

# NORTHBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

November & December 2021



## Holiday Gift Guide

Page 6

Award-Winning Library Staff

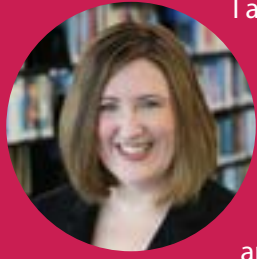
Page 9

Interview with Local Author  
Hollie Smurthwaite

Page 14

Special hours: 11/24 (Closing at 6pm) 11/25 (Closed),  
12/24 & 25 (Closed), 12/31 (Closing at 3pm)

## Notes from the Director



I am so honored to have been named the Illinois Library Association Librarian of the Year. It is a surreal experience to receive an award like this after the last year and a half. Leading during COVID has been tough. Not

receiving any guidance from the state on what we as public libraries should do was challenging.

But part of being a leader means making decisions and moving forward even when you aren't 100% sure of those decisions. I am an award recipient not because I have been perfect and never made mistakes, but because I own my mistakes and keep learning and growing, staying informed and engaged; knowing that I grow stronger because the talented staff, supportive board, and engaged community are committed to helping me and each other be lifelong learners.

If books are on your shopping list this holiday season or you plan to celebrate the Icelandic tradition of *Jolabokafloð*, you won't want to miss our Holiday Gift Guide on pages 6 & 7. You can find great titles like the ones in our gift guide and many more at our local bookstore, The Book Bin, which has served the community for 50 years!

Kate Hall,  
Executive Director

## Library Information

1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062  
847-272-6224 | [www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info)  
[feedback@northbrook.info](mailto:feedback@northbrook.info)

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

**Special hours:** 11/24 (Closing at 6pm)  
11/25 (Closed), 12/24 & 12/25 (Closed)  
12/31 (Closing at 3pm)

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.

**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 [www.northbrook.info](http://www.northbrook.info).

# NEWS & UPDATES

## THANK YOU TO OUTGOING LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER KAYHAN PARSI

We thank outgoing Library Board of Trustees member Kayhan Parsi for his service to the library and the community. His knowledge and insight during the pandemic helped the library navigate the many changes.

We received a strong show of support from the community when the Board vacancy was announced in late September. Applications have been reviewed and interviews will be held in early November. We look forward to introducing the newest member of the Library Board.

## REGISTER EARLY WITH YOUR NORTHBROOK LIBRARY CARD

Through October 31, registration for in-person November/December library programs is restricted to Northbrook Library cardholders only. Registration will open up to everyone starting Monday, November 1. Advance registration is required for all programs unless noted otherwise. Learn how to get a library card: [www.northbrook.info/get-a-card](http://www.northbrook.info/get-a-card).

## HOLIDAY GIFT MAKING

Planning to make holiday gifts in the Collaboratory? Appointments are required and spots are limited, so we encourage you to make your reservation as early as possible. You can schedule an appointment up to two weeks in advance with a Northbrook Library card at [www.northbrook.info/collaboratory](http://www.northbrook.info/collaboratory) or call 847-272-2098.

## SPOTLIGHTING ILLINOIS CREATORS

November is National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), and we invite all aspiring novelists to give it a try. For inspiration, read about author Hollie Smurthwaite's first published novel on page 14.

To continue the theme, we encourage you to browse the works of Illinois writers, musicians, and filmmakers in our lobby's Spotlight collection in November and to visit the Local Collection in the Reference department to find books, music, and movies with a Northbrook connection. Learn more at [www.northbrook.info/local-collection](http://www.northbrook.info/local-collection).

## KEY

- On-Demand Virtual Program
- Live Virtual Program
- In-Person Program
- Special Needs Program
- NPL Card Required
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion



## Do-It-Yourself

# WINTER READING CHALLENGE

FOR  
ADULTS

Try these fun activities for a low-key way to chill out this winter! There are no check-ins, no time limits, no prizes (other than the joy of relaxing and possibly gaining a new skill), and best of all, no stress! Complete as many of the challenges as you like. You can download and print more bingo cards at [www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge](http://www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge).

Find a Winter Reading Challenge bingo card for kids on page 12.

You can also complete any square by reading for an hour.



Use Mango Languages to start learning a new language

CR



Take a photo of nature



Watch the sunrise or sunset

Interview a close friend or relative and record it



Listen to an album from start to finish

Avoid social media & the internet for a day

Flip through an old photo album and reminisce



Listen to an audiobook on Libby

CR



Check out a cookbook & try a new recipe

Read a book by an author you've never read



Write and send a letter to someone you know

Watch a movie from the Criterion Collection in Kanopy

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YOUR  
CHOICE



Attend a virtual library program

Check out the latest magazine issue using Flipster

CR

Make a mood board of goals you want to accomplish in 2022



Complete a puzzle

Use HeritageQuest to discover your family history

CR



Go for a scenic drive or walk



Write in a journal every day for a week



Pot an indoor plant or flower and tend to it

Take a text you sent or received and use it as the first line of a poem

Read a book from our Spotlight display in the lobby



Have a game night

Find an art class on Creativebug & create a masterpiece

CR

**CR** Library card required. Learn how to get one at [www.northbrook.info/get-a-card](http://www.northbrook.info/get-a-card). Find links to these eResources (Libby, Kanopy, Mango, etc.) at [www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge](http://www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge).

