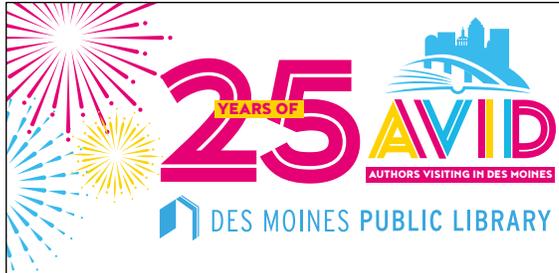


April/May

Forest Avenue Library

Events

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

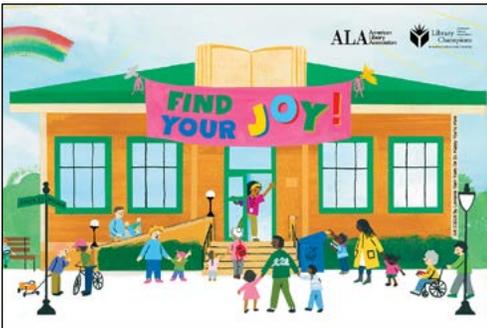


The 25th anniversary of Authors Visiting in Des Moines (AVID) is upon us! This milestone year features a romance world superstar in Julia Quinn, a literary icon in Tayari Jones, a groundbreaking partnership with the **Des Moines Arts Festival** and **Des Moines Art Center**, and much more.

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



Celebrate
**NATIONAL
LIBRARY WEEK**

April 19-25, 2026

¡DÍA DEL NIÑO! **DAY OF THE CHILD!**

Activities include: Books, Meet Rosie Reader, Folkloric Dancers, Balloon Art, Glitter Tattoos, Piñatas, and Carousel Rides.

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.

All Ages

Board Game Open Play

Friday, April 17 and May 15, 12-5 PM

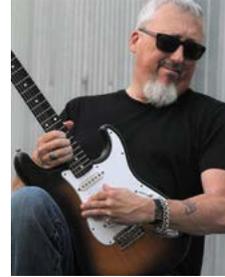
Join us for a drop-in event for all ages. Come in, get cozy, and choose from a variety of games or puzzles to play with friends!

Soul Food Festival: Presented by the Friends of the Forest Avenue Library

Saturday, May 2, 11 AM-2 PM

Join us for the Friends of the Forest Avenue Library's annual Soul Food Festival! Meals will be served 11 AM-2 PM. A la carte and dessert items also available. This fundraiser for the Friends of the Forest Avenue Library will be a cash-only event.

Harmonica Lessons with Bob Pace



Saturday, May 9, 2 PM

Learn the basics of the harmonica with Iowa Blues Hall of Famer Bob Pace! Free harmonicas will be given to attendees as supplies last, and blues CDs will be provided as door prizes. Seating and supplies are limited, so arrive early!

Kids/Teens

Art Club

Thursday, April 2 and May 7, 6:30 PM

Each month, we'll learn about artists, techniques, concepts, or art processes to find inspiration to make our own art at the library! In April, we're making mosaics with air dry clay and various seeds. In May, we're using objects from nature and light sensitive paper to make sun prints. For ages 6-11.

LEGO Open Play

Friday, April 3 & May 1, 12-5 PM

Join us in the Forest Meeting Room where building blocks will be available for open play! Use your imagination to build your ideas or use the STEM-challenge prompts and building guides to bring ideas to life. Drop-in anytime between 12-5 PM.

ASAP Mondays

Mondays in April, 4 PM – Sticker Factory

Mondays in May, 4 PM – Fantastic Fiber Arts

Try your hand at a new project after school each week! An After School Arts Program teaching artist will provide instruction. In April, we'll create and build our own stickers. In May, we'll explore art projects using thread, yarn, and wool fibers. No registration required; snacks provided.

Movie Watch Party

Tuesday, April 7, 3:30 PM – *How To Train Your Dragon*

Tuesday, May 5, 3:30 PM – *Zootopia 2*

Enjoy a family-friendly flick, popcorn, and activities each month at the Forest Avenue Library during our Movie Watch Party.

