



MEETING MINUTES
EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015
6:30 PM

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Board Room

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

Members Absent: Socorro Clarke, Sandra Smith

Staff: Karen Danczak Lyons, Paul Gottschalk, 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 6:34 pm.

CITIZEN COMMENT – No citizens were present for comment.

PUBLIC HEARING: This meeting constitutes the Public Hearing on the FY2016 Proposed Budget. Hearing no comments or questions from the public, President Tannen accepted silence as approval to move forward.

CONSENT AGENDA – Benjamin Schapiro motioned to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the September 2, 2015 special budget meeting, the September 16, 2015 regular meeting, and the bills list and payroll. Second by Leora Siegel. Approved on a voice vote.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A. President Tannen presented a Resolution in Honor of Storytelling Festival Co-Founder Susan Stone to recognize her work in producing the first annual Storytelling Festival held October 9th-11th which drew over 1700 in attendance and was enthusiastically received by the community.

- B. Mitch Einhorn, the owner of Lush Evanston, which holds the lease on the property adjacent to the EPL's North Branch at 2022 W. Central Street, was asked to comment on the delays in build-out and renovation of that property. Exterior and sewer work that is Mr. Einhorn's responsibility impacts the North Branch facility. Mr. Einhorn sites the shortage of available general contractors as the main obstacle to moving forward. He is looking at proposals from 3 new contractors this month and confirmed his intent to secure a general contractor at a good price.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- The Library continues to build community partnerships by attending events, like Janie's Fair, an agency providing services to teen mothers, and working to provide more programs, like Lego Night, for families with an autistic child.
- The Library is anticipating an increase in use by vulnerable adults as the state budget impasse and cuts to social services impacts the social safety net for this population.

STAFF REPORTS

- A. Administrative Services Report** – Paul Gottschalk referenced the Administrative Services Report and noted that the recent staff Development Day included a tour of Evanston, which was well-received and appreciated by staff.

BOARD REPORTS

Finance Committee Report –

- A.** Ben Schapiro reported on the special meeting of the Finance Committee on October 6th to discuss the FY2016 budget. The budget presented this evening reflects recommendations made at that meeting. Mr. Schapiro called for a motion to approve expenditures of \$6,997,142. Vaishali Patel seconded the motion, all Board members voted to approve.
- B.** The Preliminary FY2016 Tax Levy Estimate (attached) was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT – Ben Schapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tori Forman. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Lurie, Secretary

Next Meeting: Truth in Taxation Hearing: Monday, November 16, 2015, 6:30 pm Evanston Public Library, Board Room

The City of Evanston and the Evanston Public Library are committed to ensuring accessibility for all citizens. If an accommodation is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the Library at 847-448-8650 48 hours in advance of this meeting so that arrangements can be made for the accommodation if possible.

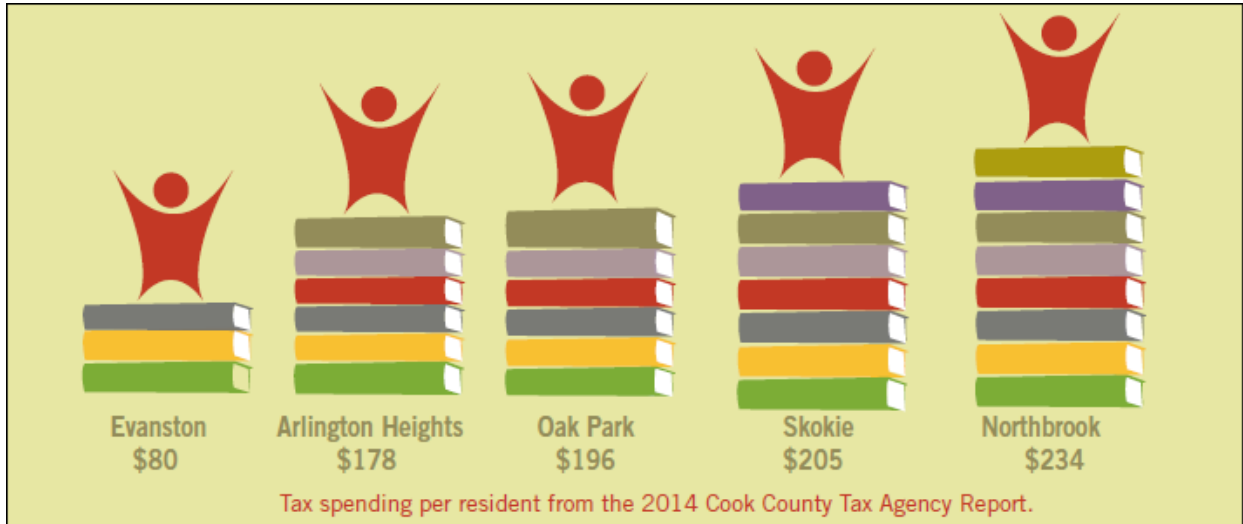
**Library Director’s Report
October 21, 2015**

