

Themed Programs for Adults

Inspiration

- Pinterest
- Facebook groups
- Adapt popular event <http://www.teenlibrariantoolbox.com/tpib-programs/>
- Community favorites
- Resource books
- ***Do you have a virtual group with nearby colleagues?***

Themes!

- Library Wide Events
 - National Library Week
 - Card Sign-Up Month
 - Banned Books Week
- Book Themed Events:
 - One Book, One Community
- Special Events
 - Anniversaries of library, community, state, national
- Commemorative
 - Events
 - People

Artistic Adventures

- Crafterwork
- Meet a New Hobby, Try a Craft
- Holiday Gifts on a Dime
- Make something from a how-to library book or DVD
- Design Coloring Book Pages
- Trash Into Treasure
 - Make something on a theme in library Makerspace
 - Collaborative projects – decorate parts of mural (paper)
- Arts in Action

Retro Crafts

- Flower Loom
 - Quilting
 - Pom Poms (think roller skates)
 - Macrame (but no plant hangers)
 - Woven Barrettes
 - Scrapbooking
- 3-D Paper Crafts, origami, ornaments

Art or Craft Fair and Flea Market

"Creativi-Tea Time" Adult Coloring Session. We supply the materials tea and music. I encourage patrons to just get into the zone quietly, but some still chat quietly

I do a monthly adult craft night "Get Crafty @ MPL" where we do Pinterest crafts.

I just started doing an "Ugly Craft Night" at a local restaurant/bar. Attendance has been great so far. We do a FB event to spread the word through the bar and the library.

Removable tattoos was a big hit

We have a trash into treasure program that we call Crafty U and it's been going strong.

You can also make flowers out of old book pages too! Super simple.

We made paper wreaths out of old books

We have a successful weekly Craft 'n Chat program for 11+

For the teens, who don't tend to come to programs here, our children's department made a to go kit of a simple craft. Fits into a smallish zip-lock bag.

We made Jane Austen Christmas ornaments with modge-podge and strips of text from old Austen books. Found it on Pinterest

Our adult Keep Calm & Color On was very successful we offered it in the afternoon

We do zen-tangle, which is a bit more challenging than coloring, patrons loved it

At our branch we're starting a Social Saturday program where patrons can bring in whatever craft project they're working on and visit with each other. We hope people will come.

We offer a video game swap during summer schedule. It's been very successful.

We do an exchange where people donate craft supplies they don't need (usually around spring cleaning time) and then come back to pick up different materials on the day of the exchange

Creatures

- Adults read to dogs too!
- Local animal scavenger hunt
- Pet parades – virtual or live
- Get Caught Reading with an Animal
- Vacation pet photos
- Dog food for fines – help the shelters and pantries

Other Ideas

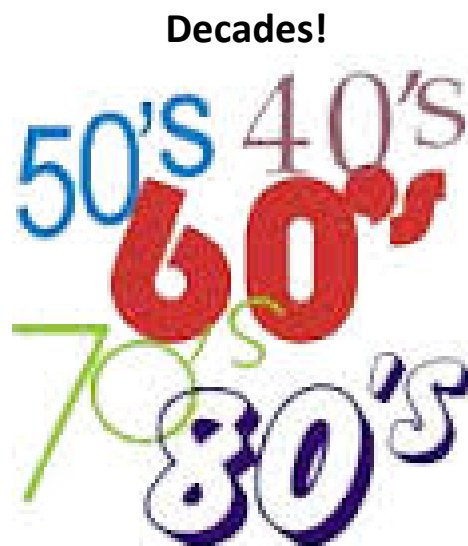
Look-alike contest

Pet costume contest and parade

Make Your Own Pet First Aid Kit

I'm doing a program this summer for adults to make toys and blankets to donate to local shelters and I/ We partner with our city's animal center - i.e. earthquake preparedness for pets

Every year we ask our customers to make blankets for shelter animals. We collect them and donate all at once to the local animal shelter.



