



SKOKIE  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

March & April 2024

# Two Library Sculptures

THE INSIDE STORY

## Swans

*Swans* is probably the most recognizable piece of art in the library, and as a 1,000-pound sculpture in the middle of the building, it's difficult to miss. The polished stainless steel is meant to reflect light on the water, with the two huge loops depicting swimming swans.





*Artist Elliott Balter supervises the installation of Swans; Board members and staff*



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-  Women's History Month
-  Arab American Heritage Month

Monday to Friday, 9 am to 9 pm  
 Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm  
 Sunday, noon to 6 pm  
**Closed Sunday, March 31**

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*Elliott Balter and his wife, Fannie*

Since *Swans* was designed for our library, it won't be a surprise that the artist was local and very involved in Skokie's artistic scene. Sculptor Elliott Balter moved to Skokie in 1963 and was head of the art department at Niles North High School. He wanted to put Skokie on the map artistically and was one of the founders of what became Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park.

When the Board of Library Trustees decided to commission the sculpture, the library planned to hold a fundraiser in August 1978. Instead, local businesses and organizations donated the full amount for this wonderful asset for our community.



# View from McCormick

*View from McCormick* was made in Skokie and represents a view from McCormick Boulevard. Even the pieces that make up this sculpture are from Skokie. Its materials and construction are fairly unusual, contributing to the distinctive aesthetic.

Looking at it closely—you can find it on the wall of the South Courtyard—you might see the rivets on the left, the punched-out circles on the arc at the top, or that the barnacle-looking detailing around the center is made out of dozens of small rings. The sculpture looks like a three-dimensional collage of mechanical parts—and it is. This sculptural style is known as assemblage.

*View from McCormick* was sculpted by Ted Gall, artist-in-residence at Fel-Pro for 22 years. Fel-Pro, now owned by Tenneco, was founded in 1918 as a maker of felt horse blankets, but as transportation technology progressed, the company became a prominent automotive gasket manufacturer. Gaskets usually look like rings of varying sizes, just like the rings seen in *View from McCormick*. The Fel-Pro factory was located on McCormick Boulevard, with the same view depicted in the piece.



It's pretty unusual for a factory of any kind to have an artist-in-residence, but the president of Fel-Pro, Lewis Weinberg, was a huge fan of sculpture and an amateur artist himself. Fel-Pro had scraps from making the gaskets, and hired a professional to see what they'd do with those same materials. That professional was Ted Gall, and he ended up enjoying his work at Fel-Pro so much that he stayed for 22 years. His art—such as sculptures made from scrap materials, paintings, and silkscreen prints—decorated the factory. He and Weinberg have both described how the other factory employees developed an interest in art as a result of working alongside and benefiting from Gall's efforts.

If you're looking for other examples of his art, they aren't hard to find in Skokie—his sculpture, *Unity*, still sits outside the old Fel-Pro (now Tenneco) building on McCormick Boulevard, and four others are permanent fixtures in the Sculpture Park across the street.

Learn more about the library's permanent art collection: [skokie.info/artcollection](http://skokie.info/artcollection)



# KIDS & FAMILIES

Check the online calendar for added events, and sign up at [events.skokiellibrary.info](https://events.skokiellibrary.info). Capacity for individual events is limited.

## Snack Attack: Winter Warmers

Age 8–12  
Friday, March 1, 5:30–6:30 pm

## HiLo Fun and Games

Grade 1–5  
Saturday, March 2  
3–4 pm



## Small Hands Crafts

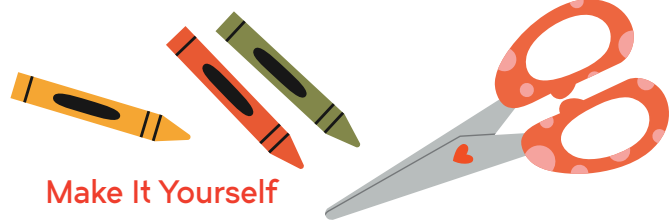
Mondays, 10–11 am  
March 25: What Is Holi?

