

off the SHELF

*The Comfort of Crows
Read Between the Ravines
Two Communities, One Nonfiction Book*

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STAYING CONNECTED

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's been nearly a year since I joined the Lake Bluff Public Library, and I want to thank you all for the warm welcome, generosity, and support you've shown as we've worked together to stabilize the Library's building, services, and finances. Over the past year, we've begun updating critical infrastructure, including installing new sprinkler heads and fully testing the fire system; completed a comprehensive facility assessment to guide future improvements; and are nearing completion of a five-year strategic plan. We've also restored notary and test-taking services, along with much more.

Throughout all of this, our Library staff have done incredible work—creating engaging displays, reorganizing the upper and main floors, adding the LEGO wall, and continuing to expand programs and services for our community.

However, even as we work hard to ensure the Lake Bluff Public Library meets the needs of our community, we invite you to stay connected with the Library, advocate for the importance of abating asbestos to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone, support our Friends group, and most importantly, come in and see us.

Natalie Starosta, Library Director

READ BETWEEN THE RAVINES TWO COMMUNITIES, ONE NONFICTION BOOK

Lake Bluff and Lake Forest Libraries proudly present the annual Read Between the Ravines! This "Two Communities, One Nonfiction Book" program fosters nonfiction literacy and meaningful discussions. The 2026 selection is *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year* by Margaret Renkl. Learn more at LakeBluffLibrary.org/RBR.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Margaret Renkl is the author of *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year*, winner of the 2024 Southern Book Prize and Reese's Book Club's 100th pick. Her earlier books include *Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss* and *Graceland, At Last: Notes on Hope and Heartache From the American*



South, both award-winning works of nature and essay writing. A contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*, Renkl lives in Nashville.



ABOUT THE BOOK

In *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year*, Renkl follows the creatures and plants in her backyard during the course of a year. As we move through the seasons—from a crow spied on New Year's Day, its resourcefulness and sense of community setting a theme for the year—what develops is

a portrait of joy and grief. Joy at the ongoing pleasures of the natural world: "Until the very last cricket falls silent, the beauty-besotted will always find a reason to love the world." And grief at a shifting climate, at winters that end too soon, at songbirds growing fewer and fewer.

An Evening with Margaret Renkl

4/24 at 7pm | Registration Required

Located at the History Center of Lake Forest - Lake Bluff

Join the Lake Bluff and Lake Forest Libraries for an evening with New York Times bestselling author Margaret Renkl (*The Comfort of Crows*) in conversation with Laura Calvert, Executive Director of the Elawa Farm Foundation. Refreshments are available starting at 6:30pm, and the event will conclude with a book signing.

LBPL - Hosted at Lake Bluff Library | **LFL** - Hosted at Lake Forest Library

Register through LakeBluffLibrary.org/RBR

Programs are intended for adults unless otherwise noted.

Seed Library - **LBPL**

All Ages | While Supplies Last

Get ready to "grow wild": the Seed Library is back and freshly stocked with a vibrant mix of seeds, thanks to a generous donation from the Davey Tree Expert Company. Come browse the collection in-person or visit LakeBluffLibrary.org/SeedLibrary to learn more!

DIY Kit: Bee Hotel - **LFL R**

4/1 - 4/30

Bee Hotel: It's like a birdhouse, but for bees! Support your local pollinators with a place to rest. Limit 2 kits per household. Wait-listed patrons will be notified by the 15th of the month if any kits are still available.

Landscaping for a Changing

Climate - LFL R

4/2 at 7pm

Join Lake County Forest Preserves and learn about what we plant and how we plant it can make a difference. Discover nature-based solutions for the home gardener that lessen the impacts of our changing climate.

The Book Stops Here at

Dickinson Hall - LFL R

at Dickinson Hall

100 E Old Mill Rd, LF

4/7 at 11am

This session, join us in reading this year's Read Between the Ravines book, *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl. For more information and to register, please call Dickinson Hall at 847-234-2209.