Decade or Time Period Pleasers

- Fashion
- Food
- Music
- Books, movies or TV from that time or set in that time (Happy Days)
- Tutorials and demonstrations of dance steps
- Photos – ask patrons for memorabilia, prom pictures, recipes from that era for contest
- Trivia Contests

50's

- Vintage Car Shows
- Vintage Apron Decoration (or Poodle Skirts)
- History of Billboard Hits
- Soda Fountain Mixology
- James Dean , Audrey Hepburn or Marilyn Movie Fest

60's

- Elvis, the Beatles, Neil Diamond and Woodstock
- October Sky, the Rocket Boys and Space mania
- Tie Dyeing (socks, accessories, something different)
- Cooking Trends: in the van, easy gourmets,
- Cocktail Parties
- Anniversaries: Assassinations of JFK, Bobby and MLK Jr.
- Design Your Own Bomb Shelter Contest

I'm so excited - a Beatles scholar will be presenting a multi-media program, plus we have a local Beatles tribute band who will perform. Refreshments and a drawing for a great Beatles book!

70's

- 10 Tips for Saving Energy in Your Home
- Retro Game Night or What can you build with an Erector set or Tinker toys?
- Woven Oven Mitts, Macramé
- Saturday Night Fever Moves
- History of Tupperware
- Owls Everywhere Again
- Binge watch Brady's and other popular TV
- *Sewickly PL Pinterest Board <https://www.pinterest.com/mgs311/decades-1970-s/>*
- Emergency TV show + CPR Training

80's

- Best Huge and Frizzy 80's Hair Contest
- Pac-Man and Space Invaders Game Nights
- TV Trivia (MTV, CNN and The Weather Channel were launched)
- Re-enact Berlin Wall being torn down
- Display/Promote a Best of 80's best-selling authors Stephen King, Tom Clancy, Danielle Steele, James Michener Anne Rice, Shel Silverstein and Robert Ludlum books
- Show-off your Leg Warmers 'Flashdance' movie party

Superhero Ideas

- LARP (Live Action Role-Playing)
- Artists Alley
- Animation and video effects
- Action figure easy stop-motion
- What is Your Superpower?
- Comic and Toy Fair with appraisals
- Comic book discussions, little known or international superheroes

We had our first Comic-opolis event last year; over 800 people came in about 6 hours
We do events like this for our Free Comic Book Day in May. Usually brings a few hundred children and adults

Harry Potter! Homemade butter beer is delish!

We had a local cartoonist last year for a graphic novel program We are planning a graphic memoir adult program

We had some professionals come in - full costume and then we had staff dress up and comic book authors -- needed huge amount of staff, plus volunteers

Technology Tie-Ins

- Classic video games
- Virtual branch scavenger hunt
- Demonstrate Raspberry Pi for Pie Day
- Old time photos or travel photos with Green Screen, costumes

Find your family in Genealogy drop-in
We held a tech petting zoo for staff

We had a demo day for our toys - Lego robotics, makey makey, squishy circuits, and a teen volunteer taught simple programming

We are doing a family tree art program for seniors using ancestry.ca for the genealogical piece... we have the library ancestry account and host many drop in nights, big hit

We have help sessions for people and their gadgets

We have a Let's Do It program - a hour a week to learn about a new skill. Hands on and participatory. We've had singing, ukulele, fencing (the sport, not the posts), coloring, instrument petting zoo, petting zoo with the local humane society (most popular so far), mehndi and portrait photography (taking better selfies). Really interesting impacts so far!

Mindfulness & Health

We're doing a Quick and Easy healthy snacks program

We had an art of Zen program. we brought in henna artists (on staff) and a meditation guru.

We do mindfulness and yoga. It is well attended. Part of it is because the instructor has a following. We're doing a karate demonstration.

We've held yoga, meditation and wellness programs

Tai chi classes very popular with our senior population

"Having Vital Conversations with your doctor"

"Be Well" Health Series!

We have a Certified Integrative Nutrition Health Coach leading programs related to healthy living/nutrition and it nurtures your mind, body, and soul.

ask your local Walgreens to come in to do blood pressure screenings, they usually bring in all sorts of freebies too

We've had an Alzheimer's Event with speakers from the local Alzheimer's society on mental health and mental exercise

We will bring in a speaker for Mental Health Awareness Month in May,

Horror-ible Ideas

- Retro Halloween Night
- 80's monsters: Freddie, Chucky, Jason
- Dress in Halloween or 80's
- Duct tape or toilet paper costumes
- Finish the scary story contest or flash scary fiction 1000 words
- Storytelling 101
- Goosebumps TV fest
- Walking Dead (still big)
- Offsite Campfire and S'mores buffet night

I've been doing a spooky stories program here for 5 years. I started running a short story contest along with it and my attendance doubled. Just an idea that worked for me.

