Like a lot of people, I’m happy to have 2020 behind us and even happier that a COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed. Like a lot of people, the library has been working hard to continue doing what we do during the pandemic. And like a lot of people, it has been a challenge.

The library building remains closed and our hours are limited at this time, as Tier 3 mitigations remain in effect for the region. So if the building isn’t open to the public, you might ask, what is keeping library staff busy these days? I’m glad you asked!

Staff is in the building six days per week, answering phones, filling holds, and providing virtual reference services. We’ve also taken all of our programs virtual, which you should check out if you haven’t already! The same fun, educational, cultural programming you expect from us is being broadcast via Zoom and Facebook with everything Chicago history to story times to trivia night. We’ve gotten tremendous feedback on our virtual programs, so I don’t think you'll be disappointed.

We are also open for Curveside Service, of course. Our expanded Curveside offerings include everything from checking out books and movies to renewing library cards to copying, faxing, and scanning documents. We’ve also expanded our home delivery service so that we will deliver items to any Palos Heights resident, no questions asked. If you have any questions about any of our current services, don’t hesitate to call us at 708-448-1473 or email at palos.library@phlibrary.org.

Our temporary hours are:
- Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am – 5pm
- Tuesday & Thursday, 11am – 7pm
- Saturday, 10am – 2pm
- Closed on Sundays

If there are other services that you need right now that you think we might be able to offer, please don’t hesitate to reach out and let us know.

It feels like a miracle to be able to see the day on the horizon when we’ll be able to reopen fully and welcome you back in to sit by the fire, have a quiet place to study, or a nice place to meet. We look forward to seeing your faces again soon!

In the meantime, please continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, and observe social distancing. Now, seeing the light at the end of this miserable tunnel, is not the time to let down our guards. Please stay safe and remember that we will get through this together.

Jesse Blazek
Library Director
Home Delivery

Home Delivery is a contactless delivery service provided by the library to bring your materials on hold directly to your home. There is no charge for this service, and it is available to all Palos Heights Public Library cardholders. Patrons interested in Home Delivery should place items on hold through the online catalog or call the Library at 708-448-1473.

Kindness Corner

During this unprecedented time, it’s time for unprecedented kindness. Join the library in coming together to share in random acts of kindness in our community.

Throughout January, the library is collecting donations of $5 gift cards to Starbucks and Franklin’s Pie Company, and throughout February we will distribute the gift cards to the Palos Heights Police Department and Fire Department to show our appreciation for all they do. Have a cup of Joe on us! All donations may be dropped off at the Circulation Desk in the library or via Curbside Pickup.

National Wear Red Day

National Wear Red Day is Friday, February 5th. Join our staff in helping to raise awareness about heart health by wearing red.
Staff Picks

Christina V.
Public Services Librarian

SnowPiercer
(Book, Movie, and TV Series)

This year was a tough one for new TV shows and movies with many productions having been delayed. SnowPiercer on TNT was one of a few new, popular, and provocative TV shows to come out this year. The show was based on the film of the same name and the graphic novel, Le Transperceneige.

"It addressed many themes and issues that are still prevalent today, such as classism and social injustice."

Although the graphic novel was published in 1982, it addressed many themes and issues that are still relevant today, such as classism and social injustice. Set in a frozen apocalyptic future, the series centers on the remaining people who inhabit a perpetually moving train over 1000 cars long and stars Jennifer Connelly, and Daveed Diggs of Hamilton fame.

If you are looking for a thought-provoking story, find SnowPiercer, whether it’s the movie, the TV show, or the original graphic novel. The first season of the show is set to be released on DVD January 26th. Visit us at the Public Services desk for more information.

Beth S.
Public Services Librarian

The Last Flight
by Julie Clark

In a chance meeting at an airport bar in JFK, New York socialite Claire Cook and Eva James, a Californian heading home to Berkeley, make the fateful decision to swap lives.

“Filled with unexpected twists and turns, Julie Clark has created a thriller with compelling, nuanced characters that will keep you in suspense until the bitter end.”

Claire, who is desperate to escape her emotionally and physically abusive husband, tells Eva she would do anything to not go to Puerto Rico to meet him. Eva, who Claire believes is in mourning for her husband, agrees to the switch and they exchange e-tickets and cellphones. Arriving in California, Claire discovers that Eva’s plane has crashed and sees this as an opportunity to start a new life as Eva only to find out that Eva was not who she claimed to be.

