

Executive Director's Report April 2022

What's New @ AHML

Boox Leaf eInk



The library has purchased two new Onyx Boox Leaf dedicated eBook readers. The Leaf was purely designed to read digital content, such as comics, books and manga. The large seven-inch screen allows more text to be displayed at any given time. The device runs Android 10 and has access to the Google Play Store, so is quite easy to download favorite reading apps, such as Kindle, Kobo, Nook, Scribd or Libby. There are speakers on the Leaf to listen to audiobooks, music or podcasts without the use of a listening device/accessory.

Tech Bar Themes Return with *Digital Content Creation*

Digital Services reintroduced its Tech Bar exhibit themes, starting with *Digital Content Creation*. The theme explores blogging, vlogging and multiple other areas of content creation. It highlights library services in the Studio, hardware that circulates in the Library of Things and several classes created on the topic including *Create Graphics for Social Media* and *Creating a Brand on Social Media*.



Serving Our Community

Senior Phone Series Celebrates 100th Meeting



Senior and Accessible Services (SAS) celebrated the 100th meeting of the phone-based book program series. Since the first discussion in April of 2020, customers have listened to selections from 39 different books on subjects ranging from nature essays to show business memoirs and beyond. To celebrate the milestone, SAS staff delivered a ‘party in a bag’ to each participant that included a commemorative invitation, designed by the discussion’s primary facilitator SAS Advisor Janet McDonnell, a keepsake pinwheel, a sparkling water and a telephone cookie.



Dann & Raymond’s Annual Oscar Night



Programs and Exhibits staff brought Dann & Raymond’s Movie Club: A Night at the Oscars to 180 attendees via a hybrid watch party format. The Hendrickson Room was decked out with a red carpet, festive lights and popcorn for in-person attendees to fully immerse themselves in the Oscar party experience. The evening’s presenters expressed their gratitude to the library for accommodating both in-person and virtual audiences.

An Evening with Madeline Miller

Programs and Exhibits Supervisor Megan Young led a partnership event which connected readers across 32 libraries. A total of 945 Illinois-area community members virtually met Madeline Miller, author of bestselling *The Song of Achilles* and *Circe*. Of these, 83 attended from Arlington Heights (the second highest showing among all partner libraries). Madeline discussed her works and interest in mythology, feminism and retellings. The event recording was made available for two weeks, which garnered an additional 562 views.



33 ⅓ Classic Albums: Joe Gross on Fugazi's *In on the Kill Taker*

For the 10th installment of the virtual music series *33 ⅓ Classic Albums*, pop music critic and author Joe Gross joined Programs and Exhibits Manager Jennifer Czajka and Specialist Neal Parker to discuss Fugazi's game changing album *In on the Kill Taker*. Jennifer led Joe in conversation about this 1993 release, discussing the band's ethos, writing process, the recording of this album and stories highlighted in Joe's book. Wide ranging audience questions included one from an attendee in Sydney, Australia! Twenty-seven attended live, and the recording has been viewed 175 times at the time of reporting. The series, presented with Glenview and Northbrook libraries, continues through May, wrapping twelve months of celebrated albums and artists across decades and genres.

Wednesday Cinema Oscar Double Feature

March's Wednesday Cinema presented an opportunity for community members to get ready for Oscar Night. Several Academy-Award nominated films were available to screen publicly with the library's umbrella license. The Programs and Exhibits team selected *Spencer*, the story of Princess Diana, and *King Richard*, the story of the rise of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams. Community members were invited to view one or both films and the event reached a total of 70 people.

BINGO Night!

Programs and Exhibits specialist Emily Muszynski and Info Services Assistant Rachel Delaney hosted BINGO Night in the Hendrickson Room for 54 enthusiastic customers. Players enjoyed two cards each and five rounds of BINGO for the chance to win \$10 gift cards to Arlington Heights' CoCo & Blu or Sweet T's Bakery.

Sunday Musicale Returns with Sapphire Woodwind Quintet

The library's 2022 Sunday Musicale series kicked off on Sunday, March 13 with returning players, the Sapphire Woodwind Quintet who welcomed 66 attendees for a relaxing afternoon performance. In celebration of Women's History Month, the all-female quintet played a classical music journey through the work of women composers from the Renaissance to the present. Sunday Musicale, still generously sponsored by Friends of the Library, will continue monthly through December.



