

Executive Director's Report March 2022

What's New @ AHML

Roku Stick – International Debuts

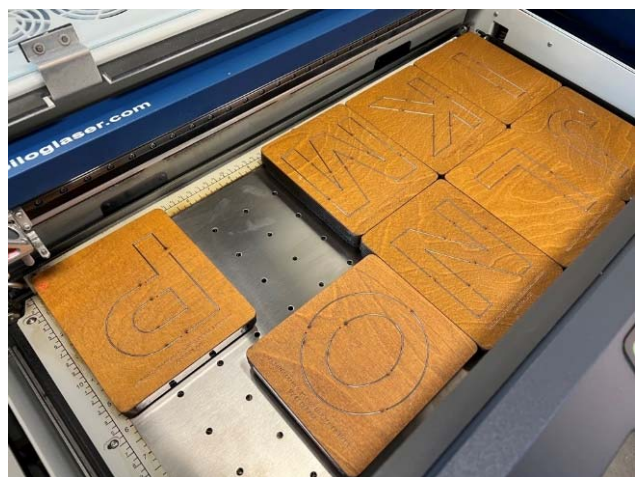
Roku Stick – International collection provides access to international streaming services including Acorn TV (UK), Crunchyroll (Japan), Viki (Korea), Zee5 (India) subscriptions and a variety of other apps with movies and shows from around the world.

LegalGPS Helping Entrepreneurs

LegalGPS is a tool for entrepreneurs to help make basic business-related legal decisions in advance of working with a lawyer, potentially saving significant time and money. The Arlington Heights Memorial Library is among the first libraries to subscribe to this new product. LegalGPS worked with RAILS to provide a group discount package for RAILS members, resulting in the library receiving a 33% discount from the original quoted price.

New Ellison Dies Added to Makerplace Creative Arts Room

Requested by customers, the library added additional Ellison Dies to the Makerplace's collection. The new additions include upper- and lower-case letters as well as numbers and special characters. Customers are excited to use these for banners, signs and other paper crafting.



Electric Guitar Added to Studio

Rockers rejoice! A Fender Squire Stratocaster electric guitar was added for in-Studio use. It makes an especially valuable addition to the audio production hardware and software available for customer use in Studio Production.

New Ultra-High Resolution Flatbed Scanner Added to Studio

The library upgraded the scanner in Studio A from a 7-year-old Epson Perfection V600 to a top-of-the-line Epson Perfection V850. The new scanner captures a higher resolution and can scan more negatives and transparencies at once and at a faster speed. The Epson Perfection V850 fully rounds out the comprehensive scanning options in Studio A which also include an Epson batch photo scanner and a large format book scanner.

Serving Our Community

Readers Services Highlight Timely Topics

In February, Info Services advisors created timely and relevant booklists that include: [The Worlds Eyes are on Ukraine](#) and [Banned and Challenged Books](#). These [booklists](#) were promoted on the library website.

The display topic for February was “Black History Month” and had 54 items checked out. Info Services staff worked with Communications and Marketing to promote the display and [online booklist](#).



Wednesday Cinema: Judas and the Black Messiah

February marked our return to Wednesday Cinema – a series of monthly afternoon screenings of notable, current and buzzworthy films. In honor of Black History Month, an in-person audience gathered to watch two-time Academy Award winning film *Judas and the Black Messiah*. Depicting a fictionalized re-telling of a true story of how the FBI infiltrated the Chicago chapter of the Black Panther Party and destroyed it from within.

Remembering Japanese Internment with ‘Hidden Memory’

February 19 marked the 80th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the incarceration of Japanese Americans into internment camps. In remembrance, Programs and Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker worked with professional storyteller Anne Shimojima to share a personal account of this history in her presentation, Hidden Memory. Anne used family and government archive photos in sharing the story of her family’s experience. Her style brought an immediacy to her presentation and highlighted the conditions of the camps for attendees. As a professional storyteller, Anne seamlessly wove her family’s story through the photos. She discussed racism against Japanese Americans at the time and highlighted the rise in anti-Asian racism today. Several attendees shared that they are compiling their own family history about their grandparents' experience in the camps, including one woman who watched the program at 1 a.m. in England. Anne happily shared her personal email to them to assist these participants in their research.

TAG Giving Back

Led by Tween librarian Kerry Bailey and Youth Services Specialist Ellie Richardson, six Tween Advisory Group (TAG) volunteers made four dog and cat beds that will be donated to Arlington Heights animal rescue organization The Buddy Foundation. They also gave input on summer reading registration prizes and meeting topics for the rest of the year.



