



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

Wednesday, January 20, 2016
6:30 PM

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Board Room

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

Members Absent: none

Staff: Karen Danczak Lyons, Timothy Longo, 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 6:31 pm.

CITIZEN COMMENT – None

CONSENT AGENDA – Benjamin Schapiro motioned to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting, the bills list and payroll. Seconded by Tori Foreman and approved on a voice vote.

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS

A. Updates – President Tannen reported that Mayor Tisdahl appointed Eleanor Revelle to replace Jane Grover as the 7th Ward Alderperson. City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz is out on paternity leave after the birth of his son.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- The City Council met on January 19 to review the proposal for the Robert Crown Community Center and Library. CCS, the consulting firm, presented feedback from the personal interviews and community survey. The next step is to develop marketing materials and a timeline for fundraising and construction. The project plans, whether for renovation or reconstruction, include new construction for the 5000 square foot library space.
- Circulation of Library materials topped one million in 2015. Patron feedback has been very positive.

STAFF REPORTS

A. **Administrative Services Report** – Paul Gottschalk reported:

- Roof repairs at North Branch are completed. They caused minimal disruption to operations.
- Mitch Einhorn, the owner of Lush, has not secured building permits. His liquor license will expire on April 1st. Mr. Einhorn will be invited to the February 17th meeting to report on his progress toward completing building repairs.
- The Facilities Committee will meet in March to select a short list of architects for Library space planning. The Board will be asked to approve up to five from this list for bid submission.

B. Tim Longo, Technical Services Manager, gave a demonstration of Hoopla, the Library's free, online streaming service for e-books, audiobooks, movies and music.

BOARD REPORTS

A. **Fund for Excellence** – Margaret Lurie reported on the results of the annual campaign, which will wrap-up January 31. To date, over \$161,000 was raised from over 900 donors. This is an increase of 19% in dollars and 29% in donors over last year.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

A. Tabled the showing of the Board meeting video.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Karen Danczak Lyons asked the Board to consider a proposed amendment to the Board bylaws which would eliminate the two term restriction for Board members. A vote will take place at the February 17th meeting.

B. President Michael Tannen presented the timeline for the Library Director Evaluation Process: Evaluation forms due February 5th, Executive Committee will review the forms and meet in closed session March 17th. Ms. Danczak Lyons' employment agreement is up for renewal in April.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Lurie, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 6:30 pm Evanston Public Library, Board Room

**Library Director's Report
January 20, 2016**

Updates:

- Last evening a status update on the Robert Crown Community Center and Library fundraising analysis was shared with the City Council. A representative of the CCS firm which was hired to conduct the interviews and research provided the results which reveal that the residents are interested in having the project move forward and are willing to donate funds in support of both the Park facility and the new branch library. My thanks to Trustee Shawn Iles who attended the meeting and to President Michael Tannen for his public testimony expressing the Library Board and staff support for this construction. We now begin the next phases of the project – creating marketing materials to be used in meetings with potential donors, timeline for the project and details of the creation of a new Park/Library Foundation to accept and process donations. Expect more details in the months ahead.
- Some totals from 2015: In-person visits at all three locations: 629,032 with both branches welcoming more than 50,000 patrons each. Volunteers contributed an estimated 14,255 hours of service on behalf of the library. Computer usage: EPL provided our patrons with 80,521 free Internet sessions supporting their job searches, research and information needs. Patrons also enjoyed our free Wi-Fi service and connected 143,847 times at our three libraries. Our “online branch” – EPL’s website was visited 510, 593 times.
- Illinois State Library Advisory Committee update: With the ongoing budget stalemate in Springfield, the staff from the Illinois State Library and the Secretary of State’s Office continues to look for ways to maintain support of libraries throughout Illinois. In his budget request for the next fiscal year, the Secretary requested flat funding for libraries. Without an approved budget for this year and only 3 months remaining in the fiscal year, the State Library plans on suspending a number of important and popular Continuing Education programs including Synergy, ILEADU, and SPLIMI. Staff suggests that the public library per capita rate of \$1.25 could be reduced to 77 cents in the future. In Evanston, we spend our annual per capita dollars on books and materials. A reduction of 48 cents per capita would translate into a reduction of over \$36,000 to EPL.
- In partnership with District 65 Middle School Librarians and the Book Stall, EPL will host a Middle School YA Lit Fest on January 23rd. Look for details about the response in next month’s report from Renee Neumeier.
- Our partner, the Center for Economic Progress will provide free tax preparation services for qualifying patrons beginning next week. To accommodate more residents, they will provide their services in the main Community Room at the beginning of the tax season.

