



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

Wednesday, December 16, 2015  
6:30 PM

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Board Room

**Members Present:** Socorro Clarke, Shawn Iles, Margaret Lurie, Vaishali Patel, Benjamin Schapiro, Sandra Smith, Michael Tannen

**Members Absent:** Tori Foreman, Leora Siegel

**Staff:** Karen Danczak Lyons, Paul Gottschalk, Wynn Shawver, Jessica Ticus

**Guest:** Martin Lyons, Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

**Presiding Member:** Michael Tannen, President

**CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM** - A quorum was present and President Tannen called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

**CITIZEN COMMENT** – None

**CONSENT AGENDA** – Benjamin Schapiro motioned to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the November 16, 2015 Truth in Taxation Hearing, the minutes of the November 18, 2015 regular meeting, the bills list and payroll. Seconded by Sandra Smith and approved on a voice vote.

**INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Crown Center Update** – Martin Lyons, Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer of the City of Evanston, gave an update on the Robert Crown Center renovation project. The consulting firm Community Counseling Services (CCS) has been working on a two phase consulting project. Phase I was conducting a feasibility study to assess community interest and support of the project. 58 individuals were interviewed and over 1000 people replied to an online survey. Recommendations are being culled from this feedback and will be shared with the EPL and the Evanston Parks and Recreation Boards. Phase II involves the presentation of the timeline for the fundraising and construction, which will be presented at the January 19th City Council meeting. The City is investigating the formation of a 501(c) (3) or a 501 (c) (4) organization to manage fundraising for this project.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

- On Monday, November 23, 2015 the City Council unanimously approved Evanston Public Library's tax levy.
- On January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Library will launch the online service Hoopla which will allow patrons to stream movies, popular music, television shows, graphic novels, e-books and audiobooks.
- Brian Wilson and Betsy Bird presented the annual Best Picture Books of 2015 program attended by over 90 people.
- Betsy Bird is hosting a 1st Evanston Public Library Literary Salon. The Literary Salon is a new monthly gathering of enthusiasts of children's books. The first session is Bringing Books to the Border, an effort to bring books to developing countries.

## STAFF REPORTS

- A. Administrative Services Report** – Paul Gottschalk updated the Board that Mitch Einhorn, owner of Lush, has a verbal agreement with a contractor to do the necessary build-out of the space adjacent to North Branch.

## BOARD REPORTS

- A. Facilities Committee** – Benjamin Shapiro reported the Facilities Committee recommends Board approval of the proposal from Construction Consulting and Disbursement Services (CCDS) in the amount of \$19,995 for emergency repairs on the rafters supporting the roof at the north end of North Branch. The project would be funded from current Library Fund reserves. Vaishali Patel moved for approval, seconded by Michael Tannen and approved on voice vote. President Tannen asked the minutes to reflect his concern that the Library is paying for capital improvements for a building owned by the City of Evanston.
- B. Fund for Excellence** – Margaret Lurie reported on the results of #GivingTuesday, December 1st during which the Library raised \$31,857 from 212 donors, 87 of whom were new donors to the Library. Margaret and Paul Lurie offered a \$10,000 matching challenge which was met by 2 pm that afternoon prompting the Luries to double their gift and continue the challenge.

## Board Development

- A. Tabled the showing of the Board meeting video.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Agreement with Mary Kling for Volunteer Management Services** – Motion by Benjamin Schapiro to approve the contract with Mary Kling, seconded by Sandra Smith and approved on a roll call vote.
- B. Approval of Cooperative Computer Services (CCS) Annual Agreement** – Motion by Benjamin Schapiro to approve the CCS Annual Agreement, seconded by Vaishali Patel and approved on a roll call vote.

- C. Approval of Total Building Services Janitorial Agreement** – Benjamin Schapiro motioned to approve the Total Building Services Janitorial Agreement, seconded by Sandra Smith and approved on a roll call vote.
- D. Approval of Per Capita Grant Application** – Benjamin Schapiro motioned to approve moving forward with the application for the Per Capita Grant from the State of Illinois, seconded by Sandra Smith and approved on a voice vote.
- E. Discussion of the Lease Renewal for Chicago Avenue/ Main Street Branch** – the Board recommended that Director Karen Danczak Lyons pursue a three-year lease at an improved rate. If the landlord is not amenable to a discounted rate, the Board suggests Director Lyons negotiate a one-year lease.

