

Executive Director's Report March 2020

What's New @ AHML

New & Popular

Some new items added to the Library of Things:

- Phone sanitizer
- Diamond tester
- El: The Chicago Transit Adventure game
- Piano keyboard



New Streaming Services on Roku

Digital Services Supervisor Gregory Berger has updated our Roku to accommodate more streaming services. We will now have three different colors of Rokus: Red with Netflix, Amazon Prime and HBO Now; Blue with Netflix, CBS, All Access and Showtime; White with Netflix, Disney+ and Hulu. Each color has six devices circulating. The Roku Reds and Blues are currently available and the Roku Whites will begin circulation in March.

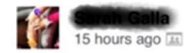
Diversity and Inclusion

Sensory Storytime for Miner School Students

Youth Outreach Specialist Kim McGuire developed and presented a sensory storytime to help welcome school-age students from Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) Miner School to the library for a class visit on Thursday, February 13. Five pre/nonverbal students, some in wheelchairs, enjoyed simple stories and related activities using manipulatives, music, and instruments. The teacher expressed her appreciation for thoughtful planning of the visit and our large library that could accommodate her students in wheelchairs and their one-on-one aides.

Olive School Visit

Circulation Assistant Lisa Costin and ESL Advisor Amy Duffey joined Youth Services staff in attending an event at Olive-Mary Still Elementary School geared towards non-English speaking families. Library staff gave a demonstration of our website, talked about ESL services and shared information about signing up for library cards. AHML even received a special mention via social media post.



What a fabulous event last night - our first ELL/Bilingual Family Night! An extensive thank you goes out to our Every Owl Counts Committee Chairs, **Karen Joseph** and **Monika Tietz**, who put this event together. Volunteers helped kids make crafts, read books, (and even shared a magic trick!), while parents heard from resources available to ESL families.

It couldn't have been such a success without the participation and support of our OMS Admin, our OMS ELL teacher, Mrs. Wrobel, as well as the Arlington Heights Memorial Library (thank you, **Amy Wiltse Duffey**)! The AHML was there to share ESL resources, as well as sign up anyone - parent/child - for a library card on the spot!

Another shout out to our OMS Librarian, Mrs. Brown, who has worked with our Every Owl Counts committee to highlight books celebrating diversity that are on display in the library.

It definitely takes a village to support all of our families, and we are incredibly grateful to be part of such a wonderful community!

 and 35 others

When Home Won't Let You Stay

Our newest exhibit, 'When Home Won't Let You Stay: Stories of Refugees in America' opened February 12. The exhibit features 18 compelling human portraits of refugees in America by Chicago documentary artist and photographer James A. Bowey. James has traveled the United States meeting refugees, listening to their stories and capturing their portraits on location. Each subject and their first-person story accompanies their photograph. The images and stories are available on takeaway "story cards." Visitors are encouraged to take a story to keep or to share. Library customers are encouraged to share their own stories on the exhibit's Community Story Wall. Library staff developed book displays for both adults and children -- the latter offers age-appropriate reading suggestions to support younger audiences, families and adults in their discussions. Since opening, the exhibit has succeeded in opening conversation about diversity, inclusiveness and cultural understanding in our community.



Library Highlights

Hersey Entrepreneurship Class Visit

Teen Advisor Sonya Hill and Digital Media Specialist Chris Smith visited John Hersey High School’s entrepreneurship class to talk about what library services are available for their projects, highlighting unique features of the Studios.



Wax Museum Night at Ivy Hill

In January, Ivy Hill Elementary School 5th graders took field trips to the library for a tour and to learn how to search for and find biographies. Youth Outreach Librarian Emily Loeffler and Tween Librarian Kerry Bailey accepted an invitation to attend the *Wax Museum Night* on Tuesday, February 25. The costumed fifth-grade ‘wax statues’ presented on what they learned from their biography study. Teachers commented they were happy with the field trips to the library, as it resulted in different and new ‘wax statues’ this year. Students were grateful for the library’s support: “Thank you for giving us the books! Without you we’d be up here with nothing to say!”

