



evanston
public
library
annual
report

Books and
Beyond:
2016



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Reading
THE GLOBE

Ann Morgan

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WHY I READ
WENDY LESSER

028.9
Lesse.W

WHAT WE SEE WHEN WE READ
PETER MENDELSON

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Read This!
ANDY MILLE

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Read

THE YEAR OF READING DANGEROUSLY
ANDY MILLE

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Mission

Evanston Public Library aims to be the heart of our diverse community by promoting the development of independent, self-confident and literate citizens, and providing equitable access to cultural, intellectual, technological, and information resources.

Vision

The Evanston Public Library Board of Trustees envisions a community in which the Library engages all residents in reaching their aspirations. The Library's staff, collections, programs, technology and leadership help ensure that:

- **All Evanston residents** of every background and ability have the opportunity to enjoy an intellectually and culturally rich life.
- **Every child experiences the pleasure of reading**, the joy of learning, enters school with the requisite developmental skills and continues to develop critical thinking skills including functional literacy.
- **Our community celebrates, appreciates and supports its diversity** in all of its forms.
- **Those in need can find assistance** and information with ease.
- **Every resident experiences the pleasure of reading** and the joy of lifelong learning.

The Evanston Public Library endorses and embraces the American Library Association's Equity of Access Statement.

Equity of Access

Equity of access means that all people have the information they need – regardless of age, education, ethnicity, language, income, physical limitations or geographic barriers. It means they are able to obtain information in a variety of formats – electronic, as well as print. It also means they are free to exercise their right to know without fear of censorship or reprisal.

The Role of Philanthropy at Evanston Public Library

We cannot provide the valuable programs and services that Evanston needs and deserves without your support. In 2016 you again helped us increase our philanthropic dollars raised, enabling further growth and refinement of our offerings. With your support, we continually strive to meet the aspirations of the Evanston community. Thank you.

The Growing Role of the Library in Evanston

Despite lack of adequate funding, the Library's role continues to grow in Evanston. Please consider how YOU can play a meaningful role here today. Volunteer. Donate. Attend. We need you. Please contact us to learn how you can prioritize Evanston Public Library among your philanthropic goals – now and in the future.

Four Service Pillars

Each day at each Evanston Public Library location, we are your trusted guides to information, a welcoming haven and forum for all, and the important third place in our community, after home, work or school. Through our team of highly skilled staff, we provide each patron with services, programs, resources, books, and computers. In 2016, we updated our strategic plan, organizing our work around four service pillars:

Access:

Provide all Evanston residents equitable access to the resources, spaces and information needed to support and nurture their educational, entertainment and cultural needs.

Engagement:

Engage a diverse community of patrons by providing programs, spaces and services that reach them where they naturally gather, and that are focused on helping them reach their aspirations.

Learning and Literacy:

Bolster learning and literacy in all its forms to bridge the achievement gap and support learning for community members of all ages through the creation of programs, services, collections, partnerships with other organizations, and participation in community-wide initiatives.

Innovation:

Stimulate and promote a culture of innovation and exploration through the Library's programs, spaces, and collections.

We invite you to join us as we offer you new ways to explore, create, seek information, connect with thought leaders and each other, laugh, learn and move from books to beyond.

Yours truly,

Karen Danczak Lyons
Director, Evanston Public Library

Michael Tannen
President, Library Board of Trustees

P.S. Please join us in 2017 as we explore The Power of Reading!

BY THE NUMBERS: LIBRARY FUND 2016

REVENUES

Property Taxes	\$6,136,248
Fines and User Charges	\$278,127
Individual Contributions	\$263,860
Endowment Income from Accrued Interest	\$235,800
Grants/Restricted Contributions	\$32,250
State Funding	\$57,418
Other Sources	\$4,717
Total Revenues	\$7,008,420

EXPENDITURES

Staff Costs	\$4,172,061
Library Collections	\$876,200
Services, Materials and Equipment	\$1,369,435
Transfers to City	\$250,000
Total Expenditures	\$6,667,696



Building a City of Readers

“Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible, from complex word problems and the meaning of our history to scientific discovery and technological proficiency.” *Barack Obama*

1,080,000 total checkouts from 3 Library locations

437,552 children's checkouts

More than 600,000 library visits 450,802 website visits

3442 participants in Read for the Win! 2016 Summer Reading Program. 17% increase in completion rate from 2015

14,036 free books distributed at sites throughout Evanston. New sites include Erie Health, Gibbs-Morrison, and Little Free Libraries

2,564 public programs for all ages

91,213 reference questions asked and answered

1000s of high-quality books reused through quarterly book sales

The Big Read: 15 author events, 550 participants, exploring border issues through the book *Into the Beautiful North*



For Teens:

- **The Middle School Lit Fest** brings kids and authors together to discuss books and the craft of writing.
- **Outside the Lines Teen Book Club** launches to serve teens exploring gender identity.
- **Expanded partnership with Y.O.U.** brings after-school enrichment sessions to D65.



