

Beyond the Bookshelf

January / 2026

PUBLIC LIBRARIES
OF SAGINAW

Better Sleeping and Breathing

Our friends from **MSU Extension** are back for two new **Mindfulness for Better Living** workshops this month at **Butman-Fish**. These sessions will help people learn ways to use mindfulness to manage everyday stress.



On **Tuesday, January 6 at 5 p.m.**, we'll take a look at **Sleep Basics**. Explore the importance of sleep for physical and mental health, recognize good sleep hygiene, and identify strategies to improve sleep.

On **Thursday, January 29 at 5 p.m.**, at **Begin with a Breath**, we'll learn the practices of mindful breathing and mindful movement.

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

You Deserve a (Winter) Break

By the end of winter break, are you getting stir-crazy at home? Take a break from the ordinary and head to the library with your kids on **Saturday, January 3!** (Children under 7 will need an adult helper for these programs):

Butman-Fish will be hosting **Kids Create Saturday!** at 11 a.m. Let your imagination run wild at this casual craft time and see what you can create with miscellaneous items we will provide. See you there!

Instead of Family Storytime in the morning, come to **Zauel** at 1:30 p.m. for a **Winter Break Movie**. We'll be watching **Smurfs (2025, PG)**.

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

Dr. Slime Makes Science Magical

Do you like science? Are you fascinated by things that puzzle others around you? Do you have a soft spot for Mad Scientists? Then don't miss **Dr. Slime's Science Show** at **Zauel** on **Saturday, January 10 at 2 p.m.**!

Dr. Slime is the archetype of a crazy science character and his mission is to excite, educate and entertain. Each of his eye-catching demonstrations is followed up with a complete discussion of the scientific principles involved. He makes science fun, interesting and easy to understand!



This program is for all ages. Children under 7 will need an adult helper.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Thursday, Jan. 1
&
Monday, Jan. 19

Take Out Books Are In The Bag



Grab a book to go this winter! We'll have selections available for every taste on the **Take Out Books** display at each of our branches between **January 12 – February 28**, but they'll be wrapped in take out bags. We will include a few hints on the "guest check" attached to each bag, but you won't be able to see the title, author or cover before you decide to check it out! To participate, just grab a bag that sounds good to you, check it out and take it home to unwrap and read!



**PUBLIC LIBRARIES
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From the Pages

Bear

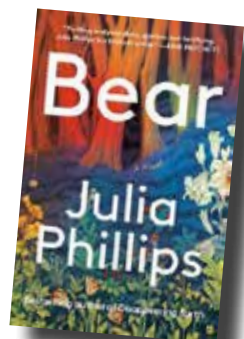
By Julia Phillips
Adult Fiction

I found the book *Bear* by Julia Phillips in a charming bookstore in Pike Place Market in Seattle. I was drawn to the simple title and its mesmerizing watercolor cover. And I'm so glad I picked it up. *Bear* brings us a story of two sisters living in the Pacific Northwest whose predictable lives become flipped upside down when an unusual black bear appears at their home.

The sisters, Sam and Elena, have always been inseparable: always together while caring for their terminally ill mother, they battle medical bills and the waves of poverty. However, the arrival of the bear tears at the joints of their bond. Sam is immediately fearful of the bear; she believes the bear's presence is a threat to their family. But Elena becomes obsessed, viewing the bear's presence as a magical escape.

As the weight of managing their sick mother buckles, the bear's visits increase. Dealing with the bear exposes Sam and Elena's long-held resentments and traumas. In time, the bear's presence reveals the girls' true dreams and desires as well. The author allows us to explore how grief and isolation can distort the closest of bonds, while also diving headfirst into the truth of economic struggle. *Bear* is a beautiful story that blends the magic of nature with the psychological pressures of heartache and deprivation. It reminds us of the true wonders of the natural world and how our true longings lie beneath our layers.

Reviewed by Carrie Pung
Butman-Fish Library



Weekly Events:

Toddler Storytime

Zauel
Tuesdays – 10:30 a.m.

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 for 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 for Jan. 3

Events:

New Year's Card Take & Make

Butman-Fish
Friday, Jan. 2 – All Day

Take & Make Mini Calendar

Butman-Fish
Saturday, Jan. 3 – All Day

Kids Create Saturday!

Butman-Fish
Saturday, Jan. 3 – 11 a.m.

Winter Break Movie

Zauel
Saturday, January 3 – 1:30 p.m.

♦ Tech Tutoring

Butman-Fish
Monday, Jan. 5 – By Appt.

STEAM Discovery Lab

Hoyt
Monday, Jan. 5 – 4:30 p.m.

♦ Sleep Basics

Butman-Fish
Tuesday, Jan. 6 – 5 p.m.

♦ Resume & Career Help

Butman-Fish
Wednesday, Jan. 7 – 4:30 p.m.

Crafty Kids Hour

Zauel
Wednesday, Jan. 7 – 6:30 p.m.

♦ Digitization Day

Hoyt LHG
Thursday, Jan. 8 – By Appt.

♦ Resume Workshop

Hoyt
Thursday, Jan. 8 – 11 a.m.

