



**MEETING MINUTES  
EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Wednesday, May 17, 2017**

6:30 P.M.

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Barbara Friedberg Room

**Members Present:** Tori Foreman, Adam Goodman, Shawn Iles, Margaret Lurie, Vaishali Patel, Benjamin Schapiro, Sandra Smith, Michael Tannen

**Members Absent:** Socorro Clarke

**Staff:** Laura Antolin, Jan Bojda, Isaiah Braithwaite, John Devaney, Karen Danczak Lyons, Renee Neumeier, Miguel Ruiz, Jill Schacter, Wynn Shawver, Jill Skwerski, Jessica Ticus

**Citizens Present:** David Guran, Newland Smith, Chris White, Patrick Gall, Mary Singh

**Presiding Member:** Michael Tannen, President

**CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM** - A quorum was present and President Tannen called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. President Tannen opened by welcoming citizens present, stating his appreciation of their interest in learning about the mission of the Library and its commitment to equity and outreach to the whole community. He encouraged everyone to stay for the entire meeting to understand how equity is “baked into the DNA of the library” and to learn about the financial and administrative issues the Board deliberates. .

**CITIZEN COMMENT** David Guran, who has come before the Board on several occasions, shared his concerns about security at the Library. President Tannen asked him to send the Board a memo so these issues could be addressed. Newland Smith, retired theological librarian, urged the Library to move forward with a racial equity plan like the Episcopal Church is doing. Chris White spoke on behalf of Lesley Williams and encouraged the Board to revoke Ms. William’s suspension. Patrick Gall and his wife, both librarians in Skokie, thanked the Board for their role in making EPL more equitable and recommended an independent equity audit to validate what is already being done at EPL. Mary Singh did not comment.

## CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes of April 19, 2017 Regular Meeting and Approval of Bills and Payroll** –Adam Goodman motioned to approve the minutes of the April Regular Meeting and the April Bills and Payroll. Ben Schapiro seconded and it was approved on a voice vote.

## INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Robert Crown Branch Library Update** – Library Director Karen Danczak Lyons reported that on May 1-2, she, President Tannen, the architects and a small group from the City of Evanston, went to Canada to visit four recreational and library facilities designed by Woodhouse and Tinucci and their Canadian partners. Discussions with staff at these community centers will help inform the design of the Robert Crown Community Center and Library. One immediate need identified is to increase the size of the library's multipurpose meeting space, bringing the total square footage of the library space from 5000 to 6000 square feet. The Library's commitment of \$2.5 million easily covers costs additional expenses. There is a stakeholders meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 18 for community members to view plans and give feedback. The Friends of Robert Crown received their 501 c 3 nonprofit status which allows them to receive gifts. Over \$7.5 million has been pledged to the project.
- B. Cradle to Career (C2C) Update** – Karen Danczak Lyons reported on the Library's continuing partnership with Cradle to Career. EPL continues working with them on program development, like the *Talk, Read, Sign* project. President Tannen reported on a meeting he attended hosted by C2C which explored the impact of "soft" and "hard" trauma on learning. A recent survey that shows that libraries and churches are "trusted organizations" that can play a big role as places families in trauma seek help and information. Miguel Ruiz reported that the language barrier often prevents families from finding free or low cost programs, something EPL is addressing by producing information in English and Spanish.
- C. Illinois Legislation Update** – Karen Danczak Lyons reported the Illinois Senate is promoting legislation that would bar law enforcement from entering state-supported schools or health facilities without a warrant looking for immigrants in the country illegally. The Illinois Library Association is lobbying to include libraries in the list of safe spaces.
- D. Administrative Services Update-** Karen Danczak Lyons reported that after interviewing five candidates, an offer was extended to superbly qualified candidate for the Assistant Director position.

## STAFF REPORT

### A. 2017 Summer Reading Project, Outreach and ABC Boosters Update:

Renee Neumeier introduced Isaiah Braithwaite, a summer employee for the past three years through the Mayor's Youth Employment program. He talked about his role working in Children's and sharing his interest in reading. Jasmin Abraham is also returning this summer after her first year of college to help with the Summer Reading Program. Both Isaiah and Jasmin are part of a strategy that Director Karen Danczak Lyons employed while at Chicago Public Library to expose young people to library profession as a potential career. Renee Neumeier showcased the wide variety of summer programs for birth through adult cataloged in the 2017 Read by Design Summer Reading Program. Jill Schacter delivered 2500 program booklets, which is written in English and Spanish, to all the public and private elementary and middle schools, community centers and gathering spots around Evanston in an effort to market this free program. The Library is partnering with COE camps, YOU, YMCA, Ridgeville Park District and some church camps to integrate the Summer Reading Program into their summer activities. This year, the Library purchased 400 specially selected books that reflect a diversity of characters and authors from all walks of life, to be part of Diverse Book collection at YOU. Jill Skwerski launches the book bike on May 20, and will bring books to free lunch sites, community festivals and farmers markets throughout the summer.

Laura Antolin provided an update on the ABC Booster program that has been growing and evolving since 2012. In partnership with the Youth Job Center, with support from the Evanston Community Foundation, this unique program identifies rising kindergarteners who need extra support in early literacy skills, such as letter recognition, and social emotional skills, like sitting and listening. These children are partnered with a teen "booster" who is employed and trained by the Youth Job Center to work one-on-one for a five week period during the summer. The Library provides material support and training. In 2015 18 children and 9 teens were part of the program. This year, the plan is that 20 boosters will work with 89 children. While this significant program growth, District 65 has identified 180 pre-kindergarteners lacking early literacy skills. With additional funding, this program can continue to expand.

### B. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT-

- **A. Director's Report** - Karen Danczak Lyons attended the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The budget stalemate continues in Springfield and the Secretary of State's budget included a request to return the per capita grant levels to statutory levels President Tannen attended the Library All Staff meeting April 21<sup>st</sup> and talked about the Board's role in Library governance. The 39<sup>th</sup> Jo-Anne Hirshfield Poetry

- Awards were held April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Annual Donor and Volunteer Recognition Event was held at the Library on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **B. Evanston Public Library and Equity of Access, Diversity and Inclusion** – In response to public charges and suggestions that the Library is not equitable, President Tannen and Karen Danczak Lyons met with Rev. Dr. Patricia Efiom, the City’s Equity and Empowerment Coordinator, along with Mayor Tisdahl and Mayor Steve Hagerty, to discuss the depth and breadth of the Library’s programs and commitment to racial equity, inclusion and service to the entire community. President Tannen reinforced that the American Library Association’s stand on inclusion is embedded into everything the Evanston Public Library does. On May 12, President Tannen, Karen Danczak Lyons and Tori Foreman met with Reverend Dr. Michael Nabors and members of OPAL (Organization for Positive Action), who have been questioning the Library’s lack of staff diversity and commitment to equity and inclusion. In the meeting, personnel issues were put aside and the focus was on the program and services delivered by the Library. Board member Tori Foreman, a long time African American resident and ETHS teacher, spoke passionately about the good work done by the Library and recommended that Rev. Nabors come to the Library and see firsthand who is served. The meeting was productive and cleared the air. The Board collectively agreed that there is an issue of public perception. The Board remains open to questioning what can be done better or done differently. President Tannen asked Karen Danczak Lyons to investigate what other public libraries are doing in terms of equity audits. It is more common for public schools to conduct equity audits since they are designed evaluate outcomes based on use of resources. Libraries do not track outcomes due to patron privacy policies. The issue of creating a more diverse staff was discussed. One challenge is that nationally, only 5% of librarians are people of color. Asking applicants for open positions about their race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or other demographic information is illegal. Director Lyons is looking at additional ways to advertise open librarian positions. Recruiting from colleges with a higher percent of student of color is a tactic. The Library has committed scholarship funds to help staff to earn a Master of Library Science degree, the necessary credential for being a librarian. The Illinois Library Association has created a task force to look at issues of equity, diversity and inclusion. Director Lyons has appointed Miguel Ruiz to serve on this committee. Dr. Pat Efiom will be a guest at the June Board meeting. The Library is working with the YWCA on a racial equity workshop for all library staff. This first session was held in April, training will continue this fall.
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  - **BOARD REPORTS**
  - A. Development Committee** –Tabled until June meeting.

