

## Executive Director's Report December 2021

### What's New @ AHML

#### ***Snoopy and the Red Baron opens on Veteran's Day***

The *Snoopy and the Red Baron* exhibit arrived on November 2 and opened to the public on Veteran's Day, November 11. This travelling exhibit from the Charles M. Schulz Museum celebrates one of Snoopy's most recognized personas through beautiful, high-quality reproductions of original Peanuts' comic strips and other Snoopy and the Red Baron ephemera and historical objects. Visitors were flocking to the exhibit as it was being installed, sharing memories of growing up with the Peanuts comic strip. Upon opening, Snoopy fans of every age expressed their love of the beloved cartoon beagle and his trademark red doghouse.



To enhance the exhibit, Programs & Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski created a docent program offering drop-in, docent-led tours to the public every Thursday. Forty-eight customers attended docent tours in November. Tours continue through the exhibit end on January 20. Thank you to the Friends of the Library for making this exhibit possible with their generous contribution of \$4,250 towards the cost.

## Serving Our Community

### **Chicago Futabakai Japanese School**

The library welcomed back the second graders from Chicago Futabakai Japanese School, an elementary and junior high day school and Saturday education program located in Arlington Heights. Lead Youth Services Specialist Laura Dakas provided a tour of Kids' World, highlighting the resources available to students and their families. An English teacher translated as students enthusiastically took notes while walking the tour.



### **Hablemos Español**

Hablemos Español hosted two sessions in November, with a total of 24 participants. A survey of those currently attending and previous registrants showed a 100% interest in the library offering the program in a hybrid setting.

*“I really appreciate the continuation of this program - I have a lot to learn and very helpful so far. Thank You Catalina and AHML!”*

*“Love, love, love your class!! So glad this is almost back in person. I have missed it so much.”*

## Bookmobile Winter Updates

This month brought on the holiday season with a reconfiguration of bookmobile shelving. To accommodate multiple holidays celebrated by library customers (Thanksgiving, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas), standard materials are switched out to make room for holiday items, transforming the bookmobile into a multicultural celebration on wheels.

## Outreach at Stonebridge



Youth Services staff offered support to the bookmobile team at the very busy Stonebridge Apartments stop from March through November. In all, Youth Services staff provided reference and programming support to 1,175 customers. Throughout the year, fun activities were offered including two very successful storytimes. Giveaways and the ever-popular activity kits were distributed. Plans are to continue a strong Youth Services presence at the Stonebridge Apartments bookmobile stop in Spring 2022. On the last evening for the year, customers were offered the chance to write something on the ‘gratitude gourd.’

## LGBTQ History and Understanding Gender

The month of November celebrates national Transgender Day of Remembrance. Two virtual events invited customers to expand their knowledge, comfort and skills around LGBTQ+ issues. On November 18, Heather McCammond-Watts presented **Understanding Gender: Bend the Binary** to 16 community members. As a children’s’ librarian at a neighboring library and the parent of two transgender young adult children, Heather’s interactive presentation came from a unique place of experience. Heather provided a combination of history, particularly related to socializing children, primer terms, language and tips for discussing and respectfully addressing one another according to gender identities.

On November 30, John D’Emilio, author and retired University of Illinois Chicago Professor Emeritus (History and Gender and Women’s Studies) presented **Making Change**, a fascinating look at LGBTQ Activism in the United States since the 1950’s. John engaged the audience of 11 with a well-paced, well-organized presentation covering decades of defining events and figures of LGBTQ+ history. A recording of [this event](#) is available on the library’s YouTube channel.



## Parent's Turn: Creating an Activity-Based Countdown Calendar for Your Family

Families with young children participated in the library's Parents' Turn program series, a long-term programming partnership between Youth Services Assistant Manager Maria Papanastassiou and Sunny Amirpour of Positively Strong Solutions. During the program, teen volunteers engaged kids with a giant memory card game, a turkey craft and their own countdown calendar activity. Sunny and caregivers discussed different ways families could celebrate counting down to life events, and how to develop healthy expectations around gifting and encourage activity-based celebrations with their families. Caregivers made their own activity-based countdown calendar to take home.



