

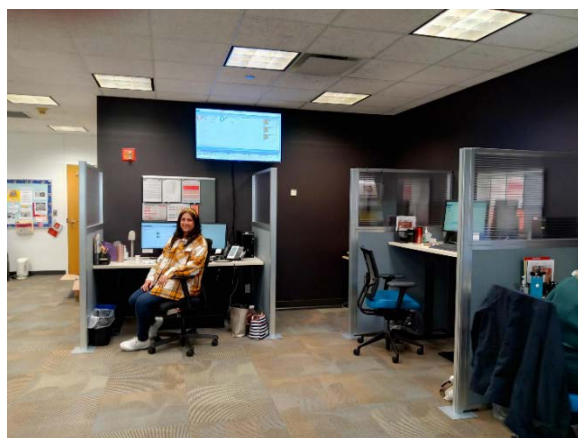
Executive Director's Report

October 2023

What's New @ AHML

Call Center Move

After almost 11 years, the call center moved to a new location. A larger space was needed to accommodate staff and the busy service point. As a result of thoughtful planning, there was no disruption to service, everyone is happy in the new bigger, brighter space. The new call center is now located on the 2nd floor near the admin area and will include areas for the info services supervisors and librarians, bring the group closer together for greater collaboration and better service to our customers.



Talk & Taste

Makerspace Culinary Advisor Brian Baseggio piloted a new drop-in kitchen program this month called Talk& Taste. Customers were invited to stop in and chat with Chef Brian about any culinary questions they had while sampling some of his cooking. **10** customers stopped and were lucky to sample September's treat, biscuits with honey butter and bacon jam.



Family Foodies: Pretzels



On Tuesday, September 19, **25** customers visited the Makerplace kitchen for the launch of Family Foodies, a new series intended for children age four to six with their caregivers. After donning their kitchen whites, the kiddos employed lots of early learning skills: measuring, counting, gripping whisks and shaping dough. Special stools were purchased to keep the smaller chefs safe and stable while they cook. Through story and song, the chefs could enjoy the fruits of their labors: soft and tasty pretzels, shaped in classic twists, alphabet letters and even snails.



Middle School Volunteer Panel (MVP)

Our first ever Middle School volunteer group met on Sunday, September 10. In attendance were **7** middle schoolers, many who have moved on from the Tween Advisory Group. These returning volunteers brought new ideas and learned about the many opportunities the HUB has to offer by participating in a scavenger hunt.

Arlington Heights Landmark Series

Genealogy Librarian Eddie Kristan launched a new and flourishing local history program series focusing on the history of Arlington Heights landmarks. The first in the series recounted the F.W. Muller Carbonated Beverage Factory located at the corner of North Vail Avenue and West Fremont Street. This initial program served **28** interested attendees who asked engaging questions and patiently anticipate the next new landmark to be discovered.



Pathmakers Meet Up at Makerplace



Info Services Supervisor Megan Buttera hosted the inaugural meeting of the Pathmakers Meet Up group at the Makerplace. The networking group is focused on fostering peer connections among small business owners and entrepreneurs. **12** participants represented a wide range of businesses and expressed a high level of enthusiasm and appreciation for the new monthly program. Attendees starting creative side hustles, focusing on social entrepreneurship, or growing traditional brick and mortar businesses were left with a greater sense of community and the support the Makerplace offers their endeavors.

Outreach and Community Engagement

OBOV Pop-up at the Farmers' Market

OBOV outreach kicked off with a lively Pop-Up table at the Arlington Heights Farmers Market. Visitors had the chance to enjoy 1960s music, enter a raffle for a chance to win a Sam Cooke Vinyl, and grab carefully curated recipes inspired by *The Two Lives of Sara*, among other exciting offerings.



WGN Morning News Around Town visits the Makerplace

Library staff and Makerplace volunteers answered the early morning call to assist in making WGN's Around Town live broadcast a big success the morning of Wednesday, September 13. The live TV segments during the WGN Morning News broadcast were planned to air in advance of the Makerplace's second anniversary celebration on Sunday, September 17, helping showcase the Makerplace to a wider audience.

