



Wilmette Public Library

November-December 2025



Annual
Report
2024-2025
p. 6-7

Winter Reading Begins December 15

Wilmette Reads Adults & Teens p. 4 | Winter Reading Club Children p. 8

Events for Adults

All virtual programs require registration. On-site programs only require registration when indicated.
Events on pages 2–5 are for adults unless otherwise noted.

Shakespeare Project of Chicago *All's Well That Ends Well*

**Saturday,
Nov. 1, 1–3:30pm,
Auditorium**

A captivating blend of romance, wit, and moral complexity, *All's Well*

That Ends Well captures Shakespeare's keen insight into human nature. Doors will open at 12:30pm.

Please note new time for this season. Funded by The Friends of Wilmette Public Library.



Coffee & Business Connections

**Friday, Nov. 7, 9–10:30am,
Auditorium R**

Join us for coffee, donuts, and networking and learn about resources available for businesses from Wilmette Public Library, the Wilmette/Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce, and the North Cook and Lake Counties Chapter of SCORE.



Honoring Veterans' Day: Members Share Family Military Stories

Saturday, Nov. 8, 1–2:30pm, Auditorium

Community members will share stories of their ancestors' military service. Sign up to share a story from your own family.

Valuing Your Coins and Precious Metals

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 6:30–8pm, Auditorium R

Lifelong coin collector Dave Ekstrom will offer a presentation on coin collecting and gold and silver values. Attendees will have an opportunity to have up to three coins appraised.

Dementia Caregiver Support Group

Mondays, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, 7–9pm, Virtual R

A support group for caregivers of those with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

Pianist Vincent Ip Sunday Classical Concert

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2–3pm, Auditorium

Pianist Vincent Ip will perform expressive works of Chopin, Rameau, Debussy, and Mompou.

Bobby Lewis Jazz Trio New Year's Eve Eve Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 7–8pm, Auditorium

Celebrate 2026 at the library's annual early New Year's concert. Local favorites trumpeter Bobby Lewis, guitarist Andy Brown, and bassist Joe Policastro will return to play jazz favorites. Doors will open at 6:40pm. Please arrive early to ensure your seat.

Community Puzzle Exchange

Drop-off: Monday, Nov. 10-Friday, Nov. 1

Exchange: Saturday, Nov. 15, 1–3pm, Auditorium

Drop off your gently used puzzles in their original boxes then come to our puzzle exchange! No puzzles to donate? You are still welcome to attend the exchange, find some new puzzles to take home, and connect with other puzzle enthusiasts.

Celebrate Native American History Month

The History of the Jingle Dress

Monday, Nov. 17, 6:30–7:30pm, Auditorium

Dressed in her native regalia, Ojibwa author Kim Sigafus presents the history and meaning of the jingle dress. A jingle dress will be on display at the presentation.



Family Action Network

We're excited to share these upcoming events from our partnership with Family Action Network. Find full details and more events at familyactionnetwork.net.



November 3 & 4: *Dream School: Finding the College that's Right for You* with Jeff Seling

November 18: *Tiny Experiments: How to Live Freely in a Goal-Obsessed World* with Anne-Laure Le Cunff

December 3: *Wiser Guy: Life-Changing Revelations and Revisions from Tech's Chief Evangelist* with Guy Kawasaki



Kenji López-Alt: Journey Through Food and Science

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7–8pm, Virtual R

Join award-winning cookbook author, New York Times food columnist, and Serious Eats director J. Kenji López-Alt for an evening of cooking insights, techniques, and foodie exploration.

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events.



Armchair Travels

Join us for these on-site and virtual travel lectures, funded by the Rutherford Trust.

A Spin Around the Globe

Seasoned traveler Brian Michalski shares two distinct parallel paths of his journey to over 30 countries across six continents.

Left Split: Azores, Egypt, Türkiye, Vietnam, Thailand, and Georgia Monday, Nov. 3, 7–8pm, Virtual R

Right Split: Egypt, Croatia, Türkiye, Mauritania, Nepal, and Thailand Thursday, Dec. 4, 1–2:30pm, Auditorium

Darshan: The Act of “Seeing” in Hindu Art

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7–8pm, Virtual R

Explore Hindu gods and goddesses through stunning art from the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco.

A Very Rockwell Holiday

Monday, Dec. 1, 7–8pm, Virtual R

Celebrate the warmth and humor of winter with Norman Rockwell's festive art, presented by art historian Jane Oneail.



