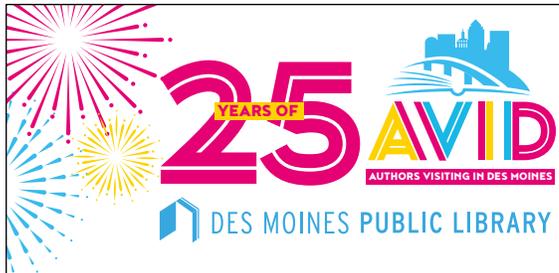


April/May

East Side Library

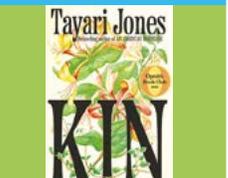
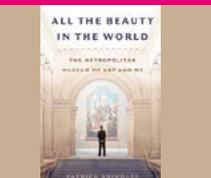
Events

ALL LOCATIONS OF THE DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5, SUNDAY, MAY 24, AND MONDAY, MAY 25.

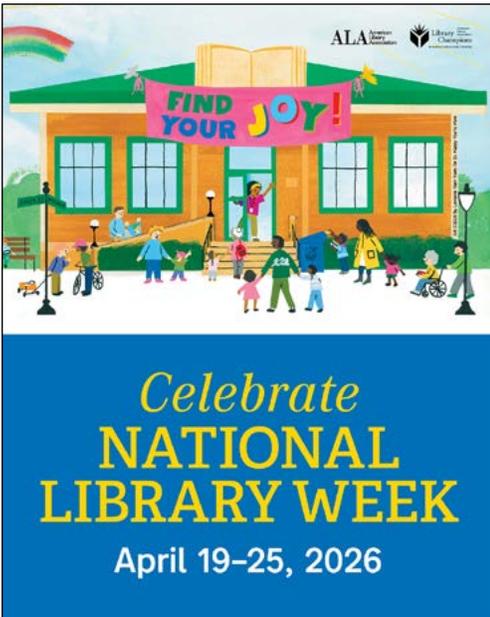


The 25th anniversary of Authors Visiting in Des Moines (AVID) is upon us! This milestone year features a romance world superstar in Julia Quinn, a literary icon in Tayari Jones, a groundbreaking partnership with the **Des Moines Arts Festival** and **Des Moines Art Center**, and much more.

Mark your calendars for these six events and get ready for an incredible season of celebrating reading and the arts in Des Moines! Doors open approximately 1 hour before each event. Doors will open at 5:15 PM for Julia Quinn's event.

 <p>© Chandra Wicks Photography</p>	 <p>© Beauwiff Sheehan</p>	 <p>DSM BOOK FESTIVAL</p>		 <p>© Julie Yarborough</p>	 <p>DES MOINES ARTS FESTIVAL DES MOINES ARTS CENTER</p>
<p>JULIA QUINN</p> 	<p>MARIA SEMPLE</p> 	<p>TAYLOR WOLFE</p> 	<p>SHANNON CHAKRABORTY</p> 	<p>TAYARI JONES</p> 	<p>PATRICK BRINGLEY</p> 
<p>TUESDAY, APRIL 7 7 PM HOYT SHERMAN PLACE 1501 WOODLAND AVENUE</p>	<p>THURSDAY, APRIL 16 7 PM CENTRAL LIBRARY 1000 GRAND AVENUE</p>	<p>SATURDAY, MAY 2 7 PM FRANKLIN EVENT CENTER 4801 FRANKLIN AVENUE</p>	<p>THURSDAY, MAY 14 7 PM CENTRAL LIBRARY 1000 GRAND AVENUE</p>	<p>MONDAY, JUNE 15 7 PM CENTRAL LIBRARY 1000 GRAND AVENUE</p>	<p>SATURDAY, JUNE 27 11 AM CENTRAL LIBRARY 1000 GRAND AVENUE</p>

[DMPL.ORG/AVID](https://dmpl.org/avid)



Celebrate National Library Week – April 19-25!

