

NORTHBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

WINTER ISSUE

December 2025 - February 2026

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Library Closed: 12/24, 12/25, 12/31 & 1/1. Late Open: 1/23



NORTHBROOK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Notes from the Executive Director



Writing a book is both exhausting and exhilarating.

As the co-author of *The Public Library Director's Toolkit* and *The Public Library Director's HR Toolkit*, I know the dedication it

takes to bring a book from idea to reality. Every title on a shelf represents years of effort, persistence, and heart.

That's why I'm so excited about our upcoming Author Fair, which will celebrate the creativity and hard work of writers in our own community. If you're a local author, I encourage you to apply and share your work with readers who are eager to discover new voices. You can submit an application at www.northbrook.info/author-fair starting December 1.

In the meantime, you can explore our Local Collection year-round. It features books donated by Northbrook authors, and you can find it on our 2nd floor (near the Biographies).

And, whether you're a writer or a reader, I hope you'll mark your calendar for April 11 and join us in honoring the creativity, dedication, and imagination of our neighbors. Let's come together to celebrate the joy of books, and those who create them.

Kate Hall
Executive Director

Library Information

1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062
847-272-6224 | northbrook.info
feedback@northbrook.info

Open: Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm, Fri: 9am-6pm
Sat: 9am-5pm, Sun: 1-5pm

Special hours: Library Closed: 12/24, 12/25, 12/31 & 1/1. Late Open: 1/23 (opens at 12pm)

The Northbrook Public Library provides access to information so that patrons can make informed decisions for themselves. The library does not endorse, recommend, or make representations with respect to the information presented in our programming. **Programs are subject to change. Visit northbrook.info/events for the latest program information.**

Photo Policy: The Northbrook Public Library may photograph patrons participating in library programs and events. These images may appear in future library publications or publicity. Participation signifies consent to our photo policy. Library patrons may not take photographs of other patrons or staff without the permission of the Executive Director. For full policy details, visit northbrook.info.

NEWS & UPDATES

Finals Cafe: December 16-18

Starting this year, Glenbrook North High School's final exams will be held before winter break, from December 17-19.

Since final exams can be a stressful time, we welcome local high school students to study at the library and we also offer them brain-boosting snacks and pizza! (Turn to page 14 for the pizza schedule.)

During this time, the library may be busier (and louder) than usual, and parking may be more limited. We love that our high school students choose to study here, and we appreciate your understanding as we support them through this important time.

Apply for our Meet the Author Fair

Published authors in the Chicagoland area are invited to apply for our Meet the Author Fair on April 11. Applications will be accepted online starting December 1. Learn more or submit an application at www.northbrook.info/author-fair through January 15.

Share a note. Spread some hope.

Visit our lobby in December to share a short message of hope or compassion as part of CATCH's Note Your Feelings initiative, which promotes mental health awareness.

Friends Book Sale (January 30 & 31)

Shop for great deals on used books on January 30 & 31 from 10am-4pm. Friends of the Library members are also invited to an exclusive members-only preview night on January 29.

Practice relaxation with a Calming Kit

Our Calming Kits, designed for individuals with sensory processing challenges, provide activities and tools to soothe the mind and body. Register by December 5 to reserve a kit.

State of the Village Address

The Village of Northbrook invites residents to attend the 2026 State of the Village Address on Tuesday, January 20 at 9:00am in the library's Auditorium.

Read the Chicago Tribune Online



New! Get unlimited, paywall-free access to the Chicago Tribune digital editions with your Northbrook Library card. Visit www.northbrook.info/chicago-trib-digital to get reading!

KEY

- On-Demand Virtual Program
- Live Virtual Program
- In-Person Program
- Earth Friendly Program
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Program
- Supported Program
- Library Card Required

Winter Reading Challenge

December 1 – January 31

**Sign up, read books,
and earn great prizes!**

Sign up for our Winter Reading Challenge to warm up with some great reads and earn a prize when you complete the challenge.

Adult Winter Reading

Adults who sign up and read four or more books will earn our finisher prize and be entered into our Grand Prize Drawing.

- Each time you log a book, you'll be entered into a weekly gift card drawing.
- Complete the challenge to earn a heavy-duty tote bag and a chance to win our Grand Prize: a \$100 Book Bin gift card!



Youth & Teen Winter Reading (Birth – Grade 12)

Sign up and track your reading to earn a book, a completion prize, and drawing tickets for a chance to win one of our grand prizes!

How to get started



Starting Monday, December 1, you can sign up at the library or participate online using Beanstack. Get started at

www.northbrook.info/winter-reading

Sponsored by the Friends of the Northbrook Public Library

Adult Programs

Registration is open for all programs on pages 4-11

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

Featured Programs

Harnessing AI

In this talk and performance, AI Product Manager and author Ryan J. Smith showcases how to harness AI without being overwhelmed by hype. 🧑

Monday, December 1, 7:00-8:15pm
Auditorium

Cut the Cable

Join us for practical information about ditching your cable service and exploring more flexible, cost-effective entertainment options. 🧑

Wednesday, December 3, 6:00-7:30pm
Auditorium

AARP Driver Safety Course

Attendees who complete this two-session defensive driving course may qualify for an auto insurance discount. (Fee required.) 🧑

Wednesday & Thursday, December 3 & 4
9:30am-1:30pm, Pollak Room

The History of Simon and Garfunkel

We'll trace the arc of this famous duo with audio and video, from their surprise hit "Hey Schoolgirl" to the majesty of "Bridge Over Troubled Water." 🧑

Monday, December 8, 7:00-8:00pm
Pollak Room

The Photography of Weegee

Explore the life and lens of Weegee, born Arthur Fellig, whose gritty images of mid-20th century New York City made him one of the city's most important artists. 🗣️

Monday, December 15, 7:00-8:00pm
Online

Bermuda: Beyond the Beach

Take a "staycation" with travel presenters Barbara Sugden and Ron Vargason, as they present an in-depth look at the island of Bermuda. 🧑

