



125 S. Prospect Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 279-8696 • Fax (630) 516-1364 • www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org

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Contact Information:
Cheryl Moore, Public Information Coordinator
Office: 630-279-8696, ext. 306
Fax: 630-516-1364
Email: Cheryl.moore@elmhurst.org

‘Discover Your Story’ at Elmhurst Public Library Technology and Personal Family Stories Give Shape to Family Tree

ELMHURST, IL — With genealogy research rising in popularity at the Library, a series of spring programs entitled, “Discover Your Story” are underway at the Elmhurst Public Library.

Patrons are invited to discover their own story by taking part in programs such as Tell Me a Story: An Oral History Project, Elmhurst Writers Group, A Family’ Tale Unplugged: Sculpting Your Story, Finding Living Family, Write Your Family Story, and more.

While digital records make the information of past generations more accessible than ever before, Programming Coordinator Kim Calkins says it’s important to remember the untapped potential in our current generation of family members, too.

“We see history through the lens of all that’s happened in the past,” says Calkins. “But we are also currently creating history.” Using the resources at the Library, Calkins hopes people find their own story by writing, archiving photographs and home movies, writing, and using technology to capture and store memories. The Library’s Oral History Project encourages adults and children to have meaningful, face-to-face conversations to share stories in the Library’s Creative Studio using digital recording equipment. “Discover Your Story” is all about asking questions like, “How did you meet Grandpa?” or, “what do you remember about the war?”

“When we learn about our family, we learn about our own story,” says Calkins. “We build empathy and connections. These days, it feels like everything is so immediate. We’ve been trained to react instead of absorb. Sharing experiences through our stories is a great way to build community, in the family or at large.”

For a complete list and registration info for “Discover Your Story” programming, visit elmlib.org/discover.

Elmhurst Public Library enriches life in Elmhurst by providing opportunities to connect, create, and explore. EPL provides the support, resources, and environment for Elmhurst patrons to: pursue a love of reading; access information; explore interests; engage with technology; connect with others; and create and innovate. Elmhurst Public Library is the place for discovery at the heart of the community.

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