

# UNFOLD

EVENTS CALENDAR | NEWSLETTER

Public  
Library  
ST. JOE COUNTY

the voice behind  
every story.

Jason Reynolds  
is a literary  
powerhouse.

Introducing **Culturally Speaking**, a new author talk series at SJCP, designed to highlight storytellers from diverse backgrounds.

*continued on page 12*

WINTER 2024/25  
DEC/JAN/FEB

**Main** | 574.282.4646  
304 S. Main St., South Bend 46601  
Mon-Thurs: 9 AM - 8 PM  
Fri-Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM  
Sun: 1 PM - 5 PM

**Centre Township** | 574.251.3700  
1150 E. Kern Rd., South Bend 46614

Closed for Renovations

**Francis** | 574.282.4641  
52655 N. Ironwood Rd., South Bend 46635  
Mon-Thurs: 9 AM - 7 PM  
Fri-Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM

**German Township** | 574.271.5144  
52807 Lynnewood Ave., South Bend 46628  
Mon-Thurs: 9 AM - 7 PM  
Fri-Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM

**Lakeville** | 574.784.3446  
120 N. Michigan St., Lakeville 46536  
Mon-Thurs: 10 AM - 7 PM  
Fri: 1 PM - 5 PM  
Sat: 10 AM - 2 PM

**LaSalle** | 574.282.4633  
3232 W. Ardmore Tr., South Bend 46628  
Mon-Thurs: 9 AM - 7 PM  
Fri-Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM

**North Liberty** | 574.656.3664  
105 E. Market St., North Liberty 46554  
Mon-Thurs: 10 AM - 7 PM  
Fri: 1 PM - 5 PM  
Sat: 10 AM - 2 PM

**River Park** | 574.282.4635  
2022 Mishawaka Ave., South Bend 46615  
Mon-Thurs: 9 AM - 7 PM  
Fri-Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM

**Tutt** | 574.282.4637  
2223 Miami St., South Bend 46613  
Mon-Thurs: 9 AM - 7 PM  
Fri-Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM

**Western** | 574.282.4639  
611 Lombardy Dr., South Bend 46619  
Mon-Thurs: 9 AM - 7 PM  
Fri-Sat: 9 AM - 5 PM

## Table of Contents

- 1** Letter from the Executive Director
- 4** Events
- 12** Culturally Speaking
- 16** SJCPL Writes

### UPCOMING CLOSINGS

All locations will be closed on these dates:

- **December 24, Christmas Eve**
- **December 25, Christmas Day**
- **December 31 - 5PM Close, New Years Eve**
- **January 1, New Years Day**
- **January 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

*All programs subject to change. Visit [sjcpl.org](http://sjcpl.org) for the most current information.*

*Design by Adrian Pacheco  
Cover Photo by Adedayo "Dayo" Kosoko*

# Letter from the Executive Director

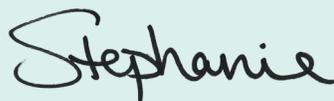
Happy Winter!

Oh. My. Goodness. I'm beyond excited to announce that Jason Reynolds will be visiting our library! Too often, adults overlook books written for children and teens. The truth is, a good story transcends age—and Jason Reynolds is proof of that. He's a genius, a poet, and a master storyteller, and if you don't know him yet, you absolutely should. If you're looking for a recommendation, I'd start with *Long Way Down*. If that one doesn't catch your eye, try *Ghost*, the audiobook of *Stamped* (co-written with Ibram X. Kendi), or *All American Boys*, which he co-wrote with Brendan Kiely. Mark January 24th from 6-8pm on your calendar and plan to join us—I'll definitely be there.

Even more exciting, Jason Reynolds' visit will kick off our reimagined One Book, One Michiana program, now called *Culturally Speaking*. This new series will bring a wide variety of authors to our community, giving us all the chance to come together over great stories and inspiring conversations about literature and life. If there's a specific author you'd love to hear from, let us know! While we can't bring everyone, your suggestions will help guide us in the right direction.

If author visits aren't your thing, don't worry—take a moment to browse this issue of *Unfold*. I'm sure you'll find something that sparks your interest.

Happy reading,



Stephanie Murphy  
Executive Director



**OUR** **NEXT**  
**CHAPTER**

Visit Our Next Chapter  
Website

# SCIENCE ALIVE



**Saturday, February 8 | 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Main Library and Community Learning Center**

Explore science, technology, engineering and math through hands-on demonstrations and exhibits with local organizations.

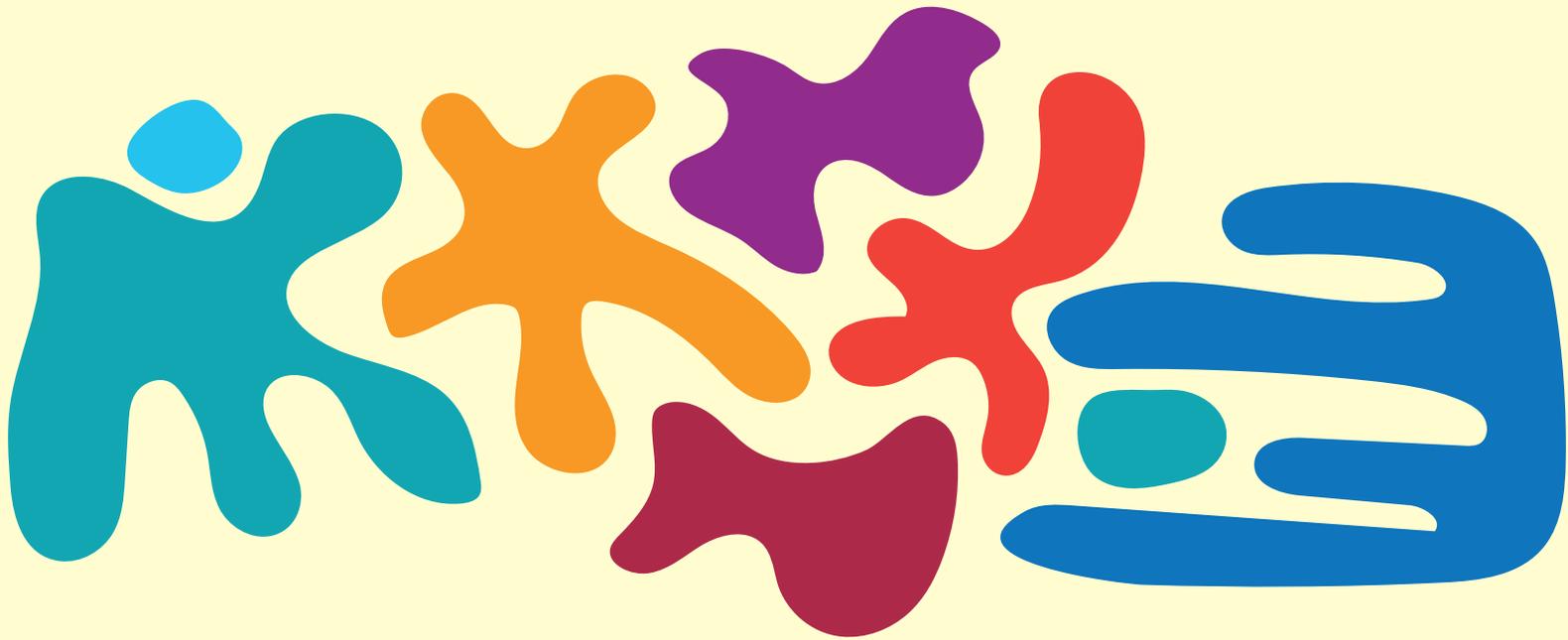
**All ages welcome.**



**Scan here to unlock  
the secrets of science!**

# Storytime, Playtime, & More!

Programs that Spark Joy & Learning, Crafted by  
Our Children's Librarians



## **BABYTIME**

(AGES 0-2)

