



**MEETING MINUTES  
EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

6:30 P.M.

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Barbara Friedberg Room

**Members Present:** Socorro Clarke, Adam Goodman, Shawn Iles, Benjamin Schapiro  
Sandra Smith, Michael Tannen

**Participating by Phone:** Margaret Lurie

**Members Absent:** Tori Foreman, Vaishali Patel

**Staff:** Karen Danczak Lyons, Connie Heneghan, Miguel Ruiz, Jill Schacter, Wynn  
Shawver, Jill Skwerski, Jessica Ticus

**Presiding Member:** Michael Tannen, President

**CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM** - A quorum was present and  
President Tannen called the meeting to order at 6:47 pm.

**CITIZEN COMMENT** – none

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Bills and Payroll** – Adam Goodman motioned to approve the  
Bills and Payroll. Ben Schapiro seconded and it was approved on a voice  
vote. President Tannen is making additions to the minutes of the February  
15th meeting and they will be presented for approval at the April meeting.

**INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Robert Crown Branch Library Update** – Director Danczak Lyons reported  
the February 24th fundraising event hosted by the hockey boosters raised  
\$616,000 and was matched by an anonymous donor, bringing the total raised  
to \$1.2 million. The event featured a video that can be edited and used for  
Library purposes. Stakeholder sessions with the architects were held last  
week, including a session specifically about the library space. Another  
feedback session for residents in the area surrounding the Robert Crown  
Community Center will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Director Danczak Lyons and  
several others are going to Canada to visit facilities designed by Woodhouse  
Tinucci Architects that combine community/recreational and library space to

assess what's working well and the friction points in these designs. Library staff are meeting with the RCCC programming staff to look at the various programming needs anticipated for the shared lobby space. Director Danczak Lyons may come to the Board for approval to expand beyond 5000 square feet of library space if there are too many demands on the shared space to be accommodated. Expansion would be covered by the Library's commitment of \$2.5 million. The March 8<sup>th</sup> event hosted by Shawn Iles and Vaishali Patel was postponed and invitees will be folded into the invitation to the May 4 Donor and Volunteer Recognition Event, where Woodhouse and Tinucci are the featured speakers.

**B. Administrative Services Report** – The Assistant Director position has been posted and will remain open until March 20<sup>th</sup>. Several well-qualified candidates have applied.

## **STAFF REPORT**

**A. Community Engagement – Jill Skwerski and Miguel Ruiz.** Mr. Ruiz is the new Latino/Latina Outreach Coordinator, coming to EPL from Madison, Wisconsin, a demographically similar city. He presented his initial observations and immediate goals after one month on the job. Along with Jill Skwerski, he has been out meeting community leaders. His observation is that Evanston a decentralized community with many great experts. He's carefully evaluating the opportunities and existing programs. His three immediate goals are to work with recent immigrants and community partners to build pathways to citizenship; promote the Library as a place of support for the Latino/Latina population; expand the Library's partnerships regionally.

## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A. Karen Danczak Lyons reported she was invited to the City of Evanston's Mental Health Board and spoke about the Library's partnership with Presence Health and the hiring of the full time Social Worker. This news was enthusiastically received. EPL's network architecture was re-configured and the switch gears were replaced in late February. Karen Danczak Lyons spoke this morning at the Mather's Men's Club. An audience of about 60 men and women were interested to learn about the services and programs at the Library. She received a great compliment from an audience member remarking on the improved customer service at the Library in recent years.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

**A. Executive Committee Fundraising** – Michael Tannen and Karen Danczak Lyons reported on the meeting with Marty Lyons, Michael Happ and the Friends of Robert Crown at which they reiterated the Library's commitment to the project and to being helpful to fundraising efforts. They were able to clarify that the Library's commitment to raising \$2.5 million in bonds will cover Library

construction cost and fulfills the Library's fundraising obligation. Director Danczak Lyons adds a compelling component to the fundraising case and she has been invited to meetings with Deloitte and Shirley Ryan.

- B. District 202 Board Liaison-** Michael Tannen briefed the District 202 Board on the Robert Crown Community Center and Branch Library and invited the members to share ideas or feedback. The Library continues to work with ETHS on the Wi-Fi hotspots program. This project is very well received and there is potential to seek funding from an outside group like the ETHS Alumni Association.

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

### **A. RAILS/United for Libraries Video:**

Board members are asked to view the video "Board Meetings" at their convenience.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – There was no unfinished business discussed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Extension of Jessica Jolly contract** – Ben Schapiro motioned to approve a one month extension of Ms. Jolly's contract, paid for by salary saving from the vacant Assistant Director position, seconded by Sandra Smith and approved by voice vote
- B. Affirming Evanston Public Library's support of Evanston as a "Welcoming City"** – While the Evanston Public Library's strategic plan includes an equity statement from the American Library Association, the Board discussed ways to strengthen the statement and help the Library be seen as a resource regardless of immigration status. Ben Schapiro made a motion to ask the Library Director to pull information from RAILS and other professional organizations to help the Trustees assess the need to augment the Library's statement and/or policies and procedures in dealing with immigration status. Sandra Smith seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.
- C. Closed Session – Personnel (Library Director Evaluation)** – motioned to move to Executive Session as per the Open Meetings Act, seconded by and approved by voice vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT** –

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved April 19, 2017

Socorro Clarke, for Vaishali Patel, Secretary

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 6:30 pm Evanston Public Library,  
Barbara Friedberg Room.**

**Library Director's Report  
March 15, 2017**

**Updates:**

- Legislative breakfast – I represented EPL at the annual Legislative breakfast. Remarks from elected officials centered upon the ongoing budget stalemate and the possibility for resolution.
- The Hockey Association and the Friends of Robert Crown Community Center and Library hosted a Cocktail Party Reception and Fundraiser at the Evanston Arts Center. I was invited to talk about the Library and a video was shown which featured all aspects of the project including the new branch.
- My thanks to David Jordan, Todd Galvin and the City of Evanston's IT team for completing the y EPL Network refresh project on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Todd pulled new fiber, our network architecture was re-configured and the switch gears were replaced.
- We have moved into the public engagement phase of the Robert Crown project. On March 9<sup>th</sup> a series of Stakeholders Workshops were conducted to begin to gather concerns and feedback. Another Community Workshop will be held at Robert Crown beginning on at 6:30 on March 21<sup>st</sup> with invitations being sent to all neighbors within 1,500 feet of the facility.
- Trustees, staff and EPL partners joined me at the Mayor's State of the City Address. Copies of the City of Evanston's Annual report are at the places of those Trustees who were not able to attend. In her remarks, Mayor Tisdahl highlighted the Summer Reading Program, ABC Boosters and stated that "Wherever she goes throughout Evanston, the Evanston Public Library is there."
- It was pleasure to address the Men's Club at the Mather this morning and share information about library programs, new initiatives including HOOPLA, Wi-Fi Hotspots, our full time Social Worker and Latino Engagement Librarian and plans for the main library renovation and construction of our new branch at Robert Crown.