# ADULT 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.

## FEATURED EVENTS

### Appreciating Classical Music

Learn about a different classical music topic each month with librarian Madison Carroll. 🧑🗣️

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30pm

November 2: Reading Music

December 14: Tchaikovsky

### Refugee High: Coming of Age in America with Elly Fishman EDI

Author Elly Fishman explores life at Sullivan High School in Rogers Park, which has one of the highest populations of immigrant and refugee students in the nation. 🧑🗣️

Thursday, November 4, 7:00-8:00pm  
Auditorium

### American Indians in Illinois: Traditions & History EDI

Ojibwa author and speaker Kim Sigafus will discuss the cultural traditions of the tribes that lived in Illinois in the early 1800s before the Indian Removal Act forced them to move west. 🧑🗣️

Monday, November 8, 7:00-8:00pm

### The Poetry of Isaiah EDI

Writer, teacher, and translator Aviya Kushner will speak about her book, *Wolf Lamb Bomb*, which traces the journey of reading Isaiah in two languages, through two continents, and several bombings, inspiring readers to re-engage with the Jewish tradition of poetry and prophecy. 🧑🗣️

Tuesday, November 9, 7:00-8:00pm

### 33 1/3: John Prine's *John Prine*

Author Erin Osmon discusses her book that celebrates the landmark debut album from John Prine, a performer who ascended from singing mailman to celebrated son of Chicago. 🧑🗣️

Wednesday, November 10, 7:00-8:00pm

### Salty 'n Sweet Healthy Chanukah Eats

Chef Estee Raviv will teach us how to make plant-based latkes and cookies. Originally from Israel, Chef Estee is a regular guest on Portland's most popular morning show. 🧑🗣️

Monday, November 15, 7:00-8:00pm

### Professor Moptop Presents Beatles in a Year, Part 2: John Lennon

Join Beatles expert and author Professor Moptop for videos, songs, and stories featuring John Lennon, a rock-and-roll rebel and disruptive cultural force. 🧑🗣️

Tuesday, December 7, 7:00-8:30pm

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

### Preparing for Inflation

Certified Financial Planner Jeff Doblin will explain inflation and how different asset classes typically perform during inflationary periods. 🧑🗣️

Monday November 22, 7:00-8:00pm

### Private Session With a Financial Planner

A 50-minute private session with Dickholtz Wealth Management. 🧑🗣️  
Thursdays, November 11 & December 9  
9:30am & 10:30am (Virtual)  
11:30am & 12:30pm (In-Person)

## Check out our new Memory Lane Kits

Take a walk down memory lane with our new Memory Lane Kits, featuring the 1950s & 1960s; Movies, TV & Broadway, animals, and more. Each kit contains a nonfiction book, music CD, a game, and interactive activities. You can also use them to help a loved one reminisce, prompt fond memories, and connect over relaxing activities. Kits are available in the Reference Department for you to check out and take home.



## Tech for Everyone

### Create a Holiday Newsletter

Practice creating a holiday newsletter. Arrange photos, text, and other design elements. Work with a template or start from scratch. 🧑🗣️

Tuesday, November 23, 7:00-8:00pm  
Interactive Classroom

### Excel Formatting

Learn to format data and cells to make clear, clean, useful spreadsheets and tools for displaying data. 🧑🗣️


Tuesday, November 30, 7:00-8:00pm  
Interactive Classroom

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# Fine Arts Fall

## Classical Concerts


### Voice & Piano: Andrew Schultze & Svetlana Belsky

Bass-baritone Andrew Schultze and Svetlana Belsky perform an afternoon of music for voice and piano.   
Sunday, November 7, 3:00-4:30pm, Auditorium

### Violin & Piano: Duo Forzando


Performance featuring violinist Henry Zheng and pianist Michael Finlay.   
Sunday, November 21, 3:00-4:30pm, Auditorium

### Piano: EStrella Duo


An exciting performance of piano music from Elena Dubovitskaya and Svetlana Belsky.   
Sunday, December 5, 3:00-4:30pm, Auditorium

## Jazz Concerts

### Petra Van Nuis & Dennis Luxion

Enjoy the extraordinary jazz vocal stylings of Petra Van Nuis and pianist Dennis Luxion.   
Thursday, November 11, 7:00-8:00pm, Auditorium

### Holiday Jazz Concert: John Erickson Trio


A special Christmas concert from the John Erickson Trio, who have been delighting audiences for over ten years. 

