

Idaho Falls Public Library

Board Report for September 2024

Adult Services, Young Adult Services, and Makerspace

Adult/Young Adult Programs

- **Book Club in a Bag nominations and voting:** 15 nominations
Patrons help pick which Book Club in a Bag sets the Library carries. Patrons nominated titles, then vote on them; IFPL staff make the final determination. Heavy IFPL involvement.
- **Chapter 2 Book Club:** 3 events, 37 people total, titles: *Uprooted* by Naomi Novik; *How the Penguins Saved Veronica* by Hazel Prior; *Anxious People* by Fredrik Bachman
A book club moderated by an IFPL staff member using the Book Club in a Bag collection. Moderate IFPL staff involvement.
- **Family Game Night:** 11 events, 108 people total
Families and friends are encouraged to use our space and available games or puzzles for bonding. Minimal IFPL staff involvement.
- **Great Book Giveaway:** 2 months, 237 entries total, sets given away: *Sherlock Holmes*; *Jojo Moyes*; *Remembrance of Earth's Past* series; *The Many Wives* (books with "wife" or "wives" in the title)
Every time a patron checks out a book from the 3rd Floor, they can ask for a ticket to put into one of two book giveaways, created from donations.. The tickets are counted at the end of the month and a winner for each set is drawn. Medium staff involvement, as staff put together the sets and curate the tickets.
- **Literary Society:** 3 events, 26 people total, topics: *psychological thrillers, contemporary romance, urban fantasy*
Run by IFPL staff, this monthly events invites patrons to come discuss their favorite books in a specific topic or genre. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.
- **LybraryWyrms:** 7 events, 38 people total
*Teens learn the basics of *Dungeons and Dragons* during these month-long mini-campaigns. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.*
- **Money Matters:** 3 events, 16 people total, topics: *mortgages, home insurance, and taxes. *Note: two of the three presenters did not show, so actions will be taken to remind presenters of their commitment. An educational series on banking, mortgage, credit, insurance, etc. Minimal IFPL staff involvement.*
- **Paper Arts:** 3 events, 101 people total
A volunteer-led program where bookmaking and pop-up techniques are taught; materials provided by IFPL. Moderate IFPL staff involvement.

- **Summer Reading – Adults:** 1,002 adults; compared to last year: 851, or 118% more
Adults are encouraged to set daily reading goals, and upon completion of those goals, can come claim prizes. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.
- **Summer Reading – Teens:** 487 teens; compared to last year: 490, so 1% less
Teens are encouraged to set daily reading goals, and upon completion of those goals, can come claim prizes. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.
- **Summer Reading Weekly Drawings:** 12 weeks, 4,597 entries
- **Write Over Here:** 12 events, 100 people total
Patrons are encouraged to work on and share their current writing projects. An IFPL staff member leads discussions on topics pertaining to plot, characters, etc. Moderate IFPL staff involvement
- **Write Over Here for Teens:** 11 events, 87 people total
Patrons are encouraged to work on and share their current writing projects. An IFPL staff member leads discussions on topics pertaining to plot, characters, etc. Geared towards those in 7-12 grades. Moderate IFPL staff involvement
- **Write Over Here – Teen Writing Camp:** 5 events, 103 people total
Teens in grades 7-12 join an IFPL staff member to discuss the fine art of writing. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.

Adult/Young Adult Programs – Patron Led

- **Chess Club Wednesdays:** 11 events, 36 people total
A patron-led program that aims to teach people the basics of chess and inspire friendly competition. No IFPL staff involvement.
- **Chess Club Saturdays:** 12 events, 57 people total
A patron-led program that aims to teach people the basics of chess and inspire friendly competition. No IFPL staff involvement.
- **Conversaciones:** 3 events, 21 people total
Patrons practice their English speaking skills in this patron led class. No IFPL involvement.
- **Crazy Crafters:** 12 events, 259 people total
A patron-led program where patrons can bring their current projects and socialize. No IFPL staff involvement.
- **Cuéntame un libro:** 2 events, 10 people total
Patrons discuss books in their preferred language of Spanish. No IFPL involvement.
- **D&D Days (Dungeons & Dragons):** 12 events, 117 people total
A patron-led program where patrons are able to gather and play through a session of Dungeons & Dragons. No IFPL staff involvement.
- **Knit Together:** 7 events, 62 people total. *NOTE: This program was cancelled due to the participants' continuous violation of the Patron Code of Conduct.

