

April
2026

FOOTNOTES

Newsletter of the Dunlap Public Library District
Connecting people to a lifetime of learning and discovering.

Illinois Libraries Present

Cristina Henríquez: Voice, Culture, and Human Connection **Thursday, April 16, 7:00p**

Join critically acclaimed, bestselling author, Cristina Henríquez, for a compelling conversation about her work. Henríquez's newest book, *The Great Divide*, is a moving exploration of the people who lived, loved, and labored during the construction of the Panama Canal. Named a *New York Times*' Editors' Choice selection and *TIME* Magazine "100 Must-Read Books of 2024," *The Great Divide* explores history and adversity in a place very special to her – her father's homeland of Panama.

Henríquez has also authored *The Book of Unknown Americans*, *The World in Half*, and *Come Together, Fall Apart*, all to significant acclaim. Her fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, and *The Best American Short Stories 2018*, and she is a recipient of the 21st Century Award given by The Chicago Public Library Foundation. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and the Iowa Writer's Workshop, and lives in the Chicago suburbs with her family.

Carmen Álvarez will join Henríquez as moderator. Álvarez is an advocate for libraries and Latinx representation in the publishing industry. Her work has appeared in *Glamour*, *Elle*, and *Vogue* and she has a social media presence surpassing 180k followers across platforms.



This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and Closed Captioning are provided for all events by default—no special request needed. If a patron needs accommodations not listed, the member library should email illinoislibrariespresent@ila.org.



Use the link or QR code to register:
<https://bit.ly/ILPCristinaHenriquez>

Please indicate on the registration form that you learned about the presentation from the Dunlap Public Library District...thank you!

This presentation is generously sponsored by
The Friends of the Dunlap Public Library.

YOUTH SERVICES

Z = Zoom L = Live in-person

Email ostreeter@dunlaplibrary.org for Zoom meeting invites to youth programs or with any questions.

Requests for registration links will be accepted until 60 minutes before program begins.

*Advanced reservation required at circulation desk or call 309.243.5716.

KIDS

Book Babies

Mondays, 9:30a

This is a short storytime designed for parents and caregivers with babies 0-23 months old. Join us for some gentle baby bounces, songs, and rhymes. **L**

Storytime with Ms. Olivia!

Wednesdays, 10:00a

Join us at the library each week for a new storytime theme with books, songs, rhymes, playtime, and a craft. **L**

LEGO Club

Wednesdays, 2:30-4:00p

Join us in the Children's Area where we will put out our collection of Legos! Free build or take our building challenge. **L**

Afterschool Drop-In

Wednesdays, 3:00-5:00p

For kids, tweens, and teens!

Stop in each week after school for a different activity - snacks, crafts, board games, or movies!

1ST - Random Craft Day: See what you can make from the materials laid out. 8th - LEGO Challenge Day!: LEGO Club and afterschool merge. Each month brings a new challenge to build. 15th - STEM Day! There will be science projects and demonstrations. 22nd - Egg Drop Day: 29th - Book Craft Day: Work on different book-related projects. **L**

Music Sprouts with Ms. Lydia

Thursday, April 2 & 16, 10:00a

Join Lydia Nosbisch, music therapist and early childhood music instructor, for this 30-minute music class for babies and toddlers with their accompanying adults. Each class provides opportunities for movement, learning, and music exploration. **L**

Egg & Basket Decorating

Thursday, April 2, 4:30-6:00p

Dye eggs and decorate a spring basket! **L**

Sign & Sing with Communication Junction

Tuesday, April 7 & 21, 11:30a

Join Communication Junction for an in-person storytime at the library that is designed to engage your child and encourage their love of books. Each Sign & Sing is created around a theme and filled with stories, songs, movements, and new signs. **L**

Ag in the Classroom: Hay

Thursday, April 9, 10:00a

Students will learn about hay and the different types of grasses used to produce it, which are essential for feeding livestock during Illinois' cold winter months. Hay is made from dried grasses and legumes, such as alfalfa, timothy, and clover. These plants are harvested, dried, and stored to provide a nutritious food source for animals like cows, horses, and sheep when fresh pasture is not available. Students will be introduced to simple vocabulary such as "hay," "legumes," and "forage." They will discover interesting facts, like how alfalfa is rich in protein and how timothy grass is easy to digest for animals. Students will understand the importance of hay in livestock farming and how it supports the well-being of animals during the winter. Students will learn the history of haymaker's punch and/or students will grow their very own grass by completing the Soil Sam activity. Presented by the Peoria County Farm Bureau. **L**

