



## 2023 IOWA AUTHOR AWARDS DINNER: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Pulitzer Prize winner Andrew Sean Greer delighted a crowd of Des Moines Public Library supporters at this fall's Iowa Author Dinner, the annual fundraiser for the Des Moines Public Library Foundation. In addition to Greer's keynote talk, several Iowa authors were honored. [Read more on page 5.](#)



# 7 New Year's Library Resolutions!

Let us help you have the best 2024 ever – all for FREE

Let the library help plan your 2024 New Year's resolutions! Our website, [dmpl.org](https://dmpl.org), is the perfect place to start. It holds a bevy of resources you can use to make your life easier – and best of all, it's free with a library card. Here are seven resolutions you can fulfil this year with help from the Des Moines Public Library:

**LEARN A LANGUAGE!** Mango, our free language-learning app, includes more than 70 languages and focuses on practical, conversation-based learning. Mango even has a higher rating in app stores than other options like Duolingo and Babbel.

**GET CRAFTY!** Creativebug, free with your library card, is an arts and crafts resource with thousands of video classes taught by recognized design experts and artists. It includes all sorts of crafting, including knitting, crocheting, paper crafts, and more. It's great for beginners and experts, and has lots of activities for families and kids too.

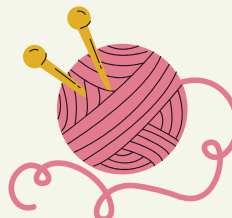
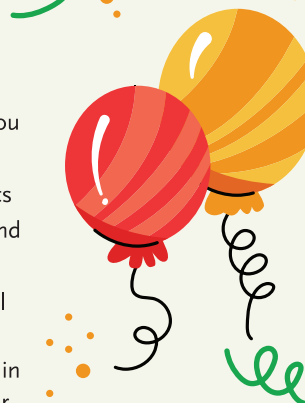
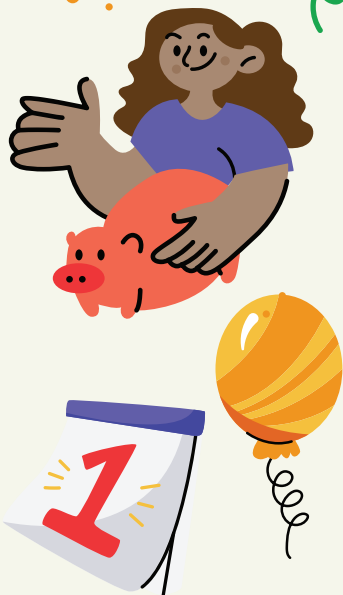
**SAVE MONEY!** Use the library's free services to follow the news, watch movies, and listen to audiobooks. With your library card, you get free, unlimited digital access to *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. You can use Kanopy to watch some of the best movies being made, including several A24 films. And by utilizing Libby, you'll have access to more than 11,000 audiobooks. By just using these services instead of comparable subscriptions, you can save \$45/month, or more than \$540/year. *Some residency restrictions apply.*

**STUDY MORE!** Get the help you and your family need with essay assignments and test preparation. Utilize our free research databases like Brainfuse, Credo, and Mometrix to make sure you have the right information and right preparation.

**READ MORE!** Of course we can help with this one! Find motivation to read all the books on your TBR list and take part in the 2024 Reading Challenge! With 18 categories, plus monthly bonus categories, it's a great opportunity to make time in your day to find time to read. It launches January 1. You can also visit our Popular Page ([dmpl.org/popular](https://dmpl.org/popular)) to see the library's most requested titles, *New York Times* bestsellers, the hottest books you can check out right now, and more.

**GET OUT MORE!** Check out our events page and find free fun programs where you can learn about art, gardening, social issues, and more. You might even be able to take some fun things home! We have thousands of programs for all ages each year.

**BE ADVENTUROUS!** Take your family on a free adventure. Use our website to sign up for Adventure Passes and plan a day visiting some of Des Moines' best attractions. When you sign up for an Adventure Pass, you can take your family on a free trip to the Blank Park Zoo, the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, the Brenton Skating Plaza, the Science Center of Iowa, and the Des Moines Children's Museum. Go to [dmpl.org/adventure-pass](https://dmpl.org/adventure-pass) to get started.



# JAMES PATTERSON ANNOUNCED AS 2024 AVID HEADLINER

LEGENDARY AUTHOR WILL MAKE A STOP AT  
SCOTTISH RITE CONSISTORY FOR A FREE AUTHOR TALK

© Stephanie Diari

**JAMES PATTERSON**

**APRIL 10, 2024 7PM**  
SCOTTISH RITE CONSISTORY  
519 PARK STREET

*The Secret Lives of Booksellers and Librarians*  
TRUE STORIES of the MAGIC of READING

**JAMES PATTERSON**  
AND MATT EVERSMANN

**AVIID**  
AUTHORS VISITING IN DES MOINES

DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

James Patterson, one of the best-selling authors in the world, will headline the Des Moines Public Library's 2024 Authors Visiting in Des Moines (AVID) series. The program will take place at Scottish Rite Consistory, at 519 Park Street in downtown Des Moines, on Wednesday, April 10.

Patterson will discuss his career and his upcoming nonfiction book, *The Secret Lives of Booksellers and Librarians: True Stories of the Magic of Reading* (release date: April 8, 2024). The book tells the real-life stories of people in two professions that Patterson himself calls "superheroes."

One of the most popular storytellers of our time, Patterson has sold hundreds of millions of books worldwide during his illustrious, prolific career. He is the creator of popular characters and series like Alex Cross, the Women's Murder Club, Jane Effing Smith, and Maximum Ride, and

of true stories about the Kennedys, John Lennon, Princess Diana, as well as military heroes, police officers, and ER nurses. He has coauthored best-selling novels with Bill Clinton and Dolly Parton, told the story of his own life in *James Patterson by James Patterson*, and has received an Edgar Award, nine Emmy Awards, the Literarian Award from the National Book Foundation, and the National Humanities Medal.

Admission for AVID is free, and seating is first-come, first-served. Patterson will sign books following the program. More details about the event, including information on a special VIP meet-and-greet, will be announced in the coming weeks.

The remainder of the 2024 Authors Visiting in Des Moines (AVID) lineup will be revealed in early 2024.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PATTERSON AND THE AVID SERIES, GO TO [DMPL.ORG/AVID](https://dmpl.org/avid).**

# FEATURED UPCOMING LIBRARY PROGRAMS

## BOARD GAME CAFÉ

**Saturday, December 16, 10 AM-12 PM | South Side Library**

Stop by the library for a few hours of board game fun. Play an old favorite, learn a new game, or invite friends and bring your own. Snacks provided. Best for ages 8+.

## ART 101

**Monday, December 18, and Monday, January 22, 6-7:30 PM | Central Library**

Join library staff member and local artist Fueche Vang for art lessons. All materials provided. December's lesson will be on Vincent Van Gogh.

## MO WILLEMS PIGEON PARTY

**Friday, December 22, 2 PM | East Side Library**

Join us in celebrating the newest pigeon book from Mo Willems, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Sleigh*. We will learn how to draw the pigeon, create your own pigeon finger puppet, and meet a real-life pigeon from the ARL Therapets. **Registration required.**

## PLANT-BASED RESET

**Saturday, January 6, 10:30 AM | North Side Library**

Join Robin from Plant-Based Point to discuss how plant-based foods can help you kick off 2024. Learn the benefits of plant-based eating and pick up some tips and tricks to creating healthy and affordable meals all year long.

## KIRIGAMI POP-UP CARDS

**Monday, January 8, 6 PM | East Side Library**

Join us for this hands-on kirigami (a variation of origami) paper program! We'll be cutting, scoring, and folding an amazing three-dimensional pop-up card from a single sheet of paper. All materials are provided.

## BUY. EAT. LIVE HEALTHY.

**Wednesdays beginning January 10, 1:30-3 PM | North Side Library**

Learn how to make easy and low-cost recipes with ISU Extension in this 8 week class where we'll get hands-on in the kitchen.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION

**Monday, January 15, 4 PM | Forest Avenue Library**

Join us for our annual community celebration on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at Forest Avenue Library. Des Moines Public Schools Superintendent D. Ian Roberts will be the keynote speaker, and there will be interactive activities, and more.

## DISCOVERING DES MOINES HISTORY

**Tuesday, January 16, 5:30 PM | Central Library**

Interested in learning about the history of our great city, or even just your little corner of it? DMPL is offering free presentations on Des Moines' fascinating past. In addition, learn about the resources the library offers on the history of your city, neighborhood, or house.

## SEED EXCHANGE

**Thursday, January 18, 5:30-7 PM | North Side Library**

Ready to refresh your seed inventory? Bring seeds to share with other gardeners. Veggie, herb, and flower seeds welcome. The library will provide envelopes to fill out with seeds to take home! Drop-in anytime; participants are not required to bring seeds.

## VIRTUAL COOKBOOK CLUB

**Thursday, January 25, 6:30 PM | Zoom**



Join us from the comfort of your own homes and kitchens for a book club that celebrates substitutions,

creativity, sustainability and independence in home cooking. This month we will be cooking from *Cook As You Are: Recipes for Real Life*, *Hungry Cooks* and *Messy Kitchens* by Ruby Tandoh. Books can be picked up at the North Side Library during open hours.

## HOW TO RIDE DART

**Friday, January 26, 2 PM | Central Library**

DART staff will lead a training to help individuals learn to ride the bus in Greater Des Moines, as well provide updates on new programs and services. Training will demonstrate how to plan a trip, read maps and schedules, pay fares, and more. Attendees will receive a free monthly bus pass.

## SIMPLE STEPS CELEBRATION KICKOFF PARTY WITH MISTER K!



**Saturday, January 13, 10 AM-12 PM | East Side Library**

We'll be launching a special Simple Steps programming and education series over the next few weeks, and we're kicking it off with a party! Join us to learn the Simple Steps (read, write, talk, sing, play), enjoy learning activities, and literacy stations, plus special guests like our mascot Rosie Reader and Mister K and friends from Mister K's Clubhouse!

The Simple Steps series at East Side Library continues:

- **Wednesday, January 17, 10-11 AM: Highlighting the READ Simple Step**
- **Wednesday, January 24, 10-11 AM: Highlighting the TALK Simple Step**
- **Wednesday, January 31, 10-11 AM: Highlighting the PLAY Simple Step**



THE DES MOINES  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FOUNDATION  
INVITES YOU TO SPEND  
AN EVENING IN  
CONVERSATION WITH

23rd Annual  
**IOWA  
AUTHOR  
AWARDS  
DINNER**  
OCTOBER 20TH, 2023  
EMBASSY SUITES  
DOWNTOWN

**ANDREW  
SEAN  
GREER**

The Pulitzer  
Prize-winning author  
of celebrated  
bestsellers *Less* and  
*Less Is Lost*



Attendees at this year's Iowa Author Awards dinner celebrated four accomplished local writers and heard from Pulitzer Prize winning author **Andrew Sean Greer** in an evening that raised funds for the Des Moines Public Library Foundation.

Focused on the theme that "Libraries are for Everyone," this year's program continued our new tradition of reciting the Library Bill of Rights before the meal. Led by former board member **Judy McCoy Davis**, the recitation is a reminder of Des Moines' leading role in protecting the Freedom to Read.

