

Indiana Free Library

# Shelf Life



## Letter from the Director

A Bright Start to 2026 at the Library! Happy New Year!

The team at The Indiana Free Library is incredibly excited to launch into 2026, a year brimming with exceptional plans and community engagement. This will be a momentous year, highlighted by major events ranging from special art lectures and expanded Teen Humanities programs to significant celebrations surrounding **America's 250th birthday!** The library is proud to be a central participant in several local events commemorating this historic milestone. We are weaving the theme of **"Celebrating Home"** into many of our regular programs, ensuring a year-long exploration of the people, places, and events that have shaped our nation, as well as our region. Look forward to deeper dives into history with our focused programs, including the American History Book Club and the popular History Bites series. Be sure to check our calendar frequently for many more inspiring events celebrating our nation's rich history.

As we celebrate the new year, we also recognize some recent shifts within our cherished staff. We send our warmest wishes to two longtime colleagues who retired in December: **Customer Service Assistant, Peggy Potter:** Peggy brought incredible joy and laughter to our front desk for years, serving patrons with warmth and a welcoming smile. **Children's Librarian Assistant, Barb Carr:** Barb illuminated the Children's Room, captivating our littlest readers with her creative story times and engaging activities. Both will be deeply missed by staff and patrons alike. Additionally, our **Teen and Outreach Librarian, Jacque Benhart,** will be on an extended leave this spring. Jacque has meticulously planned a full schedule of activities for our teen patrons, ensuring their programs continue without interruption, and we eagerly anticipate her return in June.

**We are looking forward to an amazing year of discovery and connection.**

**We hope to see you often at the library in 2026!**

*Lauri Fletcher*

## The Master Gardeners Return!

We're starting the year out right, with another series of Master Gardener talks and our brand new "Mondays with the Master Gardeners". Come and learn new tips and tricks to help you become a master gardener, too! More details to follow. Make sure to follow us on social media and check out the calendar on our website.



## 2026 Easter Egg-stravaganza

Join us on Friday, **March 6, 2026**, for an Easter Egg Hunt inside the library—but *not your traditional children's egg hunt!* Live music, munchies, adult beverages, and an egg hunt will provide all the entertainment you never knew you needed on a Friday night. Easter eggs will be hidden around the library's stacks on at least two different floors of the library. This is not your younger siblings' egg hunt—the hunt for fun is on for adults (21+) who are children at heart! Several of the eggs will contain grand prizes, which could include tickets to regional attractions, gift certificates...and more.



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](http://www.indianafreelibrary.org) or scan the QR Code.



**The Little Read Book Store is open every Monday from 11 AM - 7 PM, 1st Wednesday of the month 11 AM - 6 PM & the 3rd Saturday of the month from 11 AM - 3 PM.**  
**We would like to thank you for all your plastic donations! We have just received our THIRD TREX bench at the library!**

# IFL Kids, Teens & T'weens

## Mondays

**Toddler Tales:** 10:30 AM. For children 2-3 years of age. Stories, songs, finger plays, and an activity such as a craft or other fun learning time.

## Tuesdays

**Book Babies:** 10:30 AM. For children that are birth through 2 years old. Stories, songs, finger plays, and play time.

**Mommy, Me, and a Cup of Tea:** 2nd Tuesday of each month, 10:30 AM. For caregivers of babies and toddlers (Birth-2 years). An educational snippet for caregivers along with refreshments and snacks. Playtime for the kiddos.

## Wednesdays

**Discovery of Learning Homeschoolers Club:** 2 PM. For kids ages 6-11 come in for a themed learning and socializing hour along with a related activity.

**Kids Can Cook!** 3rd Wednesday of each month: 2 PM.  
We meet in the Community Room Kitchen for our kids cooking club.

## Thursdays

**Storytime at the Hen House:** 10:30 AM. Pre-schoolers for educational stories -both fiction and non-fiction, songs, movement, and activities like a related craft or other fun educational play.

## Saturdays

**Wee Ones Storytime:** 10:30 AM (Newborn-5 years) Gentle stories & bonding time

**The Craft House:** 1-3 PM (3rd Saturdays) Self-directed crafts ages 6-11 old

**STEAM Play Day:** 1-3 PM (2nd Saturday) Drop-in activities for kids 3-11 years old

**Historical Conquest Game Time:** 10:15-12:30 PM (2nd Saturday) Open to T'weens & Teens. Make history fun with this historical card game

**Game On! Board Game Day:** 1-3 PM (4th Saturday) Open board gaming for kids ages 3-11 years old, parents & siblings are welcome

## Teen & YA Events

**Chess Club:** 3rd Saturday of each month w/Jan, 10-11:30AM. Adults, teens, & children of all skill level are all welcome.

**TAB Advisory Board:** 3rd Saturday of each month - 2-3 PM

**Taco Tuesday:** 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meet in the teen lounge for tacos & card games.

**Teen Reading Lounge Drop-In:** 2nd Wednesday of every month, 4-5 PM. Join us in the Teen Lounge-check in, do a craft, journal, play a game & YOU choose the activity.