We brought in a make-up artist to do a zombie makeover. Really expensive, but well attended for teens young adults

We're having a Poe program next October. Maybe a flash fiction contest!

We just did Poe for Big Read and held a Drama after Dark program - dramatic presentations of Poe's stories

Local ghost tours and haunted places lectures have worked well for us.

Money Smart Week

- Resources Demonstration
- Budgeting and Investing Apps
- Tip Board
- Teen or Next Gen Budget Contest
- Coupon Clipping
- Money board game tournaments
- Prizes for winners, most in savings, other categories
- We're holding a 4-panel forum with young women entrepreneurs

I did a webinar on this and couponing was successful and some library systems have had a community wide shredding program

We're trying a 5-part adult series (financial life skills) and a teen financial literacy program for the first time this spring

We've had a successful series of end of life planning including financial info. It's hosted by a local non-profit called Hospice of the Chesapeake.

We had a basics of banking for our ESL students who meet at the library. Also, safety in online banking and payment - a patron request i hate to say it, but I think some of our patrons would want to learn the ins and outs of bankruptcy

We had folks from the state banking department speak about financial frauds and was only so-so attended but we left out their handouts afterwards and those flew out the door.

We had Our line-up for Money Smart Week includes - Managing College Costs, Social Security Retirement benefits, Property Tax Assessment 101. What happens after paycheck stops.

We had a speaker on organizing which was well-attended Seems everybody feels the need to get organized! (including me!)

Just had a great Protect Your ID day with the Department of Justice providing a workshop and a local shredding company shredding documents in our parking lot.

A financial fitness fair after a year-long safe-spending/budgeting type series of programs.

Mysterious Events

- Crime Scene as display or one-time program (Paper Towns program)
- Local scam alert programs
- Mystery flavors
- Classic crime TV & movies
- T/F Town ordinance laws vs. historical
- Self-Defense
- Puzzle tournaments
- Puzzle & Scrabble crafts

I once had an FBI team come to talk about forensics

We had a spy club program last summer for the tweens. It was very popular!

Mystery Theater is one of our most popular events among teens and adults!

We had the local police bring out the crime scene van for teens, and did fingerprinting with the younger kids

I've done scrabble piece crafts. We made coasters last fall and was simple and cheap.

Live action Clue and showed the movie

"Who did it" events are fun!

We're hoping to try a murder mystery dinner party styled program for teens... excited to see how that turns out. Kind of like the movie Clue.

Out of This World: Space and Futuristic

- Space Comedy or Alien night with paper airplane contest
- Recycled Rockets
- Starry eyed jewelry crafting
- History of fortune telling
- Library of the Future Movie Contest

The Neil Armstrong Museum in Wapakoneta, OH did a couple of programs for us last summer for the space them SRP

Star Wars Legos

We work with a local astronomy club. They offer a moon viewing program sharing their telescopes for community to us. We also added to our collection several Orion telescopes for our patrons to check out.

We brought in Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield in for a community presentation!

For our Star Wars day we had staff dress up as different characters. We also showed the original trilogy. It was a hit.

Light sabre games, costume contests, Darth Vader read stories, a local artist did drawings, Storm Trooper visit

This was not from the chat, but ALA Graphics did a blog post on event ideas for Star Wars Reads Day in Sept. 2015 <http://alagraphics.tumblr.com/post/129852310756/top-5-ways-to-celebrate-star-wars-reads-day-at>

We partner on a local comic con in Fort Collins and this year we're doing a 5k on May the 4th be with you.

Cooking and Cookbook Programs

Delicious Reads and More: Food Events

- Tasters Club
- Treats and Beats by the Decade
- *Delicious* by Ruth Rendell and popular foods mentioned from WWII and modern times

Recipe Scrapbooking

- Glue copies onto 8 ½ x 11 cardstock or scrapbook paper
- Stickers, printed recipes and quotes from cutters
- Page protectors for 3-ring binder
- Have patrons bring copies and exchange for drop in program
- Ties in with holiday or international themes

We just produced a community wide cookbook and are hoping to have some programs around the recipes

We had a Christmas cookie recipe exchange combined with polish paper ornament making so we could do something creative while eating cookies.