Thursday, January 15, 2:00-3:00pm
Pollak Room

Oakton Literacy Class

Open to English-speakers and those who want to practice speaking English. 🧑

Mondays & Wednesdays, Jan. 21–May 20
12:30-3:30pm OR 6:00-8:45pm*
Interactive Classroom

* No class on Feb. 16, March 30 & April 1

An Evening with Paul Lisnek

Join WGN-TV's political analyst Paul Lisnek on Zoom to learn about Illinois politics and the upcoming midterm elections in November 2026. *In partnership with The League of Women Voters and several Illinois libraries.* 🗣️

Tuesday, January 27, 7:00-8:00pm
Online



Celebrating Black History in Our Own Backyard **EDI**

Discover unique narratives, rich culture, and inspiring stories of Black individuals and communities who have shaped our local landscape. *In partnership with RAIN (Racial Awareness in the North Shore).* 🧑 🗣️

Tuesday, February 3, 7:00-8:00 pm
Civic Room or Online

The Cannons of Ticonderoga: A Revolutionary War Story

Historian Joyce Haworth will share the fascinating history of one of the most unlikely and daring escapades of the American Revolution. 🧑

Monday, February 9, 7:00-8:00pm
Pollak Room

Fanny Mendelssohn: A Trailblazing Composer in the Shadow of Society

Historian Anette Isaacs shares the life of this brilliant yet often overlooked pianist and composer, while exploring the rich Jewish heritage that shaped the Mendelssohn family's musical legacy. 🗣️

Thursday, February 19, 7:00-8:00pm
Online

The Art of British Spycraft: Fact & Fiction

Anglophile Claire Evans recounts her visit to Bletchley Park and delves into modern British spy novels and the real-life people and events that inspired countless plot twists. 🗣️

Monday, February 23, 7:00-8:00pm
Online

Financial Fitness

Private Session With a Financial Planner

Schedule a private 50-minute session with a financial planner from Dickholtz Wealth Management. 🧑

Thursdays, December 11, January 8 & February 12
9:30am-12:30pm, Study Room 12

Required Minimum Distributions

Learn how Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) will impact your retirement, how you can plan to use them to your advantage, and what pitfalls to watch out for when planning your budget. 🧑

Thursday, January 29, 2:00-3:30pm Pollak Room

Adult Programs

Register now for all programs on pages 4-11

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.

Illinois Libraries Present



Made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events.



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*, a biography of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. 🗣️

Tuesday, January 13, 7:00-8:00, Online



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

R.L. Stine, named "the most prolific author of children's horror novels" by the *Guinness Book of World Records*, will discuss his illustrious body of work. 🗣️

Tuesday, February 24, 7:00-8:00, Online

Health & Wellness: Mind & Body

The **CR** symbol indicates a Northbrook Library card is required to register.

Chair Yoga

Gentle yoga to help increase flexibility and balance. 🧘 **CR**

Fridays, 10:00-11:00am, Pollak Room*

* Northbrook Library card required. Registration opens on November 1 for December, January, and February classes.

No Chair Yoga on December 19 & 26; January 16 & 23



Pandemics and Vaccines

A PhD researcher explains the changing science of vaccines.

In partnership with Rotary Club of Northbrook. 🗣️

Sunday, December 21, 2:00-3:15pm, Auditorium 🌀

Journaling: Ignite Your Creativity

Explore your creativity through journaling in this interactive program, which features live journaling and discussion using prompts from Suleika Jaouad's *The Book of Alchemy*. 🗣️

Tuesday, January 6, 7:00-8:00pm, Civic Room or Online

Mindful Movement

Join us for a one-hour mindful movement class where you're encouraged to explore your body's natural rhythm and flow. 🧘

Thursday, January 22, 10:00am-11:00am, Pollak Room

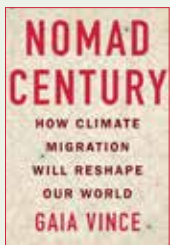


Strength Through Struggle: Cultivating Hope in Everyday Life

Hope is a powerful force that can support your physical and mental health, even during dark days. Join Jan Hincapie to explore the traits of hopeful people and learn ways to cultivate hope in yourself and others. 🗣️

Monday, January 5, 7:00-8:00pm, Pollak Room

Sustainable Living



Environmental Book Discussion 🌱

Join Mardi and Jake to discuss *Nomad Century: How Climate Migration Will Reshape Our World* by Gaia Vince. In partnership with Go Green Northbrook.* 🗣️

Wednesday, January 14, 7:00-8:00pm
Civic Room

Winter Seed Sowing Workshop 🌱

Northbrook Garden Club will share a simple, low-cost method for growing native plants and winter vegetables using recycled containers to create mini greenhouses. You'll leave with your own seeded container that can stay outside all winter, naturally preparing your seeds for planting in the spring. In partnership with Northbrook Garden Club 🗣️

Thursday, January 22, 2:00-3:15pm, Pollak Room

* A limited number of copies will be available at the Reference desk five weeks before the discussion.

See bottom of page 2 for program key. Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise.

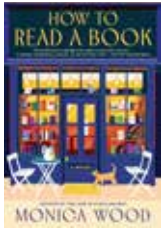
Adult Programs

Register now for all programs on pages 4-11

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

Book Groups & Discussions

Books will be available at the Fiction & Media desk one month before each discussion unless noted otherwise.



Evening Book Discussion with Lori Siegel

Join librarian Lori Siegel to discuss *How to Read a Book* by Monica Wood, a hopeful story about letting go of guilt, seizing second chances, and the power of books to change lives.