Thursday, December 16  
7:00-8:00pm, Auditorium





## BOOK GROUPS & DISCUSSIONS

### Bestsellers and Beyond



Join Librarian Lori Siegel for reviews of books you might add to your reading list or share with your book group.   
Thursday, November 4, 2:00-3:00pm

### Ben Goluboff Book Discussion

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am  
November 10: *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates   
December 8: *Cakes and Ale* by Somerset Maugham 






### Great Books with Robert Waterbury

Mondays, 10:00-11:30am, Civic Room  
November 15: *Of Friendship* and *Of Solitude* by Michel de Montaigne   
December 20: *Pensées* by Blaise Pascal 




### Nancy Buehler Book Discussion

Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30am  
November 16: *Infinite Country* by Patricia Engel    
December 14: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell 




### Books Untapped

Join us for a discussion of under-the-radar titles. This month, we'll discuss *Interior Chinatown* by Charles Yu.   
Wednesday, November 17  
7:00-8:00pm




### Evening Book Discussion

with Lori Siegel  
Join librarian Lori Siegel to discuss *The Talented Miss Farwell* by Emily Gray Tedrowe.   
Tuesday, December 7  
7:00-8:00pm

## ONGOING ADULT PROGRAMS


Registration is now open for November and December virtual programs. *Make sure to register to get the new program link.*

### Current Events

Thursdays, November 4 & 18;  
December 2 & 16, 10:00-11:30am 




### Chair Yoga

Get a link to a new class to watch on-demand each Friday.\*   
\* No recordings on December 24 & 31



### Israeli Discussion Group

Thursdays,\* November 11,  
December 9 & 23, 10:00-11:30am   
\* No group on November 25





# Holiday Gift Guide



We hope you enjoy this handy list of titles suggested by our staff. Since we received a few more suggestions that we were able to fit here, we've included the entire list at [www.northbrook.info/gift-guide](http://www.northbrook.info/gift-guide). Please consider purchasing books from Book Bin, a Northbrook institution that has served the community for 50 years!

## Fiction Books



### **Harlem Shuffle** by Colson Whitehead

A crime caper from the two-time Pulitzer Prize winner about a slightly crooked furniture store owner who gets in over his head when his cousin involves him in a hotel robbery.



### **The Lincoln Highway** by Amor Towles

In this 1950s road novel, a teenager released from a work farm and his younger brother hop a train in pursuit of two fellow inmates who stole his Studebaker.



### **The Guncle** by Steven Rowley

A heartwarming and humorous novel about a once-famous gay sitcom star taking care of his niece and nephew for the summer after an unexpected family tragedy.



### **Clark and Division** by Naomi Hirahara

A unique part of Chicago history is brought to life in this mystery about a Japanese American family who arrives in the city from an internment camp and learns that their eldest daughter has died under mysterious circumstances.



### **The Thursday Murder Club** by Richard Osman

A delightful cozy mystery featuring four friends in a retirement village who meet weekly to discuss unsolved crimes and suddenly find themselves investigating their first active case.



### **Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir

Another stellar adventure story from the author of *The Martian*, in which a man wakes up alone on a spaceship with no memory and realizes he was sent to another solar system in a desperate attempt to save Earth.

## Nonfiction Books



### **Calm: Interiors to Nurture, Relax and Restore** by Sally Denning

This interior design guide will help you create a home that instills a sense of calm to cocoon and protect you from the outside world.



### **Living Landmarks of Chicago** by Theresa Goodrich

A tour of 50 Chicago landmarks, describing not only the architecture but the stories and people behind them, weaving an interconnected tale of the city from 1836 to 1932 and beyond.



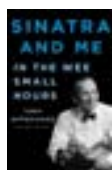
### **The Chef's Garden** by Farmer Lee Jones

An illustrated guide with over 500 entries on how to select, prepare and cook all kinds of vegetables, from herbs to edible flowers and common and uncommon produce.



### **The Complete Cook's Country TV Show Cookbook** by America's Test Kitchen

Cooking tips, food trivia, and recipes from all 14 seasons of the television program, as well as a shopper's guide featuring the chefs' top-rated ingredients and equipment.



### **Sinatra and Me** by Tony Oppedisano

Frank Sinatra's closest confidant presents an intimate and revealing portrait of the singer, featuring never-before-seen photos, fresh anecdotes, and new revelations.



### **Somebody's Daughter** by Ashley Ford

A powerful memoir from the popular podcaster, recalling a childhood defined by the absence of her incarcerated father until her world turned upside down when she learned of his crime.

