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Concert

A Community Beyond Books

GLEN ELLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

READ, LISTEN, PLAY,
WATCH, RESEARCH

Museum Adventure Pass

Use your library card to receive admission or a special discount at participating Chicago area cultural destinations!



Museum Adventure Pass
museumadventure.org

Digital Resources

24/7 access on your computer or mobile device to items like databases, apps, eBooks and audiobooks, services, training, newspapers, health and consumer information, language instruction, and movie and film streaming.



Digital Resources
gepl.org/digital-library

USE THE LIBRARY

65 S Park Lockers

gepl.org/65-s-park-lockers

24/7 locker hold pick up available at 65 S Park Boulevard, inside the Glen Ellyn Police Department.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Home Delivery

gepl.org/home-delivery

Free service for Glen Ellyn Public Library cardholders of any age who want to use library materials, but due to temporary or permanent circumstances are unable to visit the library on a regular basis.



Availability of eBooks and audiobooks at the library

Have you ever wondered why you have to wait for copies of eBooks and audiobooks, and why the library doesn't just order more to keep up with demand? eBooks and audiobooks can cost libraries far more than physical copies and come with strict licensing limits. The library has been watching conversations on this topic and recommends two videos that provide great answers!

NPR Podcasts' YouTube short *Why is your Libby hold taking so long? How can you be "in line" to borrow a digital library book?* explains that digital copies are treated like physical books, meaning only one person can borrow each copy at a time, and libraries must purchase them under restrictive models. Libraries can buy digital titles that either expire after 24 months, allow 26 checkouts before renewal, or require a fee each time a title is borrowed ("per-circ").

Digital borrowing has surged since the pandemic, increasing costs further. Publishers argue that expiring licenses mimic the wear and tear of physical books. One library administrator explains that most library users have no idea how much libraries spend to provide digital materials. She sees the issue as an ongoing debate between libraries, publishers, authors, and the public about the future of digital access. Until changes occur, she says, library users will need to be patient with long wait times for popular digital titles like *The Women* by Kristin Hannah on Libby.

Columbus Metropolitan Library's Facebook reel "Why libraries can't get audiobooks" explains that libraries face challenges providing access to digital content, especially audiobooks that are Amazon or Audible exclusives and therefore unavailable for library purchase. Some authors are even unaware that their works are restricted this way.

If you have any questions about eBooks and audiobooks at the library, please let me know! The library is committed to ensuring a robust collection that meets community needs.

Dawn Bussey, Executive Director
director@gepl.org | 630-790-6760



Illinois Libraries Present

Authors Jonathan Eig and R. L. Stine

Tuesdays • 7–8 pm • Virtual Program

These events are made possible by the Illinois Library Association-ILP and its member libraries, and in part funded by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of the Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). **For adults and high school students.**

January 13 Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig

February 24 Still Afraid of the Dark: An Evening with R. L. Stine

Passport Events

Passport Acceptance Fair

Saturday, January 17 • 9:30 am–3:30 pm

Youth Program Room

Glen Ellyn Public Library is an official Passport Acceptance Facility. During this event, four passport agents will accept, on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, walk in DS-11 applications for new passports for all ages and passport renewals for children under age 18 on a first-come, first-served basis. Passport photos will be available for an additional fee.

Walk-In Passport Photos

Wednesday, February 18 • 5–8 pm

North and South Meeting Rooms

The library normally offers passport photo services by appointment only. Have a passport photo taken without an appointment on a first-come, first-served basis by a passport agent. The fee for passport photos is \$15 for two printed photos per person, which may be paid with cash, credit card, or check payable to Glen Ellyn Public Library. Please do not wear camouflage or white shirts.

Passport applications will not be accepted at this event.

Outside of our Passport Acceptance Fairs (see above), passport services are available **by appointment only**. Please visit gepl.org for more information.

DIGITAL LIBRARY

LOTE4Kids

gepl.org/lotte4kids



¡Comparte libros en más de 100 idiomas con LOTE4Kids!

Chia sẻ sách bằng hơn 100 ngôn ngữ với LOTE4Kids!

Share books in over 100 languages with LOTE4Kids!

LOTE4Kids کے ساتھ 100 سے زیادہ زبانوں میں کتابیں شیئر کریں

LOTE4Kids સાથે 100 થી વધુ ભાષાઓમાં પુસ્તકો શેર કરો!

