



Executive Director's Report

July 2021

What's New @ AHML

Makerplace Collection

The Makerplace collection was added in July. Titles include *Bravetart* by Stella Parks, *Tips and Tales from the Workshop: A Handy Reference for Makers* by Gareth Branwyn and *Joyful Mending* by Noriko Misumi. There are three magazines also in the collection: *Hack Space*, *Make* and *Threads*. There are 24 reference titles and 41 pieces of equipment. Thank you to Cataloging Supervisor Gosia Bylinska, Cataloging Assistant Arathi Jaishankar, Cataloging Librarian Eve Lashley, Selection Supervisor Cyndi Hamann, Acquisitions Supervisor Marie Szymanek, Processing Supervisor, Lena Bulak and Makerplace Specialist Kate Henry for their work on this project.

Conference Rooms Re-open

After more than a year of closure, the conference rooms re-opened on July 1. Promotion on the website, social media and the electronic sign in the library increased room usage to about 50% by the end of the month. Expectations are conference room usage will continue to increase when school starts in the fall.

Studios Fully Reopen!

On July 1, the Studios fully reopened for public use. While much of the Studio's equipment and software were available outside of the computer lab during pandemic restrictions, the enclosed space for audio recording, photography and video work was unavailable. Customers can once again get creative with digital media projects.

In July, 98 Studio reservations were made with a total of 156 people using the rooms. Customers expressed gratitude and excitement with the facilities and its support staff:

“The recording facilities are outstanding! We are a new start up non-profit, and we desperately need facilities like this. Thank you for being so helpful and accommodating!”

“[Digital Services Advisor] Charlie Crane is amazing. He is so wonderfully helpful and provides great service!”

“Whatever you do, make sure you keep [Digital Services Advisor] Mini Radhakrishnan! She is so knowledgeable and nice. Pay her more, give her a raise...whatever...she’s totally worth it.”

Summon Search Improvement

Summon, the “Quick Article Search” atop the Research/Databases page on the library website aggregates many of the library’s databases together in one searchable resource.

Summon’s Best Bet feature allows libraries to index promotional posts that highlight various library resources or services. For example, if a user enters “resume writing,” they get results that include a link to our Job & Career Services page. Whereas previously, the library’s Best Bets would only appear for very specific identified terms.



NYTimes.com Access!

The New York Times is now available online at the library via NYTimes.com. Starting in July, customers have 24 hours of unlimited access to popular culinary and game offerings through the newspaper’s easily digestible and browsable website, without a personal subscription. After 24 hours, customers will need to revisit the link to reactivate access.

Senior Center Reading Room Fully Open Weekdays

The Arlington Heights Senior Center Reading Room is now open Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mid-July the Senior Center became available for the first time since the pandemic began as a pickup location for holds.

The expansion of programs and services at the Senior Center was reflected in July's numbers with program attendance, computer room usage and library visits up 105%, 134%, and 59% respectively over the prior month.

Senior Center customers were excited to see the return of in-person tech classes, travelogues and current events discussions in July.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Disability Pride Month Reading Lists

In July, Info Services Advisors worked with Marketing and Communications and Senior and Accessible Services (SAS) staff to promote books in support of Disability Pride Month.

Book List: [Celebrating Disability Pride \(Adults\)](#)

Book List: [Disability Visibility for Teens](#)

Book List: [Diverse Needs Chapter Books for Kids](#)

Book List: [Diverse Needs Picture Books for Kids](#)

Teens Create Awareness through Art

The Art Activists Summer Volunteer Squad, led by Youth Outreach Librarian Emily Koch, Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski and Youth Librarian Christina Giovannelli-Caputo, created artwork throughout the summer to bring awareness to causes the teens wanted to spotlight. Teen volunteers created a display of their artwork in the Hub, available to view through the month of August. The display includes pieces about climate change, mental health, sexism and LGBTQ inclusion issues.