Tuesday, December 9, 7:00-8:00pm, Civic Room 🧑



Popular Fiction Book Discussion **NEW!**

Join librarian Brenna on Zoom to discuss *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See, inspired by the real-life story of a woman physician from China's Ming Dynasty whose formulas and theories are still used today. 🗣️

Tuesday, January 21, 7:00-8:00pm, Online

Bestsellers and Beyond

Join Librarian Lori Siegel on Zoom for reviews of a variety of books that you might add to your reading list or share with your book group. 🗣️

Friday, December 12, 2:00-3:00pm, Online

Ben Goluboff Book Discussion 🗣️

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am, Online

December 10: *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey

January 14: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

February 11: *North Woods* by Daniel Mason



Classic Great Books with Robert Waterbury 🧑

Mondays, 10:00-11:30am, Civic Room

December 8: *Othello* by William Shakespeare

January 19: *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

February 16: *Beowulf*



Next Chapter Book Club **EDI** **SP**

Provides opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to read and discuss a book and make friends in a relaxed setting, accompanied by trained facilitators. Books are distributed at each session. 🧑

Saturdays, December 6 & 20, January 3, 17 & 31, and February 14 & 28

1:30-3:00pm, Interactive Classroom

NORTHBROOK WRITES *In partnership with StoryStudio Chicago*

These online writing workshops let you learn from authors, spark creativity, and connect with fellow writers. 🧑🧑🧑🧑 **FRIENDS** of the Northbrook Library

Light on the Horizon: Writing Prompts for the Deep Winter and onto the Equinox

In the dark of winter, many people stop writing or have a hard time finding inspiration. Get inspired to write your way out of winter and into the bright light of spring with author Kyra Wilson Cook. 🗣️

Monday, January 12, 7:00-8:30pm, Online

Ts, Timelines, and Tricks for Your Memoir

Join author Melissa Fraterrigo for a workshop on writing your memoir's first draft. In this workshop, you'll learn how to get started by using the letter T, timelines, and other tricks. 🗣️

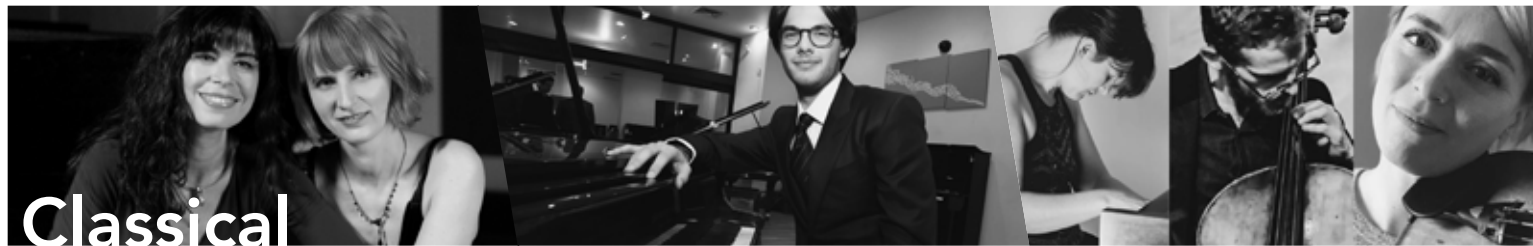
Monday, February 2, 7:00-8:30pm, Online



Concerts

Register now for all programs on pages 4-11

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.



Classical

EStrella Duo

This program celebrates dance through piano four-hands works spanning three centuries, from the refined elegance of Bach to the vivid rhythms of Saint-Saëns, Ravel, Debussy, Tchaikovsky, Khachaturian, and more. 🧑

Sunday, December 7, 2:00-3:00pm, Auditorium

Thomas Nickell

Pianist Thomas Nickell will perform the works by Jean Sibelius and Zoltán Kodály, followed by the premiere of a new composition and finishing with Beethoven's revolutionary "Waldstein" Sonata. 🧑

Sunday, January 18, 2:00-3:00pm, Auditorium

Helia Trio

Enjoy a performance of two masterpieces of the piano trio repertoire, Brahms' lyrical *B Major Trio* and Ravel's colorful *Trio in A Minor*. 🧑

Tuesday, January 20, 2:00-3:00pm, Auditorium

Hedera String Quartet

The string quartet will perform the quartets of Mozart and Tchaikovsky. 🧑

Sunday, February 8, 2:00-3:00pm, Auditorium

Jazz & More



Andy Brown Jazz Trio

Enjoy selections from the Great American Songbook, jazz standards, and Brazilian classics performed by this trio led by Chicago-based guitarist Andy Brown, known for his "old-school jazz guitar" style. 🧑

Monday, February 16, 7:00-8:00pm, Auditorium

Christopher Laughlin

Classical, flamenco, and fingerstyle guitar virtuoso Christopher Laughlin will perform a diverse program featuring classical works by Bach, Albéniz, and Tárrega; flamenco pieces by Paco de Lucía and Paco Peña; and arrangements of pop and rock classics from artists including The Who, Tears for Fears, and Guns N' Roses. 🧑

Sunday, February 22, 2:00-3:00pm, Auditorium

Celebrating Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year Festival Show (EDI)

The Northbrook Chinese American community invites you to enjoy a variety show featuring performances by adults and children, including singers and dancers. 🧑

Saturday, February 21, 2:00-3:30pm, Auditorium



ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.



National Theatre Live: Hamlet

Benedict Cumberbatch (BBC's *Sherlock*, *Doctor Strange*) stars in this electrifying stage production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, directed by Lyndsey Turner, and recorded at the Barbican Theatre in London. Driven to avenge his father's murder but torn by doubt, Hamlet wrestles with his conscience in a struggle that threatens his sanity and the fate of the kingdom. 🧑

2015 (3 hours 37 minutes with intermission) Rated PG

Saturday, December 6, 12:00-4:00pm, Auditorium

January Film Series: **Shades of Green** 🧑🧑🧑🧑 FRIENDS of the Northbrook Library

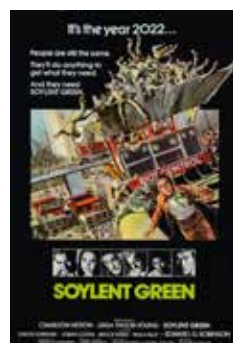
Presented in the Auditorium on Wednesdays in January at 2:00pm & 7:00pm 🧑