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT** Board members are invited to a meeting, *Assisting Evanston's Immigrant and Undocumented Community*, May 23, 4:30 – 6:30 at the Levy Senior Center.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. North Branch Renovation** – The Facilities Committee recommends moving forward with the final phase of repairs to the North Branch which will include repair of masonry, replacement of roof and gutters, replacement of the storefront and vestibule, installation of automatic doors, replacing rear windows and door, asbestos tile removal, and installation of new carpet. Tori Foreman motioned to approve the construction contract with Structures Construction LLC for the amount \$321,334. This expense is in the 2017 budget. Shawn Isles seconded the motion and it was approved by roll call vote. President Tannen voiced his concern that once again, the Evanston Public Library is paying for deferred maintenance on City of Evanston property, which diverts resources from Library programs and services this community needs and deserves.
- B. Main Library Emergency Generator Engineering** – The Facility Committee recommends approving the design contract with Clark-Dietz for a back-up generator for the Main Library. The Library serves as an emergency shelter site for the community and this is necessary equipment should the power grid go down in Evanston. Margaret Lurie motioned to approved, seconded by Ben Schapiro and approved on a roll call vote.
- C. Underground Garage Phase II-** the City Council will vote to approve a contract with Reliable & Associates Construction Company for \$198,000 to repair the Library garage floor and drainage system. The vote is slated for May 22 and funding comes from the City's budget.
- D. Nominating Committee Report-** the Nominating Committee presents the following slate to be voted on at the June meeting: Michael Tannen, President; Margaret Lurie, Vice President; Vaishali Patel, Secretary; Shawn lles and Benjamin Schapiro, Co-Treasurers.
- E. Extension of Jessica Jolly Contract** - Ben Schapiro motioned to extend Project Manager Jessica Jolly's contract for an additional month, seconded by Sandra Smith and approved by a roll call vote. Funds for this contract come from salary savings from the vacant Assistant Director position.
- F. Adjustment of the Agenda:** Ben Schapiro made a motion, seconded by Sandra Smith, to adjust the agenda and table Board Reports and Board Development until the June meeting due to the late hour. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Approved, June 21, 2017

**ADJOURNMENT** –Ben Schapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm, seconded by Sandra Smith and approved by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vaishali Patel, Secretary

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 6:30 pm Evanston Public Library, Barbara Friedberg Room.**

**Library Director's Report  
May 17, 2017**

**Updates:**

- In my role as a Committee member, I attended the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The budget stalemate continues in Springfield and the Secretary of State's budget request was submitted with a 0% overall increase but with a request to return the per capita grant levels to statutory levels. Today in Springfield (May 17) the State Library is convening a meeting to discuss a long term issue across Illinois – how to provide library service to the unserved residents of Illinois. As details of the deliberations become available, I will share the information.
- Our spring All Staff Day on April 21<sup>st</sup> featured a presentation from Board President Michael Tannen on Illinois Library law and the role of the Library Board. President Tannen also expressed the Board's support for the work of the Evanston Public Library staff and the important service every staff member provides every day.

I extend my thanks to Jill Skwerski whose work in 2016 lead us to partner with the YWCA on programming for our two 2017 All Staff Days. Presenting the first of a two part discussion on equity, Donique McIntosh and Eileen Heineman from the YWCA joined us to discuss "Knowing better is doing better?" The YWCA will return in October for our second All Staff Day. I have asked them to provide ways that we can continue our discussions with staff in the months until October.

- Hirshfield Poetry Award presentation – On Sunday, April 23rd we welcomed the winners of the Thirty-Ninth Annual Jo-Anne Hirshfield Memorial Poetry Awards to the main library. This year's Poetry judge Susan Moss was gracious, engaging and supportive of the poets. The winners read their work and were proud to read their poetry. My thanks to the Hirshfield family and to Jess Ticus and Lea Hernandez Solis who organized the contest, identified and engaged the poet and took care of all details to create another beautiful event for our guests.
- The annual Donor and Volunteer Reception held on May 4<sup>th</sup> featured the new Robert Crown Community Center and Library. I am certain that the Development Committee will have additional comments to share during their report at this meeting. I appreciate the hard work of our wonderful staff and the contributions of Jess Ticus, Lea Hernandez Solis, Wynn Shawver, John Devaney and the entire Facilities and Security team, Jan Bojda, Renee Neumeier, Kim Hegelund, Jeff Balch, Connie Heneghan, Justine Janis, Miguel Ruiz, Kate Kniffen, Barb Levie, Mary and Ken Kling, Marty Lyons, Jill Schacter and our entire Board.
- In the months ahead, you will begin to see a new approach to our monthly reports. We will draw attention to outcomes in addition to outputs and relate our work to the elements of our strategic plan in a direct manner that links our work to our expressed goals.

**Assessments, metrics and initiative results:**

Foot traffic:	March, 2017	April, 2017
Main:	34,402	41,249
North:	4,109	4,058
CAMS:	3, 515	3,440
Total:	42,026	48,747

Website visits: March: 52,269 April: 44,632

Overall Computer/Internet Use – all locations: March: 4,787 April: 4,804

Wi-Fi usage: 25,171

**Partnerships and collaborations:**

- My thanks to Wynn Shawver for keeping us informed of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade plans. This year's theme for the Evanston 4th of July is "Evanston's Heroes are America's Heroes: Our First Responders". I invite members of our Board, their families and friends to participate. We plan to invite our security, and EPD and EFD staff that is connected to EPL to march at the front of EPL.
- On May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Board President Michael Tannen and I joined a group that toured four facilities designed and constructed by part of our Robert Crown Community Center and Library architectural team. It was a wonderful opportunity to speak with staff that operate the facilities and see how the adjacencies of program elements work. More information will be shared during our report on Robert Crown.
- On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Board President Michael Tannen, Latino Outreach Librarian Miguel Ruiz and I attended the Cradle to Career Community Dinner. Participants broke into small discussion groups that considered a variety of topics. My group discussed the topic "Every ETHS graduate should have a plan for next steps after graduation." We suggested that the student should draft different versions of their plan which could include college, vocational school, Community college and work. We suggested that the students, their parents and ETHS councilors should then meet and talk about the plan.
- On Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> Staff, library volunteers and community partners participated in the annual Stand Against Racism in front of the main library and at the branches.
- ETHS Wi-Fi Hotspot update – Staff at ETHS has featured the availability of EPL Wi-Fi Hotspots at the high school. As a result, all 15 Hotspots have been checked out and we look forward to reviewing usage patterns during the remainder of the regular school year and over the summer.