Armchair Travels

Thursdays, 1–2:30pm, Auditorium

November 6: *Monet Lives!* Live portrayal of Claude Monet by actor/painter Jim Parks

November 20: *South Dakota: The Good, the Bad, and the Magnificent* with Judith Bock of *More Than Maps*

December 18: *French Polynesia: Un Bon Voyage* with travel pros Barbara Sugden and Ron Vargason

Classics & Contemporary Book Discussion

Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30am, Auditorium **R**

November 11: *Dubliners* by James Joyce

December 9: *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson

At Home Film Series

Tuesdays, 7–8pm, Virtual **R**

November 11: *Spotlight* (2015)

Starring Michael Keaton, Mark Ruffalo, and Rachel McAdams.

December 9: *The Silent Child* (2017)

An Oscar-winning short inspired by true events.

Silent Book Club

Thursday, November 13, 1:30–3pm **R**

Off-Site: Central Station Coffee & Tea

Join fellow book lovers for an afternoon of silent reading, followed by a brief discussion of what you've been reading.



Jane Austen at 250

Persuasion Book Discussion

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7–8pm,
Auditorium **R**

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birthday, take part in a discussion of Austen's most moving novel.

Sanditon: Unfinished Swan Song to Costume Drama

Monday, Dec. 15, 10–11am,
Virtual **R**

Join author and Anglophile Claire Evans for a look at Austen's *Sanditon*, her final, unfinished manuscript, and its path from family heirloom to a fully imagined TV costume drama.



Join us this winter for a community reading series celebrating the power of retellings! We are excited to explore how themes of some of today's most dynamic novels are taken from stories written long ago.

We invite you to read our featured title *This Motherless Land*, take part in a book discussion, attend programs, or review any related book of your choosing. Participants will be eligible to receive their choice of Wilmette Reads-branded swag or other prizes! Visit the Adult Services desk to sign up, claim a participation log, and begin your reading adventure.

Find full details on our website starting December 15 and in our Winter print newsletter.



Wilmette Reads is
funded by the Friends
of the Wilmette Public
Library

Internet & Devices

Language Learning Online Resources

Monday, Nov. 10, 6–7pm, Small Meeting Room R

Explore a variety of language-learning apps including Mango Languages, a free resource available with your Wilmette library card.

Informed Black Friday Shopping

Thursday, Nov. 20, 6–7pm, Auditorium R

Prepare for holiday shopping by researching before you buy, using free library resources like Consumer Reports and NYT Wirecutter.

Cutting the Cable Cord

Friday, Nov. 21, 5–6pm, Virtual R

Discover the most popular video streaming platforms and the devices you can use to watch your favorite shows and movies.

Digitization Tools Showcase

Thursday, Dec. 11, 6–7pm, Auditorium R

See a demonstration of the library's digitizing equipment and learn about how to convert old media to digital files.

What is AI?

Friday, Dec. 19, 5–6pm, Virtual R

Learn about what AI is, ethical considerations, and what services are available.

Hands On & Creative Tech

These programs are for adults unless otherwise noted.

Learn to Sew: Fleece Hats

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 6–8:30pm, and Wednesday, Nov. 12, 10am–12:30pm, The Studio R

Learn basic sewing machine skills and make a winter hat to take home.

Meet the Machines: Embroidery Machine

Monday, Nov. 17, 6:30–7:30pm, The Studio, All Ages R

See The Studio's embroidery software and embroidery machine in action.

Holiday Cards

Thursday, Nov. 20, 10:30–11:45am, The Studio, All Ages R

Spread the joy of layered cut-paper cards! You'll use our Silhouette Cameo cutter to create your own holiday cards. Computer skills required.

Make a Paper Quilled Fall Leaves Card

Monday, Nov. 24, 1:30–3pm, Auditorium R

Learn basic paper quilling technique and create a beautiful fall leaves design.

Making Connections: Sewing and Embroidery

Monday, Dec. 8, 6:30–7:30pm, The Studio, All Ages R

Discuss your winter and holiday sewing and embroidery projects. Please bring a project or tool to show the group.

Holiday Gift Tag Stickers

Monday, Dec. 15, 6–7:30pm, The Studio, All Ages R

Create, print, and cut your own gift tags to easily peel and stick on all your holiday gifts using our Silhouette Cameo cutter. Computer skills required.