January 7
Fried Green Tomatoes
1991 (130 minutes)
Rated PG-13



January 14
The Boy with Green Hair
1948 (82 minutes)
Not Rated



January 21
Soylent Green
1973 (97 minutes)
Rated PG



January 28
The Color of Money
1986 (119 minutes)
Rated R

Saturday First-Run Films

Presented in the Auditorium on the second Saturday of each month at 2:00pm, **followed by a discussion led by film professor Zbigniew Banas.** 🧑 🧑🧑🧑🧑 FRIENDS of the Northbrook Library



January 10
A Big Bold Beautiful Journey
2025 (109 minutes)
Rated R



February 14
Eleanor the Great
2025 (98 minutes)
Rated PG-13



January 31
How to Train Your Dragon
2025 (125 minutes)
Rated PG

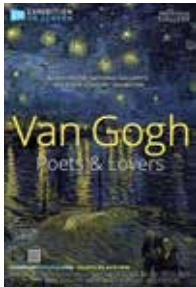


February 28
The Bad Guys 2
2025 (104 minutes)
Rated PG

Movies

Register now for all movies

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.



Exhibition On Screen: Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers

In 2024, London's National Gallery hosted the UK's largest Van Gogh exhibition. This documentary, created in collaboration with the Gallery, brings the exhibit to life and offers a fresh perspective on the artist, celebrating Van Gogh's genius and passion rather than his suffering. 🧑

2025 (90 minutes) **Not Rated**

Tuesday, February 10, 2:00-4:00pm, Auditorium



Wednesday Evening Film Screening: The Naked Gun

In this comedy reboot, bumbling detective Lt. Frank Drebin Jr. (Liam Neeson) must stop a plot to unleash chaos, leading to a string of absurd, slapstick misadventures. 🧑

2025 (85 minutes) **Rated PG-13**

Wednesday, February 18, 7:00-9:00pm Auditorium

Chicago Armenian Film Festival



The Reverse Side of the Medal

Weightlifter Nazik Avdalyan's career halted after a severe car crash. After years of recovery, she defies the odds to win two championships. *In Armenian with English subtitles.* 🧑

2024 (104 minutes) **Not Rated**

Sunday, January 25, 2:00-4:30pm, Auditorium



Amerikatsi

After fleeing Armenia for America as a child, Charlie returns to Soviet Armenia after World War II, only to be imprisoned as a suspected spy. From his cell, he discovers the beauty of his homeland by watching the life of a neighbor. *In Armenian with English subtitles.* 🧑

2022 (121 minutes) **Not Rated**

Sunday, February 1, 2:00-4:30pm, Auditorium



Film Discussion

Film & Discussion with Aaron

Join us in the Auditorium for a film introduced by Aaron from our Events Production department.

Children of Men

2006 (109 minutes) **Rated R**

Clive Owen portrays a British bureaucrat turned reluctant activist in this dystopian thriller. 🧑

Tuesday, February 17

7:00-9:00pm, Auditorium



Tech & Business Programs

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.

Register now for all programs on pages 4-11

Cut the Cable

Join us for practical information about ditching your cable service and exploring more flexible, cost-effective entertainment options. 🧑

Wednesday, December 3, 6:00-7:30pm Auditorium

Pet Social Media 101

Delve into the world of social media with your most beloved companions, and get started pet-fluencing! 🗣️

Saturday, December 6, 3:00-4:00pm, Online

Getting to Know Your iPhone

Gain confidence, whether you've just made the switch to an iPhone or are new to mobile devices. 🧑

Tuesday, January 13, 6:30-8:30pm, Civic Room

Google Photos Made Easy

Organize, edit, and share your photos. Arrange them in albums for a beautifully organized digital library. 🧑

Wednesday, January 14, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Interactive Classroom

Password Management

Join us in person or on Zoom to explore different methods of managing passwords and find the right one for you. 🧑🗣️

Thursday, January 8, 3:00-4:00pm, Online

Wednesday, January 28, 4:00-5:00pm, Civic Room

Intro to Coding and Web Design

Learn the basics of coding HTML and CSS to create your first web page in this hands-on workshop. Basic computer skills required. 🧑

Wednesday, January 7, 6:00-7:00pm, Interactive Classroom

Using Accessibility Features on Your iOS Device

We'll cover voice control, screen readers, magnification, and more to help you customize your device to fit your needs. 🧑

Tuesday, February 10, 6:30-8:30pm, Civic Room

Microsoft Word & Excel Classes

Word Basics

Create, save, open, and print text-based documents. 🧑

Friday, January 23, 2:00-3:00pm, Interactive Classroom

Excel Basics

Create, modify, and format spreadsheets. 🧑

Monday, January 26, 6:30-8:00pm, Civic Room

Excel Formatting

Reorganize and summarize data in a new spreadsheet or database table to create a report. 🧑

Monday, February 2, 6:30-8:00pm, Civic Room

Excel Formulas & Functions

Explore formulas and functions, absolute references, and conditional formatting. 🧑

Monday, February 16, 6:30pm - 8:00pm, Civic Room

Excel VLookup

Use the VLookup function to compare two lists. 🧑

Monday, February 23, 6:30-8:00pm, Civic Room

Tech Tuesdays Tuesdays, Jan. 6-27 & Feb. 3-24, Reference desk*

Drop by for help with your tech questions, like accessing eBooks, streaming media, email, social media, and more. Please bring your device and any passwords. Registration is not required. 🧑

* Tech Tuesdays will not be held from November 25 - December 30.



Tech & Business Programs

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

Register now for all programs on pages 4-11

Artificial Intelligence

Harnessing AI

In this talk and performance, AI Product Manager and author Ryan J. Smith showcases how to harness AI without being overwhelmed by hype. 🧑

Monday, December 1, 7:00-8:15pm Auditorium

Introduction to Generative AI

Learn how artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT, is changing schools, businesses, and popular culture. 🧑

Friday, January 9, 1:00-2:30pm, Pollak Room

Exploring Generative AI Tools and Prompts

Learn how to use popular AI tools to create effective prompts for everyday tasks in this hands-on workshop for beginners.

