

Chatham Area Public Library Newsletter Spring 2024

Total Eclipse of the Heartland

Join us in welcoming UIS Professor of Astronomy and Physics, Dr. John Martin for one of his two fascinating presentations about the upcoming solar eclipse. Whether a youngster or an adult, he will answer your questions about this unique event. Each participant will be given a free pair of eclipse glasses to use to safely view the sun.

After School STEM: Solar Eclipse

Wednesday, March 13

Students grades K – 5

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

No registration

Learn about the April 8 solar eclipse, how eclipses happen and how to safely watch them with entertaining hands-on demonstrations and time for questions.

Eclipse talk

Thursday, March 28

Adults

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Registration optional

Dr. Martin will share about the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8. He'll explain how eclipses work, how often total solar eclipses happen, and how to watch them safely. There will also be time for Dr. Martin to answer your questions .



Summer Reading Kick-Off Activity – Butterfly Encounter

All ages

Friday, May 31

10:00 a.m.

Get up close and personal with – Butterflies! Everyone is invited to help get our Summer Reading activities started at this kick off event. Marvel at the amazing life cycle of the butterfly with hands-on interactive props then step into a feeding tent and use a hand held butterfly feeder to feed live butterflies. A fun up-close opportunity to say hello to these peaceful pollinators.



Art Exhibits

Stop by the Library, before March 13th to enjoy the Illinois Prairie Pastel Society's annual member show entitled, *Winter Kaleidoscope!* The beautiful pieces, detailed on the front page of this newsletter are from local IPPS artists: Kristen Houch, George King, Pat Kittstad, Debra Mielke, Don Ramsey, Sheri Ramsey and Dianna Taylor.

We are then fortunate to welcome a multi-talented local artist for an individual show. We will be delighted by the artwork of Rosalinda Post-Lucas, who will show her talents from April through May. We will celebrate her work with a reception on Friday, April 5, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.



A Message from the Director

Dear Chatham Area library community,

If you haven't been in the Library lately, I would like to warmly invite you to visit. You'll see that our library is more than just a repository of books, it is a dynamic space where ideas come to life. Whether through a book discussion, a storytime, an art show or a friendly chat with a librarian, people are building relationships and creating friendships every day at the Library.

Explore our ever-expanding Library of Things collection to check out, which includes a sewing machine, pickleball paddles, WiFi hotspots, book club kits and yes, even a ukulele!

Our team is proud of the work we do to foster engagement and we are excited to offer a Spring full of opportunities to connect with friends, neighbors, and people from across the community. We welcome you to explore all that the Chatham Area Public Library has to offer this spring and experience how we bring people together!

Warm regards,

Amy Byers,
Library Director



Read, Renew, Repeat Book Camp

June and July 2024

Ages 4 years old through 6th grade

Registration is required.

Time for a reset? Have no fear, Book Camp is here! Our Read, Renew, Repeat camp is centered on conservation and renewal of both the environment and ourselves. Campers will enjoy crafts, games, and books on this ecological theme.

The Book Camp schedule is as follows:

Campers aged 4 – Kindergarten – June 24, 26, and 28 or July 8, 10, 12

1st and 2nd graders – June 17, 18, 21 or July 15, 17, 19

3rd and 4th graders – June 10, 12, 14 or July 22, 24, 26

5th and 6th graders – June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

These grade levels are for the grade your child will be going into for the 2024-2025 school year. The cost for camp is \$5 (non-refundable). See our website and Facebook page for signup information beginning in March. Signup space is limited and registration is required.

Teen Volunteer Informational Meeting

Ages 14 years – graduating high school seniors

Saturday, April 27, 1:00 p.m.



Teens looking for opportunities to earn service hours, to be involved in helping our community or to spend some time with younger children and be a role model are invited to attend our Teen Volunteer meeting to learn how to be involved with the Library's summer Book Camps. This is a volunteer opportunity in which teens can **choose** just how many hours they want to offer. **Participation in library training is required to volunteer.**

LEGO Day

Saturday, March 16

10:00 a.m. – Noon

Join us for Lego Day! As always, we provide the bricks and you bring your imagination.



Children's Programs



Summer Reading 2024: *Read, Renew, Repeat*

June and July 2024

Ages 4 years old through High School

Summer Reading is coming! This means another summer of reading and earning amazing prizes.

