



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

Wednesday, September 16, 2015
6:30 PM

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Board Room

Members Present: Shawn Iles, Margaret Lurie, Vaishali Patel, Benjamin Schapiro, Leora Siegel, Michael Tannen

Members Absent: Socorro Clarke, Tori Foreman, Sandra Smith

Staff: Karen Danczak Lyons, John Devaney, Paul Gottschalk, Timothy Longo, Jill Skwerski, Jessica Ticus

Presiding Member: Michael Tannen, President

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM - A quorum was present and President Tannen called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

CITIZEN COMMENT – Rosalie Riegls suggested improvements to the collection of books and materials by people of color, increasing services to low-income families and appointing an adult program advisory committee. Timothea Papas expressed concern about the lack of services to the east end of the city, primarily the Dempster/Dodge area.

CONSENT AGENDA – Benjamin Schapiro motioned to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the August 19, 2015 regular meeting, the bills list and payroll.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Melinda Ruckman of the Illinois Policy Institute presented Evanston Public Library with the Sunshine Award for governmental transparency. The institute has given the awards to 74 of the state's roughly 7,000 local taxing bodies over the past several years to praise their efforts to provide citizens with online access to key governmental information. The Library received a 90.4 percent rating from the group.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Danczak Lyons reviewed highlights of her monthly report (see report attached):

- The Big Read Kick-Off is Saturday, September 19 at 3 pm. After the performance by Danzas Ceremoniales de Mexico, 100 copies of "Into the Beautiful North" will be distributed.
- The Fall Book Sale is Friday, September 18th through Sunday, September 20th.

- The first annual Storytelling Festival will be held October 9-11th.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Administrative Services Report** – Paul Gottschalk referenced the Administrative Services Report.

BOARD REPORTS

- A. Development Committee Report** – Margaret Lurie reported the kick-off reception held at Shawn Iles's home on September 8th was well attended and a great success.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A.** Karen Danczak Lyons reviewed the anticipated revenue for the 2016 fiscal year. The per capita tax rate for Evanston is \$80.12 compared with \$178.32 in Arlington Heights, \$196.78 in Oak Park and \$205.44 in Skokie. The Illinois budget impasse has delayed the 2015 State Per Capita Grant of \$94,177 to this year's budget. The anticipated revenue sources were review (attached).
- B.** A meeting of the Finance Committee will be scheduled between now and October 21st to continue the budget discussion. All committee members are welcome to attend.
- C. Closed Session** – Motion by Michael Tannen, second by Sandra Smith – move into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Approved on a roll call vote. The Board convened in closed session at 7:32 pm.

Motion by Michael Tannen, second by Vaishali Patel – convene in open session. Approved on a voice vote. The Board convened in open session at 8:05 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Lurie, Secretary

Library Director’s Report

September 16, 2015

Updates:

- With the support of community volunteers and staff, I have begun a new partnership with the Liberation Library. EPL is committed to sharing books in response to the mission of LL which reads:

Liberation Library provides books to youth in prison to encourage imagination, self-determination and connection to the outside worlds of their choosing. We believe access to books is a right, not a privilege. We believe books and relationships empower young people to change the criminal justice system.

My thanks to Jill Skwerski who is working with the book sale volunteers and delivered our first batch of book donations to our new partners at Liberation Library. Laura Antolin and Renee Neumeier are also working to bring resources to this partnership. More details to follow as our collaboration continues.

- The First Annual EPL Storytelling Festival October 9-11, 2015: “Stories by the Lake” in Evanston Illinois. Revel in the power of words from a diverse group of professional storytellers and passionate Evanston students. Held at a variety of venues in downtown Evanston within two blocks of Lake Michigan, this festival celebrates the universal and unique experiences of being human through a wide range of story styles and cultural perspectives. Listen, learn, laugh, and share during a weekend of story in our vibrant community by the Lake.
- Fall Book sale - Don’t miss our Big Book Sale from Friday, September 18 through Sunday, September 20. This 3-day event features a large collection of great books in excellent condition at prices buyers will love. Book lovers will find 1000s of very gently used children's and adult books, audiobooks, movies, music, magazines, large print, and vintage selections in every imaginable category of fiction and non-fiction.
- Big Read kickoff – Saturday, September 19 at 3:00: Join us for our kick-off celebration introducing Evanston to The Big Read! We are hosting Danzas Ceremoniales de Mexico. Vibrant and active, the dancers' movements represent and honor elements in nature, totem animals, deities and sacred actions. Both ritualistic and spiritualistic, program highlights include authentic attire and indigenous music instrumentation, traditional songs and stories. This show also explores how we are all connected with this culture through food, language, people, places, and words we all use. After the performance, 100 copies of "Into the Beautiful North" will be available.

