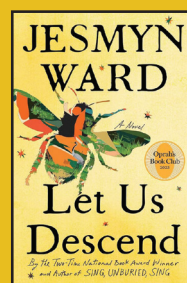
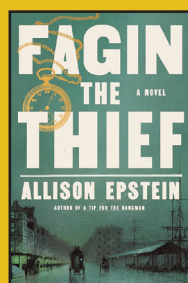
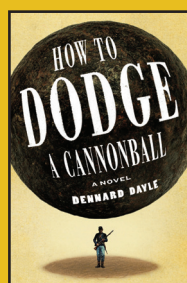
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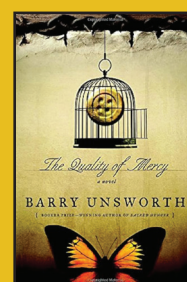
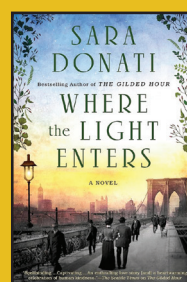
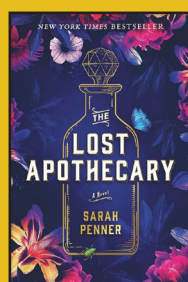
» love »



» love »



» love »



Kids

(R) = Registration required | (D) = Drop In | (T) = Ticketed

How to register for an event: Log onto wnpld.org and under “events” you will find the events calendar. Locate the program of interest and register. You may call (847) 446-7220 or email youth@wnpld.org.

Babies, Toddlers & Preschoolers

Art Play

Explore art and creativity with hands-on projects for little ones. Smocks will be provided for messy fun, but we recommend wearing clothes that can get a little dirty.

Northfield Library: Wednesdays, December 3 & 17, January 7 & 21 & February 18, 10am • Ages 0–4 with Adult (D)

Special Performers



Enjoy a visit from Miss Make-Believe or OMi Music Institute during storytime breaks. Tickets will be available the morning of the event on a first-come, first-served basis.

Northfield Library: Mondays & Fridays, December 5 & 15, January 9 & 26, February 9 & 16, 10am • Ages 0–5 with Adult (T)

Tummy Time Painting

A no-mess introduction to art for babies building core strength or learning to crawl.

Northfield Library: Wednesdays, December 10, January 28 & February 25, 8:30am • Ages 0–1 with Adult (D)

Busy Bodies

Join us for an hour of movement, fun, play, and activities to practice and build gross motor skills.

Winnetka Library: Mondays, January 5 & 12 & February 2, 10am
Ages 0–4 with Adult (D)

Snow Party

Enjoy a winter wonderland inside the library.

Winnetka Library: Tuesday, January 6, 4pm
Ages 2+ with Adult (D)

Sensory Shenanigans

Join us for interactive free play. Activities in this program will foster fine and gross motor skills, and concepts through play. This program is sure to be a little messy (and fun!) so wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty!

Winnetka Library: Fridays, January 9 & 30 & February 27, 10am
Ages 0–4 with Adult (D)

Ms. Rachel-Inspired Storytime

Love Ms. Rachel? Enjoy this tribute to the one-and-only with a staff member playing the part. Tickets will be available the morning of the event on a first-come, first-served basis.

Northfield Library: Wednesday, January 14, 10am • Ages 0–5 with Adult (T)

Rock 'n' Roll Storytime



Rock 'n' Kids® involves music, movement, and imaginative play to create a one-of-a-kind musical experience.

Winnetka Library: Fridays & Monday, January 16 & February 6 & 9, 9:30am & 10:15am • Ages 0–5 with Adult (T)

Look, Baby!

Join us with your infant and discover the world around us with baby-safe sensory and exploration activities.

Winnetka Library: Monday, January 19, 10am • Ages 0–14 Months with Adult (D)

Winter Storytime Schedule (T)

Singing, dancing, stories, and more!

Mondays

Northfield Library

Family Storytime
Ages 0–5 with Adult
10am

Tuesdays

Winnetka Library

Family Storytime
Ages 0–5 with Adult
9:30am

Move & Play
Ages 0–5 with Adult
10am

Wednesdays

Winnetka Library

Family Storytime
Ages 0–5 with Adult
9:30am

Move & Play
Ages 0–5 with Adult
10am

Thursdays

Winnetka Library

Family Storytime
Ages 0–5 with Adult
9:30am

Move & Groove
Ages 0–5 with Adult
10am

Fridays

Northfield Library

Family Storytime
Ages 0–5 with Adult
10am

We are on Storytime Break December 21 – January 10.
Please check online for other events while we're on break!