Hoopla is Here



EPL now brings you [hoopla](#). Instantly borrow free eBooks, audiobooks, digital movies, TV shows, and music, 24/7 with a library card. There's no waiting for materials to be available, no late fees ever, no placing holds.

Easy to access and use, all one needs is a library card, a computer, smart phone or tablet to get started. To register, visit hoopladigital.com. Please call the Library's Reference Desk at 847-448-8620 with questions or for assistance. Read our complete, [step-by-step guide to getting started with hoopla \(pdf\)](#).

EPL Reports on Community Survey

Evanston Public Library users show a high level of overall satisfaction with the Library and use it often. Results from a 2015 Evanston Public Library community survey of 1284 individuals show that 49% use the Library once a week or more while 72% use the Library once a month or more. Additionally, when asked to rank a list of 14 services available at the Library by level of importance, a vast majority of respondents reported all services as important or very important. [View the complete report: How Evanstonians View and Use Their Public Library System.](#)



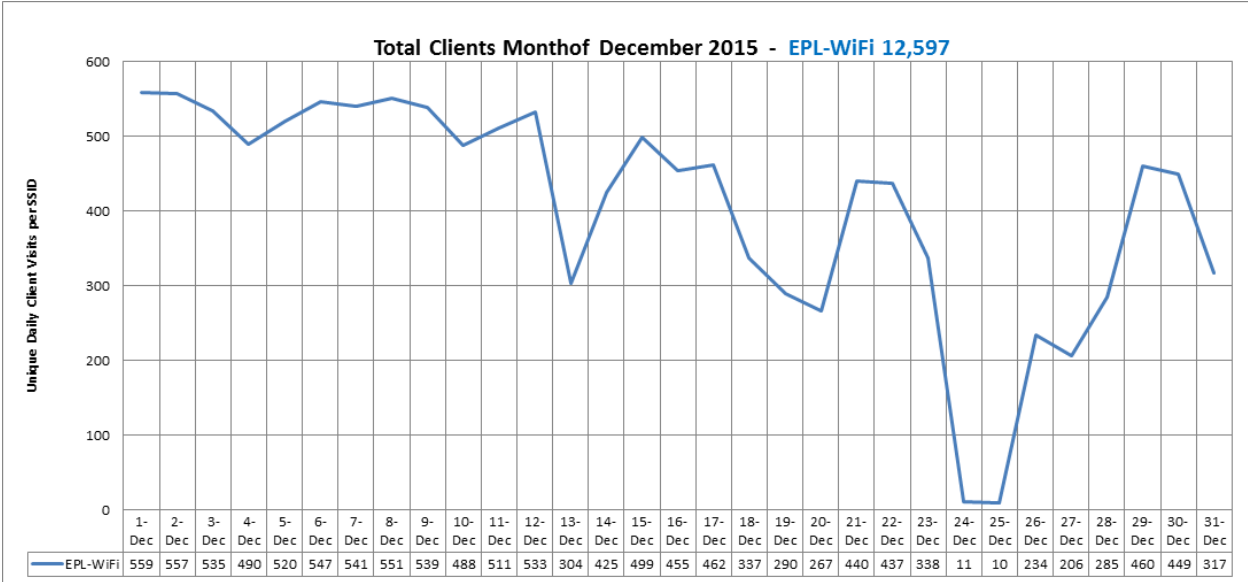
Assessments, metrics and initiative results:

Foot traffic:	December, 2015	November, 2015
Main:	40,306	41,034
North:	4,554	4,361
CAMS:	3,539	3,861
Total:	48,399	49,256

Website visits in November: 37,483 December: 33,135

Overall Computer/Internet Use – all locations: November: 6,359 December: 5,957

Wireless network December: total: 12,597



Services and collaborations:

- For the second year in a row, Jill Skwerski and I created the Evanston Public Library table at the Mayor’s Annual Food and Toy give away. This year we sent 400 books to new homes focusing on books for our littlest readers, but also providing books for our adults too. Jill was able to create library cards for interested participants as well as share information about our programs and services.



- My thanks to Betsy Bird for working with the publisher and making certain EPL's books were included:

Subject: Chicagoly magazine site and issue link

Good morning, all,

Thank all of you for your help and/or participation in the first issue of Chicagoly magazine. I am happy to announce that our initial landing site is up at ChicagolyMag.com and the flip-through digital version of Issue No. 1 is available here: <http://issuu.com/22ndcm/docs/chicagoly-issuu>

Feel free to pass that on to your sources or whoever you feel may be interested in a read. Physical copies are available at sites all over Chicagoland (map on landing site) and in our office, 60 Revere Drive Suite 888, Northbrook.

If you'd like a physical version and neither of those is convenient to you, feel free to reply with your mailing address and I will gladly send you a copy!

Thank you again,

Joe Coughlin
Publisher | 22nd Century Media, Chicagoly magazine

- Our successful collaboration with Northwestern's Middle East North African studies program will continue. My thanks to Brian Edwards and his incredible team for bringing our patrons thoughtful, informative and thought-provoking speakers.

Monday February 1, Elizabeth Shakman Hurd

Monday, March 21. Details tbd

Monday, April 11. An event on Syria.

Monday, May 2. An event on writers and politics in the Middle East. With two very prominent writers (one Lebanese –American, one Morocco)

- Jill Skwerski worked with our colleagues at Parks Recreation and Community Service to create our Evanston Public Library book shelves at the Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center. Jill and Jan Bojda brought programs to the center as well. In the months ahead, working with the staff at Gibbs-Morrison, we will create a regular schedule of programs that will be of interest to a number of age groups.



Highlights from Neighborhood Services include:

Haven Sixth Graders Visit North Branch

Renee Neumeier hosted all of the sixth grade classes from Haven at North Branch. North Branch staff opened early for these visits, prepared library cards, ordered extra copies of discussed titles, and checked out books.

Branch Staff now present DIY programs prepared by Loft Staff

Bridget Petrites led Snow Globes at CAMS:



And Ranea Surbrook led the Decorate Your Own Mug DIY at North.



You may recognize the gentleman in blue (Sam Tannen).

Florencia Govea and volunteers **Judy Cohen** and **Marilyn Samuels** led **Bilingual Storytime** at CAMS



Note the parent and nanny participation in the photo above.

Florencia Govea is continuing with Bilingual Storytime and plans to introduce a monthly Saturday Bilingual Storytime and Craft and to show a monthly popular family film in Spanish at CAMS.

Other Programs:

Bridget Petrites also led the **Chat Room** discussion of Doctor Who at Comix Revolution with Ben Remsen.

Connie Heneghan presented **Science Saturday** on Whales at CAMS testing the insulating properties of blubber (using Crisco) and the advantages of baleen for gathering food (using narrow and wide toothed combs).

Barb Levie presented a **book talk** at the Monday-Wednesday Book Club at the **Levy Center**.

Other Programming was presented by Nancy Engel (Mission Impossible: Moby Dick), Ariel Ehrbacher & Connie Heneghan (Knitting and Needlework), story times (Linda Patchett and Ranea Surbrook).

Greg Coates reports that:

1) Last Saturday at CAMS, I counted thirty-five people in the library at one time. Every seat was taken and the children's area was crawling with little ones.