**Main Library**

Wednesdays & Fridays | 10:30 AM

**Francis**

Thursdays | 10:30 AM

## **TINY TUMBLERS**

(AGES 0-2)

**Main Library**

Monday, December 16 | 10:30 AM

**Francis**

Monday, January 13 | 10:30 AM

## **SENSORY TIME**

(AGES 3-9)

REGISTRATION RECOMMENDED

**Main Library**

CLC - Classroom C

Tuesday, Dec 17, Jan 21 | 5 PM

## **STORYTIME**

(AGES 3-5)

**Main Library**

Thursdays | 10:30 AM

Thursdays, Dec 19, Jan 23 | 5 PM

**Francis**

Tuesdays | 10:30 AM

**German**

Mondays, 10:30 AM

**Lakeville**

Dec 5, Dec 19, Jan 16, Jan 30 | 10:30 AM

**LaSalle**

Mondays, 10:30 AM

**North Liberty**

Dec 12, Jan 9, Jan 23 | 10:30 AM

**River Park**

Thursdays, 10:30 AM

**Tutt**

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM

**Western**

Wednesdays, 10:30 AM

## **PLAYTIME**

(AGES 3-5)

**Main Library**

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM

**Francis**

Monday, Dec 9 | 10:30 AM

**German**

Wednesdays, Dec 11, Jan 8 | 10:30 AM

**Lakeville**

Wednesdays, Dec 18, Jan 15 | 10:30 AM

**LaSalle**

Wednesdays, Dec 11, Jan 8 | 5:30 PM

**North Liberty**

Wednesday, December 4 | 10:30 AM

**River Park**

Wednesdays, Dec 18, Jan 15 | 10:30 AM

**Tutt**

Wednesday, January 22 | 5:30 PM

### **Winter Programming Pause Notice**

Please note, our early literacy events will be on a break during the following dates:

**December 21 – January 5**

**The entire month of February**

# Main Library

## CHILDREN

*Events take place in the Story House unless otherwise noted.*

**Talk With Your Baby** Presented by the Robinson Community Learning Center\*  
**Thursdays | 10:00am**

Come learn the importance of talking, singing, and playing with baby during a FREE 8 week parenting class. Babies are encouraged to attend with parent/caregiver.

**Just Keep Swimming with Nemo and Friends Workshop** Presented by the South Bend Civic Theatre\*

**Saturday, December 7 | 12:30pm**  
In this Creative Dramatics workshop, children will explore the classic tale of Nemo, Dory, and Marlin, focusing on acting and technical theater to bring the story to life. Grades K - 5 are welcome.

**Tape Town**

**Monday, December 9 | 10:30am**

Drive your vehicle through Tape Town and explore fun areas along the way as we develop Early Literacy skills together! Recommended for ages 1-5.

**Piggy Bank Theater** with Thinking Money for Kids

**Thursday, December 12 | 4:00pm**

Explore the concepts of earning, saving, and spending money as kids follow three young characters who build their childhood interests into successful careers, making financial choices along the way.

**Currency Conga** with Thinking Money for Kids

**Tuesday, December 17 | 4:00pm**

Kids will learn simple money math skills and practice money recognition while playing fun games. Geared for ages 6-11.

**Countdown to Noon**

**Saturday, December 28 | 11:30am**

3...2...1... Happy New Year! Bring your child to celebrate and experience a Countdown to Noon. Recommended for ages 3-8.

**Anything But a Brush**

**Monday, January 6 | 10:30am**

Discover new ways to paint with anything but a paintbrush! Learn the difference between Process and Product art by creating a masterpiece with your child. Recommended for children ages 0-5.

**Cuentos y Cantos** Stories & Songs with I Heart Spanish

**Monday, January 13 | 10:30 AM**

Join Senora Velasco as she shares bilingual songs and stories. Learn numbers, letters and greetings in Spanish. Spanish and non-Spanish speakers are welcome. Recommended for ages 3 to 5.

**Making Moo-iah** with Thinking Money for Kids

**Thursday, January 16 | 4:00pm**

Welcome to the farm! In this collaborative simulation, players work together to see if they can run a financially successful farm. Can the team turn a profit in 12 months?

**Penny Pinchers' Party** with Thinking Money for Kids

**Wednesday, January 22 | 4:00pm**

Kids practice their budgeting skills as they become party planners, creating Planning Boards for their clients while staying on budget.

**Pet Cents** with Thinking Money for Kids

**Tuesday, January 28 | 4:00pm**

Kids adopt a pet and take on the financial responsibilities of pet ownership. Along the way, they are faced with unexpected events that could result in a financial windfall or expense.

## TEEN

*Events take place in the Teen Room unless otherwise noted.*

**Dungeons & Dragons**

**Saturday, December 14, Jan 11, Jan 25, Feb 22 | 1:00pm**

Come to the Teen Room every two weeks to learn about a new playable race or class in D&D, create your own character, and use that character to play a mini-game!

## ADULT

**The Cinemates**

**Tuesday, December 3, Jan 7, Feb 4 | 6:00pm**

Do you watch movies or any type of show? If the answer is yes, or even no, please join as we discuss visual media. We will watch and discuss one movie per month.

**Paper Art with the Cameo 4\***

**Wednesday, December 4, December 18, January 15, February 05, February 19 | 6:00pm**

Create paper art with Studio 304's auto-blade cutter, the Cameo 4

**Yoga for EveryBODY**

**Wednesdays | 5:30pm**

Community yoga classes offered with the aim of making yoga accessible to all.

**Eviction & Housing Legal Clinic**

Presented by the Volunteer Lawyer Network

**Thursday, December 5 | 1:00pm**

Free legal advice for evictions and housing issues provided to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

**French Language Conversation Group**

Francophones of Michiana\*

**Thursdays | 6:30pm**

Join us to practice your French language skills and meet others in our community learning the language!

**Post Mortem Medley: A Synopsis of**

**Deathcare** Presented by Jordain Paluzzi

Sizer, Indiana Funeral Director

**Saturday, December 7 | 3:00pm**

Delve into the often-taboo topic of deathcare as funeral director Jordain Paluzzi Sizer guides us through historical origins of caring for the dead to current trending topics in the funeral industry."

**Silent Reading Society**

**Monday, December 9 | 5:00pm**

Share what you're reading and then settle in for an hour of silent, sustained reading. At the end of the hour, attendees can socialize—or not!

