

Bookworm Bulletin

FALL 2026 EDITION

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We enjoyed a busy summer of fun here at the Spalding Memorial Library. This was the summer of MORE – more kids participated in our summer reading program, more books were checked out, and more visitors stopped in than we have seen in several years. It is wonderful each day to greet so many new and traveling guests to our historic library. During the summertime is when I get to meet the most people from other places. People just like me, who know that a community's library is the best gateway to understanding what makes a place unique. I also got to meet more people from more places in other ways this summer. In June, I was invited to a national-level conference hosted by the IMLS.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services surely feels the way that I do about the rural, local libraries that make up the vast number of public libraries in the US. Because this year, the IMLS invited hundreds of rural librarians – from small towns just like ours – to attend a complimentary gathering and share ideas on ways to celebrate our heritage and history during our nation's 250th year. I was delighted to be included on the list of invitees for this once-in-a-lifetime conference event.

IN THIS ISSUE!

- Director's Note
- Book Reviews
- Senior Series Recap
- Upcoming Events
- Wine & Dine 2026

FUN LIBRARY FACT!

In the United States, there are more public libraries than Starbucks!

–American Library Association

Thank You!

to Kate Riley for all her help on this Newsletter!

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR CONTINUED

There were five regional conferences held for IMLS's "A250: Telling America's Story." Pennsylvania librarians were included in the Cincinnati conference, along with those from Wisconsin, Idaho, Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio, too. There was even a librarian from as far as the Marshall Islands. Let me tell you what I learned:

- The Marshall Islands consists of a chain of volcanic islands and coral atolls in the Pacific Ocean and its Alele Museum & Public Library is their national museum and archive, as well as the only public library.
- The state of Minnesota has a robust mail-a-book program. Instead of trying to maintain bookmobiles that can reach their most rural areas, the libraries will mail books to their patrons. This program is funded and encouraged by the state.
- Kentucky, home of the "Pack Horse Librarians," still has more bookmobiles operating than any other state.
- Ohio has long been known as a state that provided exceptional funding to their public libraries. But there too, many libraries are under financial strain.
- West Virginia actually has not only the Moth Man cryptid, but also the Flatwoods Monster, and the Grafton Monster. The Squonk is still the weirdest cryptid, though.

There was some serious stuff too . . . like sessions on grant funding, one on community partnerships, and another from Lee Habeeb, host of "Our American

Stories." The librarians also met in breakout sessions to discuss creative ways to tell our local stories through events, historic reenactments, and showcases on what makes each of our small communities unique during this year of celebration.

The most important thing I learned is that there are so many more ways for patrons to find connection through their small, rural libraries than ever before. While our country's libraries help anchor our shared past, we also are constantly seeking ways to innovate and serve our patrons better.

As I reflect on our busy summer, I find I am still asking for more. Now it is September, which we all know is National Library Card Sign-up month. I am hoping for more new patrons to come find us than ever before. Last month, we registered 22 new library patrons.

We can welcome even more this month with your help. I hope you will take a moment to think about your favorite library book, resource, event, or program, and then share with your friends and family why they should hurry over to their local library - no matter how big or small - and sign up for a library card today. I just know each library will accommodate you with wonderful staff who are all delighted to be of service.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR CONTINUED



Pennsylvania representatives at IMLS A250 in Cincinnati

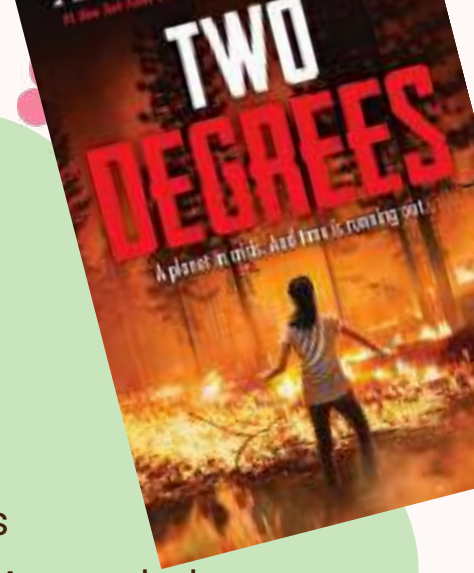
Back row from left to right: Elizabeth Wallen – Northern Cambria Public Library, Darlene Marshall – Mengle Memorial Library, Nikki Sarchet – Heritage Public Library, Anneliese Warnke – Memorial Library of Nazareth & Vicinity, Nancy Doherty – Pittston Memorial Library, Gwen Gatto – Spring City Public Library.