## Gerry's Kitchen Visit

Culinary Advisor Brian Baseggio hosted a small group from Gerry's Café, an organization working to open a coffee shop that will provide job opportunities for adults with disabilities. The group of future staff toured the kitchen to get an idea of what a working kitchen looks and feels like, as well as captured some promotional materials (video and pictures) for their social media and fundraising efforts. Watch the Gerry's kitchen visit Facebook video [here](#).



If you haven't checked out the new Arlington Heights Memorial Library's Makerplace, we highly recommend you do! We are so fortunate in our...

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## 30 Books in 30 Minutes, Gift Giving Edition 2021



Early Literacy Services Supervisor Rebecca King collaborated with Lead Youth Services Outreach Specialist Laura Dakas and Youth Services Advisors Susan Hollars and Emily Mroczek to book talk 30 new picture books published in 2021 as gift recommendations for the upcoming holiday season.

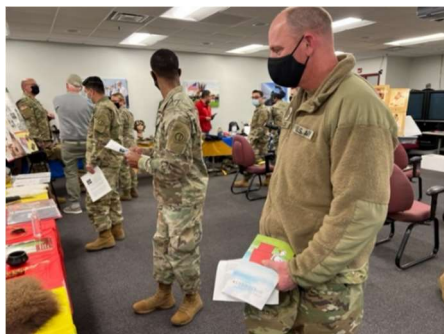
Hosted on Zoom, with the timer running, it was a fun race to beat the clock in the 30 minutes allowed. Follow up comments were so positive, Graphic Designer Stephanie Battista edited the video so it could be posted on the library's [YouTube](#) channel for additional viewing. The Wakelet was another way to share the list of titles with links to the library's catalogue.

*"Thank you for coordinating this event. After attending a prior 30 books in 30 minutes (I think it was earlier this year), I was really looking forward to last night and it did not disappoint 😊. It's nice to get the list of books I'm confident (because it's suggested by you all) my kids will enjoy!"*

## US ARMY RESERVE in Arlington Heights/85th Support Command - Ethnic Observance Event

Community Engagement Liaison Catalina Shin, in collaboration with the Info Services Department, formed a new partnership with the Office of Equal Opportunity/85th support command at the US Army Reserve located in Arlington Heights. Catalina assisted Sgt. Lisa Marie Gulley, Equal Opportunity Advisor, in signing up for a business library card and checking out relevant materials to highlight National American Indian Heritage Month during the 85<sup>th</sup> Support Command's ethnic observance event on November 6.

Catalina interacted with members of the command who reside at the Arlington Heights base. She spoke about the process of signing up for library cards and accessing library services. A summer visit with the bookmobile is planned for their annual family event.



### **33 ½ Classic Albums: John Prine's *John Prine* with Erin Osmon**

This is the sixth 33 ½ program, marking the midpoint of this year-long series presented with Glenview and Northbrook libraries. The event brought together 97 music lovers, 51 who are Arlington Heights residents, to celebrate Erin Osmon's 33 ½ book release and to learn more about local legend John Prine's self-titled debut album. Erin began the event with a touching and personal presentation about the Midwest, John Prine's lasting connection to Chicago. Following her presentation, Programs & Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker facilitated a lively Q&A session. Attendees expressed their appreciation for the series, and the local connection Prine had to Chicago, including neighborhood history and the history of the Old Town School of Folk Music. This program was recorded and is available [to watch](#) on the library's YouTube page, where it has been viewed an additional 77 times.