2) I recently was able to sit down with an elderly immigrant from Russia at the North Branch. She needed help setting up a PayPal account and downloading a word processor to her new laptop. She was deeply thankful for the assistance and said she was excited to look into taking a computer class at the main branch.

Other Staff Contributions:

Barb Levie and Nancy Engel each contributed three staff reviews in December.

Kim Hiltwein and Florencia Govea translated materials for Winter Words into Spanish. Martha Meyer, Kim Kaufmann, Laura Antolin and I prepared materials for Winter Words which is taking place in January this year.

Bridget Petrites attended the Hoopla training; and met with Ben Remsen about the health desk and possible health programs at CAMS, with Laura Antolin (about potential maker space, science projects, and promotion strategies), and observed Kim Kaufmann's squishy circuits program.

Barb Levie, Kate Kniffen, and Bridget Petrites organized staff picks displays to which all staff contributed. Nancy, Barb, Kate and Connie weeded and shifted books to make room for the construction work at North Branch. A student volunteer, Chelsea Zhao helped restore the books after construction.

Highlights from Children's Services include:

Programming Highlights

We tried something new over the winter break this year by having a variety of MakerKids programs, started under this banner over the summer, for school-aged kids. Typically I think of the month of December as a slow month for us and it appeared to be so if judged by the circulation of our new picture book area. We had to shift items around to allow us to display more titles face out. Usually desk staff and shelvees are scrambling to locate items to fill in this area. Despite the slowing of circulation, all our MakerKids programs were well attended. We filled every session and had lots of positive feedback from families who attended some of the programs.

Steve and Kate's Camp held two Stop Motion Animation workshops, one for grades K-2 and the other 3-5. They thought they went well and are looking forward to offering them monthly from now until their summer camps start up again.

Bojda and Skwerski along with a teen volunteer visited Gibbs-Morrison to support this new city facility with two sessions of Drop-in Origami. Due at least in part to the weather, we did not have any attendees.

Antolin and Kaufmann conducted two Hour of Code programs in house.

Balla along with Florencia planned and presented a bilingual storytime as part of our Big Read participation.

Training and Continuing Ed

Antolin and Kaufmann attended Made in Evanston as their Liveability Academy training.

Iverson attended a RAILS webinar on Accessibility for All

Wilson attended an ALSC webinar on mentoring new librarians.

Outreach and Community Engagement

Hour of Code at Family Focus:

I approached Family Focus with the Jill Skwerski's idea of bringing the YTC (Youth Technology Club from ETHS) to Family Focus to offer an Hour of Code. We arranged to bring 6 laptops for the older kids and have the 4th-5th graders use the computer lab. I worked with the younger kids (primarily girls) and some YTC students and they all completed an Hour of Code. Jill was in the space with the older kids who also worked on Hour of Code. I brought certificates for all participants.

It was really gratifying in that the young girls had never done these tutorials and were so interested that they asked to return to the computer lab the next day to work on coding.

December was a big month for Kindergarten Tours.

K-Tour:

Antolin picked up Library card applications and window markers from Dawes, Dewey and Kingsley schools.

Antolin prepared teacher bags with Library cards, book coupons and parent letters, pencils and book marks for each teacher and hung up window markers for each school. **368** kindergartners toured the Library in December and we made **200** Library cards.

- Lincolnwood 12/9/15 **61** students **30** Library cards
- Washington 12/11/15 **99** students **63** Library cards
- Dawes 12/15/15 **58** students **29** Library cards
- Dewey 12/17/15 **89** students **34** Library cards
- Kingsley 12/17/15 **61** students **44** Library cards

Preschool Outreach

This was a LEAP month. Led by Antolin and assisted by Meyer, Altenbach, Iverson, and Kaufmann . They reached 344 children.

- Laura – 17 classes, Kim – 13 classes, Andi – 6 classes, Martha – 10 classes, Jessica – 4 classes

Other Activities

Antolin, Meyer and Kaufmann worked with Connie Heneghan on planning and prep for January’s Winter Words reading program for children 3 and under drawing in other staff and volunteers to help prepare logs and other necessary materials.