Catherine C.
Public Services Librarian

The Exiles
by Christina Baker Kline

Set in 19th Century Australia, Christina Baker Kline’s novel, The Exiles, explores the lives of three women as they navigate the swiftly changing British colony.

“This novel is very well researched and it does an exceptional job of exploring the story of colonial Australia through the lives of women.”

The characters of Evangeline and Hazel provide a lens into the cruelties of the British justice system of the mid-1800s, which resulted in sham trials of many people, often poor, who were then shipped off to provide free labor in Australia as punishment for their crimes. Alternating with their narratives is the story of Mathinna, the daughter of an Aboriginal chief, who had been taken and adopted by the British governor of Van Diemen’s Land (now modern-day Tasmania).

This novel is very well researched and it does an exceptional job of exploring the story of colonial Australia through the lives of women. If you are a fan of historical fiction, Kline’s novel expertly blends fact and fiction to create an engaging and moving story that is well worth it.
Some of the Best Books of 2020

2020 was a great year for staying inside and reading a lot, and this year’s books did not disappoint! Here are some of our favorites:

**FICTION**

*A Children's Bible*
*by Lydia Millet*

Set at a lakeside mansion one summer, a group of teens and children are forced to fend for themselves as a storm hits. This allegory for climate change was a finalist for the 2020 National Book Award for Fiction.

**MYSTERY/SUSPENSE**

*The Guest List*
*by Lucy Foley*

A slow-burning tale of suspense set during a wedding on a remote Irish island. Sure to have you turning just one more page from the edge of your seat.

**FANTASY/SCI-FI**

*The City We Became*
*by N.K. Jemisin*

Beloved fantasy author N.K. Jemisin returns with the first book in a new series about the mystical champions of modern day New York City fighting against darkness to save its very soul before the Big Apple is no more.

**NONFICTION**

*Caste*
*by Isabel Wilkerson*

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Wilkerson explores human divisions through the hidden caste system in America today while examining caste systems throughout history in other civilizations.

**YOUNG ADULT**

*Clap When You Land*
*by Elizabeth Acevedo*

What happens when your beloved father dies—and you realize you have a sister in a different country? Elizabeth Acevedo's strong voice rings clear in this lyric novel about grief, forgiveness, and love.

**KIDS**

*Hollowpox*
*by Jessica Townsend*

In the third installment of Jessica Townsend’s Nevermoor series, Morrigan and Unit 919 are back in action as they continue on their journeys as scholars of the Wundrous Society. This series is just darling and I cannot wait for more.
Adult Events

All programs will be virtual. Please register for these programs from the library’s website at phlibrary.org to receive a link to join the program on Zoom.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Books will be available one month in advance at the Front Desk. New members are always welcome!

Thursday, Jan. 14, 6:30 pm
Beth Sair from Statues Stories Chicago will show the different statues around the city of Chicago and give voice to their stories as narrated by Chicago celebrities, actors, and writers.

Searching for South America
Tuesday, Jan. 19, 6:30 pm
Mindful Vagabond, Brian Michalski, spent over a year traveling through South America and visited the Inca Trail, navigated pristine Patagonia, and explored the Amazon rainforest. He will share his travel tips and experiences.

Trivia Night @ Home
Tuesday, Jan. 26 and Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6:30 pm
Join us for 2 hours of online trivia night from the comfort of your home! Winner will receive a $20 gift card to a Palos Heights restaurant. Register on the library’s event calendar and will receive an emailed link to participate on the Zoom platform. Limited to the first 35 who register.

Chris Jones Talks Theater
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 6:30 pm
Chicago Tribune Theater Critic and author of “Rise Up” will share his insight on the drama, the cultural history, and the issues facing the theater world as it recovers from the global pandemic.

Calumet: First and Forever – History of the Channel
Tuesday, Feb. 2, 6:30 pm
Retired Executive Director of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) and author Dick Lanyon will share his wealth of knowledge and historical photographs from the building of the Calumet-Sag Channel, the challenges faced in the construction, and how this waterway played a vital role in the preservation of Lake Michigan.

Monday Lunch Bunch Virtual Book Discussion, 12 pm
Jan. 11: Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win WWII by Sonia Purnell
Feb. 8: You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington by Alexis Coe

Tuesday Evening Virtual Book Discussion, 7 pm
Jan. 19: Song of a Captive Bird by Jasmin Darznik
Feb. 16: Deacon King Kong by James McBride

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Virtual Discussion
Jan. 20 & Feb. 17 at 7 pm
An open-ended discussion about sci-fi and fantasy news, books, movies, and tv shows. Come talk about what you’ve been reading and watching lately!