Updates:

- 2016 Budget: I will present highlights from our Budget on Saturday, October 24th to the City Council. With our proposed budget, we are capturing the growth in the EAV. When applied to the value of the average home in Evanston, the increase is less than the price of a paperback book:

		10% of Market	Factor is 2.6039	EPL tax rate is 0.264		
Market Value of Home	Assessed Value of Home	Equalized Value of Home	2015 Library Tax	2016 Projected Tax	Difference	
\$ 100,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 26,039	\$ 69	\$ 72	\$ 2.82	
\$ 200,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 52,078	\$ 137	\$ 143	\$ 5.64	
\$ 400,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 104,156	\$ 275	\$ 286	\$ 11.27	
\$ 600,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 156,234	\$ 412	\$ 429	\$ 16.91	
\$ 800,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 208,312	\$ 550	\$ 572	\$ 22.55	
\$ 1,000,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 260,390	\$ 687	\$ 716	\$ 28.18	

Also in compliance with State law, the primary source of funding for all public libraries in the State of Illinois is local property tax. This fact is especially important when we compare our per capita property tax funding to that of surrounding and similar libraries:



- Big Read: The Big Read kicked off September 19 with an amazing performance from Danzas Ceremoniales. 65 people attended the kickoff program and 71 copies of the book were given away in English and 24 in Spanish. During September copies of the companion books (*Yes! We are Latinos* and *The Distance Between Us* were delivered to District 65) and more copies of *Into the Beautiful North* were delivered to ETHS because more teachers want to use the book in their classes. A discussion in Spanish kicked off at ETHS and is being led by Mercedes Fernandez. 10 people had signed up for it so far. Renee Neumeier also stopped by the D65 Bilingual Parent Advisory meeting and told them about the Big Read and the companion books their kids would be reading. She gave out copies of *Into the Beautiful North*, *Yes! We are Latinos* and *The Distance Between Us*. Parents seemed very enthusiastic about the programming and books.
- Betsy Bird was featured in an article in Chicago magazine: <http://www.chicagomag.com/city-life/October-2015/Q-A-Betsy-Bird-Kid-Lit-Star-and-New-Evanston-Librarian/>
- I appreciate the leadership of our Technical Services staff, led by Tim Longo who has increased access to important materials. In a unique collaboration between the Evanston Public Library, the Evanston History Center and Legacy Shorefront Center, our Head Cataloguer Julie Bevan, catalogued 587 history books thus making them more accessible to the public through the Evanston Public Library catalog. This story is now on our website.

http://www.epl.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7154:history-collections&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=313

- All Staff Day – my thanks to President Michael Tannen for joining us on October 16th. The staff enjoyed the Snapshot Evanston Bus tours and the presentations on “Human Services and Funding” by Susan Loellbach, Acting Executive Director, Connections and Kate Mahoney, Executive Director, Peer Services and “Creative Collaborations” by Evonda Thomas-Smith, Director, City of Evanston Health and Human Services Department and Karen Demorest, Executive Director, Youth Job Center.
- The First Annual EPL Storytelling Festival: “Stories by the Lake” was a huge success. More than 1,700 story lovers of all ages attended. I had attendees tell me that they had planned to “stop by and check out the festival” and they stayed and returned for sessions throughout the weekend. All

of our tellers – EPL staff, students from District 65, ETHS and Northwestern and our featured storytellers shared their wonderful stories with skill and enthusiasm. Separately in this meeting, you will hear from Susan Stone the Founder and Co-Director of the Festival. We have already begun plans for next year’s festival.

