

# Between the Stacks

Monthly Newsletter

December 2023



“Of all the months of the year there is not a month one half so welcome to the young, or so full of happy associations, as the last month of the year.”  
—Charles Dickens



Program Spotlight



New Releases



Spring Author!



# Program Spotlight



## Storybook Gingerbread Contest

The Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library is getting in the holiday season by hosting a Gingerbread Storybook Contest! Participants of all ages are invited to create a scene from their favorite story to display at the Library from December 15-19, 2023. Entries must be no bigger than 20x20 inches and be entirely edible except for the base, lighting, and background.

All gingerbread creations can be viewed at the Library beginning Friday, December 15th during regular business hours. Voting will be conducted through the Library's Facebook page by clicking like on the photo of your favorite creation in each category from Friday, December 18th until Tuesday, December 19th.

Participants can register in one of three age ranges, children, teens, and adults. Cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and announced through Facebook Live on December 21st at 6:00 pm.

For more information and to register visit:  
<https://bit.ly/3MLX8oK>.



# New Releases



“From the New York Times bestselling author of *I Was Anastasia* and *Code Name Hélène* comes a gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history.

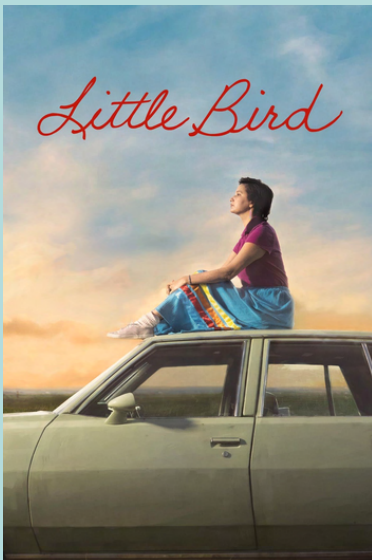
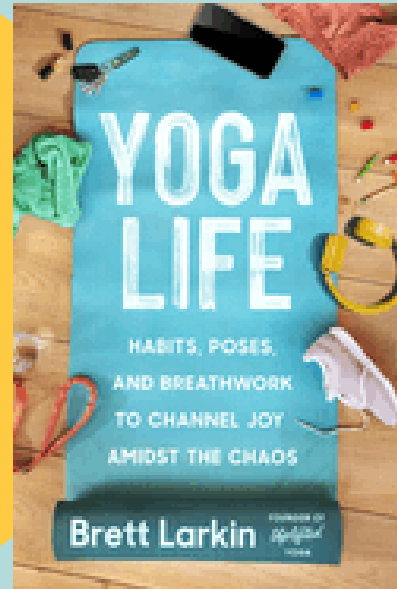
Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon’s newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard. *The Frozen River* is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day.” (Dec 12)

“Overwhelmed? Overscheduled? Want to access the benefits of yoga, but can’t seem to make it to the mat? Beat stress with a yoga ritual that works for you in 20-minutes or less. Featuring adaptations for anxiety, weight loss, injury, and prenatal yoga, this "playful and real" (Elena Brower) guide is a must-read for beginners and seasoned yoga teachers alike.

We all know that yoga can calm your mind and heal your body, but let’s be real: It can be hard to cram one more thing into your messy, stressful, time-crunched life.

Good news! If you're not making it to the mat, the problem isn’t you—it’s the yoga you’re practicing.”

(Dec 19)

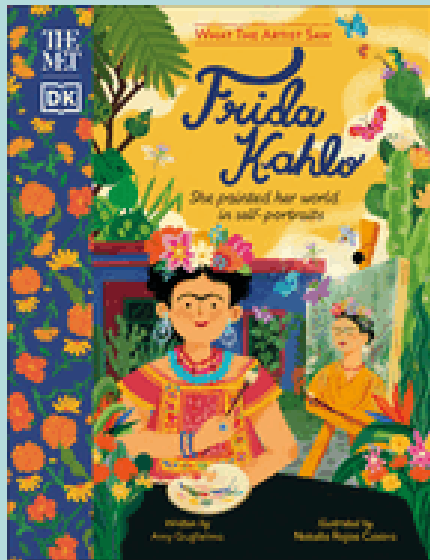


“In 1968, five-year-old Bezhig Little Bird was forcibly removed from Long Pine Reserve and adopted into a Jewish family in Montreal, and renamed Esther Rosenblum. Eighteen years later, she embarks on a journey to unravel her history. Through this epic journey of connection and self-discovery, Bezhig Little Bird begins to find her lost family and put the pieces of her fragmented past back together.”