Assessments, metrics and initiative results:

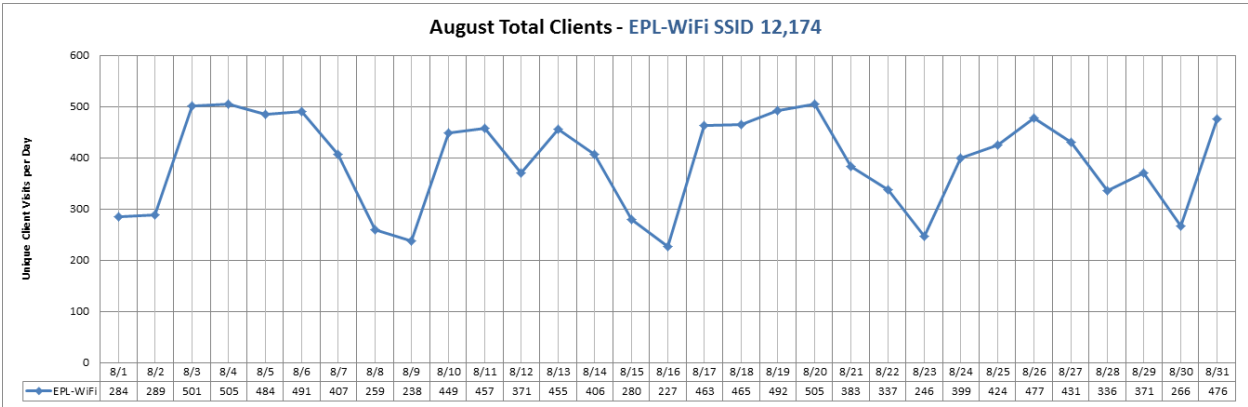
Foot traffic:	July, 2015	August, 2015
Main:	48,653	46,527

North:	5,329	3,455
CAMS:	4,493	4,418
Total:	58,475	54,400

Website visits in July: 40,164 August: 40,671

Overall Computer/Internet Use – all locations: July: 7,206 August: 7,409

Wireless network. August: 12,174 total



Services and collaborations:

- We have renewed our partnership with the Center for Economic Progress. They hope to provide 537 clients with tax preparation and financial services from January 5 – April 18, 2016.
- In partnership with the Evanston Community Foundation and Evanston Cradle to Career, we will be hosting Dana Suskind, the author of *Thirty Million Words* on September 24th from 5:30 – 7:30 at the Rotary Building Auditorium. Based on scientific research that shows the critical importance of early language exposure on the developing child, *Thirty Million Words* helps parents enhance their home language environment in order to optimize their children’s brain development and ability to learn.
- Our partnership with Northwestern University’s Middle East and North African (MENA) Studies school will begin again on Monday, September 28:

"Transcending Nationalism in the Armenian Genocide Debate"

This panel will feature journalist Meline Toumani, author of *There Was and There Was Not*, and two respondents from the Northwestern faculty: Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (Associate Professor of Political Science and MENA) and İpek Yosmaoğlu (Associate Professor of History and MENA).

Panelists will explore the perspectives of a new generation of commentators on the history and politics

surrounding the Armenian genocide and its legacy, the politics of recognition, and the potential of listening to new voices and views as Armenians, Turks, and others navigate life in the present given the events of the past.

[Elizabeth Shakman Hurd](#) teaches and writes on the politics of religious diversity, the history and politics of US foreign relations, and the global politics of the Middle East at Northwestern, where she is associate professor of politics and religious studies. She is the author of *The Politics of Secularism in International Relations* (Princeton, 2008) and *Beyond Religious Freedom: The New Global Politics of Religion* (Princeton, 2015), and co-editor of *Politics of Religious Freedom* (Chicago, 2015) and *Comparative Secularisms in a Global Age* (Palgrave, 2013).