Lise Jinno, Executive Director of F65 suggested to Kristen James, PTA Council co-President that Laura Antolin be among the people speaking to the **PTA Council about successful grants we’d written**. She about successful grants that we had received through F65 and ECF.

Antolin arranged for a bilingual book discussion for The Big Read in February at Family Focus and in January at Robert Crown and delivered English and Spanish books and brochures to both sites.

From Jessica Iverson:

It was great getting the chance to lead another MakerKid craft! Even with the bad weather, I ended with 7 kids. The kids were engaged the whole time and were all great about sharing the rolls of duct tape. We spent the first five or so minutes brainstorming what our designs would be and the rest of the time making the bookmarks. Most of the kids felt free to be creative and not necessarily make a pattern that “looked like something”. I had the occasional, “can you help me?” request, but overall the older kids were independent. It was especially validating when one of the girls asked if we had other crafts going on this week and decided to check out a duct tape craft book. It had been her first time working with the material. Also, as I suspected, the kids were pretty attached to their creations. So even though I

introduced the idea of making two bookmarks and keeping one and giving away one, I don't know that that any gifting will be happening!



Photos from Antolin:

Fleetwood After-school 2nd-5th grade





Lunch Bunch at JEH





MakerKids Squishy Circuits



Janie's Holiday





Hour of Code at Family Focus





From Renee Neumeier:

Teen Services Highlights include:

New Partnership with Y.O.U. :

- We have committed to running an after school program every Thursday from January – March for a group of students who attend Y.O.U. at Chute Middle School. Ashley will be running a film making session with them on Thursday afternoons. Depending on how this session goes we may continue to partner on programs like this.

Summer Reading for Whole Library:

- Narrowed down the reading log options, discussed promotional materials needed, set due dates for program details and for events information to be entered, will follow up with graphic designer about what is needed for the program
- Discussed the possibility of a reach a goal, the library donates x number of books or The Friends of the Library donates x number of books to Little Free Libraries with C2C, Barbershop Books, Liberation Library etc.

New Winter/Spring Programming for Teens:

- All the Teen DIY programs that rotate through all three Library locations have been scheduled, some new projects include candle making, introduction to Arduinos , Wearables (cuff bracelets with LED lights sewn in) and mini foosball games.
- Due to the popularity of our teen improve programs run by Kayla Freeman, we'll be trying out a twice a month improve club on Sunday afternoons starting in February, if this arrangement continues to do well we'll continue it through the summer
- A Teen Book Club with a LGBTQ focus starting in February on Wednesday evenings Kayla will be running a book discussion group with a special focus on books that deal with LGBTQ issues, this program was created in response to queer teens suggestions that we try out a program like this, teens who participate will be able to keep a copy of the book discussed
- The Teen Advisory Board led by McKenna laid out new ideas for passive programming for the 2016 year, we will be featuring these programs/contests throughout the year and teens who take part will have the opportunity to win books and raffle prizes
- Programming on days off/half days- movies or drop in teen DIY programs have been schedule for most of the days off and half days for D65 and ETHS. We started offering consistent programming on these dates in the fall/winter and had success and will continue them in the winter/spring

Community Engagement:

YOU:

- Confirmed once a week after school program with YOU, Ashley will run a series of film making workshops

ETHS:

- Worked with reference staff to put together a list of transgender titles and resources for some classes
- Did book talks for Tammi Holmes students to help them find an independent reading book or a book to read over winter break, book talks were well received and Ms. Holmes is hoping to have me back and invite other teachers and their students to attend.

Baker Demonstration School:

- Followed up with teacher who will be bringing a group of 8th graders to research for their first big paper, this will be the first time she's bringing her students and the 2nd year she's doing this project

Project Excite:

- Met with Celishia to discuss plans for summer 2016, are planning to do camp in the morning again but for 3 hours instead 2.5, maybe have up to 25 students, are hoping to offer two different sessions one focused on 3D design and printing and another focused on Raspberry Pis. Kelly Rooney one of the Math Coaches at D65 approached me about

partnering on the Raspberry Pi camp and he had also worked with Project Excite in the past.