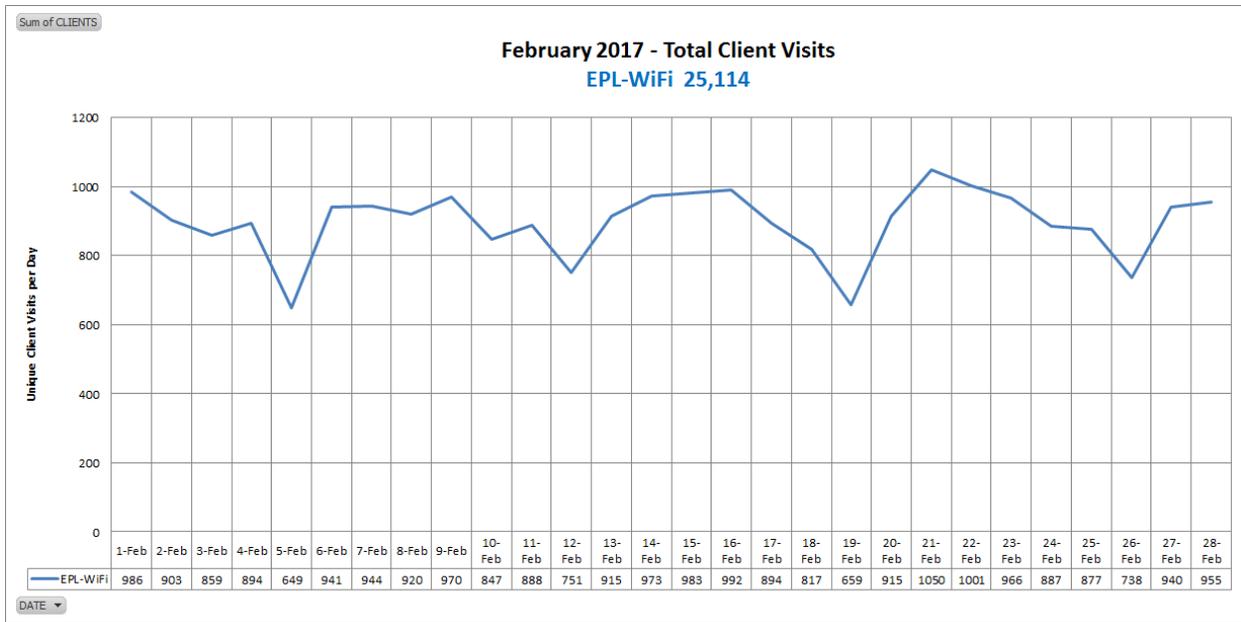
**Assessments, metrics and initiative results:**

Foot traffic: January, 2017      February, 2017

Main:	27,390	26,711
North:	3,790	4,005
CAMS:	3,164	3,426
Total:	34,344	34,142

Website visits: January: 55,468      February: 48,541

Overall Computer/Internet Use – all locations: January: 4,697      February: 4,770



**Actual Computer Usage**  
NEW AND REPEAT CUSTOMERS

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	TOTALS
		<b>1-Feb</b>	<b>2-Feb</b>	<b>3-Feb</b>	<b>41</b>
		13	15	13	
<b>6-Feb</b>	<b>7-Feb</b>	<b>8-Feb</b>	<b>9-Feb</b>	<b>10-Feb</b>	
14	17	14	15	13	<b>73</b>
<b>13-Feb</b>	<b>14-Feb</b>	<b>15-Feb</b>	<b>16-Feb</b>	<b>17-Feb</b>	
	5	5	7	9	<b>26</b>
<b>20-Feb</b>	<b>21-Feb</b>	<b>22-Feb</b>	<b>23-Feb</b>	<b>24-Feb</b>	
	12	14	5	13	<b>44</b>
<b>27-Feb</b>	<b>28-Feb</b>				
4	9				<b>13</b>
					<b>197</b>

**Partnerships and collaborations:**

- On March 9<sup>th</sup> I was invited to address the City of Evanston’s Mental Health Board regarding our partnership with Presence Health and the hiring of our full time Social Worker. She will be presenting at a future EPL Board meeting.

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

### Highlights:

Wilson was interviewed by Northwestern student Emma Gordon about serving on the 2017 Caldecott Committee. The interview currently appears on the Children's Room Kids Blog. <https://www.epl.org/epls-brian-wilson-helping-choose-caldecott-award-winners/>

Wilson restarted his blog Mr. Brian's Picture Book Picks. There is currently a link on the library's Literary Blogs page. <https://mrbrianspicturebookpicks.wordpress.com/>

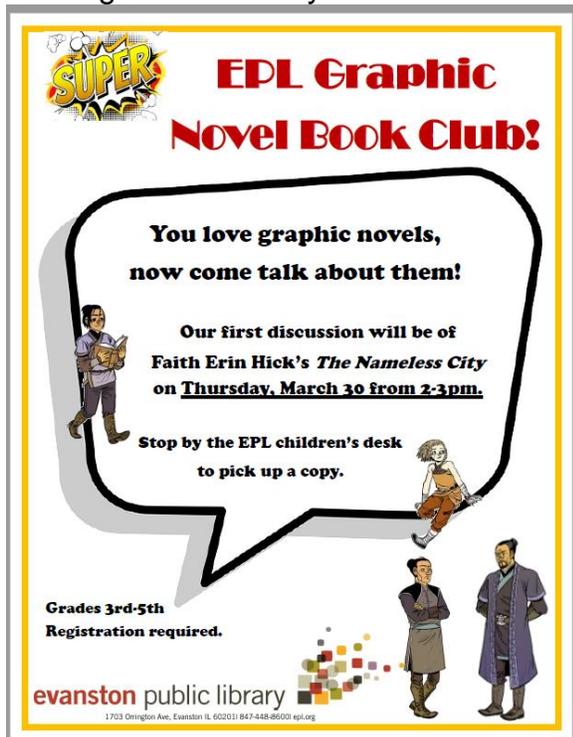
Wilson was invited to read stories at the Total Child Family Literacy night on Monday, February 27. I read to close to 100 children and their parents/caregivers.

Wilson met with sales rep Linda Peterson from Rainbow Books about adding additional children's books in Arabic to the collection.

Kim Kaufmann began of writing a grant for astronomy programming and science kits from NASA on behalf of the library.

Kaufmann held first Code Club meeting where participants talked about a few ways to use ciphers to code a message for someone else and made a coding device they could take home.

Coming soon courtesy of Jessica Iverson:



**SUPER** **EPL Graphic Novel Book Club!**

**You love graphic novels, now come talk about them!**

Our first discussion will be of Faith Erin Hick's *The Nameless City* on **Thursday, March 30 from 2-3pm.**

Stop by the EPL children's desk to pick up a copy.

Grades 3rd-5th  
Registration required.

evanston public library  
1703 Orrington Ave, Evanston IL 60201 | 847-438-6200 | epl.org

The poster features a yellow border and a large black speech bubble containing the main text. It includes illustrations of a boy reading, a girl sitting, and two men standing. A 'SUPER' logo is in the top left, and a colorful dot pattern is in the bottom left.

Meyer and Bojda worked with COE Department of Economic development on the Evanston Explorers program. This is a program that supports business in town that provide family activities like Little Bean and Gather. Antolin, Bojda and Meyer attended the kickoff event at Fleetwood and were a part of the Progressive Playdate. Photos are at the end of the report. Meyer reports that they gathered 500 names for their database for the businesses because of the kickoff event the group hosted. Antolin signed up new library users. Meyer had about 50 children at her story time singalong at kickoff event and more than 100 people total for the Saturday event.

## **Meetings:**

### **Bojda:**

Met with Laura Grandau and Mary Hynes-Berry to discuss our upcoming training and research grant on mathematical thinking in children's picture books and incorporating it into Early Childhood Programming. Initial training will be in June.