Here are the quick facts about Summer Reading 2024:

- ◆ Sign up begins May 1 on Beanstack, our online Reading Tracker website and mobile app. (<https://chathamlib.beanstack.org>) *There is a simple Beanstack tutorial on the right side of our website.*
- ◆ There are challenges for every age group: For children aged 8, 12, and 18 choose the one challenge that best suits your child.
- ◆ Rubber Ducky Club for birth through age 3: Read 30 books together and receive a rubber ducky
- ◆ Summer Reading for ages 4-8: Receive prizes after each 100 minutes read.
- ◆ Summer Reading for ages 8-12: Receive prizes after each 150 minutes read.
- ◆ Tween/Teen Summer Reading for ages 12-18*: Receive a virtual ticket to enter a raffle for a gift card of your choice after every book read, and be automatically entered into a grand prize drawing.
- ◆ Read and redeem prizes between June 1 and July 31. Summer Reading ends Wednesday, July 31.

Spring Break Activities

All ages

April 1 – 5

Journey back to 1776 as we experience things that American Girl Felicity experienced. What sort of food would she have eaten? What kind of crafts might she have made? What music would she have listened to? And how did anyone get anywhere without cars? American Boys and Girls will find out the answers to these questions and much more with fun activities all Spring Break long. A special guest from Refuge Ranch will be joining us on Wednesday. See our website and Facebook page for more information.

Finals' Eve

May 20, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Students grades 9-12

No registration

Why study at home alone where it's hard to focus? Come to the Chatham Library on "Finals Eve"; we will be staying open an hour later than normal to give you some extra time. We'll have free snacks and beverages as well as some relaxing ways to take a brain break when you need it. Watch for more details on social media and in the District's Virtual Backpack.

Storytimes

Baby and Toddler Time

For children **newborn to 3** and their parents/caregivers
Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Join us for books, songs and fingerplays.

Family Evening Storytime

For children of **all ages** and their parents/caregivers
Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited for stories the whole family can enjoy with a fun preschool level craft.

Preschool Storytime

For **preschool children** and their parents/caregivers
Fridays at 10:15 a.m.

Bring your preschoolers for a fun time of stories and a craft that is just right for small hands.

No registration is required.

Adult Programs

Building Strong Financial Freedom

Adult

March 7, 21, April 4, 18, May 2, and 16

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Registration required for each individual session.

Cathy De Leon and Elvie delRosario from *World Financial Group* will be teaching 6 workshops to help educate people on financial topics. These workshops are free and open to anyone. While it is most beneficial to attend all, you do not have to attend every session. The sessions and dates are listed below:

March 7 – *Building Savings and Wealth*

March 21 – *Increase Cash Flow and Manage Debt*

April 4 – *Preparing with Proper Protection*

April 18 – *Your Health and Wealth*

May 2 – *Understanding Asset Accumulation Strategies*

May 16 – *Fulfilling Long Term Goals*

Artificial Intelligence Program

with Darrell Fortae

Adults

Saturday, March 16

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Learn about the concepts of Artificial Intelligence (AI), how businesses are using it, how society in general could benefit, as well as the risks and downsides of this emerging technology.

Local Writers Group:

Society of Midwestern Authors

Adults

6:00 – 7:45 p.m.

First Tuesday of each month:

December 5, January 2, February 6

Are you a published author or an aspiring writer who dreams of getting your work published? Maybe you are someone who just enjoys interacting with other like minded individuals. If writing is a passion of yours, there's a seat for you at our local writing group. Join us for critiques and lively discussions about all things connected to writing. We are a supportive and friendly place to share your work and to network with fellow writers. For more information, email pamcox@chathamlib.org.

Sangamon County Recorder's Mobile Unit

Adult

Saturday, March 30

10:00 a.m. – noon

The Sangamon County Recorder's Mobile Unit will be at the Library to register your name for the Property Fraud Alert Program, pick up a copy of your deed, sign veterans up for the Honor Rewards Program, and answer any questions about your property.

Singing Bird and the Importance of Native American Women in Illinois History

Adult

Saturday, April 13

11:00 a.m.

Kim Sigafus, an award-winning Ojibwa author and presenter, dressed in her native regalia, will give a history of Natives in Illinois with a focus on Native women, primarily Singing Bird (Blackhawk's wife), and Hononegah.

Kim will bring the audience into these women's day-to-day lives, including courting, marriage, and child-rearing. She will also talk about their role in their husbands' lives, and how those lives affected the history of Illinois.

Participants will be able to pick up and view items, learn Native language and music, and get the chance to play the drum in this interactive experience.

Weekly Card Games

Adults

Every Tuesday

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Social seniors needed at our weekly card games! Bring yourself and be ready to meet new people and have fun. Spades and Uno have recently been the games of choice, but new games are always welcome. Meet in the Friends' Cafe & Bookstore.