Front row from left to right: Tiffany Robbins – Spalding Memorial Library, Christine Law – Union Library of Hatboro, Amy Geisinger – Pennsylvania Department of Education Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Morgan Sanderson – Chester Springs Library



Middle Grade Book Review!

Two Degrees: by Alan Gratz



A girl in the woods of California named Akira, finds herself stuck in a roaring wild fire named Morris. A couple hours before the terrifying inferno, Akira and her dad were planning on having a relaxing day horseback riding. While on the trail, they meet Sue and her dad, Hikins. After a while both dads get in a heated argument about why the droughts are happening. Sue's dad claims it is because of global warming (the earth heated up by two degrees, hence the name), and Akira's dad says it is just a cycle. That morning Akira reported a small fire to her dad, but he shrugged it off by saying it was no big deal. After the argument, the fire was hot on their trail, and they were forced out of the trail. When Akira and her dad got Sue and her father to safety, they all rode out of the fire safely.



In Miami, Florida, a girl named Natalie Torres is worried about an incoming hurricane. She and her mom and her beloved Tia boarded up the house and prepared to wait out Hurricane Rueben. When it starts, the wind picks up to speeds of 160 miles an hour! Natalie and her feisty dog, Churro are forced out of the house due to water levels rising. She gets washed downstream five miles. Natalie sees insane, scary scenes. She even sees a manatee on a roof top pool. When the water recedes, she gathers supplies and gathers people to have a big cookout. Natalie even goes on the news.

(Continued...)





Book Reviews!

Two boys from Churchill Manitoba, Canada, were going on a weekend outing on the ice. After setting up camp, George was attacked by a sneaky polar bear. Owen and George were forced to ride slowly back to Churchill to get medical care for George. On the way, the snowmobile fell through the ice, leaving the boys to walk miles back home. The boys were rescued by the DNR. The DNR tranquilized the bear that was following them. After that the boys got home and went to the hospital.

-Austin Nason (Grade 9)

If you're interested in submitting a book review, please let us know! Email us at Lsmith@spaldinglibrary.org!





Memoir Book Review!