Kennelly attended Lincoln Story League at Poplar Creek Public Library on February 1 – I shared the bibliography from our District 65 Battle of the Books 2016-2017  
Kennelly and Wilson attended Betsy's 100 Best Books Committee on February 2 focused on picture books

## **Training and Professional Development:**

Bojda and Wilson attended LACONI YSS attended LACONI meeting called Diverse Books Need Us at the Alsip-Merrionette Park Library on February 24, 2017. This informative day was broken up in three parts. First, Jody Gray and Kristin Lahurd from the ALA Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services led participants through a Cultural Competence Workshop that had us thinking about culture as a concept and about inclusive communication. Then Amy Koester, Youth and Family Programs Supervisor at Skokie Public Library, and Joy Triche, publisher from Tiger Stripe Publishing, talked about Our Voices Chicago, a project that will collect diverse self-published books and eBooks written by Chicagoland authors and make them available to purchase by libraries. And finally, rock star librarian K.C. Boyd, Library Media Specialist from Parkway School District, discussed how to find diverse titles from a variety of sources.

Bojda and Kaufmann were trained on adding events to the new website.

Kaufmann attended a NASA Grant Application Webinar.

Kennelly Attended Lincoln Story League at Poplar Creek Public Library on February 1 where she shared the bibliography from District 65 Battle of the Books 2016-2017.

Kennelly, Bojda and Wilson attended author visit by Kevin Henkes on February 1

Kennelly attended Betsy's Salon featuring Natasha Tarplay, Keir Graff and Tom Watson on February 4.

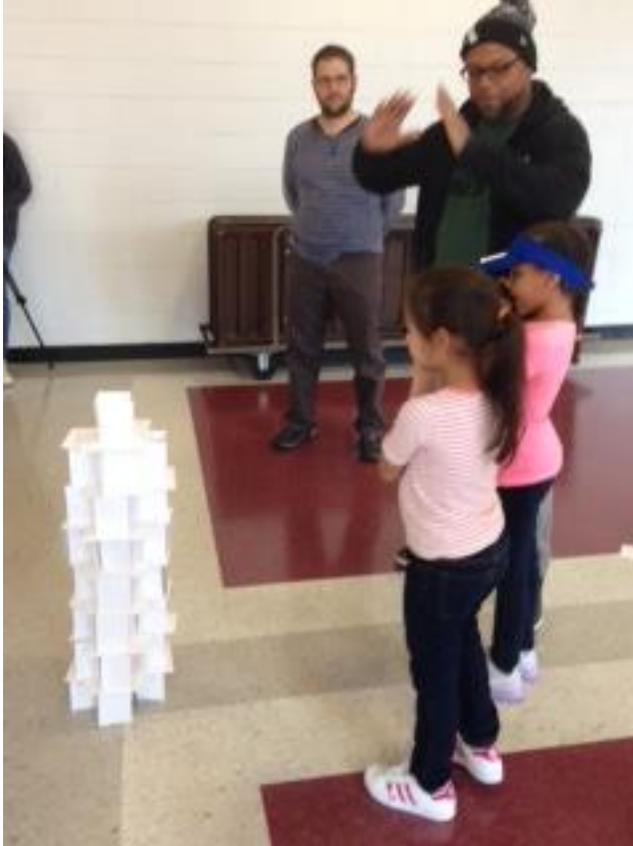
### **Outreach and Community Engagement**

Kaufmann presented her monthly story time to Doorway to Learning preschoolers.

### **Other Activities:**

Wilson was interviewed by Northwestern student Emma Gordon about serving on the 2017 Caldecott Committee. The interview currently appears on the Children's Room Kids Blog.

From our first STEMeX Family Program at Fleetwood Jourdain







From our Evanston Explorers Progressive Play Date. Preschool Dance Party and Craft courtesy of Ms. Martha and Northwestern student volunteers:



**Highlights from Laura Antolin – Children’s Outreach include:**

**In House Meetings Attended / Events Attended**

- 2/2 100 Books of 2017 committee meeting – Board room
- 2/3 Story Corps training – Board room
- 2/5 K-LEAP Let’s Play Post Office Oakton & Dawes Schools – Large Community room

- 2/7 Meeting w/Jan and Miguel re: outreach – Children’s Public Conference room
- 2/8 Meeting w/Kristin Sherman (Whole Foods Market)
- Meeting w/Jan, Catherine Haden, David Utall re: IMLS grant – Children’s Public Conference room
- 2/12 K-LEAP Let’s Play Post Office Kingsley & Lincolnwood Schools – Large Community room
- 2/16 Meeting w/Penelope Sachs re: Evanston Symphony Orchestra
- 2/21 Meeting w/Martha re: Infant/Toddler Conference planning
- 2/27 Lincolnwood 5<sup>th</sup> grade library visit
- 2/28 Coding Workshop online course
- Library Asst Interview w/Margo Stack – Board room

**Out of House Meetings Attended / Events Attended:**

- 2/1 Meeting w/Lindsay Percival re: ABC Boosters – Child Care Center of Evanston
- Meeting w/Tiffany Caston re: SRP, ABC Boosters – Robert Crown
- 2/2 LEAP at Head Start, PFA, SPPAC – JEH
- JEH Pact – JEH
- Meeting w/Paula Shapiro re: summer programs
- 2/3 EC2C meeting w/Diane Lequar & Suni Kartha – Curt’s Café South
- Book Buddies – Reba Early Learning Center
- 2/7 Learning & Growing – Family Center
- Y.O.U. Dawes
- 2/8 Y.O.U. Oakton
- 2/9 Meeting w/Lara Galicia and Frances Collins re: ABC Boosters – Willard School
- 2/10 Baby Toddler Nursery – story time & Book Bag delivery
- Sharing Circle – King Arts
- Book Buddies – Reba Early Learning Center
- Evanston Explorers Kick-off Party - Fleetwood
- 2/11 Monarch Award meeting – New Lenox Public Library
- 2/14 STEM program – Family Center - JEH
- Fleetwood After-school K-1<sup>st</sup> grade – Fleetwood
- 2/15 EC2C Large Group Solution Design Team meeting - ETHS
- Deliver library card apps to Oakton School
- Meeting w/Renee & Y.O.U. re: SRP and diverse book collection – Y.O.U.
- Robert Crown After School Adventures – Robert Crown
- 2/16 Home Daycare Provider Book Bag delivery
- Meeting w/Rebecca Daugherty re: IMLS grant – Science in Society, NU
- Fleetwood After-school 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Fleetwood
- 2/17 Home Daycare Provider Book Bag delivery
- LEAP at Family Center – JEH
- Sharing Circle – King Arts
- Book Buddies – Reba Early Learning Center
- 2/21 Delivery library card apps to Lincolnwood School (5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- EC2C meeting w/Katie Pacyna re: distribution of parent survey – Family Focus

- Dawes After care story time - Dawes
- 2/22 Exploring STEAM w/Ms. Laura – JEH  
Deliver LEAP Construction classroom centers to Hayes, Lepley, Macejak and LEAP pizza classroom centers to Doorway to Learning  
Kindergarten Information Night w/Miguel – JEH
- 2/23 Washington Y.O.U.  
Washington Afterschool story time – Washington School  
Y.O.U. Oakton Family Night – Oakton School
- 2/24 Teen Baby Nursery story time & Book Bag delivery  
Sharing Circle – King Arts  
Book Buddies – Reba Early Learning Center
- 2/26 JRC Diverse Book Fair - JRC

### **Outreach/In-House Reach - Preschools:**

**Day Care Delivery Book Bags: 19: 15** Book Bags delivered to home providers; **4** Book Bags delivered to IWSE (2 to Baby Toddler Nursery; 2 to Teen Baby Nursery)

**Baby Toddler Nursery story time: Total: 80 (65 children and 15 staff);** 7 classes- infants, toddlers, preschool classrooms (in the preschool classroom, we made refrigerator magnet valentines and decorated them).

