

Beyond the Bookshelf

PUBLIC LIBRARIES
OF SAGINAW

December / 2025

Learn Mindfulness Strategies

Our friends from **MSU Extension** are bringing two **Mindfulness for Better Living** workshops to **Butman-Fish** this month to help adults manage everyday stress.

We'll kick off with **Brief Practices in Mindfulness** on **Tuesday, December 2** at **5 p.m.** During this hour-long session, you will establish an understanding of mindfulness and learn several practices, including breathing, grounding, ways to quiet your mind – and much more.



Experience the **Be Kind to Your Mind** workshop on **Tuesday, December 9** at **5 p.m.** This session explores techniques to learn to be a detached observer of your thoughts, using the power of acceptance and gratitude.

Find out more, or register for either session at www.saginawlibrary.org/events, or call Butman-Fish at (989) 799-9160.

Family Fun with Gingerbread!

Butman-Fish's popular **Disguise a Gingerbread Person** display returns this month. Beginning, **Friday, December 5**, kids can stop by to grab a paper gingerbread person to disguise. We will have supplies out for you to work on it in the library, or you can take it home to complete.

Returned artwork will be displayed in the library for most of December. Don't let the gingerbread cookie get caught!



Families are also invited to **Zaue** on **Saturday, December 20** at **2 p.m.** to decorate **Gingerbread Houses!** What better way to get into the holiday spirit than to spend time together, building memories (and gingerbread!).

Each group will receive one gingerbread house kit to assemble. Extra decorations will also be available. Since space is limited, registration is required. Please register together at www.saginawlibrary.org/events, or call (989) 799-2771.

Watch for Scams This Season

Technology has made many things easier and better. Sadly, there are people that use that same technology to try to trick people into giving up their money or personal information.

Come to **Butman-Fish** on **Saturday, December 13** at **10 a.m.** for a session on **Avoiding Scams**. We will inform you of some of the more common current scams and teach you how to protect yourself. No registration is required.

If you'd like more confidence with using your technology, see our list of classes on the back of this newsletter.

See inside for a listing of book clubs, tech classes, craft projects & more. Or, visit www.saginawlibrary.org/events for the most up-to-date schedule information.

"That's a Wrap" Moving to Wickes

The Wickes Meeting Room is turning into a gift wrapping station, just in time for the holidays! Bring a gift to wrap and learn some new techniques to make it look extra special!

Wrapping paper, scissors and tape will be provided. Drop in between **3:30–5:30 p.m.** on:

Wednesday, December 17
Thursday, December 18
Monday, December 22
Tuesday, December 23


HOLIDAY CLOSINGS
Wednesday, Dec. 24
Thursday, Dec. 25
Wednesday, Dec. 31
Thursday, Jan. 1



**PUBLIC LIBRARIES
OF SAGINAW**

From the Pages

The History of We

**Words and paintings by Nikkolos Smith
Children's Picture Book**

The History of We is a wonderful new children's non-fiction book that reads like a story, because it is a story, our story of humanity, the story of **we**.

Beginning with our origins in ancient Africa, Nikkolos Smith's absolutely stunning paintings and simple, yet profound verse take the reader on a journey, as humans create, discover, express, heal, grow, nurture, wonder, build, explore, and expand across the earth.

The last two pages are chock-full of historical information about each painting and include a timeline and an author's note that lend deeper meaning to each page.

Though *The History of We* is a children's book, it is one meant to be read together and will absolutely engage adults as well as young ones. It speaks between generations to the common roots that bind us all. *The History of We* is a great read for anyone who has ever been curious about our origins or wondered about what makes us human.

Nikkolas Smith has written a deeply moving, gorgeous book that captures the essence of the human spirit from our very beginnings.

**Reviewed by Beth Lasky
Zauel Library**



Weekly Events:

Toddler Storytime

Zauel
Tuesdays – 10:30 a.m.
Except Dec. 23 & 30

Chair Exercise

Zauel
Tuesdays – 1:30 p.m.

Homeschool Hangout Time!

Butman-Fish
Tuesdays – 2 p.m.

Hoyt LEGO Club

Hoyt
Tuesdays – 4 p.m.

