

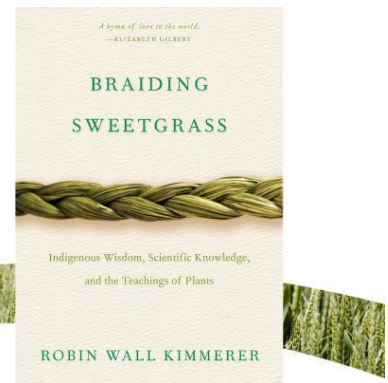
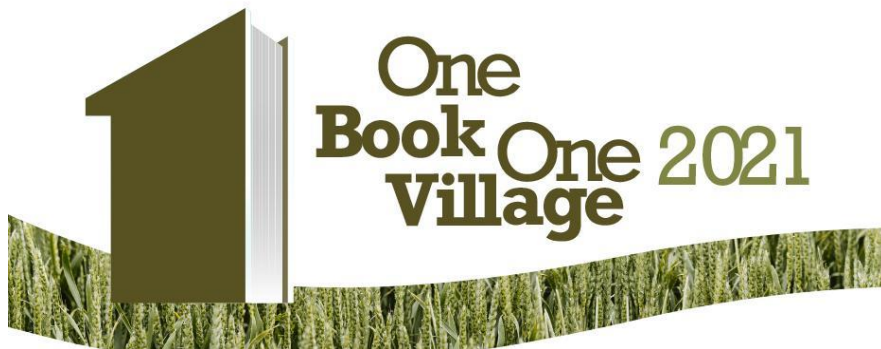


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Executive Director's Report

August 2021

What's New @ AHML



OBOV Launch

On August 23, the library officially launched the annual One Book, One Village (OBOV) selection of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by author Robin Wall Kimmerer. The OBOV Committee planned a variety of programs, discussions, outreach and online resources around the book.

Visit our website (www.ahml.info/onebook) for information about the book, author and extensive slate of programs. Be sure to view the booklists for all ages near the bottom of the site. The [Explore More page](#) guides community members to educational resources about Indigenous cultures and the natural world. The library appreciates the opportunity to highlight Native voices and strengthen its commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.



The cross-departmental OBOV Planning Committee consists of Info Services Supervisor Elizabeth Ludemann, Info Services Advisors Joan Lasky and Alisa Stanfield, Collection Supervisor Cyndi Hamann, Cataloging Supervisor Gosia Bylinska, Communications and Marketing Specialist William Tolan and Programs and Exhibits Supervisor Megan Young. Special thanks to Graphic Designers Brian Benson and Colleen Mele for their work on the OBOV display located on the main floor of the library.

Square!

The Circulation Department made the long-awaited transition to an updated point-of-sale system. Senior Accountant Susan Beckman and Finance Clerk Liz Scheiner provided training to supervisors and staff. The transition to Square was smooth and streamlined. The new system makes ringing transactions, opening and closing procedures, and issuing refunds more efficient for staff and customers.



The Washington Post

In August, the library acquired *The Washington Post* (via WashingtonPost.com), the full online platform for one of the nation's premiere investigative newspapers. The library also acquired *A to Z Food America*, containing regional American recipes and cultural background; *A to Z The USA*, containing information about states' geography, history and culture; and *A to Z World Culture*, containing information about countries' geography, history and culture. Lastly, the library acquired *BookPages*, which contains news about new books and author interviews.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

Backstretch

The library ended an amazing summer with great memories at the Arlington International Racecourse. The bookmobile created 81 library cards and checked out 952 items. Although the future of Backstretch is uncertain, the library is ready to continue to provide the service if needed in 2022.

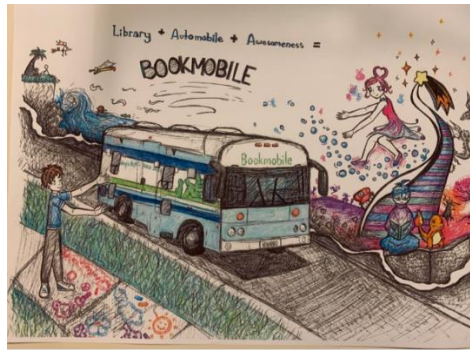
Serving Our Community

St. Viator Educator Cards

Circulation Assistants Ambria Bernardi, Megan Doss, Rokshana Akhter-Azim and Mary Weber worked together on creating educator cards for staff at Saint Viator High School. In total, 78 cards were issued for the 2021-2022 school year. This is the first year Saint Viator is partnering with the library for educator cards.

Bookmobile Art (and more) Appreciation

Camelot Park bookmobile customer, Payton Hausfeld, gifted staff with an anime version of the Arlington Heights Memorial Library's bookmobile. Payton has been placing holds for anime material, and a conversation sparked her idea of drawing something for the bookmobile. Payton's words, colors and artwork capture the imagination of how the bookmobile and books can transport readers.



