



**MEETING MINUTES
EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015
6:30 PM

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Board Room

Members Present: Tori Foreman, Shawn Iles, Vaishali Patel, Leora Siegel, Michael Tannen

Members Absent: Diane Allen, Margaret Lurie, Benjamin Schapiro, Sandra Smith

Staff: Karen Danczak Lyons, John Devaney, Paul Gottschalk

Guests: Bob Siedenber (Evanston Review)

Presiding Member: Michael Tannen, President

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM - A quorum was present and President Tannen called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

CITIZEN COMMENT - none

CONSENT AGENDA – Approval of the Meeting Minutes of the February 18, 2015 regular meeting and approval of the bills and payroll.

Leora Siegel moved, and Tori Foreman seconded, a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the February 18th regular meeting and the bills and payroll -- the motion passed unanimously in a voice vote.

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS – none

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT -- Director Danczak Lyons reviewed highlights of her monthly report (see report attached):

Staff Development Day will be April 17th. Representative from Oakton Community College will share information about OCC services of value to library patrons and staff.

The Library’s donor and volunteer receptions will be held May 7th and we’re honored to have guest speaker Col. Jennifer Pritzker.

The third in our series of programs in partnership with Northwestern University’s Middle East and North African Studies Program (MENA) will be presented on Monday, April 13: Lecture Title: “Four Myths about the Middle East”.

NEW BUSINESS

Michael Tannen introduced a Resolution of Support for the Crown Center Branch Library (copy attached). This resolution is intended to provide formal Library Board support for the Crown Branch in a deliberate, transparent fashion and empower the Library Director to develop a service and funding plan for the branch.

Motion by Shawn Iles, second by Vaishali Patel – approve the resolution of support for the Crown Community Center branch library as presented. Passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

FACILITIES OVERVIEW AND PLANNING PRESENTATION

Facilities Manager John Devaney reviewed the ongoing routines and special projects of the maintenance and security staff. These individuals work every day of the year and almost every hour the Library is open. Safety and security of patrons and staff is the highest priority. Major improvement projects underway include the HVAC renovations, weatherproofing, and garage repairs.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES REPORT – Paul Gottschalk reported on the status of hiring key positions.

BOARD REPORTS – there were no committee reports.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

The United for Libraries “Library Advocacy” video was shown.

CLOSED SESSION – Michael Tannen read the official language for convening a Closed Executive session for personnel matters. Motion by Vaishali Patel, second by Leora Siegel – move into Closed Session. Approved on a unanimous roll call vote. The Board moved into Closed Session at 7:45 p.m.

The Board re-convened into Open Session at 8:10 pm.

ADJOURNMENT Leora Siegel moved, second by Tori Foreman – adjournment of the meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote. Adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tori Foreman, Acting Secretary

**Library Director’s Report
March 18, 2015**

Updates:

- Throughout February, the Evanston Public Library promoted reading to our youngest children through "Winter Words: Read and Talk with Your Young Child." The program, which featured a reading log, prize books, staff recommendations and a fun craft, was for children from birth through age 3 years.

Early exposure to words, language and reading is a key component of future success in school and beyond. In 2014, The American Academy of Pediatrics, representing 62,000 pediatricians, made it policy to promote reading to children from birth. Studies show that children who are talked to frequently from birth are significantly better prepared for school success. The Library is also piloted the program at a number of home daycare facilities in Evanston and reached out to families with very young children throughout the community.

Results:

We had 194 patrons register for Winter Words and 81 complete 14 days of reading and come back for a free book, for a completion rate of approximately 41%.