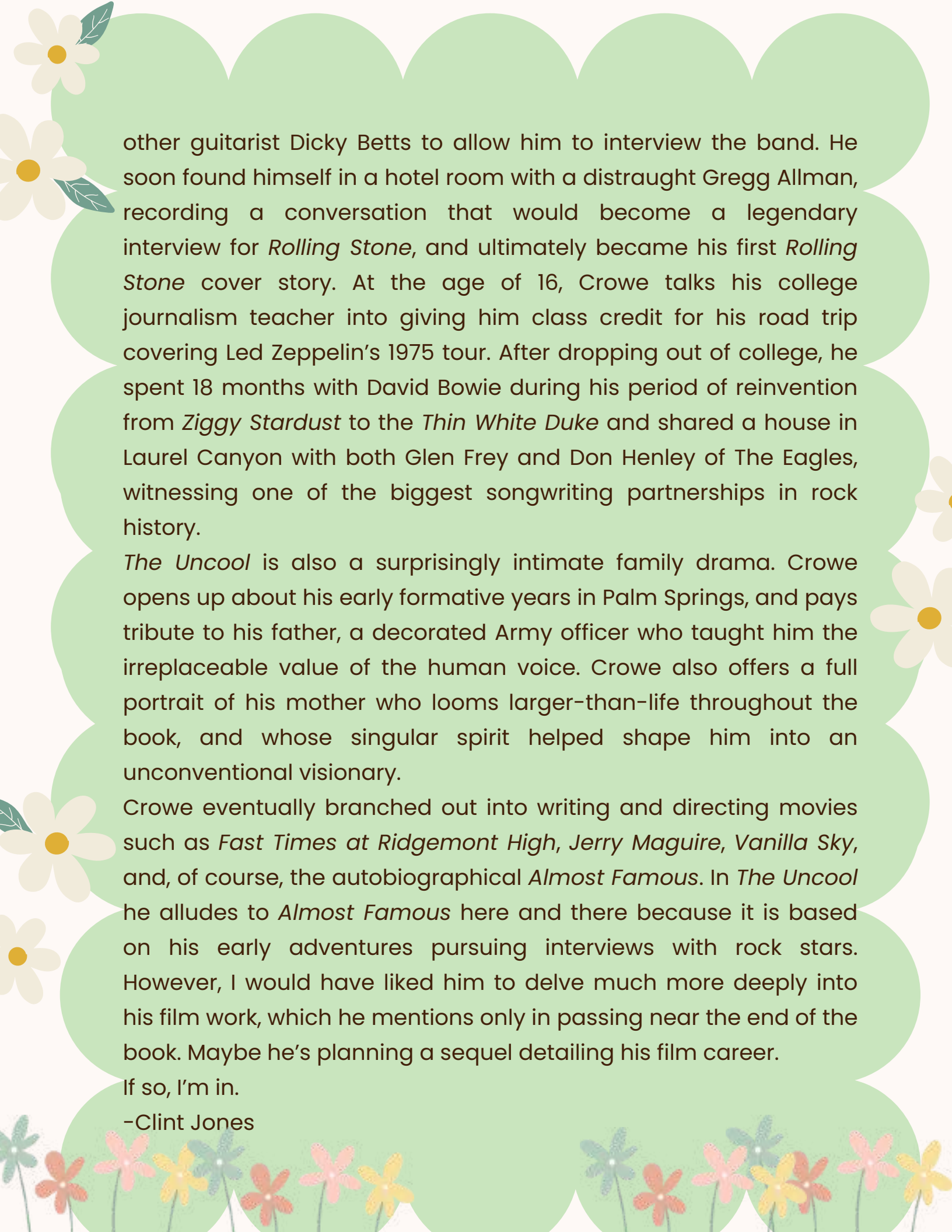
The Uncool by Cameron Crowe

The Uncool by Cameron Crowe is anything but. It's a memoir that's part coming of age, family relationships, the world of rock journalism, and the iconic rock figures of early 70s classic rock. Memoirs are my favorite genre, and as someone who also came of age during that time and loves pop culture, this book offers a front row ticket to the 1970's, a golden era for music and art when rock was young.

The book mainly focuses on Crowe's early years as a music reporter for rock magazines, especially the most famous, *Rolling Stone*. Despite the strong desire of his parents that he should enter law school and become a lawyer, music was Crowe's true love, and at the age of fifteen, after skipping multiple grades and graduating high school, he began interviewing rock stars and publishing reviews and interviews in a variety of magazines. He spends his teen years politely turning down the drugs and turning on his tape recorder. This may sound familiar if you've already seen the 2000 Academy Award winning movie, *Almost Famous* chronicling this period of Crowe's life.

His youthful naiveté and sincerity appealed to normally reticent rock stars, which allowed him to befriend and interview celebrities such as the Allman Brothers, the Eagles, Jackson Browne, Linda Ronstadt, Kris Kristofferson, Jerry Garcia, Led Zeppelin, David Bowie, Bob Dylan, The Who, Tom Petty, and many others. A disastrous profile published in *Rolling Stone* a mere two days before the untimely death of guitarist and founder of The Allman Brothers Band, Duane Allman, left the already-devasted band members horrified. Gentle and soft-spoken Crowe was able to convince their





other guitarist Dicky Betts to allow him to interview the band. He soon found himself in a hotel room with a distraught Gregg Allman, recording a conversation that would become a legendary interview for *Rolling Stone*, and ultimately became his first *Rolling Stone* cover story. At the age of 16, Crowe talks his college journalism teacher into giving him class credit for his road trip covering Led Zeppelin's 1975 tour. After dropping out of college, he spent 18 months with David Bowie during his period of reinvention from *Ziggy Stardust* to the *Thin White Duke* and shared a house in Laurel Canyon with both Glen Frey and Don Henley of The Eagles, witnessing one of the biggest songwriting partnerships in rock history.

The Uncool is also a surprisingly intimate family drama. Crowe opens up about his early formative years in Palm Springs, and pays tribute to his father, a decorated Army officer who taught him the irreplaceable value of the human voice. Crowe also offers a full portrait of his mother who looms larger-than-life throughout the book, and whose singular spirit helped shape him into an unconventional visionary.

Crowe eventually branched out into writing and directing movies such as *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *Jerry Maguire*, *Vanilla Sky*, and, of course, the autobiographical *Almost Famous*. In *The Uncool* he alludes to *Almost Famous* here and there because it is based on his early adventures pursuing interviews with rock stars. However, I would have liked him to delve much more deeply into his film work, which he mentions only in passing near the end of the book. Maybe he's planning a sequel detailing his film career.

If so, I'm in.

-Clint Jones



"Shout it from the Library Steps"

Senior Series - 2026 Recap

Spalding Memorial Library hosted its 4th Annual Senior Series April 6th through May 11th to a record number of our community's seasoned seniors.