For Children:

- **Talk, Read, Sing** text messaging delivers early literacy skills tips to 300+ parents of babies and toddlers.
- **Everybody Reads Book Drive** with Cradle to Career: 500 diverse children's books distributed through City and Ridgeville camps and Little Free Libraries.
- **ABC Boosters with D65 and Youth Job Center** expands to bring critical alphabet instruction to 69 at-risk rising Kindergarteners.
- **Caldecott Club** inspires young readers with an insider's look at the best children's books.
- **Regular storytime programming** all year long engages hundreds of young children from birth through the preschool years with vital exposure to language, stories and songs.
- **Collaboration with City camps** promotes 20 minutes a day of reading while in summer camp.

For Adults:

- **1000s of new titles** available to our patrons on demand, no fees, no waiting through Hoopla.
- **New collection management strategies** improve our ability to satisfy patron demands for most wanted books.
- **More than 500 attendees** at book discussions, including 120 people exploring challenging literature through Mission: Impossible.
- **Programs** on Shakespeare, Studs Terkel, Islamophobia, women in WWII, sexual health, the Holocaust, black daughters and their fathers, The Chicago Defender, legal cannabis, and many more provide free lifelong education.
- **Hosted 15 authors**, many local, including: Jessica Abel, Melda Beaty, Philip Epstein, Amina Gautier, Abby Geni, Ethan Michaeli, Ben Nadler, Rick Perlstein, Christine Sneed, Julia Sweeney, Luis Alberto Urrea, and Zoe Zolbrod



Growing Digital Literacy

- **More than 800 residents** completed digital literacy surveys.
- EPL and ETHS collaborate to educate parents on Chromebooks and Google digital tools used by D202 students.
- Regular classes offered for best use of personal technology: cell phone, tablets, and laptops: 441 attendees.

Spotlight on: Wi-Fi Hotspots

A 2016 pilot to loan Wi-Fi Hotspots for internet service-to-go was a huge success with high demand for the devices. About 14% of Evanston residents have no internet services at home.



Ravshan Ibragimov uses his Wi-Fi Hotspot everywhere.

"Now I can check out a Hotspot and have unlimited access to the Internet," Ibragimov said. "The Hotspot is a blessing for me."

A resident of Evanston, he uses the service frequently. He used it to find a job and to make calls to his sister in Turkey.



Weaving the Networked Library

Bringing together community assets and connections encourages new social networks, solution-finding, civic participation, and resource share.

- **The Special Needs Family Resource Fair** brought together by concerned citizens and special needs advocacy workers (CASE) serves special needs families in a convenient library setting.
- **Free tax preparation** for income eligible individuals and families provided by the Center for Economic Progress. 604 tax returns were completed.
- **Partnering with NU and the HIRCULES Health Hub** to provide accurate health information to library visitors.
- **Lawyers from the Chicago Bar Association and Chokshi Filippone Law LLC** offer free legal consultation service in the Library
- **Volunteers gave 15,663 hours** to the Library to enrich our programs and services
- **Bike Expo** promoted a culture of biking, including staying safe while city cycling, making friends with bike clubs, and learning about new bike infrastructure and policy.
- **Jazz After Hours** brought leading Chicago-area jazz musicians for a family-friendly packed audience, and inaugurated a series sponsored by WNUR.
- **Workshops on affordable rental and ownership options** in Evanston with Community Partners for Affordable Housing, helped individuals find local housing that works.



Sherry Shambee, a longtime resident of Evanston, has worked at NU in benefits and retirement planning for 12 years. She wanted to stay living in Evanston but wasn't having luck finding anything affordable. She attended the presentation by Community Partners for Affordable Housing in May 2016.

RESULT: Sherry and her husband Charles closed on their new Evanston home in November 2016, paying \$600 less a month than they paid while renting.

"The Library is at the center of what I do. I consider it my haven. It has given me information that was needed throughout my life, at the right time. I'm glad I can live in Evanston."

Advancing Awareness

Keeping our eye on social issues, we respond with programs and partnerships to meet the interests of the community. The library is an essential space in a civil society.