STEAM Play

Join us for hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities.

Winnetka Library: Thursdays, January 22 & February 19, 4pm
Ages 2+ with Adult (D)

Car Crawl

Little drivers will explore, zoom, and giggle their way through imaginative tracks and a mini neighborhood. Grab a toy car and get ready to roll!

Winnetka Library: Fridays, January 23 & February 13, 10am
Ages 0–5 with Adult (D)

Make Some Noise

Join us for some super noisy fun! Shake some shakers, hit the rhythm sticks, dance to the music with scarves, and more.

Winnetka Library: Mondays, January 26 & February 23, 10am
Ages 0–5 with Adult (D)

Little Messy Art

Drop in for a messy craft and leave the cleanup to us.

Winnetka Library: Mondays, January 26 & February 23, 4pm
Ages 0–4 with Adult (D)

Playdough Party

Join us for an afternoon of squishing, sculpting, and creating with playdough.

Winnetka Library: Tuesday, February 3, 4pm
Ages 2+ with Adult (D)

Pretend Play

Step into some new shoes with pretend play. Dress up and play as a fire fighter, zookeeper, chef, doctor, and more.

Winnetka Library: Monday, February 16, 10am
Ages 2+ with Adult (D)

Baby Olympics

Crawl through pop-up tents and go for the gold! For babies training for the Olympics or simply working on gross motor skills and coordination.

Winnetka Library: Friday, February 20, 10am • Ages 0–3 with Adult (D)

School-Age

LEGO® Fun

Lots of LEGO® bricks will be available, so bring your imagination and get building.

Winnetka Library: Mondays, January 5 & February 2, 4pm • Ages 4+ with Adult (D)

After School Free Play

Join us after school for interactive free play. This program is sure to be a little messy (and fun!) so wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty!

Winnetka Library: Wednesdays, January 7 & February 4, 4pm • Ages 5+ with Adult (D)

Crafternoon

No school today? Join us for an afternoon of crafting fun. Stay the whole time or drop in when you'd like!

Winnetka Library: Monday, January 19 & Friday, February 27, 2pm • Ages 5+ with Adult (D)

Sensational STEAM

Join us for fun, hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities that spark creativity and discovery.

January 21: New Year, New Journal

February 18: Balloon Powered Cars

Winnetka Library: Wednesdays, 4pm
Ages 7–12 (R)

Roblox: Cotton Obby



Jump, climb, and slide your way through a sweet, cotton candy-themed obstacle course with Arrayscape Gaming.

Winnetka Library: Wednesday, January 28, 4pm • Ages 7–12 (R)

Clay Play

Sculpt with air-drying clay. A sensory art experience where kids can play with texture, shape, and color.

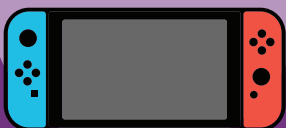
Northfield Library: Wednesdays, January 28 & February 25, 4pm
Ages 5+ with Adult (D)

Stickerpalooza

Join your friends (or meet new ones) for an awesome afternoon of sticker fun.

Winnetka Library: Tuesday, February 24, 4pm • Ages 3+ with Adult (D)

Kids Gaming



Mario Kart

Meet us for an afternoon of thrilling races, banana peels, and blue shells as we compete for victory.

Winnetka Library: Thursdays, January 8 & February 12, 4pm • Ages 5–8 with Adult (R)

Winnetka Library: Thursdays, January 8 & February 12, 4pm • Ages 9+ (R)

Kirby Air Riders

Zoom into high-flying fun with Kirby Air Riders as you compete against friends in a chaotic, high-speed race and duke it out in the action-packed City Trial mode.

Winnetka Library: Thursday, February 26, 4pm • Ages 9+ (R)

Tweens & Teens

Teen To-Go Crafts

Each month we've got a new take-home craft that's perfect for boosting your creative energy.

Monday, January 19: Yarn Wall Hanging

Friday, February 13: Valentine Votive

Winnetka Library: Pickup begins at 12pm
Ages 9–18 (R)

Graphic Novel Crew

Let's meet at Graeter's and discuss a graphic novel. The library will provide a free scoop of ice cream, how sweet!

January 29: *Four Eyes* by Rex Ogle

February 26: *Parachute Kids* by Betty C. Tang

Graeter's Ice Cream (940 Green Bay Rd, Winnetka): Thursdays, 4pm • Ages 9–12 (R)



Cozy Sticker Scene

Unwind and design a cozy sticker scene while listening to peaceful music.

Winnetka Library: Wednesday, February 25, 4pm • Ages 9–12 (R)

Graphic novels that bring the real world to life.