**Teen Baby Nursery story time: Total: 22 (16 children and 6 staff);** 2 classes – infants and toddlers

**Learning & Growing story time: Total: 7 (3 children, 3 adults, 1 staff)**

I did a story time with songs. The PACT activity was taken from last month's Exploring STEAM – we focused on math and early literacy concepts. I brought DUPLOs and encouraged the mothers to count with their children, talk about color and stack them – each family got a blank set of 1-10 LEGO pattern sheets to take home and color. Families then matched colored craft sticks to pattern sheets (also a take home) and took home simple geometric shape sheets to use with their craft sticks and a matching game with cards to cut apart. The children were all very young – 9 months to 2 years old – but they all handled the materials and I felt it was a good introduction for them to math.

**STEM at Doorway to Learning (Family Center): Total: 21 (16 kids, 5 staff)**

This was the first of 4 STEM programs for 2 Doorway to Learning classrooms – the 2-3 year olds and the 15-23 months to align programming with the Head Start, PFA classes. This program was about size. I brought different size cardboard boxes (augmented by more boxes from Angela Johnson, Family Center Director), three sizes of laminated hand cut-outs to use to measure things, and sets of small and large teddy bears with matching laminated mats to match them. In the older classroom, some of the children spent most of their time putting boxes inside of boxes. One child only wanted to stack and move around

the plastic teddy bears. A couple of the children used the different sized hands to lie across the table (beginning of measuring). In the younger classroom, the children interacted with everything but with less concentration. One child did hold the hands up to her own hand which I thought was sophisticated thinking. It was a good start to STEM programming for these young ages.

**Pizza LEAP at Doorway to Learning (Family Center): Total: 22 (16 kids, 6 staff)**

This was the first of 4 LEAP programs for 2 Doorway to Learning classrooms – the 2-3 year olds and the 15-23 months to align programming with the Head Start, PFA classes. I brought most of Pizza LEAP with me (I excluded the pizza menus and dry-erase markers). I read the procedural parts of *Pizza at Sally's* by Monica Wellington, demonstrated making a felt pizza, baking it and the miraculous transformation into a plastic pizza. I gave the children order pads and pencils to practice writing. In both classes, the children made felt pizzas and baked them. They wrote on the order pads and cut the pizzas. This was a really successful program and the children were really engaged.

**LEAP: Total: 399 (318 children, 81 staff) 30 classrooms**

**75 (57 children, 18 staff) 6 classrooms**

We finished Construction Play Literacy with the last classes on February 2. 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.

Laura – 3 classes, Andi – 6 classes, Martha – 3 classes

**Exploring STEAM w/Ms. Laura at JEH: Total: 32 (16 children, 14 adults, 2 staff)**

I presented a chemical reaction and color program. There were stations set up on 5 tables in the room and one on the floor: everyone circulated around the room and tried out each activity.

- Table 1: had trays for oil, cups with colored water and pipettes;
- Table 2: had trays for oil, cups with colored vinegar and pipettes;
- Table 3: had trays for oil, cups with colored vinegar and bowls with baking soda and pipettes;
- Table 4: had trays for oil, cups with colored bubble solution and pipettes;
- Table 5: had plates for milk, food coloring, dishwashing soap and toothpicks; and bowls with water, clear nail polish and black pieces of paper.

The families experimented with dropping pipettes of colored liquid into the trays of oil to see what would happen to the liquid. They noticed how the oil and other liquids did or didn't mix and observed what happened when they added baking soda to the oil and vinegar solution. At the milk and nail polish table, they added drops of food coloring to plates of milk and then touched a toothpick into dishwashing liquid and then into the milk and observed what happened. They took white cardstock, dipped it into the milk and made marbled paper. They dropped nail polish into water and quickly scooped it up on black paper and saw rainbows on the paper from the nail polish.

I coordinate with J.C. Renteria and Xiomara Alfaro (Family Center Home Visiting) on STEAM programs. I plan the program and we all contribute materials. Both J.C. and Xiomara recruit families.

Everyone was very engaged and families took home marbled paper and rainbow paper. This was a very successful program with families participating in every activity.

**PACT Activity at JEH: Total: 28 (15 children, 12 adults, 1 staff)**

I led the families in Construction LEAP. I read *One Big Building* by Michael Dahl in English and Spanish. The children and parents worked on designing a plan and building their building with blocks.

**Book Buddies at Reba Early Learning Center: Total: 127 (81 children, 11 staff, 35 NU students)**

- We had 4 sessions of Book Buddies in February
- I bring 2 bags of books for use by the Book Buddies in the classroom; I read and sing with the children, they read with their NU Book Buddies and then do a craft.

#### **Winter Words:**

I purchased 4 books for each of the 10 Home Daycare Providers who are participating in Winter Words

**Kindergarten Registration Night at JEH: Total: 40 families, 24 library bags, 7 library cards made**

Miguel Ruiz accompanied me to Kindergarten Registration Night at JEH on February 22. I brought library program information, bookmarks to color, library bags to give away and library cards to create. We shared a table with Skokie Public Library and talked with approximately 40 families, many of whom were familiar with the library but also those who were not.

**Lincolnwood 5<sup>th</sup> grade Library visit: Total: 90 (85 kids, 5 adults); 19 library cards**

I scheduled the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes from Lincolnwood to come to the library to do research and was one of three staff members who helped the students research and find materials. I also included a library card drive with the visit. It was very busy, somewhat chaotic, but lots of fun helping the students find books.

#### **Outreach/In-House Reach – School-Aged:**

**K-LEAP: Let's Play Post Office: Total: 68**

We had two K-LEAP Post Office Play dates in February – one was very successful, the other was sparsely attended. Those who came were very positive and enjoyed the program.

**Dawes and Oakton: Total: 52 (16 families)**

**Orrington and Willard: Total: 16 (7 families)**

**Fleetwood K-1<sup>st</sup> Afterschool: Total: 9 (8 kids, 1 staff member)**

I read a couple of books and the kids made refrigerator magnet valentines.

**Fleetwood 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Afterschool: Total: 6 (6 kids)**

The kids worked on an engineering challenge, balancing cups, craft sticks and wooden cubes.

**Dawes Afterschool K-5<sup>th</sup> grade: Total: 20 (18 kids, 3 staff members)**

The kids colored and made balancing robots and we talked about how the robots balanced.

**Washington Afterschool K-5<sup>th</sup> grade: Total: 20 (18 kids, 2 staff members)**

The kids colored and made balancing robots and we talked about how the robots balanced.

**Robert Crown After School Adventures: Total: 20 (17 kids, 3 staff members); 10 books checked out**

I brought books for the kids to check out and some of the kids participated in an engineering challenge, balancing cups, craft sticks and wooden cubes.

**Y.O.U. Elementary School Book Check-outs**

**Total: 115 kids 127 books checked out**

**Dawes Y.O.U.**

I brought about 100 books for the kids to choose among. I set up books in a classroom; checked out new books and brought back the books they had checked out previously.

**Total: 45 kids, 55 books**

**Oakton Y.O.U.**

I brought about 100 books for the kids to choose among. I set up books all along the floor in the auditorium; checked out books and brought back the books they had checked out previously.

**Total: 45 kids, 57 books**

**Washington Y.O.U.:**

I brought about 90 books for the kids to choose among. I set up books on the bench in the hallway; checked out books and brought back the books they had checked out previously.

