



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

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
6:30 PM

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Board Room

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

Members Absent: Tori Foreman, Margaret Lurie

Staff: Karen Danczak Lyons, Connie Heneghan, Jill Skwerski, Jill Schacter, Heather Norborg, Paul Gottschalk

Guests: Jessica Jolly, Mitchell Einhorn, Priscilla Giles, Rhonda Craven, Carol Bass

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 – Priscilla Giles, Rhonda Craven and Carol Bass encouraged the Library to acquire the genealogy collection currently housed at the Winnetka Public Library.

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS

A. Update on Lush Evanston Project – Mitchell Einhorn, the owner of Lush, provided a status report on the project to open his wine store next to North Branch. He has contracts with his architect and general contractor, and is working to finalize contracts with the sub-contractors. His construction funding is in place. His architects are finalizing construction documents prior to submitting them to the City for permit review in early March. Once the permits are issued, construction can begin and is expected to last four months. Einhorn expects to open by mid-summer. Karen Danczak Lyons informed Einhorn that it would be difficult to advocate for a liquor license renewal if construction does not get underway by April 1st.

CONSENT AGENDA – Benjamin Schapiro motioned to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the January 20, 2016 meeting, the bills list and payroll. Seconded by Socorro Clarke and approved on a voice vote.

Overview on Digital Literacy Project

Jessica Jolly, a long-time library volunteer and technology trainer, described the Library's new Digital Literacy Project to improve technology training for residents. The

team will prepare a full five year digital literacy plan by November. This project will help inform the Main Library interior renovations and the Crown Branch Library.

Community Engagement Presentation

Community Engagement Librarian Jill Skwerski described the broad ranges of services and programs being provided throughout the community including: providing computers and basic computer skills training for low income seniors; distributing books throughout Evanston; setting up and staffing the health information desk; taking the book bike around Evanston promoting programs and services; and having programming support for families with children who have special needs.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Karen Danczak Lyons and Leora Siegel attended the Library Legislative Breakfast many attendees expressed frustration with effects of the State's budget impasse. Property tax caps remain an active part of the state budget discussion.
- The Library and City are progressing on the fundraising plan for the new Robert Crown Center and Library. A joint Parks/Library Foundation will be created to lead the fundraising.
- Over 14,000 volunteer hours were contributed by the Library's many volunteers in 2015. This is an incredible gift to the Library.

STAFF REPORTS

- **Administrative Services Report** – Paul Gottschalk reported that revenue exceeded budget and expenses were below budget in 2015.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

- A. The ALA/United for Libraries board development video on “strategic planning” was shown. The Board will discuss the Library's strategic planning process at an upcoming meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws** – Board members discussed the proposed amendment to the bylaws that would remove the two-term limit of service by Board members. Leora Siegel urged the Board to retain the two-term limit. She thinks the change in Board membership brings fresh ideas and perspectives to the Board. Voting to remove the term limits sends the wrong message. Benjamin Schapiro respectfully disagreed. When he was a Library Director he had a long-term Board member (over 30 years) who was very valuable on the Board. The Evanston Public Library Board has steady turnover now; the Mayor reappoints Board members with the approval of the City Council. Long term members have valuable experience and knowledge. Shawn Iles sees no problems with removing the term limit as long as the Mayor continues to make (or decide not to make) reappointments. Vaishali Patel asked if a higher upper

limit on the number of terms could provide a reasonable balance. Socorro Clarke said it takes time to learn the operations of the Library and thought two terms was too short. Michael Tannen believes there are sufficient checks in place (reappointment by the Mayor and confirmation by the City Council) to remove the term limit. There is no limit set by the Local Library Act. Board members decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting when Tori Foreman and Margaret Lurie could participate.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR)

Paul Gottschalk described the annual statistical and financial report required by the State Library 60 days after the end of the fiscal year. We are waiting on insurance information to include in the report. Motion by Benjamin Schapiro, second by Socorro Clarke – approve the Illinois Public Library Annual Report. Passed on a voice vote.

Closed Session – Michael Tannen read the official language for convening a Closed Executive session for personnel matters. Motion by Sandra Smith, second by Vaishali Patel, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote. The Board moved into Closed Session at 8:22 p.m.

Board members discussed the Library Director's evaluation.

The Board re-convened into Open Session at 9:04 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – Ben Schapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tori Foreman. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Iles, Acting Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 6:30 pm Evanston Public Library, Board Room

**Library Director's Report
February 17, 2016**

Updates:

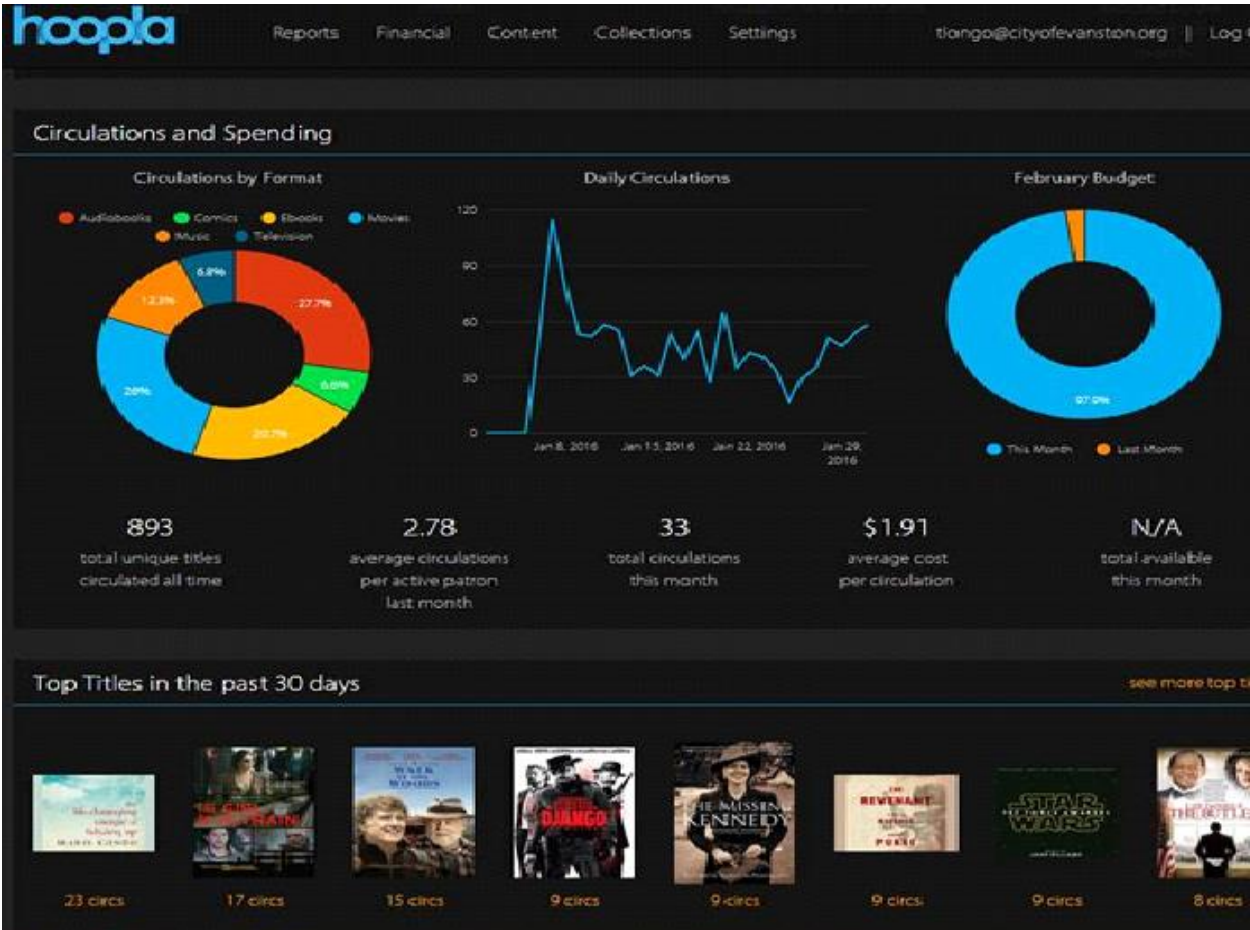
- Robert Crown Community Center and Library: We have begun to follow up with residents who were interviewed or completed surveys during the fundraising feasibility study conducted by our consultant CCS. Drafting of the language to create a joint Parks and Recreation/Library Foundation continues. We have begun to consider possible candidates to assist in the various committees and groups that will support the fundraising for the project. Please let President Michael Tannen, Secretary Margaret Lurie or me know if you are interested in assisting with fundraising for our new Robert Crown Library. An update will be presented at a future City Council meeting.
- Legislative Breakfast: Trustee Siegel and I attended the annual Illinois Library President's Day Legislative Breakfast in Buffalo Grove. Nine elected officials attended in person and two sent staff to the breakfast. At your places I have provided copies of the summary of state and federal issues that are being tracked by the Illinois Library Association. It will come as no surprise that the lack of an approved State budget and the impact upon the patrons served by public libraries was the main topic of discussion.
- Earlier today, Governor Rauner presented his budget address. The following is an excerpt of a message from BRAD COLE, Executive Director of the Illinois Municipal League regarding the contents of this address:

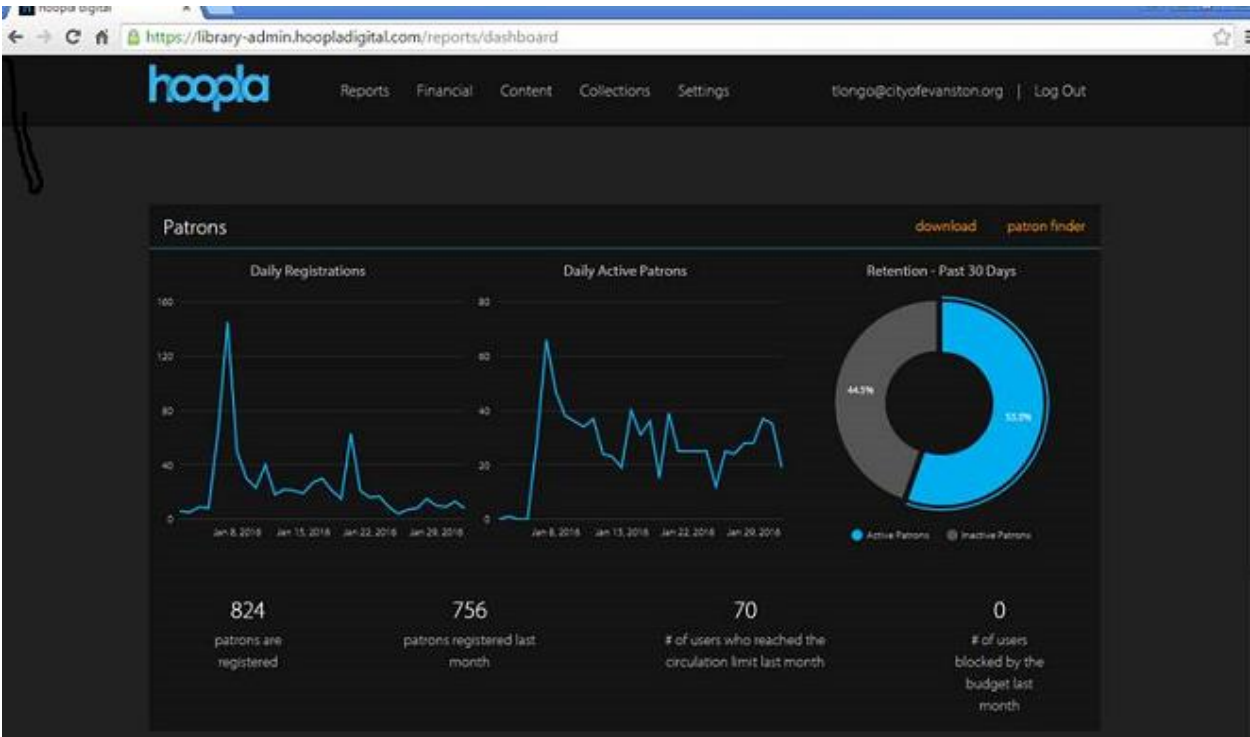
The Governor presented two budget options, Plan A that includes structural reforms, budget reductions and potential revenues, and Plan B that would be in lieu of Plan A and would allow for executive management to essentially cut spending as determined by the Governor. It was clear to me that Plan A is the Governor's preferred option, but that will depend significantly on the General Assembly. In the event of Plan B, the only areas of state spending that would be untouched are general state aid for schools, early childhood education funding, and payments for debt service. The omission of everything else is a clear signal; Plan B would mean cuts to just about everything.

There is likely to be on-going discussion this spring that includes a temporary property tax freeze, although that was also not mentioned today. The Illinois Municipal League is committed to opposing any permanent property tax freeze, but if a temporary freeze is adopted we will work diligently to exempt the expenses that most directly relate to municipal government tax levies, such as pension obligations, public safety costs, and bonds/debt payments.

- Our partner, the Center for Economic Progress is providing free tax preparation services for qualifying patrons. To accommodate more residents, they are providing their services in the main Community Room on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings.

- Results of our first month on *Hoopla*:





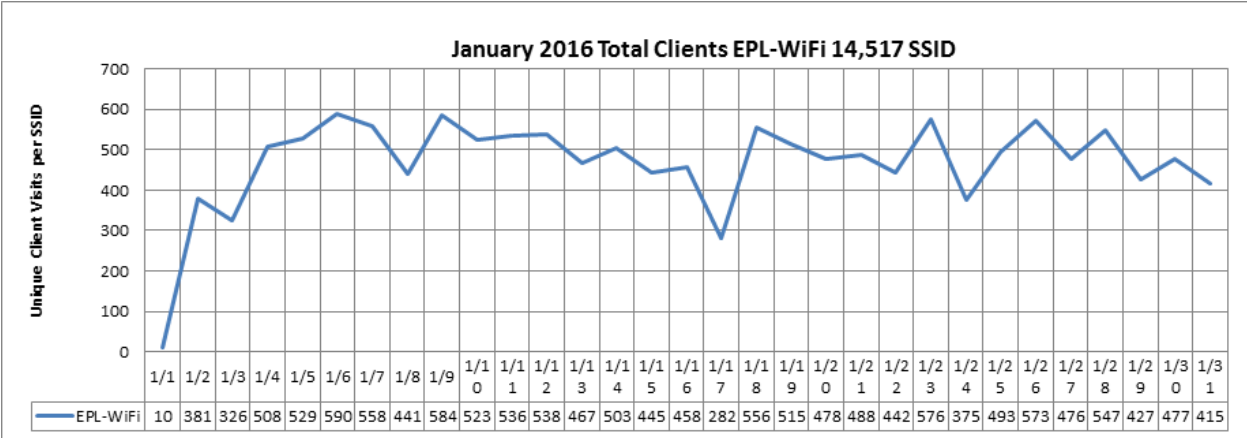
Assessments, metrics and initiative results:

Foot traffic: December, 2015 January, 2016

Main:	40,306	42,988
North:	4,554	3,734
CAMS:	3,539	3,472
Total:	48,399	50,194

Website visits in December: 33,135 January: 39,997

Overall Computer/Internet Use – all locations: December: 5,957 January: 6,135



NEW Metrics: I asked our partners National Able Network to begin sharing metrics that express their services at EPL . This is an important part of services to our adult patrons that had not been shared with us on a regular basis. My thanks to National Able Network, Andi Drilek, Lugenia Crusoe and their entire team for their important and wonderful work. [FYI: as included in the table below - TABE is the Test of Adult Basic Education test that consists of high school level math and English.]

