

Letter from the Director

Autumn is here, and the library is ready for a cozy new season!

Crisp, cool days are the *perfect time* to slow down with a great book, learn a new skill, or join us for a community event. Inside this newsletter, you'll find a full roundup of **everything** happening over the next few months—from fun kids programs and new teen events to lively adult book clubs.

Whenever someone asks me what the **best part** of the library is, my answer is *always* the same: **the people**. We are so privileged to be a part of your daily lives. Whether we're chatting with a longtime patron about their latest read, watching a young reader check out their very first chapter book, or helping a visitor print an important document, *we love being part of those moments*.

Of course, none of that would be possible without our **incredible** staff. They spend each day helping others, sharing in your lives, and making the library a welcoming place for *everyone* in our community. Their creativity, dedication, and kindness make this library the *special* place it is.

The library is truly here for our community from *beginning to end*. While we grieved the loss of several cherished community members this past year, their **legacy** lives on through the heartwarming *generosity* of their family and friends.

Together, we're writing the next chapter of the Indiana Free Library. As we head into fall, please share with your friends and neighbors how valuable the library is to you. And don't forget

— **September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month!**

Keep an eye out for fun ways to celebrate the most powerful card in your wallet.

"The library is the heart of the community and has programs for all ages." - M.T.

We hope to see you at the library soon!

Lauri Fletcher



Join us **Mondays, November 2, 9, & 16 at 6:30 PM** for a relaxed, conversation-based program led by Josie Cunningham exploring the many sides of Lincoln—the president, the leader, the legend, *and the human being behind the history*.

Why are we still talking about Abraham Lincoln? More than 160 years after his presidency, he remains one of the most admired, debated, and intriguing figures in American history. His life and legacy continue to spark new questions about leadership, democracy, equality, and the challenges of guiding a nation through difficult times. Whether you're a longtime Lincoln admirer or simply curious, come share your thoughts, hear different perspectives, and discover **Why Lincoln?** continues to capture our imagination.



For more information about the library's programs or to learn how you can get involved, please contact (724) 465-8841 - visit www.indianafreelibrary.org or scan the QR Code



The Little Read Bookstore is open every Monday from 11 AM - 6 PM, first Wednesday of the month 11 AM - 6 PM & the third Saturday of the month from 11 AM - 3 PM.





Mondays

Toddler Tales: 11 AM. For children ages 2-3. Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, rhymes, and a simple craft or hands-on activity designed just for toddlers. All materials are provided. 30-45 minutes.

Tuesdays

Book Babies: 11 AM. For children birth-2 years. Little ones will find the joy of books through simple stories, songs, rhymes, and early literacy activities that encourage language development. 30 minutes.

Wednesdays

Discovery of Learning Homeschoolers Club: 2 PM. For ages 6-11. Homeschool students are invited to explore current events through hands-on activities, games, and creative projects. We also enjoy a cooking activity once each month. Registration is required. 1 hour.

Pajama Storytime: 6:30 PM. Second Wednesday of each month. For children birth-11 years. Put on your pajamas and join us for an evening of stories, songs, and family fun.

Thursdays

Discovery of Learning Curious Kids: 11 AM For ages 3-5. Preschoolers will enjoy stories, early learning activities, weather and seasonal themes, songs, crafts, and hands-on fun that help build school readiness. 45 minutes.

Saturdays

Wee Ones Storytime: 10:30 AM For children newborn-5 years. Enjoy gentle stories, songs, and quality bonding time with your little one.

Historical Conquest Game Time: 10:15 AM-12:30 PM (Second Saturday of each month) For tweens and teens. Learn about history while playing this engaging strategy card game in a fun, welcoming environment.

STEAM Play Day: 1-3 PM (Second Saturday of each month) For ages 3-11. Drop in anytime for hands-on science, technology, engineering, art, and math activities designed to inspire creativity and curiosity.

The Craft House: 1-3 PM (Third Saturday of each month) For ages 6-11. Kids can create at their own pace with a variety of self-directed craft projects and supplies provided.

Game On! Board Game Day: 1-3 PM (Fourth Saturday of each month) For ages 3-11. Bring the family and enjoy an afternoon of classic and modern board games. Parents and siblings are welcome to join the fun.