Little Movers

Tuesday, April 14 & 28, 11:30a

A new program geared towards 1-3 year olds learning motor skills and early literacy. Stations will include fun activities like play dough shaping, tower building, practice cutting with safety scissors, fun with music, and language recognition to help 1-3 year-olds develop hand strength and fine motor coordination. **L**



KAB, Kids Advisory Board

Thursday, April 16, 6:00p

Do you love to check out books to read at the Library? Or maybe you love to come here to play video games or make art projects with friends? If you're a kid between the ages of 9 and 12, we want you to join our club and share your ideas about how to make our Library even better. **L**

TWEENS & TEENS

TAB, Teen Advisory Board

Thursday, April 16, 7:00p

Do you want a say in the materials and programs offered by the Library? Join the Teen Advisory Board! Middle and high schoolers welcome. TAB meetings and activities count toward student volunteer hours. **L**

Let's Taco 'Bout It

Thursday, April 16, 7:30p

Join us at our YA book club as we talk about whatever we're reading. For tweens & teens. **L**

ADULT SERVICES

Z = Zoom L = Live in-person

Email mweyeneth@dunlaplibrary.org for Zoom meeting invites to adult programs or with any questions.

Requests for registration links will be accepted until 60 minutes before program begins.

*Advanced reservation required at circulation desk or call 309.243.5716.

Mental @erobics

Mondays, 12Noon

Time to stretch YOUR grey matter! Play a variety of brain games to stimulate your mind and have fun! L

Mah Jongg Monday!

Mondays, 1:00-3:00p

Let's play this ancient Chinese tile-based game! All skill levels welcome, including those who just wonder what Mah Jongg is and want to learn about it. We are playing the 2025 National Mah Jongg League card. If you have a Mah Jongg set, please bring it along! L



Chair Yoga

Mondays, 3:30p and Wednesdays, 8:30a

Interested in trying yoga, but don't think you can do it? You may join us at the library OR from the comfort of your home using Zoom. In-person: chairs provided, no mat needed, no registration. Joining our class from home: grab an armless chair and your computer or smart phone. If you have a strap/belt, block/books, and a ball/round object, we may use them during our practice. Instructor led. LZ

Yoga

Tuesdays, 4:30p and Thursdays, 8:30a

No yoga on April 16. Enjoy the diversity of yoga. Join our yogi masters for a live yoga practice! You may join us in the library OR from the comfort of your home using Zoom. LZ



CACTUS

Friday, April 3, 9:30-11:30a

It's an artsy day! Meet in person and bring your unfinished projects to work on, meet others, and share ideas! Our challenge this month is RECYCLED ITEM! CACTUS is an acronym for Creative Artists and Crafters Tackle Unfinished Stuff. L

Roth Contributions...They Could Be One of Your Smartest Retirement Moves

Wednesday, April 22, 11:30a

Join us for this virtual presentation to learn how to save with different types of retirement accounts to help you get the most out of your money.

Presented by Fran McKay of Edward Jones. Z



Rigid Heddle Weaving Rabble

Thursday, April 23, 11:00a-12:30p

Get out your loom, wind a warp, work on a project. If you don't know what all of this means, join us and we'll show you how we creatively use up our yarn stash. L

*Cricut 101: Tea Towel

Tuesday, April 28, 6:00-8:00p

Learn the basics of the Cricut machine as we create a vinyl to attach to a provided tea towel. Class led by Kristy Armatys, who will demonstrate how to use the Cricut machine as well as cut the vinyl. Class aimed at people who have never used a Cricut before as well as novice users. Program size is limited so spots will go quickly. Free.

Ages 18+. *Registration opens in April. L

BOOK CLUBS

Z = Zoom L = Live in-person

M = Email mweyeneth@dunlaplibrary.org for the Zoom invite or with any questions.