Research indicates that listening to a language makes learning easier by

- building vocabulary through repeated exposure,
- training the brain to hear and produce sounds correctly,
- allowing implicit grammar learning, and
- supporting fluency with natural rhythm and intonation.

Reinforce your language learning by listening to native speakers for accurate translations, natural fluency, and correct pronunciation with LOTE4Kids. Picture cards to stories with up to 1,200 words help facilitate language learning for anyone!



Glenbard Parent Series

Join online audiences with high school experts. Books related to each event are available at the Adult Desk. For more information, visit gpsparentseries.org.

From Here to Higher Ed: Why College Includes You

Thursday, December 4 • 7 pm • Virtual Program

Presented in English and Spanish

Mental Health 101: Supporting Your Teen's Mental Health Journey in High School, College, and Beyond

Tuesday, December 16 • Noon, 7 pm • Virtual Program

Lighthouse Parenting: Guiding Teens to Develop Independence and Coping Skills to Navigate Their Own Journey

Tuesday, January 13 • Noon, 7 pm • Virtual Program

You Are Not Alone: Navigating Your Child's Mental Health with Wisdom from Experts and Real Families

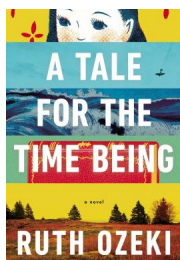
Tuesday, February 10 • Noon, 7 pm • Virtual Program

ADULT RECOMMENDATIONS

Go Ahead, Be Nosy: Epistolary Novels

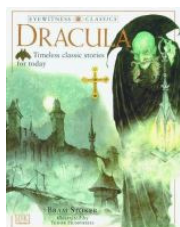
by Elaine Waite, Readers' Advisory and Collection Development Librarian, with summaries from Goodreads

Stories told through a series of written documents, such as letters, diary entries, emails, text messages, and newspaper clippings. You don't even have to snoop!



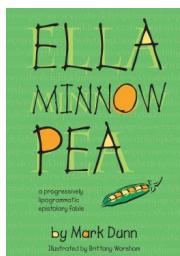
A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki

In Tokyo, sixteen-year-old Nao has decided there's only one escape from her aching loneliness and her classmates' bullying, but before she ends it all, Nao plans to document the life of her great-grandmother, a Buddhist nun who's lived more than a century. A diary is Nao's only solace—and will touch lives in ways she can scarcely imagine. Across the Pacific, we meet Ruth, a novelist living on a remote island who discovers a collection of artifacts washed ashore in a Hello Kitty lunchbox—debris from the 2011 tsunami. As the mystery of its contents unfolds, Ruth is pulled into the past, into Nao's drama and her unknown fate, and forward into her own future.



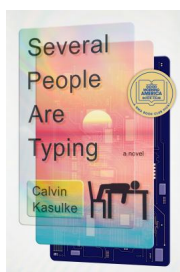
Dracula by Bram Stoker*

When Jonathan Harker visits Transylvania to help Count Dracula with the purchase of a London house, he makes a series of horrific discoveries about his client. Soon afterwards, various bizarre incidents unfold in England: an apparently unmanned ship is wrecked off the coast of Whitby; a young woman discovers strange puncture marks on her neck; and the inmate of a lunatic asylum raves about the 'Master' and his imminent arrival.



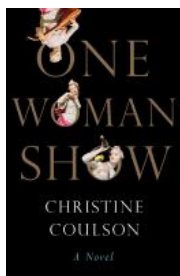
Ella Minnow Pea by Mark Dunn

Ella Minnow Pea is a girl living happily on the fictional island of Nollop off the coast of South Carolina. Nollop was named after Nevin Nollop, author of the phrase containing all the letters of the alphabet, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." Ella finds herself acting to save her friends, family, and fellow citizens from the encroaching totalitarianism of the island's Council, which has banned the use of certain letters of the alphabet as they fall from a memorial statue of Nevin Nollop.



Several People are Typing... by Calvin Kasulke

When his consciousness is uploaded into his company's internal Slack channels, boosting his productivity, Gerald, who works for a PR firm, enlists the help of a co-worker to help him escape—and to find out what happened to his body. But the longer Gerald stays in the void, the more alluring and absurd his reality becomes.



One Woman Show by Christine Coulson

Author Christine Coulson spent twenty-five years writing for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Her final project was to write wall labels for the museum's new British Galleries. During that time, she dreamt of using The Met's strict label format to describe people as intricate works of art. The result is the story of Kitty Whitaker as she is defined by her potential for display and moved from collection to collection through multiple marriages.