	4-Jan	5-Jan	6-Jan	7-Jan	8-Jan	11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan	19-Jan	20-Jan	21-Jan	22-Jan	25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan	28-Jan	29-Jan	January Total	Program Year to Date Total
ORIENTATIONS							10									7				17	101
TABE TESTING	3	3	2	2		1	1		1	3		1		3			1			21	63
ONE-ON-ONE RESUME ASSISTANCE											3	1		1		1		2	2	10	43
Workshops																					
Job Readiness Training	1																			1	24
Crash Courses							3	3												6	113
RESOURCE ROOM (NEW CUSTOMERS)	2	2	2	2	0	1	2	2	1	4	3	2	5	3	2	1	2	1	0	37	237
RESOURCE ROOM (REPEAT CUSTOMERS)	15	7	11	14	13	13	10	18	16	12	14	15	10	9	16	15	17	12	12	249	2004
RESOURCE ROOM TOTAL	17	9	13	16	13	14	12	20	17	16	17	17	15	12	18	16	19	13	12	286	2241

Actual Computer Usage National Able Network

NEW AND REPEAT CUSTOMERS

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	TOTALS
4-Jan	5-Jan	6-Jan	7-Jan	8-Jan	62
17	9	12	14	10	
11-Jan	12-Jan	13-Jan	14-Jan	15-Jan	
14	11	19	15	16	75
	19-Jan	20-Jan	21-Jan	22-Jan	
	15	14	15	10	54

25-Jan	26-Jan	27-Jan	28-Jan	29-Jan	
13	16	17	12	10	68
					259

Services and collaborations:

- Working with Reverend Michael Nabors of the Second Baptist Church in Evanston, I look forward to sharing the details of a new collaboration that will celebrate reading and the value of having an Evanston Public Library card.
- Cradle to Career: Laura Antolin, Renee Neumeier and I attended an all-day Cradle to Career retreat on January 29th. Finding new ways to collaborate across agencies in support of improved literacy in Evanston is providing opportunities to review existing efforts and explore new approaches. At a future Board meeting we will present a detailed progress report. Our Harwood trained staff continue to facilitate the community meetings for Cradle to Career.
- Our Director of Technical Services has been asked to present at the B&T Vendor Summit next month in Orlando. The dates of the Summit are March 14-16. His presentation will focus on how Evanston Public Library has embraced the use of shelf ready cataloging services as well as using EDI/9XX ordering tools to streamline tech services processes. This is another example of the national recognition that our staff continues to receive for their expertise and leadership in the library profession.
- We continue to collaborate with the DaeJae Coleman Foundation :
An Afternoon with Rita Williams-Garcia
 Thursday, July 14, 2 p.m. Community Meeting Room. Main Library.

The Dajae Coleman Foundation and Evanston Public Library present an afternoon with Rita Williams-Garcia, award-winning author of *One Crazy Summer*, *P.S. Be Eleven*, and *Jumped*. Williams-Garcia, whose book, *Gone Crazy in Alabama*, won this year's Coretta Scott King Award, will discuss her life as a writer, answer audience questions, and sign books. Copies of several Williams-Garcia titles will be available for purchase. This event is FREE and open to all ages.

- My thanks to Renee Neumeier for her leadership on the Middle School YA Lit Festival: Through the hard work of D65 librarians, EPL staff led by Renee Neumeier and the Book Stall successfully put on our first annual Middle School YA Lit Festival. 100 middle-schoolers attended. 10 local authors participated in different panels and discussed topics ranging from how they write from a teen perspective to creating dystopian and post-apocalyptic worlds. Teens could pick which panels they wanted to listen to and at the end of the event they had the opportunity to have their books signed and eat pizza. The

only improvement we would make for this event is to work on having more diverse authors. In this first festival, all of the author came for free and were local.

Highlights from Neighborhood Services include:

Winter Words Report

238 preschoolers (birth through 3 years old) registered

131 completed the reading and received a board book or paperback picture book as a prize

Martha Meyer deserves credit for spearheading this year's effort. Neighborhood Services staff came to the main library two Thursdays for Martha's The Young and the Restless story time to help register participants.

Credit also goes to Kim Kaufmann for designing logs and to Florencia Govez and Kim Hiltwein for translating the materials into Spanish and Martha's volunteers for translating them into Mandarin. Laura Antolin has again brought this program to the daycare homes and will report on it at its completion.

Story times



This was story time at CAMS on the 1 degree below zero Monday. They love Robin, but Linda Patchett also gets credit for building attendance at this story time which normally has over 15 children.

Bilingual story time is growing and Florencia is initiating a bilingual family story time once a month as well as showing a family movie in Spanish monthly at CAMS.



Connie told the Foster Senior Group members about Hoopla.

We had a great discussion of the Doris Kearns Goodwin's book **Bully Pulpit** at North Branch.

We have interviewed and hired a new branch assistant, Paula Shapiro who will start tomorrow.