**SJCP Online Book Group** Small Things

Like These - Claire Keegan

**Monday, December 9 | 8:00pm**

Irish story writer Keegan's gorgeously textured novella centers on an Irish family man who finds a young woman locked in a coal shed behind the local convent, just before Christmas 1985.

**Understanding Mental Health** presented by Mental Health Awareness of Michiana\*

**Thursday, December 12 | 6:00pm**

This presentation covers types of common mental health diagnoses, describing symptomatology that may be helpful to look for. It also identifies some tools to promote your mental health and wellbeing.

**Write Space\***

**Tuesday, December 17, Jan 21, Feb 18 | 7:00pm**

Virtual support group for writers and aspiring writers. Join our Zoom meeting to participate in writing prompts, chatting, and dreaming about next steps in your writing life.

**Beginning Genealogy\***

**Wednesday, December 18 | 6:30pm**

Begin climbing your family tree with an introduction to genealogy research.

**The Story Exchange** a Story Sharing Session\*

**Saturday, December 21 | 1:00pm**

Calling all storytellers! This is a chance to share a 5-minute story with a theme of "Lost & Found." All are welcome to join and listen. Registration required to share a story.

**Intro to Personal Finance\***

**Wednesday, January 8 | 5:30pm**

In this workshop you will learn what is financial wellbeing and how to achieve it, budget tips, and the importance of paying yourself first.

**Mental Health & Relationships**

presented by Mental Health Awareness of Michiana\*

**Thursday, January 9 | 6:00pm**

Learn about different types of relationships, healthy traits, and unhealthy relationship patterns. Explore boundaries and effective communication skills to build and maintain relationships

**NRBC** A Book Club on Main Street

**Saturday, January 11, Feb 08 | 1:00pm**

This book club will focus on a different theme each season. Celebrate the new year by reading and discussing books on financial wellness.

**SJCP Online Book Group** How to Age

Disgracefully - Clare Pooley

**Monday, January 13 | 8:00pm**

The quirky members of the Senior Citizen's Social Club join forces with the tiny members of the daycare next door to thwart the city council's planned sale of the building housing both centers.

# STUDIO 304

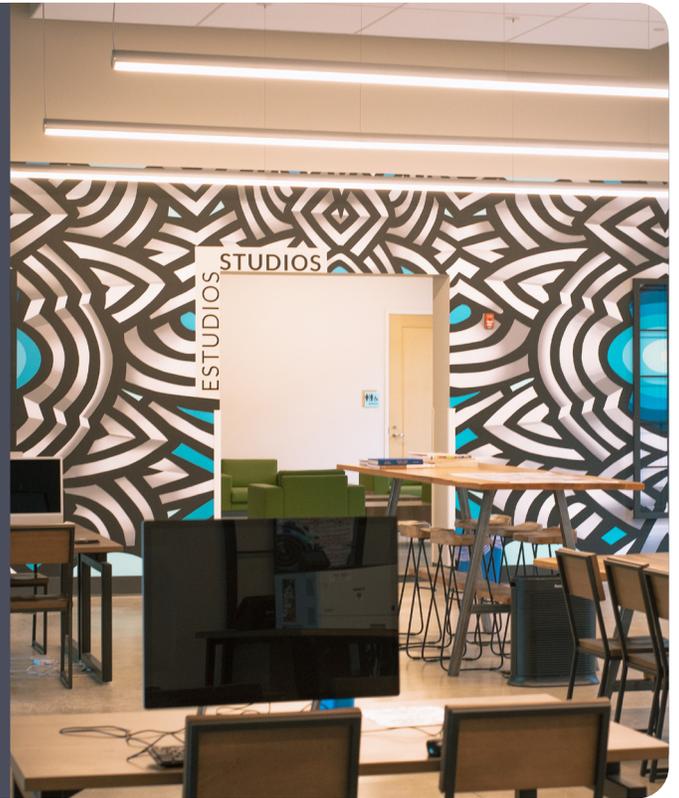
## Manga Illustration\*

Learn the standard industry workflow for creating manga, comics and webcomics in the fully digital age, using Apple iPad Pro, Apple Pencil and Procreate. No prior experience required. **For Teens ages 12 - 18**

**Dec 11, Tutt | 5:30 PM**

**Jan 8, Lakeville | 5:30 PM**

**Feb 12, LaSalle | 5:30 PM**



### Federal Land Records\*

**Saturday, January 18 | 1:00pm**

South Bend Area Genealogical Society president, Lacey King, PLCGS, will be talking about Federal Land Records, what they are, where to find them and what you can do with them in your research.

### Put Your Ancestors on the Map\*

**Saturday, January 18 | 2:00pm**

Practice using the Public Land Survey System to locate your ancestors' property on county maps in this hands-on workshop.

**How Can I Age-in-Place?** Presented by Aging Connections

**Tuesday, January 21 | 3:30pm**

Aging in place: spending your twilight years in your home, instead of moving to a senior care facility. Learn how senior home care can provide services so you can live as independently as possible.

### Homeownership with Habitat for Humanity Informational Meetings\*

**Wednesday, January 22, Feb 6, Feb 19 | 5:30pm**

Learn how to apply for Habitat for Humanity's Homeownership program. Registration required.

### An Evening with Jason Reynolds\*

Culturally Speaking Author Series

**Friday, January 24 | 6:00pm**

#1 New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds joins us for a conversation about change-making through storytelling. Book signing will follow. Registration required.

### Legends of Michiana: Lynn Coleman

Presented by WNIT\*

**Tuesday, January 28 | 6:00pm**

Join us for a special community showing of WNIT's Legends of Michiana documentary featuring Lynn Coleman. Registration recommended.

### Books on Tap

**Thursday, January 30, Feb 27 | 7:00pm**

Literary discussions and heady libations on the last Thursday of each month. Meetings at The Cellar Wine Bar & Kitchen.

### Notre Dame Student Film Festival Screening

**Thursday, January 30 | 6:30pm**

In partnership with Notre Dame's Department of Film, Television, and Theatre, join us for a special screening of the 2025 Notre Dame Student Film Festival and panel discussion.

### Understanding Credit\*

**Wednesday, February 12 | 5:30pm**

In this workshop you will learn what is credit, how financial institutions approve loans and what are the best ways to utilize credit.

### Navigating the Mental Health System

presented by Mental Health Awareness of Michiana

**Thursday, February 13 | 6:00pm**

This course provides an overview of support options that are available when someone is experiencing a mental illness. We will review different types of help available and what to do in a mental health crisis situation.

### Genealogy Coffee Chat

**Saturday, February 15 | 9:00am**

Meet with fellow genealogists to share success stories and brick walls.

### The Story Exchange a Story Sharing Session\*

**Saturday, February 15 | 1:00pm**

Calling all storytellers! This is a chance to share a 5-minute story with a theme of "Against the Odds." All are welcome to join and listen. Registration required to share a story.

### SJCPL Online Book Group Not the Killing Kind - Maria Kelson\*

**Monday, February 17 | 8:00pm**

Boots Marez is a Latina single mother who runs a school for undocumented people in her Northern California town. When her son is jailed for murder of a former student, her world is turned upside down.