## Picture Books



***I'll Meet You in Your Dreams* by Jessica Young; Illustrated by Rafael Lopez**  
A poetic story celebrating the parent-and-child bond in its many forms. (Grades PreK-2)



***Eyes that Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho; Illustrated by Dung Ho**  
A beautiful story about learning to love and celebrate diversity. (Grades PreK-1)



***What the Road Said* by Cleo Wade; Illustrated by Lucie de Moyencourt**  
Comforting verses about the questions we ask ourselves while on life's journey. (Grades 1-2)



***The Midnight Fair* by Gideon Sterer; Illustrated by Mariachiara Di Giorgio**  
As darkness falls, the animals venture out of the woods for one magical night. (Grades PreK-1)

## Early Chapter Books



***Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-be Best Friend* by Dawn Quigley; Illustrated by Tara Audibert**  
The first in an all-new chapter book series featuring a spunky young Ojibwe girl who worries that her best friend at school may not want to be friends anymore. (Grades 2-3)



***King & Kayla and the Case of the Gold Ring* by Dori Hillestad Butler**  
Kayla made treats for Jillian's new puppy, but now the treats are missing. How will they solve the mystery? (Grades 2-3)

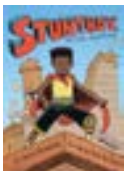


***FriendBots: Blink and Block Make a Wish* by Vicky Fang**  
Blink is silly and Block is logical, but they quickly discover they're best when they're together. (Grades PreK-3)



***El Toro & Friends: Tag Team* by Raúl The Third**  
Luchadores El Toro and La Oink Oink are the perfect tag team in this playful and visually stunning early reader! (Grades 1-2)

## Middle Grade



***Stuntboy, in the Meantime* by Jason Reynolds; Illustrated by Raúl The Third**  
A hilarious, action-packed middle grade novel about the greatest young superhero you've never heard of. (Grades 4-7)



***The Chance to Fly* by Ali Stroker and Stacy Davidowitz**  
A heartfelt novel about a theater-loving girl who uses a wheelchair for mobility and her quest to defy expectations—and gravity. (Grades 4-7)



***Allergic* by Megan Wagner Lloyd; Illustrated by Michelle Mee Nutter**  
This coming-of-age graphic novel features a girl with severe allergies who just wants to find the perfect pet. (Grades 4-6)



***Daughter of the Deep* by Rick Riordan**  
An exciting modern take on *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, filled with humor, fast-paced action, and a wide cast of characters. (Grades 4-8)

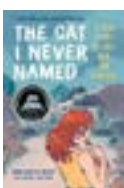
## Teens



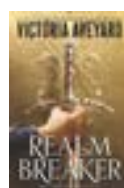
***The Girl from the Sea* by Molly Knox Ostertag**  
Fifteen-year-old Morgan longs to escape her island home for the big city, until one night she is saved from drowning by a mysterious girl and they start to fall in love. (Grades 7 & up)



***Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas**  
In this poignant coming-of-age story by the author of *The Hate U Give*, a gang leader's son finds his effort to change his ways challenged by a loved one's murder. (Grades 9 & up)



***The Cat I Never Named* by Amra Sabic-El-Rayess**  
A memoir of a Muslim teen struggling to survive in the midst of the Bosnian genocide, and her bond with a stray cat who protected her family through it all. (Grades 8 & up)



***Realm Breaker* by Victoria Aveyard**  
This new fantasy series begins where hope is lost and asks: when the heroes have fallen, who will take up the sword? (Grades 9 & up)



# MOVIES

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS. Register at [www.northbrook.info/events](http://www.northbrook.info/events). If you have a question about registering for a program, please call 847-272-6224 or email [feedback@northbrook.info](mailto:feedback@northbrook.info).

## November Crime Comedies

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



**November 3**  
**The Thin Man**  
1934 (93 minutes)  
Presented in Digital



**November 10**  
**Raising Arizona**  
1987 (94 minutes)  
Rated PG-13  
Presented in Digital



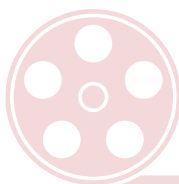
**November 17**  
**Knives Out**  
2019 (131minutes)  
PG-13  
Presented in Digital

## Northbrook International Children's Film Festival

(Ages 5-10 with a parent or caregiver)

This year's virtual film festival will showcase twelve captivating short films for children from twelve different countries, including three Chicago premieres! Turn to page 11 for details. 🎧

November 6 – November 8



## Holiday Movie



**You've Got Mail**  
1988 (199 minutes) PG

A book superstore magnate and an independent book shop owner fall in love in the anonymity of the Internet—both blissfully unaware that he's trying to put her out of business. Starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. 🧑

Wednesday, December 15  
2:00pm & 7:00pm, Auditorium

## Film Discussions



Watch at home and then join us for a discussion on Zoom. In *The Hunt*, a man (Mads Mikkelsen) is about to have his life shattered after being accused of an unforgivable act. 🎧

Tuesday, December 21, 7:00-8:00pm

2012 | Rated R

In Danish/English/Polish with English subtitles  
Available on [kanopy](#) & [hoopla](#) and also in our DVD collection.

