Aurora Public Library is starting 2023 with a bang, with several enhancements to community services. Beginning Jan. 1, the library will no longer charge late fees on overdue items and will expand operating hours at Aurora Central and Tallyn’s Reach libraries. Also, in January, Aurora Public Library will host the grand opening of the Chambers Plaza Library, 1551 N. Chambers Road, bringing the city’s library locations back to seven since closures in 2009. In February, Aurora Public Library will officially introduce a brand-new Bookmobile, which will allow mobile library services to patrons. This was made possible through an individual donation before the pandemic and completed in late 2022. To top it all off, the library will offer a limited-edition library card to celebrate a year of reimagining the possibilities 2023 will hold for us. “This is just the beginning of what we expect to be the best years for Aurora Public Library patrons and the community as a whole,” said Library and Cultural Services Director Midori Clark. “We are reimagining what’s possible at the libraries and invite our community members to do the same. With dynamic programs and offerings, modern libraries are much more than books. If you can imagine it, it can happen at the library.”

The seven Aurora Public Library branches remain busy with more than one million items checked out a year and with more than 270,000 library cardholders. The library is also known for innovative programs such as Aurora Brew Tour, Aurora Scholars, STEAM as well as early literacy programs for children, sewing classes for adults, teen clubs, and more. The addition of the Bookmobile will expand the library services to remote or secluded areas.

For details about Aurora Public Library’s 2023 Reimagine initiatives, visit AuroraLibrary.org
Wi-fi hotspots now available for check out. Call or Go Online | AuroraLibrary.org

El Javi with our Rhythms Concert Series at Mission Viejo Library

Thank You Letter from a young patron at Tallyn's Reach Library

Cyanotype Exhibit by Christine Nguyen at MLK Library

"Pride on Your Side" photo exhibit at Central Library
BOOK CLINCS

LITERATURE TO FILM BOOK CLUB
Saturday, Dec. 3 and Dec. 17, 2 p.m., TLR
The book is always better...or is it? Join us at the Tallyn’s Reach Library for our Literature to Film Book Club each month to read and break down books that became blockbuster sensations! This month, we’ll dive into “A Man Called Ove” by Fredrik Backman.

NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1 p.m., CEN

BOOKS AT THE BAR
Saturday, Dec. 10, 1 p.m., WebEx
Meet up for lively discussions on popular and contemporary literature. Register online and adults 21 and over only. Please contact the Hoffman Heights Library for details at 303.739.1572. December’s book: “One Hundred Years of Solitude” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

SHORT STORY BOOK CLUB*
Saturday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m., WebEx
A virtual book club for busy adults with monthly readings that can be in an hour or less. Copies of each month’s selections may be found at the Mission Viejo or Iliff Square front desks or requested via email at library@auroragov.org.

DAYTIME BOOKLOVERS’ BOOK CLUB
Wednesday, Dec. 21, 10:30 a.m., CEN

OUT OF THIS WORLD BOOK CLUB*
Wednesday, Dec. 28, 5 p.m., WebEx
Come read new sci-fi and fantasy literature and discuss from the comfort of your home over WebEx! December’s book: “The City We Became” by N. K. Jemisin.

BOOK REVIEW

"THE BEAR" BY ANDREW KRIVAK
Looking for a short, yet contemplative read? Look no farther than Andrew Krivak’s 2020 novel, “The Bear”. This newer novel follows the tale of an unnamed father and daughter duo alone in the wilderness in an almost post-apocalyptic world and Eden-like future. As the last two remaining people on earth, the father works hard to prepare the girl for adulthood in this untamed wilderness so different from the comforts of modern-day society. When the girl finds herself in an unknown landscape and wilderness different than her own, she must get back to her home with help from none other than a wild bear.

This book resonated strongly with me from the moment I picked it up to the moment I set it down. This is as result of both Krivak’s lyrical writing and deliberate choice to not name his main characters. What started off as a form of detachment from the father and daughter turned into an empathetic and emotional bond to the last two humans on earth. Krivak can spark emotions through minimalist writing and yet remain just descriptive enough for the reader to fully comprehend the story.

Another reason this book resonated strongly with me is because of its powerful message on familial love and loss, a pain many of us have had the misfortune of feeling. This book displays the feelings of unbound love for a parental guardian and the devastating loss of losing one in a way that’s relatively easy to digest and take in. Despite this, I wouldn’t classify this as a sad book. Focusing more on how the unnamed girl overcomes her obstacles by being strong headed and compassionate, rather than focusing on her misfortunes and loss, this book reads as a beautiful and powerful tale of the humanistic premise of love and loss.

