

Executive Director’s Report

June 2022

What’s New @ AHML

Lincoln Awards Collection for Teens

The new “Teen Award Nominees” collection features nominees for the Lincoln Award, which is also known as the Illinois Readers’ Choice Award. The collection will provide new opportunities to partner with area high school book clubs, encourage reading for high school-aged teens and include them in voting for the winner of this state book award.

Makerplace Welcomes Volunteers

After several months of planning and preparation, Makerspace Specialist Lee Anne Davis and Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Begich welcomed volunteers into the Makerplace. Volunteers are now “coaching” during Makerplace Essentials classes. They provide backup support to the instructor and assist attendees during the class.

Serving Our Community

Spreading the Word About Summer Reading

The Youth Outreach Team had their busiest month of the year promoting the Summer Reading Challenge reaching 1,980 students. Staff visited schools, welcomed students for library tours, visited with the bookmobile and provided virtual visits. Students enjoyed hearing about Summer Reading as well as watching the [video](#) featuring library staff. Stories and booktalks were included for younger customers.



Spring School Art Show Returns



Student artwork from seven District 25 elementary schools and two middle schools returned for the 2022 Spring Art Show. The exhibit was displayed May 3 through May 25 and was visited by approximately 4,800 art lovers of all ages. Just over 600 students and families celebrated the student artists at two Wednesday night Opening Receptions. Visitors admired the art, took pictures with District 25 art teachers, and were happy to see the library bring back the annual event.



Social Services Resources

Info Services Librarian Barb Powers compiled and curated a comprehensive directory of community and social services resources. Originally intended to help Info Services staff answer customer questions, the resource guide was developed into a [webpage on the library's website](#). This valuable resource is now accessible for both staff and the public, connecting individuals with the help they need. Categories include financial assistance, housing, legal assistance, behavioral and mental health, transportation and more.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES RESOURCES ►



Many community and social services are available in the Arlington Heights area for people in need. The listings below include many organizations. If you need emotional distress please call 911.

VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS SERVICES

Village of Arlington Heights Health and Human Services 847-368-5790 healthmail@vah.com

- Social Services Department 847-368-5791 Connects residents with resources including counseling subsidy, financial assistance, C.A.P. and Park District

ABUSE & NEGLECT

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) 800-252-2873 (ARISE) Report suspected abuse or neglect by parents and other...

Connect with Local Government Assistance/Resources

As the first in a series of partnering with local officials, this new community program brought in twenty-five customers who received help and connections to resources from county, state, and federal officials. If customers had a question that was on the state level but were asking the Federal office, they could easily get assistance right away, and vice versa. Staff members from the offices of Senator Ann Gillespie, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, State Representative Mark Walker and Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton had positive feedback, expressing that being all together in the same space at the same time made it very proactive and efficient.



Outreach Brings Businesses to Makerplace

Business Services Advisor Diane Malik hosted a variety of networking and outreach events in May. She coordinated a Makerplace visit for the Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals group, where Diane presented the library's business and nonprofit resources. Makerplace Specialist Kate Henry then led the group on a tour of the Makerplace and answered questions about using the space. A second Makerplace group presentation and tour came about as a direct result of the library's "Small Business Coffee and Connect" program, where small business owners expressed an interest in learning more about available services. These two events included a total of sixteen participants from the small business community.

Students from the Academy in Forest View Visit the Library

District 214 offers a program for transition students 18-22 years old with specific disabilities. Two groups of students from the Academy at Forest View attended library tours and learned about available resources and the layout of the library.



World Of Work

Circulation Assistants Mary Weber and Terry Bertucci welcomed fifth grade students from Windsor Elementary School on Thursday May 5. Six students were able to become library employees for a day as part of World of Work (WOW), a program that gives kids the opportunity to act as employees for a day at local businesses or organizations that interest them. They learned about checking in books and other items, assisted in the drive-up window, explored the bookmobile and more.



Storytime Reach

Youth Services staff received a phone call from a woman in Ohio who read the blog post, [“English Learners Family Storytime”](#), written by Early Literacy Services Supervisor Rebecca King. The customer volunteered at a social service agency that was welcoming new refugees from Afghanistan and she was tasked with offering ESL storytimes to newly arrived young children and their families. After contacting the library, she received a variety of resources, including storytime training, sample storytime plans and links to the library’s online English Language Family Times for observation/modeling. She reported back that the families had an amazing time together at their first storytime in the United States!

Genealogy Programs Highlight Lineage Societies

Genealogy and Local History Librarian Nikki Camp coordinated and hosted a series of programs focused on the world of lineage societies. These are groups associated with historical themes or events and very popular among genealogy researchers and enthusiasts. The three series programs were “Getting to Know the Mayflower Society,” “Getting to Know the Jamestowne Society” and “Specialized Lineage Societies,” which included numerous war/military descendent societies, early U.S. religious groups, occupational groups, Daughters of Early American Witches and more. The series of programs saw an audience of twenty-five.