Adult Programs

Computer Class

Backing Up Smartphone Photos

Adults

Thursday, May 23

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

If you lost your phone, would you lose all your photos? This class will look at backing up your photos to the cloud and saving them to another external source like an external hard drive. **No registration required.**

Illinois Libraries Present!

Virtual programs

This is a collaborative project with Illinois Libraries to bring great virtual programs to our patrons. Registration links to view these author events are on the Library's events calendar.



Interweaving Tradition and Imagination Through Costume Design with Ruth E. Carter
Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.

The Hidden Gifts of Visual Thinkers with Dr. Temple Grandin
Wednesday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

The Many Lives of Kal Penn
Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.

Online Safety

Adult

Wednesday, April 17

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

While email scams have been prevalent for some time, they are becoming more refined, making it harder and harder to tell which emails are scams. Nicholas Koch, from *Techguard Security*, will talk about email security, how to spot suspicious emails, as well as being secure when on social media. He'll go over some best practices and helpful tips to stay safe online.

Pass the Aux.

Adult

Wednesday, May 15

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Are Pandora and Spotify suggesting the same songs over and over? Miss the days of cruising and sharing music with friends (via the aux cable) in the car? Let's crowdsource some new music. Come ready to share a song with others and let's have a listening party. Bring a title and artist and make sure it can be found on either Spotify or YouTube. (Please no religious music or songs with excessive profanity)

Senior Crafty Creations

Adults

Offsite at Ball-Chatham Senior Center

111 W. Mulberry Street

First Wednesday of the month

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Crafting is for grown-ups too, not just kids! Connect, create, and relax with others in an easygoing environment. All supplies for our simple crafts will be provided – you just need to bring the conversation and imagination! To help with the purchasing of supplies, please consider a donation of \$3 per craft.



March 6
Painted Mini
succulent pots



April 3
Flower
arrangements



May 15
Sunflower
Suncatcher

Friends of Genealogy

Adults

Saturday, April 27

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Explore your family history with the Friends of Genealogy! Connect, share, and find support in our free, open monthly gatherings. Whether you're a regular or dropping in for casual research assistance, join our welcoming community of genealogy enthusiasts eager to support your journey.

Adult Programs

Adult Book Clubs

No registration required – books are available at the Circulation Desk.

Hooked on Books

Second Wednesday of each month

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

We discuss a mixture of fiction and nonfiction books. We always welcome new faces! Upcoming Reads:

March 13 – *My Father's House* by Joseph O'Connor

April 10 – *Muppets in Moscow: The unexpected crazy true story of making Sesame Street in Russia* by Natasha Lance Rogoff

May 8 – *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

Bite Into a Good Book

Third Wednesday of each month

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Savor some lively discussion about different genres and topics. Upcoming reads:

March 20 – *A True Account: Hannah Masury's sojourn amongst the pirates, written by herself* by Katherine Howe

April 17 – *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

May 15 – *A Fever in the heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's plot to take over America and the woman who stopped them* by Timothy Egan

Outer Edge Book Club

Third Monday of each month

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Do you love reading Sci-Fi, Fantasy and Horror books? Do you love talking about the awesome authors in these genres? Then this club is for you! We welcome anyone to join our club, the Outer Edge!

March 18 – *Elder Race* by Adrian Tchaikovsky

April 15 – *Mickey7* by Edward Ashton

May 20 – *Under the Whispering Door* by T.J. Klune

Thank you to all who participated in *Cozy Up with a Good Book Bingo*, our Adult Winter Reading Program. Stay tuned for information about our Summer Reading Program, coming in June.

Great Puzzle Race

Saturday May 11

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Registration Required

Join us at the library for a thrilling puzzle competition! Form a team of up to 4 members, tackle a 500-piece puzzle, and race against others to finish within two hours. Individual participants are also welcome – reach out to Alanna at asablotny@chathamlib.org, and we'll group you with fellow enthusiasts. Prizes await the most adept puzzlers!

ADULT CRAFT NIGHT

Join us for some fun evenings of crafts and conversation. These free events are open to adults in high school or older and registration is required for each event.

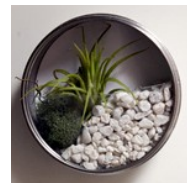
Terrariums

Thursday, March 14

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Registration required

We will make artificial terrariums in magnetic containers.



Flower frogs

Thursday, April 25

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Registration required

Flower frogs keep stems of flowers secure as you arrange the flowers in a vase. We will make these simple discs out of air-dry clay.