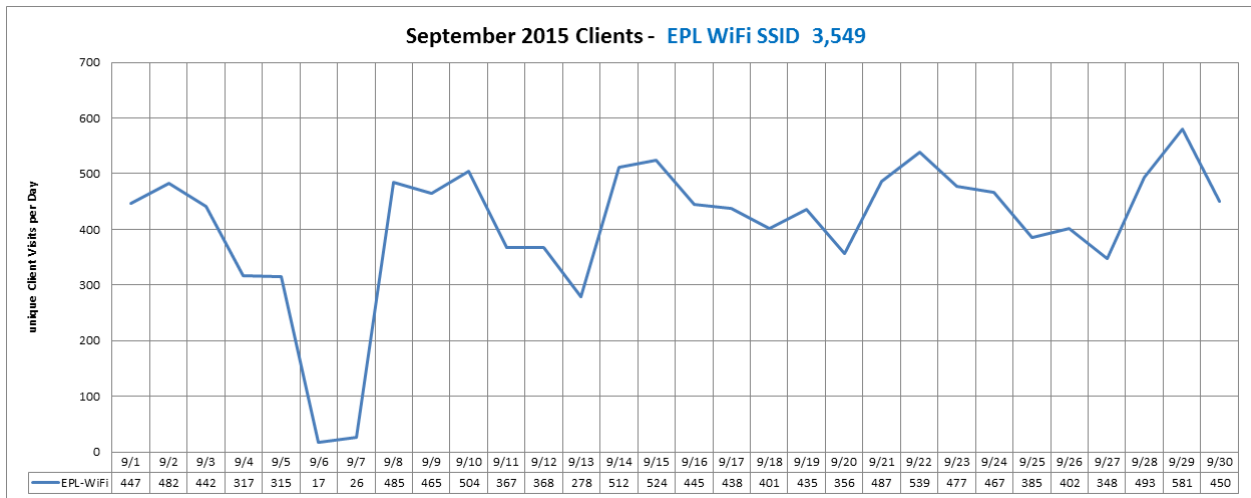
Assessments, metrics and initiative results:

Foot traffic:	August, 2015	September, 2015
Main:	46,527	43,147
North:	3,455	4,151
CAMS:	4,418	4,060
Total:	54,400	51,358

Website visits in August: 40,671 September: 42,214

Overall Computer/Internet Use – all locations: August: 7,409 September: 6,479

Wireless network. September: total 3,549



Services and collaborations:

- John Devaney arranged meetings between the Evanston Police Department and EPL staff:

Officer Will Arzuaga from EPD was here on both September 22nd and October 7th for a Q & A session with EPL staff. Officer Will addressed all of our questions about challenging patron behaviors, understanding threats and getting help, workplace violence, and Library rules. Officer Will is a member

of the Evanston Police Problem Solving Team (PST) so is very familiar with local community partnerships, enforcement of local laws, mental health issues in our community, and homeless services.

- Once again, we are supporting the “Fairy Tale Trail” program by donating EPL pencils and bookmarks for the goody bags. My thanks to Jill Skwerski for working with our wonderful neighbor and partner, The Woman’s Club of Evanston.

- For the second year in a row, EPL is partnering with The PTA Council of Evanston/Skokie to produce a series of programs on diversity. This year’s new four-part series is: "Becoming Allies, Inspiring Our Kids to Understand and Stand With Each Other." The series explores the meaning of "allyship" and how to become better allies through listening and supporting one another across differences.

The first program in the series, "Seeing Each Other in the Stories We Tell," was on Wednesday, Oct. 14 from 6:30-8:30 pm. at Family Focus, 2010 Dewey Ave. Four professional and parent storytellers, Emily Lansana, Jevold Simmons, Kristine Nesslar and Danny M. Cohen, shared personal journeys navigating issues of identity and social justice with their kids. [Note: Emily Lasana was one of our featured storytellers at our Festival.]

A discussion, facilitated by Rahul Sharma, followed to deepen understanding and empower participants to become stronger, more effective allies. Child care and Spanish translation was provided.

This series of programs on diversity, is a continuation of programming started last year, and is sponsored by the PTA Council of Evanston/Skokie in partnership with the Evanston Public Library, Evanston/Skokie School District 65, Youth and Opportunities United (Y.O.U.), Family Focus, YWCA Evanston/North Shore, and the James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy.

- I was pleased to be part of a panel discussion on October 13th with Northwestern University’s Brady Scholars, an undergraduate program that promotes civic engagement. We discussed Community Literacy, the role of the public library and ways that the Scholars may become involved as volunteers.