Meline Toumani has written extensively for *The New York Times* about international politics as well as about classical music; her stories and essays have also appeared in *The Nation*, *Harper's*, *n+1*, and many other publications. As a reporter she has worked in Turkey, Armenia, and Georgia, and has taught journalism in Southern Russia. Her first book, *There Was and There Was Not: A Journey Through Hate and Possibility in Turkey, Armenia, and Beyond*, was a finalist for the 2014 National Book Critics Circle Award.

İpek Yosmaoğlu (Ph.D. Princeton, 2005) is a historian of the late Ottoman Empire. She taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was a member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton before joining the history department at Northwestern in 2010. Her research interests include nationalism, violence, political legitimacy and state modernization. In late 2013, she published her first book, [Blood Ties: Religion, Violence and the Politics of Nationhood in Ottoman Macedonia, 1878–1908](#) (Cornell University Press), which focuses on the final decades of Ottoman rule in southeastern Europe.

Children's Services highlights include:

Collections:

Brian Wilson has spent a lot of time in August weeding the JFiction collection. Going through and removing or replacing older items helps the items we're holding on to become more visible to our patrons. Brian worked through E-Z this month. Martha Meyer has become coordinating with Tech Services and Circulation to interfile the paperback and Jfiction collections.

Programming Highlights:

Family Nights:

Linda Balla and Martha Meyer planned the August Family Nights and worked with staff (Jessica Iverson, Kim Kaufmann, and Robin Sindelar) and volunteers (Jancy Jerome) to create some wonderful family events. Martha ran the administrative side of

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Yoga Night and assisted with Lego Night. Martha trained Jessica so she could take over The Young and the Restless evening program this month. Martha worked with Jill Schacter on all the publicity; she says Family Nights create more clicks via online advertising. August Family Nights had good strong steady attendance – surprising for a month of vacations. We again had our share of parents thanking us for doing things for *working* parents. We are already planning October Family Night programming and considering whether we should do December or not.



Outreach Highlights:

Janie's Fair Progress:

This is a project that arose out of Kim Holmes-Ross' consulting with Curt's Café South. Laura Antolin was invited to be a part of this project as a result of networking at CNE's Breakfast at Erie Health in June. There are about 16 people on this committee including EPD, IWSE, Family Center, Literacy for All of Us and community members. "Janie" is our composite teen mom who dropped out of school, has a 1 year-old, is pregnant, in an abusive relationship with her baby's father, living at home sometimes and frequently hungry and not connected to any services. The purpose of Janie's Fair is to hold a resource fair for teen mothers and young parents and their families and it is fast-tracked to happen on September 11 from 3-6pm at Mason Park.

School Supplies at St. Mark's:

Jill Skwerski and Laura Antolin were both able to be at the school supply giveaway at St. Mark's, on Friday, August 14 from 4-7pm. We were at a table right in the doorway so had the opportunity to talk to everyone coming in the door. We had Library stickers and flyers and were able to make 25 library cards. It was definitely worth our while to be there. The Library is providing 100 bags for the Fair and we will have a table to make cards, offer information, and so some simple origami (fortune tellers). I'm also hoping

to have book giveaways. Staff from Teen Services will also sit at our table. Refer to Jill's report below for an exciting update.

Community Picnic:

Jill Skwerski and Laura Antolin manned the Library tables at the CommUnity Picnic on August 23. We gave away 200 books, 400 library bags, and lots of pencils and pencil toppers. We also had 2 Northwestern student volunteers who manned our chromatography butterfly craft (this craft got a lot of play this summer) and a high school volunteer who manned the brain coloring sheet table. Another participant at the picnic told us that we were the most popular table that day. There was a lot of library love at this event.

Family Focus Library:

JoAnn Avery, Traci Brown-Powell and Laura Antolin began to go through the books in the Library in order to assess what's there. They started to organize the books a little and to discard some. Colette Allen, the Director at Family Focus, is also involved in this process which will include rearranging some of the collection and maybe some of the space. The goal is to make the Library more intentional and useful and the process will take some time.

Summer Crafts in the Parks:

We visited the parks during the 1st and 2nd weeks in August during free lunch. Since the Summer Reading Program had officially ended, these 2 weeks were devoted to drop-in crafts.

