Signature Art Piece Commissioned for New Library Building

Philanthropy has always been an important role in the Library’s success and ability to provide enhanced services and programs to the community. Thanks to the St. Charles Public Library Foundation, a nonprofit corporation established in 1993 to support the Library, we once again are the grateful recipients of their generosity.

This spring, in conjunction with the start of the Library’s renovation project, the Foundation embarked on a new endowment project by seeking proposals from local artists. The goal: to find a visual art piece for the new Library building. Artists were encouraged to submit artwork proposals in a variety of mediums, including photography, painting, illustrations and mixed media.

After reviewing many submissions, the Foundation was pleased to announce the selection of a signature art piece by local artist Larry K. Johnson of LK Johnson Studio in Geneva, IL. The commissioned bronze relief will be on display above the fireplace in the newly-renovated space. The St. Charles Public Library Board of Trustees accepted the Foundation’s generous gift of the $10,000 art piece at the September 9, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting.

When asked why this piece was selected for this submission, Johnson explained, “The Porta Series deals with the classic theme of an entry, a door, a window, or a passage into a new space, a new world. The piece explores the transformation of the ‘Keystone’ of a traditional arch, the strongest element, into an organic movement of form and content. It allows the viewer to enter a new dimension, a new discovery. Below it we see the horizon of today’s environment, but above it we see new life, sparks of light, and hope.”

Johnson holds an MFA in Sculpture and studied under notable sculptors, art critics and authors. Examples of his work can be found within the Fox Valley Community including in the Geneva Visitors Center and Peck Farm Park. They include a bronze relief commissioned by the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, and a life-size bronze sculpture of “Prairie Girl,” which was donated to the Geneva Park District by the Starshine Galaxy Foundation.

Johnson has described the “Porta” piece as “an invitation to explore new beginnings” and compares this to the mission of “books in their protected haven, the library.” We couldn’t agree more; and we thank Johnson and the Foundation for this inspirational piece. We looking forward to having it prominently on display as we welcome our patrons to our new home in 2021.
What the Staff Is Reading

**Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration**
Samara Cole Doyon • JE DOYON

This celebration of people, nature and the color brown told in poetry and pictures will delight readers of all ages.

**Library Expands Popular Book Club Service**

The Library’s Book Club Service now offers its patrons even more exciting benefits. Since launching in 2018, the Book Club Service has expanded to include 70 in-house book sets. Besides its own collection, the staff works with SWAN and the Interlibrary Loan process to make it possible for everyone in your group to get a copy of your discussion book. All of our book clubs receive extended due dates with books available approximately five weeks before the date of the discussion.

In addition to all those great perks, the team is working on providing even more enhancements. Book Club Service is working with our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee to develop book sets that appeal to a wider audience, and a new Book Club Service newsletter will be released in early 2021, which will be available in digital form on the Library’s website. With all those great reasons to start a book club, why wait? The Library’s Book Club Service is easy to use and can help you manage your book club like a pro! For more information, visit scpld.org/book-club-service, pick up a brochure at any service desk or email us at bookclub@scpld.org.

Read in the New Year!

Reader Services is here to help you take your reading in new directions. Over the course of 2021, we invite you to join us in discovering authors, genres, subjects, or even formats, which might be new to you. Look for our monthly themes starting in January.

Reader Services is always happy to suggest new titles for you to try based on your own preferences. Fill out our “Finding What You Like” form online to receive a personalized reading list or browse our booklists at scpld.org/what-read to discover something new.

Happy New Reading Year from your Reader Services Team!

**Get a Life, Chloe Brown**
Talia Hibbert • FIC HIBBERT

A fun and charming “enemies to lovers” romantic comedy.

**The Jane Austen Society**
Natalie Jenner • FIC JENNER

A cozy English village and an endearing cast of characters combine in a story that is “like a nice warm hug.”

**Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts**
Kate Racculia • FIC RACCULIA

A clever, genre-bending adventure tale featuring a motley crew of characters and a feel-good ending.

**Murder in Chianti**
Camilla Trinchieri • FIC TRINCHIERI

A cozy mystery set in Tuscany that will also be enjoyed by armchair travelers and foodies.

**Yes, I’m Hot in This: The Hilarious Truth about Life in a Hijab**
Huda Fahmy • 741.5 FAH

Humorous and painfully honest collection that shows how universal our everyday problems, worries and joys actually are.

**Wow, No Thank You**
Samantha Irby • 814.6 IRB

The third volume of irreverent and relatable essays from the well-known comedian and blogger. Hilarious!