- **Author William B. Crawford** discussed: Justice Perverted: How the Innocence Project at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism Sent an Innocent Man to Prison
- **Working with the James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy in the Library**, we helped get people on the path to clearing criminal records.
- **Held author event on mass incarceration** with Maya Schenwar of Truthout.
- **Those seeking health insurance** through the ACA found official health care navigators here.
- **Screened documentaries** on African American history, Palestinian/Israeli politics, Mexican political disappearances, and guns in America.
- **Our collaboration with the MENA program at Northwestern** educates the community on the politics and culture of Middle Eastern and North African countries.



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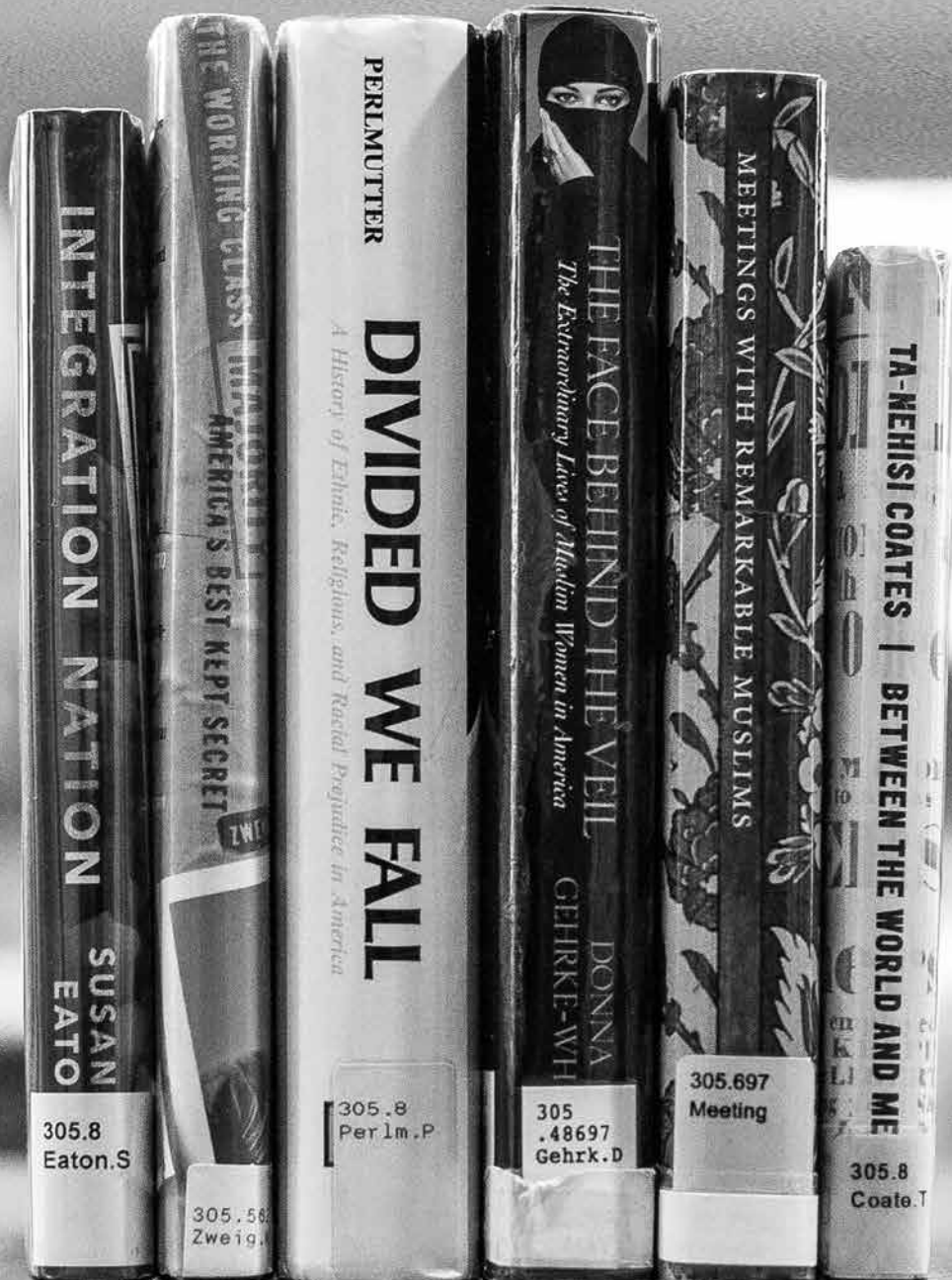
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Main Library: 847-448-8600
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Books and Beyond

Visit us at our three locations or at our digital branch at epl.org