

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Happy National Library Week

Upcoming Events

Here is Friends 2026 book sale and meeting schedule:

Book Sales-

February 6-7

May 1-2

July 31 - August 1

October 16-17

December 4-5

Board Meetings-

January 28

April 22

July 22

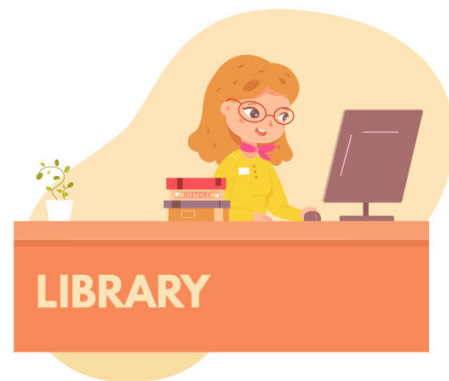
September 19*

October 7

December 2

*Note: the September Board Meeting will be a members and volunteer only event. All other meetings are open to the public.

IFPL staff Spotlight: (A)leisha & (B)eth



What inspired you to be a librarian/work in a library?

A: I have always loved reading. When I was only 5, I set up a library in the hallway of my house and pretended to stamp each book to check it out. In my early teens I began collecting picture books. It wasn't until adulthood that I realized that there was always a librarian inside me.

B: I sort of fell into it. My mom worked at this library from the time I was 1-17. When I graduated high school, I knew the library director of the town I was living in and she was kind enough to give me a shelving job. When I graduated college, I didn't know what to do with my life, but decided to work at a library until I figured it out. Working in the library is my life now. In June, I will reach my 25th year of working at libraries.

How long have you worked at IFPL?

A: I have worked at the Idaho Falls Public Library for 17 years. I began shelving books when my children were still in school. During college I worked for the university librarian for four years, and I also worked for the INL Technical library for a time.

B: Ten years. I joined September 2015 and managed to finish the Extreme Book Nerd program that year!



Friends of the Library of Idaho Falls Board of Directors & Committee Members

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Book Sales Committee:

Jim Geringer

Craft Fair Coordinator:

Arlynn Horne

"Members at Large":

Elizabeth Hossner

Ute Penney

Corinne Waite

Arlynn Horne

Nadine McKenzie

Contact the Friends:

ifplfol@gmail.com

What is your favorite part of working in a library?

A: My favorite part of working at the library is staying in touch with new books that are coming out. I get excited when an author or illustrator I love publishes something new. And I enjoy seeing what new books are coming up. There is always something new that makes me feel excited to experience that book.

B: Talking about books. I love sharing what I'm reading and hearing what others have enjoyed. I also love sharing the awesomeness of IFPL with people inside and outside the library. It's so rewarding to talk to someone about a service we offer, and see their eyes light up because they didn't even know that was a thing. My coworkers are pretty great, too!

Did you start any of the programs yourself?

A: I have helped get several programs running. Barbara Tew and I got the idea for weekly scavenger hunts when we visited an art museum in Columbus, Ohio while visiting for the Public Library Association conference. Barbara also helped get early learning bags started. Then, with the help of Sharon Plummer in the children's department, we created Discovery Bags. These are bags that have a STEM related toy and books that help kids learn about STEM concepts. Pop in and Play began as a way for kids to come play at the library and experience different STEM toys.

B: My daughter inspired me to create Turn the Page, a reading rewards program for teens. Reading the 25-50 books in a year can be hard, especially for teens that have a lot of activities going on or love to read but aren't big readers. I wanted to encourage reading for all teenagers and make it fun by getting a small prize for reading a book a month.

Lit Fusion was based off a friend's suggestion. Paper Arts was inspired by my mom, who loves making pop-up books. A lot of programs have fallen in my lap because one of our partners suggested it, or came to be because I was bouncing ideas of coworkers and thought, "Hey, I could actually make this work!"

Do you have a favorite program that you run or oversee?

A: The scavenger hunts are a program I enjoy. It is a great way for kids to become familiar with areas of the library and become comfortable around the books. The goal is always to help kids feel comfortable in the environment, so hopefully they will get excited about reading and be adventurous in learning about new topics they find interesting.

B: That's like asking if I have a favorite child! I love Extreme Book Nerd and our seasonal reading programs, even though they stress me out. Some of our programs are more informational and some are just for fun, but I hope they all have value to our patrons.

What program[s] takes the longest time to prep?

A: Pop in and Play takes a long time to set up. There are just many components to get in place and then clean up when the program is complete.

B: Summer Reading! I'm always thinking of it, but serious planning begins in January then I really hit it hard in March, April, and May in preparation for having everything ready for June. Extreme Book Nerd is another one that's always on my mind. Serious planning for that one usually starts September 1st and goes through January 1st, when

I print all the reading suggestion lists.