*Discuss this title at Thursday Evening Book Club. You can find program information on the next page.

ADULTS

Tech Help Drop-In

Tuesdays • December 9, January 13, February 10 • 6–7:30 pm
Saturdays • December 13, January 10, February 14 • 1–3 pm
2nd Floor of the Library
Stop by on the second floor with your questions or to troubleshoot an app or device issue on your laptop, tablet, or phone.

Social Hour for Adults 50+

Wednesdays • December 3–February 25 • 2:30–4 pm
December: 2nd Floor of the Library
January and February: North and South Meeting Rooms
Join neighbors to socialize while completing puzzles, playing card and board games, or working on coloring crafts. Light refreshments provided.

Donuts and Bingo

Thursdays • 10:30–11:30 am
December 11, January 8, February 12
Main Street Recreation Center, 501 Hill Avenue
Enjoy BINGO, coffee, and donuts at Main Street Recreation Center on the 2nd Thursday of each month. One bingo card per participant. Coffee, donuts, and bingo cards are provided, and prizes will be awarded to the winners. This free drop-in activity is offered in partnership with the Glen Ellyn Park District. **For ages 55+.**

Craft Group

Thursdays • 6:30–7:30 pm
December: 2nd Floor Atrium West
January and February: North and South Meeting Rooms
Work on your current project with other crafters or start a new project! Guest facilitators will provide a limited number of craft starter-kits. Light refreshments provided.

December 18	Air-Dry Clay Book Page Holder with staff
January 15	Paper with SCARCE
February 19	Recycled Book Art with DuPage Art League

Thursday Evening Book Club

Thursdays • 7–8 pm • Shakespeare Room	
December 11	<i>Portrait of a Thief</i> by Grace D. Li
January 8	<i>Dracula</i> by Bram Stoker
February 12	<i>Three Bags Full: A Sheep Detective Story</i> by Leonie Swann

Copies of book discussion titles are available at the Adult Desk, or you can request a copy for pick up at the drive-up window by calling the Adult Desk at 630-790-6630 or emailing reference@gepl.org.

Dementia Friendly

Caregiver Support Group

Tuesdays • 3:30–4:30 pm • North Meeting Room
December 2, January 6, February 3
LaVon K. Lenaway, Dementia Care Educator, leads an open support group for caregivers to connect with others and share experiences about providing care for someone with memory impairment. Sponsored by Arden Courts ProMedica Memory Care Glen Ellyn.

Memory Cafe

Tuesdays • January 13, February 10 • 4–5 pm
North and South Meeting Rooms
Memory Cafes are welcoming social gatherings for people living with changes in their memory or thinking and the people who care about them. A Memory Cafe is a place to have fun together, talk with others who understand what you are going through, and try something new!

Your Money, Your Future: A Panel Discussion on Financial Planning

Saturday, December 6 • 1–3 pm • 2nd Floor Atrium East
Join local experts from the Financial Planning Association of Illinois for an informative Q&A on topics like budgeting, saving, investing, and retirement planning.

Puzzle Exchange

Saturday, December 7 • 1:30–3:30 pm
2nd Floor of the Library
Trade your gently-used puzzles for a new challenge! Light refreshments provided. **For adults and kids of all ages.**

Seed Gardening: Giving Your Garden a Head Start

Saturday, February 28 • 1–2 pm • North and South Meeting Rooms
Get your garden ready for the spring growing season! Learn about the equipment and methods used for starting seeds indoors from a DuPage County Master Gardener.

What is Artificial Intelligence (AI) and How Can I Use It?

Saturdays • 1–2 pm • North Meeting Room Learn how you can use tools online to complete tasks for you. No prior knowledge necessary.	
January 10	What is AI? Using AI engines and prompts
January 24	AI for Productivity: Use AI to draft emails, improve your resume, and get answers to questions
February 7	AI for Creativity: Use AI to craft slogans and create images and task lists

Five Principles for Eating Well After a Breast Cancer Diagnosis

Tuesday, January 27 • 6–7 pm • North and South Meeting Rooms

Nutrition plays a supportive and potentially protective role in managing hormone receptor-positive (HR+) breast cancer. Cathy Leman, MA, RD, NSCA-CPT will discuss how nutrition can support hormone therapy effectiveness, reduce recurrence risk, and improve overall well-being during and after treatment.