In response to the question of how often the parents read to their children:

4 or more times a week	175
At least twice a week	11
Occasionally	4
Never	0
Not answered	4

Laura Antolin delivered a Winter Words Reading Log, flyers for the families and a Button Sorting activity to all 10 Home Providers. She explained the program to all 10 providers and was invited into 8 of the 10 houses and had extended conversations about the reading program as well as what they were doing with their children. They were all really grateful and excited for the Button Sorting activity and in 2 cases, handed it out to their children while Laura was there. As of 2/27, she heard back from 3 of the providers who are ready for Laura to pick up their Reading Logs and deliver their book prizes. Laura wants to find ways to continue supporting these Providers with activities – they appreciated having something new to introduce to their children

- A wonderful time was had by all as 111 patrons of all ages filled the large community room on March 9th and met Dav Pilkey of Captain Underpants fame and 2015 Caldecott Award-winning artist Dan Santat (The Adventures of Beekle)! They celebrated the publication of Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot vs. the Stupid Stinkbugs from Saturn, the sixth book in the Ricky Ricotta series, featuring Dan Santat's brand-new full color illustrations! The authors discussed their collaboration and autographed copies made available for purchase. A special thanks and sincere appreciation to the following EPL staff: Brian Wilson who organized the event, handled logistics and welcomed everyone; Martha Meyer who distributed tickets and organized the book signing, Robin Sindelar

who helped with checking people in, and our invaluable Maintenance/Security team: Ray Wade did a beautiful job setting up the room and helped with the AV, Roger Smith helped in a pinch when the author had some AV problems with his computer presentation, Justin McCray handled security and was beyond helpful. The authors and sponsor were extremely impressed with the manner in which this program was produced. To show his appreciation, Dav Piley and his wife presented Brian with a check that is being added to our endowment .

- Thanks to the efforts of two of our newest Librarians, EPL is adding new and clever programming that will appeal to our younger adult patrons (20's – 40s) including a new science fiction book club created and facilitated by Lorena Neal and a series titled Chat Room created and produced by Ben Remsen. The Chat Room brings patrons together outside the library for a one-time meeting that's like a book discussion, but which covers something other than a book -- a TV show, a podcast, a movie, etc. This coming Thursday, Ben has scheduled the second Chat Room event, this time to be held at Prairie Moon to discuss the new season of House of Cards.
Last month, Ben hosted a successful tour of Temperance brewery. Despite snowfall all day and sub-freezing temperatures, 28 people came out for an enlightening and funny tour from one of the two head brewers. By Ben's count, 15 of those people were in the 20s and 30s demographic (though this is just Ben profiling them -- he didn't ask participants' ages). Afterwards at least a dozen participants stuck around the brewery to socialize, continue to chat with the brewer, and browse EPL books that Ben had brought with him on beer and brewing. Ben also talked to many participants who stuck around and was given very positive feedback, including several people saying that this wasn't the sort of thing they expected from a library.
- Affordable Care Act enrollment update from PEER and Connections:
 - Medicaid – 57 enrolled
 - ACA – 89 enrolled
 - Patron Visits – 465

Enrollment is ongoing as there is currently a Special Enrollment Period which lasts through 4/15/15. Navigators are available in the Newberry Room in the main library, 7 days per week.

- Jill Skwerski continues to find new approaches to serving our Veterans. We recently hosted an information table for Veteran Services in the lobby of the main library and will host a Veterans Resource Fair in June.
- Following up on the very successful Resource Fair which she produced earlier this year, Jill Skwerski has worked with Evanston CASE to create a program on “How to Advocate for your Special Needs Child at School” which will be presented on March 25th. Please refer to our calendar or the flyer at the end of my report.
- Thanks to the hard work of our Book Sale volunteers and staff, the book sale brought \$17,231 in revenue – which will be used to purchase new books. With the support of our staff, we accepted credit card purchases for the first time.

- Our second annual Donor and Volunteer Recognition Reception on May 7th will feature a presentation by Jennifer Pritzker, Colonel (IL) , Illinois Army National Guard (Retired) President & CEO Tawani Enterprises and Founder & Chairwoman Pritzker Military Museum and Library titled:

“Over There”

100 Years Later: How the War to End All Wars is still being fought

Assessments, metrics and initiative results:

Foot traffic:	January, 2015	February, 2015
Main:	43,044	37,843
North:	3,751	3,749
CAMS:	4,405	3,446
Total:	51,200	45,038

Website visits in January: 47,099 February: 41,344

Overall Computer/Internet Use – all locations: January: 6,944 February: 5,902

Wi-Fi usage – all three locations for January: 12,364 February: 11,154

Services and collaborations:

- The second in our series of programs in partnership with Northwestern University’s Middle East and North African Studies Program (MENA) was another success. On March 2nd Ussama Makdisi, a history professor and the first holder of the Arab-American Educational Foundation chair of Arab Studies at Rice University, spoke to an audience of about 50 people on the topic “The Rise of Sectarianism in the Middle East in an Age of Western Hegemony: 1860 – 2014”.
- *Teen Services highlights include:* Renee Neumeier and Ashley Hamernik visited a 3rd grade classroom at Roycemore to teach the students how to use Tinkercad. The class is learning about bridges and the teacher was hoping to use Tinkercad to construct the bridges instead of the traditional popsicle sticks. Using a “Build-a-Boat” tutorial on the Tinkercad site, Ashley led the students through the tutorial step-by-step, explaining what and how to do things in Tinkercad. There were a number of adults in the classroom to assist with questions—and there were a lot of them—but the kids were quick to learn. Renee and Ashley were able to respond and troubleshoot most of the questions asked and they left the students with the tools to begin creating (or at least tinkering) their own bridge. EPL Loft staff will use our 3D printer to produce their designs.

Haven Middle School sixth graders all made their way over to North Branch during February. During their visits Renee highlighted teen programs and services that they might be interested and then did some book talking with the Haven librarian, Amy Odwarka. Tons of books were

checked out and the North Branch staff worked quickly to assist students as they checked out materials and updated their cards if needed.

Teen DIY:

This month we offered sock crafts and felties at North and CAMS. The sock crafts program at CAMS had about 6 attendees 3 were teens and 3 were younger kids. The teens had never been to CAMS before and liked the program. Teen DIY:

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- Fleetwood Jourdain After school:

Laura Antolin brought Squishy Circuits and LittleBits on February 25 for the 3rd-5th graders. They talked about basic circuits and then the kids worked together to figure out how to make the LEDs light up, the buzzers buzz and the motors spin. She brought play-doh (the conductive dough) but had provided Betsy Jenkins with the recipe for making insulating dough and the kids had actually made the dough the day before. They were all interested in the process and worked hard to figure out when things didn't work. Everyone had a really good time and the 2 or 3 staff that came into the room were really interested, too.

Upcoming events of note:

- The Evanston Public Library will screen the locally produced documentary, *The Woman's Club of Evanston: Making a Difference*, on Saturday, March 28, at 1 p.m. in the Evanston Public Library Community Meeting Room. The film celebrates Women's History Month and the significant contributions of the club. Long-time Woman's Club member and archivist Lorrie Osborne said that the documentary is "a testament to the Club's long history...[and its] deep and enduring commitment to preserve and share that history."
- The third in our series of programs in partnership with Northwestern University's Middle East and North African Studies Program (MENA) will be presented on Monday, April 13:
Lecture Title: "Four Myths about the Middle East"
Brian Edwards, Henri Lauzière, Wendy Pearlman, Jessica Winegar, Northwestern MENA Faculty
- Special thanks to Barb Levie and Connie Heneghan for continuing our collaboration on the Senior Spelling Bee. Practice sessions begin next month and the Spelling Bee will be held on May 10th. Please refer to the flyer at the end of my report for more details.
- The next series of Harwood community conversations have been scheduled :
March 26th at 10:00 am at the Main Library
March 31st at 7:00 pm at Family Focus
April 8th at 10:00 am at the Levy Center

Excerpts from Patron feedback:

“Mother told (Brian Wilson) that her child who has some speech development issues has been making the animal sounds we make in our Wednesday Drop-in Preschool Storytimes. The mother said this is a huge development for her child and thanked me because of the interactive songs and stories we do in the program.”

“Thank you for the MENA collaboration which brings NU expertise to the rest of Evanston-- I was able to attend the talk tonight @ EPL (March 2) and was so pleased to have the opportunity to attend such a scholarly lecture with NU support. It's what I have always wanted from living in Evanston and now 40 yrs. on you @ EPL have gotten them involved. Thanks!”