A patron-led program where patrons can bring their current projects and socialize. No IFPL staff involvement.

- **Snake River Audubon Society:** 1 event, 1 people
The SRAS focuses on birds in Idaho. No IFPL staff involvement.
- **Where's Waldo:** 42 people
IFPL teamed up with Winnie & Mo's and other downtown businesses to encourage people to visit locations and find a hidden cardboard cutout of Waldo. Minimal IFPL staff involvement.

Total events: 159

Total people: 7,621

Extreme Book Nerd signups (total since January 3):

- Adult Extreme Book Nerd: 436 registered; 57 completed (13%)
- Teen Extreme Book Nerd: 86 registered, 6 completed (7%)
- Book Nerd Your Way (adult): 402 registered, 80 completed (20%)
- Book Nerd Your Way (teen): 78 registered, 10 completed (13%)
- Total registered: 1,002; total completed: 153 (15%)

Upcoming programs

- Austen Ball, Tuesdays
 - September 17, 7pm: practice
 - September 24, 7pm: practice
 - October 1, 6:30pm: ball
- Caregiver Connections, Wednesdays, 12-1:30pm <--- New program!
Our new series is geared towards caretakers of elderly adults or dementia/Alzheimer's patients; partnered with Alzheimer's Association: Greater Idaho Chapter
 - September 25, October 9, October 23, November 6, November 20
- Chapter 2 Book Club, Tuesdays, 7pm
 - September 10: *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives* by Caitlin Alifirenka & Martin Ganda; with Liz Welch
- Chess Club Saturdays, Saturdays, 11am
- Chess Club Wednesdays, Wednesdays, 7pm
- Conversaciones, Fridays, 5pm
- Crazy Crafters, Tuesdays, 7pm
- Cuéntame un libro, Mondays, 6pm
- D&D Days, Saturdays, 2pm
- Family Game Night, Thursdays, 6:30pm
- Literary Society, Thursdays, 7pm
 - September 26: Banned Books
 - October 17: Horror

- November 21: Historical Mysteries
 - December: Dystopian
- LybraryWyrms, Wednesdays, 4:30pm
- Money Matters, Wednesdays, 6:30pm
 - September 11: Credit Hacks 101, Todd Christensen from Moneyfit.org
 - October 9: Basic Budgeting, Zach Hardy from Idaho Central Credit Union
 - November 13: Dealing with Death, Kyle Larsen, Coltrin Mortuary
 - December 11: Managing Money – A Caregiver's Guide to Finances, Jody Cornilsen with Alzheimer's Association: Greater Idaho Chapter
- Paper Arts, Wednesdays, 6:30pm
 - September 25: Slot & tab, Double signature, and Dos á dos
 - October 16: Explosion, One page, and Accordion spine
 - November 20: Two mini Christmas carol books
 - December 4: Pop-up holiday cards
- Take A Look, Fridays, 10:30am <-- New program!
 - September 27: Digital Sanborn Maps
 - October 18: HeritageQuest Part I
 - November 15: HeritageQuest Part II
 - December 13: Idaho Room and Microfilm treasures
- Write Over Here for Teens, Thursdays, 4:30pm
- Write Over Here, Tuesdays, 7pm

Upcoming special events in 2024-2025

- Library Connections
IFPL is partnering with Boy Scouts of America to introduce the scouting program
 - Tuesday, September 10, 6-8pm
- Never Too Late: Colored Pencils
 - Monday, September 30 – Thursday, October 3
- Brain Health: Protecting Your Cognitive Assets
Leslee Blanch from University of Idaho Extension will discuss healthy things to eat to encourage a healthier brain
 - Wednesday, December 4, 12-1:30pm
- Dementia Friends
Leslee Blanch will present a program from University of Idaho Extension and the Department of Health and Welfare
 - Wednesday, December 11, 12-1:30pm
- Winter Reading
 - December 2 – March 1
- Trick or Treat
 - October 1-31