**CLOSED SESSION** – Review and Approval of Closed Session Minutes – President Tannen read the official language for convening a Closed Executive session for the purpose of reviewing closed session minutes. Motioned by Ben Schapiro, seconded by Sandra Smith and approved on a unanimous roll call vote. The Board moved into Closed Session at 7:33 p.m.

The Board re-convened in open session at 7:36 pm.

Vaishali Patel motioned to make the minutes of closed sessions from July 15, 2015, August 19, 2015, September 2, 2015 and September 16, 2015 available to the public. Shawn Iles seconded and all approved on roll call vote.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Lurie, Secretary

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 6:30 pm Evanston Public Library, Board Room**

**Library Director’s Report  
December 16, 2015**

**Updates:**

- 2016 Budget: On Monday, November 23, 2015 the City Council unanimously approved Evanston Public Library’s tax levy. Thank you to the Board and staff for your hard work and to Board President Michael Tannen for speaking on behalf of the library’s work and levy at the meeting.

		% of Total
<b>FY2016 Revenue</b>		
Property Tax Levy - Operating	\$6,054,180	86.3%
Transfer from Endowment Income	\$185,800	2.6%
Fund for Excellence	\$185,000	2.6%
Fines and Fees	\$160,000	2.3%
State Per Capita Grant	\$94,177	1.3%
Library Donations	\$87,500	1.2%
Library Book Sales	\$63,000	0.9%
Personal Property Replacement Tax	\$50,200	0.7%
Prior Year’s Taxes	\$50,000	0.7%
Rental Income	\$25,300	0.4%
Library Grants	\$20,000	0.3%
Copy Machine and Printing Charges	\$15,500	0.2%
Meeting Room Fees	\$12,500	0.2%
Material Replacement Charges	\$12,000	0.2%
Investment Income	\$2,000	0.0%
	<b>\$7,017,157</b>	

As a reminder, our proposed 2016 budget captures 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.

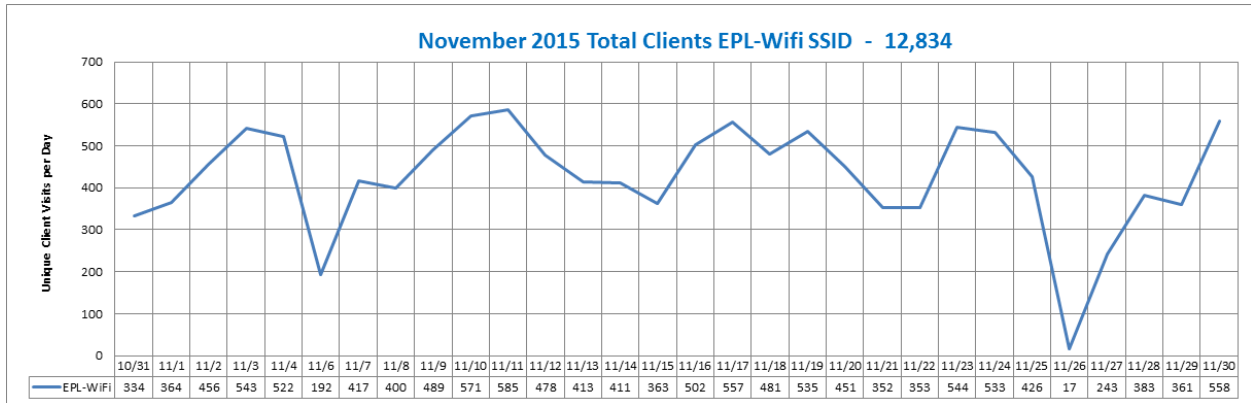
**Assessments, metrics and initiative results:**

Foot traffic:	October, 2015	November, 2015
Main:	43,311	41,034
North:	4,367	4,361
CAMS:	4,254	3,861
Total:	51,932	49,256

Website visits in October: 41,132 November: 37,483

Overall Computer/Internet Use – all locations: October: 6,675 November: 6,359

Wireless network: November: total: 12, 834



**Services and collaborations:**

- I was pleased to be part of the interview panel assembled to review applicants for the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. This Department is one of our important partners and we will continue to work closely together in 2016.
- Conversations continue with the Youth Job Center as we seek ways to expand the number of children served by the ABC Boosters program and seek additional sources of fund. More to come in the new year.
- The Pierian Club invited me to address their members and discuss the Fund for Excellence and Library services. I was delighted to meet the club which has spent a year considering the topic “Travel Literature: Exploring our Worlds.” The participants are voracious readers and support the Evanston Public Library. I was told that “You can tell you are in Evanston because our library cards are used more than our credit cards!”

