

BOOKS & BEYOND

Carlock Public Library Newsletter
February 2025



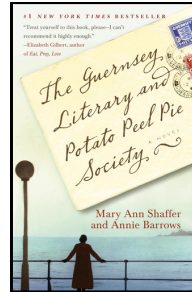
UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Club

Tuesday, Feb. 4 ~ 1:30 pm

Adults

Join us for Book Club on Tuesday, February 4 when we will be discussing the book *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.



James McBride - Online Event

Tuesday, Feb. 4 ~ 7 pm (Zoom)

Illinois Libraries Present James McBride, an award-winning author, musician, and screenwriter. His landmark memoir, *The Color of Water*, was published in 1996 and is considered an American classic. His latest, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, was named one of the New York Times' 100 Notable Books of 2023. This program will be on Zoom and is put together by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP). [Click here](#) to register and receive the Zoom link!

Slowing Down with Amy Tan - Online Event

Thursday, Feb. 19 ~ 7 pm (Zoom)

National Humanities Medal winner and bestselling author of *The Joy Luck Club*, Amy Tan joins us to share on her body of work and reflect on the wonder of slowing down and savoring the quiet moments. Her connection to nature is captured in her latest, *The Backyard Bird Chronicles*, a collection of sketches and essays which debuted at #1 on both the New York Times and the Indie bestseller list. This program will be on Zoom and is put together by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP). [Click here](#) to register and receive the Zoom link!

ILP
ILLINOIS
LIBRARIES
PRESENT

SLOWING DOWN WITH
AMY TAN
Wed, Feb 19 | 7 PM

This event is made possible by ILP, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering high-quality events.

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AN EVENING WITH
JAMES MCBRIDE
Tue, Feb 4 | 7 PM

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Story Time

Thursdays, Feb. 6, 13, 20, & 27 ~ 9:30 am

Birth-Age 5 (older siblings welcome)

Join us for stories, songs, crafts, and fun with friends!

Pages and Paws

Thursday, Feb. 13 ~ 4:30-5:30 pm

This program allows children to read aloud to registered therapy dogs. Let man's best friend be your child's reading pal for 15-minute sessions. Register at this [Google Form](#), or call or visit the library to sign up!

Harry Potter Club

Tuesday, Feb. 25 ~ 5:15-6 pm

Ages 8 and up

Calling all Harry Potter fans! Anyone ages 8 and up is invited to visit Hogwarts (even if you have never read the books or seen the movies). We will do lots of fun games and activities, talk about the books and movies, and get to know new friends who love the Harry Potter series too! Be sure to register on the [Google Form](#), or call or visit the library to let us know you'll be there.

Bad Art Night

Thursday, Feb. 27 ~ 5:30-6:30 pm

Come and join us for a judgment-free night of trying new things. This month: macrame! Teens and adults are encouraged to attend and spend an hour making new friends and memories, and maybe even some art. No babysitter? No problem! A Kidz Kraft will be available so everyone can join the fun. Register with this [Google Form](#), or call or stop by the library!

BOOK RECS

Check out these great books at the library or online on Libby, Hoopla, or Boundless!

Adult

The Book Swap by Tessa Bickers

Similar to *You've Got Mail*, this romantic comedy follows two strangers exchanging letters, this time through the margins of novels! As Erin learns more about her Mystery Man and herself through the pages of the books they share, she embarks on a life-changing journey of love, forgiveness, acceptance, and fresh starts, while at the same time being forced to deal with parts of her past that she never expected to confront.



Junior Fiction

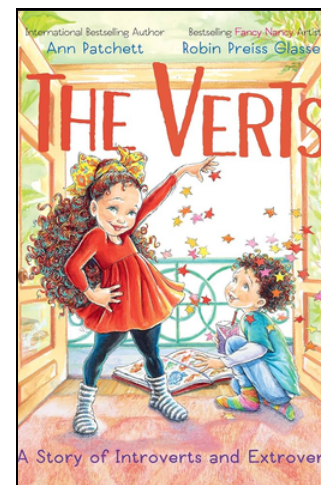
Space Case by Stuart Gibbs

This science fiction mystery book tells the story of twelve-year-old Dash Gibson, who is part of the first colony to live on the moon. After a suspicious death of the top scientist on the mission, Dash decides to investigate and discover the truth -- was it truly an accident as everyone is saying it was? With a perfect mix of humor and suspense, this book is great for middle grade readers!

Young Adult

Divergent by Veronica Roth

In this dystopian society set in a futuristic Chicago, citizens are divided into factions based on their personalities and abilities. Sixteen-year-old Tris Prior must decide where she belongs, but there is something she must keep hidden in order to survive. As she faces danger and uncovers secrets, she questions everything she thought she knew about the society around her. This is a great choice for fans of *The Hunger Games*!



Children

The Verts by Ann Patchett

It's Ivan's birthday, and his sister Estie thinks she knows exactly the kind of birthday party Ivan wants because it's the kind she'd want! She invites lots of guests to come celebrate her brother's birthday, but she never asks Ivan what *he* wants for his party. This children's book teaches kids about the difference between introverts and extroverts and the importance of accepting others for who they are.

NEW ARTWORK DISPLAYED AT LIBRARY

Have you noticed the new artwork at the library? Thanks to a generous donation from Dr. Harold Gregor's widow, Marlene Gregor, the Carlock Public Library District is fortunate to display a mini-retrospective of Dr. Gregor's works. This collection begins with a painting created in 1967 when Dr. Gregor was an associate professor and department head at Chapman College in Orange County, California, and ends with a watercolor created in 2018 after his retirement from Illinois State University.

Raised in Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Harold Gregor enjoyed a successful academic and painting career in 1960s California before moving to Illinois in 1970. While a professor at Illinois State University, he gained national prominence within the photorealism movement for his paintings of Central Illinois. They featured fertile corn and soybean fields that were dotted with farm structures lying under sweeping skies. He thought the land was beautiful.

Dr. Gregor was a prolific and active artist for more than six decades, creating works in different styles, sizes, media, and perspectives. He is well-known for his colorful aerial view landscapes, which he called Flatscapes, and bold Vibrascapes. His 20-foot mural, Flatscape #74, hangs in the Central Illinois Regional Airport in Bloomington, Illinois. Two large murals, Illinois Autumn Evening and Illinois Spring, are displayed in the atrium of the Illinois State Library in Springfield, Illinois. Illinois Landscape #120 hung in then-Senator Barack Obama's office, and was moved to the Oval Office Dining Room after he became president, a rare recognition for a living artist.

Be sure to stop by the library and check out Dr. Gregor's artwork!