Makerplace staff created custom props for the host, Ana Belaval, to feature in her segments, and staff members Chris Krueger and Brian Baseggio were both interviewed on camera. Other library staff and volunteers appeared in the background action as well. The seven filmed segments were location scouted and scripted in advance by the library's Communications and Marketing staff, with lots of added improvisation from Belaval. A variety of equipment and spaces were featured. The morning ended with a live cooking segment in the Kitchen with Belaval and Baseggio. Makerplace staff has seen an uptick in visitors since the broadcast, many mentioning seeing us on TV!

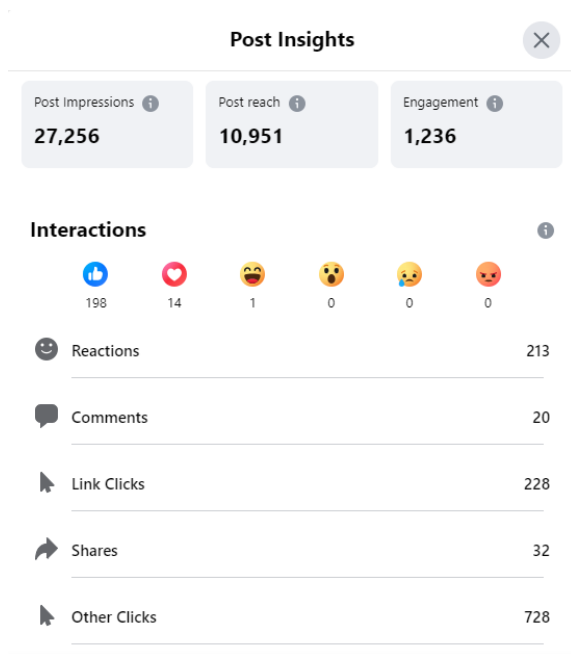


One Book, One Village 10th Anniversary - Featured Social Media Engagement

One Book, One Village (OBOV) kicked off its 10th year of community reading with an invitation to the Arlington Heights community to "read the book" and "join the conversation," with a featured video on the library's social media channels highlighting the author of *The Two Lives of Sara*, Catherine Adel West, in her own words; the debut of an interactive music-listening station on the library's first floor; many related programs and book discussions; and a variety of community outreach events including Harmony Fest in downtown Arlington Heights and a food- and music-filled BBQ Party in Recreation Park.

More than 1,200 followers directly engaged with the library's OBOV announcement post on Facebook in September by liking, sharing and commenting on the kickoff announcement, including the following comments from readers:

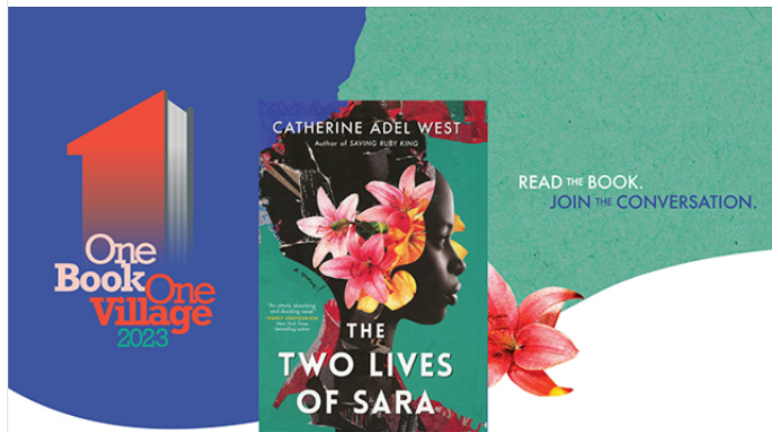
- *Reading it now. Great descriptions, great characters - a touch of history with a new perspective for me. Love it! Looking forward to the book talk in October.*
- *I'm on Chapter 18, and I am loving this novel! So much honesty and wisdom in it.*
- *I am almost done with this great book! Love it!!*



It's time for the Arlington Heights Memorial Library's One Book, One Village! 🎉 Celebrate the 10th anniversary of One Book, One Village with this year's selection, *The Two Lives of Sara* by Catherine Adel West.