Libby.

The library reading app



Family Fun

Family Science

Experiment, explore, and have fun! Hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities for the whole family.

Northfield Library: Wednesdays, December 3, January 14 & February 18, 4pm
Ages 4+ with Adult (D)

Gingerbread House Decorating

Get into the holiday spirit! Decorate your own gingerbread house with candy and frosting.

Winnetka Library: Saturday, December 6, 10am, 1pm & 3pm & Sunday, December 7, 1:30pm & 3:30pm • Ages 0–8 with Adult (R)

Candy Cottage

Build a cozy winter cottage from Rice Krispie Treats and decorate it with candy.

Northfield Library: Thursday, December 18, 4pm • All Ages with Adult (R)

DIY Lava Lamps

Make your own mesmerizing lava lamp using simple kitchen ingredients.

Northfield Library: Wednesday, January 7, 4pm • Ages 4+ with Adult (R)

Let's Play! Cardboard Design Experience

Children are invited to bring their big ideas — we'll provide the cardboard and tools to help their creations come to life. Come build, imagine, and invent together! *In partnership with The Alliance for Early Childhood.*

Joseph Sears School (542 Abbotsford Road, Renilworth): Saturday, January 24, 10am • All Ages with Adult (R)

Art of Inflation



Prepare to be spellbound by this family-friendly balloon show orchestrated by Magical Balloon-dude Dale.

Winnetka Library: Thursday, February 5, 4pm • Ages 5+ with Adult (R)

Valentine's Day Cookie Decorating

Decorate sweet treats for Valentine's Day! Cookies, frosting, and toppings provided.

Northfield Library: Wednesday, February 11, 11am • All Ages with Adult (R)

No Escape!

Actually, there is an escape, but you must work together and solve the clues as a family. We'll be using Breakout EDU which turns any room into an escape room. One family per session.

Winnetka Library: Saturday, February 14, 9:30am, 10:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm & 3:30pm • Ages 7+ with Adult (R)

Anything But Brushes

Time to get creative with anything but a brush. Get to work painting with toys, sponges, stamps, and more.

Winnetka Library: Thursday, February 26, 2pm • Ages 2+ with Adult (D)

Adults

(R) = Registration is required for this event.

How to register for an event: Log onto wnpld.org and under “events” you will find the events calendar. Locate the program of interest and register. You may call (847) 446-7220 or email eref@wnpld.org.

Author Events

A Workshop for Curious Writers: How to Publish

Local award-winning author John Wendell Adams — who has published three thrillers over the last decade — will discuss the process of getting a book out into the world.

Winnetka Library: Thursday, December 11, 6:30pm (R)



Still Afraid of the Dark: An Evening with R.L. Stine

Witty, creepy, and compulsively readable, bestselling author R.L. Stine defined horror for a generation of young readers. The generation that grew up with the Goosebumps franchise may be grown, but Stine keeps finding ways to keep us afraid of the dark!

Virtual: Tuesday, January 13, 7pm (R)



Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig

Jonathan Eig is the bestselling author of six books, including his most recent, Pulitzer Prize-winning *King: A Life*. Vividly written and exhaustively researched, it is the first major biography in decades of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. — and the first to include recently declassified FBI files.

Virtual: Tuesday, February 24, 7pm (R)

Food & Drink

Holiday Cookie Decorating

Pastry chef and culinary instructor Kelly Dull will demonstrate tips and techniques for decorating cookies. Cookies and supplies provided.

Northfield Library: Saturday, December 6, 12pm (R)

Holiday Cookie Exchange

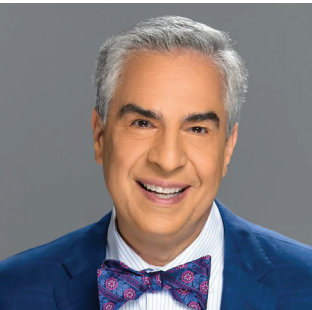
Bring your favorite homemade cookies and a copy of the recipe to share! We'll provide hot chocolate, coffee, and containers to take cookies home.

Winnetka Library: Saturday, December 13, 2pm (R)

Food in the Midwest

Cynthia Clampitt, author and food historian, will share the unexpected delights of midwestern cuisine.

Virtual: Tuesday, February 17, 6:30pm (R)



Civic Awareness

An Evening with WGN-TV's Paul Lisnek

The League of Women Voters and various Illinois libraries are thrilled to welcome WGN-TV's Paul Lisnek to speak about Illinois politics as well as help prepare participants for the upcoming Midterm Elections in November.