Ask the Tech!

Zauel
Thursday, Jan. 8 – 3:30 p.m.

♦ Happy Little Paintalong

Butman-Fish
Thursday, Jan. 8 – 6 p.m.

Friday Flicks

Butman-Fish
Friday, Jan. 9 – 2 p.m.

Spice Up Your Month

Hoyt
Saturday, Jan. 10 – All Day

Needle Arts Club

Hoyt
Saturday, Jan. 10 – 11 a.m.-Noon

Dr. Slime's Science Show

Zauel
Saturday, Jan. 10 – 2 p.m.

♦ Cookbook Club

Butman-Fish
Saturday, Jan. 10 – 3 p.m.

Peaceful Pinwheels

Wickes
Monday, Jan. 12 – All Day

♦ Acrylic Painting. Simply.

Zauel
Monday, Jan. 12 – 1:15 p.m.

♦ Let's Draw Some Fruit

Butman-Fish
Monday, Jan. 12 – 5:30 p.m.

♦ Hoyt Library Archives Tour

Hoyt
Wednesday, Jan. 13 – 6:30 p.m.

♦ Continental Knitting

Zauel
Tuesday, Jan. 13 – 6:30 p.m.

Stranger Than Fiction

Barnes & Noble Café
Tuesday, Jan. 13 – 7 p.m.

Butman-Fish STEM Night

Butman-Fish
Wednesday, Jan. 14 – 6 p.m.

♦ Intro to Tarot Cards

Hoyt
Wednesday, Jan. 14 – 6 p.m.

♦ Candy Olympics!

Zauel
Wednesday, Jan. 14 – 6:30 p.m.

♦ Memoir Reading & Writing Club

Hoyt
Thursday, Jan. 15 – 2:30 p.m.

♦ Yoga at Butman-Fish

Butman-Fish
Thursday, Jan. 15 – 5:30 p.m.

Movie Night at Zauel

Zauel
Thursday, Jan. 15 – 6 p.m.

LEGO Sorting Event

Hoyt
Friday, Jan. 16 – 10 a.m.

♦ Teen Dessert Decorating

Hoyt
Saturday, Jan. 17 – 2:30 p.m.

Book Club Soirée

w/PFLAG Great Lakes Bay
First United Methodist Church
Monday, Jan. 19 – 6 p.m.

Pages of History Book Club

Castle Museum
Tuesday, Jan. 20 – Noon

Adult Mystery Craft

Wickes
Tuesday, Jan. 20 – 4:30 p.m.

Butman-Fish Book Club

Butman-Fish
Tuesday, Jan. 20 – 5:30 p.m.

♦ Dungeons & Dragons

Hoyt
Wednesday, Jan. 21 – 5:30 p.m.

Mystery Book Club

Oracle Brewing Co.

Wednesday, Jan. 21 – 6:30 p.m.

Series Starters Book Club

Butman-Fish

Thursday, Jan. 22 – 11 a.m.

Ask the Tech

Zauel

Thursday, Jan. 22 – 3:30 p.m.

Friday Flicks

Butman-Fish

Friday, Jan. 23 – 2 p.m.

Celestial Wand Take & Make

Hoyt

Saturday, Jan. 24 – All Day

♦ Cross Stitch Fun

Hoyt

Saturday, Jan. 24 – 11 a.m.

Life Sized Candyland Game

Butman-Fish

Saturday, Jan. 24 – 2 p.m.

Silent Book Club

Red Eye Coffee + Tea

Saturday, Jan. 24 – 3:30-4:45 p.m.

♦ Tech Tutoring

Butman-Fish

Monday, Jan. 26 – by appt.

♦ Calligraphy

Gothic/Blackletter

Butman-Fish

Monday, Jan. 26 – 5 p.m.

Kids' Favorites Book Club

Zauel

Monday, Jan. 26 – 6:30 p.m.

♦ Wire Heart Wreath

Zauel

Tuesday, Jan. 27 – 5:30 p.m.

♦ Begin with a Breath

Butman-Fish

Thursday, Jan 29 – 5 p.m.

♦ Mythology Book Club

Hoyt

Thursday, Jan. 29 – 6:30 p.m.

Hongbao (Red Envelope)

Hoyt

Saturday, Jan. 31 – All Day

Kids "Drive-In" Movie

Butman-Fish

Saturday, Jan. 31 – 10 a.m.



Life-Sized Candyland at B-F

Kids will be the game pieces at **Butman-Fish's Life-Size Candyland** game on **Saturday, January 24** from **2-3 p.m.**

Spin the huge spinner, but be careful! Don't get caught in the molasses swamp! Participants will meander through a peppermint forest and gumdrop village, deal with extra-large chocolate kisses, gargantuan gingerbread people, larger-than-life lollipops and even a candy castle that would fit any king or queen in this game of candy-filled fun! Children under 7 must be accompanied by a responsible helper.