Book Club Pizza Party



Thursday, April 9, 6 PM –

The Probability of Everything, by Sarah Everett

Thursday, May 14, 6 PM – *The Lost Library*, by Rebecca Stead and Wendy Mass

It's a book club just for tweens! Make new friends, talk about

books, enjoy an activity, and eat pizza. Registration is required, and participants must pick up a copy of the book from Forest before the event to keep. For ages 9-12.

Play and Learn Group

Friday, April 10 and 24, and May 8, 10 AM-12 PM

Discover, learn, and play with other caregivers and young children during our play & learn group sessions! Drop-in when you can and take the opportunity to play with our fun equipment, toys, and sensory activities.

A colorful graphic for storytimes. At the top, it says 'SIMPLE STEPS TO EARLY LITERACY: READ WRITE SING PLAY TALK'. Below that, 'STORYTIMES' is written in large, bold, orange letters. Underneath, it says 'Our DMPL Storytimes incorporate the five Simple Steps: READ WRITE SING PLAY TALK'. Below that, it says 'These easy steps help prepare your child for learning success.' At the bottom, it says 'Find a List of Storytimes at: dmpl.org/storytimes'. The graphic features a cartoon giraffe wearing glasses and holding a stack of books, standing in a landscape with trees and a blue sky.

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

Family Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:15 AM

Join Miss Emily for Family Storytime every Wednesday at 10:15 AM. Enjoy silly stories, songs, music, dancing, and art in a fun and welcoming environment. This program is designed for children ages 0-5, but all ages are welcome to join in the fun.

Cuentacuentos: Bilingual Storytime

4th Thursday of the month, 6:15 PM

Join us at Forest Avenue Library for Bilingual Story Hour. Enjoy children's stories, rhymes, and arts and crafts presented in both English and Spanish. This program is fun and engaging for all ages and is designed especially for young children and their families.

Noche de Juegos | Game Night

Tuesday, April 14 and May 12, 6 PM

Join us at Forest Avenue Library for **Noche de Juegos**—a fun-filled game night for bilingual kids and language learners! For ages 6 and up.

Únete a nosotros en la Biblioteca de Forest Avenue el segundo martes de cada mes a las 6:00 de la noche para una **Noche de Juegos**. Este programa está pensado para niños de 6 años en adelante.

Drop-in STEM Challenge: Build a Bridge

Tuesday, April 21, 2-5 PM

Join us at Forest for a Build a Bridge STEM Challenge! Apply your knowledge of geometry to design and build structurally sound bridges using LEGOs. This is a drop-in program, so you are welcome at any point in the time frame. All materials provided.



Chess Club

Tuesday, April 28, 4 PM

Join the fun at Chess Club! Chess is one of the world's most popular games and is played by millions of people worldwide. This is a drop-in program where resources will be available to learn to play or come to test your skills with other players. For kids and teens.

Adult

Card Club

Wednesday, April 1 and May 6, 6 PM

Join us at Forest Avenue Library for Card Club. We will play trick-taking card games such as 500, Euchre, Hearts, Spades, Tién lèn and others. It's a perfect opportunity to meet people, learn a new game, or join a group playing your favorite card games.



Chair Yoga

Thursday, April 9, 16, and 23, 12 PM

Join yoga instructor Lily Allen-Duenas for chair yoga at Forest Avenue Library. No experience, mats, or props needed — just bring yourself. Lily helps individuals find balance, breath, and space for self-care through yoga and meditation.

Women & Money

Thursday, April 30, 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 financial goals.

Study Break with the ARL



Friday, May 8, 1-4 PM

With finals approaching, it's important to manage stress and recharge. Spend time petting friendly service animals, enjoy a snack, and destress with crafts. Stop by for a quick visit or stay awhile to boost your mood and get through finals week.

Craft Night

Wednesday, April 15 and May 20, 6 PM

Craft Night is a great place to spend time with friends, meet new people, and enjoy a fun activity. Each month will focus on a new craft, and supplies will be provided. In April, we're using a basket stitch to create felt baskets that can be used as storage. In May, we'll be creating a Macrame wristlet.

DART New Routes: An Open House

Monday, May 11, 1-3 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.

**HOT TITLES
NO HOLDS**

**THE MOST POPULAR BOOKS.
NO WAIT.**

DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Skip the hold line for that popular book! Check out our Hot Titles, No Holds section, now with an expanded selection at each DMPL location. New books are added every Tuesday!