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

**Highlights:**

The majority of the Youth Services Team attended our Staff Development Day. A special shout out to our Linda Balla who volunteers every year to help with the hospitality for the day along with Lea Hernandez-Solis and others from the library.

Grants!

Meyer submitted a RAILS grant in conjunction with Leora Siegel from the Botanic Garden for some nature learning materials and joint programming. We should know by next month if it is funded.

Thanks to Kim Kaufmann for receiving a NASA grant that will provide us with some Astronomy and Space programming kits and leading a team to plan and present the accompanying and required programs for our community. This was Kim’s first grant writing experience so she is batting 1000.

Purple Crayon Players provides us with weekly story time and craft, The story time is done by NU kids; book selection & marketing by Meyer, Leigh Kennelly, and Andi Altenbach. This Month they also did a special teaser of their new Play Festival with the playwright in attendance. Photos are at the end of the report.

Battle of the Books has ended for another school year. Kennelly worked in changing back this special collection to the regular collection. Antolin and Kaufmann served as timekeepers at the district wide Battle.

**Training and Professional Development:**

Robin Sindelar applied for and was accepted for a unique learning opportunity as follows: Doors to the World offers professional development experiences and accessible resources that Pre-K to grade 3 educators can use to promote global literacy through critical engagement with culture as represented in children's literature. Through imagination books can become doors that allow children to be part of the world created by the text’s words and images, expanding their view of the world and affirming, diversifying and recasting their social experiences within a global context.

Institute Overview:

This summer institute studies diversity and representation in global children’s literature about and/or from China, Japan, and Korea. Participants will consider the histories and cultures of these nations to contextualize selected children’s books. They also will engage in dialogue with children’s book authors and illustrators, and children’s literature, culture, and pedagogy specialists to design multimodal learning experiences offering opportunities for children to engage with the themes, words, and images of the books. The institute will culminate with teacher-designed mini-units to support classroom inquiry.

A collaboration among the Five College Schools Partnership, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Hampshire College, the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass Amherst) College of Education, the Five College Center for East Asian Studies, this project supports global understanding through literacy development, targeting Pre-K to Grade 3 children in U.S. classrooms.

All of Robin's costs for participation will be covered and it sounds as if she will be bringing valuable learning back to share and put into practice.

Antolin and Altenbach were both enrolled in the Library Journal Coding Program Workshop and worked together on homework for the course by developing a plan for a coding club they hope to start in the fall.

Andi writes, "The class did expose us to a good variety of library coding programs. I found it to be a little focused on things we are lucky to be less relevant at Evanston (in terms of dealing with your lack of resources, securing funding, etc.). But the presenters still were interesting in discussing their own challenges/strategies and the class came with long lists of resources that will be useful for implementing a program like this in the future."

Kennelly attended the Lincoln Story League on April 5 at Elmhurst Public Library and shared dog story time ideas.

Kennelly attended the Literary Salon about the Golden Books 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary presented by Laura Beltchenko on April 9.

Wilson and Kennelly attended Betsy Bird's 100 Best Books of 2017 committee on April 13 focused on Non Fiction

Bojda and Kennelly attended the lunch and learn "Using mindfulness to enhance work" session at Civic Center on April 19 lead by Joyce Marter

Kennelly attended town hall meeting lead by Patricia Efiom –about access to equity empowerment on April 19.

### **Group Visits:**

Meyer presented her monthly Park School story time.

Two classes from Total Child visited on two occasions for story times. Wilson presented.

### **Outreach and Community Engagement:**

Bojda, along with our NU Work-study, Kyndall staffed a table at the fifth ward STEMfest at Family Focus. More on Antolin's work on the Fest in her outreach report.

Kaufmann presented her monthly story time at Doorway to Learning

Wilson visited Total Child for story times on two occasions

### **Other Activities:**

Wilson added five booklists to the website, updating our Illinois Children's choice awards. Here is a link to [Great 2016 Books for Kids Grades 4-8](#).

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

**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: 74 (60** children and **14** staff); 7 classes- infants, toddlers, preschoolers

**Teen Baby Nursery story time: Total: 12 (8** children and **4** staff); 1 class – toddlers  
The infants took a walk right when I arrived and came back with everyone asleep so I spent a fair amount of time with the toddlers, reading and singing. Both rooms received new Book Bags and I took back the ones from the month prior.

**Learning & Growing story time: Total: cancelled**  
I brought materials to make butterflies (foam craft and chromatography) but we ended up cancelling this session because only one family showed up and they were 20 minutes late. The weather was rainy and that might have explained why no one came.

**STEM at Doorway to Learning (Family Center): Total: 22 (16** kids, **6** staff)  
This was the third 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. The program was about blowing air and blowing bubbles. I brought straw rockets for the children to blow; tinted water drops on waxed paper to blow with fat and thin straws; and bubbles to blow and pop. This was a really successful program in both classrooms. All of the children participated in all of the activities and the teachers liked working with the materials. The kids were particularly interested in blowing the water on the paper – watching it move and join together with other droplets and also using their hands to move the droplets around. The older classroom loved the bubbles and using bubble wands. We didn't get to bubbles in the younger classroom but instead focused on the water droplets and the straw rockets.

**Exploring STEAM w/Ms. Laura at JEH: Total: 15 ( 9** children, **5** adults, **1** staff)  
To celebrate Week of the Young Child I presented a program on fluids and chemical reactions in the evening. The weather had been bad (lots of rain) and the program wasn't as well attended as the daytime ones have been but the families that came, were engaged. We had three different tables of activities: making slime (polymers); making "lava lamps" and making ooblek (non-Newtonian fluid). Everyone participated in each activity. Although there were recipes on

each table, not everyone followed them closely. I was impressed by the families and children who were intent on re-making their slime until it came out the consistency that they wanted.

The families made

- Slime using white glue, water, food coloring and borax. The kids did some of the measuring, most of the kneading and all of the coloring.
- Lava lamps using water, vegetable oil, food coloring and alka seltzer tablets. This was a really fun activity for everyone.
- Ooblek using cornstarch and water and food coloring. The consistency of this fluid is very different from everything else – it acts as both a liquid and a solid. The families spent a lot of time at this table and everyone took home their ooblek in a container.

**PACT Activity at JEH: Total: 25 (13 children, 12 adults, 1 staff)**

I read books about butterflies and plants, we sang songs and the families worked together to decorate craft foam butterflies and a “growing” flower craft. The families were all engaged in the activities.

**Book Buddies at Reba Early Learning Center: Total: 80 (48 children, 6 staff, 26 NU students)**

- We had 3 sessions of Book Buddies in April
- 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.

