LAKE BLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY

WINTER 2026 - 2027

off the SHELF

WINTER NIGHTS ENDLESS STORIES

WINTER READING CLUB



WINTER READING CLUB

12/1 - 2/27

When winter nights settle in, stories light the way! Settle into the season with books that spark your imagination and make even the longest nights feel a little brighter. *Sponsored by the Friends of Lake Bluff Library.*

LOG READING

Readers of all ages can track activities online at **Beanstack.com** or use a printed log, available at the Library or on the Library's website. Each book read or Library program attended counts as one activity. All book formats and reading aloud to others count!

FINISH

Log 10 activities, then stop by the Library to collect your prize!

A Message from the Board

Winter has a way of drawing people into the Library, whether it's to pick up a good book or for a change of scenery as we all spend more time indoors. As we settle into this "season of reading," I wanted to share a brief update on the Lake Bluff Library Director search on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

This summer, the Board engaged Deiters & Todd Library Consulting, a highly regarded search firm with extensive experience placing library directors across Illinois and the nation. Deiters & Todd knows our Library, our community, and what exceptional leadership looks like for an organization like ours. Their involvement gives us tremendous confidence that we will find the right person for this role.

The Director position was posted nationally at the end of September. Deiters & Todd has been working diligently to vet a strong field of candidates. This fall, the Board designed a comprehensive interview process that balances efficiency with intention. We are looking for a leader who will build on our strong foundation, deepen our community partnerships, and guide the Library through an exciting chapter of strategic planning and execution. The bar is high, and we are confident we are on the right path to meeting it.

In the meantime, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Lake Bluff Public Library staff. Through every transition, they have shown up with professionalism, dedication, and care for our community.

We look forward to sharing more news in the coming months. As always, if you have questions or thoughts you'd like to share with the Board, we welcome you to join us at our monthly Board meetings or contact us any time via email on the Library's website.

Alexandra Friedeman
Board President, Lake Bluff Public Library

Welcome New Staff Member

Next time you're in the Library, say hello to our newest staff member: **Melanie Antonio**, Library Associate

Non-Resident Library Card Policy Change

Beginning January 1, 2027, a new fee structure will apply to non-resident renters in unincorporated Lake Bluff who apply for or renew a Library card at the Lake Bluff Library.

Under the updated policy, the annual non-resident Library card fee for renters in multiple-family dwellings will equal 15% of their monthly rental cost. When applying for or renewing a Library card on or after January 1, 2027, renters will need to bring a copy of their current lease agreement showing their monthly rental cost.

Minors under 18 living in unincorporated Lake Bluff remain eligible for a free Library card through the Student Library Card program, and are not affected by this change. For questions about the policy change, please contact the Library for more information.

New Library Website

On November 1, Lake Bluff Library launched a new website! Built with easier navigation and accessibility in mind, the new site is designed around how you use the Library and what you're looking for. Whether you're browsing for a great read, exploring digital resources, or reviewing upcoming programs, clearer menus make it easier to discover all the Library has to offer.

A Message from the Friends

Each year, the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library help turn good ideas into so much more. Funds raised by the Friends support programs, services, resources, outreach, and special projects that enrich the lives of Library users and extend the Library's reach beyond its walls.

There are many ways to support the Friends: become a Friend, make a donation, or leave your mark by honoring someone special with an engraved brick at the Library. Learn more about the Friends and ways to give on the Library's website.

Artists on the Bluff: Small Works Show

Stroh Reading Room and Spruth Room
12/1 - 12/21

Enjoy small works by members of Artists on the Bluff, a local nonprofit celebrating art in all its forms. Featuring drawings, paintings, ceramics, and jewelry, this show highlights the creativity and craftsmanship of our community's artists.

Winter StoryWalk

Month of December | All Ages

Take a stroll through downtown Lake Bluff this December and celebrate the return of StoryWalk! Featuring *Mice Skating* by Annie Silvestro, this seasonal favorite invites readers of all ages to enjoy the story in the windows of participating Scranton Avenue businesses. Start your adventure at Lake Bluff Community Church and follow the story through downtown. Scan the QR code along the route to enter a raffle.

Mini Golf

12/5 from 12pm - 5pm | All Ages
First Come, First Play

Putt your way through a festive 9-hole course at the Library during "It's a Wonderful Life in Lake Bluff." *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Note: The Library will be closed to all other services on 12/5.

Neighbor Spotlight: Lake Forest Library R V

True Crimes of Lake County | 1/26 at 7pm

Join Lake Forest Library and the Lake County Forest Preserves on Zoom to examine historic evidence and hear infamous true crime stories from our neck of the woods, including the Rondout Train Robbery and the Fox Lake Massacre. Register at **LakeForestLibrary.org**.

R = Registration Required V = Virtual

Challenge Your-Shelf Reading Bingo

1/1/27 - 12/31/27

Expand your TBR (to-be-read) list with the Library's new yearlong reading challenge! Discover new favorites as you read your way through the bingo board. Log your reading at **Beanstack.com** or use a paper log to track your progress all year long. Complete five squares in a row to finish the challenge!