**Highlights from Neighborhood Services include:**

- Pauline Dembecki, a local attorney, spoke to two groups of patrons about Illinois probate laws.
- Story times including bilingual story time continued.
- Ranea Surbrook and Connie Heneghan attended Best Picture Books program at main.

Below is a picture of the craft activity from the Monday morning story time and craft where we shared a book about imaginary friends and then made a book showing self and possible imaginary friends.



**Highlights from Children’s Services include:  
Programming Highlights**

Brian Wilson presented his annual **Best Picture Books** list, joined by our colleague and Collection Manager, Betsy Bird. From those who attended it was a big success. I worked the Sunday following the program and had a patron come to realize that she had missed the presentation. I had to offer her the book list instead. She was disappointed to have missed our two dynamic and knowledgeable presenters.

Steve and Kate’s Camp staff presented **two stop-motion animation** workshops on November’s D65 School Improvement day. They will be repeating the programs for us over Winter Break.

The Big Read:

We held our Dia de los Muertos program as part of the Big Read. First we showed the animated movie, *The Tree of Life* in the Community Room and then invited families to come to the Art Garden for a craft. I prepared papel picado to cut out, Calaveras pictures to color and clay Calaveras to paint. The craft was very popular – most families spent a ½ hour or so in the Art Garden but there were 2 families who stayed for the entire 2 hours, working on art together. Everyone who dropped by did all 3 crafts and

took home lots of art. A couple of parents asked when we were doing this again and there were also a couple of parents who were teachers and were interested in duplicating some of the crafts.

- Attendance – movie: **20 (14 kids, 6 adults)**
- Attendance – craft: **40**

#### Special Needs Friendly LEGO Program:

Laura Antolin worked with Beth Weiss, Brickology maven, to offer our first Special Needs friendly program on November 11. In order to keep the numbers manageable, we capped the program at 30 people, including parents. Beth Weiss has LEGO clubs at several schools in Evanston and presents lots of programs at neighboring libraries. She generally offers a free Special Needs program if you book a regular program but offered EPL this program free of charge – at the end of the program, Beth offered to hold more Special Needs LEGO programs at EPL without charge.

Beth brought cases of LEGOs and the kids worked on individual projects as well as adding to a mosaic in the hour-long program. The parents in attendance primarily chose to connect with one another but stayed in the room and were watchful of their children. Each family brought siblings and all the kids worked side by side so it was very inclusive. We ended up with kids from 5-15 years old and it was a really positive experience for everyone. The parents expressed gratitude for holding the program and were interested in attending more programs at EPL. I stayed and worked with kids for the length of the program and I felt it served a very real need for the families that came.

- Attendance **14 (9 kids, 5 adults)**

### **Training and Continuing Ed**

Bojda attended the **LACONI YSS Program** on Programming for Teens and Tweens. Presentations included sessions on Minecraft programming from staff at Mount Prospect Public Library, the author of *Sex, Brains, and Videogames: a librarian's guide to teens in the twenty-first century*, tween (Middle School) programming, two NIU professors who run a website for educators called *STEM Read: discover the science behind Science Fiction*. The website is still being developed and while it does include activities and books for younger elementary school students there was really only one title for 3-5 graders and many of the younger children's titles were not of the quality of some of the titles for the Teens and Tweens. It will be worth keeping an eye on the website as content expands.

## **Outreach and Community Engagement**

### **Preschool Outreach**

From Brian Wilson:

Met with 19 preschool groups this month.

From Laura Antolin:

Day Care Delivery Book Bags:

Sally Schwarzlose delivered 5 Book bags this month and I delivered another 7: **12 new Book Bags**

Teen Baby Nursery:

I presented a storytime to infants and toddlers at Teen Baby Nursery. I delivered requested books and cds (thematic and specific titles) when I brought this month's Home Provider Book Bags.