K = Email kkerckhove@dunlaplibrary.org for the Zoom invite or with any questions.

O = Email ostreeter@dunlaplibrary.org with any questions.

Requests for registration links will be accepted until 60 minutes before program begins

Cozy Little Book Club

Wednesday, April 1, 11:00a

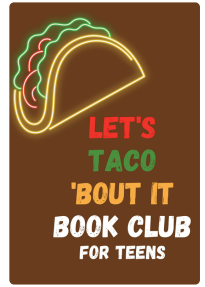
Do you like a light and entertaining read? We do too! This month's cozy book is ***The Author's Guide to Murder*** by Beatriz Williams. On May 6 we will discuss ***Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*** by Jesse Q. Sutanto. [M](#) [Z](#)



Let's Taco 'Bout It

Thursday, April 16, 7:30p

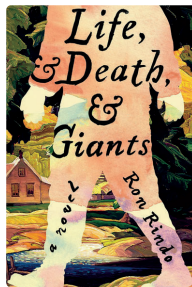
Join us at our YA book club as we talk about whatever we're reading. For tweens & teens. [O](#) [L](#)



Page Turners Book Club

Thursday, April 2, 1:00p

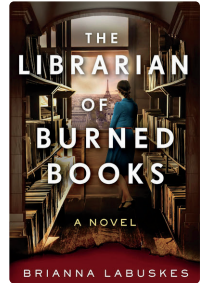
Join Dunlap Library's longest running book club and the only one that meets in-person in the Library! This month we'll discuss ***Life, and Death, and Giants*** by Ronald Rindo. Our title for May 7 will be ***Sipsworth*** by Simon Van Booy. [K](#) [L](#)



"Who Picked This?" Book Club

Tuesday, April 21, 10:00a

This month we will be discussing ***The Librarian of Burned Books*** by Brianna Labuskes. Our book for May 19 will be ***The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride*** by Joe Siple. [M](#) [Z](#)



Inside Out Book Chat

Wednesday, April 8, 10:00a

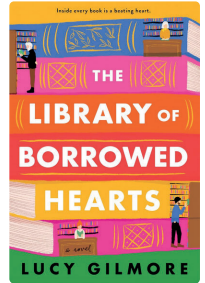
What have you been reading? There are so many books out there! It's time to share. You'll have a chance to talk about your recent read...good, bad, or mediocre. [M](#) [Z](#)



Afternoon Delight Book Club

Wednesday, April 22, 1:00p

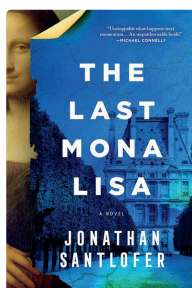
Romance is the theme for this virtual book club. Our title this month will be ***The Library of Borrowed Hearts*** by Lucy Gilmore. Our title for May 20 we will be ***The Neighbor Favor*** by Kristina Forest. [M](#) [Z](#)



Artful Reads with Creative Soul

Wednesday, April 8, 5:00p

Creative Soul and the Library are joining together to discuss "arty" reads. This month we will be talking about ***The Last Mona Lisa*** by Jonathan Santlofer. Our title for May 13 will be ***The Examiner*** by Janice Hallett. [M](#) [Z](#)



Stranger Than Fiction

Thursday, April 23, 10:00a

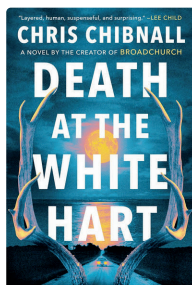
Let's get down to the facts. Our next nonfiction title will be ***The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet*** by Jeff Goodell. Our book for May 28 will be ***When Everyone Knows That Everyone Knows...Common Knowledge*** and ***the Mysteries of Money, Power, and Everyday Life*** Steven Pinker. [M](#) [Z](#)



An Hour to Kill Book Club

Monday, April 13, 6:30p

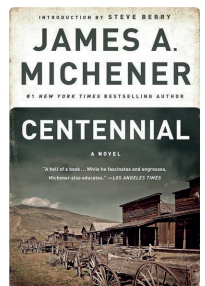
Mystery, suspense, thriller - fiction or nonfiction! No cozy titles here! Join us to discuss ***Death at the White Hart*** by Chris Chibnall. On May 11 our title will be ***Night Watching*** by Tracy Sierra. [K](#) [Z](#)



I Like Big Books & I Cannot Lie Book Club

Friday, May 1, 12Noon

Join us to discuss books with 500+ pages in this triannual virtual book club. We will be discussing ***Centennial*** by James A Michener. [M](#) [Z](#)



A Note from the Friends of the Dunlap Public Library



Come Help Choose Gifts for the Library!