## Together Time

Age 0–23 months  
Wednesdays, 10–11:30 am

## WHM STEAM Engines

Age 5–10  
Thursdays, March 7, April 4, 4:30–5:15 pm



## Make It Yourself

PreK and up  
Fridays, March 8, April 12 and 26, 4–5 pm

## Tween Advisory Group

Friday, March 8, 5:30–6:30 pm

## Sensory-Friendly Family Movie

Saturdays at 1:30 pm

The Little Mermaid    Elemental  
March 9                      April 6

## Be the Scientist

Grade 3–5  
Tuesdays, 4:30–5:15 pm

Phases of the Moon  
March 12

Clean Water  
April 23



## Self-Portraits for Tweens

Thursday, March 14, 4:30–5:30 pm

## Early Entry to the Kids Room

Children and Teens with Disabilities  
Sundays, March 17, April 21,  
11 am–noon

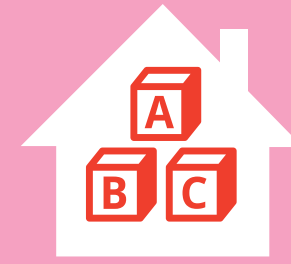
## Making Kosher Hamantaschen

Family Cooking  
Kosher ingredients and supplies provided by Yona Posner from Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie  
Sunday, March 17  
1:30–2:30 or 3:30–4:30 pm



## Learning at the Library

Hello, Homeschoolers  
Drop in to meet other homeschoolers and explore resources with library staff  
Tuesdays, March 19, April 23, 1–3 pm




## Pokémon Club

Age 7–12  
Tuesdays, March 19, April 9, 4:30–5:30 pm

## Rockin' Readers

Age 5–10  
Tuesday, March 19; Thursday, April 25  
6–7 pm

## Lego Party

Wednesday, March 20   
Thursday, April 11  
4:30–5:30 pm

## WHM Graphic Novel Hangout

Age 7–11  
Thursdays, March 21, April 18  
4–5:30 pm

## Eclipse Art Party

Friday, March 22  
4–5:30 pm

## You Be the Detective

Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Stolen Diamond  
Monday, March 25  
2–3 pm

## Family Drum Circle

Tuesday  
March 26  
1:30–2:30 pm



## Adventure Club

Grade K–3  
Tuesdays, 4:30–5:15 pm

India                      Turkey  
March 26                      April 16

## Extreme STEM with Mr. Science

Wednesday, March 27, 4–5 pm

## Family Game Break

Thursday, March 28, 4–5 pm or 6:30–7:30 pm



## Eclipse Viewing Party

Monday, April 8, 1–3 pm

April 8-12

## Week of the Young Child

We're celebrating kids ages 0-8 and their families all week with hands-on, shared activities that encourage movement and healthy lifestyles through music, food, and art.

### Bookmobile Bonanza

Wednesday, April 10

McNally Park: 3:15-4 pm | Terminal Park: 4:30-5:30 pm

### Climate Change STEAM Projects for Families

Saturday, April 13, 2-3 pm

magnetic poetry for tweens

Thursday, April 18, 4:30-5:30 pm

### AAHM Learn Basic Arabic

Friday, April 19, 4:30-5:30 pm

### Let's Get Ready to Write

PreK-Grade 1

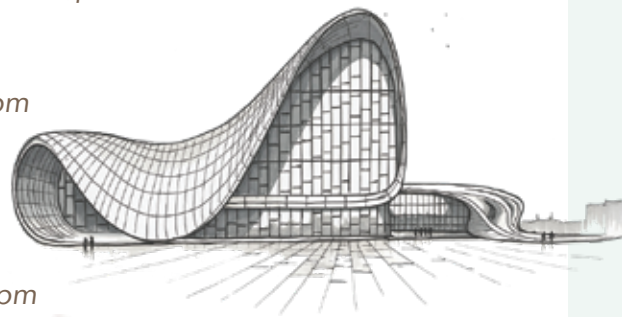
Saturday, April 20, 1:30-2:30 pm

### Sustainable Stories

Monday, April 22, 4-5 pm

### AAHM Learn and Build: The Architecture of Zaha Hadid

Saturday, April 27, 2-3 pm



## Storytimes

### Weekend Storytime

Saturdays, 10:30-11 am

### Book Babies

Babies to 11 months who are not yet walking

Wednesdays

9:30-9:50 am: indoors

10:30-10:50 am: outdoors

### Wonderful Ones

Age 1

Wednesdays

10-10:20 am: indoors

11-11:20 am: outdoors

### Family Fun Storytime

Wednesdays, 6:30-7 pm

### Stories and Savasana

Thursdays in March

10:30-11 am

### Terrific Twos Storytime

Age 2

Thursdays in April

10:30-11 am or 11-11:30 am

## Celebrate Día: Children's Day/ Book Day

Fun activities and stories to celebrate kids and books

Tuesday, April 30, 6-8 pm



## Did You Know?

You can use your Skokie Public Library card for free or discounted admission to many Illinois cultural and entertainment institutions. Find the details here:

[skokie.info/museums-attractions](http://skokie.info/museums-attractions)



Get discounts and passes to almost two dozen destinations. Here are a few:

### Brookfield Zoo

### Chicago Botanic Garden

### Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center

### Illinois Railway Museum

### Mitchell Museum of the American Indian

Availability of passes and museums varies, and you can borrow one pass per cardholder, per location, per loan period.