- Attendance = **13** (9 children and 4 staff)

Baby Toddler Nursery Storytime:

Storytimes in the infant, toddler and preschool classrooms.

- Attendance **80** (64 children and 16 staff)

LEAP:

We finished our Pizza Play Literacy on November 9 and then I put together and delivered 5 Pizza classroom centers to the JEH teachers to use in their classrooms and then pass to another classroom. I created and repaired materials for Vet Play in preparation for LEAP at the end of November and early December.

Attendance: last Pizza Play Literacy - **59** (46 children, 13 staff) 4 classrooms

- Laura – 2 classes, Jessica – 4 classes, Martha – 2 classes

Attendance: first Vet Play Literacy – **60** (51 children, 9 staff) 4 classrooms

- Laura – 2 classes, Brian – 2 classes, Martha – 2 classes

Exploring STEAM with Ms. Laura:

This month we talked about magnets and did experiments with magnets. We discussed what kinds of things were magnetic, the north and south poles of a magnet, and how the poles either attracted or repelled each other – I did a short demonstration with a magnetic wand and various items. We played with magnetic rings and made patterns from pattern cards and used magnetic wands with faces drawn on them and cut up pieces of pipe cleaners to look like hair.

Each family made a magnetic mover game to take home—they drew a road on a piece of cardboard, decorated a car die-cut shape and attached different numbers of paper clips to it and moved it with a small magnetic wand underneath the cardboard. Both parents and children got into this activity.

Attendance wasn't great largely because there was a competing parent workshop at the same time at JEH.

- Attendance **14** (9 kids, 5 adults) 5 families

Learning & Growing:

The families that come to this storytime are home visiting families and I'm happy to have the opportunity to interact with them - I read stories and sang songs with the families and prepared a "stained-glass window sun catcher" craft. The kids and parents worked together to place cut up tissue paper on a circle of contact paper and attach a string to hang it with. This was another opportunity to work on fine motor practice.

Attendance **13** (8 kids, 5 adults) 5 families



Lunch Bunch at JEH:

I presented a Thanksgiving storytime to the families at Lunch Bunch. We read a few books, sang a couple of songs and then the families made a book craft for Thanksgiving. This was a very enjoyable craft that inspired a lot of creativity by the both the children and the adults.

- Attendance      **27 (15 kids, 12 adults)**

Book Buddies:

We finished up our 4 weeks of Book Buddies at the Child Care Center of Evanston and started our 3 weeks at Reba Early Learning Center. We'll be bringing 10-week sessions in 2016 to both locations. There has been a tremendous response from NU students which has resulted in lots of volunteers and a lot of repeat volunteers – we are often able to visit 2 classrooms at the same time (with me running from one to the other). The kids look forward to seeing their Book Buddies and the teachers are very welcoming and express a lot of gratitude for our time and efforts.

- Attendance      last visit to Child Care Center: **25 (15 children, 3 adults, 7 NU students)**
- Attendance      2 visits to Reba Early Learning: **100 (56 children, 12 adults, 32 NU students)**

IWSE Family Celebration:

I provided 30 EPL book bags and found 30 donated and new picture books (Book sale donations and books from Betsy) to be handed out at IWSE's Family Celebration on November 17. There was a station set up for me to read aloud to families and their toddlers/preschoolers and I brought a laptop along in order to make Library cards. It was a difficult room to read – there was access to donated toys and the toddlers and preschoolers would sit still briefly and then run around. Dinner was also being served at the same time. I was able to talk to some of these young parents and did end up making some Library cards and sang some songs with the families. I also had brought a few books for older kids and handed out some chapter books to some of the older siblings in the families.

- Attendance in my area    **21 (12 children, 9 parents)**
- Library cards made      **3**

Cradle to Career

Bojda facilitated two Community Conversations on behalf of Evanston Cradle to Career. One session at Family Focus attended by 20 women belonging to their Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group.

Bojda, Antolin, and Neumeier attended the quarterly partners meeting. Antolin and Neumeier presented on behalf of the two sub-committees that they co-chair.