Meet up with fellow library lovers to celebrate National Library Week! A traveling coffee cart will be visiting all six DMPL locations throughout the week with free coffee and light pastries, while supplies last. Enter door prize drawings for “I’m a library advocate” mugs and Rosie plushies. Mark your calendars for when the cart will be at your branch, and plan to celebrate National Library Week with us!

Monday, April 20

- 10-11 AM – Forest Avenue Library
- 12-1 PM – North Side Library

Wednesday, April 22

- 10:30-11:30 AM – South Side Library
- 12:30-1:30 PM – Central Library*

Thursday, April 23

- 9:30-10:30 AM – Franklin Avenue Library
- 11:30 AM-12:30 PM – East Side Library



¡DÍA DEL NIÑO!

DAY OF THE CHILD!

FREE



Día del Niño Celebration! / ¡Celebración del Día del Niño!

Saturday, April 25, 10 AM-12 PM

Join us at Union Park for FREE activities for the whole family: books, piñatas, carousel rides, glitter tattoos, balloon art, folkloric dance groups, and so much MORE!

Día is an international celebration of the joy found in early childhood and reading. This year, the Des Moines Public Library and its community partners are celebrating together!

¡Acompáñanos en Union Park para actividades y recursos comunitarios GRATIS para toda la familia: Libros, piñatas, paseos en carrusel, tatuajes de purpurina, arte de globos, bailadoras folklóricas y muchas más!

Día es una celebración internacional de la alegría que uno siente durante su niñez y primeras etapas de lectura. ¡Este año, Des Moines Public Library (la biblioteca) y tus socios comunitarios están celebrando juntos!



Let's Talk DMPL

Join your neighbors and staff for community conversations at all of our libraries in May! Share what matters to you about the DMPL, imagine what's possible, and help shape our future. Stay tuned — dates will be finalized in the near future.

Kids/Families

MAKE A BIRD FEEDER



Make a Bird Feeder

Thursday, April 2, 6 PM

Create a simple bird feeder using household items and learn how to help local birds in your own backyard!

ASAP Tuesdays

Tuesdays in April, 3:30 PM – Drumming

Tuesdays in May, 3:30 PM – Comics

Learn from an ASAP teaching artist each week! In April, we'll learn about beats and rhythms from a professional drummer. In May, learn to create and construct your own comic book and/or zine. Snacks provided.

Trees are Terrific w/ Polk County Conservation

Thursday, April 9, 6 PM

An interactive program led by Polk County Conservation exploring why trees matter, how they grow, and how they support people and wildlife in Iowa.



Sock Dance Party!

Saturday, April 11, 11 AM

Kick off your shoes and dance at the library! Join dance instructor Casey Keller for a high-energy Sock Dance Party where we'll learn simple moves and have fun together. Help us give back by bringing a new pair of socks to donate to our community pantry.

Paws and Read with ARL Therapets



Thursday, April 16 and May 21, 5-7 PM

Relax, read, and spend time with friendly therapy animals from the ARL! Drop in to meet our cuddly visitors and enjoy a calm, cozy evening at the library.

Design Your Own Planter

Friday, April 24, 11 AM

Design a colorful clay pot and plant grass seeds inside to create your own mini green masterpiece.

Take & Make: Nature Kit

April 27-May 2

Pick up a Nature Explorer Kit filled with tools to help your family observe and explore the world outside.



Polk County Conservation: Insects!

Thursday, May 7, 6 PM

A Polk County Conservation educator will teach us about the tiny creatures that make a big difference in our ecosystem.

SIMPLE STEPS TO EARLY LITERACY: READ WRITE SING PLAY TALK

STORYTIMES

Our DMPL Storytimes incorporate the five Simple Steps:
READ WRITE SING PLAY TALK
These easy steps help prepare your child for learning success.

Find a List of Storytimes at:
dmpl.org/storytimes

Schedule subject to change. Please check the website. There will be a storytime break from May 18-May 31. Storytimes will resume June 1.

STORYTIMES

Toddler Storytime

Mondays, 10 AM

Toddlers and their caregivers are invited to enjoy introductory stories, songs, music, and movement. This program is designed for children ages 18 to 36 months.