Pages & Planning: Set Up Your 2026 Planner

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1–3pm, Auditorium

Bring your own notebook or planner and we'll provide supplies and inspiration to help you plan for the year ahead.

New Year's Eve Novelty Glasses

Saturday, Dec. 27, 2–3pm, The Studio R

Ring in the new year in style with a snazzy pair of 2026 eyeglasses, custom-cut using Silhouette Studio.





Wilmette Public Library Annual Report FY 2024-25

Highlights of Our Year

- We introduced a **new library app** in May, featuring a new interface and graphics, a wide variety of resources, quick account access, and an easy-to-use digital library card.
- Reading series remained popular** with Summer Reading Clubs for all ages, Children's Winter Reading, and a successful second year of our adult and teen community reading series, Wilmette Reads, all funded by the Friends of the Wilmette Public Library.
- We opened three **Lower Level study rooms** to the public, adding availability to a much-requested building asset.
- Our librarians worked on **improving access to our collections**, with major updates to the non-fiction collections on the Lower Level.
- The North Suburban Special Recreation Association presented the library with their **Advocate of the Year award**, recognizing our commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive community.

262,421
Library Visits ↑8%

62,892 Reference Questions
Answered ↑44%

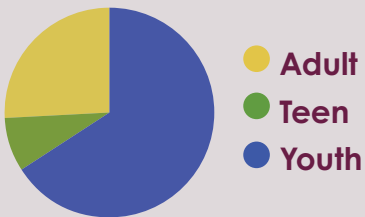
6,920 Patron Interactions in
The Studio

6,387 Study Room Bookings ↑25%

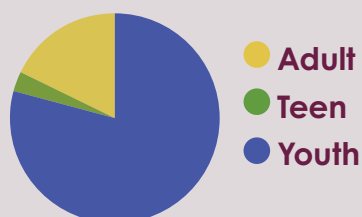
137 Room Rentals ↑25%



964
Total Programs



32,642
Program Attendance



Programming increased 8% and engagement increased 30%

Library staff made **272** outreach visits and reached **12,280** community members at schools, festivals, parks, and more.



Thank you to our Community Partners

The Friends of the Wilmette Public Library • League of Women Voters of Wilmette & Kenilworth • New Trier High School • School District 39 • School District 37 • Village of Wilmette • Wilmette/Kenilworth Chamber of Commerce • Wilmette Park District

The library is open 73 hours each week and 353 days a year.

In the 2024-25 fiscal year, staff maximized resources to bring the community new services, growing collections, and cultural/educational programming. At a time of increasing costs, staff completed the year on budget.

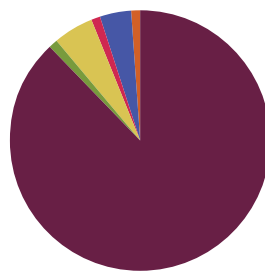
In June, the board approved the library's annual budget of \$6,602,918. Later in the year, the library conducted a long-range financial study, projecting trends for general operations as well as planned capital reserve projects. As a result of the study, to meet the library's fund balance policy of retaining 50% to 100% of its annual operating expenses in reserve, the board reviewed additional strategies to reduce expenses and bolster revenues.

Overall, the challenges presented by the recent inflationary market, the changing and competitive labor market, and maintaining delivery of the library's valued quality of service, the board unanimously supported requesting a 4.9% increase to the annual property tax levy in November 2024.

As we reflect on the ongoing financial health of the library, we continue to enhance partnerships, evaluate new revenue streams, and work with our community to sustain the library for years to come.

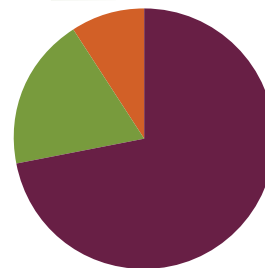
Learn more about our finances at wilmettelibrary.info/finance

2024-2025 Revenues \$6,650,524



- 88% Property Taxes
- 5% Interest Income
- 4% Charges for Services
- 1% Miscellaneous
- 1% Replacement Taxes
- 1% Grants/Donations

2024-2025 Expenditures \$6,328,061



- 72% Personnel
- 19% Materials/Services
- 9% Operations



642,413
Physical Item Circulation

259,808
Digital Collection Circulation

73,419 Holds filled for Wilmette patrons

Interlibrary Loan

43,406 Items to Wilmette

41,333 Items from Wilmette

213,958 Website Visits ↑3%
842,692 Wi-Fi sessions ↑7%

18,041 Public Computer Sessions ↑20%

11,921 Kanopy Accessed
12,302 hoopla Accessed

Library collection:
184,036 physical items
386,117 downloadable and streaming items

Kids & Families

Find full program details on our online calendar. Programs are hosted in the Youth Program Room unless otherwise noted. Programs requiring registration are marked with an **R**. Programs that require a free ticket are marked with a **T**. Check our online calendar for registration open dates.