Virtual: Tuesday, January 27, 7pm (R)

Gaming

Canasta Lessons

Discover the fun of Canasta, a rummy-style card game. Instructor Sylvia Taflove will teach the basics, with time for supervised play each session.

Northfield Library: Fridays, February 6, 13, 20 & 27, 1pm (R)

Health & Wellness

Chair Yoga

Join instructor Isabel Raci, C-IAYT, for a session of gentle chair yoga and guided meditation. Tune in to stretch, breathe, gain flexibility, and strengthen the body in an accessible way with seated poses. Perfect for beginners, students will leave class feeling relaxed and grounded.

Virtual: Fridays, December 5 & 19, January 2 & 16, February 6 & 20, 10am (R)

Meditation through Journaling

Join Isabel Raci, C-IAYT, to learn ways journaling can help develop and enhance your meditation practice. This workshop will include writing exercises, mindful movement, and guided meditation and discussion.

Winnetka Library: Tuesday, February 17, 1pm (R)



Book Discussions

Food for Thought: Cookbook Book Club

Do you love browsing through cookbooks and trying new recipes? Check out one of the spotlighted cookbooks, try some recipes and bring a dish to share.

Winnetka Library: Mondays, 7pm (R)



December 8: Quick and Easy

Once Upon a Chef: Weeknight/Weekend: 70 Quick-Fix Weeknight Dinners + 30 Luscious Weekend Recipes by Jennifer Segal

What to Cook When You Don't Feel Like Cooking by Caroline Chambers



January 12: It Takes Guts

Cook for Your Gut Health: Quiet Your Gut, Boost Fiber, and Reduce Inflammation by America's Test Kitchen

Help Yourself: A Guide to Gut Health for People Who Love Delicious Food by Lindsay Maitland Hunt



February 9: Taste the Twang

Good Lookin' Cookin': A Year of Meals — A Lifetime of Family, Friends, and Food by Dolly Parton and Rachel Parton George

Not That Fancy: Simple Lessons on Living, Loving, Eating, and Dusting Off Your Boots by Reba McEntire

Next Chapter Book Club

Join us as we explore all that popular fiction has to offer. We'll bring books to life through colorful conversation.

Winnetka Library: Thursdays, 11:30am (R)



December 18

The Year in Review. Discuss books we liked and dish on the ones we didn't. Refreshments welcome for our final meeting of the year.

January 15

Beautyland by Marie-Helene Bertino

February 19

Fan Favorite by Adrienne Gunn

Author
Event

Clue: A Mystery Book Club

Join us for a spirited discussion exploring a variety of mystery genres, from true crime and dark thrillers to police procedurals and historical mysteries.

Hybrid (Northfield Library & Virtual): Tuesdays, 7:30pm (R)



December 10

The Return of Faraz Ali by Aamina Ahmad

February 10

Citizen Vince by Jess Walter

Savor & Share: Cookbook Book Club

Join us for a lunchtime book club. Bring a recipe to share and a dish to savor with the group.

Northfield Library: Thursdays, 12:30pm (R)



December 18: Holiday Party

Baking for the Holidays : 50+ Treats for a Festive Season by Sarah Kieffer

Martha Stewart's Appetizers by Martha Stewart



January 22: Winter Picnic

Soups, Salads, Sandwiches by Matty Matheson

A Hearty Book of Veggie Sandwiches by Jackie Freeman



February 19: Sweet Treats!

Bravetart: Iconic American Desserts by Stella Parks

The Magnolia Bakery: Handbook of Icebox Desserts by Bobbie Lloyd

Great Decisions

Join us for a lively discussion of major events playing out now across the world stage. Participants read an article from the Great Decisions briefing book, view a related video, and discuss questions on eight topics.

The Great Decisions series is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Winnetka-Northfield-Kenilworth in cooperation with the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District.

Winnetka Library: Wednesdays,
January 21 & 28, February 4, 11, 18 & 25,
March 4 & 11, 1pm (R)

Great Conversations with Robert Waterbury: A Short Classics Book Club

Join us for invigorating discussions on concise and thought-provoking works.

Winnetka Library: Mondays, 1pm (R)

December 1: *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James

January 5: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

February 2: *Babbitt* by Sinclair Lewis



Live Performance

Enough about Me! A Conversation with Rose Fay Thomas

Learn how sisters Zina, Amy, and Rose Fay forged new paths in music, writing, and women's advocacy. From the founding of the Anti-Cruelty Society to the early days of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, discover how these trailblazing women left their mark. Ellie from ElliePresents joins author Andrea Friederici Ross (*Sisters of Influence*) to share the true story of sisters who defied Victorian expectations to shape history.