Miss Beth's Boombox

Zauel
Thursdays – 10:30 a.m.
Except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1

Baby Storytime

Butman-Fish
Fridays – 9:30 a.m.

Preschool Storytime

Butman-Fish
Fridays – 10:30 a.m.

Family Storytime

Zauel
Saturdays – 10:30 a.m.
Except Dec. 27 & Jan. 3

Events:

Color Me Calm

Wickes
Tuesday, Dec. 2 – 2–4 p.m.

◆ **Brief Practices in Mindfulness**

Butman-Fish
Tuesday, Dec. 2 – 5 p.m.

◆ **Digitization Day**

Hoyt
Wednesday, Dec. 3 – By Appt.

◆ **Resume & Career Help**

Butman-Fish
Wednesday, Dec. 3 – 4:30 p.m.

◆ **Drag Bingo Show**

Hoyt
Wednesday, Dec. 3 – 6 p.m.

Crafty Kids Hour

Zauel
Wednesday, Dec. 3 – 6:30 p.m.

◆ **All About Word**

Hoyt
Thursday, Dec. 4 – 11 a.m.

Ask the Tech!

Zauel
Thursday, Dec. 4 – 3:30 p.m.

Disguise a Gingerbread Person

Butman-Fish
Begins Friday, Dec. 5

Greeting Card Take & Make

Butman-Fish
Friday, Dec. 5 – All Day

Friday Flicks

Butman-Fish
Friday, Dec. 5 – 2 p.m.

◆ **Origami Workshop w/ Jason Schneider**

Butman-Fish
Saturday, Dec. 6 – Noon

Make It Monday Take & Make

Zauel
Monday, Dec. 8 – All Day

◆ **Gift Bag Decorating**

Butman-Fish
Monday, Dec. 8 – 5 p.m.

◆ **Be Kind to Your Mind**

Butman-Fish
Tuesday, Dec. 9 – 5 p.m.

◆ **Continental Knitting**

Zauel
Tuesday, Dec. 9 – 6:30 p.m.

Stranger Than Fiction

Barnes & Noble Café
Tuesday, Dec. 9 – 7 p.m.

Butman-Fish STEM Night!

Butman-Fish
Wednesday, Dec. 10 – 6 p.m.

◆ **Teen Night:**

Holly Jolly Crafting
Zauel
Wednesday, Dec. 10 – 6:30 p.m.

◆ **Memoir Reading & Writing Club**

Hoyt
Thursday, Dec. 11 – 2:30 p.m.

◆ **Happy Little Paintalong**

Butman-Fish
Thursday, Dec. 11 – 6 p.m.

Movie Night at Zauel

Zauel
Thursday, Dec. 11 – 6:30 p.m.

Spice Up Your Month

Hoyt
Saturday, Dec. 13 – All Day

Avoiding Scams

Butman-Fish
Saturday, Dec. 13 – 10 a.m.

Needle Arts Club

Hoyt
Saturday, Dec. 13 – 10 a.m.–12

◆ **Cookbook Club**

Butman-Fish
Saturday, Dec. 13 – 3 p.m.

Holiday BINGO!

Hoyt
Saturday, Dec. 13 – 3 p.m.

◆ **Glass Bottle Painting**

Zauel
Monday, Dec. 15 – 2 p.m.

◆ **Holiday Book Trees**

Butman-Fish
Monday, Dec. 15 – 5 p.m.

Pages of History Book Club

Castle Museum
Tuesday, Dec. 16 – Noon

◆ **Alcohol Ink Ornaments**

Wickes
Tuesday, Dec. 16 – 4:30 p.m.

◆ **Butman-Fish Book Club**

Butman-Fish
Tuesday, Dec. 16 – 5:30 p.m.

That's a Wrap

Wickes – 3:30–5:30 p.m.:
Wednesday, Dec. 17
Thursday, Dec. 18
Monday, Dec. 22
Tuesday, Dec. 23

◆ **D&D One-Shot**

Hoyt
Wednesday, Dec. 17 – 5:30 p.m.

◆ **Murder Club**

Hoyt
Wednesday, Dec. 17 – 6:30 p.m.