Tuesday, January 27, 6:30-8:30pm, Civic Room

Career Help

Charging Your Worth with Confidence

Join Chelsie Tamms, the designer and brand strategist for Lettering Works, in identifying the ways to only say yes to the best (and biggest) opportunities while also staying profitable. 🗣️

In partnership with the Lake Cook Career Collaborative

Tuesday, January 13, 7:00-8:00pm, Online

Find more live and on-demand career workshops at careercollab.org/workshops



Job Seekers Help (Drop-In)

Stop by for help with job search sites, crafting a polished resume, and more. Registration is not required. 🧑

Thursdays, December 11, January 8 & February 12

2:00-4:00pm, Reference Desk



Introducing a new self-paced online learning resource for essential computer skills

Looking to build confidence with computers, apply for jobs online, or help your kids with schoolwork? Northstar Digital Literacy is a free, self-paced online learning program that helps you learn essential computer skills needed to work, learn, and participate in daily life.

Explore interactive lessons and assessments on topics like:

- Computer Skills, Internet Basics, and Email
- Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Google Docs, and more.

Take assessments anytime to track your progress, or earn an official certificate by completing assessments at the library with a score of 85% or higher.

To get started, visit www.northbrook.info/northstar or schedule a one-on-one appointment at the library by calling 847-272-4873.

MAKER PROGRAMS

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.



Registration for Maker programs opens on the first day of the month before the program. For example, registration for January programs starts December 1, and registration for February programs starts January 2.

TEEN/ADULT MAKER (AGE 13–ADULT)

All materials provided unless noted otherwise. Limit of one registration per library card, per program. The **CR** symbol indicates a Northbrook Library card is required to register.

Macrame Flower Charms **CR**

Learn basic macrame techniques to create a flower-shaped charm.

Thursday, January 8, 6:00-7:00pm

Interactive Classroom

Valet Leather Tray **CR**

Learn how to assemble a catchall tray from a precut pattern.

Tuesday, January 13, 6:00-7:00pm

Interactive Classroom

Stamp Carving **CR**

Learn the craft of linocut by carving a small floral stamp.

Tuesday, January 20, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Pollak Room A

Valentine's Trinket Tray **CR**

Use air dry clay and simple sculpting to make a small heart-shaped tray.

Tuesday, February 3, 6:00-7:30pm

Pollak Room A

Potted Pipe Cleaner Cacti **CR**

Learn how to make mini cactus plants out of pipe cleaners.

Wednesday, February 11

6:00-7:00pm, Pollak Room B

Leather Sunglasses Case **CR**

Create a leather case from a pre-cut pattern.

Tuesday, February 17, 6:00-7:00pm

Interactive Classroom

Intro to the Sticker Printer **CR**

Learn how to design and make cool stickers using Canva and the Collaboratory's new sticker printer.

Thursday, February 19, 6:00-7:00pm

Interactive Classroom

Digital Media

Digitizing Slides

Learn to digitize slides using equipment available in the library. We will not be digitizing any patron slides in this class.

Thursday, January 15, 6:00-7:00pm

Interactive Classroom

Sewing

How to Mend Your Socks **CR**

Please bring a clean sock or two with dime sized holes to mend.

Wednesday, January 21

6:00-7:00pm, Civic Room

Sewing Machine Basics **CR**

Limited to new attendees. Class will be taught on the library's sewing machines.

Saturday, January 24, 10:30am-12:00pm

Interactive Classroom

Intro to the Serger **CR**

Learn to use the library's serger.

Saturday, February 21, 10:30am-12:00pm

Interactive Classroom

Glass Fusion

Limited to a maximum of one registration per Northbrook Library card, and one glass fusion class per calendar year.

Rectangle Dish **CR**

Take-home kit with instruction via Zoom.

Tuesday, January 27, 6:00-7:30pm,

Online

Suncatcher **CR**

Take-home kit with instruction via Zoom.

Tuesday, February 24, 6:00-7:30pm,

Online

Jewelry

UV Resin Pendants **CR**

Create a decorative pendant using layered UV resin and craft supplies.

Thursday, February 5, 6:00pm-7:00pm

Interactive Classroom

Pearl Pendant (18+ only) **CR**

Make a pendant with a real pearl in this hands-on class.

Thursday, February 12

6:00-7:30pm, Pollak Room

MAKER PROGRAMS

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

YOUTH MAKER

All materials provided unless noted otherwise.

2 Frame Animations (Grades 3-5)

Get started with animation principles and stop motion using this simple technique. 

Wednesday, January 14

4:30-5:30pm, Interactive Classroom

Scribble Bots (Grades 3-5)

Build a tiny doodling “robot,” and then reconfigure and experiment to see what changes its motion. 

Wednesday, February 18

4:15-5:15pm, Civic Room

Sewing Machine Basics

Our Sewing Machine Basics classes are limited to one per calendar year. We'll provide the sewing machines for you to learn on.

Donut Plushie (Grade 3-6)

Learn how to use a sewing machine to create a donut plushie. 👤

Wednesday, February 4

4:15-5:45pm, Pollak Room A

Fleece Hat (Grade 3-6)

Learn how to use a sewing machine to create a fleece hat.

Wednesday, February 25

4:15-5:45pm, Pollak Room A



Say “hello” to our little sticker printer!

Introducing the Collaboratory's newest addition: The Primera LX610 label printer. You can now easily print custom, high-quality stickers to add a personal touch to your laptop, water bottle, gifts, and more. Designing stickers is easy using popular software like Canva and Adobe Illustrator (both available in the Collaboratory).

Label details & cost

- **High Quality Prints:** Full-color, 1200 x 4800 dpi prints on glossy paper up to 4.25 inches wide
- **Cut Options:** Use a standard shape or custom contour cut around your design
- **Cost:** \$0.25 per inch; limit 24 inches per day

Looking for more maker projects?