Baby Rhyme Time

Tuesdays, 10 AM

Join us for rhymes, songs, bounces, stories, and playtime! This program is designed for caregivers and babies ages 0-18 months to enjoy together in a fun and nurturing environment.

Teens



Anime Watch Party: *The Girl Who Leapt Through Time*

Wednesday, April 15, 3:30 PM

Join us for an anime watch party featuring *The Girl Who Leapt Through Time*. When Makoto Konno discovers she can travel through time, her carefree adventures have adverse effects on those she loves. Rated PG-13.

Silent(ish) Book Club + Crafts

Thursday, April 23, 6 PM

Join our Silent(ish) Book Club! Bring your own book or grab a library book, get cozy, and read for the first half. Stay and decorate a clay pot and plant grass for your own little yard to take home in the second part of the program. Open to middle & high schoolers.

Calm Kit Creation Night



Thursday, May 14, 6 PM

Teens are invited to build their own calming kits filled with fidgets, tools, and activities designed to help reduce stress and promote focus and relaxation. These kits are perfect for managing everyday feelings and finding moments of peace.

Calm Kit Pick-Up

May 18-23

Our community came together to build extra Calm Kits. Now they're ready to go home with you! Drop in during library hours to pick up a free kit filled with calming tools and activities designed to support breathing, grounding, and quiet focus. Available while supplies last.

Adult

Birds Are In Decline: Why and Ways We Can Help

Saturday, April 4, 2 PM

Birds are disappearing at an alarming rate, including in Iowa. Explore why bird populations are declining and what you can do to help. Learn practical actions like creating bird-friendly yards and supporting conservation advocacy. Presented by Iowa Bird Rehabilitation.

Support Group: Families of People With Dementia

Tuesday, April 7, 6 PM

Watching loved ones develop dementia is difficult. Join others in this supportive group for spouses, children, grandchildren, siblings, and other family members. Share experiences, find understanding, and receive encouragement in a safe environment.

Women & Money

Tuesday, April 7, 6 PM

Join us for Women & Money to celebrate Financial Literacy Month. Licensed financial planner Shalini Babu shares insights to help women understand their finances, build confidence, and achieve their financial goals.



Make n' Mend Meetup

Wednesday, April 8, and May 13, 5-7 PM

Drop in for a couple hours to work on your latest craft or mending project. A sewing machine will be available for use. Please bring your own supplies and projects with you.

Book Discussion

Monday, April 13 and May 11, 2 PM

Join us on the 2nd Monday of every month for our book club. Enjoy good books, great discussions, and meet fellow book lovers. Snacks and coffee are provided!

Climbing Everest: An Iowa Women's Journey to the Summit

Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 PM

Iowa native Jennifer Loeb became the first woman from Iowa to complete the "7 Summits" by climbing the highest peak on every continent. She will share stories, photos, and video from her Mt. Everest expedition and display mountaineering gear.

Grow Native: Learning About Seed Banks

Tuesday, April 28, 6 PM

Discover how to support native pollinators right in your own backyard. Learn what the native seed bank is, how it supports local ecosystems, and how you can plant your own native garden. Free native seed mix available.

Medicare and Medicaid Basics

Wednesday, April 29, 11 AM

Learn Medicare and Medicaid basics in this informative session covering eligibility, benefits, enrollment steps, and common misconceptions. Discover reliable resources and gain confidence navigating healthcare coverage decisions. All are welcome. No prior knowledge needed.



How to Grow a Garden

Tuesday, May 12, 6 PM

Start your own garden with confidence. Master Gardeners cover the basics — from seed planting techniques and soil preparation to watering, sunlight, and simple maintenance. All ages welcome.

New DART Routes: An Open House

Tuesday, May 19, 5-7 PM

The countdown is on — DART changes all bus routes in June for more frequent service all week long! Join us for an open house to chat with DART staff about new routes, receive trip planning support, and enjoy light refreshments. Printed materials provided

Drop In: Puzzle Swap

Saturday, May 30, 10 AM-1 PM

Bring a finished jigsaw puzzle and trade it for a new challenge. Join fellow puzzle enthusiasts to swap, share, and discover fresh puzzles to enjoy at home. All ages welcome.