Serving Our Community

Summer Volunteer Squad

Ninety-nine Arlington Heights teens in grades 7-12 took time out of their busy lives to volunteer a total of 670 hours with the library in service to the community. Squads planned a variety of programming for youth, creating grab-and-go book bundles for Kids' World customers and designing summer activity kits for all ages for the month of August. Volunteers in eight Squads attended 54 planning meetings, delivered 28 programs for library customers, assembled hundreds of themed book bundles and prepared hundreds of activity kits.



Concerts in the Park

In partnership with the Arlington Heights Park District, the library brought two concerts to North School Park. On July 6, ScribbleMonsters entertained a crowd of 200. On July 13, Ben Tatar and the Tatar Tots engaged 300 customers with fun songs about food. At both events, about 100 customers visited the library table to create their own scribble monsters and play a food matching game respectively.



Kaleidoscope Camp Visits

Youth Outreach Specialists Laura Dakas and Kim McGuire were invited by the Arlington Heights Park District to present storytimes at Kaleidoscope Camp for preschoolers. Throughout June and July, they visited eleven camp groups engaging 204 young customers with stories and songs. Following a Kaleidoscope Camp visit, a customer called for the title of a book her nephew couldn't stop talking about. The aunt plans to purchase a copy as a birthday gift for her nephew.

Countdown to Kindergarten

Youth Services staff offered two in-person sessions of Countdown to Kindergarten, connecting with 34 customers. Staff shared a selection of hands-on projects that child and caregiver could work on together to build kindergarten readiness skills. Families left with materials for several more projects together at home, as well as [links](#) to four weeks of extended learning opportunities. A kindergarten teacher who attended with her son commented that she wished all her future students attended with their parents to help them prepare. New this year, the library offered a follow-up virtual session which included a question-and-answer period and a guest kindergarten teacher who shared helpful hints for a successful start. Some parents took the time to respond via email:

- *Hello, ...this was a really helpful program to get an idea of what to expect in kindergarten. All the projects that you provided were great, I wasn't expecting to go home with so many tools to practice with.*

- *Hi, ...Thank you so much for a great class! As a former prek and first grade teacher, I thought all of the info you gave was spot on, and the activities and games were excellent. We have played everything we brought home, and Hayden has even taught his little sister some games (they love making pizzas)... Thanks so much!*
- *Thanks for planning such a fun Countdown to Kindergarten!*



Movie in the Park Returns

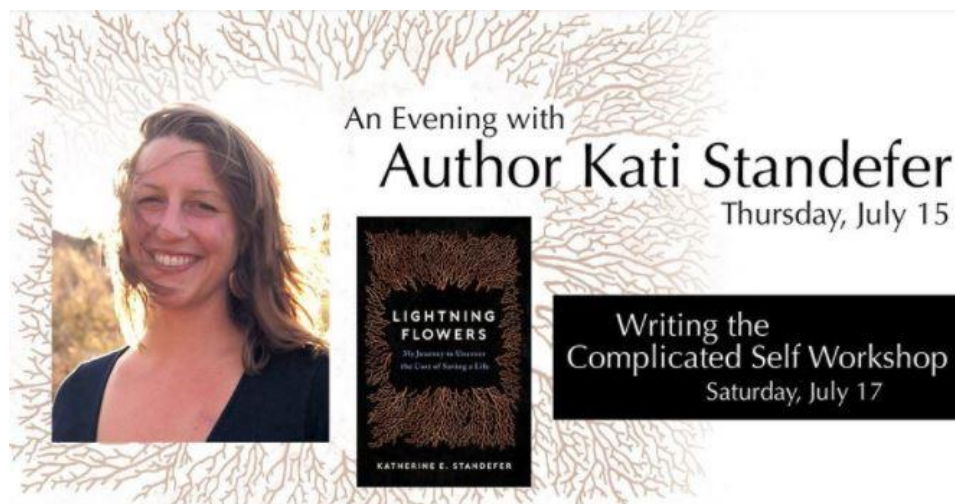
Youth Outreach Librarian Emily Koch and Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski joined forces with the Arlington Heights Park District for this summer's first Movie in the Park. One hundred and forty-seven attended, with safely distanced picnic blankets and camping chairs to watch *Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse* on a big inflatable screen at Recreation Park. Families were entertained with glow sticks, color-changing pencils and activity sheets before the movie started. This was the first of three movie events in the park this summer.