Set in 1960s segregated Memphis, *The Two Lives of Sara* is a compelling, unforgettable work of historical fiction. This book tells the story of Sara King who leaves Chicago and finds her way to Memphis to escape the ghosts of her past and carve a new life for herself and her son, Lebanon. *The Two Lives of Sara* is a story of hope, the limitations of resilience and unexpected love.

One Book, One Village invites the community to read the same book at the same time and share in the experience through related programs and discussions. Learn more and get your copy of *The Two Lives of Sara* today at <http://www.ahml.info/onebook>.



A post highlighting the popular OBOV Beyond the Book - Craft and Discussion at the Makerplace also received higher than average engagement in September - on both Instagram and Facebook - with 65 likes and shares on Instagram and 729 unique customer engagements on Facebook. The book's author, Catherine Adel West, who has been actively commenting and sharing on the library's Instagram account, added: *Looks like a wonderful time!*



ahml We had such a wonderful time at our Beyond the Book discussion at the Makerspace on Wednesday! Those that showed up were able to create beautiful donutpage recipe boxes, swap delicious recipes and explore the Makerspace all while discussing this year's One Book, One Village selection, The Two Lives of Sara by Catherine Adel West.

We'll continue to host more One Book, One Village book discussions throughout October. Click the link in bio to register for an upcoming discussion.

#ahml #ArlingtonHeights #ArlingtonHeightsIL #library #libraries #libraryofinstagram #publiclibrary #publiclibraries #AHMLTheTwoLivesOfSara #AHMLOneBookOneVillage #OneBookOneVillage #TheTwoLivesOfSara #CatherineAdelWest #Makerspace #AHMLMakerspace #makerspace #makerspaces #recipebox #recipeboxes #TeamAHML

cawest329 Looks like a wonderful time!
1w · Like · Reply

View insights Boost post

Liked by hub500 and 62 others



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Another social media post that resonated with the community was the unveiling of the custom dry rub created, packaged and distributed by library staff, inspired by the OBOV title, with 74 direct post interactions on Instagram and 392 engagements on Facebook. Adel West added her own post on her channels and commented: *When a team of people create a dry rub seasoning based off your book!!!*



ahml Location: Recreation Park, 500 E. Miner St. Registration recommended, link in bio.

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Edited · 1w

jen_a_schmidt Are you going?
1w · Reply

cawest329 When a team of people create a dry rub seasoning based off your book!!! 🍷🍷🍷
1w · 3 likes · Reply

bberger2626 Hey I know him!
1w · 1 like · Reply

auckland619 @food_brand @sendspic8
1w · Reply

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SEPTEMBER 22



A Facebook post celebrating the OBOV BBQ kickoff party on September 23, featuring many photos of the event, Jesse White Tumblers in action, and various community partners and food vendors, also performed well, with 347 unique engagements, likes and shares. Similar content on Instagram captured throughout the day (three unique posts, one Instagram Reel and several Instagram Stories) resulted in more than 300 engagements from library account followers. Event partners also created their own unique social media content that day, helping to create additional awareness, with tags to the library's account, including WBEZ contributor and DJ Jill Hopkins, the American Legion Post 208, Drip and Culture, Aunt Tina's Sound Bites, and author Catherine Adel West. These community partner accounts also received excellent engagement this day, exposing new audiences to the library with tags to the library's accounts.

One Book BBQ Party

To celebrate *The Two Lives of Sara* and the 10th anniversary of OBOV, Programs and Exhibits staff worked hard to plan a large-scale community BBQ party, featuring themes from the book – community, food, and music. 325 residents came to Recreation Park on September 23 - a beautiful and sunny Saturday - to enjoy food trucks (Black-owned Aunt Tina's Sound bites, Drip and Culture), corn from the American Legion, and free BBQ samples from Porky's in Arlington Heights. DJ Jill Hopkins was the soundtrack for the day playing 60s soul and R&B music. The Jesse White Tumblers provided jaw-dropping entertainment that day as well. Arlington Heights community organizations WINGS and NWCASA tabled at the event and provided information regarding the resources they provide to the community.