Highlights from Neighborhood Services include:

September meant enjoying our new desk at North Branch, new library cards, Fall Words for preschoolers, and appreciative patrons.

Below is a photo of a mother and son participating in mailbox play which was the Fall Words activity organized by Martha Meyer and Linda Balla. It encouraged writing and playing, two of the five literacy activities for preschoolers.



Kate and Beth ready to serve at our new desk at North Branch.

Highlights from Children’s Services include:

From Laura Antolin:

- Blessings in a Backpack:

During my conversation with Jane Grover, we talked about an initiative called *Blessings in a Backpack*, which mobilizes communities, individuals and resources to provide food for kids over the weekend that might otherwise go hungry. <http://www.blessingsinabackpack.org/partners/>

I hadn’t heard of this initiative but was very interested in the concept. I thought if given the opportunity, it would be great to add a book to the food in the backpack.

Jane connected me with Maureen B. Palchak, Assistant Athletic Director for Community Relations at Northwestern, who is coordinating with Shannon Fitzgerald from Blessings in a Backpack, and they were both very positive about this addition. Blessings in a Backpack is the 2016 primary beneficiary of NU’s Dance Marathon. <http://dailynorthwestern.com/2015/05/21/campus/blessings-in-a-backpack-chosen-as-dms-2016-beneficiary/>

I will be collecting about 200 books for identified children ages 5-10 at Lincoln and Dawes schools (currently 75 kids at each school are being fed)– there won't be any breakdown of ages provided – and delivering them in November. I had been thinking of gently used book sale books when I responded to Maureen and Shannon. However, separately, Betsy Bird had asked me if I might want about 50 boxes of new picture books, chapter books and nonfiction books that Junko Yokota was interested in donating to low income kids and I had already said I would take these to do something with. I'll look through them and hopefully they will fit the bill for the Blessings Backpacks.

- Staff in Children's Services is exploring ways to provide programming for children with special needs by attending webinars and professional development meetings around public library services to this important population. As a result, Laura is arranging for a LEGO program for Special Needs kids in November.
- Janie's Fair: After 6 weeks of planning, we held Janie's Fair on 9/11 at Mason Park. There were 23 service providers. Renee and Laura Antolin manned a Library table together and gave away bookmarks, "I Love EPL" stickers, Library information and books. I brought board books and picture books and Renee brought YA titles and I gave away about 60 books to teen moms and young parents. I was very glad to be a part of the planning committee for this event – this is a particularly vulnerable group and hard to reach. I hope we are able to make this an annual event.
- Martha Meyer telling the story of Hou Yi shooting down 9 suns (kids with suns)



- Wendy Cao and Martha Meyer telling of the Elixir of Immortality



Photos from Laura Antolin:
Janie's fair





- Exploring STEAM with Ms Laura
- Dawes After Care (Below)



- From Jessica Iverson:
Patron Stories

The Mid-Autumn Festival went really well I think. It felt really rewarding to see so many people of various ages and cultures enjoying the program and crafts we had worked so hard to put together. For my part I wasn't expecting the many people who came up afterwards to compliment my singing of "Mo Li Hua" (Jasmin Flower). It was humbling to

receive their praise, when I'm sure it wasn't perfect. I did my best though, with the very minimal handle I have on Chinese pronunciation! I also enjoyed seeing kids and adults putting together so many beautiful lanterns, and not seeming to find it too difficult. I had completed a couple of the steps of the craft with each kit, to make it easier, and I'm glad I did!



- Regarding the pictures, I think one of my favorites is the one in which a Chinese grandmother is singing along. It is rare that in a public group like this, Chinese adults feel comfortable performing in any way that they feel underprepared for, but here was this woman joining the group. I don't want to assume why I knew she felt comfortable enough to sing along, but it was good to see. And as the person singing up front, it was a relief that others were singing along with me!

Since the event, the mother in the bottom right corner of this picture told me that she has been teaching her son the song at home.