If you receive food assistance (SNAP benefit), you can get free or reduced admission to more than 1,200 museums throughout the United States. Many museums also offer free days. Nearby museums include:

**Kohl Children's Museum**

**Chicago History Museum**

**The Field Museum**

**National Museum of Mexican Art**

**Morton Arboretum**

Reserve free or discounted admission, parking, and gift store purchases from cultural and recreational attractions in Illinois, including museums, cultural centers, zoos, aquariums, gardens, historical societies, park districts, and more. Reservations can be made up to three months in advance. Here's a sample of what you can explore:

**Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum**

**Goodman Theatre**

**Museum of Science and Industry**

**Volo Museum**

**Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum**

# FOR ADULTS

Check for event details and sign up at [calendar.skoki.library.info](http://calendar.skoki.library.info). Registration opens March 1 except for events during the first week of March, which are already open.

## Who's Gonna Win the Oscar?

Tuesday, March 5, 7–9 pm

## ESL Café

Wednesdays, 12:30–2 pm

## Understanding Vitamins and Supplements

Thursday, March 7  
6:30–8 pm



## Studio Design Swap and Showcase

Thursdays, 7–7:30 pm

Designs for Ramadan March 7    Upcycling April 4

## Ethics and Impact of AI in Entertainment

Monday, March 11, 6–7:30 pm

Tuesday, April 9, 6–7:30 pm

## Low Vision Support Group

Tuesdays, March 12, April 9,  
1:30–2:30 pm

## Getting Started with Genealogy Research

Tuesday, March 12  
5–6:30 pm



## Starting Seeds and Transplanting

Tuesday, March 12  
6:30–8 pm

## Introduction to Yoga

Fridays, March 15,  
April 19, 1–2 pm



## WHM Ruth E. Carter: Costume Designer Extraordinaire

Wednesday, March 20, 7–8 pm (online)

## WHM Badass Women of Chicago History

Thursday, March 21, 6:30–7:30 pm

## Dyed in Crimson with Author Zev Eleff

Tuesday, March 26, 6:30–7:30 pm

## Navigating Aging Services and Social Isolation

Wednesday, March 27, 6–7:30 pm



## The Out Side Author Panel

Panel of comics creators in a lively discussion of their works and other LGBT+ topics

Saturday, March 30, 2–3:30 pm

## National Poetry Month: Write Night

Tuesday, April 2, 6:30–7:30 pm

## Practice Citizenship Interviews with HIAS

Tuesday, April 2, 6:30–8 pm

## The Hidden Gifts of Visual Thinkers with Temple Grandin

Wednesday April 3, 7–8 pm (online)

## Explore Arab American Heritage Month



Learn about and celebrate the customs and traditions of Arab Americans.

While supplies last, stop by the Second Floor Help Desk during April to pick up a spice packet and enjoy some of the rich, vibrant flavors of Arab cuisine.

## Discover Your Creative Spark: Art Workshop for Older Adults

Thursdays, April 11, 18, and 25, 12:30–2 pm

## Sharing Our Life Stories and Oral History

Thursday, April 11, 7–8 pm

## Disabilities Town Hall

Share Experiences and Insights  
Sunday, April 14, 1–2:30 pm

## Edible Gardens

Tuesday, April 16, 6:30–7:30 pm



## A Cup of Comfort and Cheer

Enjoy a warm drink and a treat and chat with neighbors

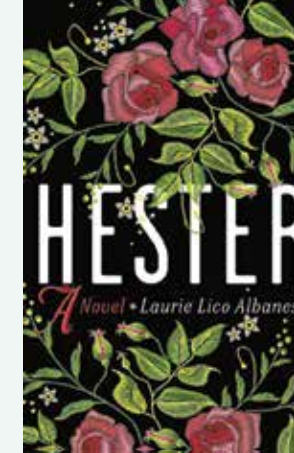
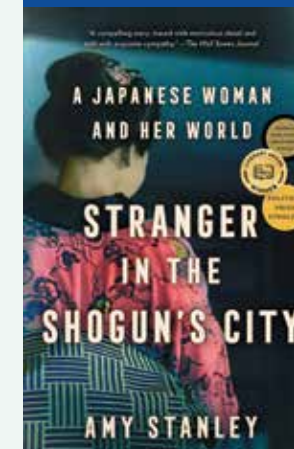
Saturday, April 20, 1–3 pm

Sunday, April 21, 3:30–5:30 pm

## What Is Vaisakhi?

Saturday, April 27, noon–1 pm

# Book Discussions and Book Talks



## LitLounge

Wednesdays  
7:30–9 pm (online)

Family Lore  
March 13

We're Not Broken  
April 10

## Talking Books Discussion Group

Wednesdays,  
1:30–2:30 pm

Stranger in the Shogun's City  
March 20

Hester  
April 17

## Genres on My Mind (on Instagram)

Suspense  
Thursday, March 28  
2–2:30 pm

Historical Fiction  
Tuesday, April 23  
noon–12:30 pm

## Article Discussion

The Surprisingly Radical Roots of the Renaissance Fair  
Tuesday, April 2  
7–8:30 pm

## Golden Age of YA Book Club

Divine Rivals  
Wednesday, April 24  
7–8 pm (online)

# Performances

Tickets for Sunday concerts given to those present starting at 2:30 pm.