Mystery Book Club
Oracle Brewing Co.
Wednesday, Dec. 17 – 6:30

Series Starters Book Club
Butman-Fish
Thursday, Dec. 18 – 11 a.m.

Ask the Tech
Zauel
Thursday, Dec. 18 – 3:30 p.m.

Mythology Book Club
Hoyt
Thursday, Dec. 18 – 6:30 p.m.

Friday Flicks
Butman-Fish
Friday, Dec. 19 – 2 p.m.

Solstice Crown Take & Make
Hoyt
Saturday, Dec. 20 – All Day

Children's Ornament Craft
Butman-Fish
Saturday, Dec. 20 – 10 a.m.

◆ **Teen Book Club**
Butman-Fish
Saturday, Dec. 20 – 2 p.m.

◆ **Gingerbread Houses**
Zauel
Saturday, Dec. 20 – 2 p.m.

◆ **Tech Tutoring**
Butman-Fish
Monday, Dec. 22 – By Appt.

Kids' Favorites Book Club
Zauel
Monday, Dec. 22 – 6:30 p.m.

Board Game Night
Zauel
Tuesday, Dec. 23 – 5:30-8:30

Silent Book Club
Red Eye Coffee + Tea
Saturday, Dec. 27 – 3:30 p.m.

Crafting Days Drop-In
Zauel
Monday, Dec. 29 – 1-8 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 30 – 9 a.m. – 1

Craft and Movie
Hoyt
Monday, Dec. 29 – 2 p.m.

Take & Make New Year's Crown
Butman-Fish
Tuesday, Dec. 30 – All Day

Noon Years Eve Party
Hoyt
Tuesday, Dec. 30 – 11 a.m.

◆ = Registration Required



Drag Bingo Returns

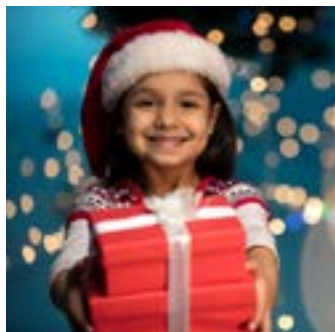
Drag Performer Bingo callers **Dahlia Rivers** and **ZuZu Bella** will be back to **Hoyt** on **Wednesday, December 3**. **Drag Bingo** will feature a free evening of fun and games, with plenty of chances to win prizes and maybe even a special performance or two! The show starts at **6 p.m.** and is for adults, ages 18 and up. See www.saginawlibrary.org/events or call **(989) 755-0904** for more information.



Learn Beginner Origami With Us

Get step-by-step guidance from origami artist **Jason Schneider** at **Butman-Fish** on **Saturday, December 6** at **Noon**. Jason has taught and exhibited his work at conventions around the United States and he will show you how to make some easy and wonderful origami creations. This **Origami Workshop** is at the beginner level and is recommended for ages 6 through adult! Registration is required. Please register online or call **(989) 799-9160**.

It's Time for Some Festive Holiday Programming



Everyone can use a break during this busy time of year. Take a moment at the library for a decorative craft or other festive event this month! Some programs require registration. Visit our website or contact the host branch to find out more.

If you need to relax, we'll have soft music, beverages and coloring books ready at **Color Me Calm for Adults** at **Wickes** on **Tuesday, December 2** at **2 p.m.** Or, try a **Happy Little Paintalong** at **Butman-Fish** on **Thursday, December 11** at **6 p.m.** Adults can also have a relaxing time painting glass with paint markers at **Zauel's Glass Bottle Painting** on **Monday, December 15** at **2 p.m.** or using alcohol ink on a painted surface to create unique ornaments at **Wickes' Alcohol Ink Ornaments** program on **Tuesday, December 16** at **4:30 p.m.**

All ages can try **Gift Bag Decorating** at **Butman-Fish** on **Monday, December 8** at **5 p.m.** Bring your imagination and festive spirit to design a kraft bag perfect for gift giving! Teens and adults are welcome to make **Holiday Book Trees** at **Butman-Fish** on **Monday, December 15** at **5 p.m.** We'll be transforming a discarded book into a holiday decoration just by folding, cutting, gluing, painting & embellishing. **Hoyt** will host a level 1 **D&D One Shot** adventure for teens and adults on **Wednesday, December 17** at **5:30 p.m.** And you can bring the whole family to **Board Game Night** at **Zauel** on **Tuesday, December 23** from **5:30-8:30 p.m.**