**Total: 25 kids, 15 books**

**Oakton Y.O.U. Family Night:**

**Total: 50; 20 library bags; 8 library cards made**

I attended Oakton Y.O.U.'s Family Night. They provided dinner and were giving away new books to each child to add to their home libraries. I had a table with library information and library bags as well as bookmarks to color and library cards. I spoke with many families; gave away library bags to take home their books and made library cards. One funny thing happened - because these students are used to me coming once a month and checking out their books, several of them brought their new books over to me (and my laptop) so that I could check them out to Y.O.U. They were surprised that these books weren't library books and were for them to take home.

**Diverse and Inclusive Book Fair at JRC:**

**Total: 50, 23 book bags**

I was asked to participate in the first *Diverse and Inclusive Book Fair* at JRC, sponsored by Interfaith Family Chicago, PJ Library and JRC, with guest readings by author Jessica Herthel (*I am Jazz*) and author Ami Polonsky (*Gracefully Grayson*). Along with JRC's library, Interfaith Family Chicago, The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, PJ Library, Response Center JFC (Jewish Child and Family Services), Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, Keshet, and Bookends and Beginnings, EPL had a table of materials and a booklist for families. I had been asked to put together a booklist of diverse, family and gender inclusive titles along with the other organizations and Bookends and Beginnings brought many of those books for people to purchase. Families could browse the EPL table and read the books that interested them, as well as pick up the booklist, bookmarks and library bags. I was glad to provide a booklist and have the library be part of this Book Fair.

*Email to participants in the Book Fair from Rabbi Ari Moffic, organizer*

*Hi Everyone,*

*Thank you so incredibly much for volunteering your time and energy to make our book fair such a success. I hope you feel that lots of people learned more about your agencies and got introduced to new resources.*

With gratitude,

Ari Moffic

**Other/Connections:**

**IMLS STEMEx grant program:**

**Index Card Tower Engineering Challenge      Total: 6 families (7 children)**

I arranged for our first STEMEx expert and program, *Index Card Tower Engineering Challenge* on Sunday, February 26 at Fleetwood-Jourdain from 2-3:30pm. Although we didn't have as much time to promote as I would have liked (I was hampered a little bit by waiting to make sure our expert was okay and by securing a space since the library was booked), we ended up being fully registered with 2 people on the waiting list. I asked Jill Schachter to help promote the program via D65 e-backpacks as well as in the newsletter, put out flyers, and also reached out to Colette Allen, Ken Cherry and Kirby Callam and asked them to contact families in their programs. Kirby sent our emails to 333 fifth ward families.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend this first program due to a death in my family and the funeral that afternoon. I purchased all the materials and prepared them for Jan to take to the program. Six families participated in the program and of those six, three families agreed to participate in the observational study. The next iteration is at Gibbs-Morrison Cultural Center on Saturday, March 22, from 10:00-11:30am. The final iteration will be on Saturday, April 11, from 10:00-11:30am – I am still securing a place for this program but hope to hold it at Robert Crown.

I contacted Northwestern Science in Society to talk about securing additional experts (graduate students). Stacy Brill referred me to Rebecca Daugherty with whom I met and had a good conversation but I haven't heard anything back yet. (My contact with Stacy also resulted in her asking me for book donations - she had received some books from Renee already - which she distributes to organizations that help homeless teen parents in the Chicago area. I was able to put together a one-time donation of **150** picture books, chapter books and juvenile fiction for Stacy.)

*Email from Stacy Brill regarding book donation:*

*Hi Laura,*

*THANK YOU so very much for the donation. I'll be sure to put it in the communities that need it the most.*

*Much Gratitude,*

Stacy Brill  
Science in Society  
600 Foster St., Ste. 130  
Evanston, Illinois 60208

**EC2C Community Literacy Design Team meetings:**

We currently have 361 people signed up for text messages/emails. I worked with our designer to create Talk Read Sing car magnets, posters and flyers for the Community Campaign and we had a conference call with Too Small to Fail folks to go through the materials. Promotional materials were shared with partner organizations at the EC2C Quarterly Partners meeting on February 24, which I unfortunately had to miss due to my commitment at Teen Baby Nursery. We are moving ahead with our launch in March.

*Email to Suni Kartha and to me from Sheila Merry, Executive Director of EC2C:*

*Sorry you missed the presentation today, though it ended up having to be quite brief because things ran a bit long. I did get positive feedback from folks about the materials and gave away quite a number of posters and magnets.*

*Now we just need to figure out a game plan for a more formal launch! Thanks so much for your hard work, Laura, on getting these materials all together!*

*Sheila*

**Monarch Award Committee:**

I drove to the New Lenox Public Library for the Monarch Award committee meeting where we picked the 2018 books. Each of us read the 50 books to be decided upon and presented a book for consideration.

**Collection:**

- Selected and ordered graphic novels for Children's Room collection
- Received and put out on the floor 12 new comics for the *Read It Here Comic Collection*

**ABC Boosters:**

I met with Lara Galicia and Frances Collins to talk about the schedule this summer. Lara was positive about moving back and forth each week from Fleetwood to the Child Care Center of Evanston. We talked about training for the teachers at the Child Care Center as well as at JEH. We will continue to work on shaping the trainings and logistics.

PACT Activity– JEH



PACT Activity– JEH



PACT Activity– Family Center



Family Focus Afterschool - 2nd-3rd grade



Engineering Challenge

Exploring STEAM w/Ms. Laura at JEH – Chemical Reactions and color



Oil and water



Oil and vinegar

Dawes Aftercare K-5 grade



Balancing Robots

Robert Crown After School Adventures



Book check out

Diverse and Inclusive Book Fair at JRC



Evanston Explorers Kick-off



**Teen Services Highlights from Renee Neumeier include:**

**Summer Reading**

- All programming information for the summer has been collected and sent to the graphic designer to begin the creation of the booklet
- The graphic designer shared three options for a summer reading logo
- Y.O.U. is a new partner for summer reading. They will be receiving an Everybody Reads collection for their summer elementary and middle school sites. EPL staff will also be signing their students up for summer reading and visiting throughout the summer.
- The backend for the summer reading program has been setup and now needs to be customized

**Teen Services Highlights:**

- Teen Services librarian position was posted there were 39 applicants. Interviews have been setup with several candidates.
- This month the teen services team had their first department meeting. During the meeting we discussed different issues we encountered while working in the Loft and the best solutions so we can be consistent. We also worked on developing interview questions based on the different situations that come up in the Loft.

**Programming:**

- Our homeschooled tweens and teens completed filming and editing their 90 Second Newbery submission. They used *Doll Bones* by Holly Black as their inspiration this year. The students also put together a behind the scenes footage piece. Next we're going to begin a series on board game design. Their film will be screened at the 90 Second Newbery event in Chicago on April 1 <https://vittumtheater.org/upcoming-performances/the-90-second-newbery-film-festival/>.

**Community Engagement and Outreach:**

- Y.O.U students from their Nichols site continue to visit once a week to complete Little Bits challenges with Liz
- Park School students are continuing to visit throughout the spring and will also come during the summer.

