

# “Book Banter” on the “Coolest Coast” Courtesy of Therese & Tina

Apr 11, 2023 | 4:00 PM

[Local News](#)



*This article was written by Therese Horstketter, an Adult Services Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library. You’ve gotta love books!*

And if you love books, you usually love talking about them.

Book discussions really only take two people, and I’ve had plenty of those. But, in 2021, I was very fortunate to pair up with Tina Prigge of “Coolest Coast” fame to begin a monthly program to talk books. It takes place during “Coffee on the Coast” and our time together is called “Book Banter.” We meet online via our computer screens and share a small handful of book titles each session. Sometimes the titles have already been perused, and sometimes they’re suggestions of upcoming and potentially amazing reads.

This actually started accidentally. We got together to discuss books via “Coffee on the Coast” during COVID on occasion, and since we enjoyed it so much, we decided to make it a monthly visit. We take about a half-hour each installment and usually discuss 5 or 6 books. We welcome public comments since we’re livestreaming if you’ve read a certain book we’re discussing, or enjoy the work of an author we make note of. We’ve even received a comment from a fan on vacation in Portugal that was still taking in the program even though they were half-a-world away.

I am so lucky to get to work with Tina! Besides being half of “Coolest Coast” with her husband, Jason Prigge, and all of the promotion they do for our community, Tina still finds time to read. I think she could be described as a voracious reader. And she’s great with bringing out good descriptions of the books that really make readers want to get these books in their hands.

I love watching her listen to the story of a book she hasn’t read that unfolds while I’m mentioning it. Her eyes get steadily bigger, and before we’re done with our visit, she has several new books placed on hold with Libby, the eBook service that’s available FREE via MPL’s website. I’m surprised that I haven’t completely lost her sometimes mid-episode—to find out that she’s ducked-out early to start reading something new while we’re still online. Really, Tina is a wonderfully-calm presence, who still remains fully-involved with the book talks, and me, and other readers.

I really enjoy having patrons walk by after one of our book features with a book in their hands that I’ve recommended, who turn to me and say “It better be good!” And it’s even better when someone stops to mention how much they’ve enjoyed a book we shared on “Book Banter.”

Some of my favorite “Banter” books have been:

*The Kind Worth Killing*: a book full of twists and turns as two people meet in an airport and actually decide who is worth killing.



*Therese Horstketter*

*The Last Flight*: two women, each with a life they would like to leave behind, decide to switch plane tickets, and then one of the planes goes down.

*Other People's Houses*: four families comprise a neighborhood and Frances is the carpool mom for most rides. However, she's not the only one privy to secrets and mistaken about others.

*The Dreamers*: a college student comes home one evening and cannot be woken up. Her eyes move, but there's no other response. And there's a pandemic that isolates the town she's in.

*Nothing to See Here*: one very well-to-do college friend invites another, who is out of sorts, to move in with her family and help raise her twin stepchildren, who, incidentally, spontaneously combust.

*Beneath the Flames*: based on the author's true life career as a firefighter, this fictional account pulls you into that world and its characters.

*The Husband's Secret*: a woman finds a note addressed to her, in her attic. It's from her husband, with the direction to open it after he is dead. He is still very much alive—what would you do?

*We Begin at the End*: self-proclaimed outlaw Duchess Day Radley, age 13, is the center of this story, with a mother unable to care for her, a recently freed convict, and a sheriff that completes a trio of hurting adults.

*Our Souls at Night*: a beautiful, thoughtful, heartbreaking story of 2 casual neighbors, seniors who have both lost their spouses, and their efforts to make life contain a bit more of what it previously held.

*Lights out in Lincolnwood*: what happens when a family of 4 and their neighbors finds all of their power off? No lights, refrigeration, TV, phones, cars. How fast do human connections and support dissolve or how long do they hold together in this New Jersey suburb?

*Razorblade Tears*: one black man, one white man, the fathers to two men that married each other and then were brutally murdered. The two fathers, not always understanding or supporting their sons' choices, now move together to try to solve what the police have not.

I hope that one of these books appeals to you! And for more recommendations and literary conversations, please join myself and Tina on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at 2 PM for Book Banter on the Coolest Coast via "Coffee on the Coast!"

# FANtastic Things Are Happening at Manitowoc Public Library

Apr 4, 2023 | 3:00 PM

[Local News](#)



## Family Activity Night

# Cupcake Shop

**Tuesday, April 18, 6:30PM**

**Open to ages 5 & older. Online  
Registration opens April 4 at 5PM**



*The following article was written by Lynn Christiansen, a Youth Services Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

If you've been to the Library on Tuesday nights, you may have witnessed a variety of different things going on in the Youth Department. It may have been something crafty, like Shrinky Dinks or beach trash art. It might have been an opportunity to learn about animals with Woodland Dunes Nature Center or a local 4-H Club. All of these programs (and more) are done as part of our Family Activity Nights, or FANs as we like to call them. Read on to find out about the great programs we've got coming up in the next couple of months.

We're trying out a new program in April called Cupcake Shop. This is being done as part of "Money Smart Week," which is a national public education program that empowers people with the knowledge and skills to make better-informed personal financial decisions.