From Renee Neumeier:

- Home School 90 Second Newbery Programs:
Homeschool Programs started up again in September and will run until the middle of December. The turnout for this year has been phenomenal—with 10-15 kids per session! The fabulous group of kids ranges in age from 10 to almost 15. We're focusing on making a 90 Second Newbery film on "Savvy." In September we rotated programs between filmmaking, FUSE and WRWS but at our last meeting, we unanimously voted to focus for the next month or two on filmmaking to finish the movie in time. Ashley Hamernik, who runs the sessions has been pleasantly surprised by how well these kids work together. During the last two sessions, she's been able to step back to let the kids lead their own discussion on how they want their film to progress—what kind of film they want (what style), what main points to focus on, who the main characters are, etc. Occasionally Ashley or our volunteer Eti Berland will step in to ask them a question to ground the conversation or make them think about the filming ramifications of a suggestion they've made but they do a nice job of keeping themselves on task.
- City Lit Banned Books Performance:

For the first time EPL hosted the City Lit performance in the Loft. Patrons of all ages attended, but about half were teens who were already in the space and were intrigued enough to become audience members after the performance had already started. The performance was very high quality, and I would deem the event a success. Along with the performance, Kayla Freeman and Ashley Hamernik put together a Banned Books display and pulled copies of titles for patrons to check out. We always get tons of questions each year when this display is up.

- **Improv Outreach and Promotion:**

This is a new way to promote our programs and reach out to teens. Kayla did two school visits, one for a full-day (Chute) and one for a half-day (Nichols). While she was there, Kayla did Improv workshops with the theatre classes to promote the Improv program at EPL. Kayla modified her curriculum for each class to fit the ages and skill level of the different groups. She also followed up with some fliers for the teachers to distribute, including the schools where she was not presenting a live demo. One class even had their principal join in for one of our games (“Dolphin Training”).

Schools:

- Met with Becky from Baker Demonstration school about collaborating with her on a 3D Design and printing project for her students. Ashley and I will be going to Baker in October to teach students the basics of 3D Design and printing. I believe the students are going to design something to solve a specific problem.
- We received funds from Foundation 65 to fund a pilot set of STEAM kits for classroom use. We partnered with D65 on this grant. I purchased the materials for the kits. We still need to get containers for them, create binders with lesson ideas and common core tie ins and meet with Jose and Tim about cataloging the kits, checking them out and where to store them.
- 6th grade tours were scheduled with all of the D65 schools. For the first time King Lab is coming and they’re bringing 6th, 7th and 8th graders. We’ve worked at tailoring the presentations to topics that might be covered in the student curriculum at some point. We’re also hoping to highlight our new electronic resources more. We’ve been working on making new cards for many of the 6th graders.
- Nichols Middle School launched a Maker Club for 8th graders this fall. I have been attending the meetings and helping facilitate them. Nichols is hoping to turn an old computer lab into a Maker Space. The 8th graders are going to help design the space from what it looks like to what types of tools and resources will be available in it. The second part of what the 8th graders will do is to plan Maker Monday activities for 6th and 7th graders in the spring.
- Amy at Haven and I are also going to be collaborating on Maker activities later in the fall. We’ve also scheduled visits for the Haven 6th graders to come to North Branch in December. Amy and I have been touching base about the teen literature festival that we’ll be holding at EPL in January. We’ll have a really awesome final guest author that’s top secret for now.

Community Outreach Highlights from Jill Skwerski include:

September's warm weather was most welcome as outdoor events provided many opportunities to engage the community. Here are some places and spaces that I traveled via book bike during the month:

- Streets Alive!/Hispanic Heritage Festival/Green Living Festival all rolled into one event this year, held on Sunday September 13. During the Hispanic Heritage month kickoff event at Washington School, I distributed copies of our Big Read title in Spanish and English to enthusiastic fair goers. Dr. Elena Garcia Ansani of Latino Resources was very appreciative of EPL presence, and wrote, "Thank you for bringing literacy to our Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off event at Streets Alive yesterday. Everyone's participation ensured this year's celebration was a huge success. I look forward to more collaborative working opportunities with you and the Evanston Public Library in the future." As we look towards the hiring of a Latin@ Outreach Coordinator, I can foresee many opportunities for collaboration.
- Bike the Ridge and Not-for-Profit Day at the Farmers Market filled the final weekend of the month. The book bike is now a landmark at many of Evanston's outdoor events, with patrons exclaiming that they've seen the bike across the community. At NFP Day, I checked out 32 library books, while Bike the Ridge was a giveaway event where I gave about 90 books (graciously provided by our Book Sale Volunteers) and made 1 library card.
- Northwestern University orientations were held mid-month. During 3 sessions for new students, grad students and parents & families, I issued 63 library cards while inviting students to make use of our services and facilities.
- Other/ongoing engagement opportunities included the first Female Black Summit at ETHS, Hillside Pantry, Produce Mobile, YWCA – Hilda's Place visit, Meals at Home, and Erie Family Health – Reach Out and Read.
- Looking ahead, we'll have our second visit from Community Partners for Affordable Housing in early November. I'm in the planning stages for our next Special Needs Family Resource Fair and am also planning an event in conjunction with the Moran Center where community members will be able to get their records sealed/expunged here at EPL. Finally, we've got some new hardware set to be installed at Blake Manor via our Youth Technology Corps students from ETHS in support of ongoing digital literacy classes to low-income.