Harmony Fest

Staff members actively engaged with 390 participants at the two-day village festival, Harmony Fest encouraging festivalgoers to learn about the OBOV selection and associated programs. The excitement was palpable as people received the dry rub giveaway inspired by the book (a taste of OBOV), recipes and a chance to win a Nina Simone vinyl in a library raffle. Additionally, staff shared the great news that, for those who may not own a record player, they can always check one out with their library card from the Library of Things.



National Library Sign Up Month Pop-Up

Staff celebrated National Library Card Sign-Up Month with a pop-up event at the Arlington Heights Farmers Market. Two hundred individuals were eager to engage in games, register for a library card, and learn about this month's iPad raffles (sponsored by the Friends of the Library). It was an excellent opportunity to inspire existing library cardholders to make the most use of their cards and to enthruse those without cards by offering on-site issuance.



Community Food Drive and Pantry Distribution Visit

Community Engagement Liaison Catalina Shin and Info Services Assistant Carrie Ann Hill partnered with "Faith Feeds," a coalition of local churches dedicated to providing food assistance to residents in Arlington Heights, Palatine and Rolling Meadows to host a community food drive. Through their food pantry and mobile pantry initiatives, Faith Feeds strives to address hunger in the community, and from September 8 to September 30, the library was able to help support their mission with the community donating over 600 unopened, nonperishable food items via a designated collection bin on the first floor of the library. In conjunction with the community food drive, Catalina was able to visit with community members benefiting from the "Faith Feeds" pantry. In total, 157 families availed themselves of the pantry services, and in addition to their groceries, they received giveaways from the library, the library's newsletter and information about ESL (English as a Second Language) services. Remarkably, 95% of the people in this community are English Language Learners.



After Hours Chamber Event at Makerplace

Business Services Advisor Diane Malik hosted an Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event at the Makerplace. Thirty-four chamber members attended to network and see in-person what the Makerplace has to offer. Attendees had tours of the Makerplace and were able to use the fabrication room to make a takeaway wooden birdhouse branded with their own business logo using a laser cutter.



Serving Our Community

OBOV Service Project- No Sew Blankets

A central theme in our One Book One Village pick, *The Two Lives of Sara*, is community. To celebrate community, OBOV programming kicked off on Tuesday, September 5 with a service project. Twelve community members worked together to make eight no-sew tie blankets for children and teens in the hospital. The blankets will be donated to the North and Central Chicagoland chapter of Project Linus, a non-profit that uses handmade blankets to provide a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children. A second session will follow in October.

Wider Lens: I Am Not Your Negro

As part of the suite of OBOV programming this year, Programs and Exhibits Specialist Neal Parker, screened the documentary *I Am Not Your Negro* to 11 attendees and facilitated the discussion that followed. The 2016 documentary, based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript *Remember This House*, explores the history of racism in the United States. The attendees really enjoyed the film and discussion. The discussion went deep as participants drew on themes of racism from the documentary to talk about present day examples. This led to a discussion about current issues regarding race and book banning. One couple who just finished *The Two Lives of Sara* were happy to hear Catherine's author visit would be live streamed again this year because they are out of town that day.

Youth Compassion Project

Youth Services Outreach Specialist Amy Segalla worked with multiple library groups to create a Compassion Project, which focused on making no-sew pillows throughout September for the memory support residents at Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights. Adult volunteers prepared materials and members of the library's Tween Advisory Group (TAG) and Teen Advisory Board (TAB) finished cutting, tying and stuffing the pillows. **80** pillows were delivered to Lutheran Home. One pillow will be given to each current resident, and one will be on the bed of each new resident with a welcome sign. The current and future memory support residents may never know who created the beautiful pillows for them, but so many people in various departments played a role in providing residents with love and comfort from their community.