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Adult Events

All programs will be virtual. Please register for these programs from the library’s website at phlibrary.org to receive a link to join the program on Zoom.

Movie, Music, Romance!
Thursday, Feb. 11, 6:30 pm
Get ready for Valentine’s Day with this evening of favorite romantic movie and music moments. Presenter John LeGear will show dozens of the most artfully-created movie scenes, love songs and dance tandems ever seen on the silver screen all in one sitting including clips of Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, Julie Andrews, John Travolta, and more.

Billy Joel: The Piano Man
Tuesday, Feb. 16, 6:30 pm
Though Billy Joel has not released a new rock album in over 27 years, he remains one of the world’s most popular live performers. Using performance and interview video clips, Gary Wenstrup will trace the arc of Billy’s career from his humble beginnings in Hicksville, NJ to his slow rise to fame. “If you’re in the mood for a melody…the Piano Man will make you feel alright.”

Route 66 in Chicago: Where the Road Begins
Thursday, Feb. 25, 6:30 pm
Learn about the sometimes surprising story and the hidden history of Chicago’s connections to the famous Route 66 which includes hotel magnates, railroads, corrupt city officials, street car moguls and more.

Borrow ebooks & audiobooks
Use your Palos Heights Library card to download eBooks and eAudiobooks.
Visit MediaOnDemand.org or download the Libby app from the Android or Apple app stores.

Read on Libby.
The one-tap reading app from our library.
Adult Events

All programs will be virtual. Please register for these programs from the library's website at phlibrary.org to receive a link to join the program on Zoom.

JANUARY FICTION
All the Colors of Night - Jayne Ann Krentz
Twenty - James Grippando
Neighbors - Danielle Steel
American Traitor - Brad Taylor
The Wife Upstairs - Rachel Hawkins
Robert B Parker’s Someone to Watch Over Me - Ace Atkins
The Forever Girl - Jill Shalvis
The Children’s Blizzard - Melanie Benjamin
Prodigal Son - Gregg Hurwitz
Before She Disappeared - Lisa Gardner
Tropic of Stupid - Tim Dorsey
Planos and Flowers: Brief Encounters of the Romantic Kind - Alexander McCall Smith
The Russian - James Patterson
The Lost Boys - Faye Kellerman
Spin - Patricia Cornwell
The Scorpion’s Tail - Lincoln Child / Douglas Preston

FEBRUARY FICTION
The Survivors - Jane Harper
The Unwilling - John Hart
Faithless in Death - J.D. Robb
The Shadow Box - LuAnne Rice
Serpentine - Jonathan Kellerman
Blink of an Eye - Iris Johansen
The Four Winds - Kristin Hannah
Never Far Away - Michael Koryta
The Vineyard at Painted Moon - Susan Mallery
Relentless - Mark Greaney
Triple Chocolate Cheesecake Murder - Joanne Fluke
The Power Couple - Alex Berenson
The Kaiser’s Web - Steve Berry
Missing and Endangered - J.A. Jance
A Fatal Lie - Charles Todd
The Other You - Joyce Carol Oates

Computer Classes
The following classes are hands-on and are held via Zoom. Reservations are required.

Microsoft Word Intermediate
Monday, Jan. 11, 6:30 pm
Learn more about the ins and outs of formatting documents and inserting media in Microsoft Word. Must have basic computer skills.

Gmail Basics
Monday, Jan. 25, 2 pm
Find out how to get the most out of Gmail by learning how to create and send E-Mails, attach files, add contacts, use tabs and labels, and more!

YouTube Basics
Monday, Feb. 8, 6:30 pm
Learn the fundamentals of navigating, sharing, and staying safe on YouTube, a massive video-sharing site. Basic computer skills are needed for this class.

Learn to Zoom
Monday, Feb. 22, 6:30 pm
Zoom into this class on how to use Zoom! We will talk about all the different features available and take turns practicing how to use them. The learning starts when you register for this program on the library’s website, after which you will receive an E-Mail with instructions on how to get Zoom and join the meeting.
Tween & Teen Corner

Please Note: Unless marked otherwise, all youth programs will take place online and are available on a drop-in basis. All youth programs will take place on the library’s Facebook page. Recordings for select programs will be available on the library’s YouTube page.