There will be seasonal art projects for elementary school-aged children and their families at **Zauel's Crafty Kids Hour** **Wednesday, December 3** at **6:30 p.m.** We'll be doing "elf engineering" at **Butman-Fish STEM Night** on **Wednesday, December 10** at **6 p.m.** Children and teens can figure out how to make Santa's sleigh even better, make a Christmas tree out of pipe cleaners, make a house for a gingerbread man and more during this evening of hands-on fun. **Teen Night** at **Zauel** also has a Holly Jolly crafting theme this month. We'll be making sock snowman and decorating mugs with markers on **Wednesday, December 10** at **6:30 p.m.** Make a gift, or just have fun getting your creative juices going!

Children ages 6 and up are invited to **Holiday BINGO!** at **Hoyt** on **Saturday, December 13** at **3 p.m.** Play and win small prizes in an easy, non-competitive environment! A snack will be provided. Kids can also come to **Butman-Fish** on **Saturday, December 20** at **10 a.m.** for a special **Ornament Craft** to take home and hang on their tree.

Looking for something to do over holiday break? All ages are invited to **Crafting Days** at **Zauel** on **Monday, December 29** from **1-8 p.m.** and on **Tuesday, December 30** from **9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Kids and teens can also complete a **Painted Polar Bear Craft** while watching the movie **Frozen (2014, PG)** at **Butman-Fish** on **Monday, December 29** beginning at **2 p.m.**

This month's take & make kit offerings include **Greeting Cards** at **Butman-Fish** on **Friday, December 5**; **Kids Crafts** at **Zauel** on **Monday, December 8**; **Nutmeg** spice packets with recipes at **Hoyt** on **Saturday, December 13**; **Solstice Crowns** at **Hoyt** on **Saturday, December 20**; and **New Year's Crowns** at **Butman-Fish** on **Tuesday, December 30**. And, of course, you are always welcome at regularly-scheduled stress-relieving programs like **Chair Exercise** and **Continental Knitting** at **Zauel**, **Needle Arts** and **Murder clubs** at **Hoyt**, free movie screenings and our many themed book clubs.

Branch Hours

Butman-Fish Library

Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm
Friday & Saturday 9am-5pm

Hoyt Library

Monday-Thursday 9am-8pm
Friday & Saturday 9am-5pm

Wickes Library

Monday-Thursday Noon-6pm

Zael Library

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9am-9pm
Wednesday Noon-9pm
Friday & Saturday 9am-5pm

www.saginawlibrary.org



Together We Inspire . . .

Local History Digitization Day

Wednesday, December 3 is
Digitization Day at Hoyt's Local
History and Genealogy collection.

Do you have outdated media like
Floppy Disks, CDs, VHS tapes
or Cassette tapes? Would you
like to make digital copies of old
photographs or scrapbooks? We
can help you convert your precious memories to a more modern format!



Reserve your one-on-one instruction time now. For more information, contact
the Local History and Genealogy Department at **(989) 755-9827**.

We Can Help With Your Tech!

Do you really know how to use
your laptop, tablet, phone or
PC? If not, we aim to help!

Our skill-building classes will
teach you how to navigate your
technology with confidence. Go
to our website, or call the host
branch to register and/or find
out more about each program:



◆ = Registration Required

◆ Resume & Career Help at Butman-Fish

Wednesday, December 3 at 4:30 p.m.

◆ All About Word at Hoyt

Thursday, December 4 at 11 a.m.

Ask the Tech! at Zael

Thursday, December 4 at 3:30 p.m. & December 18 at 3:30 p.m.

◆ Tech Tutoring at Butman-Fish

Monday, December 22, by appointment

**Noon
Years
Eve
Party**

Tuesday, December 30
Hoyt – 11 am
Games and activities for families,
with a Balloon Drop at
Twelve O'Clock NOON !!!