The hardest part of my job is...

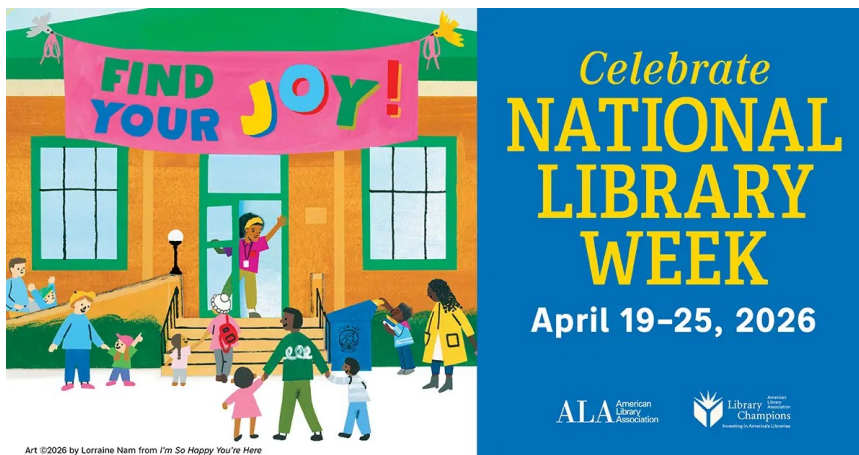
A: Seeing beautiful new books that get checked out and damaged makes me feel sad. I want patrons to care about the books because they belong to our community and everyone loses when a book only lasts a few check outs.

B: That there is only one of me and I can't do everything I want to. If they could just clone a few of me, that would be awesome!

The most rewarding part of my job is...

A: Really, I just love seeing kids be motivated and excited to find subjects they want to learn about or books they love to read. Reading and learning is this magical experience for me and my hope would be to help others find that experience for themselves.

B: Connecting a patron with their next favorite book or providing a program/service that really speaks to them. IFPL's patrons are amazing and I'm so fortunate I get to interact with them! My goal is to improve the lives of our patrons through my interactions and our library programs.



2026 National Library Week : Find Your Joy!

Celebration Days during National Library Week are:

- Monday, April 20th: Right to Read Day
- Tuesday, April 21st: National Library Workers Day
- Wednesday, April 22nd: National Library Outreach Day
- Thursday, April 23rd: Take Action for Libraries Day

Friends is also celebrating National Library Week with a sponsored game, Library Bingo, that will be on-going through the month of April! Come learn more about your library, have fun, and win prizes!

Make a difference through donating

We are always accepting donations, which are much appreciated! All donated items are vetted by the Idaho Falls Public Library before coming to the Friends so that IFPL may update their own books or media for public use.

"What can we donate?" I'm glad you asked! Here is a general list of desired items:

BOOKS

AUDIOBOOKS

DVDS/BLU-RAYS

CDS

VINYL RECORDS

GAMES/VIDEO GAMES

MAGAZINES

Donations can be brought in anytime during regular library open hours. Please drop off the donated items on the table by the administrative office on the first floor. There is a cart by the table to assist those that may need more help bringing their donation in.

*Please note: we do not take VHS's or cassettes anymore.



What's New at IFPL?

There is a new mural in the Children's Section, curtesy of Compass Academy's Class of 2026 students Adele, Eliza, and Sophia!



Idaho Falls Public Library: Current Events and Upcoming Programs

2026 EXTREME BOOK NERD

All ages: January 6th - December 19th

Summer Reading Program

Begins June 1st

4-H Club @ 4:30pm

Ages 12+ — 2nd & 4th Tuesdays on the 2nd floor

Coding for Kids

Tuesdays thru Saturdays: 4:00pm-5:00pm

Technology for Teens

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Saturdays: 11:00am-12:00pm

Cuéntame Un Libro @ 6pm, 2nd floor

April 13th

May 11th

June 8th

Game Night — 5:00pm-8:30pm

Every Thursday on the 2nd floor

Narcan Training @ 12pm, 2nd floor

May 12th

September 15th

July 14th

November 10th

Paper Arts — Book & Cardmaking

Wednesdays, 6:30pm on the 2nd floor

April 15th: Recipe Book

May 20th: Astronomy Books

June 17th: French Link Blank Book

Crazy Crafters @ 7:00pm

Every Tuesday on the 2nd floor

Lybrary Wyrms @ 4:00pm

Teens — Every Wednesday on the 2nd floor

D&D Days @ 2:00pm

Ages 18+ — Every Saturday on the 2nd floor