Teens Can Enjoy the Sweet Life

Teens can enjoy two very sweet programs at the libraries this month. **Teen Night at Zauel** on **Wednesday, January 14** is celebrating the **Candy Olympics!** Get ready for the upcoming 2026 Winter Olympics by competing in three separate Olympic-style events featuring candy! There will be a prize for the winner of each event. Everyone will get some to take home. Register to join us for a really sweet evening of fun, beginning at **6:30 p.m.** Go online or call **(989) 799-2771**.

Hoyt is also getting into sugary fun with the **Teen Dessert Decorating Challenge** on **Saturday, January 17** at **2:30 p.m.** Want to try your hand at being a Master Dessert Decorator? Come join us to decorate some treats - and eat them too! Registration is required. Go to www.saginawlibrary.org/events or call **(989) 755-0904**.

Let Your Creativity Flow at the Library This Month



You deserve time to rewind and recharge. Take a moment for yourself at one of these arty programs this month. Check our website or contact the host branch for registration information or to find out more.

As a famous painter on PBS once said: "There are no mistakes, just happy accidents." Join us for a **Happy Little Paintalong** at **Butman-Fish** on **Thursday, January 8** at **6 p.m.** Flex your creative muscles using pre-drawn or blank canvases to create a work of art! All you need to bring is your creativity and willingness to try something new.

At **Zauel**, you can try your hand at **Acrylic Painting. Simply.** on **Monday, January 12** at **1:15 p.m.** Pick up a paintbrush and work some magic with acrylic paint on canvas. The instructor will help you, step-by-step, create a beautiful wintry scene. We will have a relaxing and fun time, meet new friends and surprise ourselves with how creative we really can be!

Learn the basics of drawing from observation or just pop in for open draw time at Butman-Fish's **Let's Draw Some Fruit** on **Monday, January 12** at **5:30 p.m.** Sketching pencils and paper will be provided but feel free to bring your own.

You can take beginner lessons in the **Continental Knitting** method at **Zauel** on **Tuesday, January 13** at **6:30 p.m.** Or, if you are an experienced knitter, just bring a project to work on and join us for an evening of socializing together.

Wickes will host a **Mystery Craft** on **Tuesday, January 20** at **4:30 p.m.** We might be using alcohol inks. Or paints. Or, we might be making greeting cards. Or doing decoupage. It's a mystery!

Cross Stitch Fun is new on the calendar at **Hoyt** this month. We'll be stitching a woodland fox pattern on **Saturday, January 24** at **11 a.m.** Beginners are welcome!

Calligraphy is the art and practice of beautiful writing. Sign up to learn the basics of **Blackletter/Gothic Calligraphy** at **Butman-Fish** on **Monday, January 26** at **5 p.m.** All skill levels are welcome. Calligraphy markers will be provided, but feel free to bring your own pen or marker if you have one.

Get an early start on celebrating Valentine's Day by making a **Wire Heart Wreath** at **Zauel** on **Tuesday, January 27** at **5:30 p.m.** We will form a red heart, then decorate it with white pearls and red wire.

Carry the fun home with **Take & Make Kits** while supplies last! From New Year's Card-Making and Mini Calendar Kits at Butman-Fish, to Make It Monday Kids Craft Kits at Zauel, to Peaceful Pinwheel Kits at Wickes and Celestial Wand Kits at Hoyt, there's a take & make craft for you! See www.saginawlibrary.org/events for dates of availability.



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Branch Hours

Butman-Fish Library

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

Hoyt Library

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

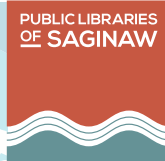
Wickes Library

Monday-Thursday Noon-6pm

Zael Library

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

www.saginawlibrary.org



Together We Inspire . . .

Expand Your Digital Library

Did you know that we have an ebook reciprocal lending agreement with many other library systems in the state? To access the digital collections of our partner libraries, you'll need the Libby app, the barcode number off of your library card and your PIN (usually the last four digits of the telephone number on your library record).

In the Libby app, tap the center menu button and scroll down to "Add Library". Search for each one of the partner libraries on the list below and select "Sign In With My Card". Click on your **MLLC – Public Libraries of Saginaw** card and type in your barcode and PIN. Each additional partner library will need to be added one at a time.



Libby.

OUR PARTNER LIBRARIES ON THE LIBBY APP:

- Bay County Library System
- Download Destination
- Great Lakes Digital Libraries
- Lakeland Digital Library

- Metro Net Library Consortium
- Midwest Collaborative for Library Services
- Southwest Michigan Digital Library
- St. Clair County Library System
- Suburban Library Cooperative

- Traverse Area District Library
- Up North Digital Collection
- White Pine Library Cooperative
- Woodlands Downloadable Library

Take a Tour of the Hoyt Archives

Do you want a peek at the storage areas where the Local History and Genealogy (LHG) Collection keeps some of its fascinating treasures? Join us for a **Tour of the Hoyt Library Archives** on **Tuesday, January 13 at 6:30 p.m.** We'll be taking a look at how the library collects, organizes, and preserves Saginaw's past.

Registration is required. Please visit www.saginawlibrary.org/event/hoyt-library-archives-tour-32252, or call (989) 755-9827 for more information about the tour.