Take and Make Kits

In March, library volunteers helped pack and prepare adult take and make kits including Three Sister seed packets. One hundred and twenty-eight kits went out in March with almost 300 earth friendly kits (Beeswax wraps and more seed packets) getting ready for distribution throughout Earth Month in April.

Tax Help at AHML

In March, AARP completed and filed 171 one-on-one tax appointments, a 24% increase from February's appointments (138).

Highlighting Ukraine Resources

Info Services Librarians Lev Kalmens and Nikki Camp compiled resources related to the crisis in Ukraine. Info Services Advisors compiled a booklist to include [on the web page](#), which also highlights links and resources on how to help with refugee and humanitarian aid, as well as reliable news sources, current events explainers and fact checking tools. In March, the page garnered 825 website visits.

#STANDWITHUKRAINE ▶



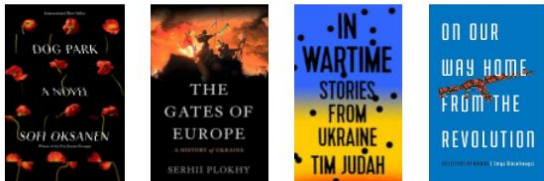
Explore resources available through the library such as books, eBooks, films, articles and more on the topic of Ukraine.

Also on this page, find resources from around the web that AHML librarians have collected such as podcasts, websites and guides.

[Edit Article Header](#)

The World's Eyes are on Ukraine

Non-fiction, novels, and films that give insight to the current political situation in Ukraine and its people



[Chat With Us](#)

Teen Job Fair

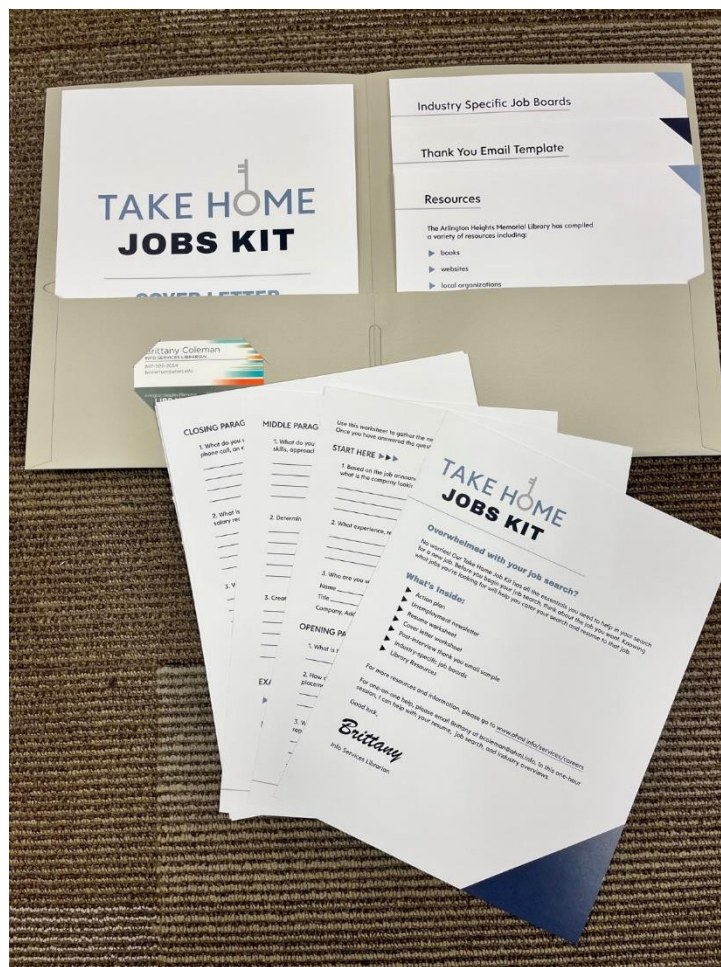
The Village of Arlington Heights Youth Commission hosted a Teen Job Fair at the Arlington Ridge Center on March 1. Material Handling Supervisor Matt Williams and Human Resources Assistant Gaby Rojek represented the library, speaking with over thirty teens about paid and volunteer opportunities at Arlington Heights Memorial Library. Teen Services Supervisor Alice Son and Youth Services Supervisor Rebecca King hosted a parent's table with resources for parents and teens.