### Exploring Senior Housing Options

Presented by Aging Connections

**Tuesday, February 18 | 3:30pm**

Most people prefer to stay in their homes for as long as possible but there may come a time when it is no longer safe or comfortable. We will discuss what housing options are available.

### Computer Security presented by Holy Cross College Computer Science Club

**Friday, February 21 | 1:00pm**

This computer safety workshop will empower you with the skills to protect your devices and personal information online. Led by the Holy Cross College Computer Science Club.

### Volunteer & Community Services Fair

**Saturday, February 22 | 2:00pm**

Looking for a way to give back to the community? Now's your chance! Meet with local organizations and learn about what they do and how you can get involved.

### Green Up Your Clean Up\*

**Tuesday, February 25 | 6:00pm**

Learn how to make your own effective, eco-friendly cleaning solutions using regular kitchen ingredients and essential oils. Registration recommended.

**"Blues Moon" Over Michiana: Southside Denny & Friends** Presented by Wild Rose Moon Radio Hour\*  
**Saturday, March 1 | 7:00pm**  
Join us for a live recording of the Wild Rose Moon Radio Hour featuring Southside Denny and Friends. The show will be broadcast on WVPE 88.1 and WNIT 34.1. Ages 12+. Registration required.

**An Evening with Maria Kelson** Culturally Speaking Author Series  
**Wednesday, March 5 | 6:00pm**  
Join us for an evening with Maria Kelson, poet and author of Not the Killing Kind, a contemporary thriller about a Latina education reformer whose son is wrongfully jailed for murder.

## ALL AGES

**Our Universe Revealed** Presented by University of Notre Dame and IU South Bend  
**Wednesday, December 4, Feb 4, Mar 4 | 6:30pm**  
Explore some of the most exciting and cutting edge topics in scientific research. All are welcome!

**Kwanzaa Celebration** Hosted by South Bend Chapter Indiana Black Expo\*  
**Sunday, December 29 | 3:00pm**  
Our celebration features drumming, discussion of the principles of Kwanzaa, and recognition of community leaders and elders. A reception and feast will follow.

**Science Alive**  
**Saturday, February 8 | 10:00am**  
Celebrate the 33rd Annual Science Alive at Main Library! Explore science, technology, engineering and math through hands-on demonstrations and exhibits from local organizations. All ages welcome.

**Life in Michiana Gallery Opening**  
**Thursday, February 13 | 6:00pm**  
Join us for a reception announcing the winners of the 2025 Life in Michiana Photography Contest.

**Shein Trust Children's Concert Series**  
Presented by South Bend Symphony Orchestra  
**Friday, February 14, Mar 7, Mar 21, Apr 11, May 2, May 23 | 4:00pm**  
Enjoy a family-friendly concert by the South Bend Symphony Orchestra. All concerts are free to attend and will feature a variety of musical styles. All are welcome.

## Francis

### CHILDREN

**Digging Through Time** With the Indianapolis Children's Museum  
**Thursday, January 23 | 4:00pm**  
Explore how fossils are laid down in the ground and how studying the layers of the earth can help paleontologists understand how old dinosaur fossils are with a virtual museum expert. Ages 8 - 12.

**STEAM Lab Hidden Figures**  
**Tuesday, February 4 | 4:00pm**  
Land a space capsule, learn about binary code & experiment with a wind tunnel as we explore the achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan & Mary Jackson, three NASA mathematicians. Ages 8-12

### TEEN

**Smoothie Making** with the St. Joe Coffee Co.  
**Wednesday, January 15 | 5:00pm**  
Teens are invited to make smoothies with the St. Joe Coffee Co. and master two delicious smoothie recipes.

### ADULT

**Cribbage Club**  
**Mondays | 1:00pm**  
Cribbage offers an opportunity to meet new people, and learn a fun game. Cribbage is a card game in which each player tries to form various counting combinations of cards.

**Chess Club**  
**Wednesdays | 1:00pm**  
All chess players are welcome, from the beginner wanting to learn for the first time to the advanced player.

**Francis Branch Crochet & Knitting Club**  
**Thursday, December 5, Dec 19, Jan 2, Jan 16, Feb 6, Feb 20 | 1:00pm**  
Come join us as we work on projects, share tips & ideas, learn new stitches & techniques, and finish those works-in-progress.

**The Green Dragon Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West**  
**Thursday, December 12, Jan 9, Feb 13 | 5:30pm**  
Do you love fantasy literature, or are you hoping to expand your reading world? Join us at The Green Dragon, a fantasy book club hosted at the Francis Branch. Check online for the monthly title.

# VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SERVICES FAIR

**Saturday, February 22 | 2 - 4 p.m.**  
**Main Library**  
**Community Learning Center**

Want to Make a Difference? Join us at the Volunteer & Community Services Fair! Connect with local organizations making a positive impact and explore volunteer opportunities in St. Joseph County.

# STEAM

## LABS

Land a space capsule, learn about binary code & experiment with a wind tunnel as we explore the achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan & Mary Jackson, three NASA mathematicians.

For Ages 8-12

# Tinker. Build. Create.

**LaSalle Branch** • Wednesday, 4pm  
*December 4*

**Lakeville Branch** • Thursday, 4pm  
*December 5*

**River Park Branch** • Tuesday, 4pm  
*January 7*

**Tutt Branch** • Wednesday, 4pm  
*January 8*

**North Liberty Branch** • Thursday, 4pm  
*January 9*

**Francis Branch** • Tuesday, 4pm  
*February 4*

**German Branch** • Wednesday, 4pm  
*February 5*

**Western Branch** • Thursday, 4pm  
*February 6*

### Origami Club

Friday, December 13, Jan 10, Feb 14 | 10:00am

Everyone is welcome to come and share their knowledge of origami art and exchange ideas for origami art projects.

### Eviction & Housing Legal Clinic

Presented by the Volunteer Lawyer Network

Thursday, December 19 | 1:00pm

Free legal advice for evictions and housing issues provided to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Book Talks

Tuesday, December 31, Jan 28, Feb 25 | 1:30pm

Join us for Book Talks! This book club meets in person on the last Tuesday of every month. Be a part of the discussion by sharing your review of your current reads!

### Resumes & Resources

Thursday, January 2 | 5:30pm

Learn what goes into a good resume and what resources are available at the library to help you in the job searching process. There will be extra time for hands-on work.

**Printmaking: Linoleum Relief** presented by South Bend Museum of Art\*

Monday, February 17, Feb 24 | 10:00am

Learn linoleum printmaking in a workshop with instructor Kristyn Kertai! Design, carve, and make prints, over two sessions at the library and the South Bend Museum of Art's printmaking studio. The 12/16 session will take place at SBMA.

### Crafting Connections

Monday, February 24 | 2:00pm

Crafting is better together! Join Crafting Connections to unravel craft history, weave friendships, and create a new piece of art. This program is open to adults of all skill and ability levels.

## German

### CHILDREN

**Sounds of the Season** Featuring The Prairie Bells Community Handbell Choir

Saturday, December 14 | 1:00pm

Enjoy a unique musical experience with a performance by The Prairie Bells Community Handbell Choir. Stay after the concert to enjoy some hot chocolate and make a craft.

