



**Thomas Ford**  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

THE  
**Ford**  
*Connection*

WINTER 2025-26

# *Whimsical Wonderland*

## **2026 Book Boxes**

*Teen/Tween & Adult* December 1-31

Reach your reading goals in 2026! Tell us what you like to read, and you'll get two curated books plus other goodies each month. Register during December to receive your first box in January.

## **Winter Reading Challenge**

*Grades 5 & Up* January 5-February 27

Indulge your imagination with our fourth annual Winter Reading Challenge! Read three or more books and receive a cozy scarf. Registration starts on Monday, January 5 online and in person.



800 Chestnut Street | [fordlibrary.org](http://fordlibrary.org) | (708) 246-0520

**Registration opens on Tuesday, November 25 for all Adult programs.**  
Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted.  
Register online, in person, or by calling (708) 246-0520.

\* Registration required



### **Unearthing Highway 41: An American Journey Book Launch \***

Thursday, December 4, 7 p.m.

Join local author Christopher Clott to celebrate his debut book, "Unearthing Highway 41." See highlights from his eight state 2000 mile journey on Highway 41 from the top of the Upper Peninsula down to Miami, and learn what inspired him to write the book.

### **Mah Jongg Open Play \***

Tuesday, December 11, 2-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 27, 2-3:30 p.m.

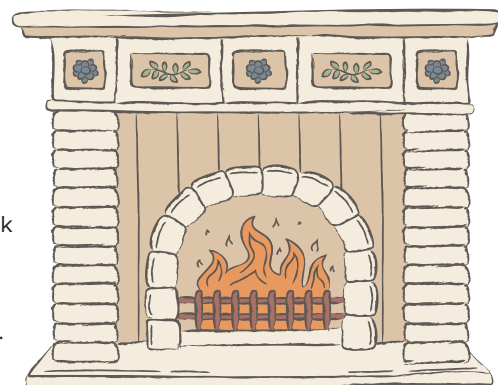
Monday, February 9, 7-8:30 p.m.

Whether you are starting out or are ready to try your hand at playing with others, come join our beginners group! Players will be sorted by self-ranked skill level and questions are welcome. Sets of tiles and cards will be provided, along with some assistance in game play.

### **Photos by the Fireplace \***

Saturday, December 13, 2-4 p.m.

Have a cozy winter photo taken in front of the Library's beautiful fireplace! Please speak with a staff member at the Reference Desk to sign yourself or your family up for one of our 10 minute time slots. Photos will be emailed to the address used for registration.



### **Intro to Filipino Cuisine \***

Monday, January 19, 7 p.m.

Discover what makes Filipino food unique and irresistible with Chef Kathy Hardy, owner of A Taste of the Philippines. Chef Hardy will demonstrate how to make Chicken Adobo and lead an interactive Lumpia wrapping session. Samples will be provided.

### **Book BINGO \***

Wednesday, January 21, 7 p.m.

Enjoy the classic game of bingo with light refreshments and bookish prizes, including advanced reader copies of upcoming titles!

### **Get Started with Ebooks, Audiobooks & More \***

Thursday, January 22, 7 p.m.

With your Thomas Ford library card, you can download and stream free books, magazines, movies, music, and more all from your mobile device or home computer! Learn how to get started and bring any questions you have about our digital services to this virtual presentation with Adult Services Librarian Rachel Hoover.

### **An Evening with Paul Lisnek \***

Tuesday, January 27, 7-8 p.m.

WGN-TV's Paul Lisnek will speak about Illinois politics as well as help prepare participants for the upcoming Midterm Elections in November. This program is co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters of the Palatine, Schaumburg, and Barrington Areas and various Illinois libraries. You may register to attend in-person at the Schaumburg Township District Library, or virtually through Zoom.

### **Celebrating the Lunar New Year \***

Thursday, February 5, 7 p.m.

Educator Yvonne Wolf will describe the rites, activities, symbols, and foods associated with the Lunar New Year and how you can participate in your own home. Whether it is your first time celebrating this cross-cultural festival or part of your annual routine, ride with us as we saddle up for the Year of the Horse!

### **Puzzle Swap**

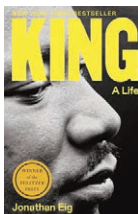
February 2-28

Tired of completing the same puzzle? Swap out your gently used puzzle for a new-to-you challenge at the Reference Desk!



## **Special Virtual Programs**

The following virtual events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present.  
To request accommodations, please email [illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com](mailto:illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com).  
View full program details at [fordlibrary.org](http://fordlibrary.org).



### **Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig \***

Tuesday, January 13, 7 p.m.

Best-selling author Jonathan Eig talks about his most recent book, King: A Life, a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Martin Luther King Jr.



### **Still Afraid of the Dark: An Evening with R.L. Stine \***

Tuesday, February 24, 7 p.m.

Witty, creepy, and compulsively readable, bestselling author R.L. Stine discusses how he defined horror for a generation of young readers.



### **Smartphone Photography 101 \***

Tuesday, February 17, 7 p.m.

Sharpen your photographic skills with the camera you carry with you every day: your smartphone! Learn mobile photography tricks and tips, editing options, and solutions that make snapping photos more fun.

### **The Winter Village Read**

Wednesday, February 25, 7:30 p.m.

This winter, we're proud to share "America is in the Heart" by Carlos Bulosan for the whole community to read. Originally published in 1946, Bulosan's autobiographical novel chronicles the life of a Filipino migrant laborer from his family's farm in the Philippines to his struggles in Alaska and California during the great depression. Free copies will be available starting Monday, January 5.



# books

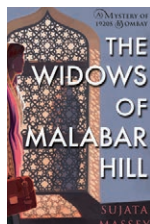
7:30 p.m. start

Library book club discussion groups are open to anyone who enjoys good books! Extra copies are available one month before the discussion.

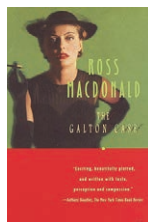
The Monday Murder Club Pick

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Club Pick

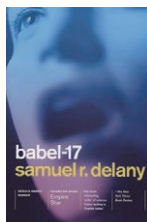
The Village Read



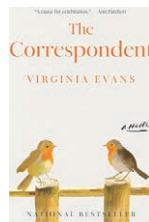
Wednesday,  
December 3  
**The Widows of Malabar Hill**  
Sujata Massey



Monday,  
January 26  
**The Galton Case**  
Ross Macdonald



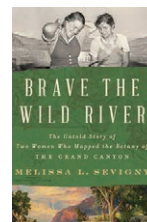
Monday,  
February 2  
**Babel-17 & Empire Star**  
Samuel R. Delany



Wednesday,  
February 4  
**The Correspondent**  
Virginia Evans



Wednesday,  
February 25  
**America is in the Heart**  
Carlos Bulosan



Wednesday,  
March 4  
**Brave the Wild River**  
Melissa L. Sevigny

# films

6 p.m. start

A series of independent, foreign, and documentary films with optional discussion after each screening. Registration required.



Thursday, December 11  
**Leonor Will Never Die\***  
2022, Action  
Fiction and reality blur when Leonor, a retired filmmaker, falls into a coma after a television lands on her head, compelling her to become the action hero of her unfinished screenplay.



Thursday, January 8  
**Yellow Rose\***  
2019, Drama  
A Filipina teen from a small Texas town fights to pursue her dreams as a country music performer while having to decide between staying with her family or leaving the only home she has known.



Thursday, February 12  
**Islands\***  
2021, Drama  
Joshua, a shy middle-aged Filipino immigrant, has lived in the comfort of his parents' home his entire life. As their health declines, he longs for a partner, terrified of being alone after they pass.

# crafts

First preference will be given to Western Springs residents. Please have your library card ready when registering.

## Ornament Wreath Kit

Thursday, December 4

Create a cute upcycled winter wreath! Frame, ornaments, and ribbon provided. Pick-up begins December 4. While supplies last.

## Intro to Knitting\*

Wednesday, January 14, 2-3:30 p.m.

Learn about knitting from a member of our knitting/crochet circle! Yarn and needles will be provided to learn on and take home.

## Winter Greens Centerpiece\*

Monday, December 8

3-4:30 p.m. OR 7-8:30 p.m.

Create a beautiful winter centerpiece! Materials will be provided, but please bring garden gloves and pruners, as limited extras will be available. Participation will be limited to 1 registration per household.

## Heart Art Craft\*

Monday, February 2, 7-8:30 p.m.

Upcycle old puzzle pieces into a Valentine's Day work of art. All materials will be provided, but paint will be used, so please dress accordingly.

## Birthday Wreath Craft\*

Monday, January 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

Create a fun wreath to use for someone's special day. All materials will be provided.

## Intro to Crochet\*

Wednesday, February 11, 2-3:30 p.m.

Learn about crocheting from a member of our knitting/crochet circle! Yarn and hooks will be provided to learn on and take home.

# food

Our virtual Classroom Kitchen series hosted by Kristyn Slick. A recording will be emailed to all registrants after each program. Even if you are unable to attend the live event, register if you would like to receive the recording to watch on your own time!

## Cheesecake 101\*

Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 p.m.

Wow your holiday guests with luscious, creamy cheesecakes! Learn the secrets to a perfect base, how to avoid cracks, and how to create both classic and fun flavor twists.

## Grains & Greens\*

Wednesday, January 14, 6:30 p.m.

Give your winter meals a wholesome refresh with cozy and nourishing recipes like warm grain bowls, stuffed greens, and flavorful pilafs.

## Brownies, Blondies & Brookies\*

Wednesday, February 11 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate the sweetest month of the year with the ultimate trio of treats! Learn tips for customizing textures, flavors, and swirls to create your own signature bars.

## Spice of the Month

Spice up your life with a take-home kit that includes the necessary spice, a recipe to try, and some cookbook recommendations that feature relevant meals featuring each month's theme. While supplies last!

December 30: Star Anise  
January 27: Thyme  
February 24: Espresso Powder

Registration opens on **Tuesday, November 25** for all Teen & Tween programs. Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. Teen/Tween programs are open to those in grades 5–12.

\* Registration required



### Teen/Tween Book Boxes\*

December 1–31

Eager to read more in 2026? Fill out the form on our website to tell us what you like to read, and each month you'll get two curated books plus other goodies. Return the books and the box to receive your next month's recommendations, but keep the other items. First boxes are anticipated to be ready during the month of January.

### Teen/Tween Holiday Party\*

Wednesday, December 10, 3:30–5 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season at the Library! We'll have an ugly sweater competition, decorate a gingerbread cookie, and make a gift to take home. Snacks will be provided, and the ugly sweater winner will win a prize!



### Exam Cram

December 15–18, 3–8:45 p.m.

Stop by the Reading Room for all your studying needs: snacks, pencils, and quiet space reserved for teens and tweens only. Plus, therapy dog Pippin will be here on Tuesday, December 16 from 3:30–4:30 p.m. to help relieve any stress!

### Teen Board

Third Thursdays: December 18, January 15, February 19, 7–8 p.m.

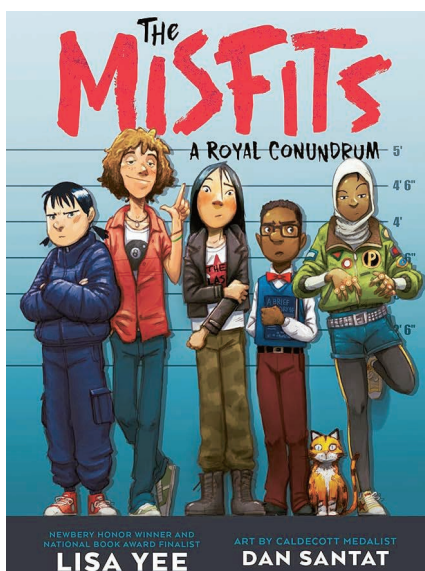
Do you have ideas for how the Library can better serve teens and tweens? Join us to share programming suggestions, recommend books, and give input for Library events. We also do a fun craft or activity every meeting. Open to students in grades 5–12. Meet in the Teen/Tween Room.



### Gnome Ornament Kit

Monday, December 22

Looking for something to do or need a last minute gift idea? Make an adorable gnome ornament from a clay pot and yarn! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.



### Tween Book Club\*

Thursday, January 8, 7–8 p.m.

Join us for bookish talk and dessert as we discuss "The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum" by Lisa Yee & Dan Santat. Copies of the book are available one month before the discussion at the Circulation Desk.



### Charcuterie Boards\*

Wednesday, January 21, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

Learn how to make an artfully arranged platter of all your favorite snacks, including deli meats, cheese, crackers, and fruit!



### Wax Paper Lantern Kit

Monday, January 26

Celebrate the winter season and light up the dark nights with this lantern made from wax paper and fresh greenery! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.



### Snowglobe Kit

Friday, February 6

Create your own snowglobe to enjoy all year round! Available in the Teen/Teen Room. While supplies last.

### Paper Quilled Valentines\*

Monday, February 9, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

Learn the art of rolling strips of paper to make three dimensional art while creating handmade valentines for your friends and family!





## Board Games & Pizza

Wednesday, February 25, 5-6 p.m.

Join us for delicious pizza and a selection of board games and card games IRL!

## Nintendo Switch FRIDAYS

### Open Play \*

Friday, December 5, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Join us for multi-player fun! Participants will choose which games to play. Snacks will be provided.

### Puyo Puyo Tetris \*

Friday, January 16, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Compete against your friends in a party puzzle game that combines elements of the beloved classics Tetris and Puyo Puyo. Snacks will be provided.

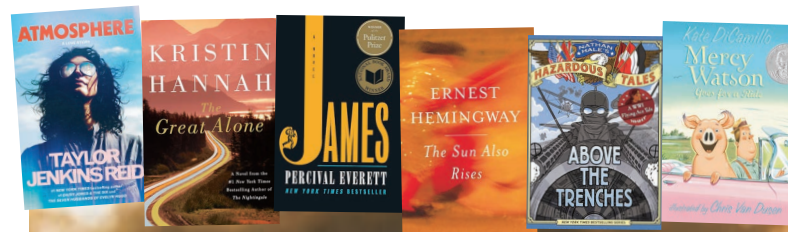
### Family Feud \*

Friday, February 20, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Form a team and battle your friends in this classic trivia game show! Snacks will be provided.



# THOMAS FORD LIBRARY FOUNDATION



## Donor Spotlight: The Fuelleman Family

The Thomas Ford Library Foundation was founded in 1995 to help fund capital improvements and programming at the Thomas Ford Memorial Library. The Foundation was able to fund the 2025 Summer Reading through the generous support of the Western Springs community, including the Fuelleman Family.

Adam and Andrea Fuelleman recognized the value the Library brings to Western Springs immediately upon moving to the village in 2016, calling it the “keystone to a great community.” They have enjoyed seeing the Library expand the scope and accessibility of its services, from in-person programming such as the lapsit storytimes to the applications which make the Library’s resources available on any Kindle, phone, and laptop.

Andrea is active in the Western Springs Neighbors and Newcomers Book Club, and Adam now serves as a Trustee for the Library, broadening his insight into the value the Library brings to the Village.

Their children, Colin (10) and Evelyn (8), are avid readers and marvel at how quickly they are able to receive books held at other libraries, never waiting too long for the newest release in the Spy School or Princess in Black series. Shout out to the Thomas Ford staff members who make it possible—including Uma, their favorite librarian!

The Foundation sincerely thanks the Fuelleman Family for their support and extends congratulations to Adam and Andrea for becoming members of the Oak Leaf Society.

**Be sure to check out the Fuelleman Family's book recommendations!**



**Registration is required for ALL programs unless otherwise noted.**

Storytime Registration begins on Monday, December 1 at 9:30 a.m.

for Lapsit, Toddler Time, and Preschool Pals only.

For all other programs: Youth Program Registration

begins on Tuesday, December 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Have your library card ready to register

at [fordlibrary.org](http://fordlibrary.org), in person, or by

calling (708) 246-0520. First

preference will be given to

Western Springs residents.

\* Registration required

## Curious George Visits the Library

*Families Welcome!*

Saturday, December 6

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Welcome life-sized Curious George to the Library! Enjoy a special storytime (10:30-10:45 a.m.), crafts, and opportunities to take a photo with Curious George during the visit.



## Junior Engineers: Building with Marshmallows\*

*Grades 2-4*

Thursday, December 18

4-4:45 p.m.

Marshmallows aren't just for hot cocoa! Come design houses out of toothpicks and marshmallows. We'll set our buildings together to create a marshmallow village.

## Noon Year's Eve Celebration\*

*Families Welcome!*

Tuesday, December 30

11 a.m.-12 p.m.