## Special Events

**Lattes & Littles:** 6-8PM. Bring your littles into the library for a playdate and a fun informative hangout for moms to chat and enjoy a little evening pick me up. All are welcome! 2/4-Valentine's Photo Booth, make handprint flower bouquet, enjoy cookies & Cocoa. 3/4- Flower pot painting with kids. 4/4- Chat with a pelvic floor therapist during an open Q&A session.

## Meet Lucy, Our Adopted Calf

The Indiana Free Library has joined the Discover Dairy Adopt a Cow Program and is excited to introduce Lucy, our Holstein calf! Born September 22, 2025, at Lone Oak Farm, Lucy is cared for by Farmer Nikki and will grow alongside us throughout the year. Visitors can follow her journey through children's programs and special events, with updates, photos, hands-on activities, and lessons about how milk goes from farm to table. Join us as we watch Lucy grow and learn more about life on a dairy farm.





# IFL ADULT PROGRAMS



**Board Game Night:** 4th Wednesday of the month at 6 PM. 1/28, 2/25, 3/25 & 4/22

**Spin a Yarn:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM.

January 15th, February 5th & 19th, March 5th & 19th, April 2nd & 16th

**IFL Walking Club:** Mondays at 4 PM (weather permitting)

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

**Let's Learn:** The "Let's Learn Lab" is OPEN! Join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month as we explore a new tech topic. Registration is required if you plan to use our laptops. Feel free to bring your own device. 1/12: Let's Learn - Gmail, 2/9: Let's Learn - Canva, 3/9: Let's Learn - Google Docs, 4/12: Let's Learn - Google Sheets. Each session takes place at 10:30 AM.

**Crafternoons:** 2:30 PM. 1/14: Snowman Button Art, 2/11: Valentine Cards, 3/11: DIY Beeswax Wraps, 4/8: Book Page Photo Display. Registration Required.

**Borrow-A-Librarian:** Free 30-minute tech help sessions with Digital Services Librarian Elin. Email ewoods@indianafreelibrary.org or call 724-465-8841 to schedule (in person or by phone).

**Art in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Lecture Series w/Chuck Olson:** Join us for eight independent lectures led by Chuck Olson, former professor of Art at Saint Francis University. Each session will explore how two contemporary artists respond to a central theme. Art21 (PBS.org/art21) may be used as a companion resource to enrich the experience. 7-8:15 PM. 1/26 - Identity, 2/2 - Friends & Strangers, 2/9- Allegories, 2/16- Spirituality, 2/23- Community, 3/2- Beauty, 3/9 - Money, Money, Money, 3/16 - Climate Crisis

**Adult Storytime & Craft Hour:** 11-12pm. 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7. Open to adults of any age who would appreciate time together with friends in the Community Room.

**Not Red, Not Blue, Just Fair: Let's End Gerrymandering!** January 12th at 6PM. Indiana County FDPA coordinators Stanley Chepaitis and Sid Reger, will review the current process and describe how the bills before the legislature would create redistricting reform for Pennsylvania.



## IFL BOOK CLUBS



SCAN HERE  
for more book club  
information



The True Story Book Club meets the first Tuesday of each month @ 11 AM

**January 6th**  
Custodians of Wonder by Eliot Stein

**February 3rd**  
Wild Chocolate by Rowan Jacobsen

**March 3rd**  
The Black Count by Tom Reiss

**April 7th**  
The Forbidden Garden by Simon Parkin



Guilty Pleasures Book Club meets the Second Wednesday of each month @ 7pm

**January 14th**  
Most Ardent by Gabe Cole Novoa

**February 11th**  
Burn Our Bodies Down by Rory Power

**March 11th**  
Cake Eater by Allyson Dahlin

**April 8th**  
The Children of Jocasta by Natalie Haynes

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



The American History Book Club:  
Celebrating our Nations Birth: meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 11 AM

**January 27th**  
The Ride: Paul Revere and the Night That Saved America by Kostya Kennedy

**February 24th**  
The Day the American Revolution Began: 19 April 1776 by William H. Hallahan

**March 24th**  
Those Turbulent Sons of Freedom: Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys and the American Revolution by Christopher S. Wren

**April 28th**  
Bunker Hill: A City, A Siege, A Revolution by Nathaniel Philbrick



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

**January 22nd**  
The Quiet American by Graham Greene

**February 26th**  
Persuasion by Jane Austen

**March 26th**  
The Kitchen God's Wife by Amy Tan

**April 23rd**  
Annie John by Jamaica Kincaid







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(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

January 20<sup>th</sup>:  
Schnitzel, Spätzle & Stollen:  
A German Food Story



February 17<sup>th</sup>:  
Seasoned with Story:  
The Flavors of Black America



March 17<sup>th</sup>:  
Carrying the Hearth:  
Living Traditions of Irish Cooking



April 21<sup>st</sup>:  
Halupki, Hrudka & Honey Cake:  
Food Traditions of Eastern Europe