**Communityworks: Total: 252 board books**

Leigh Kennelly selected board books from Scholastic Face and I delivered 84 board books to Home visitors at the Family Center, IWSE and Family Focus. This is part of our Communityworks grant.

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

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

The kids played with Squishy Circuits

**Fleetwood 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Afterschool: Total: 9 (9 kids)**

By popular demand, the kids made slime.

**Dawes Afterschool K-5th grade: Total: 28 (25 kids, 3 staff members)**

I read two books and then the kids made straw rockets (pipettes, straws and paper) and butterflies. Some of the kids made butterfly rockets using the pipettes.

**Washington Afterschool K-5<sup>th</sup> grade:** **Total: 28 (25 kids, 2 staff members)**  
I read two books and then the kids made straw rockets (pipettes, straws and paper) and butterflies. Some of the kids made butterfly rockets using the pipettes.

**Robert Crown After School Adventures:** **Total: 29 (25 kids, 4 staff members)**  
I collected books but didn't check out any new ones to kids. We made "lava lamps".

**K-Tours:** **Total: 834 students; 142 books claimed;**  
**385 library cards**  
Park School is our last school and is scheduled for May 2.

**D65 Refugee Re-registration:** **Total: 10 interactions; 5 library cards**  
Miguel and I manned a table during this event at D65. We made 5 library cards for refugee families but it was largely a health event for these families (registering for school and getting the appropriate shots) and there wasn't a lot of traction at our table.

**5<sup>th</sup> Ward STEM Fest:**  
I was on the planning committee for the STEM Fest (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) and did set-up and take down. I organized our booth in the hall (Jan and our work study student, Kyndal, manned the table) – we demonstrated our vinyl cutter, had a building challenge (cups, craft sticks and wooden cubes) and Squishy Circuits for kids to experiment with. I also ran two engineering sessions for K-1<sup>st</sup> grade – building an umbrella to keep a stuffed dog dry. It was a big success with at least 160 families in attendance. My sessions had 18 and 25 people (kids and adults) and were really innovative.

**Y.O.U. Elementary School Book Check-outs**  
This month was a pick-up month – no checkouts of books, just collecting. We're working on finding missing titles.

**Other/Connections:**

**Community Engagement Celebration at Northwestern University: Total: 325 (300+ students, 25 staff)**

This event was hosted by Leadership and Community Engagement at Northwestern University. The partnerships listed below were asked to come and speak briefly together to primarily a student audience. The students were asked to answer the question, "How have I grown and changed as a result of my involvement in this partnership?" The community leaders were asked to answer the question, "How does your program/organization benefit from the partnership with Northwestern students?" Mary Kling and I came together. For me it was a great opportunity to highlight the importance and impact of Book Buddies and how essential our partnership is to making this program possible.

*Project Soar (Elise Roug and Kieara Reed)*  
*Evanston Library / Delta Chi (Matthew Xu and Mary Kling)*  
*Book Buddies (Caroline Spikner and Laura Antolin)*

*Books and Breakfast (Kim Hammock and Anthony Pierce)*  
*Allow Good (Karin Scott and Imani Wilson)*  
*Gale School (Augustine Emuwa and Ben Levey / Maddie Rees)*

**IMLS STEMEx grant program:**

**Index Card Tower Engineering Challenge Total: 9 families (11 children)**

We held our last STEMEx expert program, *Index Card Tower Engineering Challenge* on Saturday, April 11 at Levy Center from 10:00-11:30am. 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 Kirby Callam and asked him to contact families. We had 9 families participating with 11 children.

This last iteration was particularly interesting – we had good space on the stage at Levy Center and decided that families could begin building as soon as they arrived and that the narrative and discussion would happen midway through the program. That seemed to work well – the kids spoke more and had more context for their comments as they were all already working on their projects. The building was the most interesting, as well, and there was a lot of interaction among the families.

I began working with Nicolas Prieto from Jugando con la ciencia on the next set of programs and invited him to come to this program to get a feel for what we were doing. He'll be offering a build a balloon powered car program in May and June (at Fleetwood and the Library).

**EC2C Parent/Caregiver Empowerment Retreat:**

We currently have 396 people signed up for text messages/emails! We had a 4 hour retreat to begin to work through Result Based Accountability which is a different way of thinking and approaching outcomes and measures in collective impact. It was a good use of our time and an interesting process to begin. All of the action teams will be meeting to do this work and then we will find where our work overlaps and possibly adjust the focus of our teams.

**EC2C SEED Training:**

I began the first of monthly 3-hour trainings for Seeking Educational Equity & Diversity. I'm looking forward to this work though I realize that it will be difficult work to do. The curriculum looks really impactful.

<http://nationalseedproject.org/>

**YMCA Healthy Kids Day:**

**Total: 150 interactions**

This is the third year I've had a table at this resource fair. I brought some activities for kids-making airplanes using straws and paper, making paper butterflies, coloring bookmarks- as well as about 180 books to give away and EPL bags. I interacted with a lot of families, gave away about 45 bags and 170 books and made one library card. I brought library information and talked with families about our programming.

**Dia de los ninos/dia de los libros:**

I felt that this program was a little less successful this year. Miguel and I worked together to decide on the craft and he secured the materials. I asked Abuelo Isidro and Manuel Aleman to be our storytellers (they both had done a good job at the Dia de los muertos program in October) and unfortunately, Manuel was about 20 minutes late. Once he arrived, he was a lively storyteller. The audience for that portion was relatively small – about 15 people. Miguel had planned to be part of this program but was called away to another program at the same time at St. Nick’s so I ran the craft.

The craft was successful and pulled in families in the room (about 25 people) but the whole event was smaller than anticipated and didn’t bring in many Latino families. This makes me question if this kind of programming is really what families are looking for and I think it would be worthwhile to investigate that further.

**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*

PACT Activity: Flowers and Butterflies- JEH





PACT Activity: Flowers and Butterflies- JEH



Exploring STEAM w/Ms. Laura at JEH – Slime, Lava Lamps, Ooblek





Family Focus Afterschool – K-1<sup>st</sup> grade



Squishy Circuits

Family Focus Afterschool – K-1<sup>st</sup> grade



Squishy Circuits

Dawes Aftercare K-5 grade



Straw rockets & butterflies

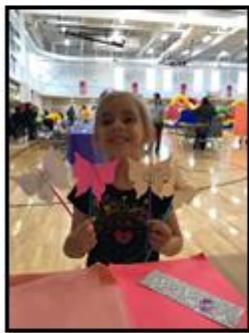


Washington Afterschool K-5th grade



Strew rockets & butterflies

YMCA Healthy Kids Resource Fair



YMCA Healthy Kids Resource Fair



YMCA Healthy Kids Resource Fair



YMCA Healthy Kids Resource Fair



Robert Crown After School Adventures



Meson Jer Leve Lamps



Robert Crown After School Adventures



Mason Jar Lava Lamps

STEMeX Engineering Challenge 4-8-17 (Iteration 3)



STEMeX Engineering Challenge 4-8-17 (Iteration 3)



STEMeX Engineering Challenge 4-8-17 (Iteration 3)



STEMeX Engineering Challenge 4-8-17 (Iteration 3)