Get making with Creativebug to build your skills, explore tools and materials, and flex your creative muscles as you work alongside an instructor at your own pace.

Sign in with your library card to access thousands of online fine art and handcrafting classes at creativebug.com/lib/northbrook



Teen Programs

Teen program registration opens on the first day of the month before the class. (For example, registration for January programs opens on December 1.)

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.



FINALS CAFE (GRADES 9-12)

Come study for finals at the library! Study in the library's Pollak Room or find your favorite study table on our 2nd or 3rd floor. You can also use your library card to reserve a study room in advance.

The Pollak Room will be open for drop-in study on:

- **Tuesday, December 16, 3:00-8:45pm**
- **Wednesday, December 17, 2:00-8:45pm**
- **Thursday, December 18, 2:00-8:45pm**

Feeling hungry? We'll put out brain-boosting snacks in the Pollak Room and also serve pizza on:



- **Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00pm**
- **Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00pm**
- **Thursday, December 18 at 7:00pm**

Teen Advisory Board (Grades 6-12)

Join the Teen Advisory Board to help us plan teen programs, complete service projects, and eat pizza. You'll earn one volunteer hour for each meeting you attend. 
Tuesdays, December 9, January 13, February 10
5:00-6:00pm, Pollak Room

Snack Wars (Grades 5-9)

Want to put your taste buds to the test? Try sweet and salty snacks from other countries, or snacks you've never had before. We'll try each snack, chat about them, and rank them! 

Wednesday, January 21, 4:00-5:00pm
YS Activity Room

Queer Meetup (Grades 9-12, Drop-In) **NEW!**

Drop by for a welcoming LGBTQIA+ meetup with other high school students and allies. Build community, make new friends, enjoy some snacks, and have fun. 

Tuesdays, January 27 & February 24, 4:00-5:00pm
YS Activity Room

Four Strategies for a Smarter College Search

Join Heidi King from College Inside Track to explore new admissions strategies to maximize your chances of acceptance, scholarships, and financial aid. 

Wednesday, February 4, 6:30-7:30pm, Online

BOOKS & BITES

Books & Bites (Grades 6-12)

Join us for a book discussion and enjoy some snacks. **The first 6 registered teens will receive a free copy of the book.** 



Songlight by Moira Buffini 
(Recommended for grades 9 & up)
Thursday, January 29
5:00-6:00pm, YS Activity Room



Alanna: Song of the Lioness
by Tamora Pierce
(Recommended for grades 7 & up)
Thursday, February 26
5:00-6:00pm, YS Activity Room

Youth Programs

Youth program registration opens on the first day of the month before the class. (For example, registration for January programs opens on December 1.)

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

Special Events

Calming Kits SP

Practice relaxation with a Calming Kit. Designed for individuals with sensory processing challenges, our Calming Kits provide activities and tools to soothe the mind and body. 🧑

Register by December 5 to pick up a kit in Youth Services from December 6-12

Special Winter Storytime & Activities (Families, Drop-In)

This winter themed storytime will be just the thing to warm up your family's Saturday morning. Join us after the storytime for a craft and some treats. Pajamas and cozy clothing are encouraged! 🧑

**Saturday, December 6
10:00-11:00am, YS Story Corner**



Winter Break Drop-In Activities

Come over and play! We'll have a variety of extra games, coloring, puzzles, and crafts available in the Youth Services Department this winter. 🧑

Saturday, December 20 – Sunday, January 4



Special Saturday Storytime with Author Ginny Hiltz & Krieger (All Ages, Drop-In)

Join us for a special storytime featuring *Krieger's Crew*:

A School Facility Dog's Journey

with author and Meadowbrook Principal, Ginny Hiltz, and Krieger, the District 28 Facility Dog! 🧑

**Saturday, January 3
10:00-10:30am, YS Story Corner**



Celebrate Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year Storytime & Activities (Families, Drop-In) EDI

Come celebrate Lunar New Year with a story and activities. Learn about different traditions as we welcome in the new year! 🧑

**Saturday, February 7
10:00-11:00am, YS Story Corner**

Lunar New Year Festival Show (All Ages, with Caregiver) EDI

The Northbrook Chinese American community invites you to a variety show featuring performances by adults and children, including singers and dancers. 🧑

**Saturday, February 21
2:00-3:30pm, Auditorium**



Youth Programs

Youth program registration opens on the first day of the month before the class. (For example, registration for January programs opens on December 1.)

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.

School-Age Programs

Chess Club (Grades K-6)

Learn new moves, strategy, and checkmates each month. Materials and instruction will be provided. 🧑

Mondays, December 1, January 5, & February 2

6:00-7:00pm, YS Activity Room



Andertoons Drawing Workshops (Grades K-6)

Join us on Zoom for fun monthly drawing workshops led by professional cartoonist Mark Anderson. Each session features a different theme. 🖨️

Tuesdays, December 9, January 20 & February 17, 4:00-5:00pm, Online



Board Game Group **New time** (Grades 3-8, Drop-In)

Enjoy classic board and card games, or learn new ones! Each month we'll feature a different board game for you to try, as well as offering old favorites for you to play. 🧑

Thursdays, January 8 & February 12 4:00-5:00pm, YS Activity Room

January 8: Hanabi

February 12: Go Nuts for Donuts

Y-Art (All Ages, Drop-In)

Start your Saturday with art! Brought to you by the NSYMCA Art Academy. 🧑

Saturdays, January 10 & February 14 10:00-11:00am, YS Activity Room



Family Chess (Families, Drop-In)

Join us for an afternoon of chess with friends and family. Chess master, Arjun Vishnuvardhan, will be on hand to offer tips and strategies. All materials will be provided. 🧑

Sundays, January 11 & February 15 2:00-3:30pm, Pollak Room



Around the World: Italy (Grades K-3)

Travel the globe with us as we learn about Italy through stories, maps, crafts, and games. 🧑

Monday, January 12, 4:00-5:00pm

YS Activity Room

Create Club (Grades 4-8)