- Extreme Book Nerd
 - Begins January 6 (or thereabouts)
 - Kickoff plans are still being decided

Photos from recent programs, pages * - *

*** Photos are 4.2x5.6 with captions that include program and date



Figure 1 / Paper Arts, June 12, 2024



Figure 2 / Paper Arts, June 12, 2024



Figure 3 / Money Matters, August 14, 2024

Makerspace

Programs

- **Brickfast Club:** 12 events, 105 people total
All ages are invited to come build with our LEGO-like bricks. Minimal IFPL staff involvement.
- **Coding for Kids:** 4 events, 111 people total
Kids (ages 8-12) learn the basics of Scratch (a coding language) over a six-week period. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.
- **Tech for Teens:** 30 events, 43 people total, topics: 3D printing, TinkerCad
Teens (ages 12-17) focus on one Makerspace element, such as drones or 3D printing, over a six-week period. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.
- **Teen INC (Innovate & Create):** 6 events, 14 people total
Teens (ages 12-17) learn about the Library's Makerspace technologies and create something new. Alternating week of technology and crafts/art. Heavy IFPL staff involvement.

Total events: 52

Total people: 273

Upcoming programs

- Brickfast Club: Fridays, 5pm
- Coding for Kids: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 4pm
- Tech for Teens: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30pm; Saturdays, 11 am
- Teen INC: Fridays, 11 am <--- Since D91 has gone to a 4-day week for middle and high schools, we will offer this program during the day the students have off, in the hopes that the students and their families see the benefit of using library resources to help the students' education.

Item usage

- 3D printers: 267 people
- Audio room: 15 people
- Cricut: 18 people
- Glowforge: 25 people
- Sewing machines: 1 person

Item certifications

- Audio room: 6 people
- Cricut: 3 people
- Filament 3D printer: 33 people
- Glowforge: 11 people
- Resin 3D printer: 3 people
- Sewing machines: 0 people



Figure 4 / Teen INC project - Cricut cut vinyl stickers, July 17, 2024



Figure 5 / Teen INC project - Animal Crossing succulent cants, August 14, 2024



Figure 6 / Recent Makerspace projects



Figure 7 / Recent Makerspace projects



Figure 8 / Recent Makerspace projects

Community Engagement and Outreach

Meetings

- Friday, June 14: Bonneville Interagency Council, 22 people total
 - Beth was invited to present at the Council, which is comprised of many agencies in the Bonneville County area who work to make lives better. While there, she was able to make several connections that directly benefitted the Money Matters program and caused several additional programs to be created for IFPL patrons.

Other

- On July 8, IFPL installed its Early Learning Center at the clinic the Eastern Idaho Public Health. This Center is meant to help kids have something fun to do while waiting for medical appointments. The Center was a grant from the Idaho Commission for Libraries.



Figure 9 / Children using IFPL's Early Learning Center at Eastern Idaho Public Health



Figure 10 / Children using IFPL's Early Learning Center at Eastern Idaho Public Health

Upcoming

- Thursday, September 12, 6-7pm: Outreach event with United Way Mobile Resource Center at Foxhollow Elementary school
- Wednesday, September 25, 10-11:30: Friends for Learning Tour at IFPL

Staff

Staffing

- Staff schedules changed on July 1 to accommodate the new library law passed by the Idaho Legislature. We now strive to have two staff members at the 3rd Floor Desk. This has caused some stress amongst the staff, in addition to putting staff behind on projects as they are required to be at the desk. Staff are adapting and anticipate it getting better as patrons become more used to the new changes.
- Kira Epperson resigned on Saturday, August 31.