A Living History Portrayal of Julia Child

Thursday, February 5 • 7–8:30 pm

North and South Meeting Rooms

In the 1960s, thousands tuned in every week to watch Julia Child demonstrate the art of French cooking on television. Actress and scholar Leslie Goddard, Ph.D. brings the iconic French Chef to life in this portrayal, where Child discusses everything from her relationship with her husband Paul Child to the mishaps of cooking on television. Bon appétit!

Tech Basics Series for Adults

1–2 pm • North and South Meeting Rooms

Internet for Beginners

Wednesday, December 17

Gain confidence by learning the basics of navigating the online world.

Avoiding Spam and Scams

Wednesday, January 28

Learn to identify and protect yourself from spam, phishing, and online scams. Tom DiFrisco from Wright to Learn will cover key red flags, safe browsing habits, and practical tips to keep your personal information secure.

Using Library Digital Resources

Wednesday, February 25

Learn how to enjoy thousands of free digital books, audiobooks, magazines, movies, TV shows, and documentaries with your library card!

Senior Health and Wellness

AgeGuide

Monday, January 12 • 5–6 pm

North and South Meeting Rooms

A representative from AgeGuide, the DuPage County agency on aging, will discuss the Older Americans Act, elder rights, health and wellness programs, nutrition, and caregiver support.

DuPage Senior Citizens Council

Wednesday, February 11 • 1–2 pm

North and South Meeting Rooms

A representative from the DuPage Senior Citizens Council, an advocate for senior independence and livelihood, will discuss free resources available to seniors in DuPage County.

HIGH SCHOOL

Friday Challenge

Fridays • 3:30–4:30 pm • High School Room

December 12, January 9, February 13

Face off against the Young Adult Librarian in the month's challenge to get a free snack.

Drop-In Volunteer Hours

Sundays • 2–4 pm • High School Room

December 14, January 11, February 8

Write letters for the month's featured partner. Students completing at least one acceptable letter can receive verified volunteer hours. Supplies provided.

Global Taste Test

Wednesdays • 4–5 pm • Shakespeare Room

January 21, February 18

Each month, taste and rate snacks provided by Universal Yums from countries around the world! The library cannot guarantee that food served at this program has not come into contact with tree nuts, soy, or other allergens.

High School Craft Series

Tuesdays • 4–5 pm • High School Room

December 16, January 20, February 17

Participate in a craft after school.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

So You Want to Play Dungeons & Dragons

Thursdays • 4–5 pm • Shakespeare Room

December 4, January 8, February 5

For beginner and seasoned adventurers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Eww, Gross!

Thursdays • 4–5 pm • Youth Program Room

December 18, January 15, February 19

We're serving up a variety of foods that might taste... questionable. Do you have the guts to try them all?

Book Crush

Thursday, January 29 • 4–5 pm • Youth Program Room

Who is your literary crush? Talk about the fictional characters you've fallen for in your favorite books, and meet other fans.

3D-Printed Labubu Fashion

Wednesday, February 18 • 4–5 pm • Youth Program Room

Deck out your Labubu with custom accessories for Fashion Week. From tiny hats to quirky props, decorate 3D-printed accessories that bring big personality to your favorite little creature.

THE WORKSHOP

For Adults and High School Students

Supplies provided. All programs are in **The Workshop**.

Monthly Make

Reserve a kit that includes supplies and instructions for a self-guided maker project. When you register, please indicate your preferred days and times to come in to The Workshop and complete the project.

Please see *Helpful Computer Skills for Maker Projects* on the next page.

December 8–22 **Embroidered Felt Decor**

Brighten your winter table with a festive embroidered tabletop decoration.

January 5–31 **Acrylic Dry-Erase Board**

Laser-cut a tabletop sign great for tracking game night scores, keeping holiday countdowns, or jotting down some motivation for the new year.

February 9–28 **Decorated Planter Pot**

Use Cricut Design Space to create and cut fun designs to put on a small planter.

Equipment Basics

Saturdays • 10–11:30 am

Staff-led program to learn basic skills using a piece of equipment by working on a beginner-level project. Please see *Helpful Computer Skills for Maker Projects* on the next page.

December 13	Cricut
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January 10	3D Printer
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January 17	Laser
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February 21	Embroidery Machine
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February 28	Sublimation Printer and Heat Press
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Make and Take

Staff-led program to use makerspace equipment to make a specific item to take home. Please see *Helpful Computer Skills for Maker Projects* on the next page.

Laser-Etched Drinking Glass

Monday, December 15 • 2–4 pm, 4:30–6:30 pm

Use the laser to etch a design on a drinking glass.

Embroidered Beanie Hat

Monday, January 19 • 2–4 pm, 4:30–6:30 pm

Warm up with a winter hat personalized on the embroidery machine.

Heart Tic-Tac-Toe

Monday, February 9 • 2–4 pm, 4:30–6:30 pm

Use the laser to cut out and etch colorful acrylic hearts and a wooden playing board.



For Kids

Supplies provided.

Beginner 3D Printing

Wednesdays • December 3, January 7, February 4

4–5 pm • Youth Program Room

Learn how to use Tinkercad to design the project of the month and 3D print the item to keep! Please register for each month separately. Prior month's attendance is not necessary. **For grades 3–8.**

Intermediate 3D Printing

Wednesdays • December 3, January 7, February 4

5:30–6:30 pm • Youth Program Room

If you have already attended Beginner 3D Printing and are confident using Tinkercad, create your own design and then 3D print the item to keep! Please register for each month separately. Prior month's attendance is not necessary. **For grades 3–8.**

Laser Engrave a Wood Ornament

Grades 3–5: Tuesday, December 9 • 4–5 pm • The Workshop

Grades 6–8: Tuesday, December 9 • 5:30–6:30 pm • The Workshop

Use Canva to create a design and then use the laser to engrave the design onto a wooden ornament.

Embroider a Bandana

Grades 3–5: Tuesday, January 13 • 4–5 pm • The Workshop

Grades 6–8: Tuesday, January 13 • 5:30–6:30 pm • The Workshop

Choose a fun design from our selections and learn how to embroider it onto a bandana.

Embroider a Hat

Grades 3–5: Tuesday, February 10 • 4–5 pm • The Workshop

Grades 6–8: Tuesday, February 10 • 5:30–6:30 pm • The Workshop

Warm up with a winter hat personalized on the embroidery machine.

Registration for maker programs begins at Noon 30 days prior to the event. If you have any questions about The Workshop, please email makerspace@gepl.org or call 630-790-6742.

W Q&A

Helpful Computer Skills for Maker Projects

Most maker projects require using a computer. For this reason, the following skills are very helpful.

- Using a keyboard to copy and paste
- Using a mouse to double-click and left-click, click-and-drag and highlight text, and scroll
- Navigating file directories
- Opening, renaming, and editing files
- Using a flash drive
- Patience to use a computer for up to an hour

The library highly recommends our Tech Help Drop-In programs and digitallearn.org for anyone who would like to enhance their computer skills.

The library's goal is for programs to be enjoyed by all. If you have any concerns about accessibility or need to request specific accommodations, please call 630-469-0879 or email reference@gepl.org.



The Workshop
gepl.org/makerspace

“

TINY TESTIMONIAL

At an awesome co-working space, with comfy chairs, great views, yummy cafe and a nice vibe. And it's free. It's called the library.

”



Welcome Maria Shackles! Youth Director

What drew you to work in libraries?

My mom was an elementary art teacher and I wanted to be one too, but it involved too much cleaning. After college I worked at the Kohl Children's Museum and spent a lot of time at the Evanston Public Library. That's when the lightbulb went on and I thought, I could work here! Children's librarians get to have fun with kids but there are no grades or parent/teacher conferences and a lot less cleaning.

Can you share a little about your previous role and what you enjoyed most about it?

I was a branch manager and led the Youth Services Team. As a branch manager, I enjoyed leading programs for all ages including Books on Tap, a popular book club that met at bars and breweries around town, and the Wisdom Cafe, a conversation series for seniors.

Youth department people are the best people—fun, creative, and hard-working—and I'm proud of all we accomplished together. I also got to substitute for storytime occasionally, which is my favorite, and I'm looking forward to doing it more regularly.

What most excites you about joining the Glen Ellyn Public Library team?

The Youth staff are awesome and I'm enjoying being in a well-resourced library that has so much community support.

Is there a library program or project you've worked on that you're especially proud of?

At the Washington Library Association conference in the spring, I presented Ukulele 101: Enlivening Storytime with Ukulele with a group of librarians. Participants got a ukulele to keep and we taught them a few songs. Library budgets were being cut, so it was uplifting to do something joyful.

When you're not at the library, how do you like to spend your time?

I'm an avid thrifter and Goodwill is my happy place. I also like taking my dog on long walks at Blackwell Forest Preserve, playing the piano, and dragging my family along on outings.