Afternoon Book Club
12/15, 1/19, 2/16 at 2:30pm

Join Carol at the Library for an insightful monthly book discussion series:

December – *Heartburn* by Nora Ephron
January – *The Unexpected Diva* by Tiffany Warren
February – *The Women on Platform Two* by Laura Anthony

Paper Crafts: Calendar Setup
1/13 at 4:30pm
Ages 12+

Set yourself up for success in the New Year. If you have a journal, bring it! Otherwise supplies will be provided to map out 2027, brainstorm goals, and more.

History of The Blues Brothers
1/21 at 6pm - 7:30pm R V

Music historian Professor Moptop (Gregory Alexander) will present a fun and educational presentation covering the entire history of The Blues Brothers, beginning with the early days of *Saturday Night Live* and continuing with their concerts, recordings, and their blockbuster 1980 film. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.*

Books and Bites R H
1/23 at 1pm

Enjoy treats and a bookish guessing game as your librarians share the titles we're most excited about this season! Discover new reads to add to your TBR list and get ideas for your Challenge Your-Shelf Reading Bingo board.

Trivia Night at The Gallery R
202 E. Wisconsin Ave., LF
1/27 from 6pm - 8pm

Register your team of up to six people and get ready to compete. Registration opens at 10am on 1/20, one week before the event.

Understanding Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning R V
1/28 at 6pm

Planning for the future is essential to protect your assets and ensure your wishes are honored. Whether you're just getting started or looking to update your plans, this program will provide valuable insights to help make you aware of what options are available to you. Includes an overview of estate planning and the probate process.

Lucille Ball R
2/4 at 6pm

Sit back, relax, and prepare to laugh along as historical presenter Michelle Gibbons brings legendary comedian Lucille Ball to life. Learn about Ball's childhood struggles, her marriage and business partnership with Desi Arnaz, her induction into the Television Hall of Fame, and her pioneering role in television comedy. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

Paper Crafts: Transfer Collage
2/10 at 4:30pm
Ages 12+

Explore a creative twist on collage! Learn how to transfer images from magazines to create a unique piece of art using everyday materials.

Japan Travelogue R V
2/23 at 6pm

Explore Japan with educator and cultural consultant Yvonne Wolf. Drawing on her firsthand experience living in Japan, she'll share popular destinations, cultural customs, seasonal travel tips, and recommendations to help you plan your visit. Whether you're an avid hiker, an adventurous eater, or looking to relax, you'll learn practical tips for making the most of your travels.

A Poisoner's Afternoon Tea R
2/25 at 6pm

One poison or two? We'll journey from Victorian afternoon teas designed to elicit gossip to the deadly roles teatime favorites like scones and Dundee cake played in murder. Expect scandal, deadly doctors, and Vincent van Gogh—and tea of course! You will never look at an invitation to afternoon tea in the same way again.

R = Registration Required V = Virtual H = Hybrid
All programs are in person at the Library unless otherwise stated.

Illinois Libraries Present:

Funny on Purpose
with Sasheer Zamata R V
1/19 at 7pm
Known for her time on *Saturday Night Live*, Sasheer Zamata has built a career in television, film, and stand-up comedy. Join her for a conversation about her creative journey, the evolving world of comedy, and how humor can bring people together.

Navigating Hallowed Ground
with David Grann R V
2/18 at 7pm
David Grann is an author and journalist whose bestselling titles include *The Lost City of Z*, *Killers of the Flower Moon*, and *The Wager*.

These events are 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).

Volunteer at the Library!

Students 8th – 12th Grade
Get involved at the Library! Teen volunteers can help with programs and special projects while gaining experience and supporting their community. Apply through the Volunteer page on the Library's website to receive a calendar of upcoming opportunities.

Pokémon Club
12/12, 1/9, and 2/13 at 1:30pm
Ages 8 – 18
Calling all Pokémon Trainers! Prepare for epic battles with the Pokémon Trading Card Game (TCG). Take on exciting challenges, and power up your skills at the Library!

Paper Crafts: Calendar Setup
1/13 at 4:30pm
Ages 12+
Set yourself up for success in the New Year. If you have a journal, bring it! Otherwise supplies will be provided to map out 2027, brainstorm goals, and more.

Paper Crafts: Transfer Collage
2/10 at 4:30pm
Ages 12+
Explore a creative twist on collage! Learn how to transfer images from magazines to create a unique piece of art using everyday materials.

Tween Crafts:
Oil Pastel Transfer
2/18 at 4pm
Ages 9 – 14
Learn a new art technique using oil pastels and tracing to make art!

Winter Craft Kits R

Ages 12+
Reserve a take-home craft kit. Kits will be available to registered participants during the listed pickup period. Any remaining kits will be available afterward on a first-come, first-served basis.

Beaded Snowflakes
Pick Up 12/7 – 12/12
Create a delicate beaded snowflake that brings a little winter beauty indoors.

Winter Walk Candles
Pick Up 1/4 – 1/9
Create a nature-inspired candle that adds a warm, cozy glow to your space this winter.

Sewn Sweethearts
Pick Up 2/1 – 2/6
Sew a felt heart with simple stitching and optional dried lavender filling.