Northfield Library: Saturday, December 13, 2pm (R)

Alexander Hamilton: As Told by His Wife Eliza, with Lynn Rymarz

Hear the true story of one of our nation's Founding Fathers, Alexander Hamilton, from his wife Eliza's point of view. She will share the story of their love, marriage, and family, the part he played in the new United States, his betrayal and his death in a duel, and the courage and strength she needed to go on without him.

Winnetka Library: Saturday, January 24, 3pm (R)

Petra Sings, Andy Swings

Experience live music with jazz vocalist Petra van Nuis and guitarist Andy Brown.

Winnetka Library: Saturday, February 7, 2pm (R)

"Please Call Me Amy"

Behind every great man is a woman of extraordinary purpose. Meet Amy McCormick—artist, Red Cross volunteer, and hostess to dignitaries like Winston Churchill. Her extraordinary life ran parallel to that of her husband, Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the influential publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*.

Northfield Library: Saturday, February 21, 2pm (R)

Personal Finance & Career

Financial Planning Appointment

Do you have questions about how to invest, budget, or safeguard your finances? Schedule a free, one-hour in-person consultation with Certified Financial Planner®, Ed Gjertsen II, past national president of the Financial Planning Association and founder of Engage Wealth Group. There is a limit of one session per person.

Winnetka Library: Tuesdays, December 9, January 13 & February 10, 10am & 11am (R)

Renovating Your Historic Home: Landmarking and the Property Tax Assessment Freeze

Join architectural historian Susan Benjamin for an enlightening (and entertaining) presentation on landmarking your historic house and its advantages. Showing numerous photographs, she will talk about the sometimes confusing but compelling reasons for landmarking your home.

Hybrid (Winnetka Library & Virtual): Sunday, January 11, 2pm (R)

Professional Skills for Young Professionals and Interns

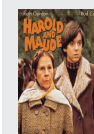
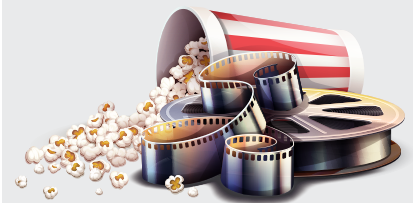
Set yourself up for success with this interactive training designed specifically for Gen Z in the workplace. This presentation will cover essential skills including time management, professional communication, and how to confidently contribute as a proactive team member. Participants will improve their understanding of workplace culture and gain practical tools to help make a positive impression from day one.

Virtual: Wednesday, January 28, 7pm (R)

Comedy Film Series

Register to receive a pre-recorded introduction and critique by our resident film expert Scott Siegel, along with a link to watch the film at home through our Kanopy streaming service.

Virtual: Fridays (R)



December 19

Harold and Maude

Ruth Gordon and Bud Cort are the title team in this 70s cult favorite.



January 23

A New Leaf

An underrated farce with Walter Matthau and Elaine May.



February 27

My Man Godfrey

Carole Lombard and William Powell star in this classic comedy of the haves and the have-nots.

Find Scott's previous movie reviews at: wnpld.org/film-series.

Movie Adaptations: What Works and What Doesn't

Since the early days of cinema, filmmakers have adapted novels, plays, and even nonfiction into films, often to the complaint that the movies don't match the originals. Film professor Zbigniew Banas will explore the challenges of adaptation and why some versions succeed while others fall short.

Virtual: Sunday, February 22, 11am (R)

History

This Is Really War: The Incredible True Story of a Navy Nurse POW in WWII

Author Emilie Le Beau Lucchesi, PhD, discusses her book about 12 U.S. Navy nurses who were POWs in the Philippines during WWII. Led by Chief Nurse Laura Cobb, they saved thousands of lives and bravely protected their patients under harsh captivity.

Virtual: Wednesday, December 3, 7pm (R)

The Era of Art Deco Architecture in Chicago

Art Deco is an architectural style that's all about streamlined surfaces, linear and geometric shapes, symmetry, and a dose of glamour. The Art Deco era came roaring into Chicago during the 1920s. Discover masterpieces like the Chicago Board of Trade Building, Lyric Opera House, Adler Planetarium, Merchandise Mart, and more.

Virtual: Thursday, December 4, 7pm (R)

Skies Over the Great Lakes

Bruce Treadway from the National Museum of the American Sailor will present the history of naval aviation at nearby Naval Station Great Lakes.