KIDS

OneInMath

Sundays • January 25–April 19 • 2:30–3:30 pm
Youth Program Room

OneInMath is a free program run by high school volunteers to empower the love of math in students in **grades k–3**. Register or sign up to volunteer at oneinmath.com.

Fun with STEM: Learn and Create

Mondays • 4–4:45 pm • Youth Program Room

Members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) present monthly science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) topics. Please register for each month separately. **For grades 2–5.**

December 8 Snowball Catapults

January 12 Frozen Spheres

February 9 Möbius Hearts

Create Kindness

Thursdays • 4–5 pm • Youth Program Room

December 11, January 8, February 12

Crochet or knit an item to donate to the Community Cupboard. Supplies and instruction available. Beginners welcome! Volunteer hours can be awarded. **For grades 4–8.**

Bluestem Book Club

Tuesdays • January 20, February 17 • 6–7 pm

Youth Program Room

Preview a Bluestem book each month while eating pizza supplied by the library. Listen to the first chapter of the book and then participate in a fun activity. Please register for each month separately. **Best for grades 3–5.**

The Wizard of Oz Interactive Family Movie Kit

Friday, December 19 • Youth Desk

Make watching *The Wizard of Oz* a new experience for the whole family! This kit includes treats, props, and cues to make this film classic even more fun! One per family while supplies last. **For kids of all ages.**

Puzzle-Lovers Race

Thursday, February 12 • 6–8 pm

North and South Meeting Rooms

Test your puzzle speed in a timed competition! Complete a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle as a team of two to four people or get closest within two hours to win! One registration per team. Light refreshments provided. **For adults and kids age 8 and up with a grownup.**

Curious Kids

Tuesdays • December 2, January 6, February 3 • 4–5 pm
Youth Program Room

Embrace your curiosity with creative, collaborative, hands-on play and learning! **For grades k–2.**

Gotta Paint 'Em All

Grades k–2: Wednesday, January 28 • 4–5 pm

Grades 3–5: Wednesday, January 28 • 5:30–6:30 pm
Youth Program Room

Fill your Pokedex with hand painted treasures! Snacks and sips provided.

Gargantuan Games

Wednesdays • 4–5 pm • Youth Program Room

December 10, January 14, February 11

Giant games equal giant fun! Come play larger-than-life versions of familiar favorites like Battleship or Hungry Hungry Hippos. **For grades 3–5.**

Books and Cooks Winter Showdown

Tuesdays • December 16, January 20, February 17 • 4–5 pm
Youth Program Room

Read together and work with a teammate to complete a cooking challenge. **For grades 3–5.**

American Girl Doll Adventures

Friday, January 30 • 4–5 pm • Youth Program Room

Saturday, January 31 • 2–3 pm • Youth Program Room

Learn about a surprise American Girl through crafts and other hands-on activities. Bring your own doll or stuffed animal to join the fun. **For grades 1–5. Please sign up for only one of the dates.**

Record Breakers

Tuesday, February 3 • 6–7 pm • Youth Program Room

Get in the Olympic spirit with a program focused on beating the clock and defying the odds. Play games, learn about famous record breakers, and try to break some records! **For grades 3–5.**

Craftapalooza: Holiday Edition

Saturdays • December 13, February 7 • 2–3 pm

Youth Program Room

Drop in to paint, stamp, weave, glue, and tape your way through amazing holiday crafts! **For grades 2–4.**

Family Craft Night

Mondays • December 1, January 5, February 2 • 6–7 pm

Youth Program Room

Drop in to create a masterpiece together as a family. **For adults and kids of all ages.**

New Year, New Chapter: Family Vision Boards

Friday, January 2 • 2–3 pm • North and South Meeting Rooms

Kick off the year with creativity and connection as you reflect, dream, and set intentions for the new year with your people! After guided activities to get the conversation going, participants will make a vision board to take home and set the tone for 2026. **For adults and kids of all ages.**

Noon Year's Eve Concert

**Wednesday, December 31 • 11:15 am–Noon
2nd Floor Atrium East**

Get ready for an engaging session of music and movement with performer Miss Katie Sings! Enjoy lively singalongs, playful props like shakers and scarves, and a mix of new and familiar tunes, all centered around creativity and kindness. Wrap up the fun with a special countdown to noon, perfect for ringing in the new year a little early! **For adults and kids of all ages.**

Baby Olympics

**Wednesday, February 18 • 6–6:30 pm
Thursday, February 19 • 9:30–10 am, 10:30–11 am
Youth Program Room**

Crawl through different obstacles and play games to find out if Baby has what it takes to be a future Olympian. Twenty name tags (children only).* **For babies 24 months and younger with a grownup.**

Preschool Dance Party

Tuesday, December 16 • 10:30–11:15 pm • Youth Program Room
Move and groove to songs on the ukulele and familiar hits at this interactive dance party with bubbles, scarves, and shakers! **For pre-k and their grownups.**

Preschool Fair

**Wednesday, January 14 • 5–6:30 pm
North and South Meeting Rooms**

Talk to local organizations about preschool learning opportunities and enrollment.