Book Discussion at Elawa Farm Foundation - **LBPL R**

at Elawa Foundation (Hay Barn), 1401 Middlefork Dr., LF 4/11 at 1pm

This session, join us in reading this year's Read Between the Ravines book, *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl.

Owls of Lake County - **LBPL R V**

4/13 at 6pm

Throughout the year, seven species of owl live in or migrate through Lake County. Join staff from Lake County Forest Preserves on Zoom to learn about the natural history of each species and their unique adaptations.

Afternoons with Judy Levin

- **LFL R**

4/16 from 12pm - 1:15pm

This session, join us in reading this year's Read Between the Ravines book, *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl.

Bird Walk with Lake Forest

Open Lands - LFL R

at Greene Nature Preserve

797-793 Sheridan Rd., LF

4/20 from 8am - 9:30am

Join Lake Forest Open Lands and Lake Forest Library off site at the Greene Nature Preserve for a bird hike led by a guide from the Lake County Audubon Society. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear!

Afternoon Book Club - **LBPL**

4/21 at 2:30pm

This session, join us in reading this year's Read Between the Ravines book, *The Comfort of Crows* by Margaret Renkl.

Guided Nature Meditation

with Margaret Renkl - LFL R

4/25 at 10am

Register and join the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff libraries in person at Lake Forest Library for a guided nature meditation and reflective writing workshop with Margaret Renkl. After quiet reflection, in which participants are invited to bring back the natural world and sensory details of their childhood, Margaret will lead a writing exercise that corresponds to Spring Week 6 in *The Comfort of Crows*. Book signing to follow.

R = Registration Required **V** = Virtual

All programs are in person at the Library unless otherwise stated.

Spotlight Resource:

Resources for Seniors

Stop by between 10am and 12pm every second Monday of the month to visit with a representative from the Patricia A. Jones Center in Waukegan. Come learn about local resources, services, and programs for seniors in Lake County.

Mahjong Meetup

**2/24, 3/24, 4/28, and 5/26
from 2:30pm – 4:30pm**

Attend this casual Mahjong group to play with other community members! Bring your own Mahjong set if you have one.

Book Battles

3/2 – 3/31

Participate in this literary competition where we pit title against title and you decide which will advance to the next round! Vote for the best books of last year at the Library's First Floor Service Desk or on social media and help crown the 2025 Lake Bluff Champion Read.

Spring Desserts **R**

3/5 at 6pm

Springtime is almost here and it's the perfect season for some delicious desserts. Chef Susan Maddox will be demonstrating a few of her favorite spring sweet treats. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Public Library.*

The Mob's Influence on Popular Culture **R**

3/12 at 6pm

How did we get here, why is this important, and why are we still talking about it? From Capone's arrival more than a century ago to the souvenir shops on Michigan Avenue, this final installment of Murder and Mayhem: The Mob Series will explore how the Chicago Mob is deeply rooted in our culture to this day.

Afternoon Book Club

3/17, 4/21, and 5/19 at 2:30pm

Join Carol at the Library for an insightful monthly book discussion series:

March - *Heaven's Keep*
by William Kent Krueger

April - *A Comfort of Crows*
by Margaret Renkl

May - *The Frozen River*
by Ariel Lawhon

Floral Workshop with Lake Forest Flowers **R**

3/21 at 10:30am

Participants will learn how to elevate a grocery store or farmer's market bouquet into a beautiful, personalized floral display.

Evening Book Club

4/2 and 5/28 at 6pm

Every two months we'll explore a book from a different genre:

March - *Sea of Tranquility*
by Emily St. John Mandel, Sci-Fi

May - *Under the Whispering Door* by TJ Klune, Fantasy

Owls of Lake County **R V**

4/13 at 6pm

Throughout the year, seven species of owl live in or migrate

through Lake County. Join staff from Lake County Forest Preserves on Zoom to learn about the natural history of each species and their unique adaptations.