Fifth Ward STEM Fest – Building an Umbrella to keep a Dog Dry



Fifth Ward STEM Fest – Building an Umbrella to keep a Dog Dry



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Fifth Ward STEM Fest – Building an Umbrella to keep a Dog Dry





Fifth Ward STEM Fest – EPL Booth in the main hall



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

Community Engagement efforts are growing and expanding as Miguel and Eduardo settle into their roles at EPL. Here is a summary of April activities:

- Miguel and I attended a Community Partnership Award luncheon hosted by Connections. We were surprised and honored by Connections with an invitation and recognition for, "our loyal support in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in our community, we ask that you join us for lunch and shared admiration. Collaborations like ours are rare, and we look forward to taking time to honor our shared commitment and hard work." (Award in KDL's office.)
- On the topic of Connections, I was also asked to participate in their strategic planning process. As such, I've met with a member of their team to discuss ways in which our organizations partner and to shed light on possible future collaborations across our services. Currently, we host regular weekly visits from Connections Outreach Specialist, Tito Vazquez, who is available to anyone experiencing homelessness and seeking information about support.
- Along with the Evanston Vet Center and Northwest Compass, we were partners in a satellite food and book distribution for Vets. In total, 100 boxes of food were provided by Northwest Compass to any Vet or family member who expressed need. We had at least 2 library patrons who were recipients of this distribution.
- As noted by Eduardo, we will be stepping away from tech classes at Perlman as of the end of May due to no attendance. We will pilot a 3 month tech class schedule at the Vet Center on Monday mornings. The pilot will run June 5 through August 28 and is open to any Vet or family member in need of basic computer instruction.
- Work continues with regard to Livability as we plan library involvement in experiential pop-ups, data collection and with the grandparent connection group. Look for EPL participation in the pop-ups at the following events in the coming months: Farmers Market(s), Custer Street Fair, World Arts and Music Fest, Bike the Ridge, and CommUNITY Picnic.

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

April efforts were directed towards continuing our outreach efforts to Latina/o families through the D65 school districts. Additionally, it focused on organizing and planning May events.

- The Evanston Public Library hosted the newly formed Latinx Business Alliance in our meeting space. Members were introduced to the Library, as we continued our partnership with the City and Latina/o businesses to support their efforts.
- I visited Willard Elementary School on April 10<sup>th</sup> for a 4 hour outreach event, where I conducted Storytime for all TWI classrooms, reaching 60+ students. During the event, we actively engaged the students in Spanish reading, and informed them about the benefits of visiting the library.
- At the request of our Technology Trainer, I visited the D65/EPL Spanish language technology class to introduce myself, as well as library services. We received insightful feedback regarding library services and how to communicate programming and services to participants.
- Along with Laura Antolin, I participated in the D65 Refugee/Immigrant Re-Registration event. We reached 30+ community members and registered 5 new library cards.
- I met with Cradle to Career staff as a formal introduction to my role, and officially registered to be a member of their SEED cohort; an 8 month cohort with Evanston community leaders to discuss issues of identity, equity, and diversity.
- I attended the D65 All-Librarian April meeting to introduce myself to our counterparts in the school district.
- I attended the DPOE Immigration Policy forum at St. Nicholas Church, where a panel including our newly elected Mayor Steve Hagerty and Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, discussed the state of our city and county regarding immigration.

**From Eduardo:**

**Perlman:**

- In the month of April we saw a zero percent attendance at Perlman, despite efforts of engaging with residents and distributing flyers to each and every home.
- Effective June 1st Jill and I have decided that it would be in the best interest of the program to take a break for the summer at Perlman and shift our focus to other facilities that may require our services. If an interest in the Computer Classes resurfaces at Perlman we will look into possibly bringing it back for the fall.

**Blake:**

- Microsoft Word (Letters, Flyers, Greeting Cards)
- Computer Basics
- Using Android and Apple phones
- Online Shopping
- Paying Bills
  - We continued to see our regular group of 6 residents with the addition of two new members that joined the class
  - We continued to work on the basics from the month of March to help patrons improve on the fundamental skills of using the computer



- I spoke with the patrons about the Youth Tech Corps organization that donates refurbished desktops to residents of Evanston who may need one. We have received interest from 5 residents and we are waiting to hear back from the Youth Tech team.

**Primm:**

- Searching and Applying for Jobs
- Transferring Files from SD card to Computer
- Gmail
  - We continue to see the same 2 students attend the class every week. We managed to have 2 new students show up during the last week of April. After explaining the program to them and helping them start with computers, they showed interest in the class and we expect to see them for the upcoming month of April.
  - I also spoke to residents about the Youth Tech Corps organization and received interest from 2 students.
  - I was invited on April 28th to Primm Towers "Meet and Greet" event to meet the new residents of the housing community. I spoke to everyone about myself, the program and all other services offered by the Evanston Public Library. I printed out flyers of the Computer Classes taught at Primm Towers and Jill Skwerski brought flyers of all other services provided by the Library to distribute amongst everyone at the event.

**Teen services highlights from Renee Neumeier include:**

**Summer Reading:**

- Our summer reading booklets were translated into Spanish and sent to the printer, 11,000 copies were ordered. Like last year they will be distributed at the schools both private and public in Evanston. Jill Schacter coordinated the proofing and printing process. We were really impressed with the work of Fish Eye, the new printing and graphic design firm we're working with.
- Training has been set up for all EPL staff to learn how to use our new summer reading platform, Read Squared. Read Squared staff will be leading several webinars for staff.
- The reading log was designed, revised and sent to print.
- Banners and stickers were designed and sent to print
- The books for the Everybody Reads collections that will be donated to Y.O.U. have been purchased.
- Received grant from Rotary to support summer reading

**Teen Services Highlights:**

- The teen services team welcomed Julia Pyatetsky on board as our new full time teen librarian. Julia has already jumped and has been offering programming ideas and

suggestions. Julia has gotten circulation training, an adult services orientation, Wordpress training and is scheduled to attend Beyond Diversity training in May.

- Kevin Kelley was accepted to U of I Graduate School and will be pursuing his MLIS this fall.
- Renee Neumeier had presentation proposal accepted for ILA. She will be presenting on middle school and public library partnerships with Kefira Phillipe (Nichols), Amy Odwarka (Haven) and Tracy Hubbard (Bessie Rhodes)
- Julia Pyatetsky had a presentation proposal accepted for ILA focusing on the importance of including diverse titles when book talking even if your community is lacking diversity.
- National Science Foundation preproposal with CIERA (NU) was accepted and we are now working on a full proposal with NU taking the lead. We are very excited about being involved with this program about the training we'll received that will allow us to provide more in depth STEM programming to groups underrepresented in STEM fields.

### **Programming:**

Teen Advisory Board:

Justine Janis, our social worker, came by our April meeting and great with the teens. Justine met with the teens to talk about what she does and can and to listen about issues they're concerned about. Justine talked with them about school, possible peace circles that we could do in the Loft and support groups that could help them with they're stress level.

### **Community Engagement and Outreach:**

Gender/Sexuality Alliance:

Kevin Kelley has been working on starting a Gender and Sexuality Alliance at EPL for teens. We are going to kick off this new group with a Pride Party in June and then two meetings a month through the rest of the year. Kevin has been reaching out to existing GSA groups in Evanston. He has met with the groups at Haven and King Arts so far and is scheduled to meet with ETHS and also with Y.O.U.