Free Developmental Screenings for Children

**Friday, February 20 • 9:30 am–12:30 pm
Youth Program Room**

The Glenbard Early Childhood Collaborative will offer free developmental screenings of children two months to five years with their grownups. Learn how your child is growing and developing! Screenings will focus on Communication, Gross and Fine Motor, Person-Social Skills, and Problem Solving. **For 2 months–5 years and their grownups.**

Spark's Snow Day

**Saturday, February 21
10–10:40 am, 11:15–11:55 am
North Meeting Room**

Snow came early in Firefly Grove this year, so Spark the Firefly gets to experience her first snow day! Join Spark as she learns all about snow, hibernation and exciting winter activities like sledding and ice skating. Spark's Snow Day includes puppets, original music, interactive movement, and lots of winter fun for families! **Ideal for ages 2–7 years and their grownups.**

STORYTIME

gepl.org/storytime

Most storytimes take place in the Youth Program Room with name tags available at the Youth Desk beginning 30 minutes prior to the program start time on a first-come, first-served basis.

The following storytimes and the dates for additional sessions of Together Time are available at calendar.gepl.org.

Book Babies

Mondays • January 5–23 • 9:30–10 am, 10:30–11 am
For birth–24 months and their grownups.

Toddler Artists

Wednesday, December 10 • 9:30–10 am, 10:30–11 am
For birth–3 years and their grownups.

Tiny Tea Party

Friday, January 23 • 9:30–10 am, 10:30–11 am
For birth–pre-k and their grownups.

Gingerbread Storytime

Thursday, December 18 • 9:30–10 am, 10:30–11 am
For pre-k and their grownups.

Bilingual Storytime: Spanish

Fridays • December 5, January 9, February 6 • 10:30–11 am
For kids of all ages and their grownups.

Bilingual Storytime: Russian

Thursdays • January 15, February 12 • 10:30–11 am
For kids of all ages and their grownups.

Together Time

Saturdays • December 6, January 3, February 7 • 10:30–11 am
For kids of all ages and their grownups.

Pajamas and Popcorn Storytime (formerly Milk and Cookie Storytime)

Wednesdays • December 10, January 21, February 11 • 6–7 pm
For kids of all ages and their grownups.



Add Storytime to Your Calendar
Using this QR Code will open your calendar app

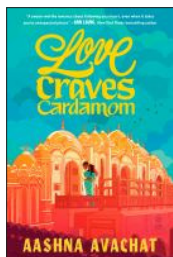


MIDDLE SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

First Love

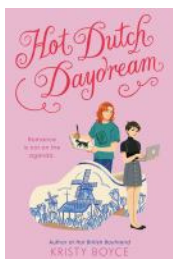
by Beth Kirchenberg, Middle School Librarian

Additional First Love titles available at gepl.org/middle-school-recommendations.



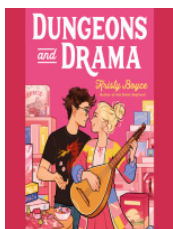
Love Craves Cardamom by Aashna Avachat

Art enthusiast and recently single Archi Dhawan studies abroad in India, where she comes to find that the first boy to give her butterflies again is not who he says he is.



Hot Dutch Daydream by Kristy Boyce

No one has ever accused Sage Cunningham of being easily distracted. She has a plan, and she won't be swayed. She'll spend the summer interning in her mentor's lab in Amsterdam, and then she'll be ready for college. All she needs to do to pay for the summer abroad is agree to serve as the au pair for Dr. Reese's three-year-old—but she doesn't anticipate the surprise arrival of Dr. Reese's teenage son. He's desperately in need of someone to keep him focused. And as nannying proves harder than Sage had expected, it turns out she might need help too. The two strike a deal. Sage will stop Ryland from going out with a different girl every day, and Ryland will help with his brother. Spending the summer stuck together is the perfect way to keep distractions to a minimum. Right?