Week 1: Nutrition

Our first topic was Nutrition which was presented by Alice Fedorka Bennett R.D., a lifelong Valley resident and proud Penn State graduate. Alice introduced interesting information on what "eating healthy" really means, along with a couple tasty snacks which included take home recipes. A very lively interactive time was spent on nutrition labels, facts, myths, and surprise hints to guide us on to make good choices with our food purchase and preparation.

Week 2: Tech Support

Technical Support, a frequent request by many of our library patrons, was presented by our patient and professional Library Director, Tiffany. Together along with staff member, Clint Jones, an easy to follow and step by step plan helped guide all in navigating the digital library resources. Despite the high demand, we discovered those that attended showed great curiosity.

Week 3: Memory

Memory and Brain Health brought out our largest senior turnout. Our very own Lauren Bloss, MSW, introduced tips and resources in a very engaging and creative setting. Through trivia featuring music from our era, we sang along, danced a little, and some even recalled concerts they attended as well as past loves through this great music flashback. We learned how our memory works and simple tips to use everyday. Our seniors couldn't get enough!

Week 4: Medicare

The most popular program at our Senior Series since its inception! Rachelle Kinsman RHU, REBC, CSA from Gannon Associates Insurance presented Medicare and Supplement information. Rachelle is a 35 year professional, focusing on Medicare and Advantage plans that best cover all seniors regardless of their personal situation. We at Spalding Memorial Library are asked through out the year when our next Senior Series will be held and Rachelle from Gannon will be presenting. Don't worry, she has already committed to our 5th Annual Series in 2027.

Week 5: Food Sources

This presentation focused on local food sources. Patrons enjoyed presentations by Oliver Gawlik, founder and farmer at Happy Compromise Farm + Sanctuary. Patrons learned about Happy Compromise's free farm stand, which offers locally grown food, as well as a pantry providing pet food at no cost. They also discussed their free spay and neuter program for pets. Happy Compromise farm also brought free seeds and plants. Nora Demusx from the Active Living Center and Susan Hitchcock, the Community Services Coordinator from the B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging also presented. They shared information regarding their farmer's market voucher program, helping low-income seniors access healthy, fresh food.

Week 6: Scams

The Mayor of Athens Borough, and Board Member of Spalding Memorial Library, Todd Babcock presented on Fraud and Scams for our final Senior Series presentation.

Along with information from Jeremy Gardner from C&N Bank, Todd discussed the many common scams targeting older adults. This presentation was eye opening, informative, and at times, shocking to those who attended.

Todd is kept current on all questionable activities through our Athens Borough Police force. Seniors attending had many questions and comments making this subject a must have for our Senior Series program.

In Summary, our Senior Series is greatly beneficial to our Senior Community who are often overlooked in society. People are living longer, more productive lives, with varied interests and career experience. It is heartening to see this group discovering new ways to enrich their current circumstances, meet new friends, find out about local resources, and discover opportunities to be a part of our community. Spalding Memorial Library is the place for seniors.

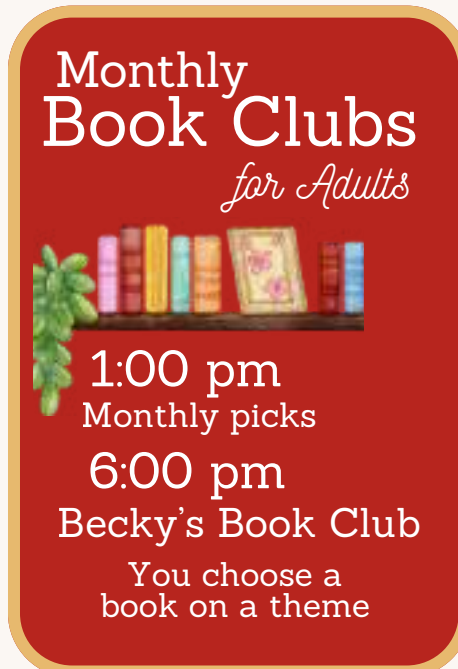
-Becky Williams

This Fall.....

@SPALDING MEMORIAL LIBRARY

A graphic for a book tasting event. It features a dark plate with a silver fork and spoon. The text "BOOK Tasting" is written in a stylized font, with "SPALDING MEMORIAL LIBRARY" in smaller text below it. The date and time "OCTOBER 7TH 6:00 PM" are at the bottom. A small line of text at the very bottom says "SAMPLE BOOKS BY LOCAL AUTHORS THEN CONNECT WITH THEM IN PERSON".