Versiti Blood Drive

Since 2019, the library has partnered with Versiti Blood Center of Illinois to offer blood drives in the Arlington Heights community. With national blood shortages a continuing concern, Programs and Exhibits staff, with the help of volunteers, have continued this service, even during building closures due to COVID. February 3 marked the first Community Blood Drive of 2022 and it was a resounding success. February metrics include 44 appointments made, 34 units collected, and 102 potential patients helped through our Drive. From our Versiti representative John Weilgosz:

“Thank you for your support of the blood drive on 2/3/22 – We hit our goal again... way to go! Great start to 2022. On behalf of everyone here at Versiti and our hospital partners, THANK YOU! We could not fulfill our lifesaving mission without community partners like you.”

Tax Help at AHML

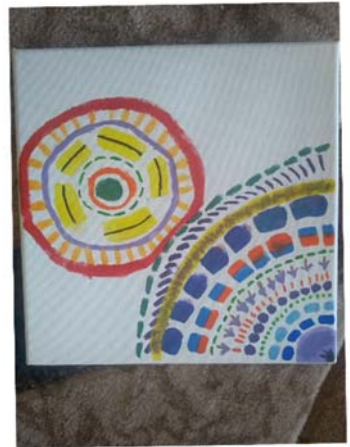
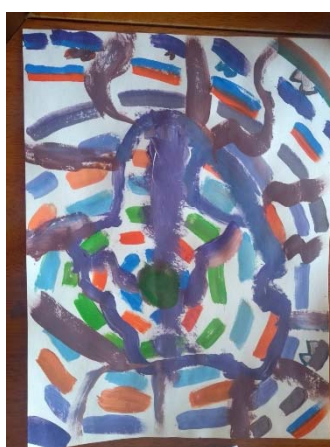
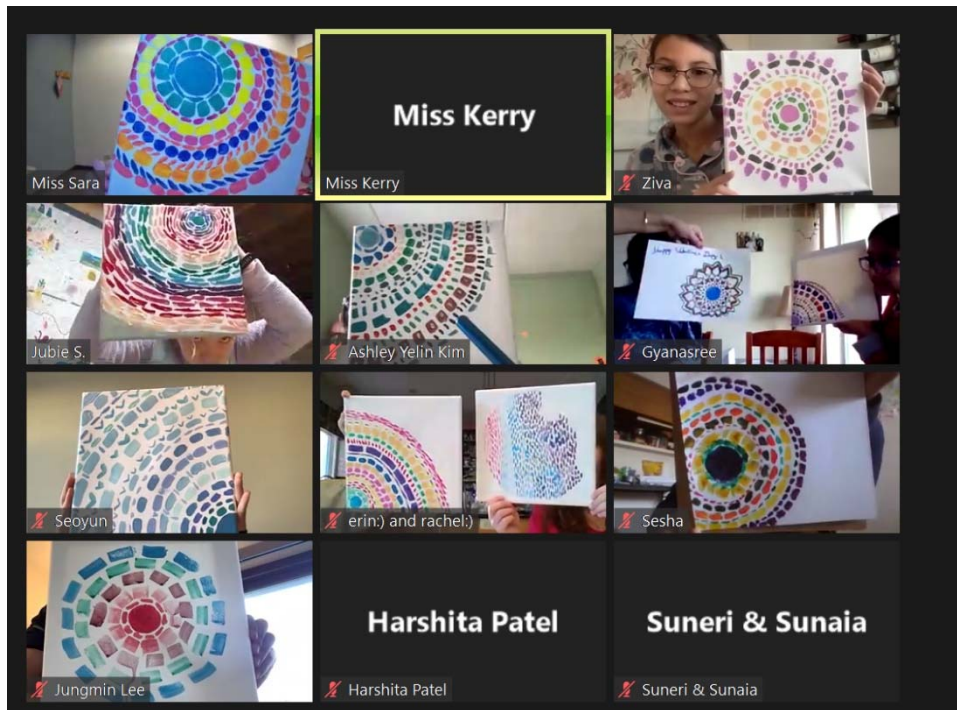
February means tax season! Info Services staff paired tax forms with a financial literacy book display. To date, 3,900 print forms and instruction booklets have been distributed. Customers have printed 2,809 sheets of paper at the popular self-print station. Forty-four finance related books circulated from the financial literacy display.

Starting in February, AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) provided free tax appointments for seniors. Info Services staff supports AARP by booking appointments, coordinating room space, answering customer questions and making reminder calls. In February AARP completed 138 one-on-one appointments.