We'll provide all the supplies you need to get creative and try something new. 🧑

Tuesdays, January 13 & February 10

4:00-5:00pm, YS Activity Room

January 13: Pop-Up Cards

February 10: Air Dry Clay Sculptures

Off-Broadway Fairy Tales (Grades K-2, Drop-In)

Come and take turns acting out some of your favorite fairy tales at the library. Children will be able to take on the roles of characters in a playful setting. 🧑

Wednesday, January 14, 4:00-5:00pm

YS Activity Room

Mythological Science: Athena's Owl Exploration (Grades 3-5)

Learn the science behind some of the most famous myths. We'll learn about STEAM and mythology while engaging in fun educational activities. 🧑

Thursday, January 15, 4:00-5:00pm

YS Activity Room

Pokémon Club **NEW!** (Grades 3-7)

Calling all trainers! We'll chat about all things Pokémon, test our Pokémon knowledge with trivia, and participate in Pokémon-themed activities. 🧑

Mondays, January 19 & February 23

4:30-5:30pm, YS Activity Room



Art Pops! (Grades 2-5)

Explore the life and works of contemporary artist Jeff Koons and create your own masterpiece inspired by his bold and creative style. 🧑

Monday, January 26, 4:00-5:00pm

YS Activity Room

All About: The Olympics **NEW!** (Grades 1-3)

The Winter Games start on February 6, so let's learn all about the Olympics with fun activities. Each program will explore a new topic. 🧑

Wednesday, January 28, 4:15-5:00pm

YS Activity Room

Noggin Builders (Grades 3-5)

Build, create & explore with unique, hands-on S.T.E.M. experiences. 🧑

Thursday, February 5, 4:00-5:00pm

YS Activity Room



Hands on History (Grades 4-6)

Learn about the history of Lunar New Year, the story of Nian and make cute good fortune charms to celebrate the new year. 🧑

Monday, February 9, 4:00-5:00pm

YS Activity Room

Timed Team Tasks (Grades 3-5)

Race against the clock while you participate in group tasks and challenges. These activities will help encourage teamwork, problem-solving, communication, and maybe a few laughs along the way. 🧑

Thursday, February 19, 4:00-5:00pm

YS Activity Room

Winter Reading Challenge (December 1 – January 31)

Earn a free book and be entered into our prize drawing when you complete the challenge. Sign up at the library or at northbrook.info/winter-reading starting Monday, December 1.

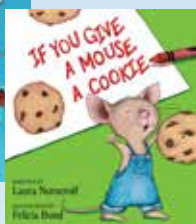
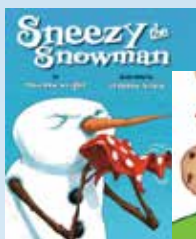


Youth Programs

Youth program registration opens on the first day of the month before the class. (For example, registration for January programs opens on December 1.)

Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Register at northbrook.info/events. For registration questions, please call 847-272-6224 or email feedback@northbrook.info.

Book Discussions



Cool Reads (Grades K-2, Drop-In)

Enjoy a fun book discussion and activities. The book does not need to be read to attend the program. 🧑

Wednesdays, December 10 & February 11
4:15-5:00pm, YS Activity Room

December 10: *Sneezzy the Snowman* by Jean Wright

February 11: *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff



Graphic Squad: *The Deep!* (Grades 2-5)

Join us for a graphic novel book discussion and activity. Pick up a copy of *The Deep!* by Lindsey Leigh at the Youth Services desk, available one month prior to the program. 🧑

Monday, February 16, 4:15-5:00pm, YS Activity Room

Saturday Family Films

Enjoy family films in the Auditorium on the last Saturday of each month at 2:00pm. 🧑👤👤👤👤 FRIENDS of the Northbrook Library

No film
on
December
27



January 31
How to Train Your Dragon
2025 (125 minutes)
Rated PG



February 28
The Bad Guys 2
2025 (104 minutes)
Rated PG



Youth Programs

Youth program registration opens on the first day of the month before the class. (For example, registration for January programs opens on December 1.)

ADA Requests: We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request an accommodation, including captioning or American Sign Language services, please indicate the accommodation when you register online or call 847-272-6224 at least 72 hours before the event.

Storytimes & Early Childhood

A parent or caregiver is required to attend Storytime and early childhood programs unless noted otherwise.

My First Yoga (Ages 3-5)

Preschoolers will have fun learning basic yoga poses.

Please register each child individually. 🧑

Mondays, December 1, January 19 & February 23

11:00-11:30am, Pollak Room



Music & Me with Teacher Dan (All Ages, Drop-In)

Kids will have a blast singing and dancing to songs performed on a variety of instruments. 🧑

Wednesdays, February 11, 18 & 25, 10:30-11:00am, Story Corner



Little Explorers (Ages 2-6, Drop-In)

Calling all Little Explorers! Visit with an adult to examine basic S.T.E.M. concepts through crafts, activities, and dramatic play. 🧑

Friday, February 6, 10:30-11:30am, YS Activity Room

Wiggleworms (Birth-24 months)

Join us for 30 minutes of songs and music with Old Town School of Folk Music. Classes are limited to 15 babies. Please sign up for one session. 🧑

Thursday, February 12, 10:00am OR 10:45am, Pollak Room



Preschool Noggin Builders (Ages 3-5)

Join us for hands-on STEM activities specifically designed for preschoolers. 🧑

Friday, February 27, 2:00 - 2:45pm, YS Activity Room



STORYTIMES

Storytime at the Library (All Ages, Drop-In)

Featuring a new theme each week. 🧑

Tuesdays & Thursdays, December 2 – January 29*

10:00-10:30am, YS Story Corner

* Storytime will not be held Dec. 16–Jan. 1

Babytime (Birth-24 months)

Songs and simple stories to nurture your baby's curiosity while providing caregivers a chance to socialize. Please check in at the Youth Services desk. Space is limited. 🧑

Wednesdays, December 3 – January 28*

10:00-10:45am, YS Activity Room

* Babytime will not be held Dec. 17–31

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5, Drop-In)

Stories and activities for preschoolers. 🧑

Thursdays, December 4 – January 29*

2:00-2:30pm, YS Activity Room

* Preschool Storytime will not be held Dec. 18–Jan. 1

Saturday Storytime (All Ages, Drop-In)

Join us on the first Saturday of the month. 🧑

Saturdays, December 6, January 3 & February 7

10:00-10:30am, YS Story Corner

BILINGUAL STORYTIMES

Our bilingual storytimes are great for both native language speakers and anyone interested in the language and culture.