We brought materials to make fish wind socks for the 1st week and interacted with a lot of kids at each site. At Robert Crown, we primarily saw kids in the summer camp program and at Fleetwood we primarily saw kids who were in Y- Readers at Family Focus. At James and Mason Parks, there were a good number of families and caregivers.

- **Robert Crown 8/3:** Interactions = **16 (12 kids & crafts); 11 books borrowed**
- **James Park 8/4:** Interactions = **30 (25 kids & crafts)**
- **Fleetwood 8/5:** Interactions = **22 (15 kids & crafts); 3 books borrowed**
- **Mason Park 8/6:** Interactions = **20 (15 kids & crafts)**

Our craft for the 2nd week was making and blowing huge bubbles. The kids made bubble wands out of pipe cleaners and also blew bubbles with our water bottle blowers (these were less successful). We had great weather for this craft and kids who hung out our table for the entire 2 hours. The only exception was Fleetwood – Y-Readers had already ended and we had not seen a lot of families at the park during the 7 weeks that we visited.

- **Robert Crown 8/11:** Interactions = **31 (25 kids & crafts); 4 books borrowed**
- **James Park, 8/12:** Interactions = **19 (17 kids & crafts)**
- **Fleetwood 8/13:** Interactions = **4 (4 kids & crafts)**

- **Mason Park 8/14:** Interactions = **28** (25 kids & crafts)

During the two weeks of Crafts in the Parks in August, we interacted with **170** people and **138** kids participated in drop-in crafts; **18** books were borrowed.

K-LEAP:

Foundation 65 again granted our proposal to continue funding K-LEAP for 2 years. Each September, we deliver book bags with information about K-LEAP and K-Tours from F65 for each Kindergarten student in District 65. Based on the Kindergarten census from 2014, Laura Antolin chose and we purchased 850 non-fiction texts from Scholastic FACE (150 in bilingual or Spanish language), as well as book bags for Kindergarten Curriculum Night. Martha Meyer and Laura emailed the 6 librarians that we work with to regarding their school's Curriculum Night and reminding them of the process. Laura received the books and organized them and our volunteer, Anne, stickered them so that Martha Meyer and Laura can each stuff and deliver book bags to 6 school librarians for their Kindergarten teachers to hand out at their Curriculum Night. The earliest Curriculum Night is September 2 at Washington School and Laura will deliver those bags on September 1.

Laura is starting preparations for K-LEAP (materials repair and replacement; labels printed) based on feedback from D65 librarians. All of our Post Office play dates have been scheduled and she will be arranging to train the one new librarian at Dawes about K-LEAP in the next few weeks.

K-Tour:

Foundation 65 granted our proposal to continue funding K-Tours for another year. Laura contacted the bus company and sent out emails to the Kindergarten teachers at each school explaining K-Tours along with a schedule of dates to choose from. At this time, 8 of the 12 schools have already scheduled their K-Tours.

She purchased 200 Mo Willems books for the book giveaway (parent incentive) piece of the K-Tours and we printed labels for the books, so we are getting ready for the first of these on October 23. Laura runs a Library Card drive as part of the K-Tours and asked Jose Maldonado to combine the different Library card applications in our files and to come up with a unified one before the card drive.

Teacher Checkout and Services:

To get ready for a new year of Teacher Checkout, Renee and Laura Antolin sent out letters and card applications to principals and librarians at all District 65 schools, area private schools, and ETHS. As of this date, we have received 4 completed applications in Children's.

Last year we included a joint K-5 and 6-12 grade brochure of Teacher Services with these letters. This year, Renee created a 6-12 brochure and Kim and I created a K-5 brochure. This

enabled both of us to offer some more specific kinds of services (STEAM activities, professional development, etc.) to our different audiences.

Teen Services highlights include: from Renee Neumeier:

FUSE:

FUSE continues to have a steady stream of regulars and new faces. In order to meet the interests of regulars and newcomers teen services staff will be trying a new approach with FUSE this fall. First each Saturday a specific challenge will be highlighted. The teen staff will work on the highlighted challenge with any teens who are interested. We've found that teens really like doing new projects with staff rather than just on their own. While 3D printing remains popular we want to introduce teens to the other cool challenges they may not have tried. McKenna and Ashley are also going to work on developing a mentor program for teens who mastered 3D printing. They will assist teen services staff with printing and also other teens with trouble shooting and getting started with the 3D software.