We have four new computers for the public at CAMS and two at North Branch.

Highlights from Children's Services from Jan Bojda and the team include:

- Not exactly a highlight, more of a reminder that despite our best efforts, sometimes Mother Nature thwarts us. Meyer had another fully registered session of Theater Games by Lifeline Theater, but due to the weather only 4 children were in attendance!
- 17 participants attended our January Family Literacy Night. Again, the weather was not our friend on this night, but as usual the participants expressed gratitude for having these events for them.
- At the ALA Midwinter meeting, Brian Wilson began his term on the Caldecott committee. Congratulations Brian – we are so proud to have you sharing your expertise with colleagues from around the country!

- Brian Wilson is also producing a wonderful “Oscar program” for adults - please look for details under upcoming programs of note.

Children’s Services Outreach and Community Engagement from Laura Antolin:

- Day Care Delivery Book Bags: Sally Schwarzlose delivered 4 book bags this month and I delivered another 5 to providers and 4 to Teen Baby Nursery and Baby Toddler Nursery. I met with Sally to talk about creating a more intentional collection – to that end, I’ve asked her to begin making a list of new books to purchase. I also met with Susan Munro who will be volunteering with me to deliver the book bags that I currently deliver and to may read in some homes (if providers are interested). Susan will also be weeding through the donated and withdrawn books in this collection to pull books in bad condition. Book bags delivered: 13 (including 2 bags to Baby Toddler Nursery and 2 bags to Teen Baby Nursery)

(See photos below.)

- LEAP: We started Construction Play Literacy right after winter break. This unit is a favorite of many of the teachers and kids – creative and also challenging for the kids to move from two-dimensional planning to three-dimensional building. I brought 5 sets of construction materials for classroom centers at the end of the month (each set is shared among 3 classrooms) and one teacher, Ms. Frost, invited me to look at the buildings in the hallway that her kids made at home with their families following this unit. Attendance: Construction Play Literacy - 402 (327 children, 75 staff) 29 classrooms

- Laura – 22 classes, Kim – 4 classes, Brian – 5 classes, Jessica – 6 classes, Martha – 14 classes, Andi – 4 classes

- K-LEAP Post Office Play dates:

- This is the second year of joint play dates with 2 schools. I scheduled this year’s dates before school was over last year and sent out pdfs of flyers to the librarians in December and everything has run very smoothly. I decided to change up the Post Office materials this year by purchasing 5 real mailboxes to use for the animals instead of the plastic buckets we’ve used in the past – I wanted to add to the authenticity of play and to further differentiate K-LEAP from LEAP.

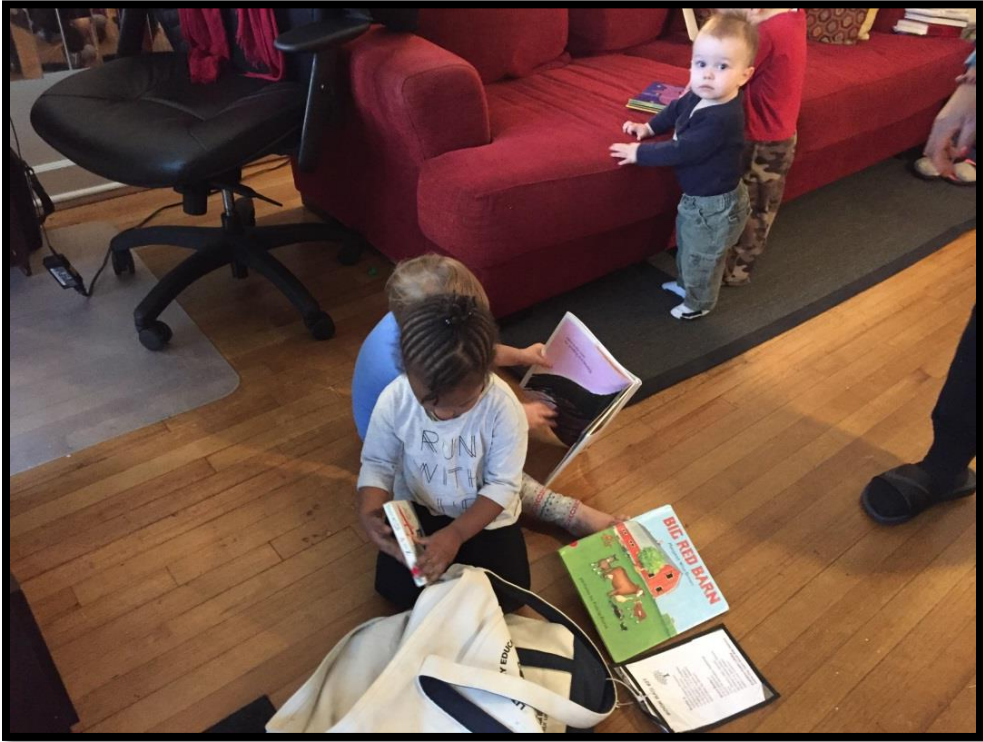
- As it turned out, Lise Jinno, F65 Executive Director and parent of a kindergartener at Washington, was at the very first Post Office play date and loved the addition of the mailboxes which was very gratifying. We hosted 8 schools in January and will host 4 schools in February.