**Renee Neumeier/YA Services Supervisor's Personal Report:**

**Programming:**

Spring Break:

- Entered information into the website events page

Summer

- Completed putting together all the teen information for summer reading and revised

Home School:

- Helped with 90 Second Newbery filming and program outline
- Planned the rest of the spring sessions focused on game design

**Community Engagement:**

D65:

- Continue to work on developing curriculum for summer camp with D65 math coach Kelly Rooney. Met with Jamilla Pitts to discuss which students we will target. Camp will be 6 weeks during the summer. We will target students who are under performing in math and science at Chute Middle School.
- Met with Lori Martin the new librarian at Chute to discuss upcoming events for the rest of 2017 and things to be aware of for the 2017-2018 school year.
- D65 librarians and I have started putting together list of titles for recommended summer reading list
- Took part in the curriculum presentation for the D65 Librarian team, listened to their plans and goals for the future and provided feedback
- Met with D65 Media Arts teachers about how to link their maker space with the Loft and how we can partner on programming in their space
- Wrote and submitted an ILA program proposal with D65 librarians

COE:

- Schedule MSYEP site visit, promoted program on website and calendar, talked one on one with students to encourage them to apply

Y.O.U.

- Participating in Girls STEM event with Y.O.U. and MetaMedia. Liz will host coding booth, 60 girls expected at the March event.

Community Wide Read:

- Confirmed details of student gallery event in March
- Updated website and calendar
- Received Story Corps training

**EvanSTEM:**

- Met with smaller committee about evaluation tools. Narrowed down survey questions to four key questions that all summer sites can use to evaluate their programming this summer

**Summer Reading:**

- Met with Y.O.U. to confirm details of summer partnership
- Wrote up Everybody Reads description
- Confirmed additional partnerships
- Met with graphic designer to see logo options and gathered feedback about the options
- Met with volunteer Terri Dubin and Wynn to discuss applying for Rotary grant to fund summer reading

**Restructuring:**

- Finished revising desk question form for public desks
- Created draft of concierge form
- Worked on creating and revising draft of task form

**Professional Development:**

- Prepared for Tinker mtg at AHML, led a discussion group, helped facilitate meeting, cleaned up meeting. This meeting focused on using cardboard in programming for things like a cardboard challenges, pairing Makey Makeys with cardboard and making cardboard construction squares. I liked the cardboard construction squares so much that TAB has been making a set that we'll leave out in the Loft.

**Other:**

- Created booklists for schools and pulled materials for teacher checkouts.
- Went through applications for teen librarian position, scheduled interviews, revised and updated interview questions
- Art Institute staff on tour, answered questions about the Loft
- Taking part in 100 best children's book committee, reading picture books, chapter books and board books, have been selecting chapter books that also appeal to middle school students
- Selected eBooks and eaudiobooks for My Media Mall
- Wrote book reviews for the blog
- Selected fiction/nonfiction/AV for Loft
- Weeded YA fiction, nonfiction and audiobook collection

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

Much of February was spent orienting our new Latino Engagement Librarian, Miguel Ruiz, to the Library. Additionally, our new Tech Trainer, Eduardo Gomez, accompanied me to Blake Manor and Primm Tower computer classes, so that by the end of February, he was running classes on his own. Here is a summary of activities and meetings for the month.

- Blake and Primm computer classes continued weekly. Totals this month included 6 hours of class, attended by 31 students, 2 library cards issued and 30 items checked out. We were joined by students from the ETHS Youth Technology Corps at Blake Manor on 2/13, which is always a lively gathering. (See pictures.) Students updated the desktop machines and re-installed a missing router, allowing internet access to be re-instated into the lab. Beginning in March, computer class will continue on Mondays with monthly pop-up library visits (for checkouts, cards, etc.) on Wednesdays.
- Produce Mobile and Hillside Pantry visits continue monthly as well, with full service pop-up library at each location. Typically, there are around 200 visitors to each location. It is a joy to have Miguel join me on these visits to connect directly with the Latino community. I'm hoping to have another community services resource date at Crown during the summer months when we move outside. I've already had interest from our partners at the D65 Family Center, COE General Assistance, and service providers such as SafeLink phones (free government cell phone service).
- EPL hosted the Evanston Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast before opening the building on 2/28. 26 attendees came to the library to network and hear Kathleen Lanigan provide an overview of our business related databases. Plans are underway to host the Chamber's Women in Business Lunch here in July.
- Miguel and I also visited with a family who will be highlighted in our annual report. The Sheila Shambee attended a program in 2016 presented by Community Partners for Affordable Housing. As a result of attending that program, the Shambees are now proud homeowners here in Evanston. Miguel and I had the honor of meeting the Shambees at their home, where they graciously shared their story and the impact that EPL has had on their lives. Look for more in the annual report. Picture attached.
- Finally, I attended the African American Veterans Luncheon at the invitation our partner, Outreach Specialist James Harkins. The event was held at the Evanston Vet Center and provided the opportunity to gather, share a meal, and join with members of the Vet community in hearing their stories and celebrating their service.

**From Miguel Ruiz, here are highlights from Latino Engagement:**

1. Began Spanish Language Collection Analysis with the aid of Collections Manager and Assistant Circulation Supervisor in order to acquire baseline quantitative data for future assessment.
2. Established formal connections with 8 Latinx community leaders from across the city, school district, and community organizations that will aid in building programming to support the Latino community.
3. Established partnership with St. Nicholas Church Spanish language parish for future library presence at weekend catechism sessions that will reach 60-80 children and 15-20 parents monthly.
4. Latino Engagement Librarian joined the soon to be founded Evanston Latinx Business Association in partnership with the City of Evanston and local business owners, with the goal of advocating for the success of Latino businesses.
5. Assisted Latino Resources to move their organizational meetings into the Library conference space.

**Neighborhood Services highlights include:**

**PROGRAMS**

DIYs at North and CAMS included Beaded Key Chains, Rock Painting, Felties, Repurposed Book Crafts, and Zombie Dolls.



### Time for Twos

Leigh Kennelly continues to provide a Time for Twos Storytime allowing parents and young children to sing songs, listen to stories, move and play together.



Families also enjoy spending time together reading and doing puzzles



**Tail Waggin Tutors:** “My four-year-old made up a story to tell to the dogs.” The child’s mother was thrilled that her child spontaneously did so after resisting encouragement to do this pre-reading activity at home.

**Presidents Day Storytime and Craft** included stories and activities about Presidents Washington and Lincoln. (B Sweeney) Feb. 18



**Kingsley Kindergarten** class visited North Branch for an introduction to the branch library, Feb. 22  
(B Levie)

Neighborhood Services held three discussions of *The Other Wes Moore* for the **Community Read**:

\* Feb. 22: 11 participants from the Foster Senior Group and St. Athanasius

\*Feb. 23: 20 attended the North Branch book group & photo display at the Evanston Art Center

\*Feb. 27: 17 attended the discussion at the CAMS Branch

## MEETINGS

**Children's Book Committee** organized by Betsy Bird, Feb. 2 (P Shapiro, B Sweeney, R Surbrook)

**Community Read Leader Orientation**, Feb. 2 (B Sweeney, C Heneghan)

**Clerk interviews** with Kim Hegelund. (Feb. 7, 8 & 14) (C Heneghan)

Miguel Ruiz and C Heneghan joined Jill Skwerski at the **Produce Mobile** to reach out to others who use Robert Crown. A summary of what we learned from all participants in the Ask Exercise is included.