**Bad Princess: True Tales from Behind the Tiara**
Kris Waldherr • J 940 WAL

What does it really mean to be a princess? Find out through these short, fun biographies of real-life royals.

**Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration**
Samara Cole Doyon • JE DOYON

This celebration of people, nature and the color brown told in poetry and pictures will delight readers of all ages.
Second Tuesday Book Discussion

The Library offers two book discussion groups: Mornings at 10:00 a.m. and evenings at 7:00 p.m. Please register to receive information on how to access the discussion. Contact readers@scpld.org for more details.

Online via Zoom • REGISTER

December 8
Morning
Deacon King Kong by James McBride • FIC MCBRIDE

Evening
Sunny Days: The Children's Television Revolution that Changed America by David Kamp • 791.45028 KAM

January 12
Morning & Evening
World of Wonders by Aimee Nezhukumatathil • 590 NEZ

February 9
Morning & Evening
The Revisioners by Margaret Wilkerson Sexton • FIC SEXTON

Introduction to Fermenting Vegetables

Tuesday, January 19 • 7:00-8:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom

Learn to ferment vegetables from the comfort of your kitchen with cookbook author and food blogger Emily Paster. She will demonstrate how to make fermented vegetable pickles and sauerkraut using common pantry ingredients and basic kitchen tools with no special equipment required. Emily will answer all your fermenting questions.

REGISTER

Sixth Annual Seed Swap

Saturday, February 6
Six 30-minute time slots available from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
University of Illinois Extension Office-Kane County
535 S. Randall Road, St. Charles

This will be your chance to get seeds from our heirloom seed library at our sixth annual seed swap. You do not have to bring seeds to take seeds, but it is encouraged. Heirloom and open-pollinated seeds are preferred. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer seed and gardening questions.

REGISTER

Searching for South America

January 26-February 2
Online via YouTube

Fresh off his most recent travels, the Mindful Vagabond, Brian Michalski enthralls us with photography and vignettes gathered from exploring and working in South America. He will share entertaining stories and images from the Inca Trail, Patagonia, the Amazon rainforest and more.

REGISTER

Great Decisions

Thursdays • January 21 • February 18 • 7:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom

Great Decisions is a national, civic-education program and publication of the Foreign Policy Association. Participants should be ready to discuss the article prior to the discussion. Visit scpld.org/great-decisions for information regarding discussion topics. REGISTER

St. Charles Writers Group

Saturdays • 9:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

A workshop for novice or experienced writers that meets twice a month. All genres are welcome. Visit scpld.org/st-charles-writers-group for information regarding dates, meeting location and topics.

Friends’ Meeting

St. Charles Veterans Center
311 N. Second Street, Suite 109, St. Charles

The Friends of St. Charles Public Library is an adult organization that raises funds to provide special programs and equipment that is beyond the Library’s regular budget. Join the group at their regular meeting.

DROP IN

Henry Ossawa Tanner: A Black Artist in The White City

Tuesday, February 2 • 7:00 p.m.
Online via Zoom

In the late nineteenth century, Henry Ossawa Tanner became the first Black artist to achieve fame in Europe. Drawing on training he received at The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Tanner’s early work represented African Americans with dignity and respect. Art historian Jeff Mishur will discuss Tanner’s artistic journey and places his work within an art historical context.

REGISTER

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REGISTER
### Business Programs

#### Find Meaningful Employment: Learn & Network with TUG & the Library

**Online via Zoom • 6:30–8:00 p.m. • Speaker & Topic TBD**  
Mondays • December 14 • December 28 • January 11 • January 25  
**February 8 • February 22**  
Please join TUG Career Services and Business Reference Librarian Chris Flood as they welcome speakers who present the latest updates on career management, job-seeking skills, education and training.  
[REGISTER or DROP IN](#)

#### Target Key Contacts

**Thursday, January 14 • 6:30–8:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom**  
Do you need the name of the Marketing Manager at the XYZ company? Discover the name of the person critical to your success from these library databases: AtoZ, Mergent Intellect and Winmo. Business Librarian Chris Flood will share the tools to help you find that important person's name. [REGISTER or DROP IN](#)

### Virtual Computer Instructional Videos

Refresh your word processing skills, try Excel or learn about Google Apps. Register for our instructional videos and have them delivered to your email inbox. Work through the videos at your own pace. Contact our technology educator for assistance.