Winter Reading Program
Snow is Falling, Books are Calling!
Now–Jan. 31, All Ages
Too cold to play outside and nothing to do over winter break? Complete the winter reading challenge and win a book of your choice! The best part is that you can read whatever you like because everything counts. Sign up on our library Beanstack account and start reading.

T-Shirt Headbands
Wednesday, Feb. 24, 4 pm, Grades 4–8
Have an old t-shirt lying around? Turn it into a stylish headband!

Woven Stars
Thursday, Feb. 25, 5 pm, Grades 6–12
Create various star designs using cardboard and yarn. Wrap different colored yarn to create many patterns!

Teen Take 'N' Make
Grades 4–12
Miss doing crafts at the library? Swing by to get supplies to make our monthly craft! One kit each and supplies will be available until we run out.
January: Snowman Pinecone
February: Valentine Fortune Cookies

STAFF PICKS
Tina R.
Head of YTS

Midnight Sun
by Stephanie Meyer

After the release of Twilight, 15 years ago, author Stephanie Meyer has finally given fans of the popular vampire saga what they have been waiting for. Midnight Sun, is the long-awaited retelling of Twilight from the perspective of everyone’s favorite mysterious vampire, Edward Cullen. Readers of the Twilight Saga have only heard Bella Swan’s side of the story until now.

Midnight Sun, is a dark retelling of Twilight that gives readers a glimpse of Edward's inner thoughts. All our questions get answered. Why is Edward so fascinated with Bella? What makes him happy? Angry? Anxious? What was he really thinking the first time he saw (smelled) Bella? With Edward’s ability to read minds, we also get to see the inner thoughts of the Cullen family.

Fans of the series already know that Edward “died” and became a vampire during the 1918 flu pandemic, but now readers will be able to get a better understanding of Edward’s past and what shaped him into the brooding vampire who won Bella’s heart. Best of all, readers will enjoy being able to experience Edward falling in love. Midnight Sun will have Twilight fans eager to read the saga all over again. Put your copy on hold today!
Youth Events

Please Note: Unless marked otherwise, all youth programs will take place online and are available on a drop-in basis. All youth programs will take place on the library’s Facebook page. Recordings for select programs will be available on the library’s YouTube page.

JANUARY PROGRAMS

Snow Sculptures
Throughout January, All Ages
Show off your snow building skills with us! Build a snow sculpture and decorate it with gloves, hats, or other materials you like, then take a picture and share it with us on our Facebook, Instagram, or send your picture to youth@phlibrary.org.

DIY Aquarium
Tuesday, Jan. 12, 4 pm, Ages 2–5
Learn how to make your very own paper aquarium out of a paper plate and other supplies!

Olaf Sock Snowman
Tuesday, Jan. 19, 4 pm, Grades K–3
Do you want to build a snowman? How about one made out of white socks? Follow along while we make our own Olaf who loves warm hugs.

Library Shelfie Day
Friday, Jan. 22, 4 pm, All Ages
January 22nd is national shelfie day! Take a selfie with your own book shelf and send it our way at social@phlibrary.org so we can show off all of our patrons’ beautiful shelfies!

FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

Valentine’s Day Hunt
Monday, Feb. 8, 10 am, All Ages
Search for different items on a check list and see if you can find them all!

P-I-Z-Z-A
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 4 pm, Grades K–3
In this program, we will test out and make our own unique pizzas.

Valentine’s Day Bingo
Thursday, Feb. 11, 4 pm, All Ages
Gather round and play a game of Valentine’s Day Bingo! Register online at evanced to get the Zoom link as well as a sheet to play!

Virtual Valentine’s Day Cards for Healthcare Workers
Friday, Feb. 12, 1 pm, All Ages
Let’s show love to all healthcare workers by making Valentine’s Day cards. Take a picture of your card and send it to youth@phlibrary.org by 1 pm on February 12. All images will be posted on the library Facebook and Instagram pages on Valentine’s Day, February 14.

WINTER READING PROGRAM

Snow is Falling, Books are Calling!
Now–Jan. 31, All Ages
Too cold to play outside and nothing to do over winter break? Complete the winter reading challenge and win a book of your choice! The best part is that you can read whatever you like because everything counts. Sign up on our library Beanstack account and start reading.
Youth Events

Please Note: Unless marked otherwise, all youth programs will take place online and are available on a drop-in basis. All youth programs will take place on the library's Facebook page. Recordings for select programs will be available on the library's YouTube page.

