

# CHECK IT OUT

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER



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BURLINGTON, IA 52601

WWW.BURLINGTON.LIB.IA.US



## LIBRARY CLOSINGS

OCTOBER 1ST  
- 9-11 AM

OCTOBER 8TH  
- ALL DAY

## LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY  
9 AM - 8 PM

FRIDAY-SATURDAY  
9 AM - 5 PM

SUNDAY - CLOSED

## LIBRARY NEWS

October is a fabulous month for libraries as we celebrate our right to read with Banned Books Week from October 4th - 10th, as well as the National Friends of the Library Week from October 18th - 24th. At a moment in time when information moves faster than ever, it is imperative that we champion and maintain our right to read freely. Today's attempts to restrict access echo the destruction of the Great Library of Alexandria in the 4th century CE and Nazi book burnings in 1933, showcasing that today's attempts to destroy and censor stories, ideas, and people is nothing new. What sets us apart from earlier book challenges, bans, and burnings is that information moves so much faster and is potentially much more widely available than in times past. With this great improvement, comes a great responsibility to maintain our constitutionally guaranteed rights to access information, while also developing sound information literacy so that we can navigate the turbulent waters made increasingly contaminated and violent by mis- and dis-information. One of the ways that your library celebrates our right to read is through year-round programming that invites you to meet us at the library where everyone can see themselves reflected on our shelves. The Friends of the Burlington Public Library make our programming possible as their continuous fundraising efforts support programs and outreach, ensuring that everything we do is always FREE for all. This October, I invite you to celebrate your right to read by attending a program and thanking a Friend for their steadfast support. If you yourself are a Friend, I extend my deepest gratitude to you - thank you for everything!

Happy Banned Books Week & Happy National Friends of the Library Week!

Happy Reading,  
Brittany Jacobs  
Library Director

## FRIENDS NEWS

Welcome to the start of Fall! October is time for snuggling under a blanket and reading a good book or watching a good movie, in my estimation!

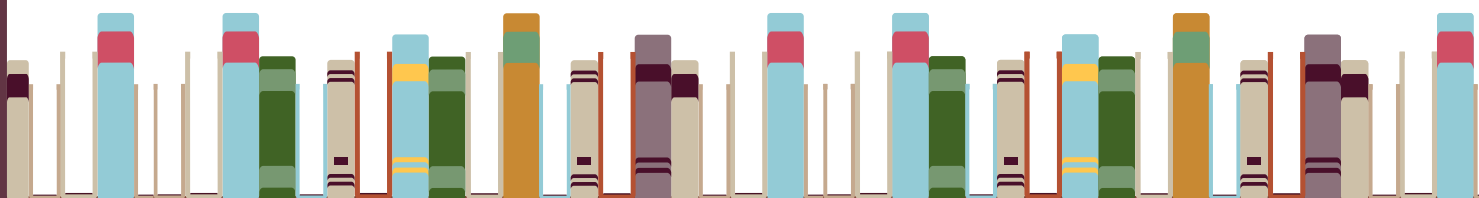
The Footnotes Book Store in the Burlington Public Library can help you find those good books to read at great prices. Hard back books on the shelves are generally \$3, and soft cover books on the shelves are \$2. Kid's books are priced as low as 10¢ and very few are over \$1. Books on the carts are \$1 unless otherwise priced. The store also sells DVDs and CDs. We have tote bags for purchase to help carry your findings home. And, we have friendly staff who are anxious to help fellow readers!

The Footnotes Store is open 10-4 Monday through Saturday. If you would like to see some evening hours, let the volunteer at the Footnotes desk know. If there is sufficient interest, we will try to find someone to open the store at least one evening a week from 4-7.

You may also bring your donations of books, CDs, and DVDs to the store. We are always happy to accept donations to stock our store and our sales.

If you are an avid reader and have at least 3 hours a week to donate to a great cause, we are also always looking for new volunteers to staff the store. Please let the volunteer at the desk know you are interested, and that person will get you in contact with the right people.

