

# Indiana Free Library SHELF LIFE



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR:

As we ring in the new year, we are **excited** to embark on another year of wonderful opportunities here at the library. We've worked hard to create a program lineup that offers *something for everyone*—whether you're looking to learn, connect, or simply have fun.

This year, we're thrilled to introduce two new adult programs that are sure to spark great conversations and **new friendships**: "Coffee & Conversations" and "Board Game Night". These social gatherings are a wonderful way to meet new people while enjoying engaging discussions and fun games.

In addition, we're welcoming **Chuck Olson** back to the library with a brand-new series, "The Power of Art." Chuck will lead us through this fascinating exploration of Simon Schama's "The Power of Art" series, available for viewing on YouTube. It's a *fantastic* way to dive deep into the impact of art on culture, history, and society.

Our collaboration with the **IHS Community Cares Club** continues, and every Saturday, local teens help seniors learn new technology skills. This is just one example of how we're fostering connections across generations. This spring, our teen events will include exciting offerings like Taco Tuesday, Painting Classes, and *much more!*

Of course, our children's department is full of **exciting events** and activities to look forward to. One highlight this spring will be the Great Backyard Bird Count in February, followed by our participation in the **Family Fun Fest** at the Indiana Mall on March 1st. We can't wait to see you there!

We are looking forward to another great year of learning, growing, and having fun together. *Thank you* for being part of our *library family*.

**Here's to a year full of new adventures!**

*-Lauri Fletcher*

## INTRODUCING THE LINDA EILEEN SPADAFORA CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT



The Indiana Free Library is excited to announce a generous donation from the Spadafora family, a respected local family with a longstanding commitment to supporting education and community initiatives. This donation will significantly enhance the library's ability to serve its patrons, offering a wider array of resources, programs, and services for individuals of all ages.

The donation is in honor of their mother, Linda Eileen Spadafora. Linda was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio, and attended Grove City College to earn her teaching degree, which set the scene for her to be an avid reader and develop a deep love for children. She has always had a zest for life and adventure and taught English in Okinawa during the Vietnam War. Linda married Chuck Spadafora upon her return, and they raised their four children in the Indiana community. Linda has given back to the community by volunteering for Birthright, Meals on Wheels, the teen center, supporting the hospital, and being involved in her children's schooling and activities.

"We are incredibly grateful for the Spadafora's generosity," said Lauri Fletcher, Director of the Indiana Free Library. "Their support enables us to continue providing essential services and resources to our community. This donation will have a lasting impact, allowing us to expand our offerings and ensure the library remains a vibrant hub for learning, discovery, and cultural enrichment."

The Indiana Free Library will proudly name the children's area the Linda Eileen Spadafora Children's Library. "The significance of the Spadafora family's generosity to the Indiana Free Library will impact greatly especially with our young readers," said Josephine Cunningham, The Library Board of Trustees President. "It is an honor to dedicate the children's area for Linda."

"Giving to the Indiana Library in honor of Linda just felt right to her family and brought joy to Linda knowing she will have an impact on the next generation of readers," said Jo-Una Villani, speaking on behalf of the Spadafora family.

If you have any questions about our mission or ways to donate to the Indiana Free Library, please contact Lacey Fetcko at [giving@indianafreelibrary.org](mailto:giving@indianafreelibrary.org) or 724-465-8841 ext. 119.



# Kids, Teens & T'weens

## Mondays

**Toddler Tales:** Ages 18 months-3 years at 10:30 AM in the Story Room of the Children's Department.

## Tuesdays

**Book Bables:** Ages newborn-18 months at 10:30 AM in the Story Room of the Children's Department.

A new, short story picture book with fingerplays, music, songs, and rhyme time all tangled up into a fun time.

**Mommy, me & a cup of tea:** Every 2nd Tuesday at 10:30 AM. Parents of little ones (Ages birth-15 months), can stop in, have a cup of tea, and share stories with other parents of little ones. The librarians will be on hand to read stories to the little ones while parents socialize a little. We will also provide resources on parenting and family issues.

**Taco Tuesday:** (YA) Third Tuesday of each month from 4-5 PM. Join us after school to grab a snack, relax with a movie, throwback TV show, conversation & usually a pretty active game of UNO.