Total Attendance 267 (143 kids, 124 adults; 113 families)

- 1/9/16 Washington & Walker, Orrington & Willard Laura Antolin & Martha Meyer
- Attendance 138 (75 kids, 63 adults; 63 families)
- 1/16/16 Dewey & King Arts, Rhodes & Lincoln Laura Antolin & Linda Balla
- Attendance 129 (68 kids, 61 adults; 50 families)

(See photos below.)

Delivering a Book Bag to Kim Robinson’s – in stages





Extensions from Construction LEAP at JEH – Ms. Frost



LEAP Photos from Andi Altenbach at LEAP



From Renee Neumeier:

Teen Services Highlights include:

- **Mock Printz:** We welcomed about 40 8th graders from Haven, Chute, Nichols and Bessie Rhodes for a discussion of the Mock Printz list of titles all the librarians put together. The students enjoyed talking with kids from other schools on topics ranging from what characters stuck with them the most to what book should really win. This year Amy Odwarka, Haven's librarian, added an online element where students could use their phones or devices to answer different questions as a poll or a quiz. The students really enjoyed that part. Some students said this was the best field trip they had gone on all year.
- **90 Second Newbery Home School Program:** Ashley Hamernik with the assistance of volunteer Eti Berland worked with our home schooled tween and teens to finish up their submission to the 90 Second Newbery Festival. Since September that group has been working on turning the Newbery Honor title, Savvy, into a very short film. They laid out scenes, wrote scripts, brought props, filmed and edited. On January 31 their film debuted at the Chicago 90 Second Newbery Festival. The group was able to go on stage and be recognized for their work in front of a packed audience.

Their submission was also featured on the 90 Second Newbery Blog

<http://jameskennedy.com/2016/01/28/countdown-to-chicago-90-second-newbery-film-part-1/> .

We're looking forward to running this program again next fall!

- **Project Excite:** We've committed to running two simultaneous camp sessions for Project Excites incoming 6th graders. One camp will be run by Ashley Hamernik and will focus on 3D design and printing and the other will be led by D65 Math Coach Kelly Rooney. The second camp will focus on Raspberry Pi. Both camps will have literacy integrated into each day in the form of articles, journals and maybe a read aloud.
- **D65 Summer Reading STEM Camp:** We've committed to piloting a 3D printing camp similar to what we have planned for Project Excite for D65 middle school students who are struggling with reading specifically those who scored below the 40th percentile. Ashley would be running this camp again and we would be intentional about including different literacy activities with the 3D printing activities.
- **STEAM Kits for Teachers:** Renee Neumeier with the help of Tim Longo and Jose Maldonado assembled, cataloged and processed all of the materials for our pilot collection of STEAM Teacher Kits. There are four pilot kits that were funded by a grant from Foundation 65. There are 2 Makey Makey kits, one Little Bits Kit and one Lego WeDo Kit. Renee is working on putting together more STEAM Teacher Kits and has worked with D65 to survey teachers and librarians to see what types of kits they would be interested and if they would be interested in related professional development. Sheila Merry from Cradle to Career passed on a grant opportunity to

EvanSTEM, who thought EPL would be a great candidate for the grant. We're hoping this grant will fund more kits and teacher PD and expand this service to organizations that serve youth.

- Baker Demonstration School Visit: We welcomed 30 8th grade students from Baker Demonstration School in January on a research visit. This was the first time the teacher had brought her students to EPL for this project and the second year she's been doing the project. At the beginning of the visit Renee gave the students an overview of EPL's online resources and walked them through how they can find different articles and primary sources through them. Then she walked them through the library and pointed out the different research collections and public desks they could use during their research. For the rest of the visit the students used our databases and books. If students didn't have a library card that we could register we used our teacher checkout service and checked books out to their teachers. Iris Yin, the teacher from Baker got great feedback from all of her students about the visit that she passed on to Teen Services. The feedback form she shared included:

Describe at least one thing you learned about locating sources from our library visit.
It gets easier after you learn where the section for your topic is.
Multiple books can be under the same Dewey Decimal number, right down to the very decimal. A majority of the books I'm using had the same number.
I learned that the library is a very helpful resource because it gives you access to many websites/databases that we wouldn't normally have access to at school or at home.
I didn't know about the vastness of online resources
I learned that sorting books and articles by most recent to oldest will definitely help me because my question needs a lot of recent data with recent gun law changes.
I learned of a lot of good online resources and where to find them.
it can take a while to find a good book.
Ask for help if you can't find a book.
n/a
call numbers are helpful
How to properly use the decimal system in a full size library.
How call numbers work.
you have to use good key words
I learned how to use the call numbers
How to make making finding information for your bibliography easier.
I learned that when you are searching for a book it is helpful to look click on each of the first few suggestions because the titles can be misleading.
There are a lot of data bases I can use to help guide my research. There a lot of websites specifically to help kids with homework. So I can just go on the library website.
That you can do other things than googling your topic when looking for articles online. That way, you won't have to worry as much about the reliability of the source.
Not every book that is about your topic is necessarily going to be helpful.
It was easier to navigate the books and the shelves after the visit to the library.
The Gale library resource was helpful to me.
I learned that the library is much easier to navigate than I originally thought and it is a very good resource that I could easily come back to.