Originally aired on PBS (Dec 5)



# New Releases



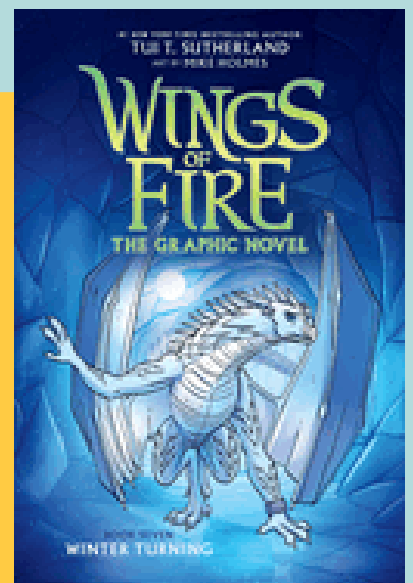
“See the world through Frida Kahlo's eyes and be inspired to produce your own masterpieces.

Have you ever wondered exactly what your favorite artists were looking at to make them draw, sculpt, or paint the way they did? In this charming illustrated series of books to keep and collect, created in full collaboration with The Metropolitan Museum of Art, you can see what they saw, and be inspired to create your own artworks, too. In *What the Artist Saw: Frida Kahlo*, meet the famous Mexican painter. Learn all about how she experimented with different ways of painting herself, and how she channeled her experiences into her art. Have a go at producing your own self portrait!”

“The graphic novel adaptations of the #1 New York Times bestselling *Wings of Fire* series continue to set the world on fire!  
Daring mission... or deadly mistake?

Winter has been a disappointment to his royal IceWing family his whole life. When his sister, Icicle, runs away from Jade Mountain Academy, fleeing terrible crimes and possibly planning to commit more, Winter knows that they both need a second chance to make things right -- if only he can find her.

The #1 New York Times bestselling *Wings of Fire* series soars to new heights in the seventh graphic novel adaptation, with art by Mike Holmes”





# Spring Author: Shelby Van Pelt



We are thrilled to announce our 2024 Spring Author! Join us for an evening with Shelby Van Pelt, author of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* at Alpena High School on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

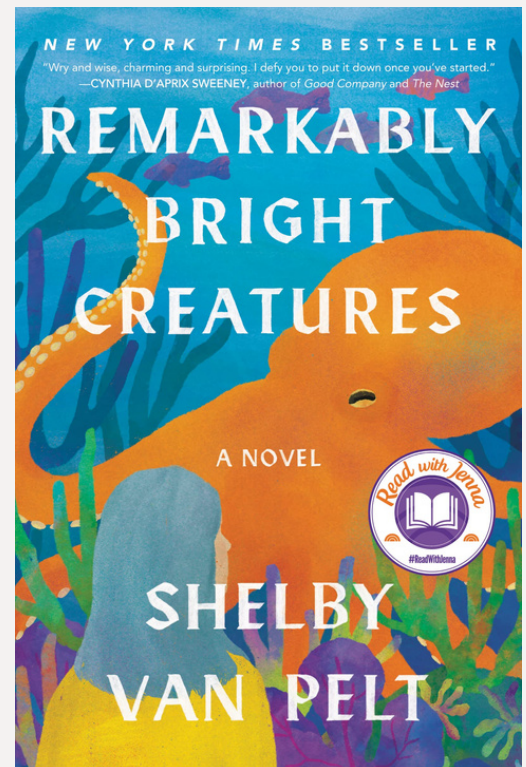
**Tickets will go on sale on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 9:30 am.**

After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in the Puget Sound over 30 years ago.

As she works, Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine, but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight tentacles for his human captors—until he forms an unlikely friendship with Tova.

Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. As his affection for Tova grows, Marcellus must use every trick his old, invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late.

Charming, compulsively readable, and full of wit, Shelby Van Pelt's debut novel is a beautiful exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope—a reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible.