Ukrainian Cultural Celebration



One hundred and forty people attended the library’s celebration of Ukrainian culture. Visitors enjoyed Ukrainian music, dance and art. Live music was provided by The Association of American Youth of Ukrainian Descent (ODUM) Bandurists, a dance performance by the Haydamaky

Dance Group, a pysanka egg demonstration and a display of cultural items. The ODUM School of Bandura features student musicians, with the goal of establishing a connection to Ukrainian music. The Haydamaky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Bloomingdale's goal is to preserve Ukrainian culture through dance, featuring authentic costumes and unique choreography.

Customers explored an exhibit of cultural items, including a demonstration of the elaborate detail of pysanka eggs, interacting directly with volunteers, families and members of the Ukrainian community of the Northwest Suburbs of Chicago.



Humanitarian Aid Drive for Ukraine



UCARE, Inc. (Ukrainian Children's Aid and Relief Effort) is a non-profit organization whose focus has been the children of Ukraine, primarily those living in orphanages. The mission has broadened to include all children impacted by the war. Natalie Konowal, a member of the Board of Directors for UCARE, Inc. and Arlington Heights resident, picked up donations after a successful two-week humanitarian drive for Ukraine. Hundreds of essential items donated by the generous community were collected from May 5-20 that included baby food, first aid kits, clothes, shoes and over-the-counter medicine.

Free Comic Book Day

Material Handling Supervisor Matt Williams and Youth Services Advisor Sara Prince represented the FanCon Planning team for Free Comic Book Day on May 7. Matt and Sara handed out free comic books and FanCon pins to customers on Main Street in anticipation of FanCon 2022, which returns to in person again on July 16.



Prospect Heights Library Collaboration

The library processed over one-hundred library card applications for students in school District 23 as part of a collaborative effort with the Prospect Heights Public Library. The goal is to ensure every District 23 student has a card. Approximately one third of students in District 23 fall within the Arlington Heights Memorial Library District.

National Senior Health and Fitness Day

At the Senior Center, nearly two hundred customers received free health screenings, attended demonstrations and learned how to apply the principles of conscious aging from keynote speaker Mark Blesdoe. Senior and Accessible Services staff collaborated with other Senior Center agencies to plan and host the event which included a display and demonstration of the library's assistive devices that residents can borrow from the Library of Things collection.



May Sunday Musicales

On Sunday, May 1, Programs and Exhibits staff were happy to host cross-genre trio Anderlik, Roach & Dorfman (filling in for Church). The band played a wide range of styles ranging from blues to jazz standards, and contemporary folk. One hundred and twenty-six attendees enjoyed the afternoon concert.

On Sunday, May 22, Esso returned to AHML with their dynamic 7-piece band structured as a “musical travelogue” from South America to Chicago in 90 minutes! The 55 attendees were treated to poetry, banter, and encouraged to get up and dance. The band really connected with the crowd when they “reached” New Orleans, marching and playing in the aisles. The Sunday Musicales series continues this summer in North School Park.

Chicago Scavenger Hunt

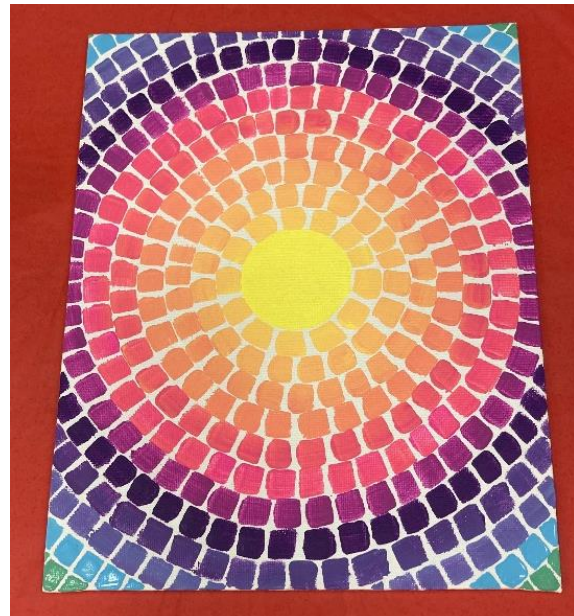
Forty-one customers joined local author Jessica Mlinaric of *Secret Chicago* in the Hendrickson Room. Jessica presented a terrific slide-show presentation on Chicago that was one part history and one part trivia. Each slide had a clue for a spot in a Chicago neighborhood and the crowd had fun trying to figure that out. Jessica's enthusiasm for the city is contagious and the crowd really enjoyed themselves.

Monthly Garden Swaps

Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski and Programs and Exhibits Manager Jennifer Czajka kicked off the gardening season with the library's first Garden and Produce Swap of the season. Twenty-eight community members dropped by the tent in front of the Makerplace to swap plants, seeds and gardening tips. They shared an abundance of items including milkweed, Shasta daisies, heirloom tomato and pepper seeds and beautiful monstera and pathos houseplants. These gardeners are excited to keep swapping all season long. The library's Garden and Produce Swaps will continue on the fourth Sunday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Paint & Sip

Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski and Makerplace Specialist Kate Henry welcomed 30 customers to Paint & Sip – a social and creative event for adults featuring mocktails and painting supplies. The evening began with an inspirational slideshow and blended social time with creating art.