### CinemaSpeak

Watch at home and then join us for a discussion of *20th Century Women* on Zoom. 🎧

Thursday, December 9, 7:00-8:00pm

2016 | Rated R

Available on [kanopy](#) & [hoopla](#) and also in our DVD collection.





# Celebrating Award-Winning Library Staff

We are proud to congratulate not one, but two of our staff members who recently received recognition from the Illinois Library Association.

Executive Director Kate Hall was named the Illinois Library Association Librarian of the Year for her work in fostering strong libraries in Illinois and the country, and Marketing and Communications Manager Linda Vering received the Deborah Dowley Preiser Marketing Award for her work during the pandemic to keep the community updated and informed.

Having dedicated two decades to institutions of lifelong learning, Kate is passionate about making sure that not only are community members offered learning opportunities, but that members of the library community in Illinois and around the country have opportunities to learn and grow. Kate is the co-author of *The Library Director's Toolkit* and the co-chair of Directors University, a statewide training program for new public library directors.

Heidi Smith, Director of the Highland Park Public Library said, "As a new library director, I personally benefited from Kate's expertise and support as a participant of Director's University as well as her engagement with a collective of local library administrators."

A dedicated lifelong learner herself, Kate says "Receiving this award is an honor and shows me that focusing on my own learning and encouraging others to do the same was the right path. I still have so much more to learn and look forward to continuing to grow and help others grow."

Learning became even more challenging in March 2020. The library's pandemic response required thoughtful and frequent communication at a time when we did not have a lot of information. Drawing from 20+ years of experience as a communications professional, Linda partnered with staff and community groups to ensure we were communicating the library's message in a clear and consistent way.

As former Library Board President Carlos Frum said, "During the upheaval brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, Ms. Vering handled the communications while continuing to provide marketing and promotional support for our virtual programming and informing our patrons of the constant changes."

"We are lucky to have such a talented individual on our staff, dedicated to keeping the community informed," said Assistant Director Kelly Durov.

While these awards were presented to Linda and Kate, they both recognize that their success is because of the incredible support they receive from colleagues, board members, and the community.

"This award highlights my work, but I have not worked alone. The library community is focused on helping each other succeed and so many people contributed to moving ideas forward, including the dedicated members of the Library Board and our talented staff. I may have received this award, but it is only because of the people that I have had the privilege of working with who have contributed so much to the library community," said Kate.

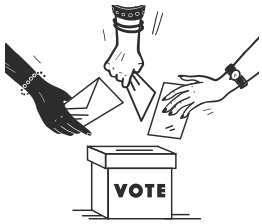
Linda feels the same. "We would not have been able to meet the communication needs during this pandemic without our talented marketing team."

The success of the library is also evidenced by its strong partnerships with the Village, Park District, School Districts, and Township, all of which play a crucial role in a successful community. Working together makes us all #NorthbrookStrong.

# YOUTH SERVICES

**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.

## TEEN PROGRAMS



### Book Ballots (Grades 6–12)

Make your voice heard and help other teens discover great books! Vote for your favorite book for a chance to win a \$50 Book Bin gift card. All voting will be online. To cast your ballot, visit [www.northbrook.info/book-ballot](http://www.northbrook.info/book-ballot).

Polls open November 1 – November 30

### Teen Advisory Board (Grades 6-12)

Join the Teen Advisory Board to help us plan library programs and complete service projects for service hours. If you want to help with the project but can't come to the meeting, please email our teen librarian at [teenlibrarian@northbrook.info](mailto:teenlibrarian@northbrook.info).

Tuesdays, November 9 & December 14  
5:00-6:00pm, Interactive Classroom

### Books & Bites Book Discussion (Grades 6-12)




Join us at the library to discuss *This Savage Song* by Victoria Schwab. The first 7 registered teens will receive a free copy of the book, and all attendees will receive a bag of snacks to enjoy at home. *This book is recommended for grades 9 and up.*

Friday, November 19, 5:00-6:00pm, Civic Room


## SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS

### Create Club: Lotus Lanterns (Grades 4-8)

Learn how to make a lotus flower light. Craft supply bags will be available for pickup for all registered attendees.   
Wednesday, December 1, 4:00-5:00pm

### Andertoons Drawing Workshops

#### (Grades K-6)

Join us for these fun and creative drawing workshops led by professional cartoonist Mark Anderson.   
Tuesdays, 4:00-5:00pm



#### November 16: Turkey Toons

Learn to draw your favorite foods in hilarious situations. Turkey-zilla! Stuffing & mashed potatoes... IN SPAAAACE!