During his school visits Kevin asked students what the process of starting a GSA looked like at their school, what they wished to accomplish at their home GSA's, and what they would ideally want their public library GSA to look like. The students seemed VERY excited at the idea of having a library GSA, they all expressed interest in coming, and they all seemed very interested in two of the three functional types of GSAs there are.

- Social – They seemed most interested in meeting kids from other schools that were like them, and they wanted the loft to act as an epicenter for connection in that way.

- Activism – The kids also wanted to use the library GSA to do activism around town. They expressed interest in hosting a booth at the Race Against Hate. They also wanted to host an actual Evanston Youth Pride parade in the future.

The social worker at Haven Middle School connected Kevin also connected me with Dawn Ravine (Sexuality Education Manager at Y.O.U), Nat Duran (Youth Engagement Manager at Illinois Safe Schools Alliance) and Sarah Davis (Outreach coordinator at North Shore Response Center). Kevin is in the process of setting up meetings with all three of them.

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

#### **Programming:**

- Got all supplies together for programming at main and branches
- Put instructions together for programming at main and branches
- Helped to plan and lead homeschool Tuesday sessions

#### **Community Engagement:**

##### **ETHS:**

- Working with Traci Brown Powell to run some summer sessions of her ETHS book group at the Loft or at other community locations. Looking at best days, times and titles for students interested
- Provided books for Women's Empowerment Conference
- Working with reading specialist on helping plan and provide books for ETHS freshmen read of The Drowned City.

##### **D65:**

- Continue to work on developing curriculum for summer camp with D65 math coach Kelly Rooney. Have students signed up from Chute Middle School, several from the ELL program
- Have summer reading book talks scheduled at 4 of the 5 middle schools, also have them scheduled at ETHS
- Recommended summer reading list completed
- Finished reading all of the titles on the D65/EPL summer reading list around 25 titles
- Park school visited twice
- Prepared book talks and padlet for Haven LA teacher presentation

Y.O.U.

- Scheduled regular visits with Y.O.U. middle school groups, Wednesday teen services staff will present programming there and Fridays they may bring students to EPL

Family Focus:

- In discussion to bring a literacy based program there on Tuesdays during the summer

EvanSTEM:

- 5<sup>th</sup> Ward STEM fest was a huge success, Laura Antolin represented EPL
- Began discussing possibility of having a STEM conference for teachers and out of school providers who have attended EvanSTEM's STEM PDs and what to share their work. EPL may host.
- Chicago Botanic Garden met with providers shared the different programs and services they provide, very impressive hoping we can partner with them in the future

**Summer Reading:**

- Worked on proofing booklet, deciding how to distribute
- Met about reading log design
- Setup trainings for the back end for staff with Read Squared Staff

**Restructuring:**

- Rolled our new public desk form, overall there haven't been any issues, some staff were concerned about the number of questions, but have adapted
- Rolled out the task summary form for staff, overall no issues, looking forward to seeing what the data looks like

**Professional Development:**

- Helped facilitate Tinker meetings at Schaumburg Public Library, this meeting focused on science programming, I invite staff from NU's Science In Society Research Center to talk about high quality science programming the NGSS and student driven learning
- I submitted two proposals to PLA one focused on community engagement for teen services and one focused on taking STEM programming to the next level by aligning them to NGSS standards and making the student driven/inquiry based

**Neighborhood Services highlights from Connie Heneghan include:**

**PROGRAMS**

**Nursery Rhymes**

A mother and daughter sing nursery rhymes as part of our early literacy effort in April to remind parents of the importance of singing and particularly singing nursery rhymes to their young children.



### Senior Spelling Bee

The 2017 Senior Spelling Bee took place at Gibbs Morrison. Gary Wisby and Lewis Koppel will represent Evanston at the Regional Spelling Bee on June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Levy Center. C Heneghan was the timekeeper.



**Word Salad** Although it was a small group, for poetry month, participants created brief poems like individual salads adding to the nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs selected from salad bowls to create a word salad.



The **flying monkey** played with his **ball happily**.

**Hilarious mountain pig** **thankfully** **thinks teachers** are **fantastic!**

**Sleep** in an **oddly shaped tent** on a **gentle**

The **alligator** **curiously** and **peacefully** walked in the forest to **eat**.

The **antelope** **imagined** a **witch laughing angrily**.

The **amazing, wonderful, terrific,** and **awesome** Cubs are going to win!



The **charming librarian** opens books and minds **effortlessly**.

The **incredible movie** made me **laugh** but I still **talked merrily** through it all.

The **brilliant cat** ran to the **beach** to **wash** herself.

Other programs included Birds, Birds, Birds with Josh Engel at both branches, two new participants in the CAMS book group led by Bridget Petrites, and Don Quixote with Nancy Engel at North Branch.



C Heneghan brought books to the Foster Senior Group three Wednesdays in April

### Recommendations

*Stella Bain* (Fiction Shrev.A) Barb L  
*Hillbilly Elegy* (305.562 Vance.J) Barb L  
*The Girl You Left Behind* (Fiction Moyes.J) Barb L  
*Consequences* (Fiction Livel.P) Nancy E  
*The Expatriats* (Fiction Lee.J) Nancy E  
*Taking Flight* (YA B Depri.M Depri.M) Nancy E  
*Instructions for the End of the World* (electronic collection)

### Staff Changes

We are sad to say that we will be losing two valued staff members: **Ariel Erbacher** who will be completing her MLIS and joining the Cornell Law School Library staff in Ithaca, New York, and **Aaron Kinskey** who will be attending graduate school at Marquette University in Milwaukee in their History MA program. Both are branch clerks.

### Adult Services highlights from Heather Norborg include:

In addition to continuing to manage our popular Free Book Distribution program (Jeff Balch), Books on Wheels program (Julie Rand), test proctoring program (Deb Winarski), answering over 2000 patron reference, readers advisory and technology questions, selecting materials for the collection and writing blog posts and reviews, in April, Adult Services staff hosted 80 events, with over 1000 people in attendance!

Some highlights include:

- On April 15, 120 people enjoyed The Greg Ward Quartet as part of librarian Ben Remsen's Birdhouse Jazz Series. Ben also hosted his monthly Tabletop Board Games and Book Reports for GrownUps in April.
- Library Assistant Kim Hiltwein screened two very popular After Hours films this month: Fences (67 attendees) and Moonlight (50 attendees). In April, Kim was also busy in her role as one of the judges for the Society of Midland Author's Best Adult Nonfiction category (the winning book was "The Defender" by Ethan Michaeli).
- We had 126 student interactions at technology help sessions and classes taught by Tech Trainer Eduardo Gomez, librarian Deb Winarski and our wonderful volunteers in the Main Library. Eduardo had 42 student interactions at technology classes outside the library. This month he started a 6 week series of Basic Computer Classes at Family Focus - a new location for these classes. Next month he will do a trial series of classes with Jill Skwerski at the Evanston Vet Center.
- During Money Smart Week, librarian Kathleen Lanigan hosted 3 great events: Investment Outlook and Opportunities (18 attendees), Social Security--Your Questions Answered (25 attendees) and Understanding Medicare (55 attendees). She also organized a training session for staff on research database Mergent Intellect.
- Librarian Lorena Neal was extra busy this month, organizing the popular Law at the Library and ongoing free legal advice programs, hosting our monthly partnership with Northwestern's MENA (which this month had two programs: a discussion with Joel Beinin, Author of "Workers and Thieves: Labor Movements and Popular Uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt" and a musical performance by Salaam), and hosting two seminars on housing issues in coordination with Open Communities.

