

Executive Director's Report

November 2022

What's New @ AHML

Assistive Devices

Makerspace Branch Assistant Manager Chris Krueger worked with Library Delivery and Accessibility Supervisor Katie Myers and Senior and Accessible Services Manager Mary Jo Lepo to develop and deploy an assistive device program at the Makerplace and through the library's "Library of Things" collection. The collection tools from the Makers Making



Change 3D Printed Low Tech Assistive Devices Kit consists of:

- Bag Carrier
- Bottle Opener
- Key Turner
- Palm Pen
- Pen Ball
- Signature Guide
- Tube Opener

These items are printed to order, and several are available in multiple sizes. Tools that require assembly are packaged with instructions and hardware; they can also be assembled by library staff per request.

The assistive tools orders are off to a good start, with six ordered during a "soft opening" in September and 56 tools orders and fulfilled in October. This is a unique program not currently offered at other local libraries. AHML staff have received inquiries from neighboring libraries since the launch of this program and may act as a starting point for other libraries interested in providing this service.

Text Reference

In order to meet accessibility needs of the community, LibChat services were expanded to include text reference in October. The website, newsletter, and all other communication were updated to include the new text information.

Library Address:

500 N. Dunton Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL
60004-5910

Tel: 847-392-0100

Email: [Contact Form](#)

Fax: 847-506-2650

Text: 847-665-1491

Outreach and Community Engagement

Pet Blessing

AHML took part in the Blessing of the Animals celebration at St. Simon's Episcopal Church on Sunday, October 2. Staff interacted with 43 people giving them tours of the bookmobile and learning each pet's name. Also featured were animal themed book displays and giveaways.



Autumn Harvest Festival

It was exciting to be back at Autumn Harvest on Saturday, October 8, after not being there since 2019. The bookmobile and One Book, One Village (OBOV) crew participated with a pop-up table, crafts, and giveaways. Families enjoyed autumn crafts, and people were able to check out *Clark and Division* and receive an origami bookmark giveaway. It was also one of the busiest outreaches for the season, as we interacted with 465 people.



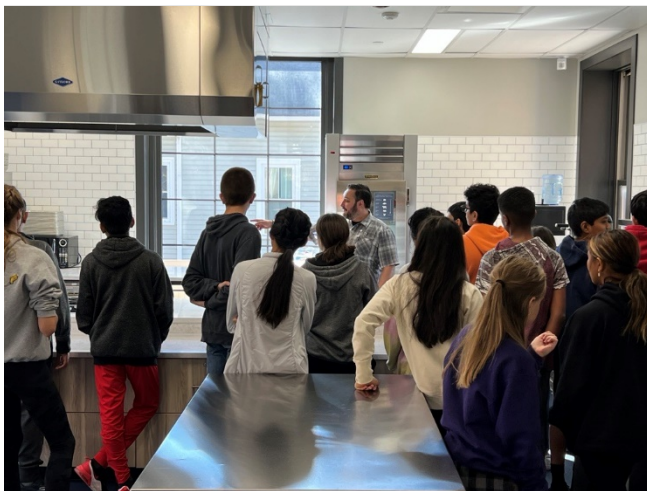
Fall Tech Drive

This fall, the library partnered with Best Step Tutoring, a local nonprofit organization in support of their EDvantage Project to host an electronic-devices drive for youth with no access to technology and tutoring services. They were incredibly thankful and overwhelmed by the tremendous positive response and generosity of the Arlington Heights community during this drive. In two weeks, 211 devices were collected.



Thomas Middle School Science Olympiad Team Visit

Forty students from Thomas Middle School's Science Olympiad Team visited the Makerplace on Friday, October 28. Youth Services and Makerplace staff collaborated to provide our first school field trip to the Makerplace. The visit included tours of the Makerplace and team-building activities including a cup stacking challenge, making 'swimsuits' for Sphero robots and tinkering with littleBits throughout the day.



Cord Cutting 101

Digital Services Supervisor Gregory Berger presented Cord Cutting 101 to fifty Lake Barrington Shores residents...many attendees commented on how Arlington Heights Memorial Library can't be beat.

Arlington Heights Business Builders

Business Services Advisor Diane Malik hosted an Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce Business Builder Group at the library's Senior Center Reading Room this month. Diane gave a presentation about business library services and Senior and Accessible Services Manager Mary Jo Lepo provided an overview of senior and accessible programs and resources offered by the library. The group was clearly wowed by all that is offered to the various demographic groups within Arlington Heights.