#### December 14: Wacky Winter Sports

Learn to draw your favorite winter sports: snowman bobsled, reindeer ski jump, turtle slow-skating & more!



## Do-it-Yourself


# WINTER READING CHALLENGE

Visit [www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge](http://www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge) to download & print a bingo card with fun activities for teens (complete as many or as few as you like).

FOR TEENS


## TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

### Cool Reads: Reading & Activity Bag (Grades K-3)

Sign up to receive a bag with 2 cool books, activities, and more for you to enjoy. The books will be checked out on your library card and the bag will be available for you to pick up for 1 week. Return the books when you're done and keep the rest! 

Register by 10:00am on Thursday, November 11

### Read and Chill: Themed Bag (Grades 4-7)

Sign up and select a theme and we'll prepare a bag with 2 books, activities & more. The books will be checked out on your library card and the bag will be available for you to pick up at the library for 1 week. Return the books when you are done and keep the rest! 

Register by 10:00am on Tuesday, November 16



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(Ages 5-10 with a parent or caregiver)

This year's virtual film festival showcases twelve captivating short films from twelve different countries, including three Chicago premieres! Children are invited to watch the films at home with a parent or caregiver and then vote for their favorite. After the screening, attendees can join our virtual afterparty and have the chance to talk with some of the films' directors! 🎬

November 6 - November 8



#### Y-Art (Grades K & Up)

Start your Saturday with art! Brought to you by the NSYMCA Art Academy. Check our online calendar for supplies needed for each month's paper craft. Only one registration per family/screen is needed. 🎨

Saturdays, 10:00-11:00am

November 13: Peacock

December 11: Hot Chocolate

#### Cooks & Books: A Family Cooking Class

(Grades K & Up, with Caregiver)

Join us for an online literacy and cooking class that features a different book and themed snack each month. We'll send you an ingredient list when you register. 🍳

Saturdays, November 20 & December 18

11:00am-12:15pm

#### Hop Along Yogi Kids Yoga

This fun and interactive kids yoga workout is designed to build inner and outer strength. This class is geared toward families with kids ages 3-7, but all are welcome to join in the fun! 🧘

Fridays, November 19 & December 17

10:00-10:30am



#### Noon Year's Eve Kit: Celebrate at Home

Ring in the New Year at home this year with a Noon Year's Eve Kit that includes a festive craft, instructions for a game to play at home, and suggested book and music selections. Kits available while supplies last.

Register by December 19 for pickup in the Youth Services department between December 27-30.

### Miss Katie Sings

Miss Katie is a children's musician and content creator based in Chicago. Join her for an interactive music class of sing-alongs, fingerplays, and fun! If you have a scarf and shaker, your child can use them to play along. 🎵

Wednesday, November 3, 10:00-10:30am



### Rock 'n' Soul Family Concert

Old Town School of Folk Music instructors Bill Brickey and Nick Davio join forces to lift your spirits as they take you down a musical trip back in time starting with Sam Cooke all the way back to the future with Taylor Swift. You won't want to miss this fun family concert! 🎸

Register to watch on-demand from December 13 - 17





## Do-It-Yourself

# WINTER READING CHALLENGE

FOR  
KIDS

Try these fun activities for a low-key way to chill out this winter! There are no check-ins, no time limits, no prizes (other than the joy of relaxing and having fun). Complete as many of the challenges as you like. You can download and print more bingo cards at [www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge](http://www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge).

Find a Winter Reading Challenge bingo card for adults on page 3.

You can also complete any square by reading for an hour.



Complete a puzzle

List 3 things you are grateful for

Watch a movie based on a book



Fill out a 5 Fresh Reads request  
[northbrook.info/5-fresh-reads](http://northbrook.info/5-fresh-reads)

Read your parents' or siblings favorite book

Draw a new cover for a book



Watch the sunrise and/or sunset



Listen to an audiobook



Take a photo in nature

Read in your pajamas or in bed

Read a book by an author that doesn't look like you



Go outside and play outdoors

YOUR CHOICE



Check out an eBook

CR

Read the directions for a board game and then play!

Act out your favorite scene from a book you've read

Read a book by an author you've never read

List 3 things you love about winter



Write and sing your own song



Explore a museum virtually

Make a fort



Cook together as a family

Read to a favorite pet or toy

Read a poem and then write your own

Request a Book Bundle at  
[northbrook.info/book-bundles](http://northbrook.info/book-bundles)

CR

**CR** Library card required. Learn how to get one at [www.northbrook.info/get-a-card](http://www.northbrook.info/get-a-card). Find links to our eResources at [www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge](http://www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge).

# YOUTH SERVICES

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS. Register at [www.northbrook.info/events](http://www.northbrook.info/events)  
If you have a question about registering for a program, please call 847-272-6224 or email [feedback@northbrook.info](mailto:feedback@northbrook.info).