“As I do not have a computer in my home I was at North Branch recently to use the computer/Internet for work and personal tasks that required it. I expressed my appreciation of this resource to the librarian and also wanted to express it to you.

I grew up going to the North branch and am so grateful it is still there.

Thank-you!”

Evanston Public Library

Evanston CASE Presents:

How to Advocate for your Special Needs Child at School



Wednesday, March 25, 7 - 8:30pm

Main Library

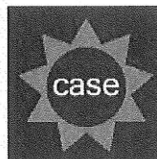
**Community Meeting
Room**

1703 Orrington Ave

847-448-8600

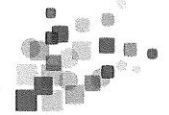
Evanston CASE's mission is "To empower parents of students with special needs through support and education, and to advocate for their concerns in the Evanston community." Join Cari Levin for a discussion of how to form a successful advocacy and strategy team for your child. Ms. Levin is a licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years experience working with school age children with disabilities and their families. She is currently in private practice as a special education advocate, and has been the Director of Evanston CASE since 2007.

No registration required.



evanston public library

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**You have something to say.
The Evanston Public Library
wants to hear it!**



**Participate in a dialogue about what we can do together
to better our city.**

Using the principles of the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, we invite all citizens to work as a team to develop creative answers to concrete issues affecting Evanston. This is an opportunity for our diverse and vibrant population to have a safe place to discuss concerns and work toward solutions. Drop in or register online at www.epl.org.

Thursday, March 26, at 10am at the Main Library (1703 Orrington)

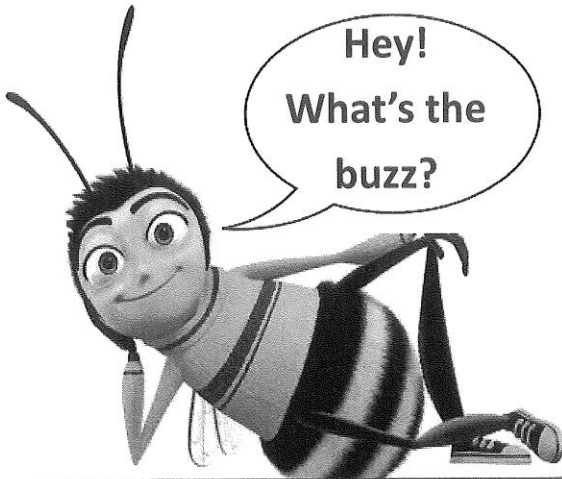
Tuesday, March 31st at 7pm at Family Focus (2010 Dewey)

Wednesday, April 8th at 10am at the Levy Center (300 Dodge)



evanston public library
community | events | ideas | resources





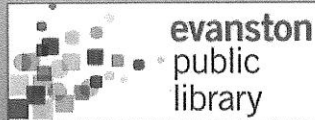
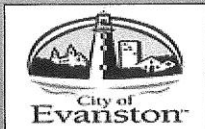
***So...you think you can spell?
Here's your chance to shine.***

**Registration begins April 10th
at the Levy Center,
300 Dodge Ave.,
or phone Evanston's
info hotline x311
(847-448-4311 outside
Evanston),
or online at
[www.cityofevanston.org/
register](http://www.cityofevanston.org/register) (class #554104-F5).**

**It's coming!
Saturday, May 16th
2:00pm
at the Levy Center**
Evanston's 2015
Senior*
Spelling Bee
***Age 50 and older**



**Sponsored by the
Levy Senior Center,
Fleetwood-Jourdain
Community Center
and the Evanston
Public Library.**



Evanston Public Library



Veterans Resource Fair

Saturday, June 6, 2015 10am—2pm

Main Library

**Community Meeting
Room**

1703 Orrington Ave

847-448-8600

Veterans and their families are encouraged to come and meet with local organizations that provide services for vets. Meet with representatives from the Evanston Vet Center, Veterans Forward, NEIU, Harper College, Volunteers of America, Catholic Charities and many more!

No Registration is necessary.

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