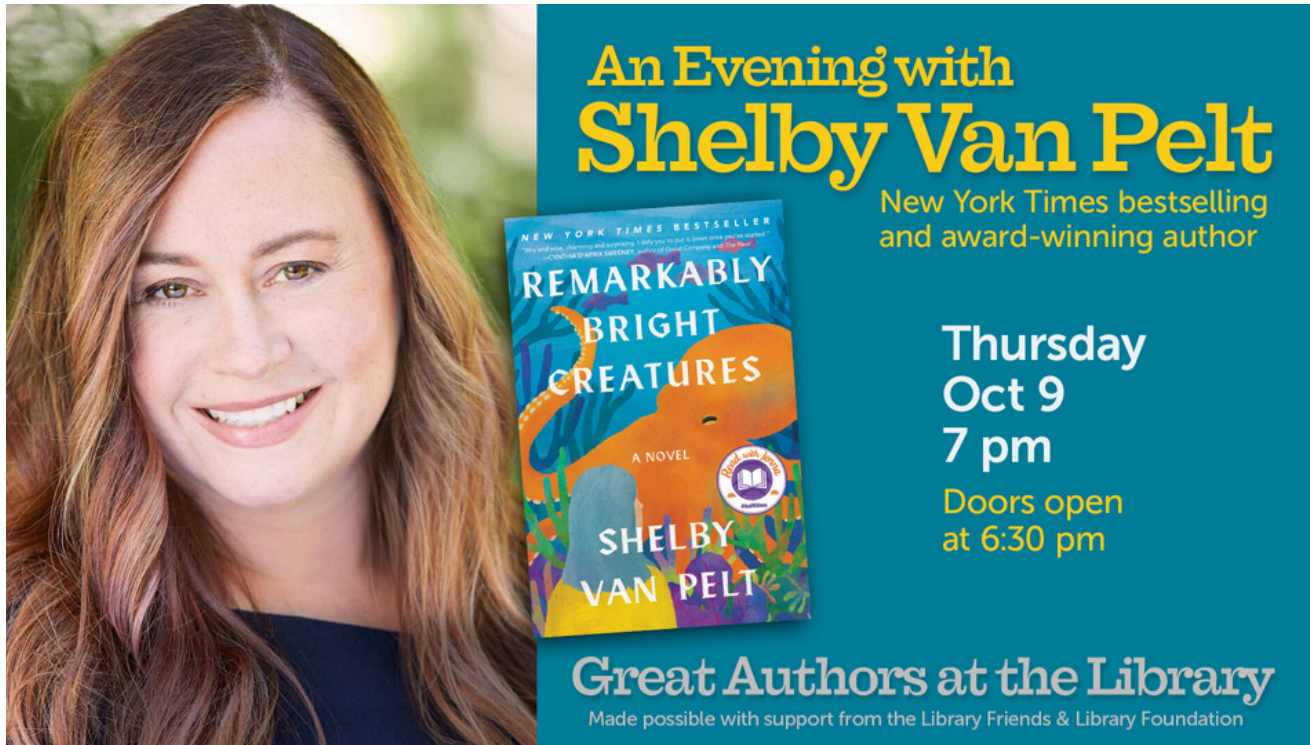


New & Noteworthy



**An Evening with
Shelby Van Pelt**
New York Times bestselling
and award-winning author

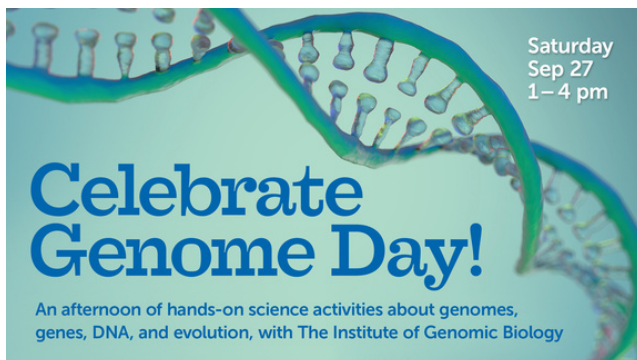
**Thursday
Oct 9
7 pm**
Doors open
at 6:30 pm

Great Authors at the Library
Made possible with support from the Library Friends & Library Foundation

Great Author Visit, Celebrating Genome Day, and Growing Together

We are thrilled to host author Shelby Van Pelt as our next speaker in the Great Authors at the Library series (10/9). Her debut novel, *Remarkably Bright Creatures* (Ecco, 2022) was an Instant New York Times Bestseller and in 2023, she was awarded the Heartland Prize for Fiction and the McLaughlin-Esstman-Stearns First Novel Prize from The Writer's Center. Both locations will close at 5 pm to prepare. Doors will reopen at 6:30 pm exclusively at the Main Library for the event.

