

## New & Noteworthy



### **New! Studio Workshop Series Introduces Creative Tools & Builds Community**

Our new monthly Studio Workshops for adults include creative projects like custom business card holders, vinyl stickers, wooden keychains, and mugs. Each project is designed to introduce Studio tools like Cricut machines, Glowforge laser cutters, and sewing machines, and equip community members the skills and confidence to be able to return during open hours and create additional projects on their own. The small group size enables participants to get their questions answered and get to know each other while enjoying time in the new space.

**Short Story Contest Award Ceremony & Reading** The top three stories will be read aloud and winners announced (November 29). This year's event will be held in The Studio.





### **Virtual Visits with Bestselling Authors**

The Illinois Libraries Present series includes Lori Gottlieb next month (December 6). She will share tools to help in everyday life and especially as people prepare for the holidays. Gottlieb is a psychotherapist and New York Times bestselling author of *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*, which has sold over a million copies and is currently being adapted into a television series. In addition to her clinical practice, she is co-host of the popular “Dear Therapists” podcast. She has been on the Today Show, Good Morning America, CNN, and NPR’s “Fresh Air” as a therapy expert. The talks in this series are hosted online, so community members sign up to get the Zoom link ([champaign.org/events](https://champaign.org/events)).

In January, the presentation will focus on “Speculating Our AI Future,” with a panel of bestselling science fiction authors—Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells (January 11). They will discuss the promise, perils, and possible impacts that artificial intelligence will have on our future.

### **Teddy Bear Hospital Brings Veterinarians-in-Training to the Library**

Veterinary students from the University of Illinois will be back to meet with children and provide check-ups for their favorite teddy bear or other stuffed animal (December 2). Children will learn about veterinary medicine and have a chance to meet one-on-one with college students who share a love for animals. Presented in partnership with the U of I Veterinary Student Outreach Program.

### **Local Author Fair in 2024**

We will present a Local Author Fair in 2024 featuring community members who are published authors, including presenters from the Writer’s Workshop series (January 6).

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## Program Highlights



### **Howl-o-ween Event Draws 850 Kids and Family Members**

Our annual Howl-o-ween party took place on a Saturday afternoon. During the two hours, 850 kids and families joined us to play games, craft together, and take home a book. We heard from one family who has been attending this event over the years, sharing annual photos with us of their kids in costume: "Had a blast today!! Not only did we have fun playing games, making crafts, and getting a free book—we also ran into good friends! Thank you!"

### **Weeklong Book Giveaway Leading Up to Halloween: 1,080 Books for Kids!**

We gave out a record number of book "treats" at both locations during our Halloween Booktacular Giveaway from October 25–31. As a result, a total of 1,080 books for children, birth through 5th grade, were added to home libraries in our community.

### **Fall Fair Brings 175 Job Seekers, Employers, and Career Coaches to Library**

Now offered twice a year, the fall Community Job Fair brought 175 community members on site to learn about job openings and get advice on their career. We heard wonderful feedback from both employers and job seekers and have been scheduling Book-a-Librarian appointments every week since. One customer let us know she had already been contacted by six workplaces, after months of applying with no requests for interviews—and wanted to relay her thanks to the library for giving her the opportunity to finally make connections. The winner of the prize laptop was thrilled. On the day of the fair she had been using the public computers to modify her resume and we had helped her with the formatting. Now we see her here using her new laptop!



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## Douglass Branch



### **New! Yarn & Shenanigans Meets Mondays in 2024**

Starting in January, we'll be hosting a new series at the Douglass Branch every other Monday, designed for fiber art enthusiasts. Community members of all skill levels can bring their own project or start a new one.

### **Great Turnout for Table Talk Book Club Conversation**

We had a great turnout at October's Table Talk Book Club meeting, with 23 members joining a lively discussion about Michelle Miller's *Belonging: A Daughter's Search for Identity Through Loss and Love*. Next up? Charmaine Wilkerson's acclaimed debut novel, *Black Cake* (November 14) and *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by New York Times bestselling author James McBride (December 12).

### **Friday Night Jam Sessions Wrapped Up Fall Season**

During the October Jam Session, six performers took the stage, plus a three-piece band, and DJ Silkee assisted, with a total of 32 participants enjoying the after-hours event. Friday Night Jam Sessions will start up again in March 2024.

### **Storytimes Enjoyed by 182 Participants in October**

We offer two storytimes at the Douglass Branch each week, plus a Mother Goose on the Loose storytime the last Monday of the month. In October, 182 infants, toddlers, young children, and other family members, enjoyed sharing stories and songs and building early literacy skills.

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## Customer Comments

### **We Helped a Teacher by Finding “Wonderful Books” for 4th Graders**

“Thank you, thank you, Children’s librarians! You helped research books about water scarcity and found some wonderful books for 4th graders to use! Your team really thought about a lot of different options and worked together to come up with even more resources. I am so grateful for your help designing a great book set for my students.”

### **Thank You for Being So Kind**

A mom came up to the Children’s desk and shared, “I just had to tell you—after you helped my child, he said, ‘It’s so nice that the librarians are so kind.’ So, thanks for being so kind!”



### **Double Stroller Means Double the Number of Books Riding Home**

We asked a frequent customer if we could take a picture of her family’s stroller. They always leave with one side piled high with books and one child riding! She told us she LOVES this stroller for trips to the library.

### **Togetherness Is Everything—Girl Loves to Visit the Library with Her Dad**

Overheard by a library volunteer as a family was leaving:

Dad: “Wasn’t that fun?”

Girl: “It was the most fun because YOU were with me.”

### **Helping Customers Submit Documents to the Secretary of State**

We helped a Douglass Branch customer scan and email a document to the Secretary


of State's office. He said, "Thank you so much. You all really take care of your people over here."

### One of Our (Young) Regulars Plans on Working Here

One of our regulars, an elementary school-age kid, asked, "Will you still be here when I work here in...(paused to do the math)...nine years?"

### Social Media Post on LinkedIn about the Community Job Fair

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**Emma Larson** (She/Her) • 1st  
Career Services Specialist  
4h • 

Congratulations to the **Champaign Public Library** for successfully hosting their Community Job Fair last night. Planning and executing job fairs and resource events is a significant undertaking, and they've done a commendable job.

I'm personally looking forward to attending their upcoming virtual webinar, "Time Management for the Working Professional," scheduled for this Thursday at 7pm.

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1 comment

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