Questions? Contact Youth Services at 847.256.6945 or youthdesk@wilmettelibrary.info.

For the Whole Family

Building with Bits and Bobs

**Sundays, November 2 and
December 7, 2–3:30pm**

We'll supply a random assortment of items for you to upcycle into your own amazing creations.

Little Craft Hub

**Saturdays, November 15 and
December 13, 10–11am**

Explore and play with STEAM concepts in this craft program for the whole family.

The Mighty Pawns Chess Club

**Sundays, November 16 and
December 14, 2–3:30pm**

Improve your chess game with the guidance of an experienced chess player.

Magnificent Mind

Saturday, Nov. 22, 10–10:45am

Celebrate neurodiversity with stories and songs at this inclusive storytime.



Bluey Party

**Wednesday, November 26,
9:30–10:15am and 11–11:45am,
Auditorium R**

Join us for a morning of Bluey-inspired activities, including crafts, imaginative play, and games.

Robin's Dog Stars

**Saturday,
November
29, 2–2:45pm
and 3:30–
4:15pm, Auditorium T**

Black Labrador Gracie and border collie Aria will perform a wide variety of tricks to entertain and astound you!



Rainbow Storytime

**Saturday, December 20, 10–
10:45am R**

Celebrate self expression, identity, and the LGBTQIA+ community with a storytime for the whole family.

Family Movie: Wonka

**Monday, December 29, 10am–
12pm, Auditorium**

In this prequel to *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, a young Willy Wonka dreams of opening a chocolate shop. Rated PG.

Winter Joy! Winter Reading Club

What warms your heart in the chill of winter? Playing in the snow? How about board games with your family? Or simply snuggling under a blanket with a good book? Join Winter Reading Club and share your winter joy with us!

Simply track 20 days of reading or suggested activities and turn in your completed log for a prize. Winter Reading begins December 15. Pick up a log at the Youth Desk or print one from our website to get started.



Winter Reading Club is open to children of all ages.
Prizes will be awarded once per person.
Funded by the Friends of the Wilmette Public Library.



Storytimes & Weekly Events November 4–December 12

Family Storytime and Babytime require a free ticket. Tickets will be given out on a first come, first served basis at the Youth Services desk starting at 9am.

Tuesday

Family Storytime

9:30am or 10am T

Stories, songs, and rhymes for the whole family.

Story Explorers

4pm, Ages 4+ T

Join us after school for interactive stories full of adventure and humor.

Wednesday

Family Storytime

9:30am or 10am T

Stories, songs, and rhymes for the whole family.

Thursday

Babytime

9:15 or 9:45am, Ages 0-24 mo. T

A bonding experience with songs, cuddles, and bounces.

Friday

Little Dabblers

Fridays, 9:30–10:30am, Ages 2+

Explore art, science, and your own senses.

Storytime in Mandarin Chinese

Saturdays, Nov. 1 and Nov. 29, 10–10:30am

Join us for stories, songs, and fun in Mandarin Chinese. Presented by local educator Ling Liu.

Spanish-English Bilingual Storytime

Wednesdays, Nov. 5 and Dec. 10, 4:30–5pm

Enjoy stories and fun activities in Spanish and English. Presented by local bilingual speech-language pathologist Paula Acuña of MsPaulaSLP.com.

Family Storytime

Saturdays, Nov. 8 and Dec. 6, 10–10:30am

Wiggle, dance, and sing together during this fast-paced storytime.

Pajama Storytime

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 6:30–7pm

Wear your jammies, bring your favorite stuffed animal, and join us for special bedtime stories.



Wiggleworms Party!

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 10–10:30am, Auditorium

Bring your little ones for music and dancing with a teacher from the Old Town School of Folk Music.