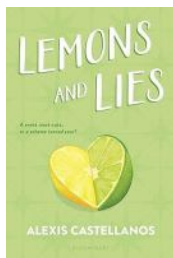
Dungeons and Drama by Kristy Boyce

Musical lover Riley has big aspirations to become a director on Broadway, but when she takes her mom's car without permission, she's punished by working at her dad's game shop after school. Riley can't waste her time working, so she convinces another employee to cover her and, in exchange, she'll flirt with him to make his gamer-girl crush jealous.



The Secret Summer Promise by Keah Brown

Planning the best summer ever, Andrea Williams realizes that there's just one thing that could ruin it: her best friend Hailee finding out her true feelings, so Andrea will fall out of love with her—or so she thinks.



Lemons and Lies by Alexis Castellanos

Valeria Morales's senior year is off to a sour start. Her twin brother, Adrian, isn't talking to her, she's realizing all her friends were actually his friends, and now she's failing math. Enter Gage Magnussen.



The Broken Hearts Club by Susan Bishop Crispell

Imogen has never been in love, despite being the daughter of a matchmaker. Her only relationship to date was a fake one with a near stranger that she made up to stop people from asking. To fill the void, she's channeled her obsession with love into her passion for photography, using her ability to see the rose-gold glow of a person in love to capture stunning portraits.

The Guide

Winter 2025–2026 | Vol. 37 | No. 1

Glen Ellyn Public Library
400 Duane Street
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
630-469-0879 | gepl.org

Direct Dial

Adult Desk: 630-790-6630
Youth Desk: 630-790-6620
Library Services Desk: 630-469-0879 ext 4
The Cafe: 630-790-6772

Hours

Monday–Thursday: 9 am–9 pm
Friday: 9 am–6 pm
Saturday: 9 am–5 pm
Sunday: 1–5 pm

Winter Closures

Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 25	Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 31	New Year's Eve Close at 1 pm
Thursday, January 1	New Year's Day

Executive Director

Dawn Bussey
630-790-6760 | director@gepl.org

Board of Trustees

Karen Volk, President
Kathy Slovic, Vice President
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Accessibility • gepl.org/accessibility

The library's goal is for programs to be enjoyed by all. If you have any concerns about accessibility or need to request specific accommodations, please contact the library.

Promotion

Adults and children may be photographed and videotaped by library staff or their representatives in the course of library activities. The images may be used, without accompanying personal identification, in library publicity. If you have any concerns about the photography and video policy, please contact the library.



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FOUNDATION

Pave the Way This Holiday Season



Looking for a meaningful holiday gift? The Glen Ellyn Library Foundation invites you to honor someone special, celebrate an occasion, or leave a lasting legacy with a personalized engraved brick.

Your brick includes

- up to three lines of custom text
- an optional gift acknowledgement
- placement as part of the library's landscape

For just \$250, your engraved brick becomes part of the Glen Ellyn Public Library's story—helping fund projects and programs beyond taxpayer support. These projects empower visitors to build new skills, explore passions, and embrace lifelong learning.

Order today at gepl.org/foundation/#brick. This holiday season, give the gift that paves the way for generations to come.

To learn more about how you can sustain the library through the Glen Ellyn Library Foundation, please email foundation@gepl.org or visit gepl.org/foundation.

GIVE. GROW. INSPIRE.



Order

FRIENDS

Friends of the Library is a volunteer organization dedicated to raising funds to supplement the library's annual budget for materials, programs, and literacy initiatives in the local community. The Friends raise funds through an annual community mailing, used book sales, and the Used Book Nook at the library. For more information on Friends activities, visit gepl.org/friends.

Used Book Sales

Held in the Basement Friends Area

Saturday, January 17 • 9 am–2 pm

Saturday, March 14 • 9 am–2 pm

Sunday, March 15 • 1–4 pm (most items \$10 a bag)

Used Book Nook

Located next to The Cafe

Most items are \$2 for adult books and \$1 for children's books.

Book Donations

Book donations are accepted at the Library Services Desk at any time. If you have a large donation, please contact our Building Engineer at 630-790-6765 to schedule a drop-off appointment.

Donations of quality adult and children's books, media, puzzles, and games are appreciated. We cannot accept encyclopedias, magazines, or damaged, outdated materials.

CAFE

Monday–Thursday 9 am–8:30 pm

Friday 9 am–4:30 pm

Saturday 9 am–4:30 pm

Sunday 1–4:30 pm



Cafe Menu

630-790-6772