Meetings

- Meetings are held every other week, unless of closures or too many staff gone on vacation. Topics discussed: programs, Idaho law changes, library policy changes, best practices when working on the desk or with patrons

Professional development included:

- Creative Aging informational webinar and check-in
- LITT Chats provided by ICfL
- Lunch & Learn by the City of Idaho Falls
- The 3-Minute Rule: Say Less to Get More from Any Pitch or Presentation by Brant Pinvidic
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Miscellaneous

Our staff is awesome! – Recent stories from staff members

In June, Rebecca started a Happy Patron Stories thread on Teams, to help encourage staff during the tough times of Summer Reading and the new law implementation. Here are their stories:

- Beth: I was at Deseret Book today and the clerk was telling me how much she loves the Library. If she is late coming home from work, her husband knows she'll be at the Library. She's been doing EBN and just picked up her Level 1 prize (she was so excited that we had Little Women on the cart). She said of EBN that it gets her to read books she normally wouldn't read, and she loves that. Because of the Billy Joel category last year, she read a book about AIDS and it was eye-opening for her. She loves loves LOVES our library. 😊😊😊
- Lisha, 6/25: I had a great experience tonight. A patron was looking for Consumer Reports and found a couple magazines to check out but not the one she needed. I explained to her how she could look online for it and showed her how to get to it and she got excited. Then I mentioned all the online resources we have in addition and she was very enthusiastic-- her son needs the test prep for the masters program test he needs to take. She was so grateful..."library's are the best!" she left with the digital resources pamphlet and was going to look at everything else we had to offer
- Ashley, 6/25: A patron was just telling me about how much she has read this summer and how happy it makes her. She also said she was talking to one of her coworkers about all of the programs we have and she ended up getting cards for her and her son and they are loving it!
- Rebecca, 6/26: I had a 12 year old picking up summer reading prizes, and she was telling me how much she loves the Bliss Bakery series and the Keeper of Lost Cities series. Her mom said that she has to remind her daughter to eat and that she is reading instead of spending time on her phone
- Melissa, 6/27: Little girl came in with her mom to pick up a hold, "It's here!" her mom said, wiggling it around, and the girl was all grins. "Let's check it out, then while your sister is at storytime, you can find a comfy place to

read." They do so, and as they are leaving, the girl gasps, eyes wide, "They gave me a BOOKMARK!" and points at the hold slip. She was SO thrilled to get that "bookmark" she did a little skip.

- Sami, 6/29: A lady called today just to say how much she and her husband love the library. They started 2 libraries in Arizona and moved to Idaho Falls specifically for the library 17 years ago. They wanted to wish us all a safe 4th of July.
- Lisha, 6/29: I had a big muscular patron come and sit at my desk today, asking me all kinds of questions about how we are enforcing the law on Monday. I told him about the cards and checking them on 3rd floor, etc, if I am honest it was a little intimidating. He was very sympathetic though and asked all the things he could do to support us and the library. He was telling me about making phone calls to the legislators and Governor Little to try to get them to vote no/veto the bill. It was really nice to hear how he is in our corner and wants to help as much as he can. He also wanted to know if the people contesting the books would be public knowledge so he would know who was asking for reconsideration.
- Beth, 7/2: Just talked with a patron who says she doesn't come for the book collection, but the people (meaning staff). She loves it here because staff is always so kind and friendly. So good job, crew!
- Ashley, 7/3: Just helped a girl find the Avatar the Last Airbender comics and as I was walking away her little brother came up to me and said he wanted help finding something too. I asked him what he was looking for and he thought about it for a second and then just said "Love." It was the cutest thing
- Sami, 7/5: Someone was impressed with how thorough everyone's service is. When I checked her weekly visit off she looked to her boyfriend and said, "See, Sami has been for YEARS. I saw her in kids before I turned 18. She really knows what she is doing." I didn't have the heart to say that person she remembers definitely ISN'T me, but it was a nice thought anyway! (Pretty sure she was referring to Melissa and reading my name tag gave her a brain blip because she had just come from upstairs). LOL
- Lisha, 7/10: There was a family here today that was very sweet and brought us chocolates. All 4 young kids had unrestricted cards and they were happy to scan their library cards. I was shelving books over in new non fiction and I could hear them in non fiction asking their mom about why they were bringing us chocolate and being nice to us. She replied with "The librarians are having a rough time right now so we want them to know we appreciate them and everything they do for us." It was really sweet to hear that people do care.
- Rebecca, 7/12: I had a teacher stop in today from out of state who reads Where the Red Fern Grows with his class every year and he was so excited when he saw the Wilson Rawls statue outside. He said his heart stopped when he saw it