## Wednesdays

**Storytime @ the Hen House:** Ages 3-5 years at 10:30 AM in the Storyroom and Craft Area of the library. Sometimes, Val's fluffy, feathered girls will join in virtually for a fun story and craft. We'll read a short story together, usually a new book, and then afterwards, work on an easy, but fun craft or activity with all materials provided.

**Discovery of Learning (DOL):** Homeschoolers aged 6-11 from 2-3 PM in the Children's Department. We'll read and talk about different subjects (Science, technology, languages, the arts, cultures, nature, history, literature, etc.), learn how to research these subjects using library and internet resources, learn digital skills and about various devices, and provide instruction and materials for a thought-provoking experiment, craft, or art project to go with each week's theme. Children will have use of STEM Kits, ChromeBooks, homework help and library resources. Every third Wednesday we will cook!

**Pajama Storytime:** Every 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Kids of all ages and their families can wear their "Jammies in for a fun storytime"



## Thursdays

**Curious Kids Library Time:** Ages 3-5 years at 10:30 AM in the Children's Department. A fun and educational storytime for pre-schoolers and kindergarteners. We'll read stories, learn a little about the animals, people, or other things we find in our stories, learn skills that will be used in school, and have a little fun exercising together. Many times, our storytime theme is based on special days of the month or week such as Groundhog Day or the National Celebration of Life. You have two opportunities for this program.

**Yoga and good stretch or chi gong:** (YA) Join us at 4 PM, before we begin we will decide as a group if we do yoga with Sarah Beth or Chi Gong with Jeffrey Chand. Some mats are provided but please come with a mat/towel/water bottle/and comfortable stretchy clothing. Plan to zone out and focus on your body moving as much as you possibly can and finding peace after a long day at school.

## Saturdays

**Wee Ones Storytime:** Kids from newborn to 2 years on Saturday's at 10:30 AM.

**The Craft House:** 1st and 3rd (and 5th) Saturday from 1-3 PM. Self-directed arts and crafts activity for kids ages 6-12. Stop in and work on something fun with your friends! All materials will be provided for each week.



**STEM Play Day:** 2nd Saturday from 1-3 PM. Stop in and play with one of our many STEM Kits. This is a self-directed STEM playtime. ALL AGES WELCOME!

**Kids Movie Afternoon:** 4th Saturday of each month at 1:00 PM. Kids of all ages are welcome. Titles can be found on our website. Popcorn provided.



## Special Events

**Paint Night:** January 27th at 6 PM in the tech room. You hear from an artist, how art is used with the humanities in community in our region. You will be able to ask questions and hear how long a painting takes. Registration is limited to 11 teens.

**Children's Author Day:** Saturday January 25th, join us from 10:30 am - 3 pm for a special day in the Children's Department featuring the Captain Underpants Movie by Dav Pilkey. Bring your family in to watch the movie and grab a Dav Pilkey book for the road!

**The GREAT Backyard Bird Count:** During the week of February 12th through the 17th every program you attend in the Children's Department will show you how to ID and count the birds in YOUR backyard! Spring is right around the corner!

**Family Fun Fest:** The Indiana Free Library will be a part of the Children's Advisory Commission of Indiana County's Sense-Sational Family Fun Fest on Saturday March 1st from 11 am - 3 pm at the Indiana Mall.

**Women's History Month:** On Saturday March 8th join us in the Children's Department from 1-3 pm as we celebrate HERstory. All our children's programs will have a Women's History Month theme and it will culminate on the final day of the week as we learn about notable women in history with a fun event!

**Teen Advisory Board (TAB):** Have you been invited to be a Teen Advisory Board member. We will have casual dinner and planning meetings to discuss activities and events. We will brainstorm how to make all feel welcome at the Library. We will learn about conferences and trainings available for teen leaders among us. (watch the calendar for dates)

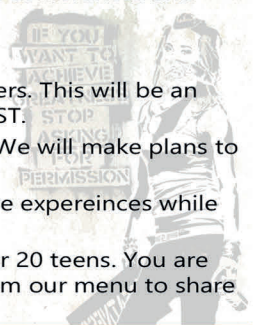
## BOLO Events (be on the look out for these events)

**Poetry Out Loud:** (YA) Come to open mic nights - or extra practice nights - to memorize and perform amongst you peers. This will be an opportunity for teens to practice their skills before they are judged at the FIRST EVER IFL POETRY OUT LOUD CONTEST.