Virtual: Tuesday, December 9, 6:30pm (R)

Winter Scenes in French Impressionism with Jeff Mishur

Many major artists in the French Impressionist movement loved the season of winter. They enjoyed the challenge of capturing the season's distinctive light, air and, of course, snow. Art historian Jeff Mishur will discuss some of his favorite winter scenes by artists such as Monet, Sisley, and Pissarro.

Virtual: Monday, December 15, 7pm (R)

The History of Motown Records

In 1960's Detroit, Motown Records produced hits as efficiently as the Ford Motor Company produced automobiles. Using audio and visual content, music historian Gary Wenstrup will trace the amazing musical journey from the power soul of "Dancing in The Streets" to the psychedelic soul of "Cloud Nine" to the pop soul of The Jackson 5.

Virtual: Wednesday, December 17, 7pm (R)

Festivus 101: A Celebration for the Rest of Us

Join us for an adventure into the world of Festivus, the quirky holiday created by the brilliant minds behind the TV series *Seinfeld*. We'll delve into the history of Festivus and discover how this unconventional holiday was born.

Virtual: Thursday, December 18, 6:30pm (R)



Christmas at Marshall Field's with Leslie Goddard

For many Chicagoans, no Christmas season was complete without a visit to Marshall Field & Co. We'll trace the store's holiday traditions, including the Walnut Room Christmas tree, the window displays, the toy department, and the catalogs. A fun and fascinating look at one of Chicago's most beloved holiday traditions.

Virtual: Tuesday, December 9, 7pm (R)

Backwards in Heels: The Legacy of Ginger Rogers With Annette Bochenek

Ginger Rogers is known as part of an iconic on screen dance duo, but her achievements went far beyond the screen. Join film historian Dr. Annette Bochenek for an illustrated look at Rogers' Missouri roots, Hollywood career, and lasting legacy.

Virtual: Monday, January 19, 7pm (R)

Sports Betting and the History of Sports

Join Jason Lopez, Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at UW-Madison, for a discussion on the historical relationship between sports betting, sports leagues, and sports media.

Virtual: Tuesday, January 20, 7pm (R)

History's Mysteries: Coincidences and True Crimes

Discover strange coincidences and unsolved murders that shaped history. Join Lorrissa Julianus for a fascinating look at mysteries left out of history books. How did the "murder" of Poland help America win its War of Independence? Was Stalin killed by his closest allies? And did John Wilkes Booth really escape justice to become a carnival mummy?

Virtual: Wednesday, January 21, 7pm (R)

Fact and Fiction: The Art of British Spycraft

Learn about Bletchley Park, the once top-secret WWII codebreaking center, and discover how real-life spies and covert operations inspire modern British spy novels. Stories shared by author and former UK resident Claire Evans.

Virtual: Thursday, January 29, 7pm (R)

Echoes of Hiroshima: A Survivor's Story

Hear the story of Masakazu Saito, a 20-year-old squad leader in Hiroshima's Imperial Army Communications Division, just 1,800 meters from the epicenter of the atomic blast. In 2001, he shared his remarkable story of survival through watercolors and testimony, continuing his mission to advocate for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Winnetka Library: Sunday, February 1, 3pm (R)

Aaron Douglas: Harlem Renaissance Meets Art Deco with Jeff Mishur

Aaron Douglas was a central figure of the Harlem Renaissance, developing a unique style that combined influences from African art, Egyptian art, and contemporary Art Deco design to create a distinct African American modernism. Art historian Jeff Mishur will discuss Douglas and his relationship to the Harlem Renaissance movement during the period between the two world wars.

Virtual: Monday, February 2, 7pm (R)

Mardi Gras and Movies in the Midwest

In celebration of Fat Tuesday, explore the history of Mardi Gras and a few of its 200+ onscreen depictions, including some from Chicago film companies.

Virtual: Tuesday, February 3, 6:30pm (R)

Martin Luther King Jr. and The October Surprise

As the 1960 election loomed, John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon competed to lead America into the new decade and beyond. Little did they know that the activism of Martin Luther King Jr. and his subsequent imprisonment in October would affect the election, change the course of both of their careers, and influence politics to this day. Join historian Clarence Goodman to learn more about this gripping tale.

Virtual: Monday, February 16, 7pm (R)

Surprising Stories of the North Shore

Join the Winnetka Historical Society for an engaging look at the lesser-known sides of North Shore history. Discover fascinating stories about the people, places, and events that shaped our communities — tales that are quirky, unexpected, sometimes tragic, and always compelling. These surprising stories remind us that every history is worth preserving and every story worth sharing.

