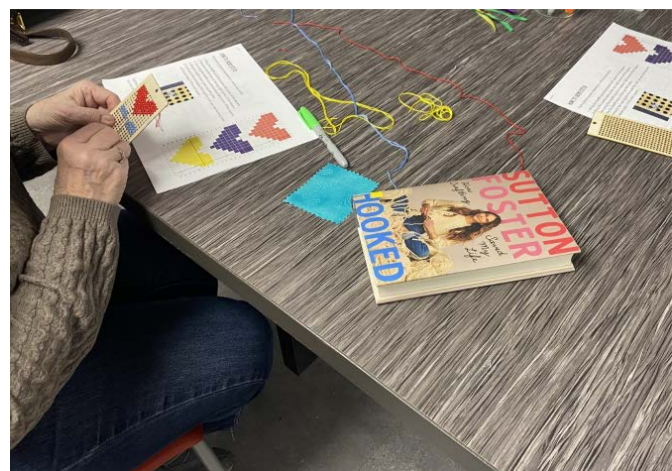
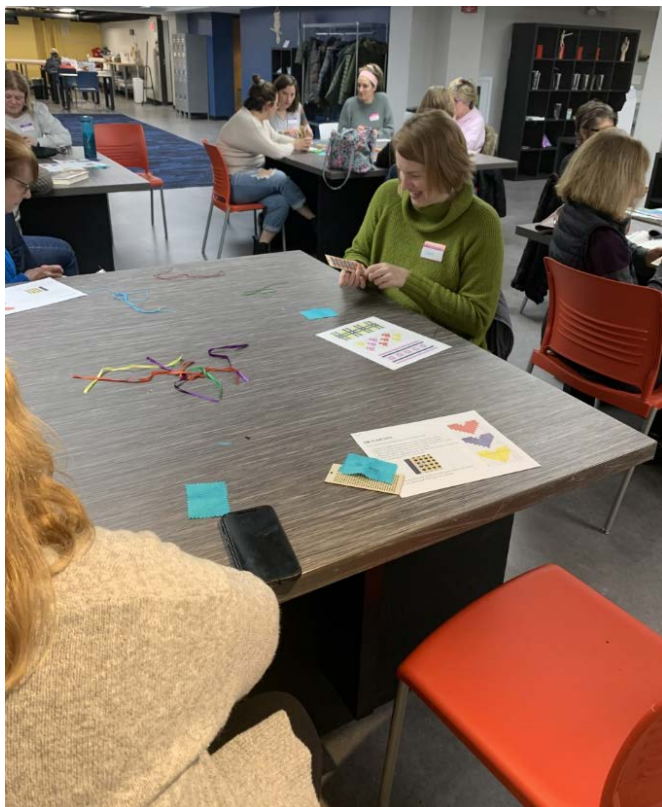


Executive Director's Report March 2023

What's New @ AHML

Beyond the Book Discussion

Info Services Advisors and Makerplace staff collaborated to plan and host the first Beyond the Book discussion at the Makerplace around the book *Hooked: How Crafting Saved My Life* by Sutton Foster. A cross stitched bookmark craft was included while advisors and customers discussed the book. Of the 16 attendees, five had never attended a book discussion and most had never been to the Makerplace.



Classic Movie Monday

In February, Programs and Exhibits debuted a new film series – Classic Movie Monday. Specialist Neal Parker and Assistant Jay Semla are curating the series, which will take place bi-monthly. Neal screened the series' first pick, chosen for Black History Month – the 1967 classic film *In the Heat of the Night*. Fourteen attended the inaugural event with positive feedback from attendees.

Outreach and Community Engagement

Community DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Taskforce - 2023 and Beyond

Members of the Arlington Heights DEI Community Taskforce had their first meeting of the year. Community Engagement Liaison Catalina Shin represented the library and shared the library's IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) statement, IDEA definitions and objectives. Each representative of the Arlington Heights Park District, school districts and Village of Arlington Heights shared their progress and upcoming projects regarding DEI as well as future collaborations and community wide initiatives.