Hebrew Language Storytime

(Ages 2-6, Drop-In) **EDI**

Drop by to learn about the Hebrew language and culture through stories, songs, and sensory activities. 🧑

Mondays, December 8, January 12 & February 16

10:00-10:30am, YS Activity Room

Korean Language Storytime (All Ages) **EDI**

Learn and practice speaking Korean with stories, songs, and rhymes. 🧑

Fridays, December 12, January 9 & February 13

10:00-10:30am, YS Activity Room

Friends of the Library

Dear Friends,

Winter is upon us, and it's a great time for browsing the Friends Book Shop at the Library. We have a wide selection of popular and literary fiction and non-fiction as well as books for children. Are you traveling this winter? Pick up some paperbacks that you can read and leave at your destination. All the funds that we generate go right back into Library programs.

Did you attend chair yoga this fall? The Sunday concerts? The Saturday films? These are just some examples of how the Friends support the library. If you enjoy these programs, please consider becoming a member of the Friends by using the form on this page or using the QR code to donate online.

Save the date! January 29 will be our Members-Only Preview Night before our book sale.

Feel free to send your suggestions or questions to friends@northbrook.info. We are always looking for volunteers, and we'd love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Merrill Medansky
Friends Board President

If you're not sure we have your email address, send an email to friends@northbrook.info and we'll add you to our email list.



Do you have a Little Free Library?

If so, the Friends of the Library would like to provide you with 10 adult paperbacks to add to it. To claim the free books, please email your name, address, and a photo of your Little Free Library to friends@northbrook.info.

New & Returning Members *as of October 15, 2025*

BENEFACTOR (\$1000) Become a Benefactor at northbrook.info/friends

PATRON (\$500) Anita Buyer

GUARANTOR (\$250) Bob and Kristi Dahlke, Emily Good, Merrill Medansky Gail & Bill Steinmetz

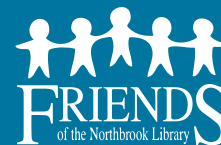
SPONSOR (\$100) Thomas & Nancy Artz Family, Helene & Jeff Beckman, Janet Diehl David & Sandy Kaminsky in honor of Blair Brenner and of Fran Green's special birthday Christopher Rodgers, Seth and Elana Schrank, Judith Stoner

DONOR (\$50) Reva Auerbach, Bryce Budin, Sharon Goldman, Sue Kish, Joyce Ranck Sherman, Elaine Stenzel, Bob & Kathie Stumpf

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FAMILY (\$20) Amy Brennan, Kirsty Collins, Mary Jennings, Gina Manski, Lisa Marshall Melissa Mell, Jennifer Schultz, Lois Wolfson

INDIVIDUAL (\$10) Mary Pat Bauman, Brian Berbach, Carolynn Carr, Jordan Flack, Katherine Katz, Greg Engberg & Carol Konvalinka, Dodie Levine, Susan Livingstone Nada Milutinovic, Daniel Petrosko, Eleanor Rabin, Alexis Schmookler, Shirel Shapiro Robert Shmikler, Bonnie Stephens, Rita P. Tao, Philip Witt



Used Book Sale
January 30 & 31, 10am-4pm
Civic Room

Bookshop Hours
Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm
Fri: 9am-6pm, Sat: 9am-5pm
Sun: 1-5pm

Friends Board Members
Julie Achler-Hokin, Claire Bonnema
Michele Buttermore
Daniel Cacchione, Steven DeRoose
Marlene Dubas, K'trina Elliott
Sarena Green, Dorth Korst, Lin Li
Merrill Medansky, Margot Molay
Carol Ng, Mary Reynolds

Next Board Meeting
For details, visit
northbrook.info/friends

All members are welcome to
attend the meeting

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or join by mail below

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Please make your check out to:
Friends of the Northbrook Public Library
1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook IL, 60062



1201 Cedar Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062
northbrook.info
847-272-6224
feedback@northbrook.info



Scan with your phone's camera
to find all of our programs.

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favorite programs at
northbrook.info/events

Thank You

Library Donations

- Dan Auerbach
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- In honor of Merrill Medansky and Lee and Peg Heiman from Gretchen & Steve Poland

Foundation Donations

- Nikki Southwell
- In Memory of Renee Weber from Sarah Garner Driessen, Susan Farnan, Rebecca Foersterling, Stuart & Sue Hertzberg, Dana Hurwitz, Marcia & Tom Korman, Minde Korman, The Kucharski Family, Diane Maier, Judith Mayzel, Suzy Mayzel & Bob Coleman, Jennifer Nowak, The Perkal Family, Rebecca Petersen, Susan Raskin, Dennis Rocheleau, Carolyn Rosenthal, Sara Ventura, Gerald & Linda Wine

Book a Brick

- In honor of Mary Lynn Saks' birthday from Steve, Jennifer & Jesse
- In honor of Bella Prager from Alexander Prager
- The Kaplan Family

Make Your Mark: Name a Seat

- Linda Weingart

Art Exhibits

In partnership with the Northbrook Arts Commission, we are proud to host an exhibit featuring the art of Judith Joseph in January and February.

Join us for an interview with
the artist and a reception on
Thursday, February, 5
at 7:00pm.



Honor someone special in your life

The **Make Your Mark: Name a Seat** sponsorship program provides a meaningful way to honor a loved one or favorite organization with a personalized plaque on a seat in the Auditorium.

For details and ordering information, visit
www.northbrook.info/plaque or call 847-272-6224.



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