- Sami, 7/17: This cute kid just asked me if we had Sgt. Stubby on DVD so he could watch it. I told him yes and where to find it and that his parent would have to check out for him and he goes, "That's okay. My dad is like FIFTY so he probably knows how to check it out." 🎬
- Rebecca, 7/18: I just had a little girl come up the desk, point at the quote on the wall and say "Did Laura Bush use to work here? Or was she someone who came in here and said that?"
- Lisha, 7/18: I just gave Summer Reading Prizes to a set of twin girls. They were so cute together and took turns picking a prize (they each had 4 to pick up) The last prize was the Competitive Reader lip balm. They were so funny. She said "I am a very competitive reader, I just never win" and they walked away with her sister telling her she would always win because she reads all day everyday.
- Ashley, 8/5: I just helped a teenager find *Pretties* by Scott Westerfield, and the way her face lit up when I handed it to her was the best thing that I have seen all day. She said she had been reading *Uglies* at school and she loved it and really wanted to know what happens next. It was really sweet.
- Sami, 8/6: A kid rounding the corner from the DVD's pointed to the program room and whispered, "Dad, is that a second, secret library?"
- Rebecca, 8/8: I just had a patron pick up prizes for level 3 and tell me this is the most she has read in a very long time. She signed up because she wanted the summer reading shirt and she's gotten through 10 books so far 😊
- Rebecca, 8/17: I had a patron who said she went on a road trip to California and wore her "I'd rather be reading" shirt and got lots of compliments on it
- Melissa, 8/17: I had a lady today check in for her Summer Reading, and she said that she loves the program so much. She said that she's gotten all her friends to join in with the program, even those who live outside the city limits, because its become their reading club of sorts. They have read different books all summer using the 10 genres to push themselves to read new books. She explained that because of Summer Reading she feels like she's finally a Reader (as well as her friends who said they hadn't read books in years). It became a group activity for them so they were all in it together and could celebrate together. 😊 it was really sweet.
- Sami, 8/22: When I came in this morning, I saw a kid hugging the balloons for the party in children's and his mom had to peel him off them. It was adorable.
- Caden, 8/29: I did have a few kids in the Coding class that have been coming for a long time recently move. They were very sad to not be able to finish off the session before they left. But their mom said that she is really hoping that their new library will provide the same type of classes because they really enjoy them.

- Caden, 8/29: Another patron, the one who made the leather patches in the photo told me today that he thinks he is addicted to using the Glowforges now. Because when he goes home all he can think about is what he needs to do for his next project, and ways of how he can make his patches look even better.