Big Winners at The Lions Club Chili Cook-Off

The library had a winning weekend at the Lions Club Chili Cook-Off. Makerplace Assistant Manager Chris Krueger won Best Veggie Chili and Finance Manager Traci Sara won Best Overall! 🏆



AHML Trivia Team Comes in Second

Congratulations to Team AHML for their amazing performance at the Arlington Heights Historical Society's Team Trivia placing second, missing the top prize by only one question.



Serving Our Community

Globetrotters

Globetrotters is a monthly program series developed by Youth Services Librarian Ellie Richardson where attendees are introduced to a new country through its geography, history and culture. Arlington Heights resident Celeste Cecchi, who lived in Papua New Guinea, volunteered her time to share photos, keepsakes and memories with attendees. This was the second time a community member has offered to share their experiences from a featured country for this program series.



Celebrating Black History through Cinema

In celebration of Black History Month, Programs and Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker curated a Wider Lens screening and discussion of Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson’s award-winning documentary, *Summer of Soul*. Music writer Aaron Cohen joined the event to facilitate a wide-ranging and very informative discussion. He touched on the film’s background and the historical implications surrounding the historic Harlem Cultural Festival taking place following Martin Luther King’s assassination and in the same year as Woodstock.

3DRD Partnership

On February 9, 60 eighth graders from Thomas Middle School 3DRD class visited the library to learn about its resources and gain inspiration for their “Building with Empathy” design project. Students received a tour of the library and enjoyed team building activities.



AARP Tax Aide Appointments

Starting in February, AARP (American Association for 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 174 one-on-one appointments.

Community Blood Drive

This month, the library crushed its goal and had one of its best attended community blood drives. With a goal of 22, the library had 36 registered to donate, of which eight were first time donors. Thirty-four units were collected.



Business Outreach: Bringing Synergy to the Bookmobile

Business Services' Diane Malik hosted her Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce networking group at the library in February. Each time Diane hosts this group—called “Synergy” at the library, she aims to highlight a specific service or service point, to give small business community members an idea of the breadth of offerings at the library. For this session, she collaborated with Bookmobile Supervisor Ron Moravec to give the group a tour of the bookmobile, which is always a crowd pleaser.



Hand Lettering Valentine's Day Card Workshop

Twenty-one romantics joined local artist Rebecca Smith in the Hendrickson Room for a night of homemade Valentine's Day card making. First time teacher Rebecca taught participants how to perfect their cursive script to use on cards, presents and more. Rebecca's brother, Chris Smith, a digital media specialist at the library, stayed throughout the program making paper roses for participants to use as extra card decorations. The Smith siblings were an absolute hit.



Sew a Winter Headband

Youth Services Advisor Jan Pinotti and Tween Librarian Kerry Bailey led eight tweens in a sewing project on an icy February evening at the Makerplace. Almost all participants were first time sewing machine users. After just 90 minutes, participants proudly donned their new fleece headbands and admired each other's handiwork.



Standing Room Only for Peter, Paul and Mary

There was a full house of 78 for Steve Justman's listen and learn program at the Senior Center on February 15, where he highlighted the history and performed the music of folk icons Peter, Paul, and Mary and The Kingston Trio. Staff received an overwhelmingly positive response and abundance of comments on the program.



Saying Yes to Your Story with Kwame Alexander

February 2023 marked the first Illinois Libraries Present event geared to teens and families. Along with all member libraries in Illinois, the library welcomed award-winning children's and young adult author and poet Kwame Alexander via Zoom. More than 800 attended the live event, 44 of whom identified Arlington Heights as their home library. The motivational, conversation style event flowed smoothly and included great questions for Kwame submitted by the audience. Kwame spoke of his works, as well as how instrumental libraries and librarians are to communities.