You can use the internet to find physical books.
The library can be a good resource for research even for someone who doesn't read quite often about non-fiction, it peaked my interest
There were more than just the books you could access in the library.

Community Outreach Highlights from Jill Skwerski include [abbreviated in light of this evening's presentation from Jill]:

- Starr De Los Santos from Complete the Degree visited the library with an informational booth in the lobby. Complete the Degree is a not-for-profit organization (www.completethedegree.org) that provides free one-on-one guidance to adults who have some college credits and want to return to finish up their degree. Ms. De Los Santos will continue to visit EPL monthly with a lobby table and has also offered programming on the following topics:

- Financial Aid for Adults
- How to Get a Student Loan Out of Default
- Earn College Credit for What You Know
- Planning to Complete Your Degree
- Grants & Scholarships: How to Find, Apply for and Win Them
- FAFSA completion

- Jill represented EPL at the Latino Summit, held at Gibbs-Morrison on 1/27. The event, coordinated by Latino Resources was well attended by around 100 community members. I spoke with several people who had read *Into the Beautiful North*, and encouraged participation in the (then) forthcoming Spanish language book discussions. We continue to stock our bookshelves at Gibbs with a wide range of materials, many in Spanish as available.

- Visits to Three Crowns Park with library materials including print, audio and DVD selections continue to grow in popularity with residents. This month, during my 1 hour visit, I checked out 24 items and made 2 library cards. Each time I visit, residents express how delighted and appreciative they are that the library is able to provide this service. In fact, a resident who I had not met, but had heard of the visits, stopped by just to drop off a donation and say thank you. In 2016, I look forward to expanding this service via our mobile vehicle and perhaps incorporating volunteer hours to support the service.

- Regular enrollment for ACA ended on Sunday, 1/31. We are now in a special enrollment period which will run through 4/30. EPL will to host certified navigators from PEER Services each Monday and

Wednesday through the end of the special enrollment period. During the regular enrollment period, navigators met with over 150 people face to face and enrolled 52 in Medicaid and 53 in the Marketplace. Nationwide, over 12.7M people enrolled during this period, which represents 1M more than enrolled last year. I know that our EPL navigators were tremendously busy throughout as they are the only navigators available to the public in Evanston.

- Visits continue to regular spots including Jacob Blake Manor, Ebenezer Primm Tower, Produce Mobile, Hillside Pantry and the YWCA shelter. We also continue to host weekly GED classes in collaboration with General Assistance and are looking to expand class to general enrollees via Oakton Community College.

Adult Services highlights include:

- From Heather Norborg: There is a new group meeting here at the library. It is the “Evanston Web Technology Meetup” and will meet monthly in the Seminar Room. It is organized by an enthusiastic patron, Eric Sorenson, who had a similar, very successful group at the Madison Public Library for years. It is for more advanced techies who are interested in discussing the landscape of the World Wide Web. So perhaps not the usual folks we see on the third floor. Please be aware of this group and help them find the Seminar Room when they arrive. They’ll have a different topic each month. The first is Using Google’s Material Design. I will be the staff contact for this group and will book the room, etc. for them. The first meeting is Monday, January 25th at 6:30pm. It is on the calendar. They haven’t decided on a set schedule, but it will hopefully be something like the last Monday of every month. If/when the group outgrows the Seminar Room, we’ll look into moving it to the Community Meeting Room. We’re excited about partnering with this group to bring some new faces into the library. Here’s their meetup page for more info: <http://www.meetup.com/Evanston-Web-Technology-Meetup/>
- Betsy Bird welcomed over 50 enthusiastic participants to her second literary salon:
EPL Literary Salon: Publishing Children's Books in the 21st Century

Lots of people want to write and/or illustrate books for kids, but how do you actually go about doing so? What are some of the pitfalls and perks of the job? What should you avoid? What are the common myths? Meet Gemma Cooper (agent), Sara Shacter (Assistant Regional Advisor and author), Ruth Spiro (author), Eileen Meyer (Network Representative and author), and Terri Murphy (Illustrator Coordinator and illustrator) of the Illinois chapter of the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) as they discuss the ins and outs of writing and illustrating for kids.

- We continue to support the reading and information needs of residents through our book discussion groups, author events and services including hands-on technology training sessions and Free Legal Consultations with the Civic Legal Corps.

Upcoming events of note:

Derek Monroe: The Elusive Promise of Democracy in India and Sri Lanka



Saturday, February 20, 3 pm Community Meeting Room, Main Library

Coming off one of the world's most destructive civil wars, Sri Lanka is making a big change in its political landscape as a result of the 2015 election. However, is it democracy in the making? India's fast growing economy has run into the wall of its own shortcomings. Can the Modi administration deliver on its promises, or is the "shining India" mirage rather than reality?

Derek Monroe, a writer/reporter on international and US foreign policy issues and columnist at RT.com discusses his impressions after his recent visits to both countries. Mr. Monroe has reported on Latin America, Poland, Japan, Iraq, Ukraine, Sri Lanka and India. His work has appeared in *Foreign Policy in Focus*, *Alternet*, *Truthout* and *Ohmynews*, and has been published in over 20 countries.

