

Executive Director's Report January 2020

Diversity and Inclusion

Celebrating Culture and Cuisine at Ttowa Korean Bistro

Ttowa Korean Bistro opened their doors to 30 library customers on December 9 to share an overview of Korean Culture through food. Owner and Chef Terry Park and his staff, with help from Sam Ryan, Programs and Exhibits Specialist and Jennifer Czajka, Programs and Exhibits Manager, began the family-style service, serving seven different dishes. The large tables, with shared food, built camaraderie with conversations between neighbors bustling throughout the event. Feedback was incredibly positive. A majority told staff Jennifer and Sam how much they value their library and the variety of library programs offered.



Sunday Musicale Series Featuring Makani

Makani performed a traditional Hawaiian holiday celebration on December 15. 111 customers attended and enjoyed the music, dance and interactive elements of the program including Hawaiian treats and leis. Attendees shared positive praise for this performance and the entire series, sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



“Very polished performers who looked like they were enjoying performing for us. Good getting the audience involved too.”

“The entire Sunday Musicale program has been stellar. We try to not miss any of these performances.”

English as a Second Language

Our ESL End-of-the-Year Celebrations were held on December 19. Over 100 customers, a mix of students, tutors and families attended. Feedback was incredibly positive, students enjoy the chance to talk to other students and native speakers, and tutors enjoy meeting other volunteers and participants in our program. In our ESL/Literacy Office there are 255 active students who come from 30 different first languages. The top five first languages are Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Russian and Polish.

Outreach and Engagement

Bookmobile staff collaborated with Evan Mather, from Teen Services, for two visits to Forest View, seeing both Newcomer Center and Vanguard School students. These visits were set up to offer teens reading material for their holiday break.



The bookmobile and Catalina Shin, our Bilingual Advisor, have visited Misión San Juan Diego six months in a row now and are becoming a regular fixture at the mass monthly. This month we signed up six reciprocal borrower cards and registered two new resident library cards.

Library Highlights

Teen Finals Study

We offered teen finals study rooms during District 214 final exams. We had 409 teens use the conference rooms during finals week. Conference rooms averaged 142 reservations per day and 84% capacity during finals week.

Census 2020 Preparation

Info Services Librarian Becky Thornton, ESL staff and Digital Services Manager Jack Bower are working to prepare the library for the 2020 census. Jack will be coordinating with Information Technology staff to establish two dedicated census computer stations, one near the Marketplace, and one in the ESL office, for customers to easily take the census with as few barriers as possible. Jack coordinated with Illinois State Library Chief Deputy Director Joe Natale, who heads the State Library's census efforts, to present on libraries' role in the census at the library's staff training day.

Sing Along with Jim Gill

Popular children’s musician Jim Gill performed for 171 excited customers on December 28. Families danced, sang and did finger plays during his many high-energy songs. Fifty-eight customers attended the second performance, a supported sing-along specifically designed to keep a child’s attention. The supported concert offered fidget toys and lap weights, as well as a representative from C.I.T.Y. of Support. One customer shared that her child was overwhelmed by the first performance, but completely engaged in the supported concert – even sitting in the front row!



Storytime with Author Sherri Rinker

Author Sherri Rinker entertained 141 library customers on December 14 sharing how bedtime with her son inspired her well-known and loved book *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site*. She then read her latest book, *Three Cheers for Kid McGear!* Afterwards, she signed books and shared more stories with children, parents and grandparents, some traveling from Door County just to see her. Rinker’s visit was presented at no cost to the library through collaboration with The Book Stall.



Chef Rose Bakes with Vegetables

As part of Culinary Curiosity, Programs and Exhibits Specialist Tracy Recklaus invited Chef Rose Deneen to the library on December 5 to demonstrate from her current cookbook, *Baking with Vegetables*. Ninety-one attendees sampled a variety of recipes prepared by the chef. Attendees requested we bring back Chef Rose who is equally eager to return to share more of her culinary expertise with our community. Following her program, she visited the exhibit and showed us her favorite item - the Universal Stove.