All in all, I’d classify “The Bear” as a beautifully engaging read that’s available for check out at your local library! Whether you’re looking for a physical copy, an audiobook, or an e-Book, Aurora Public Library has you covered.

By Stacy Hirschhorn

HAVE YOU READ THIS BOOK? Share your thoughts on social media with #ReadWithAPL

*Registration is required at CityofAurora.Perfectmind.com
**EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS**

**LEARN AND PLAY**
Tuesdays, Dec. 6 and 13, 11 a.m., HOF
Wednesdays, 11 a.m., TLR
Freeform play group for children 2- to 6-years-old and their caregivers. Listen to music and play with early literacy toys while connecting with other parents.

**MUSIC PLAYGROUP**
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m., TLR
Freeform music play group for children 18-months to five-years-old and their caregivers. Listen to music and play with musical toys while making new friends.

**BABY PLAYGROUP**
Fridays, 10:30 a.m., TLR
Freeform music playgroup for babies 23 months and younger and their caregivers. Listen to music and play with early literacy toys while connecting with other caregivers.

**BUTTON ORNAMENTS**
Thursday, Dec. 1, 4 p.m. HOF
We’ll get in the festive spirit, while practicing our hand-sewing skills, with these fun felt ornaments.

**FRIDAY FUN**
Fridays, Dec. 2, 9 and 16, 4 p.m., CEN
Celebrate the end of another week creatively! New projects and activities each week. Appropriate for kids in first through fifth grade. No Friday Fun on Dec. 23 or 30.

**STEAM TUESDAYS**
- Tuesdays, Dec. 6 and 13, 4 p.m., CEN
- Tuesdays, 4 p.m., TLR
Visit the library after school every Tuesday for a fun activity focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art or Math. Designed for students in first through fifth grade.

**PENGUIN STORYTIME**
Saturday, Dec. 17, 10:30 a.m., ILF
Come join Iliff for a special penguin storytime, where all the songs, books, and crafts are about penguins!

**SPECIAL SATURDAY STEAM CLUB**
Saturday, Dec. 17, 2-4 p.m., TLR
Join us for a Special Saturday STEAM Club session with a variety of sensory stations, snow-rific science experiments, crafts, and a one-day scavenger hunt.

**EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS**

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<th>PROGRAM NAME</th>
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*Storytime Break: There will be no storytimes Dec. 19-31. Storytime will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 3.
TWEENS/TEENS

HOFFMAN HEIGHTS
GAME SPACE
Weekdays 3-5 p.m.
Saturdays, all day, HOF
Drop in for Hoffman Heights Library’s youth gaming spaces for tweens and teens to play video games solo or with friends! Variety of games available.

LIBRARY GAME NIGHT: TEEN SESSION*
Fridays, 5:30 p.m., WebEx
A virtual game night every Friday featuring Jackbox games, social deduction games, trivia, and more.
Dec. 2: Job Job
Dec. 9: Superfight
Dec. 16: Wavelength

TEEN HANG
Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8 and 15, 4 p.m., CEN
Visit us each week for a chance to meet new friends, create something amazing, learn new skills, or simply chill out. With a different activity or project each week, this program is designed for students in middle school and high school.

VIDEO GAME CLUB
Thursday, Dec. 1, 4:30 p.m., MVL
Hang out and play Switch games like Super Smash Bros, Overcooked, and more with other teens.

PERLER BEAD CLUB
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 4:30 p.m., MVL
Make a Perler bead (or “melty bead”) project to take home and keep from a multitude of video game or movie character patterns. Suggested age: 8-14.

TEEN DUNGEONS & DUCKS
Thursday, Dec. 8, 4:30 p.m., MVL
Come plot adventures and fight monsters at this off-the-wall Dungeons and Dragons campaign for teens!

TABLETOP GAMES
Thursdays, Dec. 8, 22 and 29, 4:30 p.m., TLR
Enjoy popular tabletop games like Exploding Kittens, Unstable Unicorns, and Fluxx!

GAME CLUB
Friday, Dec. 9, 4-6 p.m., MLK
Play giant-sized games and board games.

TEEN D&D ONE-SHOT WONDERS: DREAD
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 4 p.m., ILF
Try a faster D&D with our one-shot wonders campaign! All of these adventures last only an afternoon but are full of surprises. In December, play through an ominous snowy night while pulling blocks from a Jenga tower. Can you save the day before the tower collapses?

COOKIE DECORATING
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 4:30 p.m., MVL
We’re decorating sugar cookies with icing and sprinkles galore!

NAILED IT/FAILED IT COOKING COMPETITION
Thursday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m., MLK
Make marvelous marshmallow mistakes or masterpieces!