I made a staff collection of family thanksgiving recipes to include in a November display of books with recipes in them (fiction books)

Coffee, Tea or Beer?



- Coffee Tasting and Poetry at our local Coffee Roasters
- It's Always Tea/Tee Time – Drink Tea and Learn Golf Tips with Our Pro
- Beer Tastings
- Beer Tastings as a Fundraiser
- Wine and Chocolate Fundraisers

Promotions & Partnership Opportunities

I send posters to our senior centers each month to promote adult events
sometimes we put stuff up in bars--, for football history it really worked
Facebook, Twitter, Radio, Bathroom Signs, Posters
Our Friends group has just bought billboard space in town

We go to the Senior's home monthly to promote our programs. we also send a poster and share it with other service providers (to reach senior's)

This wasn't mentioned, but I've been doing an adult spelling bee - "Spellapalooza" - for three years now at a local bar. It's always a huge hit! It was all over FB this year.

Our Books at Bars book club has been really successful.

Many of our local authors contact us looking to do a book signing.

This year Lake County Discovery museum is hosting Shakespeare's First Folio exhibit. Many Illinois Libraries partnered to host Shakespeare programs at their facility.

We do trivia at our local brewery

This year Lake County Discovery museum is hosting Shakespeare's First Folio exhibit. Many Illinois Libraries partnered to host Shakespeare programs at their facility.

We have a monthly seniors' social. we try to bring in arts and crafts, literacy

We also just had one nutrition program - "A Healthier You in 2016" and an upcoming "Heart Healthy Grocery Shopping" led by a local nutritionist.

We have the local visiting nurses come in to talk about a variety of subjects: making resolutions stick, healthy living for seniors at home, for example

For Seniors' we have weekly Senior Bingo and we have had Painting for Seniors led by a local artist. we contact speakers sometimes based on programs done through the rec center we had a group of local "older" lady bikers who do a Touch a Bike for kids. We gather in the parking lot and kids get educated on motorcycle safety and get to touch and sit on the bikes

Caring for the Caregivers program: Very helpful for folks caring for seniors at home

We sit on a community wide Senior's Resource Committee and the collaboration has been so success-- both for promotion and for brainstorming!

We have done local author showcases and bring together 10 - 12 local authors at one place and time. It has worked well.

Bicycle safety program for middles school & older partnering with the local police dept.

State government departments usually have outreach as part of their mission and will generally speak on a topic for free - your tax dollars at work

Other Ideas

(Decades and War/History program comments listed together here)

We are having a "Gatsby" themed event for the Big Read and we are so excited!
vermont country store had lots of the vintage candies/foods
do trivia contest and have featured various decades--people get very competitive

I'm doing a "dance party" for adults this summer and thanks for giving me the idea to include a retro fashion costume contest! I totally didn't think of that...

There is a girl scout badge that includes learning a dance form a past era. tie-in
We had a visit by a local Tuskegee airman

Historic programs are a hit here. We always include our local historical society and genealogy.
We had a visit from a Holocaust survivor last year: the best attended program all year!

We partner with our genealogical society to host programs. We had Kenyatta Berry from Genealogy Road show as a speaker this past weekend. Very well attended.

We had a Holocaust survivor talk and it was extremely successful. We've had a guy come to talk who had the chance to visit Auschwitz with a survivor

We have a holocaust speaker coming in April - a daughter of survivors will attract interest

We do a program series called "History Comes Alive" where we have costumed reenactors perform as a historical person and even do a Q and A. A couple of years ago we even had Ben Franklin. It's super popular with the older crowd.

We have a local canning expert that is also a published author... her programs have been extremely successful too. Highly recommend these types of programs.

A presenter is coming here next month to talk about the Civilian Conservation Corps. We have a great group of local Rosies that have come to our libraries.
we have had a local author who has written many WWII books.

Local History Night is a popular annual event at our library - music, displays by local historical organizations, children's activities

We just did an all-ages sock hop last fall.
We have a great ukulele learning group that meets monthly

We had an Orphan Train historian come it was very well attended. A few of our patrons that came had a parent that road on the train it was amazing to hear the stories they shared.