### **Welcoming author Cathy Park Hong + Pulitzer-Prize Winning Photojournalist Lynsey Addario**

These excellent events were spearheaded by Vernon Area Public Library and Highland Park Public Library and brought together more than one dozen libraries each. Both libraries brought out large audiences - 345 and 402 attendees respectively. Cathy Park Hong's program brought a much-needed perspective to a largely white, suburban audience as she discussed her book and experiences in America as an Asian-American woman. Photojournalist Lynsey Addario's program brought much needed insight to Afghanistan -- a country whose history, varied cultures and the effects of a US-led 20-year war still remain a mystery to many Americans. Feedback from Arlington Heights attendees was overwhelmingly positive with survey respondents praising both presenters for their candid, honest and personal sharing. When asked what Cathy Park Hong attendees enjoyed most, they shared:

*"The author's honesty and her willingness to share her experiences"*

*"Listening to the great Cathy Park Hong! I thought the questions asked by the moderators were thoughtful and engaging. Thank you!"*

*"Cathy is an excellent writer and I loved her book, *Minor Feelings*. Thank you for having her speak."*

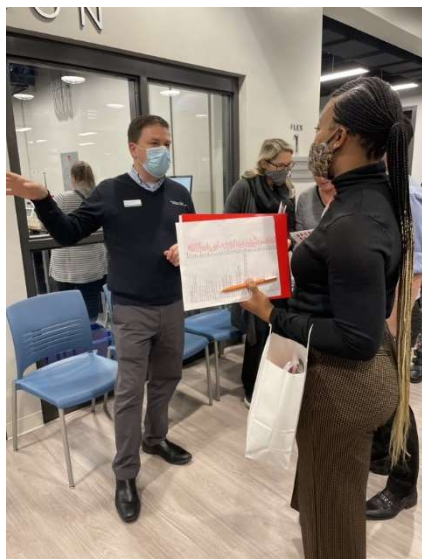


## Chamber of Commerce Event at the Makerplace

*Sip & Socialize at the Makerplace* was a successful outreach and networking event. Sixty-seven people attended the collaboration of the Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce and two member-organizations that sponsored food and drinks.

Local restaurant Passero donated food prepared in the kitchen and the chef's time for the event. Guests were able to see the commercial kitchen in use and enjoy the delicious food. Drinks for the event were donated by America's Flooring Store, the local flooring contractor that installed the MakerPlace floors. Info Services Advisor Diane Malik and Info Services Librarian Lev Kalmens were able to make connections with individuals active in the local business community.

Digital Services Manager Jack Bower, Makerspace Branch Assistant Manager Chris Krueger and Makerspace Specialist Stacy Craft highlighted small business benefits with group tours and equipment demonstrations. So many great ideas were discussed! Everything from creating prototypes to making promotional items, signage, presentation materials, customized molds and branded wearable items.



## **Toys for Tots Participation**

The Harper College Library makerspace reached out to Makerplace staff in November to work together to 3D print toy gifts for a Toys for Tots program. Makerspace staff printed various toys like articulated dolphins, unicorns, geckos, dinosaurs and penguins. Two hundred and three toys were printed total with over 2,000 grams of filament used.



## **Makerplace Programs Continue**

Programming for the Makerplace continued in November to great success! Nineteen programs were offered in November with 222 total attendees. This included 14 maker focused programs led by Makerplace staff, including Makerplace Essentials basic programs and building tours. Five culinary programs were held in the kitchen, including Jamming, Thanksgiving Sides and Fall Pies.





## **Chef Grace of Scratchboard Kitchen**

Chef Grace Goudie, Executive Chef of Arlington Heights' Scratchboard Kitchen, guided a total of 64 home chefs through four class sessions in November. On November 9, a daytime and an evening class enjoyed the chance to make Thanksgiving sides. On that day's menu: Miso Brussel Sprouts, Brown Butter Sage Carrot Biscuits, Acorn Squash with a Chai Honey Glaze, Cranberry Cobbler, Streusel and Granola. They gathered around tables with their neighbors and encouraged one another, making new friends and building community while they cooked.

On November 18 and 23, Chef Grace offered sessions of Fall pies; one pumpkin and one apple pie per table. Attendees took turns making graham cracker crust, pumpkin filling, butter crust and apple filling. Everyone shared tips and experiences, with great questions for Chef Grace. Attendees at each of Chef Grace's classes brought home generous amounts of the food prepared and a packet with the recipes used in class.