- 47 people attended the April 30 Poetry Reading by Aozora Brockman & Anita Olivia Koester, hosted by librarian Russ Johnson. This was the first event we hosted for this year's Evanston Literary Festival, which continues into May. Russ is very busy coordinating the library's involvement with the festival this month!
- We had 14 book discussions in April, including nine meetings of Mission Impossible: Don Quixote and the first meetings of a new group for adults with developmental disabilities. This new group is a partnership with The Center for Independent Futures. It meets weekly in the Small Meeting Room and is hosted by library assistant Jeny Wasilewski and librarian Deb Winarski who each week take turns reading a section of the book aloud to attendees and then discussing the section together with the attendees.
- Jeny Wasilewski and librarian Julie Rand also hosted a screening of the documentary "Love Between the Covers," followed by a panel discussion with 3 local romance authors and a DePaul professor who teaches about romance novels (~30 attendees).

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

**Items Added**

Adult at Main=1660

Adult at North=63

Adult at CAMS=7

**Total adult items=1730**

Juvenile at Main=1762

Juvenile at North=84

Juvenile at CAMS=103

**Total juv items=1949**

YA at Main=330

YA at North=86

YA at CAMS=80

**Total YA items=496**

**Total items added to collection in April 2017=4175**

**April 2017**

**Carts Ordered:**

Titlesource 360:

Evanston RW Adult Fiction: 2208.56

Evanston RW Adult Nonfiction: 5359.31

Evanston PL Fiction- Mystery & Detective: 866.26

Fantasy: 665.21

Romance: 587.73

Urban: 85.46

Main AY Fiction: \$551.76

Main AY Nonfiction: 85.23

Popular Paperbacks: 14.26

Poly: 219.92

Travel: 421.48



Non-CLS Purchases: 1636.44  
Non-CLS Most Wanted: 292.01  
Most Wanted: 330.47  
North: 406.56  
Rotary: 40.44  
BB ADULT RE-ORDER- FEB(1): \$187.63  
Misc: 1208.90  
Middle School Books ordered for Renee - \$1478.94  
Amazon: \$397.80  
Overdrive: \$1230.00  
Audiobooks: \$781.09

**Patron Requests:**

Received 36 patron book requests for the month of April. Will purchase 22 of the titles suggested.  
Received 3 patron audiobook requests for the month of April. Will purchase 1 of the titles suggested.  
Received 1 patron ebook request for the month of April. Will purchase 1 of the titles suggested.

**Donations:**

Adult Gift Books Added to the Collection: 131  
Adult Gift CDs Added to the Collection: 40  
Adult Gift DVDs Added to the Collection: 100  
Grubby Books Replaced by Gift Books: 42  
Grubby CDs Replaced by Gift CDs: 1

**Weeding:**

Books Sent to Repair: 10  
Audiobooks Sent to Repair: 4  
Most Wanted Titles Weeded: 37  
Most Wanted Titles Added to the Circ Collection: 3  
Damaged Books Weeded: 113  
CDs Weeded: 2  
Audiobooks Weeded: 2  
Old Editions of New Books on Standing Orders Pulled: 11  
Books Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc. : 7  
Audiobooks Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc.:  
Books from the "Lost" report replaced: 16  
Audiobooks from the "Lost" report replaced: 1  
Grubby Transfer Titles Weeded: 37

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

Weeded: 3

**Displays**

First Floor – Earth Day Every Day  
4/1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Front – Evanston Literary Festival  
4/1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Back – Photography  
Staff: Barb

**Roundtable Pieces (Betsy):**

4/12 – Evanston Literary Festival  
4/13 – Summer Reading Recommendations  
4/26 – Illinois Reads

**Misc:**

4/5 – Ordered 114 books for Renee Neumeier for her Everybody Reads Middle School Program. These books were paid for out of the adult programming fund. They will not be processed or cataloged.

**Literary Salons:**

Sunday, April 9, 12 pm, Community Meeting Room, Main Library

**Evanston Literary Salon: The Historical and Hysterical Perspective of U. S. History, Through the Lens of Golden Books**

It has been 75 years since the Little Golden Book first appeared in stores. These books now considered "nuggets of nostalgia" placed a 25-cent book into the hands of millions of children. This historical, hysterical and researched presentation will share how these books now create a lens to the history of the United States. We will explore how they became part of our U.S. World War efforts, their influence on television, as well as the importance placed on the changing views of American civil rights and the changing American family. Children's literature and the picture book were never the same after these legacies of literature appeared in supermarkets and yes, Marshal Fields 75 years ago! Bringing examples from her extensive collection, Laura Beltchenko will help you time travel through Golden Book history and to explore how children learned to enjoy reading and learning from these vintage American icons.

Laura Beltchenko is a thirty-four year veteran educator. Her career in public education includes classroom teacher, reading specialist, as well as district level administration. She is an adjunct faculty member in the Reading and Language Arts Department and a member of the Center for Teaching through Children's Books at National Louis University in Illinois. She was awarded the Illinois North Suburban Library System Library Advocate of the Year for her advocacy of school and public libraries and was also named the Lake County Illinois Innovative Educator by the Illinois Principals Association. As an advocate for literacy development of teachers and administrators, she held the post of president of the Illinois Suburban Council of the International Reading Association for four years.

**Volunteer highlights from Mary Kling include:**

**Activity for April, 2017**

**Mary Kling, Volunteer Coordinator**

- Interviewed eight new volunteers
- Checked references of four volunteers
- Received requests for additional volunteers from Staff (Circulation, Children's, Free Book Distribution, Computer Instructor, Communication)
- Placed new volunteers in Community Service (2), Concierge (1), Circulation (4), Donated Books Sorter (3) and Children's (1)
- Monitored Volunteer Evanston website for referrals and verification of hours logged by volunteers
- Met with 15 current volunteers

- Updated volunteer information in Raiser’s Edge
- Participated in CVAA webinar: “Developing Position Descriptions”
- Participated in VolunteerPro webinar: “Background Checks”
- Attended CALVAN meeting at Arlington Heights Memorial Hospital
- Attended “Celebrate Community Engagement” at Northwestern to highlight EPL’s partnership with Delta Chi
- Attended staff development meeting at EPL

**Upcoming events of note:**

May 20<sup>th</sup>: 11:00 – noon, Friedberg Storytelling Room: Code Club - Each month we’ll look at different kinds of secret codes used through history, learn how to crack them and make a useful coding device to send secret messages of our own! In May we’ll look at how to break a code!