BOOK Tasting
SPALDING MEMORIAL LIBRARY
OCTOBER 7TH
6:00 PM
SAMPLE BOOKS BY LOCAL AUTHORS THEN CONNECT WITH THEM IN PERSON

A graphic for monthly book clubs for adults. It features a red background with a small image of a bookshelf. The text "Monthly Book Clubs for Adults" is at the top. Below it, the times "1:00 pm" and "6:00 pm" are listed, followed by "Monthly picks" and "Becky's Book Club". At the bottom, it says "You choose a book on a theme".

Monthly Book Clubs
for Adults
1:00 pm
Monthly picks
6:00 pm
Becky's Book Club
You choose a book on a theme

A graphic for Trick-OR-Trivia Night. It features an orange background with a spiderweb and a bat. The text "Trick-OR-Trivia NIGHT" is at the top, followed by "October 22nd" and "5:30 pm".

Trick-OR-Trivia
NIGHT
October 22nd
5:30 pm

A graphic for a knitting/crocheting group. It features a purple background. The text "Threads" is at the top, followed by "Knitting/ Crocheting group" and "Tuesday 6-7:30pm".

Threads
Knitting/ Crocheting group
Tuesday 6-7:30pm

A graphic for a gaming club. It features a blue background with a white controller. The text "GAMING CLUB" is at the top, followed by "MONDAY" and "5:00-7:00 PM".

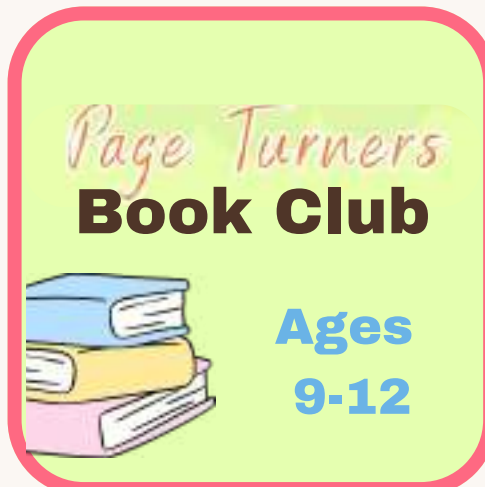
GAMING CLUB
MONDAY
5:00-7:00 PM

A graphic for a free build event. It features a black background with colorful LEGO bricks. The text "Free Build" is at the top in large white letters.

Free Build

A graphic for kids' crafts. It features a red background with various craft supplies like scissors, glue, and markers. The text "Kids' Crafts" is at the top in large purple letters.

Kids' Crafts

A graphic for a book club. It features a light green background with a stack of books. The text "Page Turners Book Club" is at the top, followed by "Ages 9-12".

Page Turners Book Club
Ages 9-12

A graphic for a Christmas market. It features a light blue background with a snowman. The text "Christmas Market" is at the top, followed by "Nov 28th".

Christmas Market
Nov 28th

A graphic for a game adventure club. It features a black background with a dragon. The text "Game Adventure Club" is at the top, followed by "Monday 5-7 pm".

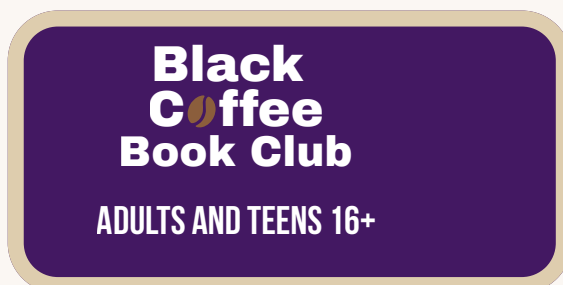
Game Adventure Club
Monday 5-7 pm

A graphic for a Polish star ornament event. It features a green background with a gold star. The text "POLISH STAR ORNAMENT" is at the top, followed by "NOVEMBER 11TH" and "11:00 AM".

POLISH STAR ORNAMENT
NOVEMBER 11TH
11:00 AM

A graphic for story time. It features a yellow background with a rainbow and a child reading. The text "Story Time" is at the top, followed by "Fridays" and "10:00 AM Session 11:00AM Session".

Story Time
Fridays
10:00 AM Session
11:00AM Session

A graphic for a book club. It features a purple background. The text "Black Coffee Book Club" is at the top, followed by "ADULTS AND TEENS 16+".

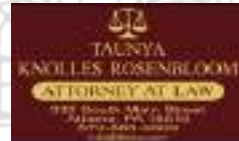
Black Coffee Book Club
ADULTS AND TEENS 16+



Wine & Dine + a Brew or Two



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