

April 2025

# Teens' EVENTS GUIDE

## Beale Memorial Library

### find us!

701 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

[www.kernlibrary.org](http://www.kernlibrary.org)

### contact us!

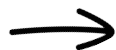
phone  
661-868-0701

email  
[info@kernlibrary.org](mailto:info@kernlibrary.org)

### hours

Monday - Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sign up for  
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newsletters!



### Find us on social!



**KERN**  
COUNTY  
LIBRARY



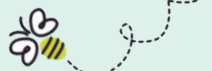
# Events for Teens



## Sensory Crafting

**Ages 12-18** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND & 16TH | TEJON ROOM

Celebrate Autism Acceptance Month and create your own sensory bottle crafts. Supplies are limited so get there early!



## Photography On the Go

**Ages 12-18+** FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH, 11TH, 18TH, & 25TH | 1-3 P.M.

Learn how to navigate your phone for on-the-go photography! This four-week course includes learning the tools in your phone, editing apps you can use for free, and photo-taking activities with each lesson.



## Dungeons & Dragons Campaign

**Ages 12-18** SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH & 26TH | 1-3 P.M.

Join our tabletop role-playing game where players create characters and embark on adventures led by a Dungeon Master. Explore dungeons, interact with non-player characters, and engage in battles using dice rolls to determine the outcomes of their actions.



## Anime & Art

**Ages 12-18** MONDAYS | 4-5 P.M. TEJON ROOM

Join us every Monday to watch anime chosen by your votes, streamed through Crunchyroll. While you watch, try your hand at practicing different anime drawing styles and enjoy the fun!



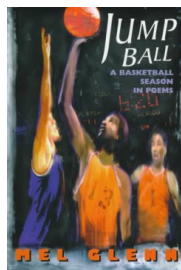
## DIY Soap Making

**Ages 12-18+** WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH | 5-6 P.M. TEJON ROOM

Get hands-on and create your own custom soap bars! Choose from a variety of colors, scents, and molds to design something uniquely yours. All materials are provided - just bring your creativity and join the fun while supplies last! This program is open to teens and adults.

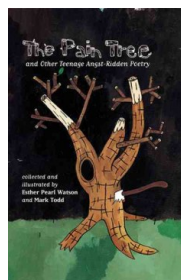


## On the Hunt for New Books



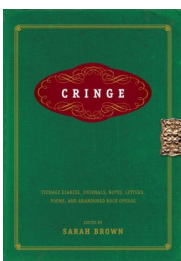
## Jump Ball by Mel Glenn

"Jump Ball" tells the story of a high school basketball team's season through a series of poems reflecting the feelings of students, their families, teachers, and coaches.



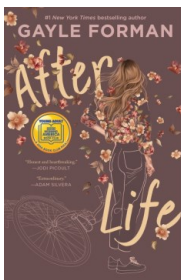
## The Pain Tree, and Other Teenage Angst-Ridden Poetry by Ester Pearl Watson

This is a book of original poetry by and for teens. Dramatic, plaintive, despairing, and hopeful, this unusual collection has been gathered together by artists Esther Pearl Watson and Mark Todd and dramatically illustrated with stunning paintings. The illustrators searched Web sites and sought the help of the editors of REACT and SEVENTEEN magazines to find poems by teenagers.



## Cringe: Teenage Diaries, Journals, Notes, Letters, Poems, and Abandoned Rock Operas by Sarah Brown

This compilation of real teenage diary and journal entries, letters, songs, stories, and lists--along with biting commentary, background, and self-examination from the now so-called grown-ups who wrote them--offers a voyeuristic glimpse at the roller coaster of youth in all of its navel-gazing, soul-searching, social-skewering glory.



## After Life by Gayle Forman

One spring afternoon after school, Amber arrives home on her bike. It's just another perfectly normal day. But when Amber's mom sees her, she screams. Because Amber died seven years ago, hit by a car while on the very same bicycle she's inexplicably riding now. This mysterious return doesn't impact only Amber. Her sister, Melissa, now seven years older, must be a new kind of sibling to Amber. Amber's now-estranged parents are battling over her.



Check out some artwork  
from our previous Teen  
Scene members!

## Teen Scene Highlights



### The Handmaid's Tale: A Boy's Review

By Aden J. Gutierrez

## Book Review

My first introduction to Margaret Atwood's famous novel was through its adaptation on Hulu. Although I have yet to watch it, I have seen fragments of episodes throughout social media that stuck in my mind. For one, the infamous red cloaks and white hoods were synonymous with the story in my head. What do these garments mean? Of course, they are some sort of suppressive attack on women, but to what extent? Why the color red? Why the hoods? Fortunately, it was on my high school's summer reading list. I quickly plucked it from my stacks of unread books and began to read. The 311 pages were soon gone in a matter of two days. The word Gilead entrances me and greatly impacted me.

The Handmaid's Tale is a viscerally calamitous novel inject with graphic topics such as sexism, physical and spiritual abuse, and interpersonal violence. Atwood handles these topics with rash bleakness. For the women of Gilead, these are just usual occurrences that require no second thoughts. I would recommend this book to persons aged sixteen and older (of course, parental approval is recommended) because of its mature content.