Yoga in the Park Summer Season Ends

August 14 marked the final session of the library's summer-long Yoga in the Park series. Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski welcomed 38 participants to beginner's yoga with Arlington Heights Park District instructor Lynn Minuskin in the garden at the Arlington Heights Historical Museum. Attendees expressed the value of the in-person class. In their words:

"Great, easy class in a beautiful setting."

"I liked the instructor and the location. I feel like it has a well-organized event and look forward to it again next year"

"Physical activity outdoors! I spend so much time in my room, especially now, that getting myself up early to go do some physical activity and get some sunlight is so important and enjoyable."

An Evening with Authors Megan Miranda and Shari Lapena

In partnership with eleven local libraries, *New York Times* bestselling authors Megan Miranda and Shari Lapena discussed their new books with another *New York Times* bestselling author and the evening's moderator, Mary Kubica. Megan Miranda, author of *Such a Quiet Place* and Shari Lapena, author of *Not a Happy Family*, discussed their writing process and what inspired them to become authors. Two hundred and seventy participants logged on to Zoom for a fascinating discussion, with forty-four Arlington Heights Memorial Library residents in the virtual crowd. Info Services Advisor Sherri Tader and Programs and Exhibits Supervisor Megan Young helped coordinate the multiple library partnership for the three-author discussion. This program was recorded and is available on demand through the [Highland Park's YouTube channel](#).



Page Turners Summer Reading Program Wraps Up

The Page Turners adult summer reading program came to an end, after running for the months of June, July and August. Info Services Librarian Lev Kalmens and Info Services Advisor Sherri Tader delivered the program to the community. Over the course of three months, 281 adults registered for the program. Each month, participants completed activities to earn a badge, who were then entered into a raffle for a gift card to a local restaurant. Final tallies for the program; 1,196 total activities completed and 184 badges earned.

Kiddieland Remembered



Programs and Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker and Programs and Exhibits Manager Jennifer Czajka hosted *Kiddieland Remembered*, a nostalgic look back at Kiddieland with presenter and unofficial Kiddieland historian Cheryl Brown. Cheryl took the audience of eighty-six through the unique history of Kiddieland and its untimely demise with engaging photos, videos and park ephemera. Cheryl highlighted the history of the park and the rides, including their current location after they were sold in auction. Attendees shared personal memories of Kiddieland and other amusement parks in the area. Q&A was lively with questions about the rides, the family who owned Kiddieland, its significance as an amusement park in the Chicago suburbs and more. Attendees expressed their appreciation for the program in chat and in the post-event survey:

“I think the library has been doing an extraordinary job of providing interesting, informative and fun programs. Everyone involved should be very proud of themselves!”

“I appreciate the Arlington Heights Memorial Library and all that it has to offer. I am proud to live in a town that boasts one of the top libraries in the country!”

Historical Museum Outreach

Youth Outreach Librarian Emily Koch and Youth Outreach Specialist Ellie Richardson welcomed 13 enthusiastic summer campers ages 8-12 from the Arlington Heights Historical Museum. The theme for that week of camp was HERstory, or history about women, so campers visited the library to learn about the founding women of the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. Emily and Ellie showed the campers the library’s Shackley Room, where local history and genealogy resources are kept. Campers browsed historical records and viewed clips from a 1987 documentary based on Margery Frisbie’s “This Bookish Inclination”.

Makerplace Equipment Testing

Now that the Makerplace's Fabrication Room has proper ventilation, the CNC mill and two laser engravers are ready for use. Makerplace staff created various projects, to test the new equipment and create samples of what the machinery can make. Makerspace Specialist Kate Henry created earrings and an engraved wooden box on the Dremel Digilab Laser Cutter. Makerspace Specialist Stacy Craft used the Bantam CNC mill to cut a tool holder test design.



Needle Felt a Narwhal!

Twenty-five craft enthusiasts joined instructor Natasha Lehrer Lewis on Zoom for the second workshop of Narwahl needle felting. Programs and Exhibits Specialists Emily Muszynski and Natalie Brotzman distributed kits with all materials required for the felting project. Many participants indicated this was their first-time needle felting and they were very happy with the results. Natasha is a favorite as evidenced by attendees' feedback:

"The instructions were clear, the instructor was very positive, and the narwhal! is so cute!"

"The instructor emphasized having fun, and that helped in the beginning. It was easier than I expected and more relaxing than knitting. Plus, who doesn't love a Narwhal?"

