

## New & Noteworthy

An Evening with  
**Paula McLain**  
New York Times Bestselling Author

PAULA MCLAIN  
New York Times bestselling author of *THE PARIS WIFE*  
**LOVE AND RUIN**  
A NOVEL

*The Paris Wife*  
A NOVEL  
PAULA MCLAIN

Wednesday  
May 29  
7 pm  
Doors open  
at 6:30 pm

Champaign Public  
**LIBRARY**

**Great Authors at the Library**  
Made possible with support from the Library Friends

### **Get Curious! Summer Reading Kickoff Party**

We're hosting an all-ages Get Curious! Summer Reading Kickoff Party (May 19, from 1–4 p.m.), featuring Curiosity Stations, puppets, face painting, and more. Edison Middle School Jazz Band and singer-songwriter David Howie will perform on the front porch. We will be giving away Get Curious T-shirts to the first 350 kids and teens. Everyone—kids, teens, and adults—can sign up to win free books and prizes, just for reading together. New this year? The Get Curious! Summer Reading Challenge (May 19–August 8) includes an option to track your reading using a mobile app. Sign up at [champaign.org/get-curious](http://champaign.org/get-curious).

### **New Workforce Development Series Starts in the Summer**

We have developed a new series of classes and a job club to help community members who are looking for work, building career skills, or transitioning into a new field. Presented in partnership with Parkland College and the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, the new “Get that Job!” series starts in June ([champaign.org/get-that-job](http://champaign.org/get-that-job)).

### **Partnering with Sistering CU for New Parenting Series**

We entered into a new partnership with Sistering CU to present “Every Mother Counts,” a film screening and panel discussion about racial disparities in maternal health and how we can help (May 21, at 7 p.m.), as part of the new Growing Together parenting series. Panelists include Louise Van Dyke, Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church; Karen Tabb, UIUC School of Social Work; Dr. Imani Anwise-Machele, Carle; Isis Rose, Homecoming Podcast; Ann Ambrose, Sistering CU; and Tasha Thompson, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District.

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## Program Highlights



*Star Wars Day and Free Comic Book Day converged this year to the delight of more than 500 community members who enjoyed comic book giveaways, a costume contest, and hands-on activities. Local cosplay groups were a special surprise—with the 501st Midwest Garrison and Secret Identity superheroes on site.*

### **600+ Fans of Pete the Cat Celebrate Children’s Book Week at the Library**

Kids of all ages loved the Pete the Cat Party on April 27. We heard so many compliments:

- “This is awesome! Thank you so much for doing this!”
- “You guys had a great event yesterday. My daughter danced the Pete the Cat Boogie twenty times. It was a lot of fun.”
- “It really was one of the best library events I’ve been to in a long time.”

### **Young Entrepreneurs Win Big at First Pitch Competition**

The biggest winner at the Young Entrepreneur Program Pitch Competition was also the youngest—Amari Johnson, 13, was the Grand Prize winner in the High School division and also took home the Community Choice award. In the Young Adult category, Fiona Kalensky’s pitch about Therapalz garnered first place. Marc Chagnon was the master of ceremonies. Judges included Aadeel Akhtar, PSYONIC; Mariel Huasanga, Small Business Development Center; Abhinaya Konduru, M25; Paul Magelli, Jr., Apervita Inc.; Tifani Moot, CMT Ventures; and Seon Williams, Williams Memorial Services & Williams Supply. This summer we’ll be offering an all-day Entrepreneurship 101 workshop for teens interested in finding out what it takes to start their own business (June 24, from 10 a.m.–4 p.m.).

*From left: Jason Chahyadi, Amari Johnson, and Sophia Torellas shared their business pitches on May 5.*



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## Douglass Branch Highlights



*Highlights of recent DIY Kids workshops included a visit from the UIUC Entomology Graduate Student Association's Insect Petting Zoo. During the week leading up to author Aaron Reynolds' visit to Champaign, kids created "Creepy Carrots" and got to take home his book of the same name.*

### **Kids Create Apps Is Back!**

We are partnering with the UIUC School of Information Science again this year to offer a six-week series on how to build an app (Mondays, June 10–July 15, from 1–4 p.m.). Elementary school students (ages 9–11) get to show off their finished creations at a Kids Create Apps Showcase (July 22, at 1 p.m.).

### **Chicago-based Ayodele Drum & Dance Booked for Juneteenth**

Douglass Branch staff are collaborating with the Champaign Park District to present an exciting Juneteenth Emancipation Day Celebration again this year (June 15, from 12–3 p.m.). The powerhouse performers of Chicago-based Ayodele Drum & Dance will headline, along with local groups including Congolese gospel sensation Jean-René Balekita and Ngoma Expressions. In addition, we are bringing back Mr. Lincoln, a.k.a. Kevin Wood, to read the Emancipation Proclamation.

### **Parent Lab @ Douglass**

At the April 10 meeting of Parent Lab @ Douglass, Champaign Unit 4 parents met with Project READ tutors at the Douglass Branch, while their children participated in library-led activities. Each child took home a new book they selected—in English or Spanish. Parent Lab is presented in partnership with Project READ and the Champaign Unit 4 School District.

### **New Partnership with Ameren on Energy Efficiency**

During National Library Week, we partnered with Ameren staff to offer an Energy Efficiency Workshop about how to save money on your power bill. Topics included conducting a home energy audit and tips on reducing energy use. Ameren will be on site to share information and free lightbulbs at our Juneteenth community day.

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# Library Love from Our Customers

“This is absolutely, without a doubt, the most beautiful library I have ever visited!”

Compliments on the Tuesdays at Ten: Out in the Garden series: “I love these programs! My mother and I never want to miss a single one!” and “Thank you so much for having this type of series. There is just so much to learn and you get the best presenters!”

After telling a customer about National Library Week and free rentals she said, “You guys always have something good going on over here. I love coming here!” (Douglass Branch)

I was on the phone with a customer who talked about wanting to leave Illinois, but she really doesn't want to leave the Champaign Public Library. She said our library cannot be matched!

One recent Tech Workshop participant drove all the way from Decatur because she had heard about our Getting Started series. She is attending community college online and is required to use PowerPoint for an assignment but she had no experience with the software. I taught her how to use PowerPoint during the workshop, and then helped her upload her assignment after. I also showed her the resources available at the Decatur Public Library. She said that the workshop was such a great experience, it was worth the drive to get help here—and we would likely see her back for future workshops.