Attended **Robert Crown architects** presentation at EPL Board Meeting (C Heneghan)

Jeanine Michna-Bales, artist of **The Underground Railroad**, artist lunch at Evanston Art Center, Feb. 23)  
(C Heneghan)

## STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

From Barb Levie

***The Wonder*** by Emma Donoghue (Fiction Donogh.E)

***Belgravia*** by Julian Fellowes (Fiction Fello.J)

***Winter*** (DVD TV Winter Series 1)

***Labyrinth of Lies*** (DVD Foreign Labyrin)

***Murder of a President*** (DVD 973.84 Murder)

From Nancy Engel

***On Turpentine Lane*** by Elinor Lipman (Fiction Lipma.E)

## FACILITY

Met with **Hallett**, potential movers for branch library construction, Feb. 9 (C Heneghan)

**Adult Services highlights include:**

From Ben Remsen:

The WNUR Jazz Series at the Library was initiated by my connection with Brock Stuessi, the WNUR general manager when he attended the one-time jazz concert that I set up last fall with Evanston native Mike Reed. That concert, despite being up against game 4 of the Cubs in the World Series, was attended by about 130 people. Brock marveled that the last time he had tried to use WNUR's public programming budget to do an off-campus concert, they had about 12 people. Collaboration ensued: WNUR would fund a series; EPL would host and promote.

With this in mind and with the first concert booked for February 25th, WNUR took a proposal to the Evanston Arts Council to secure additional funding for more concerts in the series. They received a grant of \$1,000 -- with the encouragement that more funding is likely for the fall if the winter/spring concerts are successful.

I'm happy to say more about the value of the series. As part of the library's mission of to be the cultural heart of the community, I thought it would be interesting to try programming a jazz concert. As mentioned, the Mike Reed one was smash beyond my most optimistic expectations. In addition to raw number of attendees, it was very popular with demands for encores and lines to chat with the musicians afterwards. On top of that, it was easily the most diverse large program that I've ever done, especially in terms of age diversity. It wasn't packed with young people by any means -- I've still yet to solve that riddle! -- but there was a good contingent of people who looked to be in their 20s and 30s. There were also small children bopping around on the floor. It represented the widest spectrum of the community that I, for one, have yet to draw.

So when WNUR came through as a source of funding, this seemed like a great avenue to pursue. WNUR is a unique community resource -- free-form local radio is a treasure in a culturally open-minded community such as Evanston. The programmers and DJs there are thrilled to have the chance to do events out in the community, especially since they can make use of the library as a popular cultural node. In addition, they're promoting these concerts on the air as well, so that's putting the idea into the heads of their local listeners, "hey, the library is more than just books!"

The second concert happened on 2/25, and was attended by about 120 people, again including the widest age range of any program here I've been a part of. We've got [the third one](#) scheduled for April 15th. A picture is worth a thousand words, of course, so I'll attach a few thousand-words-worth of pics. We had Lynne at the first one, so those shots are notably more professional. I couldn't get her for the second one, unfortunately. WNUR sent a student photographer who took a few shots, but has been frustratingly unresponsive in my requests to send the photos on to me -- these are the limitations of working with scattered undergrads! -- however I took one shot with my phone from the corner of the room. It doesn't look great, but it gives a sense of the audience.









**Technical Services highlights from Tim Longo include:**

**Items Added**

Adult at Main=1886  
Adult at North=11  
Adult at CAMS=41  
**Total adult items=1938**

Juvenile at Main=1712  
Juvenile at North=78  
Juvenile at CAMS=16

**Total juv items=1806**

YA at Main=543  
YA at North=116  
YA at CAMS=38

**Total YA items=697**

**Total items added to collection in February 2017=4441**

**February 2017**

**Carts Ordered:**

- Titlesource 360:

Evanston RW Adult Fiction: \$2267.72  
Evanston RW Adult Nonfiction: \$5227.06  
Evanston PL Fiction- Mystery & Detective: \$1117.02  
Fantasy: \$414.46  
Poetry: \$162.66

History: \$286.99  
Spanish: \$78.30  
Romance: \$594.51  
Urban: \$283.11  
Business: \$586.37  
Juv Parenting: \$137.26  
Main AY Fiction: \$835.89  
Popular Paperbacks: \$4.75  
Poly: \$567.24  
Travel: \$698.19  
Non-CLS Purchases: \$1248.15  
Non-CLS Most Wanted: \$385.21  
Most Wanted: \$934.80  
North: \$168.36  
Adult Re-Order: \$83.95  
Misc: \$1275.20  
Amazon: 234.80  
Overdrive: 2750.86  
Audiobooks: 2831.53

### **Patron Requests:**

Received 37 patron book requests for the month of February. Will purchase 23 of the titles suggested.  
Received 3 patron audiobook requests for the month of February. Will purchase 2 of the titles suggested.  
Received 2 patron CD request for the month of February. Will purchase 0 of the titles suggested.  
Received 1 patron eBook request for the month of February. Will purchase 0 of the titles suggested.

### **Donations:**

Adult Gift Books Added to the Collection: 165  
Adult Gift CDs Added to the Collection: 1  
Adult Gift DVDs Added to the Collection: 286  
Grubby Books Replaced by Gift Books: 99  
Grubby Audiobooks Replaced by Gift Audiobooks: 4  
Grubby CDs Replaced by Gift CDs: 2

### **Local Authors Added to the Collection:**

- Letitia Suk (Getaway with God: The Everywoman's Guide to Personal Retreat)
- A Competent Witness: Georgiana Yoke and the Trial of H.H. Holmes by Judith Nickels
- The Butterfly's Choice by Joanna Kurowska
- Stained Glass by Joanna Kurowska

### **Weeding:**

Books Sent to Repair: 13  
Audiobooks Sent to Repair: 4  
Most Wanted Titles Weeded: 20  
Most Wanted Titles Added to the Circ Collection: 5  
Damaged Books Weeded: 188  
Other Books Weeded: 3  
CDs Weeded: 2  
Audiobooks Weeded: 3  
Additional Old Travel and Test Books Pulled: 6  
Old Editions of New Books on Standing Orders Pulled: 6  
Books Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc. : 10

Audiobooks Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc.: 4  
CD-ROMs Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc.: 1

**Weeding Plan for Nonfiction (200s)**

Missing: 32  
Weeded: 918

**Weeding Plan for Nonfiction (300s)**

Missing: 8  
Weeded: 408

**Displays**

2/1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Valentine’s Day Display  
2/1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Front – Outsider Art Display  
2/1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Back – Urinetown Display  
2/20 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Back – Oscars Display  
Staff Recommendations - Jeff Balch

**Meetings:**

2/1 – Betsy spoke at Haven Middle School on Career Day about what it means to be a librarian.  
Every Wednesday- Tim Conference calls with CCS for Innovative negotiations.  
2/8- Tim at CCS Catalogers Meeting-Glenview Public Library  
2/15- Monthly Conference call with B&T  
2/16-Collection HQ training webinar  
2/22- Tim at RAILS Technical Services Networking Group

**Literary Salons:**

**Evanston Literary Salon: Meet the Middle Grade Novels of 2017**

Saturday, February 4th from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Community Room

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Evanston, IL

You don't have to go far to see some of the hottest middle grade authors of 2017. Writing books for kids between the ages of 9-12, come and see Natasha Tarpley (Harlem Charade), Keir Graff (Matchstick Castle) and Tom Watson (Stick Cat) as they discuss their work, the art of writing for kids, and what they've got in the pipeline for the future.