**Birds of a Feather** with the St. Joseph County Parks

Thursday, January 9 | 4:00pm

Discover your feathered friends with a park naturalist. Play games, examine nests and feathers, and try science experiments as we get to know these singing, flying, egg-laying friends! Ages 6 - 12.

**STEAM Lab** Hidden Figures

Wednesday, February 5 | 4:00pm

Land a space capsule, learn about binary code & experiment with a wind tunnel as we explore the achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan & Mary Jackson, three NASA mathematicians. Ages 8-12

### TEEN

**Stomp Rockets** with the Notre Dame Rocketry Team

Tuesday, February 18 | 5:00pm

Build stomp rockets & explore the principles of flight as you design and launch your rockets using stomping force alone.

### ADULT

### Quilts with Love

Tuesday, December 3, Dec 17, Jan 7, Jan 21, Feb 4, Feb 18 | 1:00pm

Meet up with other quilting enthusiasts to sew quilts and create other items for local charities.

### Duplicate Bridge Club

Thursday, December 5, Dec 19, Jan 2, Jan 16, Feb 6, Feb 20 | 12:00pm

Play duplicate bridge with the Battell Duplicate Bridge Club on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month.

### Resumes & Resources

Thursday, December 5 | 5:30pm

Learn what goes into a good resume and what resources are available at the library to help you in the job searching process. There will be extra time for hands-on work.

**Garden Planning** Presented by Unity Gardens

Tuesday, December 10 | 5:00pm

Join Unity Garden's Educator, Emily Haluda, for a two-part class! First, we'll discuss garden planning and spring planting. Then, create a "garden vision board" collage with seed catalog photos.

### Crafting Connections

Monday, February 3 | 2:00pm

Crafting is better together! Join Crafting Connections to unravel craft history, weave friendships, and create a new piece of art. This program is open to adults of all skill and ability levels.

**W.I.S.E. Wellness for Seniors** Presented by REAL Services\*

Thursday, February 27, Mar 6, Mar 13, Mar 20, Mar 27, Apr 3 | 10:30am

This six-week course will focus on empowering older adults to make positive, healthy choices. This series is in partnership with REAL Services.

# LaSalle

## CHILDREN

**STEAM Lab Hidden Figures**  
**Wednesday, December 4 | 4:00pm**  
Land a space capsule, learn about binary code & experiment with a wind tunnel as we explore the achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan & Mary Jackson, three NASA mathematicians. Ages 8-12

**Mrs. Claus' Night Out**  
**Thursday, December 19 | 5:00pm**  
Meet Mrs. Claus at our third annual Mrs. Claus' Night Out, featuring a storytime, crafts, and more!

**Birds of a Feather** with the St. Joseph County Parks  
**Wednesday, February 5 | 4:00pm**  
Discover your feathered friends with a park naturalist. Play games, examine nests and feathers, and try science experiments as we get to know these singing, flying, egg-laying friends! Ages 6 - 12.

## TEEN

**Manga Illustration** with Studio 304\*  
**Wednesday, February 12 | 5:30pm**  
Learn the standard industry workflow for creating manga, comics and webcomics in the fully digital age, using Apple iPad Pro, Apple Pencil and Procreate. No prior experience required.

## ADULT

**Crafting Connections**  
**Monday, December 16 | 5:00pm**  
Crafting is better together! Join Crafting Connections for an all-supplies provided arts project. This program is open to adults of all skill and ability levels.

**DIY Winter Skin Scrubs, Soaks, and Soothers\***  
**Tuesday, January 14 | 2:00pm**  
Learn about aromatherapy and make your own sugar scrub and salt bath soak. Unwind as you create personalized treatments designed to rejuvenate your skin and relax your mind.

**Eviction & Housing Legal Clinic**  
Presented by the Volunteer Lawyer Network  
**Thursday, January 16 | 1:00pm**  
Free legal advice for evictions and housing issues provided to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Resumes & Resources**  
**Thursday, January 23 | 5:30pm**  
Learn what goes into a good resume and what resources are available at the library to help you in the job searching process. There will be extra time for hands-on work.

**Free Income Tax Assistance at LaSalle Branch**  
**Thursday, February 6, Feb 13, Feb 20, Feb 27, Mar 06, Mar 13, Mar 20, Mar 27, Apr 3, Apr 10 | 12:30pm**  
Trained volunteers will provide tax assistance by appointment.

# River Park

## CHILDREN

**STEAM Lab Hidden Figures**  
**Tuesday, January 7 | 4:00pm**  
Land a space capsule, learn about binary code & experiment with a wind tunnel as we explore the achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan & Mary Jackson, three NASA mathematicians. Ages 8-12

**Digging Through Time** With the Indianapolis Children's Museum  
**Tuesday, February 25 | 4:00pm**  
Explore how fossils are laid down in the ground and how studying the layers of the earth can help paleontologists understand how old dinosaur fossils are with a virtual museum expert. Ages 8 - 12.

## TEEN

**Stomp Rockets** with the Notre Dame Rocketry Team  
**Tuesday, January 14 | 5:00pm**  
Build stomp rockets & explore the principles of flight as you design and launch your rockets using stomping force alone.

## ADULT

**Fiber Craft and Chat Club**  
**Wednesday, December 4, Feb 5 | 4:00pm**  
Meet up with fellow fiber artists. Work on your own projects and be inspired by others and their creations. Knit, crochet, sew, spin, weave, embroider, and needlepoint.

# FRESH NEW KICKS

## DESIGN-A-SHOE CONTEST



**Who:** Grades 3-12

**When:** Jan 7 - Feb 4, 2025

**Where:** Submit online or at any library location

## CALLING ALL YOUNG DESIGNERS!

Unleash your creativity in our Fresh New Kicks Contest. Design your dream shoe for a chance to win a gift card toward your own custom pair of kicks!

Winners will be announced online in March.

**Printmaking: Linoleum Relief** presented by South Bend Museum of Art\*  
**Monday, December 9, Dec 16 | 3:00pm**  
Learn linoleum printmaking in a workshop with instructor Kristyn Kertai! Design, carve, and make prints, over two sessions at the library and the South Bend Museum of Art's printmaking studio. The 12/16 session will take place at SBMA.

**Adventures in Bad Cinema**  
**Wednesday, December 18, Jan 29, Feb 26 | 6:30pm**

For your consideration - join us to view another classic bad film. We gather each month to celebrate the best work of incompetent amateurs or the worst work of professionals.

**Crafting Connections**  
**Monday, January 27 | 10:30am**  
Crafting is better together! Join Crafting Connections for an all-supplies provided arts project. This program is open to adults of all skill and ability levels.

**Resumes & Resources**  
**Thursday, February 20 | 5:30pm**  
Learn what goes into a good resume and what resources are available at the library to help you in the job searching process. There will be extra time for hands-on work.

## Tutt

### CHILDREN

**LEGO Club**  
**Thursday, December 19, Jan 16, Feb 27 | 4:00pm**  
Join us each month for a new building challenge! We have added extra dates during summer break! Recommended for Ages 6+, but all are welcome!