Music and Movement with Little Parade

Friday, November 28, 10:30–11am, Auditorium T

Sing and move in this interactive learning and dancing program for little ones!

Supporting Autistic Children at Home

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 6–7:30pm, Auditorium R

Caregivers of autistic children are invited to learn and build community at this workshop with Illinois Autism Partnership. This workshop will provide families with practical strategies to support positive habits at home. Presented in collaboration with School District 39's Parent Association of Student Services.



Presented as part of the library's Let's Learn Together initiative. Learn more at wilmettelibrary.info/LLT

Kids' Book Picks

Fill out a Kids' Book Picks request form on our website and our librarians can either send you a list of our recommendations or gather books for pickup. We can also find resources for school assignments.

You can pick up your books from the hold shelf or a 24/7 locker.

Find a request form at: wilmettelibrary.info/kid-picks



K-9 Reading Buddies of the North Shore

**Thursdays, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4,
6–7pm, Grades 1-5 R**

Read stories to a trained therapy dog. Register at the Youth Desk or by phone at 847.256.6945.

Minecraft Craft World

**Friday, Nov. 7, 4–4:45pm,
Auditorium, Grades 3-6 R**

Calling all Minecraft fans! Make cool crafts, watch clips, and more!

Kindness Rocks!

**Saturday, Nov. 8, 2–3pm,
Grades 4-8 R**

Decorate rocks with uplifting messages to place around your neighborhood.

**STEAM Lab: Melt-Free Olaf
Grades 3-5 : Wednesday, Nov. 12,
4:30–5:15pm R**

**Grades K-2: Wednesday, Dec. 17,
4:30–5:15pm R**
Create melt-free "snow" using baking soda, conditioner, and more.

Art for Big Feelings

**Thursdays, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11,
4–4:45pm, Grades K-2 R**

Organize complex feelings and relieve stress through stories and art.

Lego Club

**Fridays, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12,
4–4:45pm, Grades K-3 R**

Your imagination is the limit as you build with our bricks.

Minecraft Club

**Mondays, Nov. 17 and Dec. 8,
4:30–5:30pm, Grades 3-5 R**

Join Minecraft Club to make friends and build together.

Hungry Crafters:

**Thursdays, 6:30–7:15pm,
Grades 5-8 R**

November 20: Autumn Terrarium
December 11: Snowmen

Beaded Wind Chimes

**Tuesday, Nov. 25, 7–8pm,
Grades 4-8 R**

Design a wind chime that functions as a piece of art.

String Art

**Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7–8pm,
Grades 4-8 R**

Design 3-D art using string and fasteners.

Scrape Painting

**Wednesday, December 3,
4–4:45pm, Grades K-2 R**

Create abstract patterns and designs using fun scraping tools.

Secret Gift Workshop

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 1–2:30pm &
3–4:30pm, Grades 1-8 R**

Make your own cards and gifts at the library, out of sight of the recipients.

Smash Bros. Ultimate Switch Tournament

**Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1–3:30pm,
Auditorium, Grades 3-8 R**

Compete for a chance to win and claim the top spot!

Mermaid Party

**Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2:30–3:30pm,
Ages 4-7 R**

Celebrate all things mermaid with stories and activities.



STEAM & Coding

Note requirements for each class on the online calendar listing.

Program an Autumn Seasonal Game

Thursday, Nov. 6, 5:30–6:30pm, The Studio, Grades 3-5 R

Learn the basics of coding in Scratch by designing a seasonal game.

Design a 3D Printable Snowman

Tuesday, Nov. 25, 11:30am–12:30pm, The Studio, Grades 3-5 R

3D-design your own custom snowman at this introductory level program.

Design a Winter Snowflake

Thursday, Dec. 4, 5:30–6:30pm, The Studio, Grades 3-5 R

Celebrate winter by creating a unique 3D snowflake design in inkerCAD.



Events for Teens

Bedazzle Your Book Night

Thursday, Nov. 6, 6–7:30pm R
Pink Couch Books, 1161 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette IL

Enjoy pizza, chat books and bedazzle one of your favorites at Pink Couch Books. Bring your own book or choose from a small selection.



K-Pop Demon Hunters Party

Thursday, Nov. 13, 7–8pm,
Auditorium R

This is your moment to celebrate K-Pop Demon Hunters with crafts, snacks, karaoke, giveaways, and more. Tweens and teens welcome!

