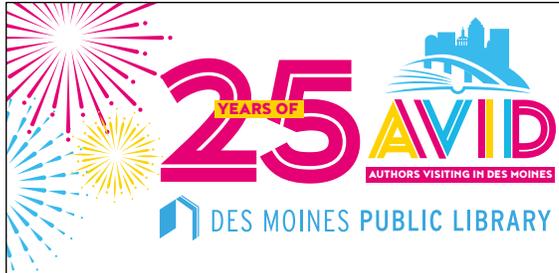


April/May

South Side Library

Events

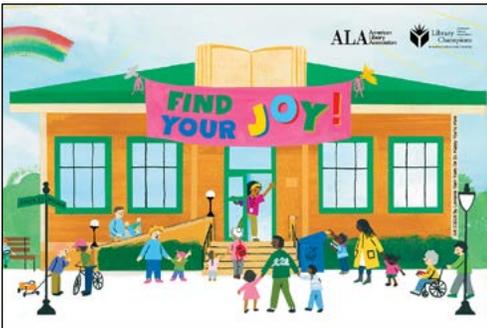
ALL LOCATIONS OF THE DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5, SUNDAY, MAY 24, AND MONDAY, MAY 25.



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>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>
<p>DMPL.ORG/AVID</p>					



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!

¡Acompáñannos 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

ASAP Thursdays

Thursdays in April, 4 PM – Cardboard Creations

Thursdays in May, 4 PM – Jewelry Making

Join other creative types and take up a new project each week, led by an After School Arts Program teaching artist. Snacks will be provided. In April, give plain cardboard new life each week with a different challenge. In May, create fashionable jewelry using wire, beads, and other materials.

Play, Grow, Learn!

Tuesdays, 10 AM

Play, Grow, Learn is an opportunity to meet families with other young children and engage in the five simple steps to success - Read, Write, Sing, Play, and Talk. We will have a variety of toys available that promote learning for little ones.

Drop-In Games Hour

Tuesday, April 14, 4 PM

Visit South Side Library for an hour of games! Play Nintendo Switch, try a giant board games, or settle in with a classic tabletop game!

Sensory Play Hour

Tuesday, April 21 and May 19, 4-5 PM

Come to South Side for an hour of sensory exploration! From cool textures to fun activities, kids can have a great time learning while doing what they do best: playing! This is a drop-in program – come in when you can. No registration required!

Comic Collage Bookmarks

Tuesday, May 12, 4 PM

Design a unique bookmark using pictures from comic pages and other craft accessories. We'll bring the supplies, you bring your imagination! While supplies last.

Volunteer Drop-in Hour

Wednesdays, 4-5 PM



Earn volunteer hours by assisting with library programs and projects! Teens ages 12 to 18 can drop in any open Wednesday and volunteer for one hour. A volunteer application and parent/guardian-signed waiver must be submitted to South Side Library to participate.

Summer VolunTeen Orientation

Wednesday, May 20, 4 PM

Tuesday, May 26, 4 PM

Learn how you can help our Summer Reading program succeed while earning volunteer hours. All summer volunteers must attend one of the orientation sessions. Please come prepared with your availability.

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

Family Storytime

Mondays, 6:30 PM

Join us for Family Storytime at 6:30 PM! Children and caregivers can enjoy songs, stories, and activities together. Pajamas are welcome for a cozy evening of fun. This program is best for ages 6 and under, but all families are invited to attend.

Preschool Storytime

Thursdays, 10 AM

Children ages 3–5 and their caregivers can join us Thursdays at 10 AM for a 30-minute storytime filled with engaging stories, music, and fun activities.

 **IOWA ADVENTUREPASS**

 **DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY**



Your Ticket to FREE Family Fun

Adult

Grow Native: Learning About Seed Banks



Thursday, April 2, 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.

Mah Jongg Open Play

Tuesday, April 7 and 21 and May 5 and 19, 1:30-3:30 PM

Join us for open Mah Jongg play at Central Library. We'll have two tables available, but you may bring your own set and create additional tables to play. These sessions are perfect for practicing or enjoying the game with fellow enthusiasts.

An Evening Book Discussion

Thursday, April 9, 6:30 PM

Join fellow book readers to talk books, plots, characters, and more. This month, there will be two books to choose from — *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt or *Sipsworth* by Simon Van Booy. Sign out a copy of either book at the Information Desk.

Puzzle Exchange

Saturday, April 11, 2 PM

Bring your beloved finished puzzles and swap them for new ones at South Side Library. Exchange puzzles you've completed for fresh challenges in this good old-fashioned puzzle swap. All ages welcome.

Floral Watercolor with Lisa Christensen

Thursday, April 23, 6 PM

Join us for a calming evening of flowers and watercolor with Lisa Christensen! **Registration required.**

NFC's Journey to Homeownership (J2H)



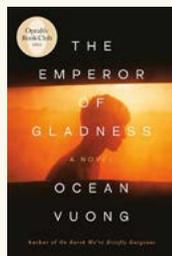
Wednesday, May 13, 6 PM

Become a homeowner with support from Neighborhood Finance Corporation's Journey to Homeownership program. Learn about the homebuying process, challenges first-time buyers face, and available down payment assistance for Polk County residents.

New DART Routes: An Open House

Tuesday, May 14, 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.



South Side Book Discussion

Thursday, April 16, 2 PM – *The Emperor of Gladness*, by Ocean Vuong

Thursday, May 21, 2 PM – TBD

Enjoy a good book and great conversation each month with other book lovers. Copies of the next month's book are available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at the prior month's program.

**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!