

Our  
37th Season!

2025 – 2026 Schedule

# Books Between Bites at



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

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 18, 2025

## *The legacy of those who are considered amongst Batavia's most prolific book readers*

**Mayor  
Jeff Schielke**  
Presenter



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 shares his discoveries of certain Batavians and the role some of them had in the actual writing of a published book.

Thursday, October 16, 2025

## *Kuleana: A Story of Family, Land, and Legacy in Old Hawai'i*

by Sara Kehaulani Goo

**Roger Breisch**  
Presenter



Batavian Roger Breisch has brought us many programs. This one comes from a special place in his heart. He describes the book as a warm, generous, insightful, touching e komo mai into the author's life. The work, on one level, is an exploration of the kuleana she and her family feel for a sacred piece of property in Hana on the island of Maui. It spoke to me about the extraordinary beauty and unbearable and tragic fragility that is Hawai'i.

Thursday, November 20, 2025



## *Songs of the Lake*

Marnie Mamminga & Mary Parks return to share the third and final book in their *Finding Wisdom in Nature* series. *Songs of the Lake* follows the award-winning *The Woodpecker's Song* and *The Wolf Song in Me*. The series is a song trilogy focusing on themes of Dreaming Big, Facing Fears, and Listening to Nature. Seeking to open a child's heart and mind to the creative power of observation in the natural world, *Songs of the Lake* is the story of a child's discovery that sound carries over water and nature's melodies echo long after leaving the lake. Parks will demonstrate the paper-tearing techniques she uses to create her lovely illustrations.



**Marnie O. Mamminga  
Mary C. Parks**  
Author & Illustrator/Presenters

Thursday, December 18, 2025



## *Christmas In Chicago*

**Jim Benes**  
Author/Presenter



Jim Benes, now retired in Batavia, was long an editor with WBBM News Radio in Chicago. In 1980, he created a Christmas feature from past news articles about Christmas in Chicago entitled **Christmas Past**. The annual presentation became a tradition broadcast for many years and two book editions share his collection of stories: *Seasons of Joy - Chicago Celebrates the Holidays*. Perhaps you used to hear him tell these stories on the radio. Come meet Benes, whose voice is familiar to so many.

Becky Hoag, Coordinator  
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Website:  
BooksBetweenBites.com

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 15, 2026

**Pam Otto**  
Presenter



***The Way of the Hermit***  
***My Incredible 40 Years Living in the Wilderness***

by Ken Smith

Naturalist Pam Otto returns to our program with a book gifted to her in her retirement from St. Charles Park District this past year. It has been a great read as she explores her new life of "leisure" and felt it a good one to share with our Books Between Bites audience. Perhaps she'll give us some tips on how to enjoy nature in one's retirement.

Thursday, February 19, 2026

**Karl Bruhn**  
Presenter



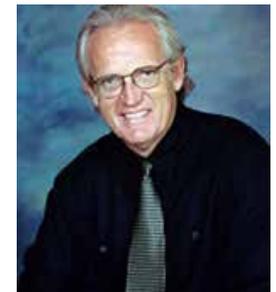
***Seize the Daylight: The Curious and Contentious Story of Daylight Saving Time***

by David Prerau

Batavian Karl Bruhn is a retired history teacher and presenter at Books Between Bites for a number of years. He is fascinated by this book and is eager to share the interesting untold stories of the development of daylight saving time. The book weaves a tale of science, history, and politics and will be shared 17 days before we have to "spring forward."

Thursday, March 19, 2026

**Lester Munson**  
Presenter



***On Her Game:***  
***Caitlin Clark and the Revolution in Women's Sports***

by Christine Brennan

Lester Munson has been a nationally-known commentator, former ESPN senior writer and legal analyst, and WTTW *Chicago Tonight* guest. For this annual visit, he turns his sports focus and perspective toward women's basketball and the sensational star athlete, Caitlin Clark, and all she has brought to the explosive interest in her sport.

Thursday, April 16, 2026

**Cynthia Wade**  
Presenter



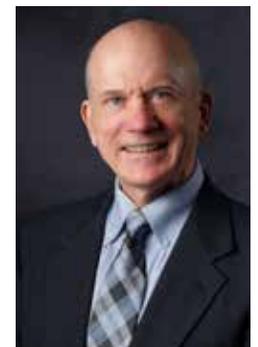
***The Catcher Was A Spy:***  
***The Mysterious Life of Moe Berg***

by Nicholas Dawidoff

Cynthia Wade, a Fox Valley resident, is a life-long learner and veteran presenter. *The Catcher was a Spy* contains sports, WWII history and is a study in human behavior. This true story of Morris "Moe" Berg tells a back story of espionage. He is the only man that has his Major League Baseball (MLB) card in the International Spy Museum in Washington D.C. and his Office of Strategic Services(OSS) / Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) identification card in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. Join us to learn of this intriguing story.

Thursday, May 21, 2026

**Daniel Russo**  
Presenter



***Breaking Architectural Conventions and Societal Norms: a Discussion of Loving Frank***

by Nancy Horan

Daniel Russo is the president of the Batavia Public Library Board of Trustees and is a senior docent at Geneva's Fabyan Villa Museum. *Loving Frank* focuses on the years 1907 to 1914, when Frank Lloyd Wright was establishing his reputation as a ground-breaking architect and having a norm-breaking affair with a client, Mamah Borthwick. Russo will show us some of Wright's buildings in the area and explore Borthwick's struggles with society's expectations. Ultimately, their relationship ended in tragedy, providing scandalous headlines for newspapers across the country.