Everyone is welcome, but to help us estimate seating, please either [register online](#) or call 847-448-8620.

"Chicago: A Food Biography"

Sunday, February 21, 3 pm, Community Meeting Room, Main Library

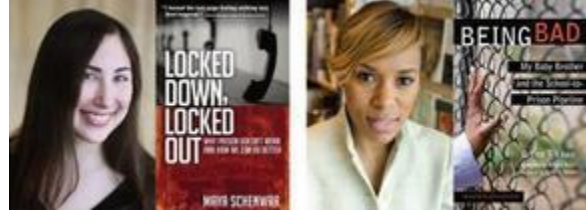
Calling all foodies! Come whet your appetite as authors Daniel R. Block and Howard Rosing serve up their new book [Chicago: A Food Biography](#). Filled with vivid details and stories of local restaurants, their book explores how food and the food industry helped shape Chicago's unique history. Highlighting the city's recent fine-dining revival, long tradition of diverse street fare, and signature foods like hot dogs, Italian beef, and Chicken Vesuvio, *Chicago: A Food Biography* reveals how the city came to be one of the foremost eating destinations in the country. Copies of *Chicago: A Food Biography* will be available for purchase.



Daniel R. Block, PhD, is a professor of geography and director of the Fred Blum Neighborhood Assistance Center at Chicago State University. **Howard Rosing, PhD**, is the Executive Director of the Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning and Community Studies at DePaul University.

Everyone is welcome, but please [register online](#) or by calling (847) 448-8620 to guarantee your seat.

Author Event. Unlocking America: How to Change a Broken Prison System. Editor-in-Chief of Truthout, Maya Schenwar and Chicago State University Education Professor Crystal Laura, explore the impact of prison on their families and advocate for sweeping change to the criminal justice system. Monday, March 7, 7 pm, Community Meeting Room, Main Library. Everyone is welcome, but please [register online](#) or by calling (847) 448-8620 to guarantee your seat.



The Big Read Keynote: Luis Alberto Urrea, author of Into the Beautiful North, presents: Universal Border--from Tijuana to the World. Best-selling author Luis Alberto Urrea shares his story of transformation from his beginnings in Tijuana to Pulitzer Prize finalist and beloved storyteller. Though recognized as a writer who concentrates on the border regions of the Southwestern United States,



Urrea says, "borders don't interest me. I'm really in the business of building bridges." Urrea invites us to think of the border as a place of convergence where meaningful conversations, and even love, between cultures begins. The author will be signing copies of the book immediately following the lecture. **Wednesday, March 9, 7 pm, Evanston Township High School auditorium, 1600 Dodge Ave.** The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment of the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.



[An interview with Luis Alberto Urrea, a member of the Latino Literature Hall of Fame.](#)

Navigating Real Life Diversity Discussion



Navigating Real Life Diversity series continues with: "The American Dream is for all who work hard...or is it?" This session on inspiring our kids to understand each other and become allies is facilitated by Noor Ali, Assistant Director for Social Justice Education at Northwestern University and ETHS students from SOAR (Students Organized Against Racism). The event will be held **at Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave, Room E112.** Free child care and Spanish translation provided. **Thursday, February 18, 6:30-8:30 pm.**

Next session: The Evanston history many don't know. Hear stories covering the rich history of Evanston's Black community from 1850 to today. Presented by local historian Dino Robinson of Shorefront Legacy Center. Evanston Public Library, Community Meeting Room, **Thursday, March 10. 6:30-8:30 pm.**

More Ways to Gather and Connect

Tabletop Game Night. Bring your friends and make new ones at Tabletop Game Night. Evanston's Game Night MeetUp group will have games to share and teach including Settlers of Catan, King Chocolate, and Isle of Skye. Bring your own games if you like. No experience is necessary for this evening of fun! Attendees must be 16 or older. **Monday, February 22, 6:30 pm.** Community Meeting Room. Main Library.



The Chat Room: The Oscars. Who will win? Who should win? Come chat about the Oscars! Enjoy drinks or food at [The Evanston Rhythm Room](#), the lounge connected to Evanston's Century Theater, just a few days before the 88th annual Academy Awards. The Chat Room is a series that brings Evanstonians together to talk about popular media in local watering holes. [Register online](#) or by calling (847) 448-8620. **Wednesday, February 24, 6 pm**, The Evanston Rhythm Room at Century Theater (1715 Maple Ave)

The Chat Room: The X-Files. After fourteen years, The X-Files is back! Come chat with other fans, a week after the last episode of the reboot, at The Celtic Knot Pub (626 Church Street), just across the street from the Main Library. [Register online](#) or by calling (847) 448-8620. **Tuesday, March 1, 6pm**, The Celtic Knot Pub (626 Church Street)



Excerpts from Patron feedback:

In response to Laura Antolin's email regarding bringing LEAP Construction classroom center materials:

Dear Ms. Laura,

Thank you, we will be looking forward to seeing you on Thursday.

We have been having great fun playing 'Builders/construction workers'.

Please stop by and see our houses built at home with our families. (Room 2)

Approved March 16, 2016

Ms. Frost, Ms. Williams and Ms. Torres

We would LOVE to have the materials this year. A lot of the kids are still talking about it! Thanks.

Kathryn Ensck