**Teen Gardening Club:** We will meet right after school to pick/dry seeds for spring planting at our 9th St. Urban Garden. We will make plans to learn from our local gardening club and resident master gardeners from our communities. We need your help!

**Friendship Day Event:** Friendship Day is in February. We will make bracelets explaining what era we are in or one we have experiences while listening to music and sharing a snack with our friends.

**High Tea for Young Adults:** Do you read about High Tea and would LOVE to experience one. We will have spots open for 20 teens. You are encouraged to dress for high tea but all attire is welcome. We ask that everyone who participates brings something from our menu to share with the group. We will meet in the community room to enjoy music and food.



# Adult Programs

**Coffee & Conversation:** We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday at 10:30 AM. February 3rd & 17th, March 3rd & 17, April 7th & 21st.

**Spin-A-Yarn:** Bring your needle craft projects into the Library to work with other creatives on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM. January 14th & 28th, February 11th & 25th, March 11th & 25th, April 8th & 22nd.



**IFL walking club:** Monday's from 4-5 PM. We will meet on the first floor of the library for a brisk 60 minute walk. We will track our steps as we talk about Indiana and what's happening along the way. We will map our steps and hopefully we will have enough to make it all the way to the beach! Don't walk alone! Join us! This program is open to all ages.

**Board Game Night:** LET'S PLAY! Join us on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6 PM. Join us in the Library as we play board games, new games ... classic games ... YOU CHOOSE! January 22nd, February 26th, March 26th, April 23rd.

**community caring club:** Join us on Saturday's in the Community Room as we help seniors feel confident facing the ever-changing world on technology. We will have coffee, tea and treats available as we learn from the most tech saavy group ... teens. Bring your devices with you and we will provide all the information to take home with you if you have questions.



## Special Events

**Scherenschnitte:** Join us on January 27th, from 6-8 PM as we relax and create beautiful paper cuttings to frame or make cards and share with friends. Please bring a small, sharp pair of scissors and everything else will be provided.

**Learn to Make Pysanky Eggs:** Ann Orenak will be back in the Library this spring to teach a 3-hour class on how to make Pysanky eggs. All the materials you need to complete one basic egg will be provided, there will be a cost to offset the cost of materials and will be limited to 10 participants. Please watch our website and social media for the date and registration information.

**"The Power of Art" An examination of the The Power of Art series by Simon Schama:** Join Chuck Olsen for a new series on "The Power of Art" Each lecture will center on a particular work by an artist essential to the canon of American/European art. It will follow Simon Schama's award winning series, The Power of Art, available free on You Tube. Each lecture is self contained and does not require attending all of the lectures consecutively.

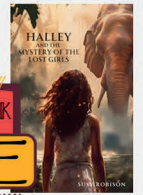
These discussions will be held in the community room from 7-8:15 PM on the following dates:

**January 27th:** Caravaggio: David with the head of Goliath (1610) **February 3rd:** Bernini: Ecstasy of Saint Teresa (1657) **February 10th:** Rembrandt: The Conspiracy of Claudius Civilis (1662) **February 17th:** David: The Death of Marat (1793) **February 24th:** The Slave Ship (1840) **March 3rd:** Van Gogh: Crows in a Wheatfield (1890) **March 10th:** Picasso: Guernica (1937) **March 17th:** Rothko: Blak on Maroon (1958) These lectures are free and open to the public.

## PA Humanities Activities for Young Adults

**Teen Reading Lounge:** Thanks to the PA Humanities Grant, we will be partnering with IAHS Literature Classes reading Romeo and Juliet where the Library will offer a free ticket and ride to the Benedum to view the Pittsburgh Ballet Co. & Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestras performance of Romeo and Juliet on February 14th, thanks to the PA Humanities Grant. Tickets availability is limited.

**Meet the Author: susy Robison:** Patrons who would like a copy of the book: Halley and the Mystery of the Lost Girls by Susy Robison, may pick up a free book at circulation in late January. To receive a book you will need to share your contact information and plan to attend an author presentation with Susy Robinson in March at the Library.