## Young Steinway Concert Series

Showcasing talented young performers of classical music

Sundays at 3 pm

Emma Chang, Piano, and Emily Chen, Violin  
March 3

Miriam Birman, Piano, and Trio Lumina  
April 7



## Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre

Sunday, March 24, 3 pm

## Chicago Gay Men's Chorus

Sunday, April 14, 3 pm

## Latin Jazz with the Raíces Quintet

Saturday, April 27, 3 pm

## Songs of Peru

Luis Gálvez and Crossing Borders Music

Sunday  
March 10  
3 pm



# Movies (drop in)

## The Right to Read

Film Screening and Discussion  
Thursday, April 18, 6:30–8:30 pm

## Friday Film

Fridays at 1:30 and 6:30 pm

The Miracle Club  
March 8

## Oppenheimer

March 22 (1:30 and 5:30 pm)

My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3  
April 12

A Haunting in Venice  
April 26



## Morning Movie

Wednesdays at 10 am

Downton Abbey: A New Era  
March 20

Space Jam: A New Legacy  
April 17

## Movie Night

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Aftersun  
March 20

The Persian Version  
April 17

# Technology Classes

## Beginning Google Docs

Saturday, March 2, 10:30–11:30 am

## One-on-One Tech Help

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2–4 pm



## Online Tools for Planning Your Next Vacation

Monday, March 4, 2–3:30 pm

## Getting Started with Google Drive and Cloud Storage

Tuesday, March 5, 3–4:30 pm

## Computer Basics in Urdu: Introduction and Navigation to Windows

Wednesday, March 6, 5–6:30 pm

## Introduction to Library Apps Libby and Hoopla

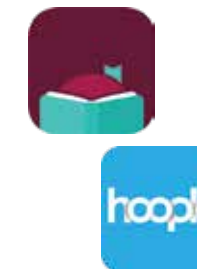
Sunday, March 10, 1:30–2:30 pm

## Introduction to Google Photos

Wednesday, March 13, 10–11 am

## Navigating Your iPhone

Thursday, March 21, 2:30–4 pm



Excel Basics: Track Your Reading and Organize Your Book Club  
Tuesday, March 26, 3–4:30 pm

Advanced Microsoft Excel: VLookup  
Monday, April 1, 3–4:30 pm

Be Secure with Strong Passwords and Password Managers  
Tuesday, April 2, 1:30–3 pm

Getting Started with Gmail  
Thursday, April 4, 5:30–7 pm

Microsoft PowerPoint for Beginners  
Saturday, April 6, 10:30–11:30 am

Music on the Go: Explore Streaming and Make a Playlist  
Monday, April 8, 5:30–7:30 pm

Microsoft Word 2021 for Beginners  
Saturday, April 13, 11 am–12:30 pm



## Editing Short Video Clips for Social Media

Monday, April 15  
6–7:30 pm



Using the Yahoo Mail App  
Tuesday, April 16, 1–2:30 pm

Exploring Facebook  
Sunday, April 28, 1:30–3 pm

Computer Basics: File Clean Up and Organization  
Monday, April 29  
5:30–7 pm



## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

*Check the online calendar for ongoing and late-breaking teen events and events that can include teens, along with other ages. Sign up at [events.skokieline.org](https://events.skokieline.org).*

### Managing College Costs

Monday, March 4, 6:30–7:30 pm (online)

WHM

### Seeing and Celebrating Women

#### International Women's Day Activity

Make a paper flower for someone to show your appreciation

Friday, March 8, 4–6 pm



# TEENS

### Artificial Intelligence (AI): What Parents Need to Know

Thursday, March 14, 7–8:30 pm

### Planting for Pollinators: Earth Day

Sunday, April 21, 1–2:30 pm

### Teen Climate Crew

#### Extraordinary Earth Project

Monday, April 22, 4:30–5:30 pm

#### T-Shirt Tote Bags

Sunday, April 28, 1–3 pm

### Headed to College

Tuesday, April 23, 6:30–7:30 pm (online)