Keynote **Andrew Sean Greer** shared a personal story about a formative library experience. His parents took him to his local library, telling him "Nothing in here can hurt you." Greer flipped rhetoric about books promoting "dangerous ideas" into a hilarious talk that highlighted our library system's vibrant programming. Our October calendar provided Greer with ample material: The descriptions of escape rooms, insect zoos, and other Halloween-themed activities that he read aloud had the crowd howling.

Greer, a Pulitzer Prizewinning author of several books, including *Less* and *Less is Lost*, was also

interviewed by *DSM* editor **Michael Morain**, who spotlighted how rare it is for humorous literature to be taken seriously. For Greer, it wasn't until he started embracing his own identity and experiences as a gay man that he found his true voice as a writer.

That sentiment rang true for our honorees, whose acceptance speeches called attention to the need for stories that celebrate queer and autistic youth, narratives that center children of color, and *happily ever afters* for bold women. Accepting our 2023 Iowa Author Awards were:



**EMERGING IOWA AUTHOR:** Amy Lillard, whose book *Exile in Guyville* won the BOA Editions Short Fiction Prize.

**FICTION AWARD:** Tracey Garvis Graves, international bestselling author of contemporary fiction, including *Heard It in a Love Song*.

**CHILDREN'S LITERATURE:** Abena Imhotep, author of the children's book *Omari's Big Tree and the Mighty Djembe*.

**SPECIAL INTEREST AWARD:** Denise Williams, author of nine books, including *Even if the Sky is Falling* and *Technically Yours*.

The 2023 Iowa Author Awards marked the Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Co-chaired by **Pamela Bass-Bookey** and **Harry Bookey**, longtime library supporters **Steve Jayne** and **Karen Shaff** were also honored as the 2023 Friends of Literacy. With so much to celebrate, the evening was successful in raising over \$102,000 to benefit the library system.

# THANK YOU TO OUR IOWA AUTHOR AWARDS DINNER SPONSORS

## **PRESENTING SPONSOR**

Friends of Amy

## **PUBLISHER'S PRIZE**

Pamela Bass-Bookey & Harry Bookey  
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## **HERITAGE**

Dentons Davis Brown  
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Chuck Rohm  
Karen Shaff & Steve Jayne

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Dotdash Meredith  
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Ellen & Jim Hubbell  
G. David and Trudy Holman Hurd  
Karen Shaff & Steve Jayne  
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## **UNDERWRITERS**

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Holmes Murphy  
Eliza Ovrum & Mark Schuling

## YOUR GIFT CAN HAVE AN EVEN GREATER IMPACT

With gift matching opportunities, like company matching of charitable gifts or volunteer time, your giving will increase. Ask your Human Resources Office for the required forms.

## PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO THE DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Leave a legacy by designating a planned gift today – you will make a difference in the future. Planned gifts can show a lifetime of caring and be in the form of a bequest, gift of life insurance, stocks or annuities. Please contact Foundation Director, Kelly K. Shrock at 515-412-0180 or email [kellyshrock@dmplfoundation.org](mailto:kellyshrock@dmplfoundation.org).

## ESTATE GIFT – LEAVING A LEGACY



Naming the Des Moines Public Library Foundation as a beneficiary is a meaningful way to enrich the Des Moines community. If you are interested in making a bequest, please contact Kelly Shrock at [kellyshrock@dmplfoundation.org](mailto:kellyshrock@dmplfoundation.org). If you have already named the DMPL Foundation in your will or estate plan, please let us know so we can welcome you as a member of the Estes-Spaulding Legacy Society. Visit our website for more information [www.dmpl.org/foundation](http://www.dmpl.org/foundation).

## CONSIDER YOUR IRA FOR CHARITABLE GIVING



The DMPL Foundation provides many opportunities to support the library system in our community. While many donors choose to give from their checking and savings accounts, there are many other ways to give.

**For donors 70 ½ and older, a gift from an IRA can provide a tax benefit to the donor while making a difference.** A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from an individual retirement account (IRA) allows you to make a charitable gift and satisfy your annual required minimum distribution (if one is due) without paying taxes.