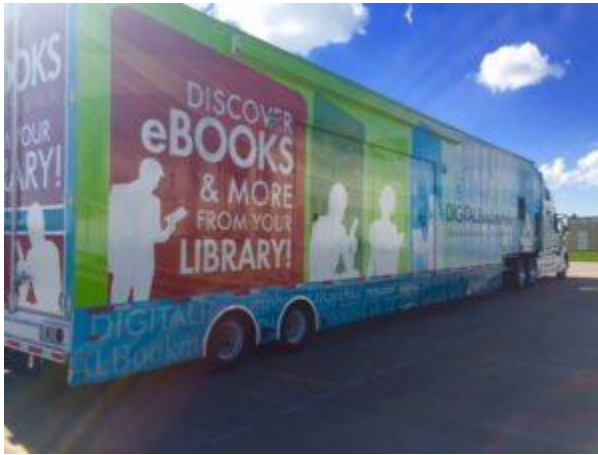
**EPL and MENA Present – The Afterlives of Torture: Executive Power versus International Law in the Age of Trump**

Start date May 22, 2017 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Venue Community Main

Evanston Public Library and Northwestern University’s Middle East and North African Studies (MENA) present the latest in our continuing series of lectures regarding the culture, politics, religion, and society of the Middle East and North Africa. This evening’s speaker will be Lisa Hajjar of the University of California

Digital Bookmobile Visits Evanston June 12



The [Digital Bookmobile National Tour](#) is making a stop at the Evanston Public library on June 12 from 1-7 pm in the parking lot directly east of the Library. Traveling coast to coast, the mobile exhibit will provide an interactive experience for readers of all ages to explore eBooks and audiobooks available at the Library. In this high-tech bookmobile, visitors can learn how to borrow digital books, stop at the Gadget Gallery to explore a variety of devices, talk with eReading experts and so much more. Tours are free and open to the community.

“This is a great opportunity for Evanston’s readers to explore the world of eBooks, learn more about what is available to them through the library, and get their questions answered,” said Library Director Karen Danczak Lyons.

Library statistics show that readers checked out more than 86,000 digital items in 2016. The total number of circulated items was 1,080,109.

The 42-foot long Digital Bookmobile is equipped with broadband Internet-connected PCs, free Wi-Fi connection, touchscreen monitors, premium sound systems, and a variety of portable media players, all of which will help visitors explore Evanston Public Library’s digital collections. In the Gadget Gallery, readers can explore all popular devices including iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phones and tablets, Chromebook™ and Kindle®. Interactive learning stations encourage visitors to search the library’s digital media collection and go through the borrowing process. Beginners can get a one-on-one tutorial from technical experts.

Library readers can take advantage of the featured services to borrow eBooks and audiobooks for free, 24/7 with no late fees on the library’s website or use the OverDrive app to read or listen right in the browser. A valid library card unlocks the opportunity for readers to explore the extensive digital catalog featuring bestselling authors, new releases, classic titles, and much more. Whether listening to an audiobook or indulging in an eBook, titles will automatically expire and return to the libraries digital collection at the end of the lending period. Digital reading has never been easier as readers can sync libraries, bookmarks, highlights, and reading positions across mobile devices.

The Digital Bookmobile is powered by OverDrive, the industry-leading digital reading platform

to more than 36,000 libraries & schools worldwide.

**Excerpts from patron feedback:**

From Neighborhood Services:

Comments made to Nancy Engel:

"You are the reason we come to the library"

"I don't know what I'd do without North Branch"

"You're not open Thursdays? Have there been budget cuts?"

From Wilson:

A father told me that when he asked his 4 year old daughter would she rather have ice cream or come to the library on a Thursday night she jumped up and down and said "Library! Library! Library!" When she was in the children's room she told me that the library is her favorite place in the world.

From Meyer:

A "thanks for the Songs": Ruby's mom, a first time mom in the Infant Rhymetime class, thanked me personally for supplying her with so many songs." She said she sings to Ruby during her feedings, even most of her morning. Ruby's mom said she would never know so many songs without having been to both Infant Rhymetime and The Young and the Restless.

From: Sindelar:

A new session of Parent-Child Workshop has begun. We've got what feels like a brand new group of toddlers to share experiences with. It's an amazing group, incredibly diverse. The number of languages spoken in that room Saturday mornings would do the United Nations proud! We tried a new craft at the latest session – wool felting. This involved piecing wool roving together, followed by lots of squishing in warm, soapy water! It was a big hit!

One patron that stood out for me was a woman who needed book recommendations for a purchasing project – she was in charge of purchasing books for the battered woman's shelter at the YWCA. It was a rewarding project to work on with Jessica Iverson. It felt good to contribute a list of diverse books to be of use by the most vulnerable in our community.

From Altenbach:

One Wednesday night this month I worked with Linda, she was putting her Kindergarten teacher skills to use helping an ESL second grader who was really struggling with a homework assignment. She was really going the extra mile helping him and his parents and I think they really needed someone who was able to do that for them in that moment, so I think she deserves a mention.

A mom came in and asked for books that would help her talk about sex ed/similar issues with her seven-year-old, who had begun asking questions. I took her over to the appropriate nonfiction section and *What Makes a Baby*, the Cory Silverberg picture book that talks about reproduction and birth in a gender neutral way. Laura had showed me that book when it came in and we talked about it, and then I was able to give it to this mom and we had a good

conversation about it and she told me it was exactly what she was looking for. I thought it was a good example of the way our department discusses and shares titles makes us all more complete resources for the public, because I am not sure I would have known about that book on my own. And I also think that may have been a difficult book for that mom to just stumble upon in her own research (she did not seem to quite have the right words for exactly what she was looking for until she saw this book), so I was glad I could share it with her.

A mom came in this past weekend looking for book recommendations for her six-year-old who was a precocious reader, and approached Robin and I with that by saying she had “a question for the smart brains of the library.” (which she meant about the department/building as a whole, not us specifically). She definitely appreciated the help we give her keeping her daughter supplied with titles even though she’s a little tricky. (She rejected *Anna Hibiscus* that day because it was “too sweet,” but walked away happy with *Franny K. Stein.*)

From Kennelly:

One of our Chinese families was unfamiliar with a crossword puzzle homework assignment. So I worked with the student and his Dad helping them to figure out the clues and learning how to fill in this type of assignment. It is truly amazing that this young man will be fluent in two languages. He works very hard to improve his English language skills.

From Laura Antolin:

*From Sunith Kartha, D65 Board Member, Co-Chair w/me on EC2C action team, STEM Fest attendee:*

*It was so nice seeing you at STEMfest Saturday. I hope the rest of the day was a success for you. My kids loved that project (we still have the umbrella). Their favorite was the 3D printer (hard to compete with that for cool factor), but the umbrella project was 2nd!*

*Suni*

*From Froilan Landeros, Y.O.U. Washington:*

*Hey Laura,  
Thanks for coming throughout the school year! It was great to have students actually pick their own books! You were great!*

*From Ken Cherry, Recreation Manager, Fleetwood-Jourdain in response to my arranging to do the next STEMeX program at Fleetwood on May 25and thanking him for the space:*

*No..... Thank you guys for being so intentional in affecting the entire Evanston Community!!!!!!!!!!*

Approved, June 21, 2017