For more detailed information about the skills covered in each video, please visit scpld.org/computer-classes. All videos offer closed captioning. [Classes are open to St. Charles Public Library cardholders only. Class size is limited to 15.](#)

#### Google Suite

- **December 1 • January 5 • January 19 • February 2 • February 16**
  - Google Docs: 2 videos
  - Google Slides: 3 videos
  - Google Sheets (Basic): 3 videos

#### Microsoft Office 2016

- **December 8 • January 12 • January 26 • February 9 • February 23**
  - Word: 3 videos
  - PowerPoint: 3 videos
  - Excel (Basic): 3 videos

### Online Advertising for Social Media

**Thursday, February 4 • 6:30–8:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom**  
Have you tried Facebook to grow the number of people who know and love your business? This class will discuss Facebook page creation and maintenance, as well as its advertising feature. Mike Gershbein of VerySmartPeople will lead this program and answer your Facebook questions. [REGISTER or DROP IN](#)

#### Facebook for Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses

**Thursday, February 18 • 6:30–8:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom**  
Facebook, Twitter, Google, LinkedIn and Instagram all offer paid options for getting your message heard. Learn about your best options for advertising online, how to create your ad and the most effective ways to target potential clients. Mike Gershbein of VerySmartPeople will lead the program and answer your online advertising questions. [REGISTER or DROP IN](#)

#### Holiday Tech Gifts

**Tuesday, December 1 • 6:30 p.m. • Online via Zoom**  
Discover some of the hottest gadget gifts available this holiday season, from smart home and smart phones to toys and oddities. Lots of cool options for the family’s (or your own) wish list. [REGISTER](#)

#### iPhone and iPad Basics

**Wednesday, January 13 • 6:30 p.m. • Online via Zoom**  
Learn everything you need to know to get started with an iPad or iPhone, from basic navigation to customization to handy tricks. [REGISTER](#)

#### Bitcoin and Cryptocurrency

**Wednesday, February 10 • 6:30 p.m. • Online via Zoom**  
You can’t read the news without seeing hype about Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies. Is this the first wave of a cashless future or just an overhyped technology? One thing is for sure: there’s a lot of money riding on its success. [REGISTER](#)
WOMEN

Spy vs. Spy: Espionage during World War II
Tuesday, February 16 • 7:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom

Total war led to total espionage as each major participant in WWII attempted to fathom the actions of the opposition – and even of its allies. There was nothing humorous about this deadly game. Join author and historian Robert Mueller to learn about some of the most famous and not-so-famous espionage efforts of the war. REGISTER

Middle School and Teen Programs

Virtual Financial Aid Application Workshop
High School Students • Wednesday, December 2 • 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Must register by noon on December 2 • Online via Webex

Presented by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), a Corps member will present on how to fill out the FAFSA and/or the Alternative Application. Presentation includes Q&A with questions answered in real time in English and/or Spanish. REGISTER

Anime Club
Grades 6–12 • Tuesdays • December 8 • January 12 • February 9 • 6:00–8:00 p.m.
*STC Underground at the Baker Community Center (lower level)
101 S. 2nd Street, St. Charles

Get loud and geek out with anime and activities. Cosplay is always welcome. Face mask requirements and social distancing expectations at the time of the event will be enforced. Do you have a suggestion for an anime to watch? Email suggestions to bbuckley@scpld.org.

Fascinating Women of History:

Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Thursday, January 14 • 1:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom

The 19th Amendment celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2020. Laura Keyes will portray renowned suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Keyes will pick up Stanton’s story following the Civil War in 1866 when the war was over, but the battle for Women’s Suffrage was just beginning. REGISTER

Lincoln Award Book Discussions
Grades 9–12 • Wednesdays • 7:00-8:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom

December 9: Dry by Neil Shusterman
January 13: We’ll Fly Away by Brian Bliss
February 10: A Heart in a Body in the World by Deb Caletti

Join us for one or all of the Lincoln Award book discussions in partnership with St. Charles East High School. This discussion is open to all high school students regardless of the school. Pick up a copy at the Library, or STC East students may request copies from the LRC.

The Lincoln Award is designed to encourage teens to read for personal satisfaction and become familiar with authors of young adult and adult books. Students who read at least four of the nominees and register by January 15 are welcome to vote online for their favorite title February 15 through March 15. REGISTER

Caudill Book Discussion
Grades 6–8 • Wednesdays • 4:00–4:30 p.m. • Online via Zoom
December 16: Becoming Kareem by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar with Raymond Obstfeld
January 20: Spirit Hunters by Ellen Oh
February 17: A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee

Every month meet with other middle school students to discuss one of the 2021 Caudill Nominees. Complimentary copy available at the library while supplies last. REGISTER

Program Information
Visit our website to find the most up-to-date information and instructions on how to register and access a virtual program.
Youth Programs

This winter we are continuing to host many programs online, but keep an eye out for our **Tech Free!** programs. Our Youth Services staff is excited to continue bringing you the programs you love in easy-to-enjoy formats that you can view or participate at home, or enjoy in person. Please make note of which programs are available virtually, as a grab-and-go kit or in person. Search “St Charles Public Library” on YouTube to access our channel and subscribe to be notified of new posts.

