



# UNEARTH A STORY™

## Summer Reading starts next month!

Get ready for Summer Reading at our Kick-Off Party on Monday, June 8 at 1 pm! Join us outdoors for crafts, games, and tattoos. Children who sign up at the party get a free book. We can't wait to see you there as we embark on a summer filled with adventure, imagination, and, of course, plenty of reading!

## Ask Bobby!

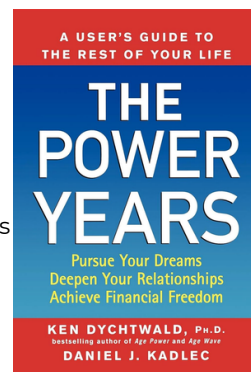
Bobby is the Librarian's Assistant for the Adult Department. This month Bobby wanted to highlight Older Americans Month.

With 48-49% of United States citizens being over the age of 40, the need for balance is vital.

Let *The Power Years: A User's Guide to the Rest of Your Life* by Ken Dychtwald and Daniel Kadlec be a personal and comprehensive manual to making the most of the lives we lead after 40. This book focuses on the fun and meaningful contributions to life that we all try to balance as we age. It encourages readers to embrace this stage of life with enthusiasm, exploring new opportunities and nurturing personal passions.

Whether you're considering a career change, planning for retirement, or simply looking to enrich your everyday experiences, "The Power Years" offers practical advice.

Remember, life after 40 is not about slowing down; it's about redefining what it means to live fully and joyfully. Let this book be your companion on the journey to living your best life yet.



## Teen Short Story Contest Winners

Recently, we hosted our second annual Teen Short Story Contest! Youth grades 7th through 12th were encouraged to submit an original work of fiction under three-thousand words for consideration by a panel of judges carefully selected from the Freeport area. Ten submissions were received! The top three finishers are as follows: In third place: "Under Pressure" by Kaylee H. In second place: "The Unforgettable Royals" by Rachel G. Our winner is "The Spy That Sank the Bismarck" by Ella B.

"Ella is a junior in high school. She is homeschooled and has wanted to be a published author for as long as she can remember. She has self-published a book called '7 Sisters,' while she continues to write short stories about squirrels. She is thankful to the library for giving her a chance to participate!"

You can read all three short stories on our website, [freeportpubliclibrary.org](http://freeportpubliclibrary.org)



# YOUTH

For Babies & Toddlers!

## **Babies & Books**

**Every Monday**

**10:15am - 11:00am**

Join us for a weekly storytime for babies and toddlers under 2 with a caregiver!

## **PRESCHOOL STORYTIME**

**Every Wednesday**

**10:30am - 11:00am**

Join us for a weekly storytime for children ages 2-5 with a caregiver!

## **Preschool Prom**

**Friday, May 1 | 10:00am - 11:00am**

**Meeting Room** - Bring your toddlers and preschoolers to our second annual Preschool Prom! Enjoy dancing, a photo station, crafts, and sensory play. This year's theme is Under the Sea. Dressing up is encouraged, but not required.

## **SLIME MAKING**

**Fluffy Slime**

**Tuesday, May 5 | 3:30pm - 5:30pm**

**Youth Program Room** - Join us each month to make a different kind of slime you can take home!

## **PAWS to Read**

**Saturday, May 9 | 11:00am - 12:00pm**

Bring your little ones to practice reading with the sweet pups from Therapy Dogs International!

## **HOMESCHOOL HAPPENINGS**

### **End of the Year Party**

**Monday, May 11 | 2:00pm - 3:00pm**

**Meeting Room** - Calling all homeschoolers! Each month, we will dive into a new and exciting topic designed to inspire and support homeschooling families. Enjoy engaging discussions, resource sharing, and hands-on activities that hope to enhance your homeschooling experience. All ages welcome!

## **POKÉMON CLUB**

**Thursday, May 14 | 5:30pm - 6:30pm**

**Youth Program Room** - Meet to play and talk Pokémon with other trainers! Players can bring their own cards, or use decks provided by the library. Trade cards, battle each other, or just talk strategy – this club is for elementary-age novice and expert trainers.