Colorful Canvases

In celebration of Black History Month, Youth Services Advisor Sara Prince developed and led a tween program on the life and work of artist Alma Thomas. After learning about Thomas' career and impact, 16 tween participants practiced different techniques present in Thomas' work. After a discussion on the importance of celebrating the achievements and history of African Americans, they watched the short video "Your New Favorite Artist" narrated by Michelle Obama. The paintings the tweens created were quite impressive, and it was clear how proud they were of what they had made. Many parents passed along their appreciation for the program.



Get a Job! Workshop

On February 22, Teen Services Supervisor Alice Son teamed up with Info Services Librarian Brittany Coleman to provide guidance for first-time job seekers at Get a Job! Workshop for Teens. Fifteen teens learned about crafting resumes, best practices for interviewing and how to negotiate pay in the staff-led presentation. For the second half of the program, attendees were joined by Community and Circulation Services Manager Shannon Meyer, Digital Services Supervisor Gregory Berger and Material Handling Supervisor Matt Williams who provided mock interviews and valuable feedback for first-time (and slightly nervous) interviewees.

A participant who hosted a table at the event shared that she received her first job at a dentist's office at the library's Teen Job Fair back in 2014. This year, she joined the event in the hopes of hiring day camp counselors at the area park district where she supervises.



Virtual: Create Graphics for Social Media

Twenty-four attendees participated in the virtual class *Create Graphics for Social Media*. Digital Services Advisor Mini Radhakrishnan reviewed the free online graphic design platform Canva to create quick and easy graphics for attendees' professional and personal needs.

I SPY Kids' World Display

During the month of February, library customers enjoyed playing I Spy with dozens of bright, colorful items displayed in the Kids' World case. Children looked for 10 "hidden" objects and then turned in their game sheet to receive a mini-magnifying glass as a prize for playing. There were more than 225 participants.



Business Services in the Community

The library's Business Services were well represented in the community in February. Among other networking events attended, Business Services Advisor Diane Malik and Info Services Librarian Lev Kalmens attended the Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce annual gala, along with Executive Director Mike Driskell. The event celebrated the history of the Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce for its 75th anniversary. The library has been a proud member of the Chamber for 40 years.



DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY GALA

Celebrating 75 years and you are part of the story!

D214 Adult Education - GED Spanish

Community Engagement Liaison Catalina Shin visited the GED Spanish classroom at the School District 214 Forest View Educational Center on February 25, an adult education and family literacy program that provides educational services to adults who are English as a Second Language learners. Twenty students learned about library resources related to GED test preparation, how to access free digital services for GED preparation, financial assistance information handouts and the library's March newsletter. Participants expressed interest in the library's ESL programs, Info Services support such as career and job-related opportunities and computer classes at the Tech Learning Center.

Artisan No-Knead Bread Making

Andrea Pratt of My Kitchen Clatter returned to the Makerplace Kitchen to lead two classes in Artisan no-knead bread making. Together with Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski, she prepared dough in the kitchen ahead of the event, then welcomed 26 bakers on event day, eager to learn about the science behind yeast dough and gain tips to make crusty loaves of bread at home. Attendees enjoyed the hands-on experience, each leaving with a loaf of fresh baked bread and dough to make another loaf at home!



Coffee & Chocolates

The first coffee-themed program in the Makerplace Kitchen was instructed by Nikki Zimmerman - an experienced barista who is also the Marketing and Public Relations Specialist at RAILS! Working with Programs and Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker, Nikki designed this class and ran two sessions, back-to-back the same day, engaging 26 coffee lovers through a delicious and informational class. It drew a mix of ages, including couples and friends that came together. Nikki paced the program perfectly starting with the history of coffee and chocolate and, as she heated water for the coffee tasting, began discussing what flavors to look for in the selected coffee and chocolates.



Meet the Maker – Sarah Holden

The Makerplace held it's first in-person Meet the Maker program on a snowy day in February. The session featured Sarah Holden who teaches steel fabrication and metal forming at The Chicago Industrial Arts and Design Center and whose sculpture and limited production jewelry can be found at galleries across the United States. Eleven attendees had terrific in-depth questions about Sarah's work.



Makerplace Projects



Makerplace user Zoe Feast, who works in forestry, donated one of her wood-puck laser-etched works for display at the Makerplace to inspire other users.



A customer used the button maker to make Women's History Month "Let's Make HER-story" buttons.



These cylindrical glass vases were engraved as a gift for a dance teacher.

Staff Highlights

Recharge

Info Services Supervisor Jackie Moreno became a member of the [Recharge Committee](#).

Recharge is an independent networking and professional development group that provides free continuing education in the Chicago area to inspire library leaders at all levels.

English to Speakers of Other Languages Conference

ESL/Literacy Advisor Gary Fujino presented “Comparative Analysis of Collocation Instruction in Four-Skill Textbooks” at the annual Illinois Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Conference.