Lost Treasures of the Titanic 4/13 at 7pm **R V**

James Cameron's *Titanic* told the fictional story of the Heart of the Ocean, a blue diamond necklace lost in the ship's sinking. But what about the real treasures that went down with the Titanic? Tragedy struck on April 14, 1912, leading to a tragic loss of life and countless valuables that ultimately plummeted into the ocean, never to be seen again. This lecture explores some of the most fascinating and historically significant treasures lost that night.

ADHD: How to Navigate 5/7 at 6pm

Staff members from Courage to Connect Therapy will present on how to navigate ADHD as an adult and staying connected in an increasingly virtual world.

Apple Photos **R** 5/12 at 11am

Learn how to organize and share photos on your Apple device to help you find them when you need them.

Diamond Art Painting **R** 5/21 at 6pm

Get your sparkle on! Whether you're new to diamond painting or already have tiny gems all over your home, this meditative craft session will leave you feeling refreshed and inspired.

Illinois Libraries Present: A Virtual Program Series

Beyond the Page with Percival Everett R V
3/19 at 7pm

Industrious, irreverent, and humble—though he may deny the accusation—Percival Everett defies categorization. His most recent novel, *James*, earned both the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Award, and his 2001 novel *Erasure* inspired the film *American Fiction*, which received the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay in 2024.

Cristina Henríquez:
Voice, Culture, and Human Connection
4/16 at 7pm R V

Join critically acclaimed bestselling author Cristina Henríquez for a compelling conversation about her work. Henríquez's newest book, *The Great Divide*, is a moving exploration of the people who lived, loved, and labored during the construction of the Panama Canal. The book was named a *New York Times* Editors' Choice selection and a *TIME Magazine* "100 Must-Read Books of 2024."

Babel-On with R.F. Kuang R V
5/19 at 7pm

R.F. Kuang's genre-bending fiction broaches serious topics from a satirical and fantastical perspective. Academic yet approachable, Kuang's work combines history, magic, and classical literary tradition to render powerful critiques of academia, the publishing industry, and even contemporary popular culture.

***These events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).*

TEENS VOLUNTEER AT THE LIBRARY

Students in 8th - 12th Grade



Tween Crafts: Diamond Art Painting
3/31 at 4pm | Ages 9 - 14

Get your sparkle on! Whether you're new to diamond painting or already have tiny gems all over your home, this meditative craft session will leave you feeling refreshed and inspired.

1,000 books before kindergarten

Ongoing | Ages 0 - 6

Support your child's early literacy and track their progress with our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. For more information about how to register, visit LakeBluffLibrary.org/1000Books.

Grab and Go Crafts

Fridays

While Supplies Last

Pop into the Library and grab a craft to go! Every week a new craft will be available.

LEGO Drop-In

3/4, 4/1 and 5/6

from 3pm - 5pm

Ages 6 - 11

Drop into the Youth Services Department and play with LEGO bricks!

Messy Crafts

3/7 and 4/4 at 11am

Ages 2 - 12

Bring your kid in for some messy fun at the Library, and we'll handle the clean up! Smaller children will need the help of an adult.

Baby and Me

3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7,
and 4/14 at 10:30am

Ages 0 - 2 with an adult

Join us with your littlest ones for a relaxed program featuring a short story, age-appropriate toys, and music. While the children play and socialize, adults can connect and chat.

Beginning Reader Storytime

3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8,
and 4/15 at 4:15pm

Ages 4 - 7 with an adult

In this fun family program, we'll work on developing the early literacy skills kids need to become confident readers and book enthusiasts through stories, games, art, music, and more.

Mini Movers

3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9,
and 4/16 at 10:30am

Ages 2+ with an adult

Shake your sillies out in this fast-paced, music-filled storytime. We'll explore dramatic movement, musical instruments, and playful language through rhythm and rhyme in this engaging program for active toddlers, preschoolers, and their families.



Pokémon Club

3/12, 4/9, 5/14 at 4pm

Ages 8+

Calling all Pokémon Trainers! Prepare for epic battles with the Pokémon Trading Card Game (TCG), take on exciting challenges, and power up your skills at the Library!