Middle School Lit Fest:

- Worked with Amy Odwarka and Ashley to put together the marketing materials for the Middle School lit fest

Cradle to Career Literacy on Track Team:

- We ran our pilot with the revised kindergarten registration with mixed results, however based on the pilot D65 is keeping some of the questions, which will help identify what the Early Childhood Education experiences are for incoming kindergartners
- We've also been working on meeting with kindergarten teachers, principals and social workers to discuss what information is currently shared, how and how it's used and what information could be share between schools and early childhood education providers
- We began looking at the transition between 8th and 9th grade too, especially since the announcement at the joint school board meeting where 100 students are reading far below the 40th percentile, and we also discussed the issue raised at the recent D65 board meeting by concerned parents and community members
- ETHS staff talked about how they gather information about new students through surveys and how that information is used to create a support system for students (and their families)

Community Outreach Highlights from Jill Skwerski include:

- The Health Desk (HIRCULES) continues to gain momentum as a resource to patrons looking for consumer health information. During December, representatives from the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Team joined Health Desk staff to provide library patrons with information about Blood Cancer and invite them to join the national database of blood marrow donors by providing a cheek swab sample. Plans are underway for future collaborations with partners including the Susan G. Komen Foundation and an Alzheimer's Educator from the Walk to End Alzheimer's.
- Visits with residents at Primm, Blake, and Three Crowns continue with visits providing computer labs, book discussion and book/DVD/audiobook checkout. This past year, over 200 hours of computer lab time was held at Blake and Primm, attended by 96 participants.
- Book distribution to the community was heavier than normal in December, due in part to the Mayor's Annual Holiday Basket Giveaway event. December totals include distribution of 600+ books during visits to the Produce Mobile, Hillside Pantry and the Mayor's event at Fleetwood-Jourdain. (See photos.)

Adult Services highlights include:

- **Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Discussion Group discusses: babel-17** on Wednesday, February 3, 7 pm, Third Floor Seminar Room, Main Library.
- **Love opera?** Join us for a lecture on Verdi's Nabucco presented by Jean Joslyn of the Lyric Opera Lecture Corps.

Saturday, January 23, 2 pm, Seminar Room, Main Library.

Tuesday, January 26, 12 pm, North Branch.

Celebrate Shakespeare in February



Evanston Public Library joins libraries across the state of Illinois in February 2016 to celebrate the work of William Shakespeare who died 400 years ago. The Library will host six

programs including discussions for adults and activities for teens. [See all February Shakespeare activities.](#)

This Shakespeare programming coincides with a traveling exhibit of Shakespeare's First Folio, considered by many to be one of the greatest books ever printed in English. The exhibit, on loan from the Folger Shakespeare Library, will be on display at the Lake County Discovery Museum from February 3-28.

Upcoming events of note:

- **[Outside The Lines Book Club](#) is a new teen reading series at the Teen Loft.** Teens grades 6-12 are invited to discuss a YA fiction title about strong teen protagonists pushing back against normative identities to live their lives with pride. Once a month on Wednesdays, 5:30-7pm, beginning February 10. Our first book pick is [Tomboy](#) by Liz Prince.

This is a safe space for teens of all identities. Teen are invited to come hang out, meet new friends, eat snacks and chat about what really matters!

More Events for Children

Registration now open for February Story times! Sign up your child for a registered storytime geared just to the right age: infants, 1 year olds, 2 year olds, preschool stories & craft, as well as a nighttime family storytime and a wonderful evening program of reading to dogs for K - 2! [Register online](#), over the phone (847) 448-8610, or in person at the **Main Children's Room**.



See all story times at the [Main Library](#), the [North Branch](#), and [Chicago Ave./Main St. Branch](#).