Author Kati Standefer Connects with Readers & Writers

Following a profile in our summer newsletter and [a Daily Herald article](#), Arlington Heights native and author Katherine Standefer returned to Arlington Heights for two July events with her hometown library. On July 12, she connected with 99 participants on Zoom for a dynamic discussion revolving around her memoir, *Lightning Flowers: My Journey to Uncover the Cost of Saving a Life*. The night started with a short reading by the author. Info Services Advisor Joan Lasky then facilitated a discussion exploring the United States healthcare system and people's relationship with medical technology - the topics of Kati's research and book. This program was recorded and is available on demand on the [library's YouTube channel](#).

On July 15, Programs and Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker hosted Kati in delivering a virtual memoir writing workshop. Kati shared several writing prompts in a thoughtful email ahead of the event. On event day, she welcomed nine eager writers and jumped right into exercises. Several participants shared their work while Kati offered encouragement and advice. The program was a nice bookend to her author visit and offered a “special interest” workshop for local writers, including a few customers who participate in the library’s monthly Writers’ Ink meetups. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive:

- *“Thanks for hosting! We watched as a book club group, it was a nice event to look forward to!”*
- *“Love hearing the author’s perspectives on their story and writing! Thank you for offering these great programs!”*
- *“Thank you for bringing such wonderful and important local talent to our library.”*
- *“It was a very interesting discussion. The moderator asked good questions and the author was very articulate. Also, It was a great book.”*
- *“She was fabulous! I could have listened to her for another hour. The two library staff members were great, too! I’ve recommended the book to a lot of people. I also bought a couple copies and had them signed because I was so impressed with her.”*
- *“Kati in the book is just like Kati in person. the definition of authentic.”*





New 33 1/3 series continues with Carole King's *Tapestry* on its 50th Anniversary

The second in our new partnership series welcomed Loren Glass, author of Carole King's *Tapestry*, who discussed the significance of this seminal record with moderator Bill Pekara, Fiction and Media Librarian from the Northbrook Public Library. Programs and Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker and Audio/Visual Librarian Michael White from Glenview Public Library joined in welcoming an audience of 143. Author Loren Glass focused on his personal connection to the album, details on the making the record and fielded questions that came in through chat. The program was recorded and is available to view [here](#) on Arlington Heights Memorial Library's YouTube channel. Feedback from the music lovers attending continues to be positive:

- *This was my first 33 1/3 event and I really enjoyed it. It made me look at the whole album in a different way and was very insightful.*
- *Thanks for bringing us an outstanding presentation. It was great that multiple libraries worked together to make it available to all of their patrons. I also liked the fact that I could watch it and submit questions from home.*

Makerplace Preparation

Makerplace staff continue to prepare for the opening of the new space. Makerspace Specialist Kate Henry followed a Creativebug tutorial and pattern, to create an adorable stuffed dog as an example for customers of what can be made using makerspace resources and equipment. Makerspace Advisor Kathie Kielminski used the Hatch Embroidery software to make demo projects, including plush children's

building blocks and an embroidered photo of a pooch. Makerspace Advisor Lee Anne Davis made a fleece fabric sunglasses case. Makerspace Advisor Lisa Hale used the button maker and vinyl cutter for some sample buttons.



Vehicle Sticker Milestone

We had our busiest month to date for vehicle stickers with 34 issued in July. Our 100th vehicle sticker renewal was issued on July 31 at the Checkout Desk!

Library Cards

This month, **351 new residents signed up for library cards, an increase of 89.7%** over last July (185). This increase represents a mix of new backstretch customers as walk-in customers looking for their first library card.