Vince Garaldi's A Charlie Brown Christmas

The Mick Archer trio performed holiday jazz favorite - Vince Garaldi's *A Charlie Brown Christmas* - plus additional holiday favorites, on December 7. Of the one hundred and thirteen attendees, one brought a Charlie Brown plush sharing that at 70 years old, Charlie Brown still always brings her joy. She attended with two friends from Grayslake and danced in the aisles and in the front during the performance.



Star Wars Escape Room

Kids' World Advisor Meg Ramsland and Tween Librarian Kerry Bailey transformed the Lindsey Room into a galaxy far, far away for a Star Wars-themed escape room on December 30. Over the course of four sessions, 38 tweens worked together to solve puzzles, decipher the galactic standard alphabet and crack codes. Through teamwork, problem solving and persistence, all teams successfully intercepted the Order's attack plans and communicated them to the Rebellion in the nick of time.

Advanced Mindfulness and Meditation

On December 7, forty-one customers attended our second Mindfulness event offered this winter, led by Arlington Heights Park District instructor Mark Zelko.

Programs and Exhibits Specialist Megan Young hosted both sessions, noting many December attendees had also attended Beginning Mindfulness, offered in November. This class, offered in a dimly lit Hendrickson Room, introduced some new exercises and allowed attendees more time to actively practice mindfulness techniques. Mindfulness is welcome skill any time of year and especially during a holiday season and more dormant winter months. Attendees were grateful for the time and space to learn more about it and practice these techniques.

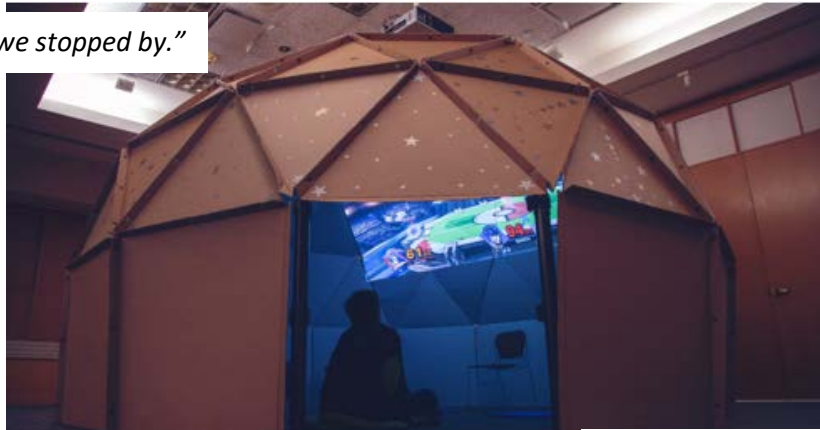


"This library is the best use of my tax dollars."

Arcade Thunderdome for Teens

The cardboard planetarium returned to the Hendrickson Room on Monday, December 30 for the Arcade Thunderdome for Teens led by Teen Advisors Kate Henry and Mariel Fechik. Eleven teens took a break from their winter vacation to participate in the library program, where they enjoyed pizza, making video game Perler bead art, and to play Super Smash Bros. Ultimate inside of the cardboard planetarium. The teens were very impressed with the setup — crowding into the planetarium to see the games projected up onto the dome ceiling. The program encouraged teens to hang out and socialize during their time off of school with teens rotating through different stations of activities with their friends.

“This is so entertaining! I’m so glad we stopped by.”



“I haven’t seen this game in forever!”



“This was really fun; Thank you!”

Arcade Thunderdome for Adults!

On December 29, 18 adults came out for an afternoon of video game play curated and hosted by Programs and Exhibits Specialist Megan Young. The social event was designed to appeal to people in their 20s and 30s, though inclusive for everyone who loves games. Attendees alternating popping into the dome and playing on the different consoles available throughout the Hendrickson Room (Sega Genesis, Nintendo, Switch, Oculus Go, Bloxels). And perhaps most gratifying to see, some customers who are now aged out of the Hub attended the event!

Veterans Memorial Committees’ Generational Time Capsule Project

Digital Services Manager Jack Bower consulted with Chairman of the Veterans Memorial Committee of Arlington Heights Greg Padovani on the committee’s Generational Time Capsule project. They selected the best archival Blu-ray DVDs for the 100-year time capsule project and offered use of the Studio and Digital Services staff to assist community groups in transferring content for posterity onto DVD. Community groups must submit the portions for this project to the committee by April 15, for the content to be locked inside the time capsule on Veterans Day 2020.