Bring the whole family to our Chinese New Year/Year of the Monkey Storytime and Celebration in two languages! We will hear a Monkey King story, enjoy making Year of the Monkey crafts and the children will march in a monkey-themed Lion Dance parade. Bessie Rhodes and ETHS Mandarin students especially encouraged to come. Both Chinese and English speakers welcome. Saturday, February 6, 3 pm Community Meeting Room, Main Library

More Author Events and Local Culture



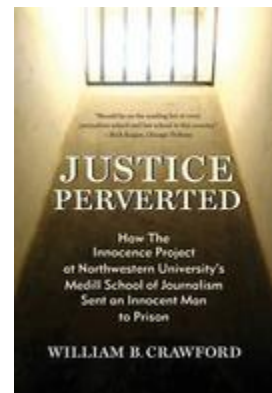
Rick Perlstein, a Chicago-based journalist reads from his latest book, The Invisible Bridge: The Fall of Nixon and the Rise of Reagan, as well as from his forthcoming book, Reaganland. [Register online](#) or by calling (847) 448-8620. Sunday, January 31, 1 pm, Main Library.



Discover the Studs Terkel radio archive! For more than 45 years, Studs Terkel hosted a radio show on WFMT, interviewing everyone from Martin Luther King to Bob Dylan. In partnership with the Chicago History Museum, the WFMT Radio Network is making these broadcasts into [an online resource](#) for the public. Archive Director Tony Macaluso and Archive Manager Allison Schein

discuss Studs and the archive, and play memorable excerpts of the show, including some pertaining to Evanston. Sunday, February 7, 4 pm, Main Library. [Register online](#) or by calling (847) 448-8620.

Former Chicago Tribune legal affairs columnist William B. Crawford discusses his new book [Justice Perverted: How the Innocence Project at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism Sent an Innocent Man to Prison](#). Crawford will take questions following his reading and copies of his book will be available for purchase. Crawford spent 23 years as a reporter and columnist at the Chicago Tribune during which time he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize. Wednesday, February 10, 7 pm. Everyone is welcome, but please [register online](#) or by calling (847) 448-8620 to guarantee your seat.



More Services for Essential Planning



Civic Legal Corps offers free legal consultations every Thursday evening from 6 to 8 pm. Visit the Reference Desk (3rd Floor) or call (847) 448-8630 for more details, or to schedule your 30-minute appointment.

Affordable Care Act Navigators Here to Help You. Certified Affordable Care Act Navigators from PEER Services will visit the library for enrollment assistance and information about insurance coverage options. Appointments are required and can be scheduled online at www.getcoveredamerica.org/connector or by calling either 847-644-9732 or 847-492-1778, x1317. All sessions in the Newberry Room, Second Floor, Main Library, 1703 Orrington Ave.

Home Sweet Home: A workshop for homeowners and home buyers. Monday, January 25, 7 pm, Small Meeting Room, Main Library. Learn why now is a great time to buy or refinance and how to protect your investment and understand all your options. Registration is requested but not required. [Register online](#) or call the Reference Desk at 847-448-8630.

File for Free. Filing taxes can be overwhelming. Between Tuesday, January 26 and Saturday, April 16, Evanston Public Library, in conjunction with the [Center for Economic Progress](#) and the [Evanston Community Foundation](#), is offering free tax help for families with incomes less than \$50,000 per year and for individuals with incomes less than \$25,000 per year. [Read more.](#)



Excerpts from Patron feedback:

From Martha Meyer:

Anonymous Thank You Note left in my box about The Young and the Restless:
Ms. Martha, Thank you for all that you do – especially 'The Young and the Restless' on Thursdays. We appreciate it so much. Happy Holidays!

Thank you note from Christy Schlickman of Park School (2nd group I took on)

Reply Reply to all Forward [Icons] Close Help

i You replied on 12/2/2015 9:11 AM.

From: [Christy Schlickman \[schlickmanc@district65.net\]](mailto:schlickmanc@district65.net) Sent: Tue 12/1/2015 10:13 PM

To: [Meyer, Martha](#)

Cc:

Subject: Re: FW: Monthly Visits to EPL - Friday 10:30am

Attachments:

[View As Web Page](#)

Hi Martha!