### Early Literacy and Storytimes

#### All Ages Story Time
**All Ages • Tuesdays**  
December 1 - February 23  
10:00 a.m. • Online LIVE via Zoom  
Join us for a story time for kids and parents alike. Listen to stories, sing songs and enjoy the fun! [REGISTER](#)

#### Fine Motor Fun to GO!
**Ages 2-5 • Wednesdays • December 2 • January 6 • February 3**  
Pick up at the Library  
[Tech free!](#) Each kit will include child-friendly props and activity sheets for some super awesome at-home play. [GRAB AND GO](#)

#### Sensory Activities to GO!
**All Ages • Thursdays • December 10 • January 7 • February 11**  
Pick up at the Library  
[Tech free!](#) Explore your senses with a take-home sensory activity. [GRAB AND GO](#)

#### Storytime with the Nature Center
**All Ages • Wednesdays • December 16 • January 13 • February 17**  
10:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 12:00 p.m.  
LeRoy Oakes Nature Center, 37W700 Dean Street, St. Charles  
Come join the fun for a video story time at the Nature Center. Watch the video story time at the top of the hour and grab a take-home nature project. Check with the Nature Center for face mask requirements and social distancing expectations. This program is in partnership with the Kane County Forest Preserve District. [DROP IN](#)

### T-Rex Trickshots
**Grades K-5 • Wednesdays • December 9 • January 13 • February 10**  
9:00 a.m. • Posted on YouTube  
Can they build it? Yes, they can! The T-Rexes have taken over! They are creating chaos all over the Library and showing off their building skills. Watch your prehistoric friends create a Rube Goldberg machine.

### Bluestem Book Discussion
**Grades 3-5 • Wednesdays • 4:00-4:30 p.m. • Online Via Zoom**  
December 9: Stef Soto, Taco Queen by Jennifer Torres  
January 13: A Whole New Ballgame by Phil Bildner  
February 10: Ambrose Deception by Emily Ecton  
Every month meet with other students to discuss one of the 2021 Bluestem Nominees. Complimentary copies available while supplies last. [REGISTER](#)

### Junior Historians
**All Ages • Fridays • December 11 • January 8 • February 12**  
11:00 a.m. • Posted on YouTube  
Junior historians will learn about the rich history of St. Charles. Check out our event calendar for the list of supplies you will need for each program. This program is presented in partnership with the St. Charles History Museum.

### Snow Sculptures
**All Ages • December—February**  
During Library hours • SCPL at Haines  
Make snow sculptures on the lawn. If there is snow on the ground, stop by and build a creation. Please remember to use snow on the ground and not from other pieces of art. Only space is provided; please bring your own tools and accessories. [DROP IN](#)

### Foodie Families
**All Ages • Tuesdays**  
December 22 • January 26 • February 23  
1:00 p.m. • Posted on YouTube  
Students and their families will create easy treats! Participants will follow along each month to create a delicious recipe.

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**STEAM**

#### Grab ‘n Go STEAM!
**All Ages • Saturdays**  
December 5 • January 2 • February 6  
Pick up at the Library  
[Tech free!](#) Visit the Library to pick up an interactive STEAM kit with all supplies and instructions included. [GRAB AND GO](#)

#### Craftnoon
**All Ages • Mondays**  
December 7 • January 4 • February 1  
1:00 p.m. • Posted on YouTube  
Get crafty in the afternoons with the Library! Join us as we explore a variety of materials and create projects.

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St. Charles Public Library
Diverse Voices Book Club

Grades 3-8 • Wednesdays • 6:30–7:30 p.m. • Online via Zoom
January 27: Planet Earth is Blue by Nicole Panteleakos
February 24: Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Discuss titles written by people of different backgrounds and experiences. A complimentary copy of the book will be available to registrants while supplies last. **Meets at the same time as Diverse Voices Book Club for adults.**

**REGISTER**

Miss Katelyn’s Neighborhood

All Ages • Thursdays
December 17 • January 14 • February 18
9:00 a.m. • Posted on YouTube

Join Miss Katelyn as she meets local business owners and learns about how their businesses work behind the scenes.