Make a Cookie Jar “Pop-Up”

On December 15, the Pop-Up event *Make a Cookie Jar* invited customers to fill a mason jar with the ingredients to bake chocolate chip cookies. Programs and Exhibits staff Tracy Recklaus and Jennifer Czajka led more than 300 people of every age to make their own jars to take home. They layered chocolate chips, brown sugar, white sugar and a flour mix to top it off. A variety of bows and tags were available to decorate their jars - a perfect gift handmade at the library.



Kids in the Kitchen

Eighteen first and second graders participated in a cooking program developed and delivered by Youth Programs Specialist Maureen Vela and Kids’ World Advisor Amy Belford on December 12. While making apple turnovers and cherry lemonade, kids learned about basic kitchen and food safety, the tools used for baking and how to use them. Participants took turns measuring and mixing ingredients for the filling and assembling turnovers.

Making the Most of Social Security

Info Services Librarian Barb Powers brought Certified Financial Planner Mike Heatwole to the library on December 4 to present on the ins and outs of Social Security. Social Security is our country’s single largest federal program and the sole means of support for many retirees. As we see a constant need for providing information about logistics as well as customizable strategies, programs like this meet a vital information need in our community.

“Your staff is incredible and resources amazing! I've been in the Studios multiple times, each time with different staff and am so impressed with their knowledge, patience and approachable demeanor on a subject matter I have little to no understanding of. Thank you AHML!!!”

Business Builders

The Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce's December meeting was held at the library, where Business Services Librarian Diane Malik and Info Services Supervisor Elizabeth Ludemann discussed library business databases and resources, such as the Illinois Career Information System, Consumer's Checkbook, Check Illinois Public Records and various online skill learning resources. Many attendees said they were impressed at how much they could do through the Arlington Heights Memorial Library.

Jane Austen Tea

The Info Advisors hosted a Jane Austen Tea on December 8 in celebration of Jane Austen's birthday. The advisors booktalked various modern retellings of Jane Austen classics, served a high tea and led a Jane Austen-inspired craft.

Feedback from customers included:

"Lovely program! How nice to meet a group of ladies who love Jane Austen and reading. I am excited to read some of the recommendations made by the staff – maybe even gift some! Thank you for such a nice afternoon! P.S. Love the craft!"



Cozy Winter Painting

Art instructor Christine Thornton of *Hello Art Studio* returned to teach two adult painting classes with a winter theme on December 14. More than 50 residents came out to paint. Attendees learned a variety of watercolor pencil techniques and took home a scene of a cozy winter cottage, ready to hang or frame. They shared positive feedback, which helps us build our creative class offering, including....

What attracted you to this program?

- *I took a class from the same instructor earlier this year and she was terrific and I had a lot of fun*
- *Christine is a very good teacher and has a real personality that made people feel relaxed*
- *I like a fun creative workshop*
- *Painting to relax and unwind*

What did you enjoy most about this program?

- *Being able to try things for myself. She was an excellent teacher and very encouraging!*
- *Learning more about an artistic/creative skill*
- *Painting using a different medium: water color pencils*
- *Trying something new.*
- *My finished product—my watercolor painting*
- *For me it was a very refreshing and relaxing time.*



"The library keeps finding new things that I truly enjoy."

Staff Development

I Love My Librarian Award Winner

*I Love My
Librarian!*
Award



2019 Award Winner
Maria Papanastassiou
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Kids' World assistant manager Maria Papanastassiou was the recipient of the I Love My Librarian award. This award is given to ten librarians across the country. Maria was one of about 2,000 nominees for the award. Recognized for her leadership in transforming lives through access to education, Ms. Papanastassiou's efforts have helped position the library at the forefront of serving children who are differently abled. Her work, passion and dedication has helped families with diverse needs find a home at the library.

Body Language Training

Digital Services Supervisor Gregory Berger virtually attended a webinar presented by the Homeless Training Institute on positive body language when working with customers.