## **Messy Masterpieces**

**Friday, May 15 | 10:00am - 11:00am**

**Youth Program Room** - Join us for a morning full of creativity. Come dressed to make a mess! This program is for ages 5 and under.

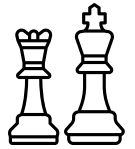


# TEEN

## **join chessport!**

**Wednesday, May 6 | 6:00pm - 7:00pm**

Whether you're a beginner eager to learn the basics or a seasoned player looking to sharpen your strategy, this is the perfect opportunity to engage in friendly competition and make new friends. Chess sets are provided. Meet on the second floor. All ages welcome.



## **TEEN TUESDAYS**

### **Teen Volunteer Information Meeting & Sign-Up**

**Tuesday, May 12 | 4:00pm - 5:00pm**

**Youth Program Room** - Are you in 7th through 12th grade and looking to volunteer at the Freeport Public Library? Join us for an informational meeting to go over everything you need to know to get involved this summer! Teens will learn about Summer 2026 programs and have an opportunity to sign up for designated volunteering slots. **Parents are strongly encouraged to attend.**

## **A NIGHT IN PARIS: A HOMESCHOOL SOIREE**

**Friday, May 15 | 6:30pm - 9:00pm**

**Meeting Room** - Join us for an evening of community and dancing under the "Parisian" stars. Semi-formal dress is highly encouraged (no jeans, please!), and **registration is required before May 8th**. Light refreshments will be provided. Come dance with us!



## **Zentangles**

**Tuesday, May 19 | 4:00pm - 5:00pm**

**Teen Room** - Looking for a new way to unwind? Want to take your doodles to the next step? Zentangle is perfect for you! Combining dots, orbs, dashes, lines, and curves, teens will learn the basics of how to create one-of-a-kind pieces of flowing art.



## **Game Day! Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza & Moose Match Mahem**

**Tuesday, May 26 | 4:00pm - 5:00pm**

**Teen Room** - This month we're bringing the laughs with two crowd favorites! Who will be the quickest to complete their stack?

## **FPL Closed for Staff Training**

Heads up, bookworms! The Freeport Public Library is taking a morning breather on Friday, May 8, from 9AM to noon for some staff training. But fear not—normal operations will resume at 12PM!

# ADULT

## National Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls

**Saturday, May 2 | 10:00am - 2:00pm**

**Meeting Room** - It's estimated that 4 out of 5 Native women experience some form of violence in their lifetime. Native women also face murder rates more than 10 times the national average.

10am - Honor those lost at a ceremony in Debate Square

11am - Enjoy conversation and a fry bread snack

12pm - Watch a documentary about Indigenous people

Wear red to this event if you have some in your wardrobe.



## Climate Risks & Resilience at Local & State Levels

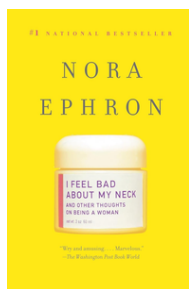
**Wednesday, May 6 | 6:30pm - 7:45pm**

**Meeting Room** - The speakers will provide data-driven information about the effects of climate change in Northwest Illinois and what federal, state, and community leaders and organizations are doing to address or prepare for climate change in our country, state, and region.

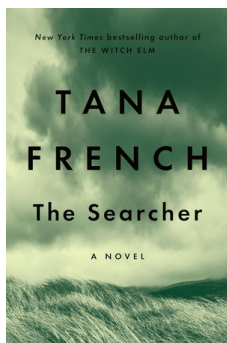
## Senior Resource Center Book Discussion

**Thursday, May 7 | 10:30am - 11:30am**

**Senior Resource Center** - Join us at the Senior Resource Center in Freeport to discuss this month's selection, *I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman*, by Nora Ephron. No registration required, all are welcome!