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Ongoing | Ages 0 – 6

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten will help your little one learn key building blocks to literacy and language fluency. Whether your child is three months old or six years old, reading helps build social and emotional skills, sparks creativity and imagination, and promotes bonding. For more information about how to register, visit the Youth page on the Library's website.

Grab and Go Crafts
Fridays
While Supplies Last

Pop into the Library and grab a craft to go! Every week a new craft will be available while supplies last.

Winter StoryWalk
Month of December

Take a stroll through downtown Lake Bluff this December and celebrate the return of StoryWalk! Featuring *Mice Skating* by Annie Silvestro, this seasonal favorite invites readers of all ages to enjoy the story in the windows of participating Scranton Avenue businesses. Start your adventure at Lake Bluff Community Church and follow the story through downtown. Scan the QR code along the route to enter a raffle.

LEGO Club
12/2, 1/6 and 2/3
from 3:30pm – 5pm
Ages 6 – 11

Drop in and play with LEGO bricks! Each month will feature a new LEGO challenge.

Pokémon Club
12/12, 1/9, and 2/13
at 1:30pm | Ages 8 – 18

Calling all Pokémon Trainers! Prepare for epic battles with the Pokémon Trading Card Game (TCG). Take on exciting challenges, and power up your skills at the Library!

Chess Club R
12/15, 1/19, and 2/16 at 5pm
Ages 6 – 12

Whether you are new to chess or seeking to hone your techniques, Mark Hamilton will provide chess guidance to help improve your game.

Messy Crafts
1/2 and 2/6 at 10:30am
Ages 2 – 12

Get ready for some messy fun at the Library, and we'll handle the clean up! Adult assistance is required for younger children.

January: Northern Lights scrape painting
February: Valentine donuts sponge stamping

K9 Reading Buddies R
1/11 and 2/8 at 4pm
Ages 6 – 11

Independent readers can register for a 15-minute session and read to a trained therapy dog. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.*

Family Storytime
1/23 at 10:30am
Ages 2+ with an adult

Join us for an inclusive and interactive storytime featuring play, songs, and lots of fun!

Baby and Me
1/26, 2/2, 2/9, 2/16,
and 2/23 at 10:30am
Ages 0 – 2 with an adult

Join us with your littlest ones for a relaxed program featuring a short story, age-

Did you know?

A library card opens the door to a world of stories, discoveries, and adventures! Help your little one start their library journey with their very own library card. Stop by the Youth Services Desk to learn more about **My First Library Card**.

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appropriate toys, and music. While the children play and socialize, adults can connect and chat.

Mini Movers
1/28, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, and 2/25 at 10:30am
Ages 2+ with an adult
Shake your sillies out in this fast-paced, music-filled storytime. We'll explore dramatic movement, musical instruments, and playful language through rhythm and rhyme in this engaging program for active toddlers, preschoolers, and their families.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover R
Drop Off: 2/5 by 5pm
Pick Up: 2/6 at 10am
Ages 3 – 8
Children can drop off their Library-loving stuffed animal for a special sleepover at the Library! Their cuddly pals will enjoy a movie, treats, crafts, and a cozy bedtime story. Follow along on Instagram (@LakeBluffLibrary) for updates, then pick up your special friend Saturday morning.

Tween Crafts:
Oil Pastel Transfer
2/18 at 4pm | Ages 9 – 14
Learn how tracing and oil pastels come together to create vibrant artwork with rich colors and interesting textures!



Play at the Library
1/27, 2/10, 2/17, and 2/24 at 3:30pm
Ages 4 – 7 with an adult
Through play, kids develop social, literacy, and cognitive skills—plus, it's just fun! Join us at the Library for fun play activities including blocks, crafts, games, dramatic play, and more. Younger and older siblings are also welcome!

Phyllis Fox's 40th Anniversary

This year marked 40 years of the Phyllis Fox Writing Celebration! Thank you to the young local authors who shared their stories with us. It is always a joy to see their creativity and talent. A warm thank you to Gorton Center for partnering with the Library to host a gathering for the writers and their families. We also want to thank the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library for sponsoring publication of all the participants' books. We are proud to celebrate these young writers and look forward to the stories still to come!

Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

CONTACT US

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ADMINISTRATION

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Sandy Jardine, *Vice President*
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Megan Patterson
Kathleen Reidy
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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held in person at the Library in the Spruth Room and streamed live on Zoom.

Tuesday, 12/15 at 7pm
Tuesday, 1/19 at 7pm
Tuesday, 2/16 at 7pm

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support the Library.

UPCOMING FRIENDS MEETINGS

Saturday, 1/16 at 11am

STATEMENT ON PROGRAMMING

Library programs are free of charge and open to everyone unless otherwise noted. Library programs are presented to offer differing viewpoints and do not constitute an endorsement by the Library of the content of the program or of the views expressed by the attendees. View the full Library Programming Policy at **LakeBluffLibrary.org**.

PHOTO USE POLICY

The Lake Bluff Public Library reserves the right to use photos and/or audio/video recordings taken at the Library or at a Library-sponsored event for publicity purposes. Please see our Photo Use policy for more information.

Lake Bluff Public Library
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