GET THIS BOOK  
**FREE**

## IFL BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

Find more information on our website [www.Indianafreelibrary.org](http://www.Indianafreelibrary.org) or scan here

**True Story Book Club** meets the first Tuesday of each month at 11 AM.

**January 7th**  
The Women with Silver Wings by Katherine Sharp Landdeck

**February 4th**  
The Black Angels by Maria Smilios

**March 4th**  
What Stands in a Storm by Kim Cross and Rick Bragg

**April 1st**  
Grandma Gatewood's Walk by Ben Montgomery

**The American History Book Club** meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 11 AM.

**January 28th**  
The Birth of Black America: The First African Americans and the Pursuit of Freedom at Jamestown by Tim Hashaw

**February 25th**  
Lenape Country: Delaware Valley Society before William Penn by Jean R. Soderlund

**March 25th**  
God, War, and Providence: The Epic Struggle of Roger Williams and the Narragansett Indians against the Puritans of New England by James A. Warren

**Guilty Pleasures Book Club** meets on the Second Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

**January 8th**  
A Lesson in Vengeance by Victoria Lee

**February 12th**  
Pride and Prejudice and Pittsburgh by Rachael Lippincott

**March 12th**  
The Silence of Bones by June Hur

**April 9th**  
Threads That Bind by Kika Hatzopoulou

**The Classics Book Club** meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM.

**January 23rd**  
Abigail by Magda Szabo

**February 27th**  
Sons & Lovers by DH Lawrence

**March 27th**  
Trees by Richter

**April 24th**  
The Wapshot Chronicles by John Cheever

## Sci-fi Flick Night

### On hiatus this season

Check our website for schedule updates  
[www.Indianafreelibrary.org](http://www.Indianafreelibrary.org)

IFL Taster's Club GOES LOCAL for 2025!

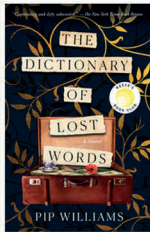
We meet the first Wednesday of month at Noon. The Taster's Club will be exploring local cookbooks this year. These cookbooks, published by churches, schools, & civic groups, offer a unique variety of recipes. Come to the library to select your recipe, & we'll make a copy for you.

Upcoming Dates:  
January 15th, February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd



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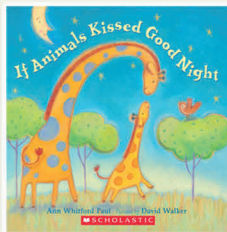
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Callie Shannon  
Adult Services Librarian



A wonderful historical fiction novel sure to make you consider various perspectives and think about influences on language and communication.



Lauri Fletcher  
Director



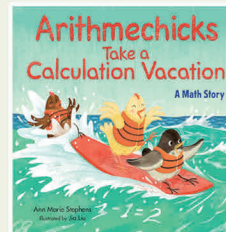
I love reading this fun, rhyming book about the many ways animals say good night to my daughter at bedtime.



Lacey Fetcko  
Development Manager



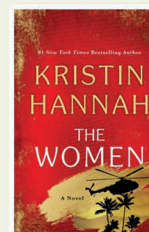
If you enjoy young adult fiction, fantasy, and unexpected plot twists, I highly recommend Lightlark.



Val Shuppe  
Youth Services Librarian



This is a series of six books that are easy picture books, but also teach kids easy math concepts.



Barb Carr  
Youth Services



My favorite genre is historical fiction, and I like reading about women's contribution to history, especially during wartime.



## YOUR DONATIONS HELP US WRITE OUR NEXT CHAPTER

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### Levels of Support



INDIANA FREE LIBRARY

Names of those who donate at the Bronze level & above will be posted on the donor wall in the Library

\$1-\$149	Crystal
\$150-\$299	Bronze
\$300-\$499	Silver
\$500-\$999	Gold
\$1,000-\$4,999	Platinum
\$5,000 +	Diamond

# UPCOMING special EVENTS

21+ food prizes music

Friday April 11th  
6:30 - 9 PM

## Easter Egg-stravaganza

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## Adult Egg Hunt in the Stacks

\$25 per person