Chess Club: 1-3 PM 3rd Saturday of the month w/Jan. All ages!

Annual Gingerbread House Contest

December 7-17. Show off your creativity! Enter one of four age categories, then visit the library to vote for your favorites. Winners will receive prizes.

Santa's Workshop

December 12. 11 AM-1 PM. Celebrate the season with Christmas crafts, games, and festive fun for the whole family in the Children's Department.



More Info Scan Here



Teen & Young Adult Programs

MONDAYS

Teens Make Dinner: 6:30 PM. Last Monday of the Month. Teens will learn how to make delicious meals, that are not complicated or intimidating!

Teen Book Club: 6:30 PM. 9/21, 10/19, 11/23. Join us this fall as we explore YA Appalachian Folklore. Each month 5 teens will get to keep the copy of the book!

TUESDAYS

Teens Snack Lab: 4 PM. First Tuesday of the Month. Teens will learn how to make different snacks from ingredients that they could find around their house.

Taco Tuesday: 4 PM. Third Tuesday of the month. Meet in the teen lounge for tacos and card games. 10/20, 11/17, 12/15, 1/19.

WEDNESDAYS

Teen Drop-In: 4 PM. Teen Lounge. You choose the activity. 10/14, 11/11, 12/9, 1/13.

THURSDAYS

JR High Graphic Novel Book Club: 4 PM. Third Thursday of the month. We will decide which books to read and enjoy afternoon snacks together!

SATURDAYS

Teen Advisory Board (TAB): 2-3 PM. Third Saturday of the Month.

Teens meet to plan, discuss and share ideas for the Teen section at the library.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Cupcake Decorating W/ Cookies by Christina: 11 AM. September 19. Christina will teaching different piping and icing techniques to teens. You will take 3 cupcakes home to share! **Registration Required.**

Teen Trivia Night: 7 PM. October 5. Test your knowledge on past and current pop culture, music, movies at Teen Trivia Night-bring your friends and see who comes out on top!

Pumpkin Decorating: 7:00 PM. October 19. It's not fall without pumpkins!

Join us as we decorate pumpkins in the Teen Area and maybe it will go BOO!

Life Size Game Night: 7 PM. November 9. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be part of a board game? Wonder no more as we bring a classic board game to life and you become the game piece!

Teen Cookie Bake-Off: 6 PM. December 7. Teens will work together to make cookies for the Downtown Cookie Tour on December 12.

Christmas Movie w/ a Menu: 6 PM. December 21. Join us for a Christmas movie and a menu. Will it be *Elf* and his spin on spaghetti? Or *The Grinch* and a "Whoville Feast" join us to find out!



ADULT PROGRAMS



Spin a Yarn: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM.
October 13 & 27, November 10 & 24, December 8 & 22, January 12 & 26.

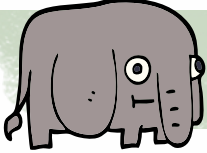
Dungeons & Dragons Meet-Up: Every Monday: 6-8 PM in the community room.
Join an ongoing tabletop adventure of heroes, monsters, and imagination.

Crafternoons: Get creative while making friends and crafts this fall and winter the second of Tuesday of each month at 2:30 PM.

October 14-DIY Yarn Ghost
November 4-DIY Moon Phases Wall Hanging
December 9-DIY Holiday Suncatcher
January 13-DIY Clothespin Snowflakes



Penn State Master Gardeners Talks: Learn from the experts with our series of talks presented by local Master Gardeners. Covering a variety of timely gardening topics, these informative and engaging programs offer practical advice, fresh ideas, and answers to your gardening questions. Gardeners of all experience levels are welcome. **September 14 & October 19 at 6:30 PM, October 6 & November 5 & 17 at 1:30 PM.**



Bad Art Night: 6:30 PM. September 30. Leave your inner critic at the door and unleash your inner "artist." Bad Art Night celebrates the weird, the wacky, and the wonderfully terrible. Gather with friends, get creative, and see just how gloriously bad your masterpiece can be. The worse, the better!