Mother's Day trivet

Thursday, May 9

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Registration required.

Level up your handmade Mother's Day gifts this year by making her a spring themed trivet.



Monthly Board Game Nights

Wednesdays, March 6, April 3, May 1

Ages 10 and Up

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

There is always a new skill to learn or an old game to master at board game nights! Join us to keep your wits sharp as the days begin to warm up.

Reaching New Heights: Backyard at the Library Surpasses \$150,000 Milestone!

We're so excited to share the incredible news that the Backyard at the Library project has soared past the \$150,000 mark! Your support has propelled us to this remarkable milestone, showcasing the immense dedication of our community to enriching our library space.

Backyard Highlights:

Total Raised: \$151,655

A Fabulous (and Generous) Anonymous Donor: \$70,000

Our Amazing Library Patrons: \$46,300+

Fantastic Local Businesses: \$33,000+

Merchandise Sales: \$2,200+

Your contributions have created a powerful ripple effect, bringing us closer to realizing the full potential of our library's backyard. A heartfelt thank you to our anonymous donor, our library patrons, local businesses, and everyone who contributed through merchandise sales. Your generosity speaks volumes and propels us towards our shared goal.

Sponsorship Spotlight:

Backyard Boss: Bank & Trust Co. - Thank you for your multi-year support of our Library and the Backyard!

Backyard Booster: Barb & Chuck Hunt

Backyard Bookworms: Barbara and Clark Germann, Mary Lou Hicks and Cathy Yeaman, Bonnie Ruebush

(in memory of her husband, Jack), Andrea Rediger & Tom Klein

Backyard Buddies: Emmet & Susan Fairfield, Laura Gundrum, B&B Electric, Jane Hay Real Estate Sales and Staging Inc., INB, Chatham Jaycees, Formea Insurance Group, and Chatham Township

What's Next:

With \$151,655 raised, we're not just halfway – we're on the fast track to bringing our vision to life. But the journey isn't over, and we invite everyone to be part of this transformative experience.

Donate: Visit givebutter.com/thebackyard to contribute and help us reach new heights.

Shop: Check out bonfire.com/store/the-backyard-at-the-library/ for all of your library apparel.

Spread the Word: Share our progress with friends, family, and colleagues. Together, we can amplify our impact.

Let's continue this journey together, creating a Backyard that becomes a cherished space for generations to come.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO GET
MURDER MYSTERY TICKETS!

PAY ONLINE AT [BIT.LY/MURDER-MYSTERY24](https://bit.ly/murder-mystery24)
OR PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

SPACE IS LIMITED! DON'T WAIT!

**23RD ANNUAL MURDER
MYSTERY FUNDRAISER
MARCH 15 & 16, 2024**

**SUMMER
(D)READING**

**A SUPER
READER
DIES HERE**

CHATHAM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

600 E. Spruce Street
Chatham, IL 62629

NON-PROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
SPRINGFIELD IL
PERMIT NO 500

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED

Holiday Closings

Easter Eve

Saturday, March 30

Closing at 1:00 p.m.

Staff Institute

Friday, April 19

Memorial Day

Monday, May 27

Phone: (217) 483-2713

Fax: (217) 483-2361

 [fb.com/CAPLD](https://www.facebook.com/CAPLD)

Visit and chat with us online at
www.chathamlib.org

Be a Friend and Join the Friends! *There's Still Time for 2024*

Behind our amazing library is a Friends group. Did you know the Friends provide summer and winter reading program prizes for kids and adults? We sponsor the Friends of Genealogy group, Library on the Go, book club kits, art shows and so much more!

Have you visited the Friends Café & Bookstore? It's a wonderful gathering place for the community to shop high-quality books at affordable prices plus a place to donate gently used books for resale or recycling. Enjoy our themed Pop-Up Book Sales, too!

Come and shop, enjoy a cup of coffee and a treat or bring your small batch book donations during our regularly scheduled hours.

Monday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

For more information, visit: https://www.chathamlib.org/cafe_bookstore.

How are we able to provide so much for our Library? We host our annual Murder Mystery fundraiser, our Sweet Corn Booksale (save the date: Saturday, July 20), Café & Booksale revenues and rely on membership dues. We encourage you to become a member of the Friends for 2024, and help us continue our mission of supporting our beloved library.

Board Members

Michael Roubitchek - President

Christine Westerlund - Vice-President

John Moore - Secretary

Vanessa Ross - Treasurer

Trustees

Dianne Roberts, Jenny Vaughn and Rodd Whelpley

Future Library Board meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Library on the third Monday of the month.