## **Jamming at the Library**

Wednesday, November 3 marked the first hands-on food program in the Makerplace Kitchen! Fifteen Arlington Heights residents gathered to make and take home delicious cranberry jam as facilitated by Andrea Pracht of My Kitchen Clatter. Customers were able to mix, boil and combine ingredients, as Andrea talked them through the different aspects of canning; including sanitation and what to do with mishaps (like your jar not sealing!). All customers walked away with a jar of jam and the recipe used in class.



## **Jeff-Fest Moroney Family Tour**

Makerspace Branch Assistant Manager Chris Krueger and Arlington Heights Memorial Library Foundation Founder and Chair Lauree Harp provided a tour of the Makerplace to the Moroney family. Their son, Jeff Moroney, was a maker who tragically passed away doing what he loved. The AHML Foundation and Moroney family recently held “Jeff-Fest”, a Makerplace fundraiser to celebrate Jeff’s life and talents as a maker.

## **Sublimation Printer and Equipment Donation from Mike Musich**

At the Makerplace’s grand opening Makerspace Branch Assistant Manager Chris Krueger met Mike Musich, the son of a well-known local artist Jack Musich. Through the Arlington Heights Memorial Library Foundation, Mike donated a sublimation printer, mug press, press accessories and almost 250 blank sublimation mugs. This equipment new would be valued at around \$2,000.

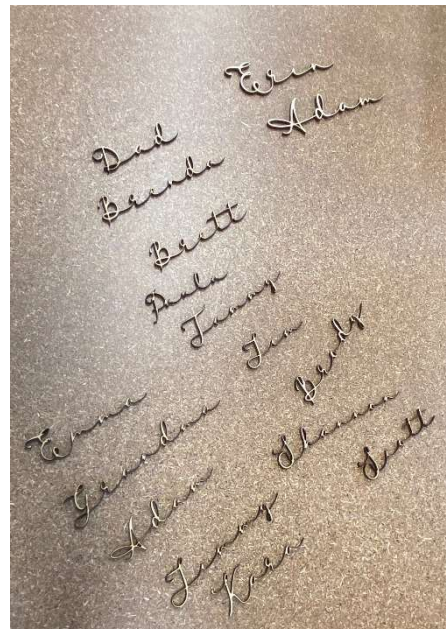


## Makerplace Stories

A customer used the Dremel laser cutter to cut felt fabric for a Linus Blanket project. This was her first time seeing a laser cutter, let alone using one! Makerplace staff helped her and by the time the project wrapped up, the customer was independently running the cutter.



Many customers used the laser cutters this month in preparation for the holidays. These examples used Makerplace purchased birch wood to engrave gift tags, names for stockings, stir sticks, custom ornaments for an entire high school football team, among many others.





A customer sewed a Christmas stocking using Makerplace sewing machines with a cross-stitched design that she stitched herself.



A customer used the Dremel laser cutter to cut snowflakes and other winter designs on organza fabric. The final product came out beautifully with no fraying because the raw edges were sealed by the laser.



A customer stuck around after a vinyl cutting class to continue working on projects. She made three custom labeled cups for her family.



## **Staff Highlights**

### **Flexible Work Location**

Human Resources Manager Lisa Haack presented at the virtual 2021 Employment Law Conference. Lisa was a panelist for “Flexible Work Locations: Where Are We Now?” which was a conversation centered around how various types of business have adapted to “the new normal” with fully remote, hybrid or fully in person work environments.

### **Gender Equity Training**

Community & Circulation Services and Youth Services staff attended **Gender 101** training, an in-depth session presented by Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago staff focusing on LGBTQ+/Gender Equity. Training included an overview of shared language/key concepts, the impact of gender on our society, how to support anyone coming out, best practices (institutional, leadership and personal best practices) and reflection.

### **Metadata for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Community Engagement Liaison Catalina Shin attended the kick-off meeting of the Metadata for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion group hosted by Cooperative Computer Services of Arlington Heights. The group hopes to work together to accomplish more equitable, diverse and inclusive library cataloging/metadata practices in library catalogs. The goal is to provide a space for people to share resources, ideas and discuss experiences on DEI topics related to catalog data.