WWI

- Meatless meals
- Famous ads and marketing campaigns or commercials
- Genealogy program on military records
- National War I Museum and Memorial: <https://www.theworldwar.org/>

Topics for Both WWI and WWII

- Vegetable Gardening, Canning and Meatless Meals
- Knit Your Bit: patterns knit for soldiers

WWII and the Battle on the Homefront

- Rationing, Vegetable Gardens and Spam: WWII Foods
- Norman Rockwell, Marvel and other memorable art from WWII
- Knitting or veteran program with WWII Museum Staff:
<http://www.nationalww2museum.org>
- Local Veterans' groups or reenactors
- Rosie, Spies and Farm Corps: the role of women during WWII (Marilyn Monroe)
- Memorabilia sharing Victory Tea

Hollywood Comes to the Library

- Gourmet Popcorn
- After Hours Oscar Night Party
- Short Movie Festival
- Local Actors, Filming Locations
- Hollywood Hauntings

We just showed Groundhog day on a loop all day.

We're doing a predict the Oscar winners contest, the people who guess the most right can win a DVD/popcorn/candy pack

We partner quite a bit with our local community theatre for programs.

Sports or Olympic Year: Read for the Gold!

- Recreate Guinness everyone read event or other events
- Mini Guinness Book games
- Fit Fair
- Tech Fair
- 5K Ready in January
- Match Mascot to City

Trivia March Madness Book

Program

We had an Olympics at the library relay races, long jumps, etc.

We've done "Library Olympics" before with different library related tasks as the events. It was fun... more for the upper elem/middle school age kids.

We have a year long adult reading project. Get a special edition library card and a reception at the end. Bronze card for reading 50 books, silver for 75, and gold for 100

Steampunk

- Timepiece & gear crafts
- Conventions:
 - Fashion parade
 - Crafts
 - Victorian history
- Popularity of authors like Gail Carriger
- Ship Design Contests
- Model Train Days

We work with a local model train club to host a special train run and display. Love the Agatha Heterodyne Girl Genius steampunk graphic novel

World of Ideas

- Virtual Travel and tasting for countries, regions
- World of Flavors tour with phrases
- International holiday traditions
- World famous candies
- Artists by country, copy their style on tiles, t-shirts
- Local travel through time

Armchair tourist program - local patrons who have traveled come in and talk about their experiences

We have a monthly program called International Night where different people present on places from recent travels or where they are from internationally.

We had a luncheon program "day-tripping to India" for seniors, where they heard music, ate food and watched belly-dancers.

World of Ideas: Saving the World

- Terrarium make and take with recycled toys, containers
- Paint library rain barrel, auction
- Garden design contests, or implement in community
- Tips on write on boards
- Recycling drives each month

We're also working with our local Institute for Community Sustainability on a recycling program We offer an annual recycling & shredding event in May.

We've done succulent plantings with our School Family Nights

Fairy gardens are fun.

Our library is running a recycling drive to pay for our social committee!

We have recycling plastic all year round and when we get a certain amount, the company we work with donate a bench

We are a site for a Reuse a shoe collection

We have a community garden at our library. We have two butterfly garden beds and four vegetable beds. It has been a fun time and plan on doing a farmers' market on Fridays during the summer. Other Themes from Chat Transcript: Black History Month

Last night had a program about Negro League Baseball players, speaker from state Humanities Council

We have a Black History Month contest for younger people. They have pictures and a description of what this individual did and then have to utilize library resources to find who the person is. We do a drawing for a Barnes & Noble gift card

Free POV documentary film screenings cover many topics that would be good for Black History or other cultural themes.

We have a "guess the black author" display

We have a Black History Month contest for younger people. They have pictures and a description of what this individual did and then have to utilize library resources to find who the person is. We do a drawing for a Barnes & Noble gift card

We're doing a Motown Top 5 musical show for Black History Night (done with local actor/singers)

We had a professor from local college whose focus is African Dispora do a talk, as well as another speaker that spoke on Food History of African Americans in the South (tied to food slaves ate)

We have had a local African drumming group at the library in past years. We have had them outside and inside. We also have had a group of Tuskegee airmen.