Lucy Score

New York Times bestselling author and booktok star Lucy Score came to Arlington Heights for a book release event celebrating her newest novel, *Things We Left Behind*. Programs and Exhibits and Info Services Advisory staff partnered to welcome Lucy and present this exciting event (with Q&A facilitated by Sherri Tader). **168** readers gathered in the Hendrickson Room for their chance to meet Lucy and have books signed. Lucy spent time with each person in line making them feel extremely special. We are grateful to Book Stall for supporting book sales and the strong relationships with publishers and history of successful author events. Extra thanks to Lucy herself who donated **\$1,000** to the library as a thank you for hosting her and the tour.

The Academy at Forest View Visit

Two groups of District 214 Academy at Forest View students (ages 18-22) visited the library on Tuesday, September 26. Their program for students needing a smaller setting and socio-emotional support focuses on post-secondary success. Students listened to a presentation highlighting job and career resources, volunteer opportunities, community services, how to apply for a library card, recreation/leisure services and computer labs. Students then went on a scavenger hunt to highlight areas of the library that may be of interest or help to them. At the end of the visit each student received a giveaway bag.



LEGO Train Returns

Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski coordinated the return of the fan-favorite LEGO Train exhibit. The Northern Illinois LEGO Train Club pulled into Hendrickson Room the weekend of September 9-10 to greet almost **2,000** visitors of all ages that visited over the weekend (**1,144** on Saturday and **739** on Sunday). Attendees marveled at its construction and chatted with LEGO Train Club members. Multiple families visited the exhibit both days to be sure to see every detail. The details are very impressive -- over 500,000 LEGO pieces were used to create the cityscapes, which featured well-known characters from movies, TV, and books. Youth Services staff created a LEGO themed scavenger hunt and crafts to bring the LEGO fun into Kids' World.



The Ready to Assemble Sears Dream Home

On September 12, Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski welcomed **98** history and architecture buffs to this local interest event with Sears homes expert Lara Solonickne. Lara overviewed the history of the ready-to-build home market, how to authenticate one today, and had pictures of local Sears homes. The audience loved the historical pictures and local focus – one couple even lived close to one of the homes and promised to get Lara in touch with the owner. The crowd stuck around after the presentation to talk with Lara and each other about homes they believe to be Sears homes in their neighborhood.

Your Landscape in the Fall

Programs and Exhibits Assistant Jay Semla delivered a successful seasonal gardening program on September 7. Your Landscape in the Fall welcomed **22** gardeners and two presenters – one staffer from University of Illinois Extension (an ecologist by training) and a local Master Gardener/volunteer. As with all gardening programs, there were an abundance of questions, all addressed wonderfully by our guest experts.

Sunday Musicale: Chris Greene

103 music lovers attended this fabulous show. Selected by Programs and Exhibits Assistant Jay Semla, Chris Greene and his band played a number of originals and some lesser-known gems by well-known artists. Their style is a diverse mix of jazz, funk, and blues and the songs vary significantly. They played 20 minutes extra to the crowd's delight. The audience absolutely loved this group and gave them a standing ovation.

The Makerplace Turns Two

The Makerplace held its second-anniversary party on September 17. The event was attended by **187** guests, some of whom would call themselves makers, and some that just didn't know it yet. Ten interactive and demonstration booths dotted the Makerplace's floor plan. The event was a great success and has led to many return visits in the weeks following.



Garden and Produce Swap

Programs and Exhibits Specialist Emily Muszynski and University of Illinois Master Gardener John Kapica finished the monthly garden and produce swaps on Sunday, September 24 in front of the Makerplace. **36** gardeners and plant parents came by to swap seeds, houseplants, and gardening secrets. Produce from the library's St. Viatorian giving garden plot were also shared with families who stopped by the table. Staff look forward to next year, when they will continue to grow community-centered gardening with monthly swaps.