Young participants will be given MPL Dollars (play money) to purchase a cupcake, as well as frosting, coloring, and toppings. The catch? They won't have enough money to buy everything and will have to make decisions as to how to best spend their funds. Participants will also receive a Money Smart activity booklet.

The Cupcake Shop event is geared for ages 5-11. It will take place on Tuesday, April 18, at 6:30 PM, and will last approximately 45 minutes. Registration is required and will open on Tuesday, April 4 at 5 PM. Click on the following link to visit the registration page: [www.manitowoclibrary.org/event/family-activity-night-cupcake-shop](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org/event/family-activity-night-cupcake-shop).

May 9 sees the return of a FAN favorite—Family Prom! Dust off your dancing shoes and dress as fancy or as plain as you like. Get your groove on while you enjoy snacks, activities, and a photo-op! This event is open to All Ages and no registration is required. The beat will drop at 6:30 PM and the dance will last approximately 45 minutes.



*Lynn Christiansen*

Later in May, we will be teaming up with Grow It Forward for another new program called “Lettuce Harvest Together.” The following is a description of the program, which was provided by Grow It Forward—

*“The production of fresh food close to home is essential to a happier and healthier community. Join Grow It Forward’s urban farmers to learn how to grow fresh food indoors! Experience hands on interaction with Fork Farms hydroponic technology and earn your first urban farming badge. Lettuce Harvest Together!”*

This program will serve as an introduction to hydroponic gardening. Grow It Forward will be bringing some of their growing units to the Library for families to work with. The hope is that this will turn into a series of programs that Grow It Forward would hold at MPL in the future. This introductory program will take place on Tuesday, May 23, at 6:30 PM, and is open to All Ages. No registration is required.

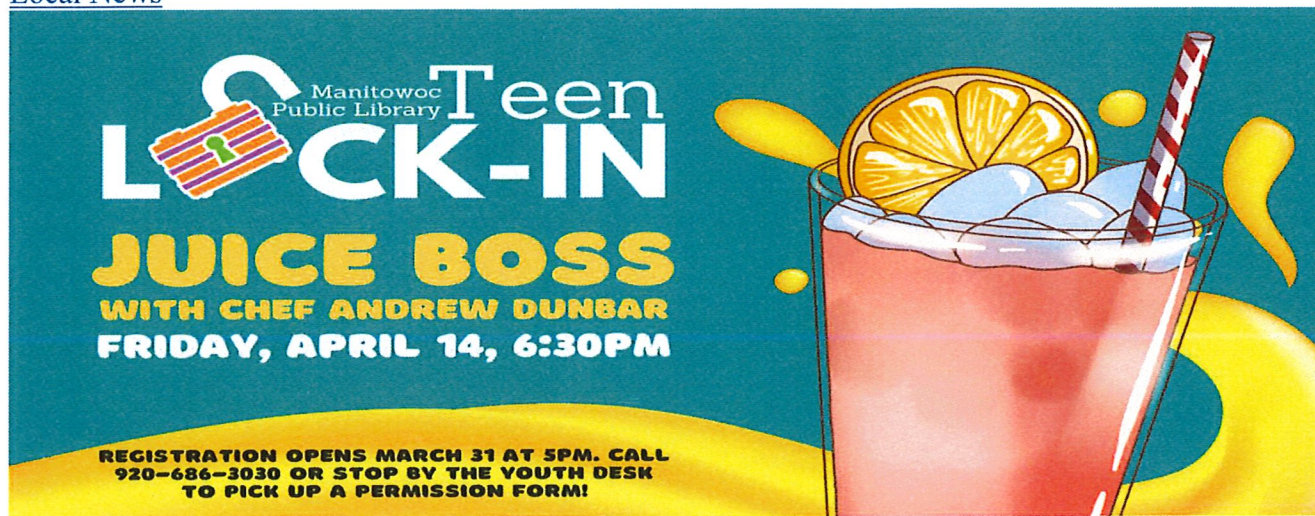
You can find more information about Family Activity Nights, as well as all of our other programming and services by visiting our website—[www.manitowoclibrary.org](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org).

If you’re not already a FAN of Manitowoc Public Library, what are you waiting for?!

# MPL to Host Teen Lock in With Local Chef

Apr 8, 2023 | 4:00 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by Local Chef, Andrew Dunbar*

I think most of us—well, most of us old enough to still read a newspaper—have very fond memories of fresh pitchers of lemonade and lemonade stands. Hot summer days and cool iced roadside drinks. Is this sort of refreshment a thing of the past? Is it, like so many other nostalgically-pleasurable things in this world, something that just didn't make it to the next generation?

Well, I am here to make sure that the tradition of *that* particular delicious drink stays alive!

In the upcoming "Juice Boss Teen Lock-In," I'll be instructing the group of teenagers attending this Library's Lock-In not only how to make a delicious batch of the Perfect Lemonade, but also how to spice it up and make it into something altogether uniquely different. We'll use the skills that we started to train-in during last September's "Sauce Boss" class (don't worry if you missed that one; these are easy-to-acquire skills) to pick out flavors that pair well with each other and use those tastes to punch up the lemonade.