3-D Printing and Tinkercad Program at Dewey:

In response to a request from Becky Borree (librarian at Dewey) for instruction on how to use her 3-D printer and how to teach Tinkercad to her 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes, Antolin met with Ashley Hamernik to get a short tutorial on Tinkercad. I spent some time at home playing around in Tinkercad and then we went to Dewey together to instruct Becky's 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Ashley took the lead and taught and I was able to walk around and help kids as they started their projects. After observing Ashley, Laura feels comfortable teaching the basics that she taught.

- Attendance      **24 (22 kids, 2 teachers)**

Dawes After-Care:

Antolin read several books about giving thanks and about food. I prepared a wreath/tree craft using die-cut hands in multi-cultural colors. The kids wrote what they were thankful for on the hands and attached with to a paper tree or to a paper plate cut out to be a wreath. It was a good craft just before Thanksgiving.

- Attendance     **20 (17 kids, 3 staff)**

Fleetwood After-school:

K-1<sup>st</sup> graders – I read books and do a craft with this group. This month we made a spider craft. The kids look forward to both the books and the craft.

- Attendance     **9 (7 kids, 2 staff)**

2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders – with this group, we made Artbots and talked about motors and worked on balancing the Artbots in order for them to turn. There were primarily boys this week and they were pretty rowdy – it wasn't always easy to explain the activity as kids were coming in at different times and messing around with each other. I spoke with Brianna who recognizes the challenge of working with the kids sometimes and we are thinking about maybe trying the activities with a smaller group

- Attendance     **12 (10 kids, 2 staff)**

**Other Activities**

Staff began preparation for our **Winter Break MakerKids** programs and Family Film series.

For a long while we have had a paper tree up on the wall in our storytelling room and it was beginning to look a little worse for the wear. Kim Kaufmann worked with maintenance to get paints and a projector so she could paint a bare tree on the wall instead that can be decorated by our storytellers.

Kennelly did a great deal of work preparing our Battle Books for display. Not only do we support the D65 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade battle but two of our Elementary Schools have Primary Battles for students in Grades K-3, with separate lists, of course. We also support the Desafio, the Spanish language battle with its own list.

Evanston Library, courtesy of Leigh Kennelly, hosted the Lincoln Story League, a group of North Suburban library staff who meet regularly to share great books and other storytime ideas.

Brian Wilson completed weeding J fiction and is continuing to weed the other fiction collections with the intent of being able to interfile hardback and paperback juvenile fiction in January.

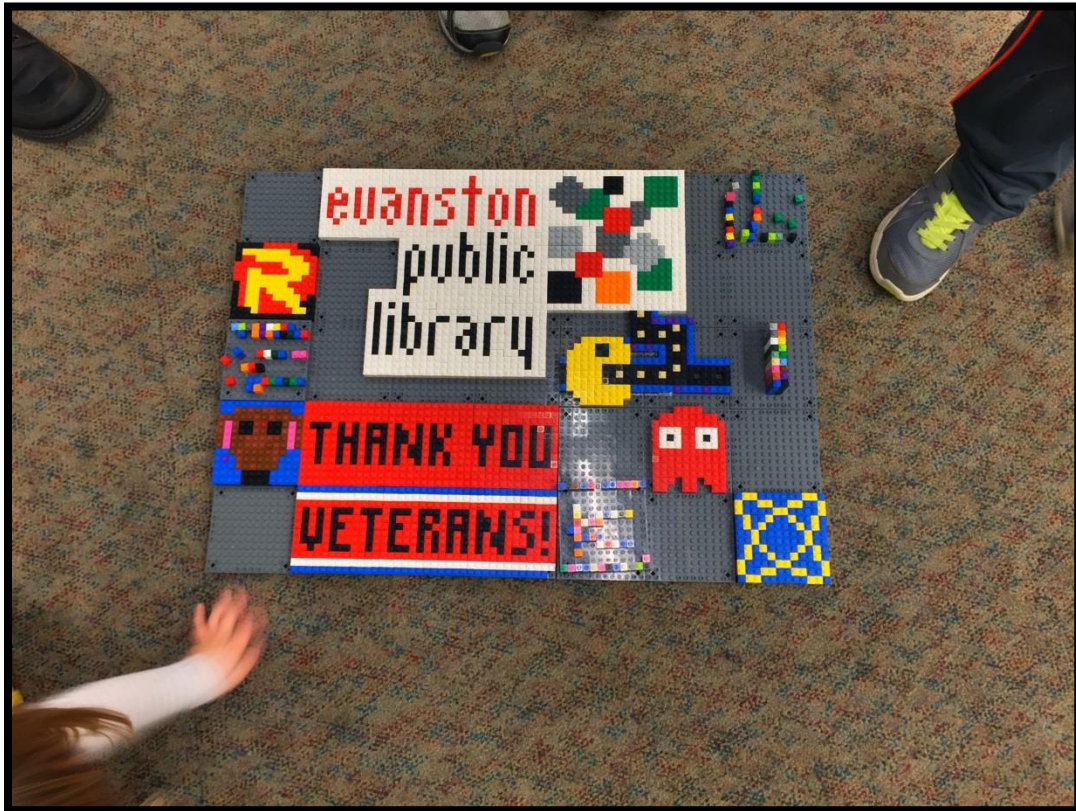
Wilson and Kennelly added the Best Picture Books and Battle Books bibliographies to the Kid's Page on the website.