The Discovery of Magic

Programs and Exhibits staff worked with storyteller William Pack to bring a presentation on the history of magic and influential magicians in the United States. On a Friday evening in February, 110 adults gathered in the Hendrickson Room to attend a show that included tricks while Pack lectured. He made many references to his childhood in the 60s and 70s while growing up in the Chicago area. Pack focused on his commitment in becoming a magician and the role Chicago had in the development of magic in American culture.

Our Time Celebration

On February 4, library staff partnered with C.I.T.Y. of Support for an “Our Time: Celebration” program. Sixty people attended, including several families receiving therapy services. Participants did crafts and activities focused on fine and gross motor skills as well as sang and danced with a music therapist from Prospect Music Therapy.



Sunday Musicale: Alloy Horn Quartet

Sunday Musicale returned in February where 81 people came out to see Alloy Horn Quartet - skilled French horn players and arrangers who presented a wonderfully diverse program. They set the tone with a more casual, accessible approach towards mostly classical music and balanced their playing with fun anecdotes and stories.

Who Would Win

On February 13, Youth Services Advisor Jan Pinotti and Librarian Ellie Richardson hosted 16 kids to debate the strengths and weaknesses of marine and land animals at the program “Who Would Win?”. Kids attending the program used non-fiction animal books to find information about animals from land and sea. When jaguars were proclaimed top predator of the land and killer whales that of the sea, attendees were tasked with drawing an imagined battle between the two.



Inspired by Art Night

Makerplace Advisor Kate Henry and Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski hosted a special Valentine’s Day edition of Inspired By Art Night on February 14. Twenty-one artists sipped on strawberry lemonade and sparkling rose cider while they learned about Gustav Klimt and used his Tree of Life painting for inspiration. On a holiday that is often associated with spending money, Inspired By Art Night offered a free, hands-on activity in a nice, relaxed setting.



Chef's Choice with Chef Grace

On February 28, Chef Grace celebrated the seasonality of fresh citrus with back-to-back classes. Fifteen student chefs in the afternoon and 19 in the evening class whipped up decadent French toast, yogurt sauce and topped it with beautifully sliced citrus fruits. This was the first class to feature the Makerplace kitchen's new camera system. Where in the past participants would have to stand around the front station, the camera/TV system ensures that participants sitting anywhere in the kitchen can have a detailed view of what the chef is doing in the front station – this was particularly helpful in this class when Grace was demonstrating how to slice the fruit.



Pasta Making with Emily Paster

Food and cookbook writer and instructor Emily Paster was back in the Makerplace kitchen to repeat two sessions of her Homemade Pasta class. On a sunny Saturday, she showed 14 student chefs in the morning and 15 in the afternoon how to make fresh pasta for their tables. Participants learned how to make basic egg dough as well as a laminated dough, which beautifully incorporated fresh herbs into the dough. Participants had the opportunity to learn how to use both a Kitchen Aid pasta attachment and a hand roller. Emily prepared a large pot for tasting while attendees had the chance to bring their own fresh noodles home.

Nuts About Bread

Programs and Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker brought culinary instructor Shilpi Saxena back to the Makerplace kitchen for two sessions of stuffed Parathas. Eighteen attended the first session, and 15 the second where they watched Shilpi demonstrate how to make stuffed Parathas and enjoyed samples. Shilpi had Ziplock bags with premeasured flour which allowed for a seamless transition and quick start to begin mixing dough for participants to make dough to take home.

Owl Always be Cute

The Makerplace needle felting program was a success as always. Customers made adorable owls out of wool. Led by Natasha Lehrer Lewis of Esther's Place, 30 customers learned the basics of needle felting and got to leave with their finished creations.