YA Collection:

Teen services staff finished an intensive weeding project of the whole YA print and AV collection. We weeded the collection to a one year currency. In the past we had been doing a 2.5 year currency, but due to our space issues and from information gathered from other YA librarians about the currency of their collections we decided to change currency to a year. The collection looks really nice and it freed up a decent amount of shelf space. Tech Service also started re-cataloging the graphic novels so they will no longer have a Dewey number but will be YA graphic, Author Last Name.

Outreach and Community Engagement includes: From Jill Skwerski:

- National Night Out was held on August 4th. This is the 3rd consecutive year that EPL has partnered with the Evanston Police and Fire Departments to come together and celebrate community during evening hours. From 6-8pm we gathered on the front ramp to do origami and marshmallow & toothpick creations – both STEM based crafts. We were visited by members of the Evanston Fire Department who parked out front and allowed gracious access to their truck.



- On August 14, EPL partnered with C.O.P.E. and the District 65 PTA Council to provide free school supplies, backpacks, and library cards to community students and their families. The event was held at St. Mark's Church and we very well attended. This year marks a transitional year with

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C.O.P.E. taking the lead in school supply distribution, following the long held tradition begun by KASS that ended abruptly last year. The event was extremely successful with over 700 supply bags distributed. The Library (with our solid air conditioning) has been asked to be a distribution sight next year. (See pictures.)





- Book Bike visits to the West End Market, COMMUNITY Picnic, Ridgeville Market were all tremendously well received. Also, wrap up visits to free lunch sites and our final summer visit

out at Mason Park with the boys and girls mentoring group, where all were supplied with free books, along with EPL pens and pencils to start the academic year in library style. 😊

- Finally, we will again be partnering with the District 65 PTA Council as they present their speaker series for the 2015-2016 school year. This year's theme is around the idea of empowering kids to be allies. Below is a statement from PTA Council Co-Chair Heather Sweeney, as well as a description of the 4 sessions:
 - You all have been more than generous and wonderful partners to the series...A library who stands behind this kind of programming is one of the things that makes Evanston what it is, in addition to all the work you do internally.
 - Session 1: Storytelling is a powerful way we can explore topics like race, ability, and gender. Come hear professional and parent storytellers share their personal journeys of navigating difference with their kids and building alliances. Oct. 12, 2015
 - Session 2: Why knowing yourself, how others view you, and how you view others make you a better ally. Nov. 16, 2015
 - Session 3: What you weren't taught in school: Systems of Oppression and a Lesson in Evanston History. February, 2016
 - Session 4: The toolbox session, practical tips for ally development. March, 2016

Neighborhood Services highlights include:

- Connie has been interviewing to fill key vacancies at the branches and has found really strong candidates to join our team.
- The popular *Tail Waggin Tutors* program has returned. Practice your reading - read to a dog! The *Tail Waggin Tutors* program provides a relaxed and "dog friendly" atmosphere in which kids can practice and improve their reading skills. *Tail Waggin Tutors* are wonderful listeners and provide a great opportunity for kids to build confidence reading as well as learn how to interact with these wonderful therapy dogs. Kids read to their dogs for 20 minutes and then have 10 minutes to cuddle. Sometimes the kids will be sharing a dog with another kid but everyone will have plenty of time to cuddle with a dog at the end of the session. Sign up for one 4 week session.
- Children are invited to learn chess at CAMS. Please refer to our online calendar for details.

Adult Services highlights include:

- The newest Mission Impossible title is *Moby Dick*. On Wednesday, September 9 at 7 pm, Mission Impossible veterans and new recruits alike were invited to the Community Meeting Room of EPL's Main Library as MI:6 sets sail. That evening Dr. Betsy Erkkila – the Henry Sanborn Noyes Professor of Literature at Northwestern University and a specialist on 19th Century American Literature –briefed participants on all things Moby-Dick and Melville in preparation for our year-long journey.

- September features the continuation of computer classes for adults. Three-part classes are perfect for beginners! Students should attend all three sessions of a class. Registration is not required but space is limited to 12 students in the Main Library 3rd floor Computer Lab. El profesor habla español.