With the help of our skilled Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Kling, Martha Meyer managed to secure another volunteer, Michelle McGill, a trained early childhood educator to our team.

Meyer continues her good work with Jill Schacter in promoting our events.

Heneghan, Meyer and Antolin are working on **Winter Words, our Early Childhood Literacy** Reading program and they are thinking about Spring Words, as well.

## Special Needs Friendly LEGO Program

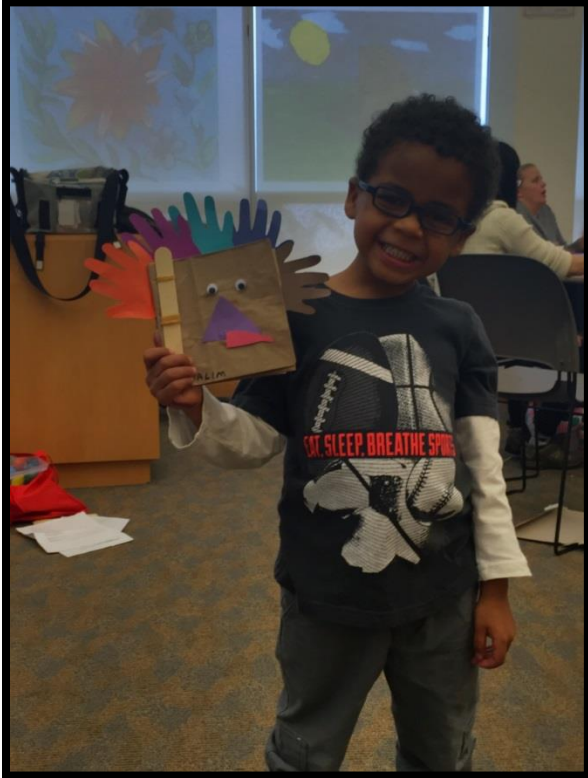




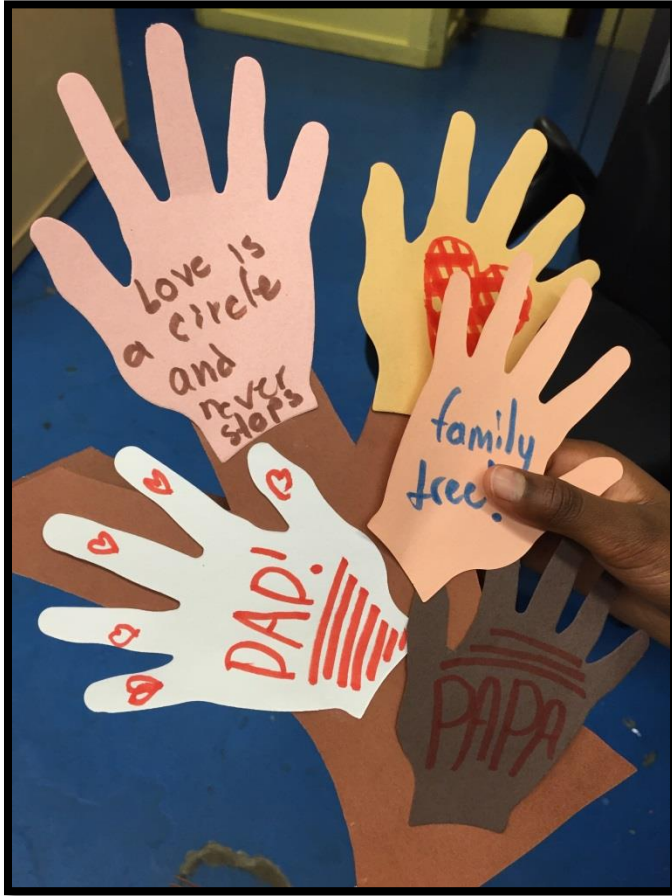
## Exploring STEAM w/Ms. Laura – magnets