Sixth Annual Readers' Party

Info Services' Readers' Advisors worked with Programs and Exhibits' staff to plan and host the 6th Annual Readers Party on February 11. More than 50 customers attended the event. Readers' Advisors highlighted upcoming books and an overview of resources the library has to offer for personal book clubs. Attendees participated in group-discussions, decorated notebooks to track their 2020 reading and enjoyed refreshments while mingling with one another and library staff. A round of library trivia awarded winning teams with Library Card mugs and Book Nerd enamel pins!

Successful Federal Job Search

On Monday, February 17, Master Federal Career Coach Nancy Segal shared tips for finding federal job opportunities, determining if your qualifications match federal openings and completing the extensive documents necessary to apply for a federal position. Customers asked thoughtful questions about the workshop's wide-ranging content. In response to the demand for this type of programming, we will host another Illinois state employment program in March.



AARP Tax Appointments summary

One hundred and forty three customers had tax appointments during the month of February: a 24% increase from February 2019 (115).

Small Business Coffee and Connect

In response to a customer suggestion, Business Services Advisor Diane Malik started a bi-monthly small business networking and roundtable event at the library called *Small Business Coffee & Connect*. This provides small businesses and entrepreneurs a free and informal place to interact. They make new connections and share best practices. By all accounts, the first event this month was a success! Twenty people attended and it ran nearly one hour past the allotted time, as everyone was enthusiastically networking and sharing business cards. Attendees were clearly thankful that the library was hosting this type of event and that it will be offered throughout the year.

Civics and Voting Events

Info Services Supervisor Elizabeth Ludemann planned a suite of civics and voting events. *Be an Informed Voter* saw nine attendees, who learned about the voting process and gathering information about candidates. The League of Women Voters (LWV) hosted a *Voter Registration Drive*, registering eight new voters and interacting with many more during a busy day at the library. The LWV also brought their *Candidate Forum* to the library, hosting candidates for the local Illinois State Representative district 54 race. The event brought in 97 community members and was [highlighted in local news outlets](#).



League of Women Voters Census Awareness

On February 9, the library provided Wi-Fi hotspots to the Arlington Heights League of Women Voters (LWV) for their inaugural canvassing event *Stroll the Polls*. Both the LWV and Rolling Meadows High School students knocked on doors throughout the area, informing residents of the upcoming elections and the 2020 census.

LET'S GO, LEGO!

The Lego Train Exhibit made for an exciting and busy weekend on February 15 and February 16. Digital Media Specialist Chris Smith captured video footage of the highly successful Northern Illinois LEGO Train Club exhibit. You can view the time-lapse video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jZs6Z16cZg>

Circulation staff were busy, too! The large crowds checked out 8,000 items, returned over 6,800 items and nearly 1,000 holds were filled over these two days.

Be Internet Awesome!

Focusing on digital safety and citizenship, Tween Librarian Kerry Bailey discussed the importance of privacy and the types of information kids should share online at *Be Internet Awesome* on Wednesday, February 26. Tween participants played computer games on building strong passwords and guidelines for sharing information. The tweens were eager to explore additional game modules on their own.

Teen Job Fair

In partnership with the Arlington Heights Youth Commission, the library hosted the Eighth Annual Teen Job Fair on February 4th. Teen Services Supervisor Alice Son coordinated with 18 local businesses to host a table at the event including AHML. Thirty-six teens were specifically interested in open library positions! Two hundred and sixty-seven teens and their parents met with prospective employers. Meanwhile, downstairs in the Hub, Teen Librarian Evan Mather hosted a *Warm Up* program to help teens prepare with interview questions, hand-shaking technique and breath mints before they made their way into the fair.



Harry Potter Book Night

On Thursday, February 6th a cross-departmental team welcomed 730 witches, wizards and muggles to our 5th annual Harry Potter Book Night – our highest attendance yet! Many families attended the event, as did some adults without children. Attendees enjoyed navigating a giant cardboard maze, testing their spell casting abilities at our spell simulator screen, competing in team trivia, touching live snakes, making dragon eggs, mini terrariums, owls and more. Circulation Assistants Somya Goswami and Mary Weber, Circulation Supervisor Megan Maier and bookmobile Supervisor Teri Scallon got into the wizarding spirit and helped make this year’s Harry Potter Book Night a success. It’s always fun to see so many smiling faces during these special events!