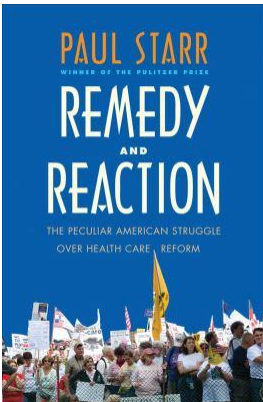
Adult Services highlights include:

- My thanks to Ben Remsen: In partnership with Northwestern University, we have launched the HIRCULES Health Hub project, a Health Desk located in the lobby of the main library and staffed by trained Northwestern University students. The desk will be staffed Wednesdays, 3-6pm, and Sundays, 1-4pm.
- The series of free computer classes (in English and Spanish) continues to be well received.

Upcoming events of note:

- October Family Nights at the Library: October brings five great evening events in the Children's Department. These working-parent friendly events are intended for young children and the whole family is welcome! Get the library habit started early and come back often. Research shows that early reading successes translate to success in school and beyond.

- **History Book Discussion Group: Remedy & Reaction**



- **Wednesday, October 21, 7 pm , Seminar Room, Third Floor, Main Library**
- We will read [Remedy & Reaction: The Peculiar American Struggle over Health Care](#), by Paul Starr, the story of the battles around health care policy in the United States from the early 1900s to the Affordable Care Act. Paul Starr is a professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton University and co-founder of the American Prospect magazine. Copies of *Remedy & Reaction* will be held at the Reader's Services desk on the 2nd floor.

- **EPL and MENA Present "Captive Society: The Basij Militia and Social Control in Iran"**



- **Monday, October 26, 6 pm, Community Meeting Room, Main Library**
- The Evanston Public Library and Northwestern University's Middle East and North African Studies (MENA) Program welcome you to the latest in our continuing series of lectures regarding the culture, politics, religion, and society of the Middle East and North Africa.
- [Saeid Golkar](#), lecturer for the MENA Program at Northwestern University, and senior fellow of Iran policy at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, will present a lecture on his latest book, [Captive Society: The Basij Militia and Social Control in Iran](#). The book is the first full-length study of this critical organization in the Iranian power structure. It provides a comprehensive account of the Basij's organizational structure, insight into the social background of its membership, the training and indoctrination of the members, and the Basij's extensive security, watchdog, and propaganda role in Iranian society.

- **2015 Best Picture Books Presentation with Betsy Bird and Brian Wilson**

- **Saturday, November 14, 10:30 am, Community Meeting Room, Main Library**



Join collection development manager Betsy Bird and youth services librarian Brian Wilson as they share their picks for their Favorite Picture Books of 2015! Brian, a member of the 2017 Randolph Caldecott Medal Selection Committee, will present his annual top 12 countdown of his favorite 2015 read-alouds for preschoolers. Joining him this year is Fuse #8 blogger, author, and former New York Public Library youth materials specialist Betsy, who will talk about a dozen recent picture books she considers absolutely great. Parents, teachers, child care workers, grandparents, and those seeking gift ideas will enjoy this lively, interactive program. **Please note: This event is for adults, and is not a story time for children. No registration required.**

Excerpts from Patron feedback:

- Florencia and Bridget (staff at CAMS) received flowers brought to us by Matt who said "Unlike many others, you treat me the way I would want to be treated."

- Thank you note from Treena Larson at ETHS for Mid-Autumn Festival Storytime:
Martha,

It was good seeing you on Saturday. It was a nice turn out!
What is the date/time for the story time reading again?
Thanks for inviting my class ☺ My students thought it was a good event.

Treena Larson
Mandarin Teacher
Evanston Township High School

- From Linda Patchett:

A few weeks ago at CAMS...a thirty plus year old patron handed me his card to check out items and said "This is my favorite card." He said it so earnestly and in a matter of fact tone. Thought you would love the simplicity and strength of this statement.