Lunch Bunch at JEH



Dawes After Care



*From Renee Neumeier:*

**Teen Services Highlights:**

Middle School YA Lit Festival:

- Have been working with D65 librarians on first YA lit fest, to make the first year more manageable we're limiting it just to middle schools students who live in Evanston.
- The Bookstall has been securing authors for us, and we'll have panels about how adults get into the mindset of a teen, how self-publishing works and more, the Bookstall will sell books and there will be time for the teens get their books signed and of course there will be some pizza
- Teen services staff will take care of creating posters and flyers for the event

Maker Dayzzz at Haven:

- Worked with Amy at Haven for two lunch time Maker events, this month the focus was little bits, coding and scrabble. Teen services staff helped with Little Bits. On the first day there were some simple challenges for the teens to work through then on the second day they used what they had learned to create something out of a bag of materials Amy put together.
- The students who took part had really positive feedback

**STEAM Kits:**

- I've have been working on ordering and putting together the pilot set of STEAM kits that were funded through a Foundation 65 grant. There are four kits, with enough equipment to serve a class.
- I put together binders with activity or curriculum ideas for each kit
- Once everything is put together with the kits then we'll get them cataloged. For now they're going to be stored back by the teacher checkout materials. Teen services staff will create a brochure about the kits to give to Evanston teachers
- I followed up with F65 to make sure it was okay for the pilot set to be available to all Evanston schools, the kits will be restricted to residents

**Programming:**

**Teen DIY:**

- Scheduled all of the Saturday teen DIY programs for 2016, working on laying out the programs during half days, days off and spring break, wrote up PR, put in Joomla and in Evanced

**Community Wide Read/Big Read:**

- Narrowed list of choices down to three titles for 2016/2017, everyone on the committee is going to read those 3 titles to see which would be the best fit
- Met with Lonnie from FAN (with Heather) to discuss if FAN would want to partner with us and any advice that might have when selecting an author, they are very willing to work with us and noted that they would help pay for whatever speaker we have
- For the Big Read I put all of the spring events on the website, I did a draft of the winter/spring events brochure and also a full page flyer, I emailed maintenance with information about the looms and they going to purchase the materials and assemble them

**Community Outreach:**

**YOU:**

- Met with Casey Varela who oversees community partnerships at YOU, we discussed having Teen Services staff run a once per week enrichment session at one of the YOU sites. We put together 3 options all related to film making.

**ETHS:**

- Worked with librarians at ETHS to put together some war time experience resources

**District 65:**



- Met with Kelly Rooney, D65 Math Coach to discuss the possibility of working on a summer camp focused on Raspberry Pis this summer, got an overall idea of how the camp would be structured. Reached out to Project Excite to see if they would be interested in having the camp be a part of our summer collaboration with them. If not we'll look into other options for making the camp a reality.

**Cradle to Career Literacy on Track Team:**

- Literacy on track team has put together a new kindergarten registration form and worked with Peter Goddard at D65 to get it ready to pilot. A variety of child care centers in Evanston will pilot the new form and then we'll see if the data gathered from the forms is good data or not. If it is D65 may start using the new form for all of kindergarten registration
- After the recent joint school board meeting information came out that close to 100 ETHS freshmen are reading way under level, we're investigating whether or not we can access data about that group of students to see if there are things they all have in common, we're also looking into what data is shared between D65 and ETHS

**EvanSTEM:**

- One meeting was hosted at ETHS, where we learned about Project Lead the Way and the classes that are part of the program, really interesting found out about library design project which ties in nicely with redesign plans at Main and also future Robert Crown build. Met with teacher, John and Paul to discuss how we could collaborate with him on his students' projects.
- Have begun getting all the survey results from to start creating an asset map of STEM activities in Evanston, have also started to identify STEM pathways. Two librarians from Skokie presented on badging, both digital and other forms and how different systems work and things to consider in order for your program to be successful.
- I'll be working as a part of smaller group to begin to develop STEM pathways

**Professional Development:**

**Tinker:**

- Facilitated meeting at Downers Grove Public Library, presented on paper circuits and led attendees through a paper circuit project, also learned about wearables and am planning a future wearables program.