The writing style is fairly simplistic and straightforward but maintains a somewhat otherworldly ambiance. Gilead seems so apocalyptic, so far away yet so closely possible. During a scene where women first begin to lose their rights and Offred is fired, her boss says, "I have to let you go...It's the law. I am really sorry." Atwood often addresses such drastic and seemingly impossible events with a filter of casualness, as if they are just regular occasions. I admire this approach. Atwood has the characters act in the only way that they can. In reality, how would women react to finding out there were fired? One would think chaotically, but that is not the case. With armed military outside the door and an immense shock, any person would freeze up in this scenario. Atwood's approach to the women's reactions is what makes the story not only believable, but unique.

For more event information, visit our website - [www.kclevents.org](http://www.kclevents.org)  
Library workshops, performances, and events are FREE and open to the public. We're adding more programs all the time! At times, programs may be rescheduled or canceled without advance notice.

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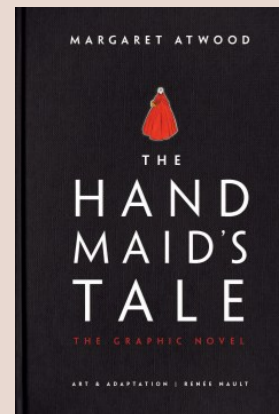
## Teen Scene Highlights

As for the plot, it is revolutionary. Atwood thoroughly portrays the town of Gilead from the point of view of a handmaid, Offred. Offred and the other Handmaids have been abusively trained for one purpose: to reproduce. Handmaids are selected for their fertility, as they are to birth children for the Commanders. In this society, women have been diminished to second-class roles. They may be maids called Marthas, trainers called Aunts, reproductive slaves called Handmaids, or Commanders' romantic companions called Wives. If they wish to escape such functions and manage to avoid hanging, they will be called Unwomen, sent to the Colonies, and forced to work until their deaths.

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood is a thought-provoking and harrowing read that captivates its readers from start to finish. The book's exploration of sexism, oppression, and the resilience of the human spirit leaves a lasting impact. One of the reasons Margaret Atwood's work has remained relevant for almost forty years is its profound exploration of the consequences of a patriarchal society. Her novel can be interpreted and applied in many different scenarios, even today. I urge anyone reading this right now to head to your local library or bookstore, grab a copy of The Handmaid's Tale, and read it while it's still allowed. You will not be disappointed.

### The Handmaid's Tale

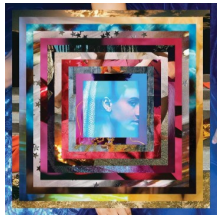
by Margaret Atwood



Margaret Atwood's best-loved novel has taken the world by storm again. The story is iconic: In the Republic of Gilead, a Handmaid named Offred lives in the home of the Commander, to the purpose that she become pregnant with his child. Stripped of her most basic freedoms, (work, property, her own name), Offred remembers a different time, not so long ago, when she was valuable for more than her viable ovaries, when she was mother to a daughter she could keep, and when she and her husband lived and loved as equals. Darkly prescient, scathingly sarcastic, and eminently frightening, The Handmaid's Tale has only gained relevance since it was originally published, and remains one of the most powerful, widely read stories of our times.

# Jazz Appreciation Month

Explore the sounds and melodies of jazz music in celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month!

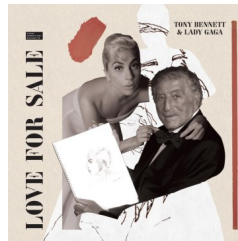


## 12 Little Spells by Esperanza Spalding

A genre-defying album finds Esperanza Spalding conjuring in the medium of musical creation through an exploration of the body, human energy, and healing.

## Love for Sale by Tony Bennett

Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga recorded Love for Sale, their second duet album, with the knowledge that it was likely the last from Bennett. Back in 2016, two years before the sessions for Love for Sale started, Bennett was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. By the time Love for Sale was released in 2021, he'd officially retired from live performances. The Gaga collaboration wasn't billed as Bennett's final album, but given his health and advanced age (he turned 95 in 2021), Love for Sale is more likely than not a farewell.



## New Orleans Party by Big Al Carson

Explore the sounds of the Big Easy with the latest collection from the acclaimed Putumayo label.

## Revolutionary Love by Ani DiFranco

As a whole, Revolutionary Love is economical and smooth. The title track is drenched in gentle yet gritty soul. As a slide guitar, brushed snare, and Wurlitzer pave the way, one can hear traces of Percy Mayfield in the melody.



# Spelling Bee

Letters: **B A H T K E L**

Guess the words from this batch of letters!

3 Letters:

A \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ B

4 Letters:

\_ \_ E \_ K

\_ \_ E \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ L \_ \_

H \_ \_ A \_ \_

H \_ \_ T \_ \_

5 Letters:

L A \_ \_ \_ \_

B \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_

8 Letters:

T \_ \_ \_ K \_ \_ \_ L \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ L L \_ \_ \_ L \_ \_

Answers:  
Tab, Ate  
Heal, Leak, Ball, Hate  
Halt, Label, Bathe  
Talkable, Telltale