Financial Literacy Workshop: This one-day workshop presented by Family Promise of Indiana County is meant to educate families and individuals on all things finances, like setting budgets, getting out of debt, and controlling your expenses. This program is free and open to the public. **October 8 at 11:00 AM.**



Conscience Playreading: Join us for a staged benefit playreading of Conscience by Tony Award-winning playwright Joe DiPietro on **Saturday, October 17, directed by Dave Tabish, produced by theaterunscene, sponsored by New Century Club.** This play brings to life the remarkable story of Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, whose courageous 1950 "Declaration of Conscience" challenged the fear and intimidation of the McCarthy era. Blending history with compelling drama, the play explores the power of principle, the price of speaking out, and the enduring importance of standing by one's convictions. Conscience offers an engaging afternoon of theater and conversation centered on a story that still resonates today.



Trope of the Month Book Club: A romance book club... with a twist. Each month, on the third Wednesday at 7 PM, the group will explore one beloved romance trope. Participants choose their own romance novel that fits the theme.

IFL BOOK CLUBS



Scan here for more book club information



The True Story Book Club: First Tuesday of each month at 11 AM

October 6
From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death by Caitlin Doughty

November 3
Brothers on Three: A True Story of Family, Resistance, and Hope on a Reservation in Montana by Abe Streep

December 1
Queen of Fashion: What Marie Antoinette Wore to the Revolution by Caroline Weber

January 5
Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America by Leila Philip



Guilty Pleasures Book Club: Second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM

October 14
The Babysitters Coven by Kate Williams

November 4
Boy21 by Matthew Quick

December 9
We Can Never Leave by H. E. Edgmon



The American History Book Club Celebrating Our Nation's Birth: Fourth Tuesday of each month at 11 AM

October 27
Glory, Passion, and Principle: The Eight Remarkable Women at the Core of the American Revolution by Melissa Lukeman Bohrer

November 24
The Winter Soldiers: The Battle for Trenton and Princeton by Richard M. Ketchum

December - Happy Holidays!

January 26
Henry Knox: Visionary General of the American Revolution by Mark Puls



The Classics Book Club: Fourth Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM

October 22
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

November 19
Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler

December 17
Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys

January 28
The Stone Angel by Margaret Laurence



IFL Taster's Club meets the first Wednesday of each month at Noon - stop in to get your recipes



INDIANA FREE LIBRARY
845 PHILADELPHIA STREET
INDIANA, PA, 15701

Set Sail with Evening in the Stacks

Inspired by Homer's The Odyssey

Friday, October 23, 2026
5 PM - 7 PM

\$40 per person

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Indiana, PA
Permit No. 100

REGISTER HERE ↓



CHECKED OUT: THE LOST NOVEL

ESCAPE ROOM CHALLENGE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

Gather your friends and family for an immersive adventure in the stacks to find clues and solve puzzles to recover what has been lost. Will you escape the stacks with the lost novel in hand or will it remain a mystery?

- ☒ 45-minute interactive escape room. Select your timeslot between 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM.
- ☒ \$100 for up to 4 players. \$150 for up to 6 players.
- ☒ Perfect for all ages to enjoy.
- ☒ All proceeds raised benefit the annual fund at Indiana Free Library.

REGISTER ONLINE:



Kindly deliver to:

Friends of the Library Corner

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Would you like to remain anonymous?

(Circle One) Yes/No



SCAN HERE

Amount of your donation:

\$ _____

Make checks payable to:

The Indiana Free Library

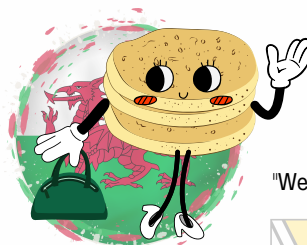
Send to: 845 Philadelphia Street, Indiana PA 15701



History bites

September 15

Tacos, Tamales, and Tortillas
"A Delicious History of Mexican Cuisine"



October 20

Cawl, Coal, and Community
"Welsh Foodways in Pennsylvania"



November 17

The First Kitchens
"Indigenous Foodways in Pennsylvania"



December 15

Bagels, Brisket, and Borscht
"A Jewish Food Story"