Targeted Outreach to Minority-owned Businesses

Business Services Advisor Diane Malik targeted outreach to minority-owned businesses in Arlington Heights. Beginning with a handful of in-person visits to businesses, she was able to make valuable connections and discussed library's offerings and shared outreach folders, containing information about business services, the Studio, the Makerplace, Business Library Cards, eServices, SCORE mentoring sessions and upcoming business programs.

Take Home Jobs Kits for Outreach Work

Info Services Librarian Brittany Coleman created Take Home Jobs Kits for job seeker customers, to be handed out at outreach events, one-on-one appointments and in-library classes or programs. The kits include helpful resources and information, as well as worksheets for customers to develop their resumes, cover letters and more. The kits debuted at a visit to the District 214 Catherine M. Lee Women's and Children's Center with Community Engagement Liaison Catalina Shin. Brittany shared jobs and careers resources available at the library. The Catherine M. Lee Women's and Children's Center helps female immigrants gain skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing English to increase their skills for gaining employment and helping their children succeed in school.



ESL Social Hour

ESL and Literacy Services tried out a new drop-in program called *ESL Social Hour*. It was created to provide library customers an opportunity to stop in for unstructured conversation, networking and community building. A team of ESL volunteers, who happen to be English language learners themselves, facilitated the group of nine participants. Afterwards, multiple participants remarked that it was a wonderful way for them to practice English and get to know one another. *ESL Social Hour* will become part of the monthly rotation.

Culinary: Ginger Beer Brewing

Programs and Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker and Supervisor Megan Young worked with local business owner Mark Heffernan to develop a truly unique experience for the Makerplace Kitchen – a ginger beer making demo and tasting. Mark is the owner of Zingabrew and started the business out of his garage. Each table was set up with a pot to steep the ginger mixture and add unique ingredients for flavoring. Fourteen attendees left with a 6-pack sampler of locally brewed Zingabrew and the custom brew made in class!

Passport to Culture

Elementary-aged kids joined volunteers from St. Viator High School's international student program to learn about different cultures around the world at *Passport to Culture*. The attendees received an AHML passport stamped at each of the four stations – China, Spain, South Korea and Italy. Chinese-



speaking and Spanish-speaking high school

students performed bilingual read-alouds of familiar books. At craft stations, attendees practiced writing the Korean alphabet to make greeting cards and constructing their own Venetian masks. The international students explained cultural practices and pointed out their home countries on a map.



Local Elected Official Community Programs

The library co-hosted two community events in partnership with local elected official offices that engaged a total of 96 people.

A DMV event with the Secretary of State helped 78 people with different processes. The event reached capacity within a few hours.



Utility Bill Clinic event with the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) helped eighteen people.



Spring Break Fun Week of March 21-25

Spring Break week found Youth Services busier than ever with seven programs available to customers.

- **Monster Monday Funday!:** Kindergartners and 1st graders enjoyed stories and activities involving monsters.

- **Tween/Teen Maker Cart:** Tweens and Teens attendees decided what they wanted to make with the sewing, art, and tech tools available. Attendees sewed scrunchies, made 3D sculptures with the 3Doodler printing pens, and painted watercolors among other creations.



- **BrainPlay: Fun with Aerodynamics:** Third graders learned fundamentals of aerodynamics, including weight distribution and its effect on aerodynamics. Then they built gliders and began experimenting using weights.

- **Books ‘n Bites:** Instead of reading and discussing one book, attendees book-talked a book they recently enjoyed as their peers added the recommended titles to their “Books to Read” lists.

- **Mini Golf:** Assisted by tween volunteers, over 100 customers tried their hand at sinking a put. One customer who attended mini golf as well as several other spring break programs commented as he entered the room with his three kids, “The library saved spring break!”



- **DIY Woven Baskets:** Teens got a chance to make their own baskets and bowls with simple weaving techniques.

- **Firefly Family Theatre** presented a program about friendship and helping one another. After the show, the audience was permitted “behind the curtain” to see puppetry from the other side of the curtain.



Meet the Maker: Marshall Bruné

The Makerplace hosted maker and luthier Marshall Bruné, a maker of stringed instruments such as violins or guitars.

Marshall went over the basics of guitar building and his 25 years' experience as a second-generation luthier, working with

incredibly rare instruments which he shared in his presentation. He also detailed his trips to Utah where he sourced trees to harvest wood for his guitar bodies, his philosophy for both building things to last and respectful repair. Before the evening ended, he played a violin made in 1710. The program was well received on the rainy evening with seventeen attendees.