**Winter Camp-In**  
**Thursday, January 2 | 4:00pm**  
Wear your cozy pajamas for a Winter Camp-In. Enjoy games, crafts, a light snack around the campfire, and learn about the 6 Essentials of Camping. Ages 6 - 12 welcome.

**STEAM Lab Hidden Figures**  
**Wednesday, January 8 | 4:00pm**  
Land a space capsule, learn about binary code & experiment with a wind tunnel as we explore the achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan & Mary Jackson, three NASA mathematicians. Ages 8-12

### TEEN

**Manga Illustration** with Studio 304\*  
**Wednesday, December 11 | 5:30pm**  
Learn the standard industry workflow for creating manga, comics and webcomics in the fully digital age, using Apple iPad Pro, Apple Pencil and Procreate. No prior experience required.

### ADULT

**Crochet & Knitting Club**  
**Mondays | 5:00pm**  
Whether you're just learning or can teach someone else how to crochet or knit, all are welcome to join this group of needlework enthusiasts.

# Kwanzaa Celebration

HOSTED BY SOUTH BEND CHAPTER INDIANA BLACK EXPO

**Sunday, December 29, 3 - 7 p.m. | Main Library**

Join our celebration featuring drumming, discussion of the principles of Kwanzaa, and recognition of community leaders and elders. A reception and feast will follow.

Register at  
[sjcpl.org/events](https://sjcpl.org/events)



**Euchre Club**  
**Tuesday, December 10, Jan 14, Feb 11 | 6:00pm**  
Euchre beginners and experts alike are invited to meet up for a lively game.

**Pages In Time**  
**Thursday, December 12, Jan 09, Feb 13 | 1:00pm**  
Read and discuss a new historical fiction book each month with fellow history enthusiasts. Call Centre Branch for this month's selection.

**DIY Winter Body Scrubs, Soaks, and Soothers\***  
**Thursday, December 17 | 5:30pm**  
Learn about aromatherapy and make your own sugar scrub and salt bath soak. Unwind as you create personalized treatments designed to rejuvenate your skin and relax your mind.

**Crafting Connections**  
**Monday, January 13 | 10:30am**  
Crafting is better together! Join Crafting Connections for an all-supplies provided arts project. This program is open to adults of all skill and ability levels.

**Silent Reading Society**  
**Tuesday, January 14 | 5:00pm**  
Share what you're reading and then settle in for an hour of silent, sustained reading. At the end of the hour, attendees can socialize— or not!

**Free Income Tax Assistance at Tutt Branch**  
**Monday, February 3, Feb 10, Feb 17, Feb 24, Mar 3, Mar 10, Mar 17, Mar 24, Mar 31, Apr 7, Apr 14 | 10:00am**  
Trained volunteers will provide tax assistance by appointment.

**Resumes & Resources**  
**Thursday, February 13 | 5:30pm**  
Learn what goes into a good resume and what resources are available at the library to help you in the job searching process. There will be extra time for hands-on work.

**Eviction & Housing Legal Clinic**  
Presented by the Volunteer Lawyer Network  
**Thursday, February 20 | 1:00pm**  
Free legal advice for evictions and housing issues provided to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

# Western

## CHILDREN

**Birds of a Feather** with the St. Joseph County Parks  
**Tuesday, December 10 | 5:00pm**  
Discover your feathered friends with a park naturalist. Play games, examine nests and feathers, and try science experiments as we get to know these singing, flying, egg-laying friends! Ages 6 - 12.

**STEAM Lab Hidden Figures**  
**Thursday, February 6 | 4:00pm**  
Land a space capsule, learn about binary code & experiment with a wind tunnel as we explore the achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan & Mary Jackson, three NASA mathematicians. Ages 8-12

## TEEN

**Smoothie Making** with the St. Joe Coffee Co.  
**Tuesday, February 11 | 5:00pm**  
Teens are invited to make smoothies with the St. Joe Coffee Co. and master two delicious smoothie recipes.

## ADULT

**Crafting Connections**  
**Monday, December 2 | 5:00pm**  
Crafting is better together! Join Crafting Connections for an all-supplies provided arts project. This program is open to adults of all skill and ability levels.

**Eviction & Housing Legal Clinic**  
Presented by the Volunteer Lawyer Network  
**Thursday, January 2 | 1:00pm**  
Free legal advice for evictions and housing issues provided to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Printmaking: Linoleum Relief** presented by the South Bend Museum of Art\*  
**Wednesday, January 15, Jan 22 | 5:00pm**  
Learn linoleum printmaking in a workshop with instructor Kristyn Kertai! Design, carve, and make prints, over two sessions at the library and the South Bend Museum of Art's printmaking studio. The 12/16 session will take place at SBMA.

**Free Income Tax Assistance at Western Branch**  
**Wednesday, February 5, Feb 12, Feb 19, Feb 26, Mar 5, Mar 12, Mar 19, Mar 26, Apr 2, Apr 9 | 10:00am**  
Trained volunteers will provide tax assistance by appointment.

**Silent Reading Society**  
**Tuesday, February 11 | 5:00pm**  
Share what you're reading and then settle in for an hour of silent, sustained reading. At the end of the hour, attendees can socialize— or not!

**Resumes & Resources**  
**Thursday, February 27 | 5:30pm**  
Learn what goes into a good resume and what resources are available at the library to help you in the job searching process. There will be extra time for hands-on work.

## ALL AGES

**La Loteria - Mexican Bingo**  
**Saturday, December 7, Jan 4, Feb 1 | 3:00pm**  
Join us for a family game of la loteria, a traditional Mexican game of chance similar to bingo. Enjoy snacks and the chance to win prizes.

**Family Bingo Night** Western - Family Gaming Club  
**Saturday, December 21, Jan 18, Feb 15 | 3:00pm**  
Play bingo with your family or friends. Grab a snack, have some fun and maybe even win a prize!

# Lakeville

## CHILDREN

**STEAM Lab Hidden Figures**  
**Thursday, December 5 | 4:00pm**  
Land a space capsule, learn about binary code & experiment with a wind tunnel as we explore the achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan & Mary Jackson, three NASA mathematicians. Ages 8-12

**Homeschool Club**  
**Thursday, December 12, Jan 9, Feb 13 | 12:00pm**  
Lakeville Homeschoolers club will meet monthly for socialization, guest speakers, and educational planning.

**Lakeville Holiday Open House and Photos with Santa**  
**Saturday, December 14 | 10:00am**  
Join us at the Lakeville Branch for our annual Holiday Open House! Get your photo taken with Santa, enjoy holiday treats, listen to the LaVille Madrigals sing, and make a holiday craft.

**Winter Camp-In**  
**Wednesday, January 29 | 4:00pm**  
Wear your cozy pajamas for a Winter Camp-In. Enjoy games, crafts, a light snack around the campfire, and learn about the 6 Essentials of Camping. Ages 6-12 are welcome.

# ASK A LAWYER

PRESENTED BY THE VOLUNTEER LAWYER NETWORK

**Monday, January 20, 2025 | 1 - 4 p.m.**  
**Century Center, 120 S. Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd.**

Free legal advice to the public on a first come, first served basis, provided by attorneys from the Volunteer Lawyers Network. This event will take place at the Century Center as part of the 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.