Giving through your IRA is simple. Instruct your IRA custodian to transfer a specific amount directly to the DMPL Foundation. For rules and limitations, talk to your financial advisor.

If you want to learn more about giving through your IRA or other options at DMPL Foundation, contact Kelly Shrock, Executive Director, at 515-412-0180 or [kellyshrock@dmplfoundation.org](mailto:kellyshrock@dmplfoundation.org).

## LET US HELP YOU HONOR A LOVED ONE



Celebrate your family, friends, and loved ones this holiday season by making a gift in honor of or in memory of someone special. Your generous gift will help the library continue to offer free, public programs throughout our community.

Be sure to note with your contribution who this gift is in memory of or honoring and provide your loved one's contact information. We will send a letter notifying the honoree/recipient that a gift has been made in their honor or in memory of someone they love. This holiday

season remember that a DMPL Foundation Honorary Gift makes the perfect gift!

Make your gift online at [dmpl.org/foundation/how-to-give](http://dmpl.org/foundation/how-to-give)

# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The following donations were received by the Des Moines Public Library Foundation from August 1, 2023 through October 27, 2023. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us, and we will make corrections.

## IN MEMORY OF

**Colleen (Vivone) Breheny**  
Kathryn A. Griffin

**Isla Hope Hoque**  
Julie and Patrick Sanagursky

**Sylvia Kelly**  
DMPL Staff Association

**Susan J. Noth**  
William Noth and Marcia Baumhover

**Arlene Sharp**  
Jan Needels

**Patricia Sloan Skinner**  
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## IN HONOR OF

**Abigail Adrian**  
Angela D. Jiskoot, F & G Charitable Foundation

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**Patsy Shors**  
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**Meredith Hubbell Stahl and Andrew Stahl**  
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## MATCHING AND WORK PLACE GIVING PROGRAMS

City of Des Moines  
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## Donate Online

Simply go to  
[dmpl.org/foundation](https://dmpl.org/foundation)  
and  
click on **Donate Now.**

*The mission of the Des Moines Public Library Foundation is to raise funds and advocate for the Des Moines Public Library System.*



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**Winter Closures:**

- Monday-Tuesday, December 25-26
- Monday, January 1
- Monday, January 15
- Monday, February 19



**Funding to print *Insight* is provided by the  
Des Moines Public Library Foundation.**



**dmpl.org**



Phone: 515.283.4152



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**CENTRAL LIBRARY**  
1000 Grand Avenue

9 AM - 8 PM Monday-Thursday  
9 AM - 6 PM Friday  
10 AM - 5 PM Saturday  
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**Pickup Window:**

9 AM - 7 PM Monday-Thursday  
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**EAST SIDE LIBRARY**  
2559 Hubbell Avenue

10 AM - 8 PM Monday-Thursday  
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10 AM - 5 PM Saturday

**FOREST AVENUE LIBRARY**  
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10 AM - 8 PM Monday-Thursday  
10 AM - 6 PM Friday  
10 AM - 5 PM Saturday

**FRANKLIN AVENUE  
LIBRARY**  
5000 Franklin Avenue

10 AM - 8 PM Monday-Thursday  
10 AM - 6 PM Friday  
10 AM - 5 PM Saturday  
1-5 PM Sunday

**Pickup Window:**

10 AM - 8 PM Monday-Thursday  
10 AM - 6 PM Friday  
10 AM - 5 PM Saturday

**NORTH SIDE LIBRARY**  
3516 Fifth Avenue

10 AM - 8 PM Monday-Thursday  
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10 AM - 5 PM Saturday

**SOUTH SIDE LIBRARY**  
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10 AM - 5 PM Saturday

*\*Hours are subject to change. Please visit [dmpl.org](http://dmpl.org) for up-to-date hours and information on available library services.*