One Book One Village Beyond the Book Discussion

There were several book discussions focused on the One Book One Village title *The Two Lives of Sara*. Seventeen attendees for the Beyond the Book Discussion at the Makerplace discussed the book while making a decoupage recipe box. Makerspace Specialist Kate Henry taught customers how to decoupage their own boxes and then showed off the Dremel laser, which was used to make the recipe label for each box, as well as an assortment of other cooking gear.



League of Women Voters Pop-Up Event

Info Services Librarian Barb Powers coordinated a pop-up event with the League of Women Voters in honor of Voter Registration Day. They set up a table in the library to interact with customers and register voters on the spot.

Inspired by Art Night

In the September installment of the monthly “Inspired By” art night series, staff hosted 17 artists in the creative arts space in the Makerplace. Artists learned about Charles Schulz, Jackie Ormes, and Chester Gould and were inspired to create their own comic strips. Inspired directly by Snoopy and his friends, pets were the main character of many of the strips, while others went the autobiographical route.



Teens Make: Sew a Dino Nugget

On Wednesday, September 6, teens joined Teen Librarian Alejandria Galarza in the Makerplace sewing area to make dino nugget plushies. The group learned how to safely use the sewing machines, stuff their dinos and learned some hand-sewing to finish off their creations. All seven teens commented about how much they enjoyed the project. One teen mentioned that they ate dino nuggets before coming to the class to sew their own dino nugget. For many of the teens, this was their first introduction to the Makerplace, and they were amazed that they had access to sewing machines at the library.



Updated Equipment Guides and Shelf-talkers

Makerplace Specialist Lisa Hale updated the Dremel laser cutter quick start guide adding more pictures to the step-by-step instructions. Staff and customers alike are appreciative of this updated user-friendly guide as customers are successfully following along with the guide with minimal help from staff.



Lisa also created display “call out” signs for projects displayed on shelves at the Makerplace. Signage includes the resource or tool used and links to tutorial videos or instructions.

Inspired By Cooking Night: Giada DeLaurentiis

On September 21, staff brought Italy to the Makerplace with September’s Inspired by Cooking Night. Inspired by recipes from Giada De Laurentiis, 18 foodies worked together to make Italian wedding cookies, mini Positano pizzas, and Antipasto jars to take home. Everyone had a wonderful time meeting their tablemates, chatting about their own favorite recipes, and learning a bit about Giada, Italy, and even a little bit of Italian.

“First time visit to Makerplace and was very impressed with the facility and programs. I will be watching for more programs. Good Job!”

“It was really nice atmosphere. The instructors were courteous and nice. I like the interaction with people from the community too. Learned three recipes that I think I can manage at home.”



Cupcake Decorating

Chef Jen Paleracio returned to the Makerplace Kitchen, setting a casual and fun tone for 33 eager decorators over two sessions. Jen engaged the attendees with the tips and tricks of decorating and there was a lot of talking and laughing at each table. Jen used the Makerplace camera and spent time at each table to help groups and individuals as needed. Attendees were able to bring home cupcakes at the end of the program and were so proud of their work.

Library Cards

This month, 403 new residents signed up for library cards. This is an increase of 19.9% over the same month last year (336). This increase seems to be due to a collaborative effort library-wide to promote Library Card Sign-up Month and multiple contests for new and existing cardholders throughout the community.

Educator Cards

Circulation Assistants worked efficiently to process a large batch of educator cards from District 25 schools. Overall, 124 new cards were issued and 434 were renewed granting teachers access to library services and materials.

Staff Highlights

United States Citizen

Congratulations to Liza Dukhovna, Finance Clerk, who recently became a United States citizen. Liza was an ESL student at the library before she became a staff member in 2022. She moved to Arlington Heights from Lutsk, Ukraine in 2018 and quickly thought to take advantage of the many services the library has available for its customers (her favorite program was “Tea and Talk”!). She worked hard with her tutor to prepare for her interview and exam, and she is very proud to now hold all the same rights as a natural born U.S. citizen.