For more information, scan the QR code.



## TEEN

**Manga Illustration** with Studio 304\*  
**Wednesday, January 8 | 5:30pm**

Learn the standard industry workflow for creating manga, comics and webcomics in the fully digital age, using Apple iPad Pro, Apple Pencil and Procreate. No prior experience required.

## ADULT

**Resumes & Resources**

**Thursday, January 9 | 5:30pm**

Learn what goes into a good resume and what resources are available at the library to help you in the job searching process. There will be extra time for hands-on work.

**Composting** Presented by Unity Gardens

**Monday, February 3 | 11:00am**

Learn how to compost food and yard waste in a free class taught by Unity Gardens. Experienced and beginner gardeners are welcome!

**Crafting Connections**

**Monday, February 17 | 2:00pm**

Crafting is better together! Join Crafting Connections to unravel craft history, weave friendships, and create a new piece of art. This program is open to adults of all skill and ability levels.

# North Liberty

## CHILDREN

**Digging Through Time** With the Indianapolis Children's Museum

**Tuesday, December 3 | 4:00pm**

Explore how fossils are laid down in the ground and how studying the layers of the earth can help paleontologists understand how old dinosaur fossils are with a virtual museum expert. Ages 8 - 12.

**First Fridays Popcorn & Games**

**Friday, December 6, Jan 3, Feb 7 | 1:00pm**

Bring a friend or make a new one on the first Friday of every month -- we'll have fresh popcorn and all kinds of games to play!

**Annual Holiday Open House**

**Saturday, December 7 | 2:00pm**

Enjoy snacks, crafts, games, and the John Glenn choir at our annual open house!

**STEAM Lab** Hidden Figures

**Thursday, January 9 | 4:00pm**

Land a space capsule, learn about binary code & experiment with a wind tunnel as we explore the achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan & Mary Jackson, three NASA mathematicians. Ages 8-12

## TEEN

**Smoothie Making** with the St. Joe Coffee Co.

**Wednesday, December 18 | 5:00pm**

Teens are invited to make smoothies with the St. Joe Coffee Co. and master two delicious smoothie recipes.

## ADULT

**Crafting Connections**

**Monday, December 9 | 5:00pm**

Crafting is better together! Join Crafting Connections for an all-supplies provided arts project. This program is open to adults of all skill and ability levels.

**Euchre Club @ North Liberty**

**Wednesday, December 11, Jan 8, Feb 12 | 6:00pm**

You might be a Hoosier if you already know the rules. Join us for Euchre Club at North Liberty, second Wednesday of every month.

**Resumes & Resources**

**Thursday, January 16 | 5:30pm**

Learn what goes into a good resume and what resources are available at the library to help you in the job searching process. There will be extra time for hands-on work.

**Liberty's Readers**

**Tuesday, January 28, Feb 25 | 4:00pm**

Explore a wide range of genres with our fearless readers!

**Indoor Seed Starting** Presented by Unity Gardens

**Thursday, January 30 | 5:00pm**

Learn from Unity Gardens Staff about the fascinating art of seed starting. We will focus heavily on the nuances of indoor seed starting in advance of the first frost date, to maximize our gardens.

# Blues Moon over Michiana: Southside Denny & Friends

PRESENTED BY WILD ROSE MOON RADIO HOUR

**Saturday, March 1 | 7 p.m.**  
**Community Learning Center,  
Leighton Auditorium**

Join us for a live recording of the Wild Rose Moon Radio Hour featuring Southside Denny and Friends. The show will be broadcast on WVPE 88.1 and WNIT 34.1. Ages 12+. Registration required.



Register at  
[sjcpl.org/events](https://sjcpl.org/events)



# the voice behind every story.

## Ever wonder how an author comes up with the stories they write?

Maybe it's not as simple as a burst of inspiration or a perfectly brewed cup of coffee. In reality, it's a bit messier—a combination of lived experiences, cultural roots, and the small moments that shape their worldview. That's what Culturally Speaking is all about: exploring the stories behind the voices and diving deeper into the journeys that inspire great authors.

Launching in January 2025, **Culturally Speaking** is the St. Joe County Public Library's new author talk series, designed to highlight storytellers from diverse backgrounds. It's a platform for authors to share not only their writing but also the experiences that brought their words to life. The series is more than just an evening of book readings; it's an opportunity to connect with the personal stories that inform an author's work and explore the cultures that shape their voices.

## Meet Our First Two Authors

To kick off the series, the library is welcoming two remarkable authors: Jason Reynolds and Maria Kelson. Both bring distinct perspectives and rich cultural narratives to the table, and their talks promise to offer a glimpse into the personal journeys that fuel their storytelling.

“Jason Reynolds is a literary powerhouse”

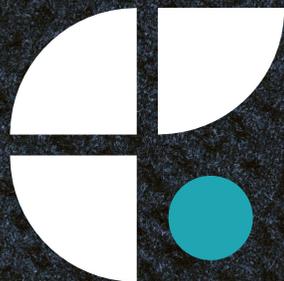
A #1 New York Times bestselling author, Reynolds has penned numerous award-winning books that have captivated readers young and old. His most popular works, *All American Boys* (with Brendan Kiely), *Long Way Down*, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism*, tackle themes of identity, race, and resilience.

# mind

Join us for an Evening with  
Jason Reynolds,

**Friday, January 24**  
**6:00pm - 8:00pm**

He's the recipient of a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, an NAACP Image Award, and multiple Coretta Scott King honors. From 2020 to 2022, he also served as the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, inspiring the next generation of readers and writers. His influence extends beyond the page—he's been featured on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, The Daily Show with Trevor Noah, Late Night with Seth Meyers, CBS Sunday Morning, and Good Morning America. Currently, he is on faculty at Lesley University, teaching in the Writing for Young People MFA Program.



## Culturally Speaking

In his Culturally Speaking talk, Jason will share the stories that fuel his writing and explore how his upbringing in Washington, D.C., his love for hip-hop, and his commitment to uplifting young voices have shaped his journey as a writer. Whether you're familiar with his work or new to his books, this is a chance to hear from one of today's most important voices in literature.



“Maria Kelson is a **poet** and **emerging voice** in crime fiction.”

Join us for an Evening with  
Maria Kelson

**Wednesday, March 5**  
**6:00pm - 8:00pm**

Her debut thriller *Not the Killing Kind* was released in September 2024. Her work-in-progress for the novel won Sisters in Crime's inaugural Eleanor Taylor Bland Award, recognizing exceptional crime fiction by a writer of color. Kelson's work explores justice, identity, and the intricacies of human nature.

In her Culturally Speaking event, Maria will share how her heritage and experiences have influenced her work. Giving audiences a deeper understanding of these elements shaped her award winning debut novel, *Not the Killing Kind*.