Thanks,  
Cindy Murphy  
Book Distribution Chair



# OCTOBER EVENTS

## ALL AGES PROGRAMS



### FRUITFUL CONVERSATIONS LANGUAGE CLUB

**Fridays, October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 || 3:30 - 4:45 PM**

Interested in languages? Whether you're learning Spanish, brushing up on French, practicing English, or curious about a language you've never tried before, this club is a place to learn, practice, share, and connect with others who share your interest in languages. We'll use Mango Languages, the library's new language-learning resource, as a starting point for conversation and activities. Bring a language you're learning, one you already speak, or simply your curiosity!

### CHESS CLUB

**Saturdays, October 3 & 17 || 9 AM - 12 PM**

Interested in learning chess or brushing up on your skills? Join us for this drop-in chess club in the Create Space. No registration required; all skill levels welcome.

### MINDFUL MONDAY

**Mondays, October 5 & 12 || 6 PM**

Join us in the Create Space to start your week off mindfully. Mindfulness is a practice that involves present moment awareness and non-judgmental acceptance. Each week we may do short creative exercises, gentle yoga, a short guided meditation, and enjoy herbal tea. Please register on our website.

### TRICK OR SWAP

**Friday, October 9 || 10 - 2 PM**

Join us for the Halloween Costume Swap. Give your gently used costumes a second life and discover something "new-to-you" just in time for spooky season. Patrons can bring up to 10 items from October 5th - 9th. On the 9th, participants can pick out the same amount of items to take home. All costumes that remain at the end of the event will be donated locally.



### SPOOKY SHORT STORY CONTEST

**Friday, October 23**

Create a spooky short story with a maximum of 500 words. Submit your story via the link on our website. Your work will be posted on Facebook for the public to judge. The winner will be based on how many likes their work receives.

Stories are Due October 23rd  
Voting opens on Facebook October 26 -30  
Winner will be announced October 31st

This project was created by Teen Intern Abby!

## PUMPKINPALOOZA

**Friday, October 30 || 2 - 6 PM**

Decorate your very own silly or spooky pumpkin! A special thanks to the Friends of the Burlington Public Library for making this event possible. Space is limited and registration is required for a pumpkin.

## CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

### WIGGLE TIME

**Tuesdays, October 6 & 13 || 10 AM**

**Wednesdays, October 7 & 14 || 10 AM**

Registration requested; please visit our online calendar to register.

### BABYGARTEN

**Wednesdays, October 7 & 14 || 5:30 PM**

**Thursdays, October 15, 22 & 29 || 10 AM**

**\*\*No class October 1 & 8**

Babygarten is an early literacy program for children ages 0-23 months with a caregiver. We will be learning new sign language, sharing caregiver tips, and sharing songs, rhymes and a book. Please register on our website.

### BRICKMASTERS

**Saturdays, October 10 & 24 || 10 AM**

Brickmasters offers an open-ended LEGO building experience for children ages 5 and up. No registration required!

## TWEEN & TEEN PROGRAMS

### TWEEN TUESDAY

**Tuesday, October 13 || 6 - 7 PM**

Get into the Halloween spirit with a spooky craft! No craft experience necessary and supplies will be provided. Please register on our website.

### READY SET SEW

**Thursday, October 15 || 5 - 6 PM**

Ready Set Sew is a beginner sewing class for ages 10+ Learn how to use a sewing machine and make a simple project. Registration is required and class size is limited.

### GIRLS WHO CODE

**Thursdays, October 15 & 29 || 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

Girls Who Code is an international nonprofit organization working to close the gender gap in technology, and leading the movement to inspire, educate, and equip students who identify as girls or nonbinary with the computing skills needed to pursue 21st-century opportunities.

## BRIGHT IDEAS

Thursday, October 22 || 5 - 6 PM

The Bright Ideas Junior Optimist Club is open to 3rd to 6th graders passionate about volunteering for the library and engaging with the community.

## POKEMON CLUB

Saturday, October 24 || 2 - 3 PM

No experience is necessary. No registration required.