Dungeons & Dragons

Saturdays, Nov. 15 and Dec. 20,
1–4pm, Small Meeting Room R

Whether you're a seasoned player, min-maxer, or newbie, explore with our adventuring party.

Wicked: For Good Movie Release Party

Thursday, Dec. 4, 7–8pm, Auditorium R

Celebrate the release of Wicked: For Good with snacks, karaoke, crafts, giveaways, and more. Costumes encouraged.

Teen Pizza Study Night

Monday, Dec. 15,
7–8pm, Auditorium

Take a break from studying for finals and eat some pizza. Pizza and snacks will be served at 7pm until we run out.



Teen Take & Make

Pumpkin Pie Pillow

Register starting Friday, October 17
Pickup begins Friday, November 7

Take a favorite fall dessert and make it into a cute, squishy pillow. Whipped cream optional!

DIY Rubber Stamps

Register starting Friday, November 14
Pickup begins Friday, December 5

Carve your own winter-themed rubber stamps that you can use to decorate gift wrapping and cards all winter long.



wilmettelibrary.info
847.256.5025

  @wilmettelibrary

Monday-Friday 9am-9pm
Saturday 9am-5pm
Sunday 12pm-5pm

Library Closures

Wednesday, November 26 at 5pm
Thursday, November 27
Wednesday, December 24
Thursday, December 25
Wednesday, December 31
Thursday, January 1

Book Return Sites

- Library parking lot
- Community Recreation Center
- Plaza del Lago
- Linden CTA Station

Board of Trustees

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Renee Cox, Vice President
Eric Bederman, Treasurer
Maria Di Lorenzo, Secretary
Jennifer L. Mullman
Matthew Thomas Pasko
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Anthony Auston, *Director*
Sarah Beth Brown, *Editor*

Shop Books Down Under!

Buy gently used books for all ages at Wilmette's only bookstore, located on the Lower Level of the library. All proceeds from book sales and donations to the Friends support library programs, including Summer Reading Clubs and Wilmette Reads.

Find current BDU hours and information about donating to the Friends at wilmettelibrary.info/friends



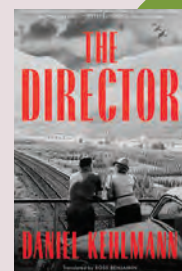
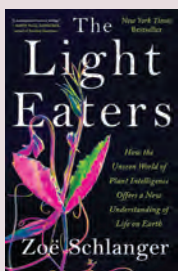
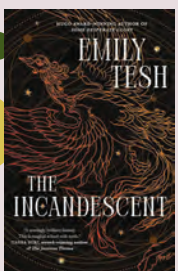
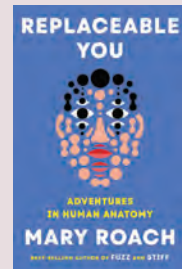
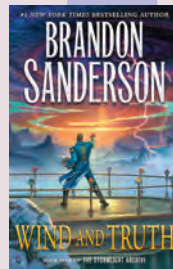
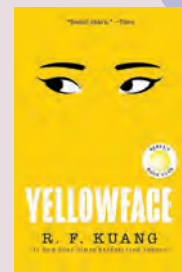
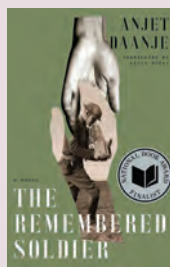
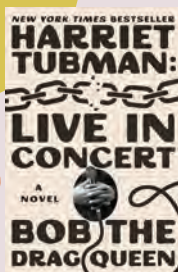
Wilmette Public Library may take photographs and video of patrons in the building for use in library promotions. Please notify staff if you prefer not to be photographed.

ECRWSEDDM*

Residential POSTAL PATRON

2025 Staff Favorites

As we wrap up the year, we love to reflect on the best books we read in 2025, whether they came out this year or decades ago. Send your favorite 2025 read to community@wilmettelibrary.info and we'll share them online and in our email newsletter! Find these titles and more at wilmettelibrary.info/reads



A Season of Giving

Wilmette Public Library is proud to be a valued part of our community. When you give back to the library, you help support collections, services, and programs that reach residents of all ages. We welcome your tax-deductible donations to acknowledge your appreciation of the library and continue our tradition of service.

Learn more about donating to the library directly as well as to the Friends of the Library at wilmettelibrary.info/donate