Polish Favorites!

Thirty-three customers attended cooking class Polish Favorites! in the Makerplace kitchen. Kristyn Slick of Mealttime Memories demonstrated creating Kolaczki cookies and Pierogi as attendees followed along. *“Kristyn was so informative, attentive, and helpful. I learned some new tips and tricks that helped boost my confidence to tackle these recipes on my own. I most enjoyed the hands-on learning.”*

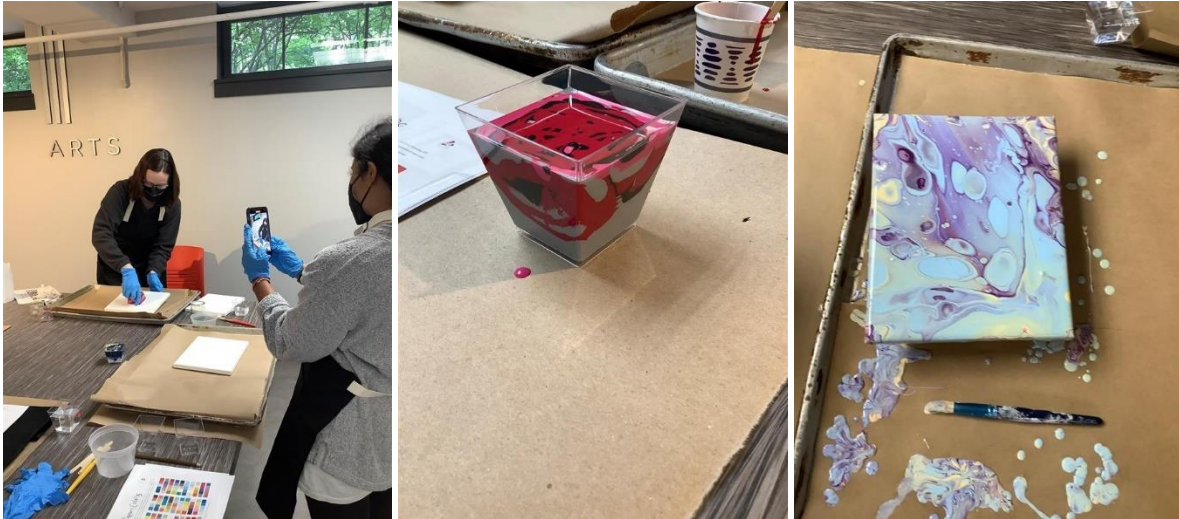
Special Olympics Fundraiser Designs

One customer regularly uses the Makerplace to customize different objects with the Special Olympics logo using the Epilog Laser Engraver. In May, he engraved several different pieces of glassware and vases to be sold at a Special Olympics fundraiser.



Makerplace Paint Pouring

Makerspace Advisor Lisa Hale hosted a Paint Pouring class in the Makerplace's art space. Lisa walked seven participants through the paint pouring process and discussed the basics of color theory.



Virtual Makerplace Niche Academy Tutorials

In May, Digital Services Specialist Kate Henry produced, recorded and edited virtual Vinyl Cutting and Embroidery classes to be hosted on Niche Academy. These prerecorded classes provide training to customers on Makerplace equipment, allowing them to prepare projects from home and outside of building hours before using the equipment. Pictured is an image from the Embroidery class video instructing viewers on embroidering a towel and tee shirt.



Staff Highlights

Seguimos Creando Enlaces (Creating Connections)

Community Engagement Liaison Catalina Shin attended Seguimos Creando Enlaces (Creating Connections), a bilingual English and Spanish conference that fosters community connections and cultural diversity in public, academic and special libraries. This event brings together libraries from the United States, Mexico and across the globe to share best practices and build more inclusive library spaces.

Makerplace Hosts Makerspace Networking Group

Makerspace Branch Assistant Manager Chris Krueger welcomed thirty-four staff members from libraries of many different sizes into the Makerplace for the first in-person RAILS Makerspace Networking Group meeting in over two years. Chris gave a presentation on the Makerplace's service model, equipment and demographics.



Congratulations Graduates!



Material Assistant Dan Grossman completed his master's degree in Library and Information Sciences from Dominican University. In the future, Dan would like to become a Youth Services Librarian.



ESL and Literacy Advisor Gary Fujino completed his master's degree in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from Northeastern Illinois University.

PRXchange award winners!

The library is the recipient of two national PR Xchange Awards for our newsletter and our [Teen Film Fest trailer](#) for 2021. Congratulations to the Communications and Marketing team for this honor. Awards will be presented at the ALA conference in Washington D.C. on June 26th.