Black History Month:
Songs and Stories of African People

All Ages • Tuesday, February 9 • 6:00–7:00 p.m. • Online via Zoom

Join Shanta Nurullah, Chicago-based multi-instrumentalist storyteller, for a family event celebrating Black History Month. **REGISTER**

Virtual Stuffed Animal Sleepover

All Ages • December 27–December 31
Video Posted on YouTube Thursday, January 7

Email a picture of your favorite stuffed animal to Askme@scpld.org by December 31 to send them on a virtual stuffed animal sleepover!

Parenting Book Discussion

For Adults • 8:00–8:45 p.m. • Online via Zoom
Thursday, January 14: Becoming by Michelle Obama
Thursday, February 11: The Kids Are in Bed: Finding Time for Yourself in the Chaos of Parenting by Rachel Bertsche

The kids have gone to bed. Join other parents to discuss two different titles this winter. Check the event calendar for title availability. **REGISTER**

Miss Katelyn’s Neighborhood

All Ages • Thursdays
December 17 • January 14 • February 18
9:00 a.m. • Posted on YouTube

Join Miss Katelyn as she meets local business owners and learns about how their businesses work behind the scenes.

Movie Night

Grades 4-8 • Fridays • 4:30 p.m.
December 18 • January 15 • February 19
Ghoulish Mortals • 228 W. Main Street, St. Charles

Vote on a recent release to watch with your friends and peers! Spaces are limited. **Face mask requirements and social distancing expectations at the time of the event will be enforced.** **REGISTER**

Glowing Noon Year’s Party to GO!

All Ages • Monday, December 21 • Pick up at the Library

Crank up the volume! Pick up a family party kit starting December 21. Included is a party playlist available on Freegal, a free music service through the Library’s website, with instructions for accessing the playlist. **GRAB AND GO**

Junior Historians LIVE

Grades 3-5 • Monday, January 18 • 4:00–4:45 p.m.
St. Charles History Museum • 215 E. Main Street, St. Charles

Take a step back in time and learn about the rich history of our city and our country with games, crafts and activities. **Face mask requirements and social distancing expectations at the time of the event will be enforced. This program is presented in partnership with the St. Charles History Museum.** **REGISTER**

Sled Dogs on the Lawn

Saturday, February 27 • 1:00 p.m. • SCPL at Haines

Join us on the front lawn as the Free Spirit Dog Sled Team demonstrates the wonderful world of mushing and offers information about Free Spirit Siberian Rescue. Program is weather permitting and please wear masks. **DROP IN**

I ♥ Winter Reading

Sign-up for Winter Reading using our ReadSquared* service or over the phone (630-584-9390) starting Monday, December 21. Complete your reading goal to earn an entry into a raffle. Log in at any time and complete as many goals as you wish! Each goal completed is another entry into the raffle. Each goal requires three hours of reading in 20-minute increments and the completion of three fun missions. Pick your missions off our provided list or come up with one of your own! I ♥ Winter Reading will end on Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14.

*ReadSquared is available through our website, scpld.org, or as a downloadable app for iPhone and Android.
Annual Report Highlights: Fiscal Year 2019–2020

Fiscal year 2019–2020 was unlike any other. We experienced many highlights but also faced unforeseen challenges. In spite of these unpredictable times, the Library adapted and successfully maintained our Core Values of Patron-Centric, Stewardship, Innovation and Excellence. As the fiscal year began, the Library made several technological changes, including the implementation of Radio-Frequency Identification and an Internet-based phone system to improve efficiency and increase accessibility. To reach a wider and more varied audience, we launched new initiatives, such as the Diverse Voices Book Club, Trivia Night at Pollyanna Brewing, the Book Club Party and many other adult, teen and youth programs. The Library also was awarded a $10,000 Census Grant through Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) to encourage community participation in the 2020 Census.

As we entered the final quarter of the fiscal year, the Library readied for its temporary move into the Haines building so construction and renovation could begin on the new building. It was during this time, that we—along with the rest of the country—faced the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to follow the Governor’s Shelter in Place Order and still offer quality services and programs, the Library changed how it served the community. We encouraged patrons to use our online resources, databases and classes. By communicating via phone call, text and email, our librarians continued to assist patrons. In-person programs were replaced with planned and scheduled virtual programs, which allowed us to stay connected to the community while keeping everyone safe. Despite the circumstances we face, the Library always has been—and always will be—committed to being a beacon of knowledge, support and safety.

Read about all the Library’s updates and get a snapshot of all the Library’s accomplishments in the Annual Report for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year, available in print at the Library and online at scpld.org/annual-report-summary.