## TAKE HOME CRAFTS

Each month we provide a different "take & make" craft for you to enjoy making with your little one at home.

Visit Curbside Pickup to grab a bag that contains everything you need for the month's craft, including instructions and a fun reading list!



## STORYTIMES & EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Virtual Storytime (All Ages)

Weekly stories and songs for all ages. Register Monday through Wednesday for a link to watch that week's prerecorded storytime. ▶

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

November 9 – December 16

### Korean Language Storytime (All Ages) EDI

Enjoy virtual stories and activities in Korean presented by local volunteers. For Korean-speaking families and those interested in the language. ▶

Fridays, November 12 & December 10

4:30-5:00pm

Do-it-Yourself

## WINTER READING CHALLENGE

Visit [www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge](http://www.northbrook.info/winter-challenge) to download & print a bingo card with fun literacy activities to enjoy with your baby.

FOR BABIES

## Five Early Literacy Tips to Try at Home

Early literacy is what happens before a child actually learns to read. Here are some great ways to help nurture your child's early literacy.

- 1 Talk about the things you see.** When you walk from place to place with your child and talk about things you see, your child learns new words.
- 2 Sing to your baby daily (even if you don't sing well!)** Your baby thinks your voice is the most beautiful sound in the world; singing helps them learn sounds from you.
- 3 Play with your child.** A simple game like Peek-a-boo is great for amusing your little one and for helping babies learn about the world around them.
- 4 Read or recite a rhyme to your baby.** Your baby learns words from the rich language and sounds, including rhythm.
- 5 Ask your baby lots of questions and respond to the answers.** The more words you use, the more words your child will know.



# Hollie Smurthwaite Explores Dark Themes in Her New Paranormal Thriller, “The Color of Trauma”



Hollie Smurthwaite is on her way to authoring a thrilling series. Her first published book, *The Color of Trauma*, a paranormal romantic suspense novel, is available as an eBook, paperback, and hardcover.

She's currently at work on the next book in the series, *The Color of Betrayal*, in which the village of Northbrook will play a small role.

“Like *The Color of Trauma*, it's also set in Chicago, but it doesn't feature the same characters. I'm planning to mention Northbrook somewhere in the book,” she says.

Hollie credits Northbrook Public Library librarian Mike Hominick for helping her submit her manuscript to the “Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author Manuscript Contest” back in spring of 2019, which she subsequently won. The following year, she also won the “Soon to be Famous Illinois Book Contest,” a contest for published work.

“It's like going from the minor leagues to the major leagues,” she said. “Receiving this endorsement from a group of librarians means so much. I hope this will help my book get into libraries because let's face it—libraries are awesome! And not everyone can afford to buy a book or several books. I just want people to read it.”

## About Her Book

*The Color of Trauma* tells the story of Kiera, a woman who possesses the ability to access and remove another person's memories. The suspense grows when Kiera is recruited by a Chicago homicide detective to help him find a serial killer. Hollie's research for the novel involved working with a Chicago PD homicide detective for accuracy.

“The larger story is about trauma and how it can shape a life but doesn't necessarily define a life,” she said. “There are dark themes and it's nice to purge that. I feel that really dark things need to be looked at.”



Look for *The Color of Trauma* in our collection or visit [holliesmurthwaite.com](http://holliesmurthwaite.com), where you'll also find links to reading recommendations and resources for aspiring writers.

To learn more about Northbrook Writes or the “Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author Projects,” visit [www.northbrook.info/northbrook-writes](http://www.northbrook.info/northbrook-writes).

If you enjoy local talent, our November lobby display features Illinois creators.

If you're a Northbrook author, musician, or filmmaker, learn how you can donate an item to be considered for our Local Collection at [www.northbrook.info/local-collection](http://www.northbrook.info/local-collection).

## About Writing

Hollie writes every day. Since 2013 she's participated in the annual National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) contests, hitting the 50,000-word goal each time. In fact, *The Color of Trauma* began in 2017 as a Camp Nano project.

“If I'm in a groove I could write a thousand words in an hour, but the flip side of writing so much is that a lot of it isn't useful,” she said. “Some writers plan it versus winging it. I'm more of a winging-it kind of writer.”

## Northbrook Writes

Hollie is a big fan of the library's Northbrook Writes series, which explore various facets of writing and storytelling and is led by published writers who are also skilled instructors.

“I love Northbrook Writes. They get the best speakers and wonderful teachers.”

During the pandemic she attended virtual Northbrook Writes sessions with instructors Jac Jemc and Cyn Vargas.

Hollie maintains a habit of writing every day, with the help of online resources such as *4 the Words*, which gamifies your daily word count.

“You have to write 444 words to consider it a writing day and it's very motivating for me.”