**Volunteer highlights from Mary Kling include:**

- Interviewed seven volunteers
- Checked references of four volunteers
- Received requests for additional volunteers from Staff (Circulation, Book Sale, Administration, Tech)
- Facilitated volunteer groups from Delta Chi and NU Dance Marathon
- Placed new volunteers in Concierge (1), Community Service (1), Flyers (13), Circulation (2)

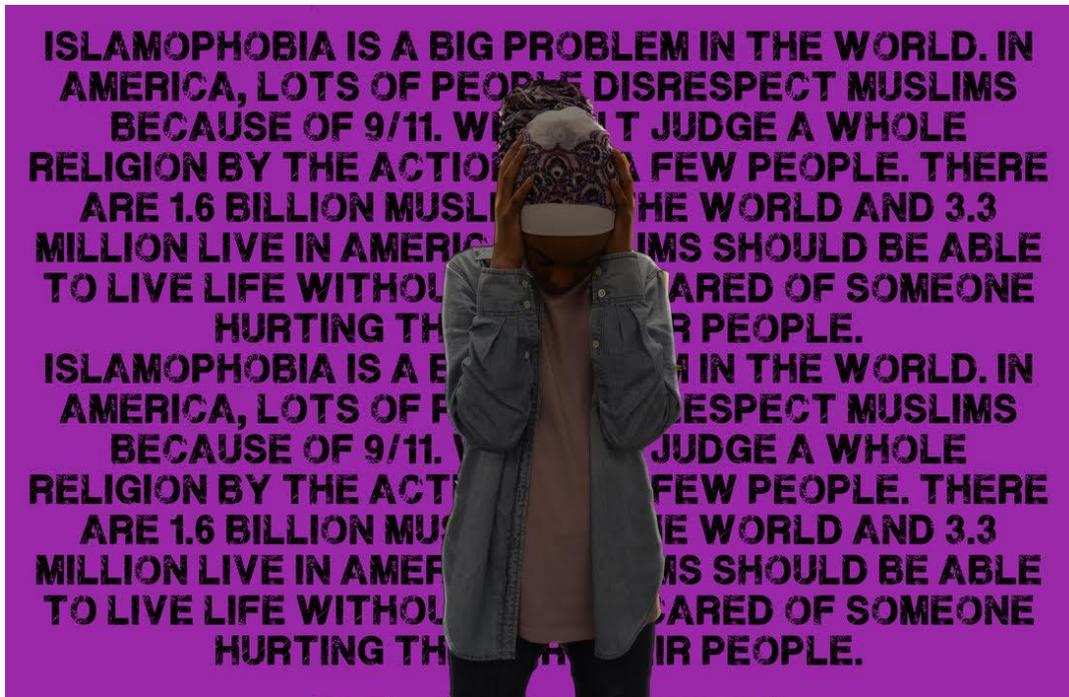
- Monitored Volunteer Evanston website for referrals and verification of hours logged by volunteers
- Met with 14 current volunteers
- Updated volunteer information in Raiser’s Edge
- Completed webinar on Background Checks

Upcoming events of note:

- Book sale March 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>
- Cesar Chavez Storytime – March 31<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 – 3:00 Barbara Friedberg Storytelling Room

## Local Art @ EPL: “The Other Wes Moore” Student Gallery

March 13, 2017



Artist: Iman

Williams, Chute Middle School

Dozens of talented student artists from District 65 middle schools Chute and Nichols are the next to be featured in our ongoing exhibition series [Local Art @ EPL](#). From now through March 31, you can find over 150 original student works on the 2nd floor of

EPL's Main Library. Inspired by [Evanston Reads: \*The Other Wes Moore\*](#), this important exhibit showcases impressive artwork that explores themes of race, identity, justice, and community. Don't miss it.

**Excerpts from patron feedback:**

- From Deb Winarski in Adult Services— Also had a noteworthy interaction with a patron about Adobe products while on the RA desk. When I arrived, she'd been asking the previous staff person for help finding books to learn all of the Adobe products (Photoshop, Illustrator, Lightroom, InDesign...). She had a list of books, but I could tell by the part of the conversation I heard that she wasn't sure which she really needed (she was a job seeker). Because the desk was very quiet (and I wasn't there alone), I was able to talk with her for about 30 minutes about the differences between the products and which ones are most likely to be used for the kinds of jobs she wants to move toward. I also showed her the software itself (I have it on the laptop that I usually have in my bag) and explained the differences between Lightroom and Photoshop in detail. She revised (significantly simplified!) her strategy for what she needed to do next (and was very appreciative!).
- Hi Ms. Bojda -

I wanted to drop you a short note to let you know you have a fantastic kids' librarian on your staff - Robin.

Here are quotes from Jesse & Louis, my 9-year-old twins:

I like asking her about books. She has really good book suggestions. She likes talking to kids.

If there's a more formal way to praise her for her efforts or otherwise recognize the quality of her work, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Lee

- The recently retired Chair of the Early Childhood program at Oakton was (unknown to us) sitting in the audience on Saturday in the class at the Infant/Toddler Conference that Laura Antolin and I taught -- and she has very nice things to say about our presentation.

Laura and I are donating the full teaching stipend to the library that we received from the planners of the Oakton Infant Toddler Conference.

Martha

Dear Martha and Laura,

I am writing to thank you both for such a valuable presentation on Read Aloud Books for Infants and Toddlers at the March 4 Infant Toddler Conference.

Having recently retired as Chair of the Early Childhood Education Department at Oakton, this was one of my first opportunities to reduce my involvement on the conference committee and attend a workshop.

The passion and commitment with which you shared your insights and resources was infectious! The large collection of displayed books and specific handouts was terrific, making it possible for the audience to respond and participate, particularly given your leaving several minutes at the end for them to read the books directly.

I especially appreciated your insights about the content and writing style of several books, your developmental insights, and concrete suggestions for how to incorporate movement and other activities into reading to our youngest children.

As someone who has always appreciated books for children and is a current student of writing children's poetry, I deeply respect and admire the important role you have in developing in them a love of books and of reading.

Sincerely,

Sheila Kerwin

- From Bojda: I had the mom of two of our former patrons stop in to say hello. Her daughters are now a freshman in college and a junior at ETHS. It is very rewarding to have a chance to develop such strong bonds with our families.

To Meyer:  
From Donna Murphy at Park School

Hi Martha,

I will have 4 students and 4 staff coming to our monthly library visit tomorrow. We are looking forward to it!

I have a wonderful story to tell you about what happened after you read *Ada's Violin* to our class. I checked out the book and brought it back to Park School and just happened to mention it to our OT, Elena, in a chance meeting in the hallway. She was excited to hear of such a book and told me she and her husband had taken their little children to see such landfills in Nicaragua where her husband is from, but they did not know of the story of the landfill in Paraguay.

I gave her the book to bring home to read to her children and it had such an impact on them, particularly with her daughter. They ended up buying the book and Elena wants to personally tell you how important it was to her family. All kinds of things related to the book keep coming into their lives. She and her daughter saw a man playing homemade instruments on Sherman in downtown Evanston and her daughter exclaimed that he was just like the children in the book. They are all in Nicaragua now for a family funeral and they will be seeing the landfills there now with new eyes because of you!

Thank you!

- *emails forwarded to Laura Antolin by J.C. Renteria (Look Ms. Laura!!!) in response to Exploring STEAM w/Ms. Laura;*  
*from Amy Small and Matsuo Marti:*

*Great work JEH! When you have a minute, please review the attached report from Erikson. It is very interesting.*

*Amy Small, M.S., M.Ed*

- *JEH Early Childhood Director  
Evanston/Skokie School District 65*

*Hi Amy,*

*After seeing this report, I thought about a STEM family engagement session your team held last year - I was so excited to see families and the young "engineers" working together creating structures. Keep up the good work in engaging families around STEM.*

<https://50.erikson.edu/new-report-outlines-ways-support-high-quality-stem-education/>

*Have a great weekend,*

*Matsuo Marti*

- *Director of STEM*
- *Evanston/Skokie School District 65*
-