Virtual Manzanar Historic Site Ranger Visit

On October 6, 53 customers joined Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski online for a virtual visit from Alisa Lynch, a ranger at Manzanar National Historic Site in California. Alisa shared the stories and pictures of Japanese Americans imprisoned at the site and did a Q & A with the audience. A close friend to many of the people she highlighted in the presentation, ranger Lynch showed the struggles families faced, but also their resilience. One of the benefits of virtual programming is the opportunity to connect Arlington Heights to people and places across the United States – this program was the perfect example of this.

One Book One Village Pop-Up at Mitsuwa Marketplace

As part of our outreach efforts with One Book, One Village 2022 selection, staff brought a piece of the library and OBOV to Mitsuwa Marketplace. Staff interacted with 85 people who learned about the author's event, programs, book discussions, and other library services. It was a beautiful experience to meet people where they are and show more of what the library has to offer.



Clark and Division Book Discussions

With the coordination of Community Engagement Liaison Catalina Shin, the OBOV team participated in a total of nine outreach events, including pop-up tables, a presence at numerous community festivals, and partnership discussions with the Japanese America Society of Chicago and the Asian American Bar Association. We connected with 1,130 individuals through outreach.

Programs and Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker and Community Engagement Liaison Catalina Shin collaborated in hosting a virtual book discussion and bringing our 2022 OBOV selection, *Clark and Division*, beyond Arlington Heights borders with the Japan America Society in Chicago and the Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Alumni Association of Chicago. These two organizations connect members and alumni in the Midwest - Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Indiana. It was fascinating to discuss our *One Book One Village Book* with individuals connecting from the St. Louis and Chicago area.

Neal and Catalina Shin were invited by the Asian American Bar Association in Chicago to participate in a group discussion with local attorneys about *Clark and Division*. They discussed opinions from a historical and legal perspective as well as an insightful conversation on legal implications then and today. As OBOV closed out its incredibly successful run with the Naomi Hirahara author event, Catalina and Neal joined Stephen Lee, Board Member of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area, to celebrate the event with Naomi.

Serving Our Community

Dann & Raymond's OBOV Edition

On October 13, Dann Gire and Raymond Benson presented a specially curated edition of their movie club, focused on the films of legendary Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa. As usual, Dann and Raymond served up great insight, stories, trivia, and fun facts about Kurosawa and his career, films and their influence on filmmakers, and the actors he often used. They smartly started the program with a video featuring George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola talking about how important Kurosawa had been to their filmmaking sensibilities and developmental arcs. The evening was an entertaining and illuminating chronicling of Kurosawa's career and still-present impacts on film.

OBOV Culminates with Author Event

The library's One Book, One Village community read initiative continued in October, culminating in our first in-person author event in more than two years with "An Evening with Naomi Hirahara." Planned by the OBOV Committee and Programs and Exhibits staff, the event saw author Naomi Hirahara in conversation with Chicago historian Erik Matsunaga, with audience Q&A facilitated by Info Services Advisor Sherri Tader.

275 community members attended the live event at the Forest View Auditorium and 110 viewers live-streamed the event on YouTube. The video is now hosted on YouTube and continues to draw many views and engagement – more than 300 at this time. After the conversation, many attendees elected to stay to meet the author during a book signing, where Naomi graciously shared her time, speaking with community members.



As OBOV comes to a close, some highlights from the month of October include:

- This year's checkouts of the OBOV title and tie-ins exceeding the 2021 circulation, with a current total of 2,353 checkouts.
- With early and targeted outreach, we saw the highest-ever participation from community book clubs with 32 book clubs borrowing a set of books.

Fall Chili with Chef Grace

Thirty-three student chefs joined Programs and Exhibits staff in the cozy atmosphere of the Makerplace kitchen on October 11. Two sessions were offered of Fall Chili with Chef Grace Goudie from Scratchboard Kitchen, who remains among the most in-demand instructors in our kitchen monthly. These lucky participants mixed and baked cheddar and jalapeno biscuits to eat alongside the buffalo chicken chili and short rib chili Chef Grace demonstrated. During class Chef Grace was the first instructor to use our new kitchen amplification system! This over-the-ear microphone is a welcome addition, so attendees can hear instructors over the hustle and bustle of the kitchen and appliances.

First DIY Screen Printing Class

Makerspace Advisor Lisa Hale developed and presented the Makerplace's first DIY screen printing program in October. The program ran with a full class and full waiting list. The program was very well received and will be run again in the coming months.