Yule Ball & Butterbeer

Our celebration of all things Harry Potter continued into the weekend with a Yule Ball on Saturday, February 8. Programs and Exhibits Specialist Sam Ryan, Info Services Librarian Alison Lowery and Tween Librarian Kerry Bailey transformed the Hendrickson Room into a great hall greeting 68 attendees dressed for the ball. The social event featured a live performance by wizard rock band *Tonks and the Aurors*, a Harry Potter house ties craft, Harry Potter themed Jenga, chocolate wands and freshly made Butterbeer.



Valentine's Quilled Hearts

Programs and Exhibits Specialist Megan Young worked with art instructor Karina Guico in a hands-on paper-quilling workshop on February 5. Held one week before Valentine's Day, 25 participants walked away with handmade Valentine cards, ready to gift. Karina explained each step, the supplies used and where to buy the tools needed for customers interested in doing this at home.

Virtual College Tours

Digital Services Supervisor Gregory Berger prepared Virtual Reality offerings for the Teen Services program College Knowledge: Maximize Your College Visit on February 18. Gregory helped with the technical delivery of the virtual campus tours to the prospective college students who participated in the program.

Homeschool Workshop: Developing Your Own Educational Philosophy

Homeschooling and library partnership expert and advocate Kathy Wentz, presented information on homeschooling philosophies and curriculum on February 10. She highlighted materials from our collection that work well for many homeschooling curriculums, while also reminding families that they can request materials via Interlibrary Loan as well. Later that week, the monthly Homeschool Hangout drew a crowd of 27 attendees and expressed their appreciation for the Homeschool Workshop program. Lia, a mother that regularly attends Homeschool Hangout, shared that her son is finally excited about something

Staff Development

Go BIG! (Business Interest Group)

Beginning this month, Business Services Advisor Diane Malik was appointed to co-chair two local committees. She now serves as the Co-Chair of the Connections Team for the Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce and Co-Chair for the BIG (Business Interest Group) committee of local library staff in business services roles.

Homelessness Training

Digital Services Supervisor Gregory Berger and Digital Services Manager Jack Bower attended the training Homelessness 201: Deeper Understanding of People Experiencing Homelessness. The training explores the circumstances of people experiencing homelessness that fosters a more empathetic understanding and approach when helping these customers in the library.

Library Services for Homeschoolers

There is minimal research and information on how to serve homeschoolers in a public library setting. Based on her advocacy and experience serving homeschoolers, Kids' World Librarian Christina Caputo was invited by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) to teach an online course on this topic. She is also working on a book with publisher Rowman & Littlefield titled Library Services to Homeschoolers.

PLA Conference 2020

The Public Library Association (PLA) conference was held in Nashville this year, with 16 staff members and 1 Trustee attending. As this conference is specific to public libraries, there were many exciting ideas for increasing library efficiencies, services and community reach. Circulation Services Manager Shannon Meyer learned about increasing cultural intelligence in libraries, decreasing barriers to library use, serving immigrants beyond citizenship, prioritizing equitable outreach and much more. Technology Instruction Coordinator David Olichwier and Digital Services Supervisor Gregory Berger attended sessions on promoting mental wellness, disrupting middle-class bias, the changing role of the MLS and proactive models for managing difficult patron interactions. Collection Supervisor, Violet Jaffe attended several excellent sessions concerning censorship, implicit bias, and diversity and inclusion pertaining to libraries collections. Collection Services Manager Lisa Bobis attended sessions on working through transitions and institutional change, ideas for increasing circulation, staff inclusion in decision making, and bringing personalized service to digital readers' advisory.

Carol Ng-He leads 'How to Create Digital Exhibitions with Library Collections and Archives' Webinar

On February 20, the Curating & Exhibitions Interest Group hosted its first virtual meet-up with the topic "How to Create Digital Exhibitions with Library Collections and Archives." Moderated by Exhibits Coordinator Carol Ng-He, three panelists were featured in the event. The meet-up provided examples of digital exhibits that were developed by the Chicago Collections Consortium and the Illinois State Library. Fifty-four attendees participated in the event and the conversation was recorded and made available online.