5... 4... 3... 2... 1... Happy NOON Years! Ring in the new year with a Noon Year's Eve party at the library. We will read stories, do a craft, and have our own countdown celebration!



## Read & Create: Winter Solstice\*

*Grades PreK-1*

Tuesday, December 9

4-4:45 p.m.

Join us for a reading of Kelsey Gross's "Winter: A Solstice Story." Afterwards, we will complete a paper candle craft to take home.

## Hiya Snowflake!\*

*Families Welcome!*

Monday, December 15

4-4:45 p.m.

Grammy® Nominated Artist Nanny Nikki loves to sing and bring life to classic and original songs for children. Join her for a winter themed, high energy, and interactive musical show including sing-along songs, dancing, puppets and more! This show is best suited for children aged 6 and under.



## Do Art Creative Show\*

*Families Welcome!*

Tuesday, January 6

4-4:45 p.m.

Join us for an interactive show that sparks creative energy through live music, drawing, juggling, unicycling, and plenty of surprises!

## Nature Storytime with The Morton Arboretum\*

*Recommended ages 2-6 w/ adult*

Thursdays: January 8, February 26

1-1:30 p.m.

A guest presenter from The Morton Arboretum will join us to share fun nature stories that help us notice how weather, trees, and animals change with the season! Please register for each month individually.

# Storytimes

January 12-February 20



## Lapsit Storytime\*

*Birth-23 months w/ adult*

Wednesdays or Thursdays  
or Fridays, 10-10:30 a.m.

Help your baby grow up to love books! Share stories, songs, and rhymes with your little one in this lapsit program and introduce them to a lifetime of reading and language enjoyment.

## Toddler Time\*

*2-3.5 years w/ adult*

Mondays: 10-10:30 a.m.

or Mondays: 11-11:30 a.m.

or Tuesdays: 10-10:30 a.m.

Introduce your toddler to early literacy and help build a foundation of reading. We pair short books with songs and rhymes to engage them. Toddlers love to dance and listen during our time together.

## Preschool Pals\*

*3.5-5 years*

Tuesdays, 1-1:30 p.m.

Hear stories, sing songs, and have fun with your friends! Storytime will highlight early literacy skills that children need to learn before they can read independently. Children attend this storytime without their grown-ups so that they can practice being independent.



## Read & Create: The Snow Globe Family\*

Grades PreK-1

Tuesday, January 13

4-4:45 p.m.

Join us for a reading of Jane O'Connor's "The Snow Globe Family," then make a snow globe craft to take home!



## Build-a-Bird Workshop\*

Grades 2-4

Thursday, January 15

4-4:45 p.m.

Learn how the various features of birds—such as feet, wings, and beaks—help them survive in their environments, then use art supplies to build a bird with the features that will help it live in your imaginary habitat!

## Family Art Night: Mason Jar Snow Globes\*

Families Welcome!

Thursday, January 22

6-7 p.m.

Create an art project together as a family in our Family Art Night series! This season, we will make a mason jar snow globe to take home. Be sure to dress for mess!

## LEGO Family Night\*

Families Welcome!

Thursday, January 29

6-7 p.m.

Families of LEGO enthusiasts are invited to join us for an evening of teamwork and imagination! Families will build a creation to display in the Youth Services Department for one month. LEGOs will be provided.

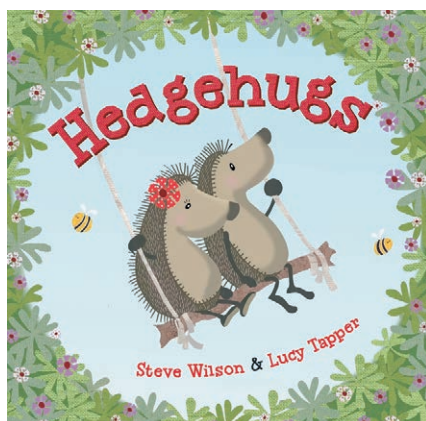
## Read to Gracie\*

Grades K-4

Saturdays: January 31, February 28

2-3 p.m.

Register for 10 minutes of reading time with our new therapy dog partner, Gracie! This program is done in partnership with St. John's Lutheran Church in La Grange.



## Read & Create: Hedgehugs\*

Grades PreK-1

Tuesday, February 10

4-4:45 p.m.