Audio Amplification in the Makerplace Kitchen

Makerspace Branch Assistant Manager Chris Krueger worked with IT Services Supervisor Erik McMinn to identify the correct equipment for audio amplification in the Makerplace kitchen. Staff did a great job installing an easy-to-use microphone and speaker system for culinary presenters in the space. This is a much-requested addition to the kitchen and is sure to be appreciated by both customers and presenters.

Inspired By Art Night

The second “Inspired By” Art Night was a huge success. Fifteen makers learned about the style of Salvador Dali and used paint and magazines to make their own surrealist art, inspired by Dali and his Elephants painting.



Halloween Fun

On Wednesday, October 26, Kids’ World hosted its 10th annual Halloween Fun celebration! This was the first time in two years it was offered as a drop-in event. Customers of all ages enjoyed the event evidenced by the compliments received and many smiling faces! A total of 524 people attended over the course of two sessions. Children were able to experience ten different games and make five crafts. It was a fa-BOO-lous success!



Teen Halloween Party

On Friday, October 28, the Hub hosted a Teen Halloween Party! Teen volunteers from the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) helped plan the activities and TAB volunteers also led and assisted activities on the night of the event. Forty-four teen participants and four TAB volunteers created three festive crafts, participated in a Super Smash Bros. video game tournament, held a costume contest and watched a ghost movie. TAB also came up with ideas for a murder mystery scavenger hunt that included clues throughout the library and ran the length of the event. Teens also enjoyed a popcorn bar, goodie bags with candy and prizes.

Meeting and Conference Room Usage

There were 17 reservations by the public for the Hendrickson Room in October, the highest number since the library re-opened. Conference Room reservations for October were 1,151, the highest number in 2022 and on par with pre-COVID numbers.

Library Cards

This month, 466 new residents signed up for library cards. This number includes 217 new kids' cards issued through the library's partnership with District 25.

Volunteer and Staff Highlights

Volunteer Appreciation Crafts and Pie

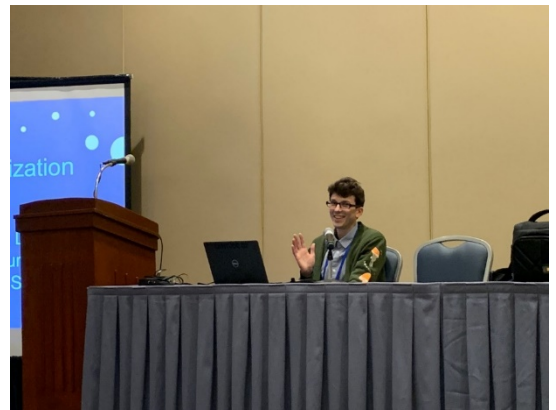
The Makerplace was happy to welcome the library's volunteers for an appreciation event. Pie was served in the Makerplace kitchen along with a DIY craft. The event saw over 100 volunteers stop by for crafts and pie.



Illinois Library Association Annual Conference

Library staff and trustees attended the annual Illinois Library Association Conference, this year hosted in Rosemont, IL. Staff attended sessions with topics ranging from diversity and inclusion to levying taxes. Five staff presented at sessions:

Digital Media Specialist Chris Smith presented at his first ever library conference! “Comprehensive Digitization: Everything Patrons Need to Digitize and Preserve Their Pictures, Home Movies, Audio and Slides”



Info Services Librarian Brittany Coleman teamed up with Material Handling Supervisor Matt Williams and Teen Supervisor Alice Son to present “Get a Job! Helping teens get (and keep) their first



gig.” Their combined expertise brought varied perspectives to the topic: Alice has extensive experience serving teens, Brittany specializes in career programming for adults, and Matt hires and supervises numerous teen workers at the library.

Their focus was on programs such as resume workshops, mock interviews, and a job fair specifically for teens to help them hone their skills, boost their confidence, connect them to opportunities and coach them through their first working experiences.

ESL and Literacy Services Supervisor Tracy Karim presented alongside Jean Demas from Lisle Library District and Katrina Belogorsky from Skokie Public Library on “Connecting with the growing ELL (English Language Learners) community through different library program models,” which focused on using book discussions to support adult learners. This session provided an overview of three specific programs as well as the ways in which their book discussions are scaffolded to encourage participation and foster student success.

Material Handling Supervisor Matt Williams presented a poster session for the Recharge Committee. The poster session was a way for the Recharge Committee to recruit new members from all types of libraries as well as promote the free professional development options the Recharge Committee provides for library staff at all levels. In total, Matt met with over 50 library staff from libraries across the state.