

Our  
36th Season!

2024 – 2025 Schedule

# Books Between Bites at



Noon – 1 p.m. Third Thursday of the month  
**Batavia Public Library, 10 S. Batavia Avenue**

Bring a lunch (or purchase at Flyleaf Bakery Cafe) to enjoy during the program



This symbol by a date indicates the author's book will be available for sale and signing

**Thursday, September 19, 2024**

## *Cheaper by the Dozen*

by Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr.

Sue Campbell invites you to jump into Foolish Carriage with the Gilbreth clan and enjoy the rewards and frustrations of growing up in this unique family. Still in print, *Cheaper by the Dozen* continues to delight readers of all ages. Locals know Sue as a fixture at the Library where she staffs the Friends of the Batavia Public Library monthly book sales and appears each Halloween in the guise of the Library Witch. A member of The Fermilab Arts and Lecture Committee, for many years she announced events there and received a jolt of adrenaline every time by making the audience laugh.

**Sue Campbell**  
Presenter



**Thursday, October 17, 2024**

## *More Batavia History in Literature*

Mayor Jeff Schielke wears the mantle of resident historian and is devoted to finding and sharing interesting things about Batavia and its people. This time he will share highlights of John Dillon's new book, *Batavia Water Utility History*. Dillon recently retired as superintendent of Batavia's water and sewer department. The mayor will also share Mary Conde Wilson's 1894 article on autumn in Batavia. Conde was the daughter of CB Conde, and a local writer in the 1890s.

**Mayor Jeff Schielke**  
Presenter



**Thursday, November 21, 2024**



## *In Service to Others: A US Navy Seabee's Journey*

Randy Niznick is a Batavia resident and Navy veteran. Venture into a personal narrative of one US Navy Seabee and his story of service and sacrifice during a 23-year military career. Randy takes you through his journey from initial enlistment through his various deployments and tours of duty, and finally the transition back to civilian life. It is a story of overcoming adversity, rediscovering one's faith, and just riding out the ups and downs of this thing called life.

**Randall Niznick**  
Author/Presenter



**Thursday, December 12, 2024**

## *The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light*

by Paul Bogard

In the short span of 145 years since Edison patented the incandescent light bulb, darkness has faded in the glare of artificial light at night. The change to the planet has been far-reaching. Naturalist Valerie Blaine will review how Bogard describes the impact of artificial light on ecology, human health, and cultural traditions. Unlike many books about environmental issues, his narrative is both informative and inspiring. Valerie will emphasize ways in which we all can bring back the health of nighttime, one light switch at a time.

Note: program moved to 2nd Thursday

**Valerie Blaine, Presenter**



Becky Hoag, Coordinator  
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Co-sponsored & hosted by  
**Batavia Public Library**  
(630) 879-1393

Order a lunch in advance from  
Flyleaf Bakery Cafe  
(331) 302-3480  
Pick up when you arrive

Thursday, January 16, 2025

## *Unique Structures of Fabyan Forest Preserve and Their Fascinating Stories*

Batavian Karl Bruhn is a retired history teacher, devoting 40 years to teaching in Wheaton. A guest presenter at Books Between Bites for a number of years, he now is a docent at the Fabyan Forest Preserve. Hear the stories he has to tell about the nationally-known Villa, and other structures in and around the Villa, dating back to the days of Colonel Fabyan. Our February program by Vivien Lasken will add even more to this story.

**Karl Bruhn**  
Presenter



Thursday, February 20, 2025

## *The Woman Who Smashed Codes*

by Jason Fagone

Elizebeth Smith Friedman was a pioneer in code-breaking and one of the nation's foremost cryptanalysts. She took down smuggling syndicates during Prohibition, broke enigma codes in WWII, and caught Nazi spies in South America. She and her husband, William Friedman, practically invented their field overnight. Learn about her start at the fabulous Geneva estate of Colonel George Fabyan, the eccentric millionaire, and how her research led to the start of the NSA. Vivien Lasken is director of the Fabyan Villa Museum and Japanese Garden.

**Vivien Lasken**  
Presenter



Thursday, March 20, 2025

## *Charlie Hustle: The Rise and Fall of Pete Rose*

by Keith O'Brien

Lester Munson has been a nationally-known commentator, former ESPN senior writer and legal analyst, and WTTW's *Chicago Tonight* guest. In this annual visit to the program, he will share his thoughts on this new and epic treatment of the life of one of the most fascinating figures in sports history, from his dizzying heights to his calamitous lows, a tragic fall brought on by Rose's hubris, arrogance, and compulsive gambling.

**Lester Munson**  
Presenter



Thursday, April 10, 2025

## *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer*

by James L. Swanson

Batavian Dan Hoefler is a retired history teacher and president of the Batavia Historical Society. The murder of Abraham Lincoln 100 years ago set off the greatest manhunt in American history—the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth. Based on rare archival materials, obscure trial transcripts, and Lincoln's own blood relics, *Manhunt* is a fully documented, fascinating tale of murder, intrigue, and betrayal told through the eyes of the hunted and the hunters.

Note: program moved to 2nd Thursday

**Dan Hoefler**  
Presenter



Thursday, May 15, 2025

## *The Anxious Generation*

by Jonathan Haidt

*The Anxious Generation*, by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, explores the progression of declining mental health in youth in the era of smartphones, big technology and exposure to social media. Haidt cites examples of how "play-based childhood" has been replaced by "phone-based childhood" and how four simple rules can assist in controlling the epidemic of mental illness and "restore a more human childhood". Kathy Hubbard and Linda Sullivan are retired Batavia teachers. Kathy is a member of the Board of Trustees for Batavia Public Library.



**Kathy Hubbard & Linda Sullivan**  
Presenters