**Community Outreach Highlights from Jill Skwerski include:**

- Computer classes at Blake Manor and Primm Tower are in full swing. I see between 6-8 students at each location each Monday. We work on keyboarding skills, internet searching, create greeting/birthday cards, learn how to use YouTube to find music and add

attachments to emails. Basically, the students tell me what they need to know how to do on the computer and we work together to meet their need.

- ACA enrollment is also going ahead full throttle. Here are the enrollment numbers for November:
  - 24 scheduled appointments
  - 22 Walk-ins
  - 18 Marketplace Enrollments
  - 14 Marketplace Incomplete Applications
  - 14 ABE Applications completed
  - 70 Face-to Face with Consumers
  
- The second of four events in this year's PTA council series, *Navigating Real Life Diversity: Becoming Allies*, was held 11/16 at Family Focus. We are long standing partners in this programming series and as such, I bring a pop-up library to each session. At this event, held at Family Focus, I checked out 8 books to community members attending the ETHS student facilitated session.
  
- Due to popular demand, Community Partners for Affordable Housing held a second informational meeting here on 11/4. 16 patrons came seeking information about affordable housing options, both rental and purchase.
  
- I held my first discussion of our Big Read title, *Into the Beautiful North*, at Three Crowns Park on 11/17. I had 7 attendees, some who had read the book and some who listened to an audio version. Everyone agreed on the beautiful descriptive writing by Luis Alberto Urrea. There was not universal appeal for the selection, though all were glad to have participated in the communitywide event.
  
- We continue to see desire from our community partners to visit our lobby in an effort to connect with residents. James Harkins is the Outreach Specialist at the Evanston Vet Center. He visits the lobby monthly and reports that he loves coming here because he always gets at least 7 or 8 appointments for Vets and their families seeking information about benefits to which they may be entitled. Additionally, this month we hosted COE General Assistance staff on 3 dates. GA is trying to reach some of our residents who may be facing additional challenges related, in part, to recent social service cuts by the State of IL.

Adult Services highlights include:

## More Helpful Resources @ the Library



NEW. **Civic Legal Corps** offers free legal consultations every Thursday night from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Visit the Reference Desk (3rd Floor) or call (847) 448-8630 for more details, or to schedule your 30-minute appointment. Areas of Law Covered Include: **Family Law, Housing Law, Immigration** and **Contract Disputes**. Se habla español. [Read more.](#)

Upcoming events of note:

- Please check our online calendar for a variety of programs designed to engage children during their winter break.
- On January 6<sup>th</sup>, we will launch our newest online service Hoopla which will allow our patrons to stream movies, popular music, television shows, graphic novels, e-books and audiobooks. Look for publicity about this important addition to our services in early January. My thanks to Tim Longo for managing the exploration of this service, implementation and launch.
- Coming on Saturday, January 9! Betsy Bird hosts the **1st Evanston Public Library Literary Salon**. The Literary Salon is a new monthly gathering of enthusiasts of children's books moderated by Betsy Bird. Originally conceived in New York City, it encompasses all topics pertaining to written works for young people. Our first salon is: [Bringing Books to the Border](#). (Coming...Saturday, February 13th at 2:30 pm: **Publishing Children's Books in the 21st Century**)



Excerpts from Patron feedback:

From Brian Wilson:

A visiting grandfather said that my Wednesday story time was great and that he wished he had a children's library as beautiful and children's staff as friendly as the one that we have.

From Martha Meyer:

Bing (A visiting scholar in Communications Department at NU who is an expert in media & children from China) says that her son Andy learned to crawl at the Evanston Public Library and then to walk at the

Evanston Public Library. She also said she learned so much from The Young and the Restless. She sings Andy the songs I sing in Y&R and she also does more interaction with him based on our fun rhymes and movement games. Nice to hear from an expert in the field! She will be returning to China in January and she said she'll take many good memories with her from the library.