K9 Reading Buddies **R**

3/16 and 4/20 at 4pm

Ages 6 - 11

Independent readers can sign up for a 15-minute session and read to a trained therapy dog.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Lake Bluff Library.

Chess Club **R**

3/17 and 4/21 at 5pm

Ages 6 - 12

Whether you are new to chess, or seeking to hone your techniques, Mark Hamilton will provide chess guidance to help improve your game.

Cardboard Construction

3/25 from 11am - 2pm

Ages 6+ with an adult

What will you build today? A towering castle, a rocket ship blasting into space, or a playground for your cat? The only limit is your imagination! Grab boxes and all the kid-safe supplies you need to cut, fold, and create your masterpiece. Want to go even bigger? BYOB - Bring Your Own Box!



New Parent Meet Up

3/9 at 12pm - 1:30pm and 5/2 at 10:30am - 12pm

New Parents and their babies (6 months or younger)

Becoming a parent can be amazing, but also hard! Connect with other new parents in the area while your babies enjoy age-appropriate socialization and play during this drop-in program. Older siblings are permitted.

Tween Crafts: Diamond Art Painting
3/31 at 4pm | Ages 9 - 14

Get your sparkle on! Whether you're new to diamond painting or already have tiny gems all over your home, this meditative craft session will leave you feeling refreshed and inspired.

Super Silly Egg Hunt
April 1 - 30 | Ages 3+

There are surprise-filled eggs hidden all around Youth Services! Find an egg, open it up, and see what magic unfolds!

Family Storytime
4/11 at 10:30am

Ages 2+ with an adult

Join us for an inclusive and interactive storytime featuring play, songs and lots of fun!

KPop Demon Hunter Training R
4/30 from 6pm - 7:30pm
Ages 8 - 12

Calling all demon hunters - we need your help to seal the Honmoon! Learn to dance along to "Golden" and go up, up, up with your voice during karaoke.

Charlotte's Web Play R
4/25 at 1pm

Ages 4+ with an adult

Three Brothers Theatre presents Charlotte's Web, the classic literary tale of true friendship, brought to life in a special one-hour production for the whole family!

Hold a Fossil: T-Rexplorers R
5/16 at 2pm

Ages 5 - 12

Step into the world of dinosaurs with Dino Seeds Experience! Get up close with real fossils, discover what life was like on a paleontological dig, and uncover how plants shaped the prehistoric world. Arrive 15 minutes early to meet Ranger the T-Rex!



Baby Prom!

5/9 from 12pm - 1:30pm

Ages 0 - 3 with an adult

Oh, Baby! It's Prom season! Join us for an afternoon of celebration, dancing, photo ops and more. Fancy attire is welcome but not required!

CONTACT US

PHONE: 847-234-2540

WEBSITE: LakeBluffLibrary.org

FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, & YOUTUBE:

@LakeBluffPublicLibrary

ADMINISTRATION

Natalie Starosta, *Library Director*

nstarosta@lakeblufflibrary.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alexandra Friedeman, *President*

Sandy Jardine, *Vice President*

Bonnie Shaul, *Treasurer*

Courtney Heck, *Secretary*

Joseph Kearney

Kathleen Reidy

Brian Sobolak

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held in person at the Library in the Spruth Room and streamed live on Zoom.

Tuesday, 3/16 at 7:00pm

Tuesday, 4/21 at 7:00pm

Tuesday, 5/19 at 7:00pm

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends is a non-profit organization that raises funds to support the Library.

UPCOMING FRIENDS MEETINGS

Saturday, 4/18 at 11:00am

STATEMENT ON PROGRAMMING

All Library programs are free of charge and open to everyone. You do not need a Library card to attend a program. Library programs are presented to offer differing viewpoints, and are not intended as endorsement by the Library of views expressed by, or actions suggested by, individual speakers or groups.

PHOTO USE POLICY

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SCAN ME