Second Floor Display Cases Reopen

Beginning July 1, display cases on the second floor reopened and feature two stellar displays for the community. The lobby display cases near Dunton Avenue feature selections from Arlington Heights collector (and library Trustee) Debbie Smart's expansive collection of World's Columbian Exposition memorabilia. The program manager from the Elk Grove Historical Society asked library staff about the possibility of hosting the collection. On the second floor, Friends of the Library displays are in the cases outside of the Hendrickson Room.



Trustee Smart with her World's Columbian Exposition memorabilia collection.



One of the Friends of the Library display cases featuring making.

Professional Development

PLA Committee Appointment

Info Services Supervisor Elizabeth Ludemann and Community & Circulation Services Manager Shannon Meyer were appointed to serve on the Public Library Association's Annual Conference 2022 Program Subcommittee. Committee members serve through the end of ALA's Annual Conference in 2022.

Archiving the Present: Collecting COVID-19 Stories at ALA

Digital Services Librarian Bill Pardue and Information Librarian Jaymie Middendorf participated with staff from the Chicago History Museum and Newberry Library in the on-demand virtual presentation "Archiving the Present: Collecting COVID-19 Stories" for the annual ALA conference. The presentation, which went live on July 7, outline the library's COVID-19 stories initiative and shared takeaways.

Chairing Arlington Heights Youth Commission

Teen Services Supervisor Alice Son was appointed the Chairperson of the Youth Commission at the Village Board Meeting on August 2. Alice will lead the group of six adult members and seven youth members, providing recommendations to the Village Board as well as develop, promote and present youth programs.

Customer Comments

Resources for a Customer with Macular Degeneration

Senior and Accessible Services Supervisor Katie Myers exceeded expectations during her recent one-on-one meeting with a customer who had been diagnosed with macular degeneration:

Thank you for meeting with me and my 90-year-old friend, Marilyn K. You enlightened both of us. Marilyn felt so much better just knowing the resources available for macular degeneration. She was very excited that she can read the large print books. ... I told her we could go to the library in the dead of winter just to get out! It is so important to feel normal during these uncertain virus times. We can see you are so dedicated to your work. Thank you so much. You are a special lady! Connie W.

Bookmobile Fan

"I wanted to give a shout out to Ron and Renu from the Bookmobile. They are so thoughtful and we are so lucky to have them at Lake Terramere on Monday nights. Last night I was going to drop off a book (I didn't know I had one ready for pick up) and I ran in to someone I haven't seen in a while. We were chatting and the bookmobile drove past. I waved, with my book return in my hand, and didn't think anything more about it other than I missed a chance to say hello to them. A few minutes later they drove by again. They were so considerate; they drove around the block and came back to hand me my pickup through the window and take my return. I'm sure it didn't delay their return to the library by much but to be so generous as to extend their evening by a few minutes really was so heartwarming. I am so appreciative and wanted to let the library know that Ron and Renu really went the extra mile last night. Kudos. I can't wait to thank them in person next Monday night." - Suzan A.

ESL In-Library & Virtual Feedback

“This class was super fun, enjoyed learning new words and match them to the pictures” C&C Class participant.

“I’ve learned many new words with fun. Thank you!” C&C class student.

“Learning French vocabulary from songs and listening to French singers was a delight! It was a very enjoyable class” French group participant.

“I think you are good at dealing with diverse personalities in the class. You are doing amazing work! I can't imagine myself being in the same way. I sometimes seem to be jealous of your qualities as a teacher who makes others feel comfortable and actively engaged. In your class, I can see joy!” - a Culture & Conversation student.

“Thank you for setting up the new hybrid class. It was an amazing class. There were no problems with the audio and video, and the progress of the class was excellent, so I was able to participate in the class as usual. I'm really grateful to Tracy and Michael for preparing such a great class.” - a satisfied customer, who joined our first hybrid class from Japan, where she is currently visiting family.