## MONDAY MURDERS BOOK GROUP



**Monday, May 11 | 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

**Boardroom** - Everyone welcome for this book group. No registration! Pick up a copy of the book on the 2nd floor of the library.

This month we will be talking about the book *The Searcher*, by Tana French.

*A retired cop takes one last case in this stand-alone novel from the creator of the Dublin Murder Squad.*

## Therapeutic Recreation for Folks with I.D.D.

**Tuesday, May 26 | 10:30am - 11:30am**

**Meeting Room** - No registration required! Join our therapeutic recreation program designed especially for individuals with disabilities. Engage in crafting, chatting, and fun activities!

## Find Your Farmer: Understanding Regenerative Farming & Local Food

**Monday, May 11 | 6:30pm - 7:30pm**

**Meeting Room** - Join us for an engaging and approachable overview of today's food system. We'll explore common farming practices, break down certifications and labels, and discuss how nonprofits and local initiatives support farmers and communities. Participants will also learn how to navigate farmers markets, CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture), and other local food resources — and how to confidently “find your farmer.”

## Wire Bead Trees

**Monday, May 18 | 6:15pm - 7:45pm**



**Meeting Room** - Little trees of wire, with beads for decorations. These will make super cute windowsill or next-to-plants decor for your house.

**Registration Required.**



Illinois Libraries Present:

Babel-On with

**R. F. Kuang**

in conversation with Kelly Jensen

**VIRTUAL EVENT & WATCH PARTY**

**Wednesday, May 20 | 7:00pm - 7:45pm**

R.F. Kuang's genre-bending fiction broaches ordinarily serious topics from a satirical and fantastical perspective.



## IT'S A WEIRD WORLD...

**Wednesday, May 20 | 6:30pm - 7:30pm**

**Boardroom** - This month we will discuss cults! There have been a number of groups that have been popularly considered "cults." From the People's Temple to Heaven's Gate to the Oregon Holy Rollers, the United States has had its fair share of interesting groups. Come and discuss!

## Print From Anywhere!

Did you know that you can print to the library from any internet connected PC? Just click the “Print From Anywhere” tab on our website to access our Web Printing Service. We've got over 100 file formats covered, including: Word, Excel, Powerpoint, PDF, JPEG, PNG, TIFF, and more.

You can also print an email or attachment from a mobile device. Simply forward your email to either [freeportpl-bw@printspots.com](mailto:freeportpl-bw@printspots.com) (10¢ per page) or [freeportpl-color@printspots.com](mailto:freeportpl-color@printspots.com) (50¢ per page).

\*Our printers are cash only and accept small bills and change.

# STAY CONNECTED

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00AM - 8:00PM | FRIDAY 9:00AM - 6:00PM | SATURDAY 10:00AM - 3:00PM | CLOSED SUNDAY

EMILY SCHAUB	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	815.233.3000 EXT 216
DANIELLE BAZAREK	LEAD CLERK	815.233.3000 EXT. 246
KY ECKERT	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	815.233.3000 EXT. 215
DIANNE LUDWIG	ADULT SERVICES MANAGER	815.233.3000 EXT. 221
AMANDA MEYERS	YOUTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR	815.233.3000 EXT. 238
KATY WIEGERT HARNISH	CIRCULATION & MARKETING MANAGER	815.233.3000 EXT. 229

**THE FREEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEET THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:00PM IN THE BOARDROOM.**

## Digital Collections



Download the Libby, Hoopla, Kanopy, and The Palace Project apps for instant access to our digital collections!

eBooks & Audiobooks

Movies, Music, TV & More!

## Reserve a Room

Study Rooms

Conference Rooms

Meeting Room

Projector, White Boards, and other equipment available upon request

Visit our website or contact the library's Administrative Assistant

## Follow us & Subscribe

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Sign up for e-Newsletters



**More than Books on a Shelf.**

Disability Outreach

Genealogy Resources

Free Programs for All Ages

Library of Things

Free WIFI

Print, Copy, Scan, & Fax

Public Computers

STEM & Literacy Kits