Getting Excited About Science
Saturday, Feb. 13, 10 am, All Ages
A science show that everyone can not only see, but understand and enjoy. The aim of Steve Belliveau’s show is to inspire children to get involved in science themselves. Using dramatic demonstration, easy to see equipment, humor and music, he brings down to earth basic ideas about air/water pressure, magnetism & electricity, friction, chemistry, simple machines, conservation of energy, sound and color.

Paint the Seasons
Tuesday, Feb. 16, 4 pm, Grades K–3
Follow along with our step-by-step painting to create a vision of all four seasons!

Seed Balls
Tuesday, Feb. 23, 4 pm, Grades K–3
Spring is just around the corner! Join us as we make our own seed balls to plant once things get sunny!

STORY TIMES

Rubber Ducky Story Time
Wednesday, Jan. 13, 10 am, Ages birth–23 mos.
Rubber ducky, you’re the one! Join us in this baby story time themed all around ducks and bath time!

Polar Bear Story Time
Thursday, Jan. 14, 1 pm, Ages 2–5
Listen to stories and sing along to songs all about polar bears!

Snow Time Like Story Time
Tuesday, Jan. 26, 4 pm, Ages 2–5
Join in on some winter fun by singing songs and listening to stories all about snow.

Tales for Twos
Tuesdays, Feb. 2–23, 11 am, 24–35 months

Little Wigglers
Wednesdays, Feb. 3–24, 11 am, Infants–23 mos.

Kindergarten Ready!
Thursdays, Feb. 4–25, 11 am, Ages 3–5

Take ‘N’ Make
All Ages
Miss doing crafts at the library? Swing by to get supplies to make our monthly craft! One kit per child and supplies will be available until we run out.

January: Mittens
February: Unicorns

STAFF PICKS

Lorena R.
YTS Librarian

The Van Gogh Deception
by Deron Hicks

Imagine not having any memory of what happened or how you ended up in the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. Well, that is what has happened to the main character in the story.

He is found sitting in the gallery and a woman, Mary takes him into her home. Mary’s daughter Camille names him Art, short for Arthur, since he doesn’t remember his real name. It becomes apparent that Art was a part of something bigger going on in the National Gallery of Art when a team of people search for him and want to try to capture him. The stakes are rising and Art begins to piece together clues from his past to help stop a great art fraud attempt.

This is a fun, exciting, and interactive read with QR codes throughout this book to help readers view the art that can be found in the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. Read about Art outsmarting bad guys while also learning about various artists and paintings.

This book is a 2021 Bluestem Award Nominee and I would recommend this book for grades 4-6.
LIBRARY HOURS
Please note our temporary hours:
Mon., Wed., Fri.: 9 am – 5 pm
Tues., Thurs.: 11 am – 7 pm
Sat.: 10 am – 2 pm

LIBRARY CLOSINGS
Friday, January 1 - New Year’s Day
Friday, February 12 - Staff In-Service

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS
Thursday, January 21 at 7 pm
Thursday, February 18 at 7 pm

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Geraldine Burek, President
Jennifer Georgis, Vice President
Susan Snow, Secretary
Steven Foertsch, Treasurer
Dawn Bronson
George Fear
Sue Jankowski
Hilary Rhodes
Rose Zubik

LIBRARY DIRECTOR
Jesse Blazek

DISABILITY STATEMENT
The library makes every effort to accommodate all patrons with disabilities. If you require special accommodations for a specific event or visit, please call or email us to let us know what we can do to prepare for your visit.

Look Us Up On:
Facebook
twitter
pinterest
instagram

DISABILITY STATEMENT
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Friends of the Library

The Friends Give Back!
Over the past 15 years, the Friends have raised over $175,000 for the library. That money has helped pay for things like local history projects, computer equipment, programs, and much more.

If you want to make a difference in the community, consider joining the Friends today!

The Friends of the Library are currently on hiatus. The library appreciates their ongoing support and look forward to the day when we can work together again.

The Friends of the Palos Heights Library is a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging public interest and financial support for the library. They support various programs and cultural activities held at the library for the enjoyment of the entire community.

DONATIONS

Barbara Dubec
Monetary Donation

Catherine Vana
Monetary Donation

Edward Wolak
Monetary Donation

Palos Heights Woman’s Club
In memory of Thomas Thoss
Build Your Swing by Jim McLean
In memory of Elaine McClure
The Masters: A Hole-by-Hole History of America’s Golf Classic by David Sowel
In memory of Philip Tortorici
I Will Run Wild by Thomas McKelvey Cleaver

Oak Hills R.A.T. Book Club
In memory of Linda Wilkinson
Eight new titles