We had such a great time thanks for everything! Could we plan a date for January? December is a little too crazy for us as well due to the shortened month.

What dates do you have available from 10:25-10:45? Would that time period work? With the bus schedule I think it would be better for us to try to catch the 11am bus.

Thanks again!!

Christy

3. Patron at the desk indicated that we were a “great resource” because I had helped her with finding Alphabet books for her reading-challenged son and we used Leigh Kennelly’s reference book of titles; and then she said that she would never have made it through the beginning of Winter Break without the great range of activities we had for K – 5 graders. She said our Winter Break programming was “fantastic.”
4. Michelle Grill says on 12/15, I really love being there- thank you!
See you soon
Michelle
5. Anne Mirapaul says in an email dated 12/18, “I reiterate, Martha, that this library position has been so utterly glorious for me. Being around talented, devoted, positive professionals like you (and all), books (countless glorious books) and, of course, the kidlets.....has rekindled such life and spirit in my being. I simply adore working/playing at the library. Thanks for making it all happen!

Best,

Anne

Anne is one of our volunteers.

Greg Coates reports that:

1) Last Saturday at CAMS, I counted thirty-five people in the library at one time. Every seat was taken and the children's area was crawling with little ones.

2) I recently was able to sit down with an elderly immigrant from Russia at the North Branch. She needed help setting up a PayPal account and downloading a word processor to her new laptop. She was deeply thankful for the assistance and said she was excited to look into taking a computer class at the main branch.

Barb also shared this heartwarming story:

"Lilette Rohe, age 94, beloved ballet teacher to many in the Evanston area is an avid reader. A few years ago Lilette was diagnosed with macular degeneration and reading became more and more difficult. I urged her to try to listen to books on CD, but her tastes were fussy and she was reluctant to depend on a CD player even though she uses one when she's teaching. Fortunately her daughter absolutely insisted that she read (listen to) "All the Light We Cannot See" by Doerr last summer because the book is set in France during WWII. Lilette is French and fled Paris with her family at the age of 19 in 1939, giving up a chance to dance with the Paris Opera Ballet. Her daughter knew that Lilette would love this book, with all the history of the occupation, the various sites around Paris, and the resort town where Lilette's family spent their summers featured as the town where most of the action takes place. She gave it a try and...success! She loved the book, managed the CD player nicely and has not stopped ordering books on CD since. She's as avid a listener as she was a reader. I am her Books on Wheels volunteer and her student, so I see her often. She has a running list now of things she wants and her friends and family make suggestions, too. What's especially nice is that I can get some titles on CD in French through ILL. That's a real treat for her. She's now waiting for Nemerovsky's "Suite Francaise" in French. She said the other week, "Barbara, the library has saved my life! But I think you've created a monster." I think she meant that I'd be forever getting her books on CD since she's now addicted. I love it. I hope she has a long and happy relationship with audiobooks."

- Wynn shared this feedback from one of our volunteers:

Dear Team,

This morning, I went to thank our volunteer Karen Sandler for her continued support while we grow our development efforts. She started one year ago next week – right at the end of the year when we had no database, high gift volume, and were experiencing staffing transition. We were really in a pickle and Karen's consistency was extremely helpful.

This morning Karen mentioned how much she is enjoying being here. She thinks our organization is particularly well run. She named each of you specifically when she talked about how impressive she thinks our administration is. She is volunteering at multiple organizations and said the experience here is much more professional and well managed by comparison.

Karen started volunteering in Development one year ago next week and because she feels valued here she seems to be constantly finding additional ways to help – she was at our Storytelling Festival and this morning she mentioned that she plans to increase her volunteer time to include working with our tax preparation services.

I just wanted to be sure you all received her compliment. She said it was alright for me to share.

Wynn

- From Jill Skwerski:
 - Notable quote from a Hillside Pantry patron who renewed his library card after years of living without library access, “You’ve made this too easy; I’ll have to find something new to complain about because I have no library complaints anymore!”