It's a fun and interesting process. Finding flavors that enhance and improve one another doesn't necessarily mean unifying flavors that we categorize as "going together." Every so often—as is the case with colors on a color wheel—going in the opposite direction can make magic happen. And *that's* what we are going to do!

Naturally, we'll take look at "The Classics," such as adding some fresh strawberries and perhaps taking a shot at making our own blackberry mash to add to the mix. However, the real fun part of "Juice Boss" is what's going to happen when we take these Teens out of their comfort zones. Let's see how they like their juice when we add a touch of basil to the strawberry lemonade. Or when we add the jalapenos to the blackberry mash! Taking a flavor and pairing it with something that is complimentary—but not necessarily from the anticipated flavor group—is when amazing (odd, but amazing) flavor pairings are going to come out.



Andrew Dunbar

While basil and jalapeno are not the only enhancers we'll be calling into play the night of "Juice Boss," I hope that those examples help to paint a picture that we're just not going to be dumping scoops of powder into some water and calling it lemonade.

No. No, we are not.

From the fresh squeezed lemons all the way down to the fresh glacier water that has been blessed by a medicine man . . . okay, so maybe that last part wasn't exactly accurate, but Manitowoc public water is still pretty good. This will not only be a fun-filled night, but it'll also be something that I hope helps to develop the taste, independence, and desire for adventure in our Teens when it comes to their culinary minds.

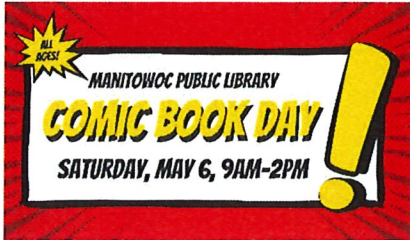
So, Teens, if you're between the ages of 11 and 17, and are in the mood for a bit of taste-filled adventure, why not join me from 6:30-7:30 PM on Friday, April 14, in Manitowoc Public Library's Balkansky Community Room for the "Juice Boss Teen Lock-In" event! I hope to see as many people there as possible and remember to always keep your food interesting!

Registration is required and is open now! A signed permission form is required for entry into these after-hours programs. Call 920-686-3030 or stop by the Youth Services Desk to sign up! Participants are asked to arrive no earlier than 6:30 PM the evening of "Juice Boss." *Space is limited!*

# KAPOW!!! Celebrate Comic Book Day at Manitowoc Public Library

Apr 26, 2023 | 3:00 PM

[Local News](#)



*The following article was written by Tony Plekan, a Public Services Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

Join us Saturday, May 6, at Manitowoc Public Library for Comic Book Day! Come dressed as your favorite comic book character, participate in fun activities, and enter to win some incredible comic-inspired giveaways.

You'll be able to explore the Library with a comic book scavenger hunt. Can you figure out the clues and find the comic book super villains hidden throughout MPL? Find all of them and earn a small candy treat!

Bring the kids for some arts and crafts in the Youth Department. Stations will be setup for making your own superhero mask and with comic book coloring pages.

We will also be giving away free comic books! The first 70 patrons get their pick of available titles. It's the perfect way to start or add to your very own comic book collection. There's a variety of *Marvel* and *DC* comics to choose from. There are some titles for juvenile readers, while the majority of comics are intended for young adults (may not be suitable for all audiences). Stop in to claim a free comic—while supplies last!

Everyone can enter our Comic Book Day Raffle! Submit a ticket for one of our fantastic prizes, including:

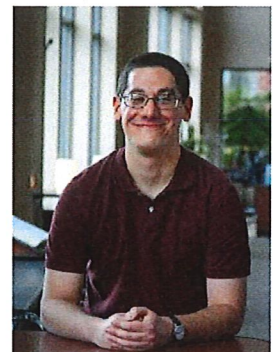
- A collection of *The Flash* books
- *Avengers* keychains made with our 3D Printer
- Some truly unique comic creations made with our Glowforge 3D Laser Printer
- Come to our Comic Book Day in costume (or comic apparel) and receive a bonus ticket!

Speaking of costumes, there will be a Comic Book Photo station in the Youth Department. Assemble your friends and family to take a group photo in your favorite superhero outfit. A comic-themed backdrop will be provided and you can use your own camera to take a Super Snapshot!

You can also enter our Costume Contest. We'll take a picture and post it to our Facebook page for voting. The winner of the Costume Contest gets a Bonus Prize!

Activities will be available from 9 AM-2 PM. Best of all—no registration is required! Winners of the raffle will be notified the following week. All prizes are available while supplies last.

Make sure you stop by MPL to take a look at our display of collector's comics. These specialty comics were generously loaned to the Library from local comic book enthusiasts. If you're interested in starting a serious comic book collection, this is the perfect place to learn a little more about collecting and see some spectacular titles firsthand. They will be on display the week leading up to Comic Book Day and featured in the glass display case by the Self-Checks.



Tony Plekan

All ages are welcome! So, whether you're new to comics or a lifelong fan, you'll have an amazing time at Comic Book Day at Manitowoc Public Library on Saturday, May 6.