Hybrid (Winnetka Library & Virtual): Tuesday, February 17, 4pm (R)

The Founding Fathers: Myths, Realities, and Legacies with Valerie Gugala

They are celebrated as heroes, visionaries, and the architects of American democracy—but who were the Founding Fathers, really? In this lecture, Valerie Gugala separates fact from fiction to uncover the complex lives, beliefs, and contradictions of Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, and Hamilton. Explore the myths that surround them, the truths that history reveals, and the enduring legacies they left on the nation they helped shape.

Virtual: Monday, February 23, 7pm (R)

Huichol Art: Votive Paintings

Even among the many different communities that make up Mexico's rich cultural tapestry, the Huichol people stand out for their vibrant and deeply spiritual artistic tradition expressed through detailed beadwork and yarn paintings. This presentation, hosted by the National Museum of Mexican Art, will examine the history and symbolism of Huichol art and the spiritual practices of the Wixárika people that make it all possible.

Virtual: Thursday, February 26, 7pm (R)

Science

Star Light, Star Bright: The Secret Lives of Stars

Astronomer Shane Larson shares the lifecycle of stars and how telescopes let us explore these glowing celestial bodies.

Virtual: Tuesday, February 3, 6:30pm (R)

Fantastic Space Discoveries: Structures of the Outer Solar System

Advances in observational techniques and instrumentation have given astronomers fresh insights into our solar system. They've discovered that it stretches far beyond the planets, revealing previously unknown structures.

Virtual: Thursday, February 5, 7pm (R)

Travel

A Tour of Five National Parks

Award-winning author Theresa L. Goodrich presents a tour of five unique National Parks. After a brief history of the National Park System, you'll virtually explore Badlands National Park, Glacier National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, Yellowstone National Park, and Zion National Park.

Virtual: Wednesday, December 10, 7pm (R)

Other

Astrology 101

Astrology is more than just the day you were born! Professional astrologer Denise Ulett will take you on a fun and interactive journey through your unique cosmic blueprint. Charts provided.

Northfield Library: Saturday, January 10, 2pm (R)

Nursery Rhyme Contest

Enter a playful rhyme in the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District's Nursery Rhyme Contest. Your rhyme could be a winner!

Submission Period:

February 25 – March 5

Eligibility: Open to Ages 16+

Submission Rules:

- One rhyme per entrant
- Maximum length of eight lines, no title. (The rhyme will be identified by its first line.)
- It must be your own original work, unpublished (in print or online) and not a previous contest winner.

How to Submit by Email:

Send to poetry@wnpld.org

Include in the body of your email:

- Your name, email, and phone number
- The first line of your rhyme

Attach just your rhyme as a Word document or similar file, with no identifying personal information.

How to Submit by Mail:

Send to:

Winnetka Library
Attention: Nick Mall
768 Oak St.
Winnetka, IL 60093

Include two typed pages:

- Page 1: Your name, phone number, and the first line of the rhyme
- Page 2: The nursery rhyme

Winning entries: Winners will be notified by March 20. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place, plus one honorable mention.

Judged by local author and poet Charlotte Digregorio, whose latest book *Wondrous Instruction and Advice from Global Poets* is available through the library.

The Studio

Create, design, and explore in The Studio.

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Make one-of-a-kind gifts in The Studio. Learn, create, and take home something special.

- Turn a favorite photo into a personalized mug or ornament with our sublimation printer.
- Create a custom wooden ornament with our laser cutter.
- Design a personalized tote bag with our vinyl cutter.
- Add initials to a small felt ornament using our embroidery machine.
- Take home a free 3D printed giveaway and enter to win a large-scale print.

Book Your Holiday Appointments

Appointments are recommended to use The Studio's equipment. Same-day appointments may be available.

Ready to book? It's easy!

☎ Call us at 847-446-7220 ext. 3.

📱 Reserve online at wnpld.org/studio.

👋 Or stop by The Studio desk — we're happy to help!

Workshops

Mixed Media Journaling

Indulge your creativity with free-form journaling in an open studio setting. Supplies provided.

Northfield Library: Tuesdays, December 2, 16 & 30, January 13 & 27, February 10 & 24, 6pm • Adults

Winter Wonderland Wreath

Let's warm up your front door with a magical winter village wreath all made from paper.

The Studio: Saturday, December 6, 12pm • Adults (R)

Gift Tagging Extravaganza

Make your gifts extra special with handmade tags using our supplies.

The Studio: Wednesday, December 10, 6pm • Adults (R)

Northfield Library: Thursday, December 18, 3pm • Adults (R)

Sit & Knit

Join fellow knitters of all skill levels. Basic supplies and beginner assistance will be provided.