An Afternoon with Shedd Aquarium's Sea Otters



The Shedd Aquarium joined Arlington Heights Memorial Library to offer a hosted behind-the-scenes Virtual Sea Otter Encounter. One hundred and forty-three customers of all ages enjoyed the exclusive virtual access. Sea otters Cooper, Watson, Luna and Yaku swam, trained, enjoyed snacks and

played with toys. The Shedd team shared sea otter trivia and how attendees can get involved in helping sea otters and other marine wildlife. Customer feedback was overwhelmingly positive:

“We absolutely loved this!!! Thanks for allowing us to be a part of it!”

“It was well planned. The Shedd team thought through the user experience. Plus, those otters are so cute!”

“Loved seeing them play around while learning incredible facts!”

33 ½ Classic Albums: Devo’s *Freedom of Choice* with Evie Nagy

August 18 marked the third installment in this year-long partnership series exploring seminal albums. Fifty-six customers attended the virtual event with music and culture writer Evie Nagy. Evie discussed the significance of Devo's first and unexpectedly popular record with moderator and Programs and Exhibits Manager Jennifer Czajka. Evie shared brief readings which highlighted her deep research on the topic, the structure of her book and her time spent with the band members. The conversation explored Devo's origin as artists, cultural elements that led to the album's success, MTV and its role in launching Devo's fame with the *Whip It* video, and more. This was the liveliest and most participatory 33 ½ Classic Albums session yet, building a community of music lovers across the Addison, Arlington Heights, Glenview and Northbrook communities.

Summer Reading 2021

Youth Services' 2021 Summer Reading Challenge encouraged customers ages 0–grade 12 to read and learn this summer to earn free books and various prizes. Following the style of many games, 1,590 youth joined the reading program and levelled up throughout the summer. Reading 500 minutes, 466 participants completed the program and earned a free book at Level 1. Participants completed Level 2 by reading 1000 minutes – 299 readers were awarded a second free book. And 199 young readers were motivated to go all the way and hit the 1500-minute mark finishing Level 3.

Using Beanstack's online platform, Youth Services staff compiled and shared age-appropriate activities for young customers to complete alongside their reading to inspire exploration and learning. Customers shared photos of their experiences for the library's online Summer Reading Challenge Gallery.



Hudson, age 5, reading to a pet.



Alex, age 9, looking inside a computer

Storytime in the Park

Responding to the pandemic's impact on in-person storytimes, bookmobile and Youth Services staff expanded the Storytime in the Park series by two months. Running from May–August, staff developed and delivered 30 storytimes and engaged 2,233 customers. A mother with her preschoolers expressed that it was one of the highlights of their summer to enjoy the stories and music with other parents and children. Throughout the series, attendance numbers were steady with many regular participants.

15th Annual Teen Film Fest

Partnering with the Arlington Heights Park District, this year's Teen Film Fest was presented outside at Recreation Park as part of the Movies in the Park series. A hybrid version was offered, with a primarily pre-recorded event with opportunities for audience participation built in. Facilitated by Teen Librarian Evan Mather, the



pre-recorded Film Fest featured returning judges, YouTuber and film reviewer Tamara Chambers and documentary filmmaker and former filmmaker-in-residence Matt Lauterbach and the library's teen filmmakers. Graphic Designer Stephanie Battista created a full-length recording of Teen Film Fest 2021, including the amazing trailer, that can be viewed on the Hub's [YouTube](#) channel. On Friday, August 13, Youth Services staff screened the recording for 75 attendees with complementary activities including activity sheets, outdoor games and a photo op station complete with red carpet and Film Fest backdrop. Six awards were handed out: Best Acting, Best Special FX, Best Camerawork/Editing, Best Screenplay/Story, Best Overall and Audience Favorite, based on attendee votes. It was an amazing event, and a great opportunity to showcase the amazing creativity and talent of teens in our community.



LEGO Club

Youth Services Advisor Jan Pinotti hosted the library's first in-person LEGO Club since the pandemic. This fan favorite program was welcomed back by several families in the community with 13 creative builders! Kids had fun building and helping each other find special pieces for their unique creations. Kids enjoyed the company of others who shared their enthusiasm for LEGO building. These creations are currently featured in the Kids' World display case.



Professional Development

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the Library

Bookmobile Supervisor Teri Scallon and Material Handling Supervisor Matt Williams participated in a webinar Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the Library, which provided great insight into sensory overload for all ages and adjustments the library can make for customers and staff.

Business Librarian eCourse

Info Services Librarian Lev Kalmens completed the ALA eCourse, "Business Outreach for the Public Librarian." The four-week course focused on services for the local business community, providing valuable insights into the specifics of outreach work.

Epilog Laser Cutter Training

A representative from the vendor of the Epilog Mini 24 60-watt laser engraver provided training to Makerplace staff. All Makerplace staff and Digital Services' staff Chris Smith, Jack Bower and David Olichwier, spent two hours with the expert going over best practices, safety and maintenance tips for the sure-to-be-popular laser.