## TICOS

Saturday, October 24 || 2 - 3 PM

TICOS is a Junior Optimist Club that doubles as our Teen Advisory Club. It is open to all students in 6-12th grades who want to volunteer for the library and in the community. It meets monthly.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### MAHJONG MEET-UP

Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20 & 27 || 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Thursdays, October 1, 15, 22 & 29 || 1:00 - 3:30 PM

**\*\*Library Closed October 8th**

Enjoy an afternoon of strategy, connection, and friendly competition at our Mahjong Meet-Up! Please bring your own Mahjong set if you have one.

### FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, October 2 || 10 AM

This month Christine Walter will give her presentation on the history, mysteries, and misconceptions of Nursery Rhymes.

### THAT'S YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Saturday, October 3 || 10 AM

This month, Terry presents "Catch that Football" No registration required; all are welcome.

### BACK TO BRIDGE

Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20 & 27 || 1:00 - 3:30 PM

BACK TO BRIDGE is for people who have some experience with this card game, but do not feel confident playing with others at this time. The class will run for 90 minutes with about 15-30 minutes of instruction before free play begins.

### BANNED CAMP BOOK CLUB

Saturday, October 10 || 10 AM

For this month, we will be reading a banned or challenged book by an LGBTQIA+ author for National Coming Out Day.

### THE MAKERS TABLE: AN ADULT CRAFT CLUB

Wednesday, October 14 || 5 PM

Get your crafty self to the library! Learn a new craft, meet others, and enjoy a fun, laid-back atmosphere. Whether you're a seasoned maker or just trying something new, there's a seat at the table for you. No registration required.

## BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, October 15 || Noon - 1 PM

Join us to read a new book each month from unique authors. Books for each month are available at the Welcome Desk at the front of the library for check out. Check our website for future titles!

## SPICY BOOK CLUB

Saturday, October 17th || 10 - 11 AM

We'll gather in October to learn about nettle. Nettle (also known as stinging nettle) is a nutritional powerhouse that traces its origins to Europe, Asia, and North Africa. Sample nettle in tasty food, learn from the Des Moines County Master Gardeners about growing this herb, and share books related to the plant or its native geographic area. No registration required.

## COLORFUL CONNECTIONS: AN ACCESSIBLE HOUR OF CONNECTION

Wednesday, October 21st || 6 - 7 PM

Come celebrate the spooky season with us at our first nighttime Colorful Connections! We're getting into the Halloween spirit with fun fall and Halloween-themed activities, festive treats, and plenty of opportunities to connect with others. We'll also talk about Halloween stories, traditions, and the things that make this spooky holiday so much fun! Whether you love Halloween or just enjoy a cozy fall evening, there will be something for everyone. All are welcome!



### NEW! QUIET MINDS BOOK CLUB

Thursday, October 22 || Noon - 1 PM

A welcoming book club exploring mindfulness, compassion, and personal growth through thoughtful books and open discussion. Readers of all backgrounds and experience levels are welcome.

## MOCKTAIL HOUR

Thursday, October 22 || 3:30PM - 4:30 PM

Each month, participants can enjoy a delicious free Mocktail while socializing, unwind or simply taking a little time for themselves.

## IOWA AND THE BROKEN CIRCLE

Saturday, October 24 || 10 AM

In partnership with the League of Women Voters of Southeast Iowa, and as part of the library's ongoing focus on civic literacy, the Burlington Public Library is proud to present a screening of Iowa and the Broken Circle by Charles Morris. This film is an exploration of how Iowa's water quality has become degraded and its connection with our rising cancer rates. Following the film, there will be a Q&A with the Iowa City based filmmaker. No registration required. All are welcome.

## MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, October 27 || Noon - 1 PM

Solve the mystery of what to read next by joining the Mystery Book Club! The club meets at noon on the last Tuesday of the month to investigate a new mystery book. Books for each month are available at the Welcome Desk at the front of the library for check out. Please join us!

Mailed to you by:  
Friends of the Burlington Public Library



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