RAINBOW ROUND TABLE
Friday, Dec. 16, 4-5 p.m., HOF
Are you part of the LGBTQ+ community or an ally? Join us at the Hoffman Library every month for fun crafts, guest speakers, activities and more!

END-OF-YEAR NERF LOCK-IN*
Friday, Dec. 30, 6 p.m., TLR
Send 2022 out with a blast! Join us for an after-hours Nerf slugfest. Registration and permission form required.

TEENS: GET INVOLVED!

TEEN ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)
• Martin Luther King Jr.: Thursday, Dec. 8, 4 p.m.
• Mission Viejo: Thursday, Dec. 15, 4:30 p.m.
• Tallyn’s Reach: Thursdays, Dec. 1 and 15, 4:30 p.m.
Join your local Teen Advisory Group and let your voice be heard! Help create displays, plan programs and activities while earning volunteer time. Enjoy snacks and meet new friends too!

TEEN SERVICE SATURDAYS*
First Saturday of the month beginning Jan. 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m., TLR
Help your community and meet new friends! Open to teens in sixth through twelfth grade. Coming in 2023.

VOLUNTEER TEEN BOOK REVIEWER
Earn two hours of volunteer time for each approved review you submit. Reviews may be published online and posted in the library. Books must be shelved in our Young Adult sections and be available at any Aurora Public Library. Contact libraryoutreach@auroragov.org for more information, review guidelines and final review approval.

*Registration is required at CityofAurora.Perfectmind.com
DIY (ARTS/CRAFTS/PROJECTS)

HOFFMAN HEIGHTS CREATESPACE
• Mondays: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
• Tuesdays: 3-5 p.m.
• Wednesdays: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
• Saturdays: 3-5 p.m.
Need a space to create? Drop in on Hoffman Library’s CreateSpace to craft, sew, paint and make! The CreateSpace is open for community use for personal projects; limited supplies will be available for crafting and sewing. *Are you a beginner sewer? Join us during the Open Sewing Lab to learn the basics first!*

WINTER DECORATIONS
Thursday, Dec. 1, 3 p.m., MLK
Create your own winter themed decorations to take home.

OPEN FIGURE DRAWING
Saturday, Dec. 3, 4 p.m., HOF
This is an opportunity to draw or paint from a live model without instruction. One model provides a variety of quick and sustained poses. Registrants must bring their own supplies.

ZEN COLORING
Saturday, Dec. 3, 4 p.m., ILF
Come unwind from a busy week with relaxing coloring! Colored pencils and pages provided.

RETRO HOLIDAY CRAFT: DIORAMA ORNAMENT*
Saturday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m., CEN
Join us as we make 1950’s-inspired diorama ornaments with miniatures, paint and glitter. Have fun playing around with tiny deer, sisal trees, gifts, tinsel and spun cotton to create the perfect scene in your diorama. Registration is required as supplies are limited.

NEEDLE & THREAD
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 5 p.m., ILF
Come learn to cross-stitch or work on an existing project at the Iliff Square Library! New patterns every month; materials provided for beginners.

HOMEMADE HOLIDAY: BOOK WREATH*
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m., CEN
Join us in making a homemade gift for the holidays! We’ll be repurposing some well-loved books and giving them a second life as a gift for a loved one. Materials will be provided, but feel free to bring small decorations to further personalize your creation! Registration is required as supplies are limited.

ADULT ART:
SNOWMAN TEA LIGHTS
Saturday, Dec. 10, 4 p.m., MVL
A relaxing amateur art class for adults. This session we’ll be making snowmen out of tea lights.

RETRO HOLIDAY CRAFT: YARN AND BUTTON HOLIDAY TOPIARIES*
Thursday, Dec. 15, 6 p.m.
Join us in creating three cheery and festive holiday topiaries. Great as centerpieces or on your mantel, these yarn covered trees with button decorations will add a pop of color to any room. Registration is required as supplies are limited.

AFTER-HOURS HOLIDAY CARD WORKSHOP
Thursday, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Join us for some hot beverages, cheerful music, and great conversation as we work through our holiday cards! Bring your own to address and stuff or use our materials to DIY some custom cards.

QUILTING 101: BLOCK OF THE MONTH
Monday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m., HOF
Interested in quilting? Join us every month to create a quilt block, and by next January you’ll have enough block to piece together into a quilt, table runner or other project. This series concludes in January 2023 with a class on how to finish your project (quilting and binding).
GET SOCIAL

COFFEE & SNACKS
Every Thursday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., HOF
Studying at the library? Working virtually? Or just looking for a cozy spot to sit and chat? Visit the library for coffee and snacks!