Illinois scientists will be on site for an all ages event, offering activities related to genomics (9/27). A team from the Family Resiliency Center will share practices, show tools, and highlight research findings about mindfulness to help parents help kids with their big feelings (10/12).



**Celebrate
Genome Day!**

Saturday
Sep 27
1–4 pm

An afternoon of hands-on science activities about genomes, genes, DNA, and evolution, with The Institute of Genomic Biology



GROWING TOGETHER

Sunday
Oct 12
2 pm

**Helping Parents
Help Kids
with their
Big Feelings**

Presented by the Family Resiliency Center

Program Highlights

"Ready, Set, Read!" Early Literacy Kits Provided for 340+ Kids and Families

Through an annual partnership with Champaign Unit 4 School District, we provide custom early literacy kits for students and families new to Head Start and Champaign Early Childhood Center. The kits are delivered during home visits by teachers before the start of the school year. Curated by our Children's librarians, the kits include items to support families' implementation of the five practices of early literacy: read, write, sing, talk, and play.

Teen Lounge Returns in Full Force

School was back in session in August and Teen Lounge has been seeing an average of 220 teens a day! It is great to have teens from area schools utilizing The Studio space after school.

The Library Helps Teachers as School Starts Back

During August, customers submitted 7 Teacher Requests, covering 9 topics, and selecting 134 items for teachers.

Board Bootcamp Provided Non-profit Support to Community Members

Sharla Jolly, Senior Development Manager with the American Cancer Society and consultant with Fox Philanthropic Advisors led an engaging session of our Board Bootcamp series focused on a key tool for nonprofit effectiveness: CRM (Constituent Relationship Management) software for 23 community members (8/14).



Unbooked | In Concert at the Library with Wildwood String Band

We hosted Wildwood String Band for our first Unbooked | In Concert at the Library (8/29). 72 customers enjoyed live music, conversation, and refreshments. Our Reader's Advisory Group hosted a "Let's Talk Books" table in the lobby during the Unbooked event and provided 40 personalized book recommendations to members of the community.

Douglass Branch



Money Matter\$ Financial Pathway Workshops Wrap Up for Summer

The Douglass Branch hosted a 6-week series this summer covering many topics from budgeting to mortgages. Michelle Stallmeyer, Mortgage Loan Officer at Busey Bank, led the series with 52 attendees in participation throughout the summer season.



Fall Season for Table Talk Book Club

After a summer break, 19 Table Talk Book Club participants gathered on Sep 9 for a lively discussion about *Dream Count* by author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Next up? *Ella* by Diane Richards.

Storytimes at The Branch

Between Baby Storytime, Toddler Storytime, and our Monthly Mother Goose on the Loose Storytime, storytimes at the branch saw 429 visits during the month of August.

Makerspace Drop-in Hours and Workshops

The Makerspace was open for drop-in hours two weekends out of the month in August, hosting 35 total customers and seeing another full room for their Intro to Glowforge workshop (8/20).

Scavenger Hunts Inspire Adventure

August included lots of fun activities for kids and families to participate in. The Scavenger Hunt had 24 participants and included themes of airplanes and pilots, back to school, brass instruments, and outer space.

Customer Comments

Crafts at the Library are the Best!

A family was leaving the library after Unbooked Kids, and their young child said, "That was the best! Can we go to the library every day?!"

Sensory Friendly Storytime is Positive for All Ages

During the August Sensory Friendly Storytime, a parent who attends almost every session with her child said, "I enjoy these sensory storytimes so much and I'm an adult. I am so glad that you guys have these."

A Customer Preserves a Family Heirloom

A staff member helped a customer scan and photocopy her grandmother's handmade cookbook. The customer shared that it felt like a daunting task she had been putting off, but it helped to have someone walk her through the process. She was so happy to preserve her family heirloom and was excited to send the digital version to all of her family.

Tech Workshops Empower Customers with New Knowledge

After a tech workshop this month, a customer shared, "I'm leaving here with more knowledge than I came in with. Thank you very much!" We love seeing people learn new skills and be excited about using them!

Librarian Helps Customers Prepare for School

This month, a staff member assisted a family from Peru who had recently moved to the area. They needed assistance with printing school materials for their children. After helping them find and print the needed forms, they expressed gratitude and mentioned they are looking forward to visiting more often and attending future library events.

Grand Prize Winners for the Oceans of Possibilities! Summer Reading Challenge

At the end of August, grand prize winners of the Summer Reading Challenge for Adults stopped by the main library and Douglass Branch to pick up their themed gift baskets. Prizes included gift certificates to local businesses, an ocean themed LEGO kit, a Kindle eReader, portable mini-projector, and more. Pictured below, three of the winners (from left): Mei, Brianna, and Aubrey.