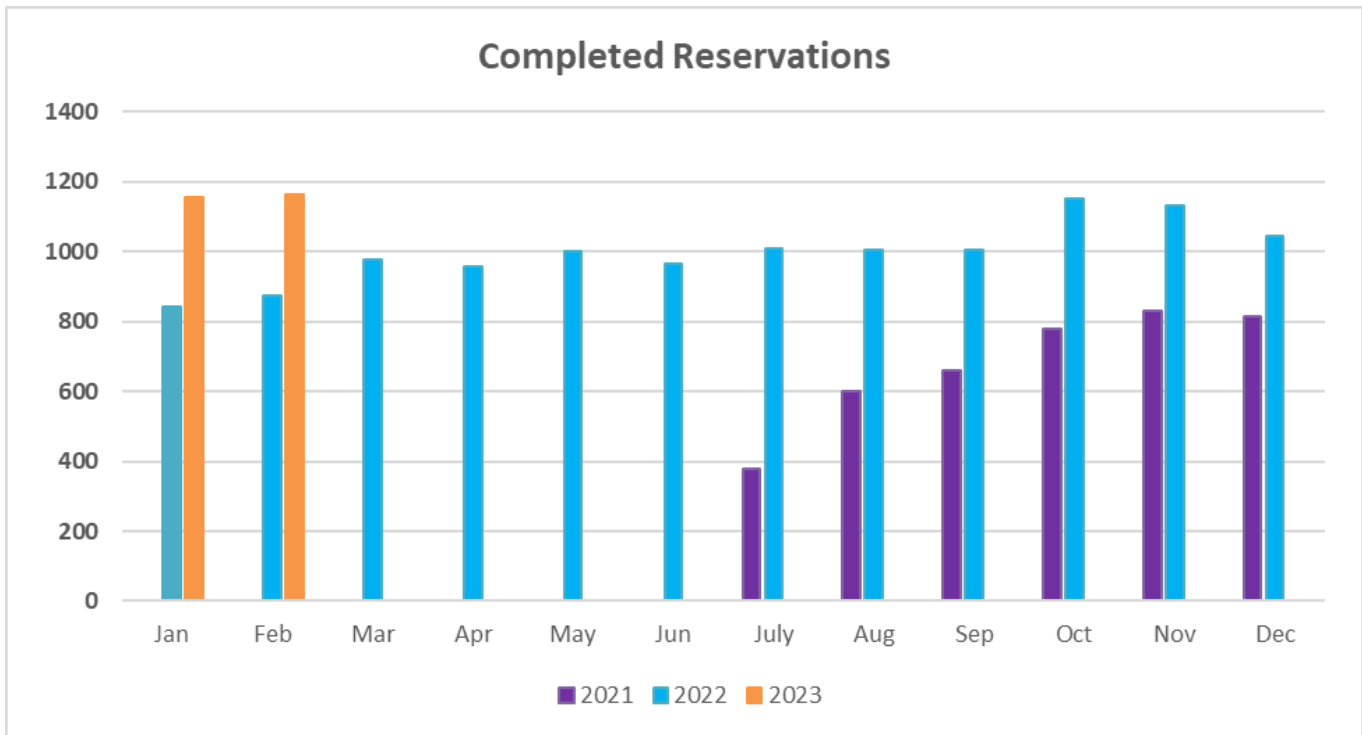
Learning Alone and Together

A customer who had never used a laser cutter called to request an appointment with a Makerplace Advisor to engrave travel mugs. Makerplace Specialist Lisa Hale shared links to the library's online resources for the laser cutter and scheduled an appointment at the Makerplace to meet with the customer to complete the project. The project was a success and the customer returned a few hours later to engrave the same image on glassware using the laser cutter on her own.



Conference Rooms

In February, there were 1,163 completed conference room reservations. This is the highest number since the conference rooms reopened in July 2021 and is inching closer to pre-COVID number which was 1,374 in February 2019.



Volunteer and Staff Highlights

Paul Kochendorfer Accepts Young-at-Heart Award



Senior and Accessible Services volunteer Paul Kochendorfer shares his time and technology expertise with local seniors. With gratitude, the community awarded Paul with the Village's Young-At-Heart / Heart of Gold award. A big thank you to Paul for his many years of time, talent and contribution to the community.