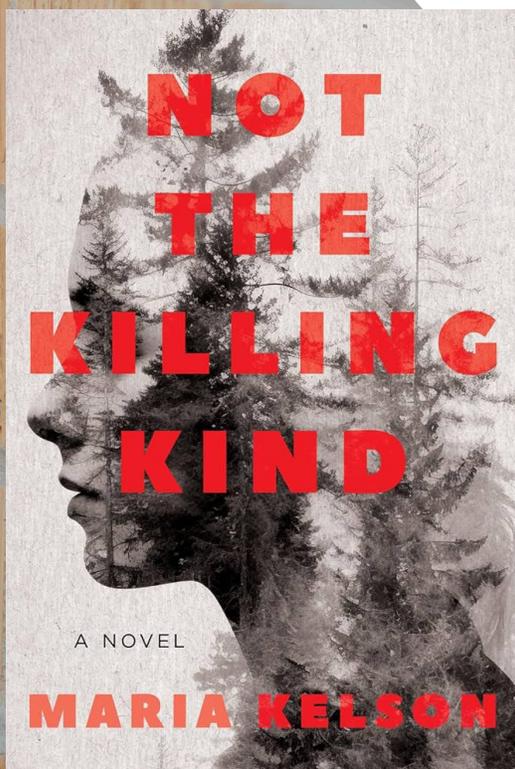
## A New Chapter in Storytelling

With Culturally Speaking, the library is creating more than just an event series—it's fostering a space where storytellers from all walks of life can be heard and appreciated. This program is about discovering the experiences, culture, and identity behind the stories, not just the books.

"Culturally Speaking is an exciting opportunity for us to highlight diverse voices and connect our community through the art of storytelling," says Stephanie Murphy, Executive Director of the St. Joe County Public Library. "This series invites us to listen to the storytellers behind the words and appreciate the journeys that shaped them."

Whether you're a reader or someone who simply loves hearing powerful stories of personal journeys, Culturally Speaking will offer a chance to engage with storytelling on a deeper level.

Join us, as we kick off **Culturally Speaking: The Voice Behind Every Story**, and discover the narratives that drive some of today's most impactful storytellers.



An Evening with Maria Kelson is presented in partnership with Letras Latinas, the literary initiative at the University of Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies. This program is part of Latino Poetry: Places We Call Home, a major public humanities initiative taking place across the nation in 2024 and 2025. Latino Poetry: Places We Call Home is directed by Library of America and funded with generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Emerson Collective.

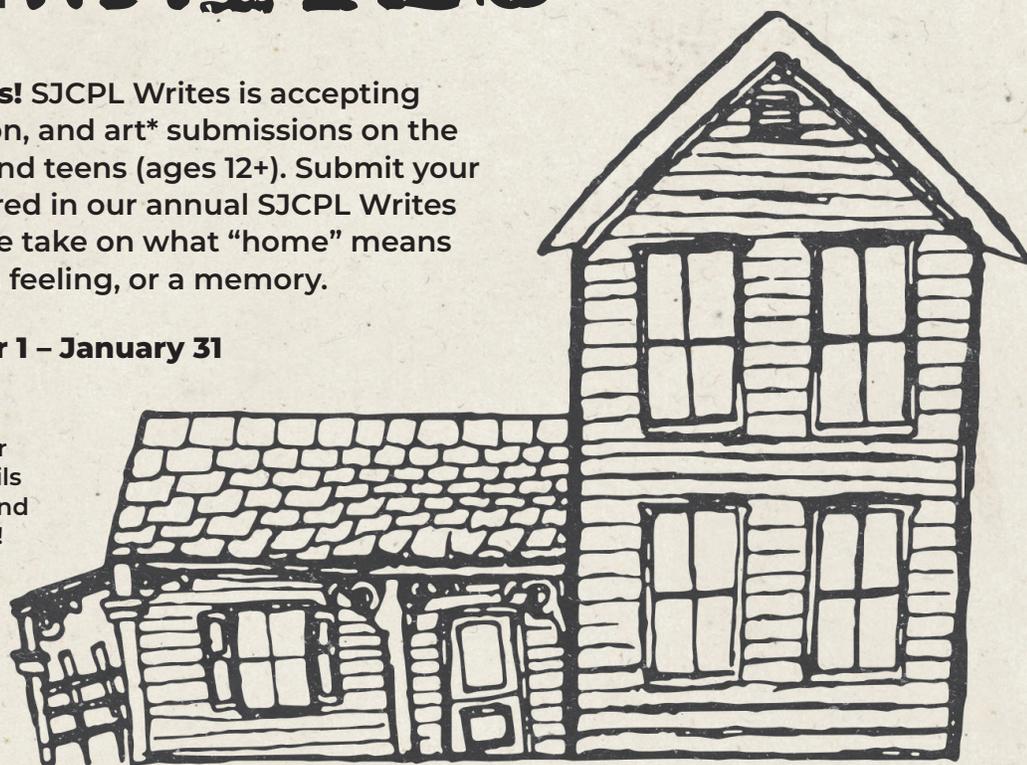
# SJCPLWRITES

**Calling All Writers and Artists!** SJCPL Writes is accepting short fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and art\* submissions on the theme of home from adults and teens (ages 12+). Submit your work for a chance to be featured in our annual SJCPL Writes booklet and share your unique take on what “home” means to you—whether it’s a place, a feeling, or a memory.

**Submission Dates: December 1 – January 31**



Scan the QR code for full submission details and requirements, and to submit your work!



## Life in Michiana PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

**Capture what makes our community great!** The 26th annual Life in Michiana Photography Contest invites community members to share photos that showcase what makes our area unique and beautiful. Whether it’s a stunning landscape, a candid community moment, or the vibrant wildlife that calls Michiana home, we want to see it through your lens!

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**Entries accepted online November 15, 2024 to January 15, 2025.**

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Learn more and submit your work at [sjcpl.org/programs/life-in-michiana](https://sjcpl.org/programs/life-in-michiana)



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

# BOOKSTORE

The Friends of the Library Bookstore is open every Friday and offers donated books and media for sale at discounted rates.

**EVERY FRIDAY**

12 - 6 p.m.

327 S. Michigan St.  
574.282.4646 | [sjcpl.org/bookstore](http://sjcpl.org/bookstore)



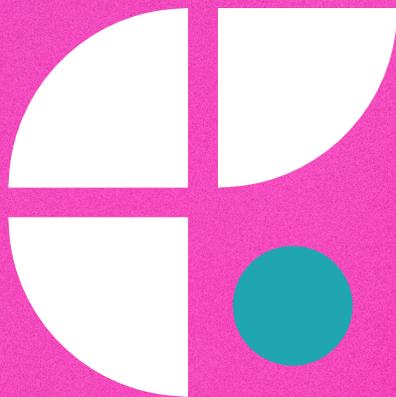
**ST. JOE  
COFFEE CO.**  
*savories + delights*

## Grab a treat!

**MONDAY-FRIDAY | 8 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
305 S. MICHIGAN STREET, SOUTH BEND**

Our cafe in the Community Learning Center offers a variety of hot and cold beverages, pastries and fresh baked goods. Feel good knowing that your purchase supports the Library's ability to offer valuable, free services and programs to the community.

[sjcpl.org/cafe](http://sjcpl.org/cafe)



# Culturally Speaking 2025

An Evening with Jason Reynolds

**Friday, January 24**  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

An Evening with Maria Kelson

**Wednesday, March 5**  
6:00pm - 8:00pm