LIBRARY GAME NIGHT: ADULT SESSION*
Fridays, 8 p.m., WebEx
A virtual game night every Friday featuring Jackbox games, social deduction games, trivia and more.
Dec. 2: Job Job
Dec. 9: Superfight
Dec. 16: Wavelength

UGLY SWEATER MURDER MYSTERY*
Saturday, Dec. 3, 6 p.m., MVL
An Ugly Sweater Office Party goes horribly wrong when an attendee turns up dead. Sign up to receive your role and see if you can solve the murder! And be sure to wear the worst sweater you possibly can.

HOLIDAY STRESS RELIEF: ADULT COLORING
Thursdays, Dec. 8, 15 and 22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., CEN
Join us as we take a break from the holiday stress with music, conversation, and mindful coloring!

HOT COCOA
Monday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m., MLK
Enjoy a hot chocolate drink and cookies.

COZY WINTER CELEBRATION
Friday, Dec. 16, 3 p.m., MLK
Cocoa, coloring, and chunky blankets oh my! Come and relax at Martin Luther King Jr. Library for a soothing program. Learn to hand knit your own chunky blanket to take home, or curl up with some cocoa and coloring. All ages welcome.

SO, I HEARD ON A PODCAST
Saturday, Dec. 17, Noon, WebEx
Like a book club, but with podcasts. Each month we will explore a new theme and listen to a playlist of podcasts. Themes and podcasts will be emailed to you upon registration. Please contact the Hoffman Heights Library for more information at 303.739.1572.

FIRST ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE*
Saturday, Dec. 17, 1 p.m., CEN
The Aurora Public Library invites you to participate in the First Annual Cookie Exchange. Bake four dozen (48) of your favorite holiday cookie and package them in groups of four. Then exchange with other local bakers to create your own variety cookie platter! Participants can vote on the best tasting cookie and the best looking cookie, which will be announced at 2:45 pm.

BINGO
Friday, Dec. 30, 3 p.m., MLK
Play bingo and win great prizes. All ages welcome.

THE MORE YOU KNOW...
ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP/CLASES DE CONVERSACIÓN EN INGLÉS
Mondays, 4:30 p.m., CEN
Practice speaking and listening with others in English. Free, walk-in classes.
For more information, call 303.739.6630.

HOLIDAY CARD AND GIFT WRAP EXCHANGE
Dec. 1-23, TLR
Have leftover holiday cards, gift wrap, or trimmings? Need some fresh supplies? Swap it out at our exchange table in the TLR lobby. Got wrapping paper tubes? Drop them off to be recycled for kids’ crafts!

LEGAL CLINIC
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 3:30 p.m., CEN
Free Legal Clinic via computer for those with no attorney. No registration is required, and the clinic is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please head to the Reference Dept for the clinic.
For more information, call the Adult Services dept. at: 303.739.6630.

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS & CUSTOMS
Monday, Dec. 12, 4:30 p.m.
Why do we have Christmas trees? Or for that matter holiday lights, eggnog, holly or mistletoe? Join Active Minds as we seek to explain the origins of a wide variety of holiday traditions and customs. Our focus will be mostly upon secular winter holiday traditions, many of which are associated with the winter solstice.

WRAPPERS’ WORKSHOP
• Saturday, Dec. 17, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., TLR
• Friday, Dec. 23, Noon-5:30 p.m., TLR
Need a quiet place behind closed doors to wrap your holiday gifts? Drop-in to the Wrappers’ Workshop at the Tallyn’s Reach Library Community Room. We’ll provide hot beverages, cheerful tunes, and space for you to work. Bring your own supplies or check out the Holiday Card and Gift Wrap Exchange in the lobby! Hint: Need some time away from your little elves? Sign them up for our Special Saturday STEAM Club on Dec. 17!

*Registration is required at CityofAurora.Perfectmind.com
SEASON of Giving
GIVE TO THE FRIENDS
OF AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Whether you can donate on Colorado Gives Day (Dec. 6) or not, please consider the Friends of the Aurora Public Library as part of your end-of-year charity contributions. The volunteer-run nonprofit turns 100% of the donations and sales of used book at the Book Outlet Store back to the library. To donate, visit ColoradoGives.org/FriendsAuroraLibrary. The Book Outlet is located at 2243 S. Peoria St.

ANGEL TREES AT
AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Aurora Public Library has partnered with Salvation Army Aurora with the Angel Giving Tree Program to place Angels Tags at Christmas trees inside the libraries. Each tag will include information about a toy for a family in need. Please consider grabbing a tag to purchase that toy and bring it back to the library by Dec. 15. Participating locations are Chambers Plaza, Central, Mission Viejo, Martin Luther King Jr., Hoffman and Tallyn’s Reach.