Join us for a reading of Steve Wilson and Lucy Tapper's "Hedgehugs." Afterwards, we will create a Valentine's Day hedgehog craft to take home!



## Blues Beats for Little Feet

Families Welcome!

Tuesday, February 17

4-4:45 p.m.

This fun, interactive program introduces children to music through the principles of blues! Using a fresh, authentic approach, instructors Wendy and DB provide step-by-step lesson plans to help young learners experience music through call and response, work songs, 12-bar blues, simple chord structures, and original blues songs.

## Bird Watching\*

Grades PreK-2

Wednesday, February 18

4-4:45 p.m.

Join us for bird stories and learn the basics of bird watching, how to protect them, and where birds go when it gets chilly. Afterwards, we will decorate our own bird watching journal to take home!

## Ford LEGO Creators\*

Grades 2-4

Thursday, February 19

4-4:45 p.m.

Bring your ideas and imagination to the Library to create a LEGO model! LEGO bricks will be provided.

# Evergreen Programs

December-February



## Elf Scavenger Hunt

December 1-31

Come to the Youth Services Department to find Tinsel the Magic Elf! He will be hiding among the books and shelves in a different location every day. Find Tinsel and receive a sticker!

## Go Birding! Scavenger Hunt

January 1-31

Search the Youth Services Department for a different Illinois bird each day. Tell us which bird you find to earn a sticker!



## Lovebirds Scavenger Hunt

February 1-28

Two lovebirds are hiding in the Youth Services Department. Count their hearts and report the number to earn a sticker!

## Mystery Craft Kits

Mondays: January 5, February 2

Come to the Youth Services Department to pick up a bag with a craft inside! Crafts are leftover from previous programs and are available while supplies last. Which craft will you take home?

## Thomas Ford Memorial Library

800 Chestnut Street  
Western Springs, IL 60558  
(708) 246-0520  
fordlibrary.org

### Library Hours

Monday - Thursday  
9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday  
9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

### Library Closings

The Library will be closed on the following dates:

- Thursday, November 27 for Thanksgiving
- Friday, December 12 for Staff In Service
- Wednesday, December 24 for Christmas Eve
- Thursday, December 25 for Christmas Day
- Wednesday, December 31 for New Year's Eve
- Thursday, January 1 for New Year's Day

### Board of Trustees Meeting Dates

The Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.  
Winter dates: January 27, February 24

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Ted Bodewes, Library Director

### Library Board of Trustees

Jean Carroll, President: jeancarroll@fordlibrary.org  
Daniel Montgomery, Treasurer: danielmontgomery@fordlibrary.org  
Stephen Baker, Secretary: stephenbaker@fordlibrary.org  
Vincent Donnelly: vincentdonnelly@fordlibrary.org  
Adam Fuelleman: adamfuelleman@fordlibrary.org  
Gail Graziani: gailgraziani@fordlibrary.org  
Karen Hendrick: karenhendrick@fordlibrary.org

## Everyday Resources

Thomas Ford Memorial Library offers so much more beyond books and community programming!

From high-speed internet, computer, and printing access to meeting room reservations and more, we're here to be your convenient one-stop destination for all things learning, connecting, and growing. Ask us about our services any time to take advantage of everything!

## Library of Things

We have a variety of cool and useful tools available for checkout in our Library of Things collection, including:

- Nintendo Switch
- LED Therapy Lamp
- GoPro Camera
- Travel Accessories
- Metal Detector
- Collapsible Projection Screen
- Memory Kits for Dementia
- ...and so much more!

## Ongoing Groups

These ongoing Library groups are free for all to attend. No registration required.

### Investment Discussion Group

Second Tuesdays: December 9,  
January 13, February 10  
7:15 p.m.  
Amateur investors meet to discuss  
financial insights, trends, stocks, etc.

### Western Springs Writers' Society

Second & Fourth Thursdays: December 11;  
January 8, 22; February 12, 26  
7 p.m.  
Discuss and hone your craft with other writers of  
all levels and genres! Contact Jim Swinehart at  
jrswinehart10@gmail.com with any questions.

### Knitting Circle

Every other Thursday: December 4, 18;  
January 8, 22; February 5, 19  
1 p.m.  
Join us for knitting, conversation, and light  
refreshments.



you  
*belong*  
here