Northfield Library: Thursdays, December 11, January 8 & 22, 3pm • Adults (R)

Tote-ally Yours: Silhouette Stenciling

Transform a plain tote into a statement piece. Learn how to create your own stencil using our Silhouette machine and apply it to a canvas tote bag.

The Studio: Wednesday, January 14, 6pm • Adults (R)

Tiny Bookshelves

Calling all miniature enthusiasts! Join us to build your very own 1:12 scale bookshelf, the perfect tiny addition to any dollhouse, bookshelf, or tiny collection.

The Studio: Tuesday, January 20, 6pm • Ages 9+ (R)

Northfield Library: Saturday, February 28, 3pm • Ages 9+ (R)

Candle Craze: Melt, Mix & Make Magic

Create your own unique candle by experimenting with scents and special additions.

The Studio: Wednesday, January 28, 6pm • Adults (R)

Lovey Wreath

Celebrate love! Craft a beautiful paper wreath to share or keep.

The Studio: Saturday, January 31, 2pm • Adults (R)

Fast Fashion: How Understanding Fabric Will Save the World

Local sewist Ann Hinterman explores modern textile production, consumer trends, and the fate of unwanted clothing.

Northfield Library: Saturday, January 31, 2pm • Adults (R)

Collage Your Heart Out

Get ready to collage your heart out! Create a unique, heartfelt work of art using colorful magazines and books to collage onto a wooden heart.

The Studio: Sunday, February 1, 3pm • Ages 9+ (R)

Northfield Library: Tuesday, February 3, 3pm • Ages 9+ (R)

Mend It! Buttons, Hems & Stitches

Learn basic mending skills in this hands-on workshop by sewist Karen Graham. Bring your items in need of repair or altering (sorry, no zippers) and make them ready to wear again.

Northfield Library: Wednesday, February 4, 10am • Adults (R)

Nameplate: CorelDraw Creations

Use CorelDraw to create a custom wooden nameplate and prep it for laser cutting.

Winnetka Library: Tuesday, February 10, 6pm • Adults (R)

Create a Valentine's Day Card

Join us to craft one-of-a-kind Valentine's Day cards for someone special.

The Studio: Thursday, February 12, 6pm • All Ages (R)

Handcrafted Passport Holder

Learn to cut, stitch, and finish your very own leather passport holder, perfect for your next trip.

The Studio: Wednesday, February 25, 6pm • Adults (R)

Technology

Need Tech Help? Bring Your Device!

Got a new tablet, smartphone, or computer, or just need help with emails, documents, or apps? Stop by our Device Advice drop-in sessions. Our studio specialists will help with setup, troubleshooting, and any questions you have.

The Studio: Thursdays, 3–5pm

When Is It Time to Upgrade Your Devices?

Not sure whether to repair your device or buy a new one? This class will guide you through your options and the key questions to ask before deciding.

Virtual: Wednesday, December 3, 1:30pm • Adults (R)

Outsmarting Scammers

Learn how to spot phishing emails, fake texts, and imposter scams. We'll cover what red flags to look for, how to protect your information, and what to do if something seems suspicious.

Virtual: Wednesday, December 17, 1:30pm • Adults (R)

Kindle Basics: Borrowing eBooks With Libby

Learn how to use your library card to read today's most popular titles on your Kindle for free. Make sure to bring your Amazon login information, a smartphone, and your Kindle.

Winnetka Library: Thursdays, January 8 & 29, 3pm
Adults (R)

Tracing Your Roots

Join us for an informative session on using digital databases to research your ancestry. We'll provide a live demonstration and tips to help you navigate powerful resources and begin building your own family tree.

Virtual: Wednesday, January 21, 1:30pm • Adults (R)

Artificial Intelligence 101

Learn how AI is shaping everything from healthcare to education, and about the risks it presents to privacy, information quality, and more.

Virtual: Wednesday, February 4, 1:30pm • Adults (R)

Computer Basics

New to computers? This beginner-friendly class will teach you the essential skills to get started. You'll learn how to open files, navigate your computer's interface, and perform basic tasks with confidence.

Winnetka Library: Wednesday, February 18, 6pm
Adults (R)



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Find it at wnpld.org/online-resources.



Best Books of 2025

Join us at The Book Stall in Winnetka to discuss our favorite books of 2025. Librarians from WNPLD and staff from The Book Stall will recommend their favorite books of the year and look to 2026's new releases. Participants will also be able to share their own recommendations. Refreshments will be provided.

The Book Stall (811 Elm Street, Winnetka): Thursday, January 15, 6:30pm (R)

Stay Up to Date!

Get the latest updates about what's happening at the library!
Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at wnpld.org.