*“I love Northbrook Writes. They get the best speakers and wonderful teachers.”*

## Praise for “The Color of Trauma”

Librarian Kate Hall said she found *The Color of Trauma* hard to put down. “Hollie's debut novel is a must-read for anyone who loves a good thriller, gets caught up in a compelling love story, or loves magical realism. It has something for a variety of reads including characters you want to meet in real life and a premise that will keep you reading way too late.”

## Some of Hollie's Favorite Writers

Kelley Armstrong: “Writes some of the best female protagonists in any genre.”

K.F. Breene: “Hilarious and writes smart, funny paranormal books.”

Colson Whitehead: “Writes such beautiful sentences.”

## What She's Currently Reading

*Storm of Locusts* by Rebecca Roanhorse

Anxiously awaiting *Girl One* by Sara Flannery Murphy!



# FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

## From the Board President

Book discussions. Current events. Chair yoga. Israeli discussion group. Fine Arts Fall. Summer Reading program. These are some of the programs that the Friends of the Northbrook Public Library helps to support. We even help maintain the Youth Services aquarium! These programs and services are just a few examples of what makes our library such a special place.

One way we generate funds for the library is by selling used books in the Friends' Bookshop next to the library's west entrance. Thanks to your generous donations of books, we also hold special sales a few times a year, like our upcoming Black Friday sale on November 26 & 27.

If you love to read, the Bookshop should be your first stop to find that special book. It's the best bargain in town! But we couldn't open our shop without our wonderful volunteers. They sort through the books we receive, keep our shelves neatly stocked, find the title you're looking for, and even make recommendations. Won't you consider joining our volunteer staff a few times a month? (You get first dibs on the books that come in!)

The Bookshop also serves a "greener" purpose. By accepting your gently used books and selling them in our shop, we ensure that those books continue to please readers for a long time to come. They are discarded only when they no longer meet our quality standards. Our donation bin is located inside the library's west entrance, or you can bring your books into the shop. Recycling at its best!

We invite you to show your appreciation for our library by becoming a member of the Friends. Simply pick up a brochure outside the bookshop and send it back with your check. Or, clip out and mail in the form at the bottom of this page.

If you would like to learn more about how to participate in Friends of the Library, email [friends@northbrook.info](mailto:friends@northbrook.info) or visit [www.northbrook.info/friends](http://www.northbrook.info/friends).

Visit us in the bookshop. We'd love to see you!

Sincerely,

Merrill Medansky

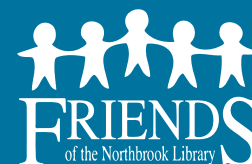
## New & Returning Members *as of September 12, 2021*

**GUARANTOR (\$250)** Gail Meyers, Scott & Mary Reynolds

**SPONSOR (\$100)** Dan Green & Julie Achler-Hokin, Merrill Medansky, Zeev & Shira Walny

**DONOR (\$50)** Claire Bonnema, Pat Marshall, Gail Meyers

**CONTRIBUTOR (\$25)** Rogeh and Bashai Alnajjar, Marianne Handler, Janice Lukas, Gail Meyers



### Bookshop Hours

Mon-Sat: 10am-4pm,  
Sun: 2-4pm

### Friends Board Members

Julie Achler-Hokin, Randee Blair  
Claire Bonnema, Evelyn Delmar  
Ktrina Elliott, Connie Galliard  
Sandra Kaminsky, Kathy Kather  
Colleen Keaveny, Merrill Medansky,  
Margot Molay, Mary Reynolds,  
Debby Rohde, John Schuman, Tony  
Senegore, Bryan Smith,  
Meha Smith, Beth Wolf

### Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 9, 10am  
Civic Room

### Black Friday Sidewalk Sale

November 26 & 27, 10am-4pm

[www.northbrook.info/friends](http://www.northbrook.info/friends)

## BE A FRIEND

OF THE NORTHBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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GUARANTOR \$250

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Please make your check out to:  
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to find all of our programs.

# THANK YOU

## Library Foundation Donations

Xiaoqin Huang

## Book a Brick

- In memory of Lois Shuey who devoted 50 years to St. Norbert's as a musician, play director, and teacher from St. Norbert Women's Club Guild #7
- In memory of John Hurley a good friend from Mike & Rita Eischen
- With love to Edith & Jack Phillips from Jim & Wendy Phillips
- With love to Harriet & Sandy Lewinthal from Jim & Wendy Phillips

# ART EXHIBIT

In partnership with the Northbrook Arts Commission, we are proud to display the works of the commissioners in November and December.



## Book a Brick: *a unique and memorable gift*

Celebrate a special person, occasion, or organization with the gift of an engraved brick at the library. Each special 12x12 brick can be personalized with up to three lines of engraved text. The bricks will be installed near the library's entrance this spring, and we will announce your gift in an upcoming library newsletter.

To purchase a brick, visit [www.northbrook.info/bookabrick](http://www.northbrook.info/bookabrick) or call 847-272-6224.

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