Our non-profit organization gifts the library with items and funds for programming that aren't covered by taxpayer dollars. Two times a year at our general meeting the Friends select items from the library's wish list to gift the library. Our next meeting is April 9 at 6:00 pm. Come meet fellow library lovers, enjoy some refreshments, and help choose gifts for OUR library!

All Friends members are eligible to vote. Memberships are just \$15.
Join Friends here: <https://www.dunlaplibrary.org/join-us/>

Our meeting will be at the library in the meeting room. A virtual option is available; contact us at friends@dunlaplibrary.org at least 24 hours in advance to register.

Offsite Adventures

One of the programs that the Friends have been delighted to sponsor is "Offsite Adventures" where members of our library community tour facilities in our area or take part in classes. Several Dunlap Public Library District community members participated in an Offsite Adventure at Pumpkin Glass in Peoria. We worked with fused glass to make hearts and had a wonderful time expressing our artistic talent! The Friends were delighted to subsidize the event.



Library Advocacy

Good news! The American Library Association recently announced that Congress passed a series of spending bills that included an increase in federal funds for libraries in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

You may recall that less than a year ago an executive order threatened to dismantle the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the only source of federal funding dedicated to libraries, and the White House proposed eliminating funding for libraries in FY 2026. Library lovers across the nation, including you, sent emails and made phone calls urging our Congressmembers to support libraries. They listened!

But we need to continue to support our Library. Learn more here:
<https://www.dunlaplibrary.org/advocate-for-our-library/>

Questions? Contact friends@dunlaplibrary.org

- The Friends of the Dunlap Public Library

Please visit our space on the Library's website (www.dunlaplibrary.org) to learn more about joining the Friends of the Dunlap Public Library group, and how you can provide support to the Library through volunteering and fundraising.



Coming Soon

Don't Get Scammed

Thursday, May 7, 11:30a

Learn how to recognize and avoid common scams targeting seniors such as phishing, identity theft, and financial fraud in this in-person presentation. Provides practical tips on securing personal information, recognizing warning signs of fraud, and staying safe while banking online or in person. Presented by Better Banks. [L](#)

Partners in Reading

Beginning in May!

Are you a teen or tween looking for volunteer hours? Are you a parent looking for more opportunities for your child to practice reading? Beginning in May, the Library will be working to partner kids and teens together to meet once a week in the Library for one hour to practice reading over the summer. If you are a teen or tween interested in being a partner, or a caregiver interested in your child practicing their reading skills, please sign-up using the Google form found on our website.

Library News

- Spring is here and the food trucks are returning to the Village! Top That and Kamaela's Creamery will be in the Library parking lot on Wednesday, April 22, 5:00-8:00p.
- The week of April 19-25 is National Library Week!
- Reminder! The items Dunlap Library owns will automatically renew two times if a hold has not been placed on that item. If an item cannot be renewed, and is past ten days overdue, our system makes the item "lost" and charges the patron's library account the price of the item and a processing fee. All that needs to be done to have those charges removed is to return the item! As soon as the item is checked back in to the library the charges are instantly removed from the account.

Dunlap Public Library District

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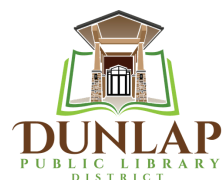
Abby, Amy, Emma, Jana
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Neetika, Sandy, Sarah, & Simon

Building & Service Hours

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
9:00a-6:00p
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00a-8:00p
Saturday
9:00a-12Noon

ADA Requests

We welcome patrons of all abilities. To request accommodations, please call us at 309.243.5716.



Attendance at library programs, events, and participating in any library activity constitutes consent to be photographed for Dunlap Public Library District promotional purposes.