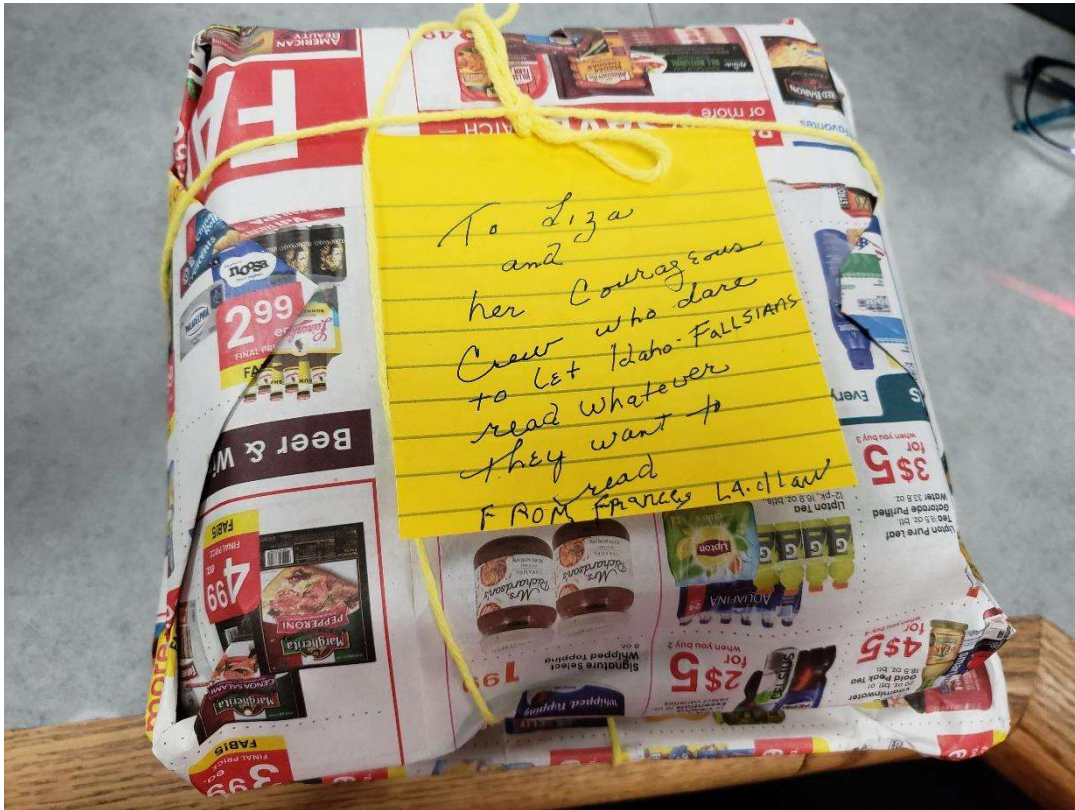


Figure 11 / Note from one of our patrons

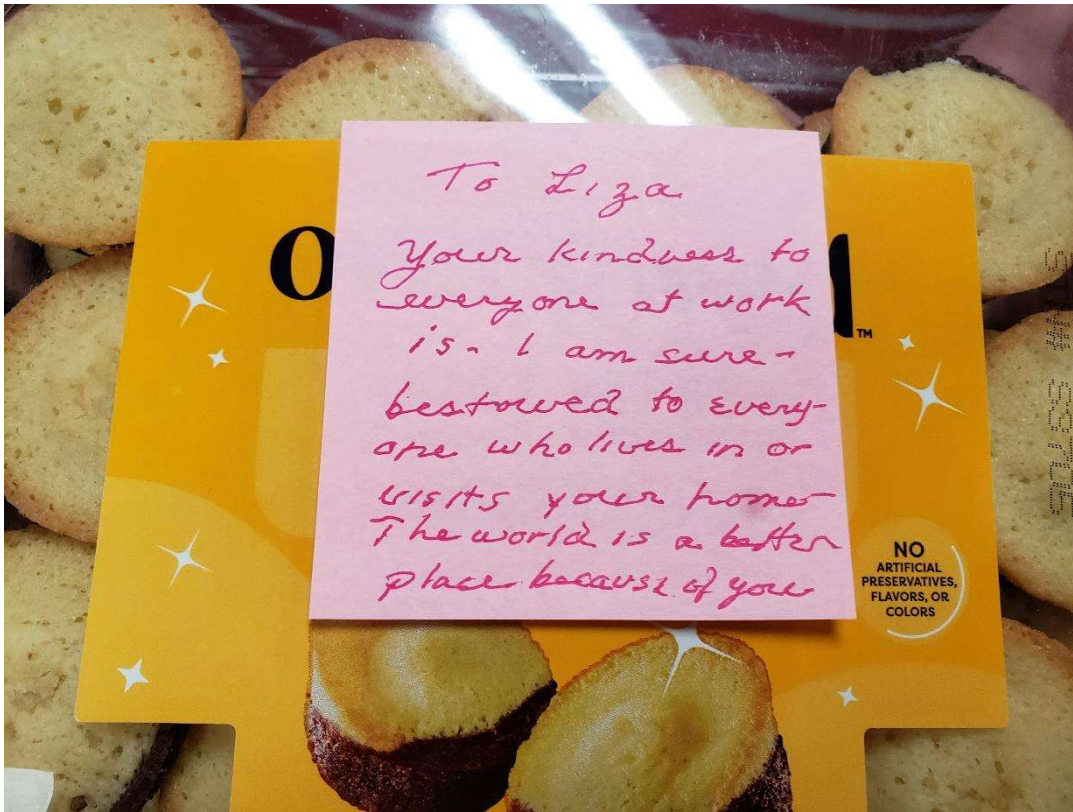


Figure 12 / Note from one of our patrons