Upcoming events of note:

- September 19th: Come enjoy a family celebration and story time about one of China's most popular holidays, the 2000 year old Mid-Autumn Festival! Come hear the story of Chang-e and Hou Yi, learn about this ancient moon festival and the fun ways families now celebrate in China, and make some festival crafts. Storytelling in Chinese and English. Chinese language books for kids on sale onsite from Bookends and Beginnings.
- Monday, September 21, Noon, Community Meeting Room, Main Library: ReferenceUSA helps users create marketing plans, conduct competitive analysis, raise funds, and locate people. Join ReferenceUSA representative, Nancy Spidle, for this presentation on how you can use this resource to create targeted mailing lists; locate detailed info on either competitors or businesses similar to your own; create job search lists, and more.
- Wednesday, September 23, 7 pm, Community Meeting Room, Main Library
Join Evanston photographer and retired NU Life Sciences librarian Lloyd Davidson as he discusses the art of nature photography. Dr. Davidson's presentation will begin with a sampling of his and his wife's nature photographs, combined with an explanation of how each of these was achieved. This will be followed by a demonstration of various cameras - from the more expensive (and much heavier) interchangeable-lens-reflex cameras to the more commonly used fixed-lens point-and-shoot models - with details about how each of these can best be used to effectively capture a range of subjects in different lighting and other environmental conditions.
- September 29th: 90 Second Newbery Filmmaking for Homeschool Teens and Tweens Let's make a movie! We'll be crafting a 90-second Newbery film as a group using a Newbery book as inspiration. Teens will utilize all forms of filmmaking including screenwriting, set building, camera shooting and editing. Each session will build on topics from previous sessions but participation is not required for every session. Program is for homeschool students only.
- Monday, October 5, 6:30pm: Bring friends and make new ones at Evanston Public Library's second Tabletop Game Night. Our friends from Evanston's own Elysium Games will teach games like King of Tokyo, Sons of Anarchy, and Five Tribes, as well as an assortment of quicker games
- Coming October 13 at 7pm: The Ethics of Vaccination. A talk with Eula Biss, author of On Immunity and Laurie Zoloth, Professor of Medical Humanities and Bioethics at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. This is the first of three talks in the Evanston Northwestern Humanities Lecture Series, where Northwestern faculty share research and discussion with the Evanston community.

Excerpts from Patron feedback:

- Hello!

My name is Rachel Krumm and I am the Activity Director over at The Grove of Evanston. We receive awesome book donations from you! Today, a woman dropped off some books (I forgot her name) and I

asked her if it was possible to provide more large print books. I forgot to ask her for more science fiction books as well! If you could keep this in mind for the next batch of donations to us, that would be amazing!

- Thank you so much for your generous gift of books to the Tutwiler Branch Library (Tutwiler, MS). Your donation – primarily children’s books has been very beneficial. When we first met Linda Balla and Marie Nowak in 2006, our collection of books was skimpy and ancient. When they volunteered to send us books, I had no great expectation. But a whole truckload of books came to our door. If I’m remembering correctly, it was a pallet of 23 boxes.

This was spearheaded by Linda and Marie, who have worked hard on our behalf sending and bringing books each year. And Blanche volunteers and looks out for books for us.

Tallahatchie County has no book stores, nor does any of the nearby towns. The Library and the Community Center are the primary sources for books and other media that needy families and individuals in our community can afford.

- On behalf of Muse of Fire Theatre Company, I would like to thank you and the staff of the Evanston Public Library, as well as the Board of Trustees, for your generous and valuable gift of allowing us to perform our production of *Hamlet* in the library. We may have a history of performing outside, but inventive site-responsive practices, such as performing promenade-style in the library, have attracted and impressed audiences.
- Hi Karen,

I just wanted to let you know that I was incredibly struck yesterday at the CommUNITY Picnic when we were doing our “casual listening” by how many people listed the library when they were listing what they valued about Evanston or where they felt a sense of belonging in Evanston. A few people even mentioned specifically how much the library’s outreach and programming has improved in the last 3 or 4 years. Wildly diverse people mentioned the library—it was really incredibly impressive—and I heard it over and over again.

You and your staff are doing an AWESOME job! Thanks so much on behalf of our community!