Arlington Heights Lion's Club Chili Cook-Off

Makerspace Culinary Advisor Brian Bassegio and Makerspace Branch Assistant Manager Chris Krueger represented the Arlington Heights Memorial Library and Makerplace at the Arlington Heights Lion's Club Chili Cook-Off. Brian served a terrific batch of chili made in the Makerplace Kitchen. While Brian was slinging chili, Chris took the opportunity to talk to community members about Makerplace equipment and services.



Bookbinding with Regin

The library welcomed back artist Regin Igloria to deliver a hands-on bookbinding workshop at the Makerplace. Ten customers worked alongside Regin to learn binding methods, including sewing manners and folding techniques. Customers left feeling confident in their new abilities and all walked away with several constructed books, including instructions to make more at home.



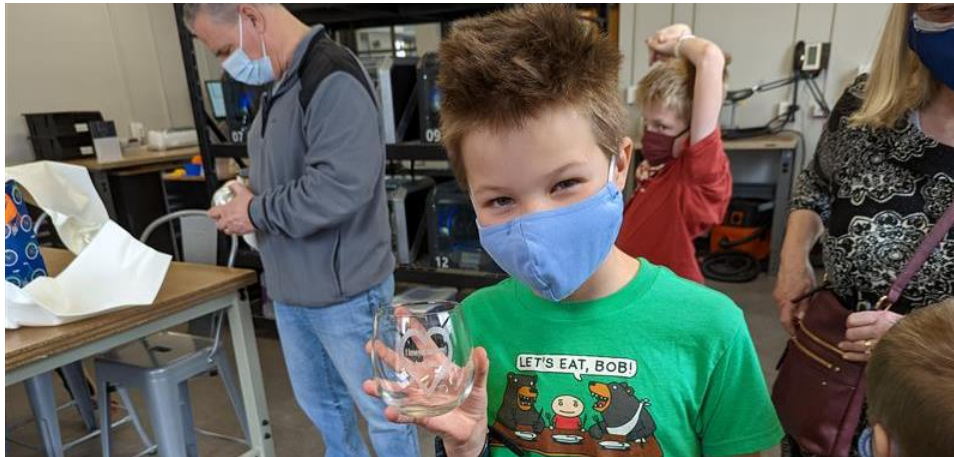
Culinary Essentials: Knife Skills

Makerplace Culinary Advisor Brian Bassegio offered two sessions of the Makerplace's very first library staff-lead culinary class, *Culinary Essentials: Knife Skills*. Brian led 28 attendees in slicing and dicing their way around the kitchen.

Makerplace Projects



A customer who is competing in the upcoming Special Olympics has been visiting the Makerplace to make commemorative items. He works with a woodworker to create phone stands, zipper pulls, key chains and Christmas ornaments, which he then etches the Special Olympics logo using the Makerplace laser cutter.



A couple brought in their grandkids to make wine glasses for their mother's birthday. They made a Wordle themed custom design in Adobe Illustrator on a wine glass.



A customer laser engraved custom-made baby rattles on the Dremel laser cutter.



One customer pushed the Epilog laser engraver to its capacity limit when inscribing a custom-made large vase for a wedding shower (normal sized mug pictured for scale).

Staff Highlights

William C. Morris Award Committee

Teen Librarian Evan Mather began his term as a member of the 2023 William C. Morris Debut Award Committee, which honors outstanding books published by a first-time author writing for teens. The committee will award and honor books at the Youth Media Awards in January 2023.

Refugee Services Consultation

ESL and Literacy Services Coordinator Tracy Karim participated in the quarterly meeting of Refugee Services Consultation. This meeting provides a platform for agencies and organizations throughout the state of Illinois to share information regarding the physical, educational and health-related needs of refugees and asylum seekers who have recently arrived in Illinois, or for those who are anticipated to arrive soon. Tracy has been tasked with creating a list of the services available from LEARN (Libraries' English And Reading Network) libraries, including Arlington Heights Memorial Library, to offer to the group at the next quarterly meeting in June.

RAILS My Library Is... Advisory Team

Community Engagement Liaison Catalina Shin was selected to participate in the "My Library Is..." RAILS campaign as one of their new advisory team members. "My Library Is" is a campaign to help member libraries tell their stories and demonstrate their library's value to stakeholders, including current and potential library users, funders, governing boards, parent institutions/companies, colleagues, elected officials and more.