# Meet Your Library Staff: Autumn

## **How long have you worked at the Library?**

I have worked at the library for nearly a year and a half. It's been the perfect place to learn more about Alpena.

## **What do you like best about working at the Library?**

I love helping people find answers! Whether it's about books, research, or searching up the hours to the nearest store, I'm always ready and willing to help. Plus, I love learning new things, and the questions our patrons ask help me learn every day.

## **Do you have any hobbies you enjoy?**

I think it honestly might be easier to ask what hobbies I don't have! I'll settle on a few of my current favorites: crochet (specifically tiny stuffed animals), painting, gaming, and cooking.

## **What is your favorite book?**

It depends on the day, but lately, the favorite I've been going back to is *Watership Down* by Richard Adams. For my 12th birthday, I got my first Kindle, and this was the one and only book I had on it for nearly a year! I loved it so much that I didn't mind. I just kept reading it. I have plenty of very fond memories involving this story.

## **If you could invite any 4 people living or dead to a dinner party, whom would they be?**

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# December Programs



## Youth Programs

- Early Connections Ages 0-5: Tuesdays, 10 -11 am
- Tinker Tuesday Ages 5-18: Tuesdays, 4-5:30 pm
- Family Storytime Ages 3-7: Saturday, December 2, 10-11 am
- Pokemon Club Ages 8-18: Monday, December 4 and 18, 5-6 pm
- LEGO Club, Ages 6-13: Monday, December 11 and 27th, 5-6 pm
- Teen and Tween Laser Tag\* Ages 10-18: Saturday, December 9, 10-11:30 am
- Teen Anime Club, Ages 12-18: Thursday, December 14 and 28, 3 pm
- Winter Crafts, Saturday, December 16, 10-11 am

\*Registration Required

# December Programs *continued*



## **Adult Programs**

- Yoga for the Pelvic Floor, Saturday, December 2, 10-11 am
- Friends of the Library Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, December 6, 1-2 pm
- Tea with Claire Great British Baking Tour, Thursday, December 7, 6:30-7:30 pm

## **All Ages**

- Tinker Tuesdays, Tuesdays 4-5:30 pm
- Open MakerLab: Wednesdays, 10 am-noon
- Sewing Club, Wednesdays, 4-5:30 pm
- Puzzle Swap, Saturday, December 2, 11 am-12 pm

*Calendar is subject to change,  
please check our website for the  
current event listings.*





# Support the Library with Qualified Charitable Distribution from Your IRA

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a distribution of funds from your IRA (other than a SEP or SIMPLE IRA) directly to a qualified charitable organization, such as the Library. Because the gift goes directly to the charity without passing through your hands, the dollar amount of the gift may be excluded from your taxable income up to a maximum of \$100,000 annually, with some exceptions. Please consult your tax advisor for information regarding your specific exceptions.

## **Who can make a qualified charitable distribution?**

QCDs can be made by IRA owners who are age 70 1/2 or older. QCDs made prior to the age you are required to take a minimum distribution from your retirement assets (pre-required Minimum Distribution QCDs) will not reduce or otherwise impact future Required Minimum Distribution. Your tax advisor can provide additional information on your particular situation.

Many individuals who are required to take money from their IRA but do not need it for living expenses have chosen to make QCDs from their IRAs to support the work of the Red Cross. This may make sense for you too!

## **How do I make a qualified charitable distribution to the Library?**

Your QCD must be made directly from your IRA custodian to the Library or the Library's Fund at the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan on your behalf. Each financial institution has its own process for initiating a qualified charitable distribution.

Upcoming Library Closures:  
Monday, December 25  
Tuesday, December 26  
Monday, January 1  
Tuesday, January 2





Located in downtown Alpena, the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library was established in 1967 as a county library. Dedicated to serving as a regional gathering place for learning and quality cultural experiences, the Library also acts as a primary resource for historical research, enrichment opportunities, and educational support. The Library is committed to building a reading community while providing quality arts, culture, STEM, and humanities programming unique to this area of the state.

**FIND ALL OF THE LATEST  
INFO AT  
[WWW.ALPENALIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.ALPENALIBRARY.ORG)**



**HOURS:**

**MONDAY-THURSDAY 9:00 AM-8:00 PM**

**FRIDAY 9:00 AM-7:00 PM**

**SATURDAY 9:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**CLOSED SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS**