



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

6:30 P.M.

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Community Meeting Room

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

Members Absent: None

Special Guest: Steve Johnson

Staff: Teri Campbell, Karen Danczak Lyons, John Devaney, Jill Schacter, Jessica Ticus

Citizens Present: Lori Keenan

Presiding Member: Benjamin Schapiro, President

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

CITIZEN COMMENT: Lori Keenan, from the Evanston Public Library Friends, praised retiring Board member Michael Tannen, for making the Library “stronger and better” during his tenure and for his dedication to saving the branch libraries from closure and making sure that all residents of Evanston had access to books.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the October Bills and Payroll and Minutes of October 15 2017 Regular Meeting** Michael Tannen moved to approve the October Bills and Payroll and the minutes of the October 15 meeting with the amendment that the approval of the Consultant- Equity of Access, Diversity and Inclusion Assessment was a roll call vote, not a voice vote. Adam Goodman seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Proclamation:** Margaret Lurie read a proclamation honoring Michael Tannen for his tenure as Board member, Secretary and Board President. Among many accomplishments, he was recognized as the force behind the Mighty Twig, the volunteer managed branch library, and for rechartering the governance model for EPL to provide more autonomy from the City through a

separate tax levy for funding. Mr. Tannen received a standing ovation from the Board and guests present. His letter of resignation is in the Director's Report.

- B. Robert Crown Branch Library Project Update-** Karen Danczak Lyons reported that 22 individuals replied to the Request for Proposals for the project manager position. Nine proposals were selected for additional review and interviews.
- C. Unpaid Furlough Day November 10, 2017-** Karen Danczak Lyons reported that every employee supported the AFSCME Union's decision to take an unpaid furlough day. The Library was closed on November 10th and staff not scheduled to work that day took unpaid time during that pay period. In the future, Director Danczak Lyons will negotiate on behalf of the Library separately from the City's negotiations.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Director's Report-** Karen Danczak Lyons reported that on November 20th all elements of the proposed 2018 Budget including capital projects will be discussed at the City Council meeting. The City Council will vote on the 2018 Budget at their meeting on November 27th. All are welcome to attend and express support during public comment. At the direction of the City Council, the architects for Robert Crown are creating options to lower the cost of the project by reducing the footprint of the building and removing elements of the previous design including the number of community rooms. John Devaney reported that Lush Wine & Spirits has begun demolition and construction and he anticipates completion in mid-Spring. It has not been a fast moving project.

STAFF REPORT

- A. Administrative Services Report** –Teri Campbell introduced several new employees including Charmoise Jackson, Diane Davis, Tyler Works, Mallory Cline and Jeffrey Garrett. She also reported that 93% of anticipated 2017 revenue has been collected and 75% of the budget spent.
- B. Strategic Communications and the Evanston Public Library: Moving our Story Forward:** Jill Schacter. Marketing and Communications Manager, introduced Steve Johnson, a marketing consultant from SJ Connects. Mr. Johnson has been engaged by the Library to help make sure “people know what the Library does so they can better use it.” His objectives are to ensure all audiences and voices are engaged; for the Library to be recognized for its expertise; to create awareness of EPL's innovative technical access; to broaden participation by all audiences. Internally the objective is to generate greater alignment and awareness of activities. He is working with Jill Schacter

to create a communication plan and develop consistent messages to be used across all channels.

BOARD REPORTS

- A. Development Committee** – Shawn Iles reported the Fund for Excellence is underway and gifts are coming in. The Development Committee met on November 14th to discuss plans for projects and events.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. FY2018 Revenue Budget**- Margaret Lurie moved to approve the FY2018 Revenue Budget, seconded by Socorro Castro and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 2017-R1**- Vaishali Patel motioned to approve Resolution 2017-R1, providing the budget and setting the annual tax levy for FY2018, seconded by Tori Foreman and approved unanimously by roll call vote.
- B. Approval of the 2018 Board Meeting Schedule** – Margaret Lurie motioned to accept the 2018 Board Meeting Schedule as proposed, seconded by Sandra Smith and approved by voice vote.
- C. Approval of the 2018 Library Closing Schedule** – Adam Goodman motioned to approve the proposed Library Closing Schedule with one amendment - Christmas Eve closing changed from 5 pm to 3 pm. This was seconded by Shawn Iles and approved by voice vote.
- D. ADJOURNMENT** – Michael Tannen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm, seconded by Socorro Castro and approved by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vaishali Patel

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at 6:30 pm Evanston Public Library, Community Meeting Room.

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

Updates:

- On Monday, November 20th all elements of the proposed 2018 Budget including capital projects will be discussed at the City Council meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:00 that evening to allow for careful consideration. The City Council will vote on the 2018 Budget at their meeting on November 27th. All are welcome to attend and express support during public comment.
- At the direction of the City Council, the architects for Robert Crown are creating options to lower the cost of the project by reducing the footprint of the building and removing elements of the previous design including the number of community rooms. As we create a new space that will serve the needs of our residents for many years to come, including spaces for our community to come together and meet must receive careful consideration.
- Another wonderful Evanston Public Library Storytelling Festival was produced despite some challenges from the weather. Attendance increased and new elements included a session featuring Hirshfield Poetry Award winners, OUTspoken! - stories told by LGBTQ storytellers and music! My thanks to our staff and volunteers for producing another wonderful weekend of stories for everyone!
- Included at the conclusion of this report is a message distributed by Trustee Michael Tannen announcing that he is resigning from the Evanston Public Library Board.

Outcomes:

Assessments, Metrics and initiative results:

Computer/Internet Use													
	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	FYTD
Main	4,023	4,090	4,057	4,083	4,015	4,505	4,472	5,023	4,060	4,364			42,692
North Branch	201	227	265	244	252	260	250	-	220	301			2,220
CAMS	473	453	465	477	527	527	524	616	555	494			5,111
Computer Lab	242	197	220	181	197	205	180	180	180	180			1,962
Overall Computer/Internet Use	4,939	4,967	5,007	4,985	4,991	5,292	5,426	5,819	5,015	5,339	-	-	51,985

Website Visits													
All Location	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	FYTD
All Location	55,468	48,541	52,269	44,632	43,173	43,187	42,205	45,110	41,924	42,966			459,475

Wifi Users													
All Location	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	FYTD
All Location	25,449	25,114	26,969	25,171	26,957	27,358	25,848	26,785	27,535	30,640			267,826

Library Visits													
	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	FYTD
Main	27,390	26,711	34,402	41,249	40,502	46,245	44,373	45,837	39,156	42,290			388,155
North Branch	3,790	4,005	4,109	4,058	3,815	4,785	4,453	4,553	2,500	4,000			40,068
CAMS	3,164	3,426	3,515	3,440	3,638	4,156	4,072	-	3,827	3,955			33,193
Overall Library Visits	34,344	34,142	42,026	48,747	47,955	55,186	52,898	50,390	45,483	50,245	-	-	461,416

Partnerships and collaborations:

Described within the reports included below.

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

This was a LEAP and KTour month with all but our Drop In Storytimes paused. Jessica recounts her experience: It's great being back in the classrooms at the Joseph E. Hill Center doing LEAP! One class Laura and I visited had very enthusiastic children who lavished us with praise. "We love you!" multiple kids said. And even though our usual reception isn't quite like this, we still feel the love. The kids welcome us eagerly, shouting things like, "I know you! You're from the library!" And they take to the activities with fascination. Every time! It's so great getting to participate in this outreach, bringing learning through education and play to these kids. I am proud to represent our library in this way and be out in our community.

Children's staff Antolin, Daufeldt, Gonzales, Iverson and Bojda told preschool stories in the children's room as part of our Storytelling Festival. Staff greatly enjoy cooking up something special for these sessions.

Betsy and Brian's Top 101 Best Books for 2017 were decided. While not as many of our team as I would have liked were able to participate three team members: Kennelly, Gonzales and Iverson committed to attend on their own time.

Kim Daufeldt submitted the year end report for year one of our NASA grant.

In addition to his work on our children's top 101, Brian has also completed his Best Picture Books List for 2017.

He also gave a presentation on books about Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation LGBTQIA+ Issues at National Louis University's Center of Teaching Through Children's Books Indivisible: 10 Years Later event. Various social justice topics were discussed. Other speakers included Betsy Bird, Newbery winner Kwame Alexander, among other notable people.

Brian shared the following anecdote that shines the light on the impact we have on our young patrons: A father of a high schooler said that he still remembers coming to my Book Babies class back in 2002. He said that because of this program his son fell in love with the library and with books and has now become a successful high school student with exciting college prospects in his future.

Two more of our team had the opportunity to present for early childhood educators at **Golden Corridors Association of the Education of Young Children Fall Conference:**

Storytime Themes with NEW Books with Laura Antolin and Martha Meyer, 28 attendees.

Representative sample of comments:

"Always look forward to the presentation by these gals! One of the BEST sessions at Fall Conference; presenters are so passionate about their topic; never ...boring."

"Can't wait to try these stories out in my class!"

"I love this session! You guys give so much information, tools, & resources. Thank you!"

"This is one of my favorite sessions at this conference. The book lists are such a valuable resource! Thank you!"

"We love you both! The Village Preschool teachers look forward every year to what you have to show us. I love your excitement – it's contagious! Thank you, thank you! Always great ideas just when we need them."

"Look forward to these speakers. Great books – great crafts – great hands-on ideas!"

Meyer also worked with a theater group from Northwestern on a library program around their production of Stellanina based on the picture book of the same name. Many other staff supported her in this program, including Hilda Gonzales who assisted the day of the event.

Meyer also had another successful Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival and coordinated our participation in the Evanston Explorers Halloween event.

Outcome: Each of these programs connects readers with books and the Evanston Public Library. Supporting children, families and all members in the community as they read is an important element of our support for literacy and learning.

**Children's Outreach Highlights from Laura Antolin include:
Resource Fairs/Event :**

- Tabled at Washington School Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - Particular interest in Hoopla.
- Tabled at Evanston Explorers Halloween event at Holiday Inn
 - Interacted with 100 people, led 3 craft projects. Parent comment: "Thank you for offering the only craft projects that my 2 year-old could participate in!"
- Impact: Library is responsive to community requests and connects to community members.
- Outcome: Engaged with and informed D65 school community members and other community organizations, and community members with young children about library services at 2 community events, bringing activities, library materials, services and resources.





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Evanston Explorers Halloween Event

Communityworks grant:

- Board books were purchased and delivered to IWSE, Family Center and Family Focus to be given to Home Visiting Families.
- Books were purchased to augment and replace Home Daycare provider Book bags and Book Bags were delivered to Home Daycare providers and centers (IWSE and Kindercare).
 - Impact: Children are supported in their early literacy development and ready for kindergarten through their family's access to books, information and resources. Resources and quality of the early literacy activities provided by Home Daycare providers and centers are significantly increased.
 - Outcome: 144 board books were delivered enabling families to own board books to read with their children and parents and guardians will be comfortable using books with their young children. 20 Book Bags were delivered (14 Book bags to home providers and 6 Book Bags were delivered to centers.) Home daycare providers will have additional resources to increase literacy.

Y.O.U.:

- Visited Oakton Y.O.U. and checked out books to afterschool youth.
- Walker Y.O.U. came to the library, did homework and checked out books.
- Scheduled dates to visit Washington Y.O.U. beginning in November.
 - Impact: Through these partnerships, library services will be expanded to provide more equitable access to programs and services.
 - Outcome: 37 books checked out to youth at Oakton; 56 books checked out to youth from Walker. Students show excitement and interest in choosing their own books to read - 100+ books are provided for students to choose from.



Y.O.U. Oakton

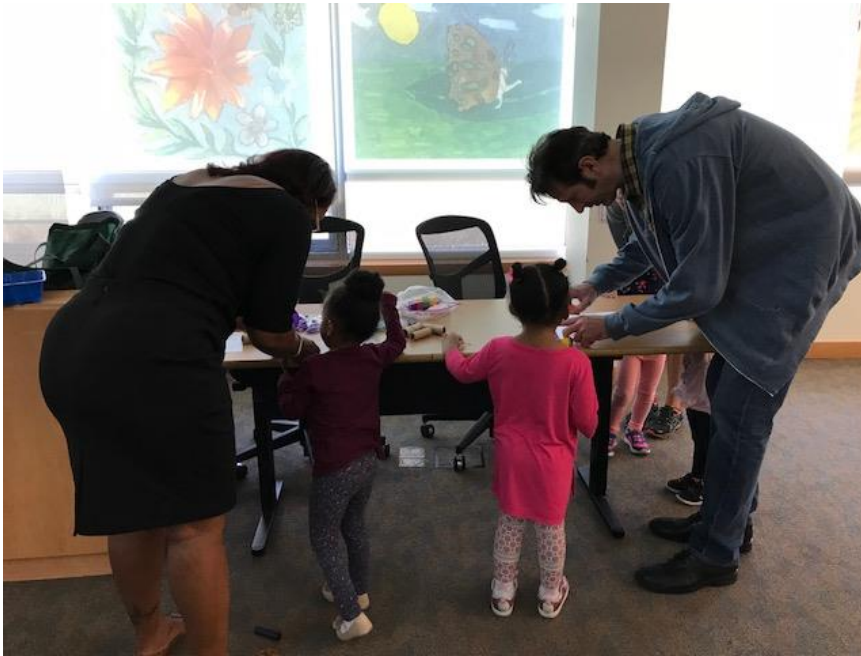
D65:

- K-Tours:
Kindergarten students from Orrington, Walker, Dewey and Dawes toured the Children's Room in October and participated in a library card drive. The children are also invited to return with their parents.
 - Impact: Through partnerships, information about and equitable access to library services will be expanded. All children gain familiarity with the library services.
 - Outcome: 270 D65 students toured the Children's Room, heard a storytime and participated in a craft activity; 114 new library cards were issued; 13 Skokie library cards for kindergarten students were entered in our database; 37 families returned to the library and received a new book.
- LEAP at JEH:
Laundry LEAP in Head Start/PFA and Special Ed classrooms
 - Impact: Library resources shared and early literacy skills gained through participation in programs for at-risk children
 - Outcome: Library staff presented early literacy program to 328 preschool students and 74 teachers/staff in 26 classrooms.
- PACT at JEH:
Laundry LEAP for families - this PACT program capitalized on experience many of the children in attendance already had through LEAP in their classroom. They became the experts and were able to lead their parents through the play.
 - Impact: Library resources are extended to at risk children and their families. Early literacy skills gained through participation in PACT storytime/activity.
 - Outcome: 27 people participated: 12 families consisting of 13 kids, 12 adults and 2 staff.



- STEAM Club w/Ms. Laura at JEH:
Families participated in Investigating Levers activities: including using scissors on various materials, practicing with tongs and tweezers and making a simple catapult. STEAM Club offers families an introduction to STEAM topics and to learn experientially. Families brought home a cutting busy box, plastic tweezers and a catapult to continue learning at home.
 - Impact: Library resources shared to engage families. Early literacy/STEM skills gained through participation in programs for at-risk children and their families.
 - Outcome: 24 people participated: 10 families consisting of 12 kids, 10 adults and 2 staff.





- STEM/LEAP and storytime session in 2 toddler classes at Doorway to Learning:
 - Impact: Library resources are extended into the community, and early literacy/STEM skills gained through participation in programs for at-risk children.
 - Outcome: Led STEM activity about size with 14 kids and 4 staff; led Laundry LEAP program with 16 kids and 4 staff; stepped in for Kim Kaufmann Daufeldt and presented 2 storytimes for 16 kids and 4 staff.
- Learning & Growing at the Family Center:
Storytime and PACT activity for Home Visiting Families- practiced small motor skills using tongs/tweezers to pick up pom poms, building with pegs and pegboards and threading pipe cleaners through colanders.
 - Impact: Reinforcing positive interactions with books and the library and skill acquisition through PACT art/STEM activities.
 - Outcome: 9 participants (4 kids, 4 adults, 1 staff): fine motor skill-building and encouraging parents to work with their children.

IWSE Storytimes:

- Storytimes and songs for infants-preschoolers at Baby Toddler Nursery and for infants-toddlers at Teen Baby Nursery.
 - Impact: Library resources shared and early literacy skills gained through participation in storytimes for at-risk children.
 - Outcome: 70 (55 children; 15 staff) participants at Baby Toddler Nursery; 21 (16 children, 5 staff) participants at Teen Baby Nursery.

Learning Bridge Early Education Center Storytimes:

- Rotating monthly storytimes for 2 classrooms and 3 classrooms at Learning Bridge.
- Impact: Library resources are extended into the community, and early literacy skills gained through participation in storytimes for at-risk children.
- Outcome: 37 participants (Yellow room - 18 kids, 2 staff and Green room - 14 kids, 3 staff) at Learning Bridge.

Book Buddies:

- Storytime and craft w/NU JumpStart student coordinator and student volunteers at Learning Bridge Early Learning Center and Reba Early learning Center. First Book Buddies for 2017 in October at Learning Bridge. JumpStart volunteer coordinator shares theme, finds volunteers and brings craft; I do a short storytime and bring 2 bags of library books to share with the preschoolers.
- Impact: Library resources are extended into the the community and early literacy skills gained through participation in storytimes for at-risk children and NU students benefit from participating in community service program.
- Outcome: 31 (18 children; 9 NU volunteers, 4 staff) participants at Learning Bridge.

COE Community Centers:

- After School programs:
 - Visited and provided storytime and nightlight craft to students at Fleetwood (K-1 and 2-3) and Robert Crown.
 - Impact: Reinforcing positive interactions with books and the library and skill acquisition through art/STEM activity.
 - Outcome: read 2 books and 17 participants in activity at Fleetwood; 30 participants in activity at Robert Crown.



Fleetwood K-1st grade



Fleetwood 2/3rd grade



Robert Crown Afterschool

STEMeX Program at Fleetwood-Jourdain

- First of 3 programs using coding and a simple robot. Kim Merkel, expert engineer from Sargent-Lundy, led this program for children (ages 6-10) and their families. First, she gave a short narrative about her work as a nuclear engineer and talked about the engineering process and then families moved through 3 short coding tutorials with their mBots. After completing the tutorials, families were challenged to code their mBots to move in a circle around a chair. Kids were very engaged and felt successful.
 - Outcome: 6 participants (2 families) consisting of 4 kids and 2 adults participated in this STEMeX program.

Teen Services Highlights from Renee Neumeier include:

News:

Kevin Kelley's presentation submission for the Popular Culture Association's National Conference was accepted. Kevin will be presenting on *Gay Lesbian and Queer Studies 1: Other Places, Other Spaces*, with Adam Callahan and Anna Valiavska.

Abstract:

Queer youth and young adults have unique stories to share, and public institutions must work to create spaces where these stories can breathe. Research has shown that queer youth frequently face harassment, bullying and violent attacks (Bontempo & D' Agielli, 2002; Kosiv, 2004). Institutional administrators often participate in this process by de-legitimizing clubs, activities and other spaces in which queer youth participate (Pascoe, 2007). Thus, institutions must work to create spaces where queer individuals feel safe, welcome and supported (Ahmed, 2012). This presentation will discuss two examples of successful programming implemented at public institutions that engaged queer youth in the act of creative space making. The Evanston Public Library outside of Chicago created and cultivated a queer teen space through the implementation of original programming in conjunction with a newly formed teen led Gender and Sexuality Alliance. The alliance utilized queer icons in the media as shorthand for communicating shared ideas and goals. For example, at a library hosted Pride Party, 2017 queer icon *The Babbadook* was everywhere, providing a widely accepted queer image that teens could connect with in order to engage in the act of creating space and inclusion with other queer individuals. Similarly, the Queer Monologues program at the University of Missouri

engaged queer-identifying young adults in a storytelling opportunity that at once affirmed individual identity and created a powerful queer space. Participants wrote personal monologues dramatizing their experiences as queer people, workshopped them as a group, and performed them for a diverse audience comprised of the university community. Through interviews with participants, researchers gleaned the impact this program had on queer young adult identity development and presentation. Finally, this presentation will compare these two approaches to queer space making and inclusive practice, discussing methods for public institutions to actively build affirming queer spaces at all times.

Goals:

The American Culture Association is a large and diverse group of leaders and innovators who are interested in all facets of popular culture and how it permeates American life. The ACA is committed to the promotion, study, and discussion of new and innovative ideas and, in presenting his paper at the ACA's National Conference, Kevin will be promoting the Library's mission. The presentation will position EPL as a leader and trendsetter in the national popular culture conversation as reflected through our commitment to celebrating and supporting the diversity of our community in all its forms, our commitment to providing Evanston with an intellectually and culturally rich experience, and providing access to cultural and intellectual information resources gathered at this conference.

Presentations:

ILA Presentation

Project Middle School: Bringing School and Public Libraries Together to Benefit Students

- Renee Neumeier presented with Kefira Philippe (Nichols), Tracy Hubbard (Bessie Rhodes) and Amy Odwarka (Haven). The presentation focused on how schools and public libraries can initiate partnerships, grow them and then do large scale programming together. Some of the programs we highlighted included teacher booktalks, the Mock Printz, 6th Grade Orientations and the Middle School YA Literature Festival. There were between 100-150 attendees at our presentation. The majority were public librarians. We received a lot of positive feedback like; " Good collaboration + communication demonstrated. Lots of ideas - saving effort, and creates results otherwise impossible. This group makes it seem POSSIBLE." and "Their collaboration is awesome. I really feel like I can learn from them." For future presentations we may try to reach out to school and public librarians in rural communities in order to better address their needs. Slides: <https://www.slideshare.net/reeneumeier/project-middle-school-bringing-school-and-public-libraries-together-to-benefit-students>
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Outcomes: Shared important information on how to take small steps to work with your school/public library. This joint presentation shows the commitment of EPL and D65 to work together to serve the students and their families and to make it clear that there is a continuation of services between the two institutions.

Programming:

ETHS/WiSTEM Design Challenge:

- ETHS student and Women in STEM member, Megan B. came to the Loft to run the first of two STEM programs for middle school and high school students. The first program focused on design challenges. The students who attended received different challenge cards and had to work together to come up with solutions to these real world problems. Often they had specific constraints they needed to address to work towards a

solution. This program helped students work through the design process and they worked together to solve problems that related to their lives.

Outcomes:

Addressed student learning and literacy through cooperative learning projects. Support student interests and passions by providing Megan with a place to do her program.

Drag Queen Q&A

- The drag event was a smashing success! Three drag artists took part in the event. The drag artists talked about what got them into drag, how they do drag, their favorite drag moments, and what to do if you are interested in getting started in drag. Afterwards the teens took the opportunity to take some pictures with the drag queens. It was a nice mix of the queens chatting with the teens, with each other, and with the teens asking questions. One teen even cried she was so happy. The program was informative not only for the teens who attended, but for teens who were just hanging out in the Loft too and both asked questions.

Outcomes: This program created space for our queer patrons that was valid and affirming. It was a great way to challenge other patrons using the space to listen to other perspectives. Bringing the drag queens to a program in this format allowed everyone to be vulnerable enough to learn something new. This was specifically designed to be an equitable, accessible information resource for people at the intersection of many diversities. We celebrated and supported the diversity of our community.

Teen Advisory Board

October 3

- Teen Advisory Board met on October 3 with four members in attendance. Tyler led them through a design thinking influenced brainstorming session to help identify interests and issues facing teens in Evanston. The participants tried to think of as many topics as possible and then they categorized them under broader topics. The results were mixed, but Tyler did get a few ideas for future programs and services worth exploring, such as healthy food and financial literacy programs.

Outcomes: Having teens considering issues in their lives and the lives of their peers helps promote self-reflection and empathy. Additionally, TAB reinforced their mission to help the library provide equitable and diverse services.

October 17

- Teen Advisory Board met on October 17 with one member in attendance. Tyler and the TAB member worked on improving the Loft's informal art display area. They created vinyl sticker frames to put around the different pictures using the Loft's vinyl cutter.

Outcomes: It is important for teens to feel ownership and have input in the space. The goal of this project is to show the teens who display their artwork that we value it and also provide an opportunity for TAB to modify and provide input for the Loft. Additionally, it also demonstrates a resource available in the Loft and helps promote future programs.

Candy Sushi Iron Chef

- We held our first ever candy sushi making program in the Loft. Over 20 teens participated. A large portion of them were students who attended the 6th grade tours in the previous weeks. Participants crafted sushi using different prepackaged food, such as rice krispie treats and swedish fish. They were judged in two separate categories: "Most Creative" and "Most Realistic." Participants voted on each other's creations. Overall, the

program was a success. I received positive feedback from most participants and the event went smoothly. There were a few issues regarding the materials. Some of the key ingredients were not vegetarian or kosher. The kids were still able to participate but not as fully.

Outcome: This program was a good introduction to the Loft for many of the participants. Hosting this program so close to the 6th grade visits worked well. It demonstrated the Loft is a fun and inviting place for teens in the community. The program also demonstrated the viability of food based programs

In Progress

- Tyler is working with Rebecca Daugherty, formerly of the Science in Society, to plan a series of STEM based programs using Next Generation Science Standards. The first program is in November and will focus on collisions and Newton's 3rd Law of Motion. They are also planning an event in December.
- Tyler is working on three new series programs starting in November and December. Each will start off as a monthly program for the foreseeable future and will be reevaluated in April.
 - Anime Club - Participants will watch anime in the Loft, try different Japanese snacks, and do different hands-on activities related to anime fan culture.
 - 3D Thursdays - Participants will show kids how to use CAD software to create practical and easy everyday objects. The first project will be how to design a phone stand.
 - Hacking Electronics - Participants will explore physical computing by prototyping different electronic circuits and also program these electronics to move, light up, make sounds, etc.

Outreach/Community Engagement/Partnerships:

King Arts 6th Grade Tour:

- Sixty sixth graders from King Arts walked to EPL for an orientation to our services and programming. The students toured the collection in Childrens, visited the Loft and were instructed on the use of Hoopla. At the end of the tour they had time to explore and checkout materials. 30 library cards were made or replaced for students.

Outcomes: These visits emphasize our commitment to access and engagement by connecting to students during the school day. We reinforce that the library is a valuable resource both as a safe place to visit, and that students can use resources from anywhere through services like Hoopla.

City of Learning:

- As part of the EvanSTEM community initiative Renee is part of the City of Learning planning task force.
- This task force is looking at how City of Learning will launch in Evanston
- Currently City of Learning will launch during *hour of code* in December
- Students will sign on to platform during school and then can continue working on programs in and out of school spaces

King Arts Community School Meeting:

- Discussed the results of the survey of King Arts families and what services they were interested in
- Discussed long term plans with the Y.O.U. community school initiative ending

Y.O.U. Saturday Programming:

- Met with Y.O.U. staff to discuss the possibility of leading programming one Saturday a month at their building on Church street.

Park School Visits

- Continue to bring students ages 18-21 to the Loft twice a month.
- Students use computers, play video games and crafts while visiting the Loft

Outcomes: This partnership provides these student access to EPL and resources and it encourages learning in new social settings.

ISAC one on one sessions/Financial Aid 101

- Ten students/parents/caregivers took advantage of the one on one sessions in October
- Two sessions were quick questions and the other sessions were more in depth
- The financial aid 101 program has 8 attendees and was well received

Outcomes: Students/Parents/Caregivers have access to free resources on how to fill out FAFSA, in both English and Spanish; can learn about other financial aid options.

Kairos College Consulting:

- Met with Megan Bernard to discuss piloting one on one sessions focused on getting students prepared for post high school plans.
- Megan is coming in 3 Mondays to meet with students to discuss applications, funding options, two year programs, transitions from 2- 4 year programs, training programs, etc.

Goals: Providing students with free access to post high school experts to help plan the next steps for them and how to make those plans a reality.

Maker Space :

- The maker space coordination circle of EvanSTEM is working on coordinating the activities of all the Evanston maker spaces.
- The members are working on planning a Making conference that will be hosted at the Library March 11, this includes selecting a keynote speaker, deciding session topic, speakers and structure.
- Gathering information on what each space is doing, what equipment do sites have, can it be lent out, what expertise does staff have, what pathways offered, etc.

Collection:

- Tyler is working on developing more passive readers advisory materials for the Loft. He is currently exploring two methods:
 - Read-a-like posters - a poster that highlights popular titles and suggests another similar books
 - Shelftalkers - these are small sign holders that clip on the shelves to highlight a book

Professional Development:

Illinois Safe Schools Symposium

Kevin Kelley was invited to attend this event. The keynote speaker was, Alex Gino, author of *George*. Kevin attended the following panels.

- Youth Centered Pedagogy: panel on refocusing the space, both intellectually and physically around the student/patron. Discussion on what we could do to aide the student in bringing their whole self to the room (to the library) Invitation to being vulnerable enough to learn. Physical environment as a reflection of our interaction with the patrons.
- Liberating our curriculum: reflecting on liberating our programming and planning to refocus it on the patron and creating room for discovery and surprise. How to take the interests of the students and make them realized? How do the interests of the patrons guide our actions and our programming. Focusing on what the patrons can do and using

challenging moments to find patron strengths. (Example: A teen likes to draw; we can display his art as compensation for his meeting our expectations.)

- Youth Advocacy Plenary: Students empowered to change surroundings. Unfair assumptions that young people don't know anything. Respecting the authority of young people re: their own knowledge. How to challenge fears. What do we do to reach those that are not our current patrons? How to get the far-flung people to be closer to us? How can adults help the youth? Support. Spread the activism. Connect the networks whenever and however you can. *Know your rights* trainings.

Outcomes: The information gained from attending this workshop will continue conversations about how we can continue to engage teens in program planning and in making the space welcoming. These ideas can be expanded out and include not just queer youth that come in our door, but for any of our marginalized teens.

STEM Ecosystem Conference (Kansas City)

- As a member of the EvanSTEM coordination circle Renee attended this conference. This STEM ecosystem convening focused on workforce development and pathways. For Evanston it provided ideas on: who to reach out to in the community; whether to begin to structure pipelines from the schools to post high school experiences to careers. We also got ideas about how to fund programming and initiatives long term through community foundation work. In depth notes from sessions: [Day 1](#) and [Day 2](#).

Goals: Came away with ideas on how to engage new partners in this initiative and how we can support the learning pathways of underrepresented groups through these new partnerships long term.

Community Engagement Highlights from Jill Skwerski include:

- Final book bike outings of the year were a visit to the Ridgeville Farmers Market and to Bike the Ridge. This event is always a great way to connect the community to mobile library services. This year 27 items were checked out from the bike and 3 new cards were issued. In 2018, the goal is for more staff to ride the bike so we can grow the program.



- Noteworthy programs:

- Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) held an informational session for anyone looking for affordable rental and ownership opportunities in Evanston.
- Meals at Home kicked off their 50th anniversary year with a program on food stability in Evanston. Students from NU's School of Education and Social Policies Civic Engagement program shared their findings from a recent study of food security and food access in Evanston. Also, Debi Genthe, Executive Director of Meals at Home, talked about how the organization helps provide food security in our community.
- Evanston CASE (Citizens for Appropriate Special Education) presented a program titled *Anatomy of an IEP: Dissecting Your Child's Plan*, to help explain individualized education plans and how they are best understood and managed.
- The RAILS Community Engagement Networking Group and the Harwood Community of Users group came together at EPL for a joint presentation by Cynthia Fesemeyer, Director of the Columbus, WI Public Library. She spoke to about 50 librarians from across northern IL about how her library used the public knowledge gained through community conversations to form partnerships and begin to address community needs that were identified.

Outcome: Position EPL as reliable and trusted source for information that helps break down barriers to housing, education, and civic engagement.

- **Noteworthy partnerships:**

- EPL now hosts weekly office hours for Open Communities' Landlord Tenant Liaison, Farid Muhammed. Farid is with us every Thursday, 9am - noon.
- ACA Navigator - Certified ACA navigator hosts regular hours every Friday, 1pm - 5pm year round, but we are increasing PR during open enrollment period which runs 11/1/17 - 12/15/17. Last week I had a Skokie resident drop by my office unannounced wanting to help spread the word about our navigator. She left the office with 50 flyers that she planned to distribute throughout Skokie.

Outcome: Create and sustain community partnerships that help us provide access to services not easily accessible in other spaces in Evanston.

- **Noteworthy meetings:**

- Represented EPL at the following meetings
 - COMPASS community refugee task force working group - attendee
 - International Women's Day Committee - member
 - Joining Forces for Affordable Housing - member
 - Photovoice Project Opening - Sulzer Regional Library - attendee

Latino Engagement Highlights From Miguel Ruiz:

Presentations

- ILA Conference Poster Session: Presented, with ILA Diversity Committee, Evanston Public Library programs and services targeting diverse and underserved audiences.
Outcome: Informed library community about successful EPL programming reaching our Latino populations
- ILA Conference Session: Facilitated, with the ILA Diversity Task Force, a conversation regarding issues in diversity and equity within the Illinois Library Association
Outcome: Represented the Evanston Public Library as a leader in issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion and an active partner in our state library association
- ILA Conference Special Program: Facilitated, with the ILA Diversity Committee, the annual DiversiTEA; a presentation of a diverse library leader regarding their work.
Outcome: Represented the Evanston Public Library as a leader in issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion and an active partner in our state library association

- University of Illinois iSchool Guest Lecture (Dr. Nicole Cooke, LIS 503): Lectured on information seeking behavior and my experiences as a librarian at the Evanston Public Library
Outcome: Informed information school students on the value of equity and inclusion within the library profession and presented the valuable work accomplished at the Evanston Public Library
- COMPASS Workshop (Participant): Participated in workshop focused on building the COMPASS network; a community based effort (Northwestern, City of Evanston, Rotary International, and others) focused on assisting refugee partnerships.
Outcomes: The Latino Engagement Librarian and Community Engagement Librarian learned new information regarding our national and local refugee populations, statuses, and challenges. We also established the library as a proactive partner in the newly formed COMPASS network
- ICIRR Immigrant Integration Policy Forum (Participant): Attended annual forum held with presentations from immigration experts and leaders from across the region.
Outcome: Learned about current issues in immigrant policy and upcoming state policy proposals to aid immigrant and refugee populations.

Library Services

- Latino Art Exhibit: Hosted a second floor art exhibit by Chicago Mexican-American artist, Robert Valadez. This exhibit was a partnership with the ETHS Latino Advisory Committee art exhibit hosted at the high school.
Outcomes: Presented culturally relevant art to our Evanston community and further solidified partnerships with the ETHS Latino community.
- Spanish Collection Development: Expanded adult Spanish collection by 130+ titles to support the growth of our Spanish language collection
Outcome: Increase diversity of Spanish language resources available to the growing Latino community. We are currently sitting at less than 1% Spanish titles for our collection.

Partnerships

- City of Evanston Language Access Policy Development Team: Member of newly formed team formed by the Equity and Empowerment Coordinator, with the goal of formalizing language requirements for city departments
Outcome: Assist the city in the development of important resources and services to our diverse population
- Erie Health Family Health Center: Met with Lisa Robinson, the Director of Operations to discuss Erie services and potential partnerships with the Evanston Public Library
Outcome: Future potential partnerships with sharing library and Erie resources in clinic spaces as well as discussion of future partnerships.

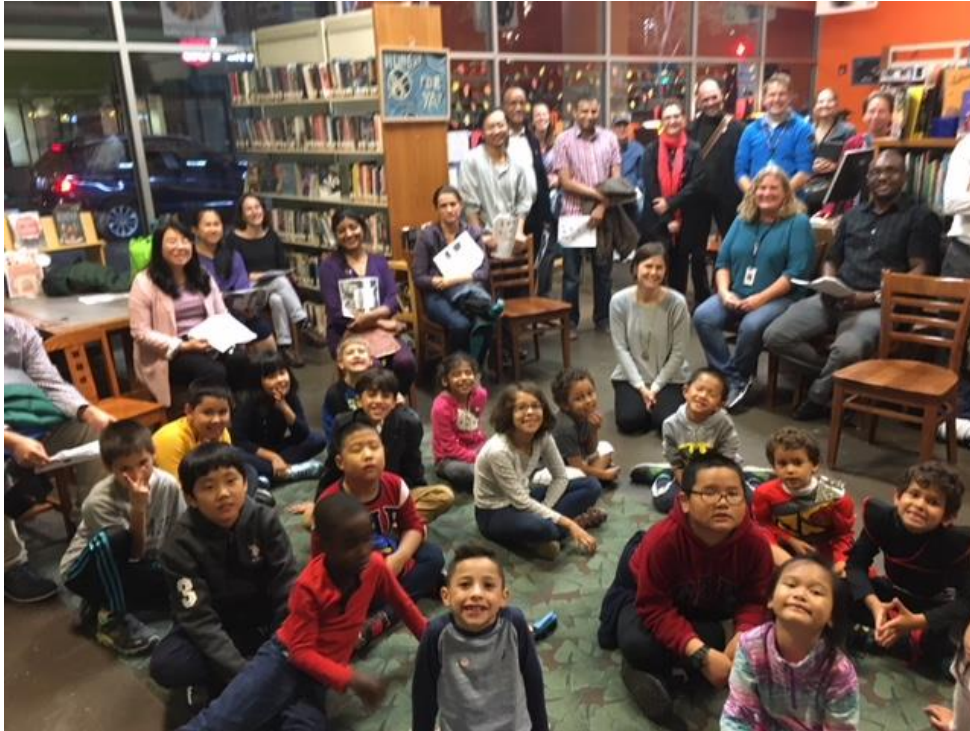
Neighborhood Services Highlights from Connie Heneghan include:

In support of the Strategic Goal of Learning and Literacy, all branches provided **Fall Words: Writing** as part of our quarterly program emphasizing the five practices: Read, Write, Talk, Sing and Play. Paula Shapiro and Connie Heneghan provided shopping lists and plastic fruits and vegetables to help very young children understand the connection between writing or scribbling and reading.

To support Equity of Access, C Heneghan visited the Foster Senior Group at Fleetwood-Jourdain four times in October: Checking out 43 items, accepting 30 returned items, as well as reserving and renewing items and checking patron records. C Heneghan also brought the African American Literature book discussion to Gibbs-Morrison.

Kate Kniffen ordered books for the St. Athanasius book group as well as *books on wheels* patrons, and Haven reading specialist, Jan Braeutigam again providing Equity of Access.

On October 11, the families of Lincoln School ESL classes visited the Chicago Ave/Main St Branch for an orientation program to the school and the public library. P Shapiro did the library orientation/ and told a story. Here is Paula's view of the Lincoln families.



Huong Banh, the teacher who arranged this program, came to the city council in the hope of sharing the letter that follows which her principal wrote. Regrettably, the committee meetings lasted so long that Huong Banh was not able to read this letter to the council, but I wanted to share it with you.

We have been extremely fortunate at Lincoln to partner with Evanston Public Library. There are many ways in which we partner, and I am here to speak about one of the more exciting pieces of our partnership.

Lincoln is one of four schools in the district with an ESL program. At Lincoln, we have students who have always lived in Evanston, and we have families and students who have newly arrived in the country and are therefore brand new to Evanston.

Last year we worked together with Paula Shapiro to coordinate an event where we introduced some of our newcomer families to the Evanston Public Library South Branch. We continued with this again this year. We have convened at Lincoln during the evening and have walked to the South Branch of the library. This has been an opportunity for families from Lincoln to meet each other and walk to the library

together. When we arrived at the library Ms. Shapiro led a read-aloud with the students and spoke with the families about opportunities and resources at the library.

When you are new to a community it is helpful to know what is available and it is such a support to be welcomed and feel connected. From Lincoln to the library, thank you!

Michelle Cooney
Principal
Lincoln School
(847) 905-3501

In addition to our regular storytimes, Tail Waggin' Tutors, Do-It-Yourself Crafts, Wii Wednesdays, and four book groups, we provided a special program at each branch to celebrate Halloween. At North Branch, P. Shapiro told stories to about 24 with the help of a few super heroes.



Dressed as Rosie the Riveter, Bridget Petrites with the help of Melissa Halka, dressed as Alex from A Clockwork Orange, read stories to over 90 costumed children and adults.



B Petrites attended two days of Polaris Circulation training in Arlington Heights.

B Petrites and P Shapiro participated in the Children's Book Committee which produced a list of the 101 Best Books for Kids for 2017.

On October 27th, Nancy Engel hosted **three first grade classes from Kingsley School** introducing them to the library and telling a story.

Barb Levie contributed the following titles to staff suggestions: *The Orchardist* and *The Girl Who Slept with God*.

Adult Services Highlights from Heather Norborg include:

Our Free Book Distribution Service, managed by Library Assistant Jeff Balch, distributed approximately 600 books around town in October.

Our *Books on Wheels* program, managed by Librarian Julie Rand, signed up 5 new participants this month.

Our small business mentoring partnership with SCORE, managed by Librarian Kathleen Lanigan, helped 17 people this month.

5 people received career counseling from our volunteer counselors, also managed by Kathleen Lanigan.

Film Programs (Kim Hiltwein):

After Hours film showing of *The Big Sick* to 22 attendees.

Book Discussions:

Keepinitreal nonfiction book club (Kim Hiltwein) discussed *The Witch of Lime Street* on 10/31.

In October, the Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Group (Lorena Neal) met to discuss *The Black Company*, by Glen Cook. Our November book is *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* By Phillip K. Dick. The group continues to enjoy engaging in our new Facebook group on topics related to the books we have read and other science fiction/fantasy news.

The Graphic Novel group (Heather Norborg) discussed *Dare to Disappoint*. The November book is *My Favorite Thing is Monsters*. Both are written by Evanston residents.

The Readability book club (Deb Winarski) began their 3rd series this month, meeting weekly to listen to Deb and a volunteer read *I am the Messenger* by Marcus Zuzack. This group is open to adults with disabilities.

Outcomes: Book discussion groups promote the library strategic goals of engagement and literacy.

Mission Impossible

-- Russ Johnson led 5 *Brothers K* discussion groups in October and wrote discussion questions for all 11 discussion groups and shared them with fellow group leaders. He also maintains the MI blog, which has a lot of resources and information for participants. Heather Norborg, Kim Hiltwein, Lorena Neal and Jeff Balch each led one discussion group in October.

-- Scheduled a screening of the 1958 film version of *The Brothers K* for January 29.

-- Scheduled a Crime & Punishment Kickoff Lecture for March 5 featuring Dr. Susan McReynolds from Northwestern.

Goals: Keep people engaged, reach new audiences, and keep the discussions fresh.

Business Programming (Kathleen Lanigan):

12 people attended the workshop about social media for small business on 10/23

Legal Programming (Lorena Neal):

Our October Law At The Library topic was "How To Find A Lawyer If You Can't Afford One." Ten people attended.

Chokshi Filippone continues to provide free legal consultations on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening of each month. Appointments have been fully booked in advance, and we are now booking into January.

Outcomes: The purpose of the Law At the Library program and the free legal consultations as they relate to the library's strategic goals is to improve access to justice (defined as the ability of people to seek and obtain a remedy through formal or informal institutions of justice for grievances) to the Evanston community, as well as to support learning & literacy (through increased knowledge of legal subjects).

MENA (Lorena Neal): I hosted the book sales and lecture on October 2, with author Wendy Pearlman, on her book "We Crossed A Bridge And It Trembled: Voices From Syria." Our next scheduled event is on Monday November 13, with the topic "Israel's Occupation @ 50: What are the Prospects for a Future Solution? A Talk by Israeli political scientist Neve Gordon."

I also put together a list of all the books donated to us by the MENA program, and shared it with Betsy Bird, so that the cataloging team can designate these books with a special tag in our catalog, which will allow patrons to find these books more easily. I continue to work with Danny Postel at MENA to find additional ways to feature these books, including adding a sticker or stamp to each donated book, as well as organizing a display of all the books in connection with the MENA lecture on December 11.

Outcomes: The MENA lecture series relates to the library goals of engagement and learning & literacy. It serves as a bridge to bring the intellectual resources of Northwestern University to the Evanston community as a whole, so that community members can learn about current and historical events in the Middle East and North Africa.

Off the Shelf blog (Russ Johnson)

- Blogged about this month's Local Art @ EPL : Charles McCleanon (10/3)
- An Interview with Charles McCleanon (10/18)

Author Programs/Programs (Russ Johnson)

- *From Chicago to Vietnam* Reading (10/11) - Promoted the reading via social media and direct email invitations to Evanston VFW and history book discussion participants. Introduced author Michael Duffy and facilitated Q&A and book signing.

Outcomes: **Continued our support of local authors with this program timed with the release of Ken Burns' new documentary.**

- *Chicago Quarterly Review* Reading (10/24) - Promoted the reading via social media including Facebook, Metromix, Evanston Now, and Evanston Roundtable. Introduced the evening's emcee and welcomed folks to the library.

Outcomes: **Strengthened our relationship with this Chicago lit fixture and continued our support of diverse local authors while making EPL an even more attractive reading venue.**

GARDENING program planning (Julie Rand)

- Set date and booked room for Winter Sowing-Saturday morning, January 13
- Setup program about Bonsai for November 18, 3 pm
- Contacted Professor Cregg at MSU about his suggestions for finding a speaker to address the topic of gardening in a changing climate. He suggested contacting the Morton Arboretum.

Professional Development:

Kathleen Lanigan attended 2 days of the Foundation Center's Network Days where she learned more about the new Foundation Directory Online interface; substantial changes have been incorporated to this upgrade. She also heard about programming ideas from other librarians around the country.

Staffing:

Interviews for one part-time librarian and one full-time librarian.

Good Stuff

-- From Eleanor Boyer (referring to an 10/18 Reference question answered by Russ Johnson): "Thanks so much for sending the articles on coping with loss. The information they contained gives me good ideas on how to stimulate the group conversation I will be leading on Nov 6th. I do appreciate your taking the time to respond to my request and to follow through. I am glad that you are at the library, and now I know who to go to when I have other similar needs!"

-- From Charles McCleanon (Local Art @ EPL artist to Russ Johnson): "I want to thank you for the opportunity to display my photographs at the Evanston public library. I made many contacts and I thank you for that."

Technical Services Highlights from Tim Longo include:

Items Added October 2017

Adult at Main=1150
Adult at North=75
Adult at CAMS=59

Total adult items=1284
Juvenile at Main=2122
Juvenile at North=136
Juvenile at CAMS=141
Total juv items=2399
YA at Main=354
YA at North=40
YA at CAMS=41

Total YA items=435

Total items added to collection in October 2017= 4118

October 2017

Carts Ordered:

- Titlesource 360:
Evanston RW Adult Fiction: 1026.53
Evanston RW Adult Nonfiction: 6294.15
Evanston PL Fiction- Mystery & Detective: 489.26
Evanston Popular Paperback: 33.28
Travel: 409.01

Fantasy: 969.63
Romance: 301.20
Urban: 357.04
Business: 362.84
Parenting: 115.21
Poetry: 400.52
Spanish: 2650.50
Non-CLS Purchases: 1640.34
Non-CLS Most Wanted: 262.48
Most Wanted: 15.25
RUSH: 26.17
Poly: 427.50
Misc: 4123.15
Amazon: 529.10
2018 High-Demand Titles: 1583.75
Audiobooks: 3233.85
Ebooks: 25,015.74
North: 53.55

Patron Requests:

Received 31 patron book requests for the month of October. Will purchase 24 of the titles suggested.
Received 1 patron audiobook requests for the month of October. Will purchase 0 of the titles suggested.
Received 1 patron e-audiobook request for the month of October. Will purchase 1 of the titles suggested.

Staff Requests:

- Brian Wilson: Suggested the purchase of 6 books. Purchased 5.
- Heather Norborg: Suggested the purchase of 1 book. Purchased 1.
- Jill Schacter: Suggested the purchase of 3 books. Purchased 3.

Donations:

Adult Gift Books Added to the Collection: 76
Adult Gift DVDs Added to the Collection: 27

Local Authors Added to the Collection:

- Improvised Continent: Pan-Americanism and Cultural Exchange by Richard Candida Smith

Weeding: Books Sent to Repair: 29

Books Sent to Repair: 35

Most Wanted Titles Weeded: 53

Most Wanted Titles Added to the Circ Collection: 5

Grubby Books Weeded and Replaced by Gift Books: 19

Grubby CDs Replaced by Gift CDs:

Grubby Audiobooks Replaced by Gift Audiobooks:

Damaged Books Weeded: 246

Other Books Weeded: 16

CD-ROMs Weeded: 1

Audiobooks Weeded: 6

Old Editions of New Books on Standing Orders Pulled: 32

Additional old travel & test books pulled: 11

Books Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc. : 17

Audiobooks Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc.: 3

Books from the "Lost" report replaced: 27

Weeding Plan for Nonfiction (700s)

Missing: 40

Weeded: 483

Displays

First Floor – Autumn Reads

Second Floor Front 10/1 – 10/23 - Fall Gardening

Second Floor Back 10/1 – 10/11 – Food Memoirs

Second Floor Front 10/23 – 10/31 – Local Authors

Second Floor Back 10/11 – 10/31 - Magic
Staff Picks: Tyler Works

Misc:

Arranged an increase in our Large Print African-American books with Centerpoint. The increase will take effect in January.

Volunteer Highlights from Mary Kling include:

- Interviewed one new volunteer
- Received requests for additional volunteers from Staff (Children's), (Circulation), (Admin)
- Placed new volunteers in Storytelling Festival (37), Children's (2), Circulation (1), Flyers (6)
- Monitored Volunteer Evanston website for referrals and verification of hours logged by volunteers
- Updated volunteer information in Raiser's Edge
- Coordinated volunteers at EPL Storytelling Festival
- Facilitated background checks for 5 volunteers
- Began planning process with Heather Norborg and Julie Rand for Human Library event as part of the Big Read
- Coordinated dual service learning/volunteer retreat for Northwestern Offices for Leadership and Community Engagement and Northwestern Fraternity and Sorority Life

Outcome: Connected community members and students with meaningful volunteer opportunities in order to provide expanded service to EPL staff and patrons

Upcoming events of Note:

- Once again, EPL will staff a table and give away free books at the Mayor's Annual Food and Toy Give way on Friday, December 15th at Fleetwood Jordain.
- Author event: *Zanzibar to Chicago* <https://www.epl.org/events/author-event-zanzibar-chicago/>
- Author Event *Ugly Prey* <https://www.epl.org/events/author-event-ugly-prey/>
- Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Group <https://www.epl.org/events/science-fiction-fantasy-book-group-disfavored-hero/>
- Story time with Park School Preschool Friends at CAMS
December 8, 2017 10:30 am
Chicago Ave/Main St. Branch
Join with our preschool friends from Park School for a fun and active storytime filled with stories, music and movement!
- [Hacking Electronics: Electric Maze](#)

Start date December 10, 2017 2:00 pm

Venue Main [Library The Loft](#)

Build, hack and code everyday objects and turn them into something new. We will build and program a electric maze using wire and programmable microcontroller. No experience required. Grades 6-12.

- [Trita Parsi Book Signing – Losing an Enemy: Obama, Iran, and the Triumph of Diplomacy](#)

Start date December 11, 2017 5:30 pm

Venue Community [Meeting Room Main Library](#)

Prior to his lecture on "The Risk of War with Iran - Will Trump Kill Obama's Iran Deal?", Trita Parsi will sign copies his new book, *Losing an Enemy: Obama, Iran, and the Triumph of Diplomacy*, which will be available for purchase at the event through Bookends & Beginnings.

- [小小中文故事会 Storytime in Mandarin!](#)

Start date December 12, 2017 10:00 am

Venue Barbara [Friedberg Storytelling Room Main Library](#)

11月14日 (周二), 10:00am, Barbara Friedberg Storytelling Room, Main Library 带上你们的小宝贝, 来参加小小中文故事会吧! 这里有好听的儿歌, 好玩的故事, 还有可爱的小伙伴。快来一起说中文吧! (Bring your young child to a fun storytime all in Chinese. We will sing and read stories together followed by free play. Don't miss out!)

- [Hey, Black Child Book Event with Useni Eugene Perkins and Pe'Tehn](#)

December 13, 2017

Venue Community [Meeting Room Main Library](#)

Registration begins November 8! Meet poet Useni Eugene Perkins, author of the beautiful children's book *Hey, Black Child!*, which contains Perkins' lyrical, empowering classic poem that celebrates black children and inspires all young people to dream big and achieve their goals. Also part of this exciting program will be 5-year-old Pe'Tehn who wowed audiences with her performance of the poem on Steve Harvey's *Little Big Shots* (her video went viral with over 2.7 million views)! Bookends and Beginnings will be on hand to sell copies of the book, which includes gorgeous art from the legendary award-winning illustrator Bryan Collier

Excerpts from patron feedback:

Dear Ms. Danczak-Lyons:

I wanted to tell you of a wonderful interaction I had with Robin, a librarian in the children's section of the library Tuesday evening.

I told Robin that my 5 year old daughter was obsessed with the movie *Moana*, and I wondered if there were any books for her age on the mythology behind the movie. Robin was very helpful and placed in my hand an older book on Hawaiian mythology stories that my daughter will love.

I don't know how often librarians get shout outs at the library, but I wanted to make sure Robin got one. We love the library and go to it multiple times a week.

Sincerely,

Charles Fisher

Message from Trustee Michael Tannen:

MEMORANDUM

To: EPL Staff

From: Michael Murphy Tannen

Date: 17 October 2017

Re: Thank You/Notice of Resignation

All:

It is with a heavy heart that I am advising you that as soon as our budget and tax levy for 2018

are approved by the City Council in November, I will be resigning as an EPL Board Trustee. I have discussed the timing of my resignation with Karen Danczak Lyons. We agreed that resignation in November would best insulate the library from political pressures and would best further EPL's strategic plan and achieving its goals of equity, diversity and inclusion. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you. Without exaggeration, being on this EPL journey with you over the last nearly eight years has been one of the most sustaining, joyous, exciting, and fulfilling events of my life. And that is because of all of you. Your resilience, your creativity, your dedication to all of our patrons, in good times and bad, have been wonders to behold.

I have a framed and now yellowed newspaper article from The Roundtable from January 2010 hanging in my office. That was a very ominous time—the North and South Branches were slated to close and many EPL staff had received pink slips. It was touch and go for a long time; I shudder to think what would have happened had the neighborhood branches been shuttered. The Roundtable article described an organic, impromptu rally of Evanstonians outside the old, ratty, lovable South Branch on Martin Luther King Day. A photo of my son Jacob, then just three years old, accompanied that article. He is bundled up in his winter coat and he is holding a huge handmade poster which exhorts the City Council not to close the branch libraries and declares, "We have the will! We have the skill! We need the time!"

No one, me included, could have predicted way back in 2010, just how far EPL has come. By any subjective or objective criterion, EPL has experienced a renaissance. We were able to muster the popular and political will to adopt the Library Fund model of governance. That gave us the stability we needed to develop and implement a great strategic plan. We were able to bring the Mighty Twig, a marvel in and of itself, back into the EPL fold. More importantly, we were able to attract and then hire Karen as our director. She is in the pantheon of public library directors.

Today, all three of our branches are humming with activity. EPL's community outreach efforts are bearing fruit. Our early child literacy initiatives, including ABC Boosters, have yielded objective gains. We have dramatically expanded our free distribution of WiFi hotspots. We have been told that military veterans think that EPL is the most welcoming public library on the North Shore. We now have a full-time social worker at EPL who has helped patrons in need of mental health or social services. More than 2,000 people attended our third annual Storytelling Festival. Because of our partnership with the Center for Economic Progress, hundreds of income eligible Evanstonians have received an average refund of \$1,400.00. EPL is currently renovating the Main branch and planning the funding and construction of a state of the art library at Robert Crown. EPL has become a one stop service shop for lifelong learning, literacy of every type, and civic engagement. All of this is because of all of you.

Much of the work that I did over the years was legal in nature. While the Local Library Act is clear on its face, the intersection of state library law and municipal home rule is muddy. Trudging through the statute and the case law was often as tedious as it was necessary. However, when I got tired of all that legal mumbo jumbo, all I needed to do was visit the three branches and see you in action: Brian Wilson leading a story-time; Connie and Nancy finding the perfect book for school kids and toddlers at the North Branch; Martha, having taught herself Mandarin, celebrating the Chinese New Year; Bridget multi-tasking at CAMS and doing all things well; Kim Hiltwein enthusiastically leading one of her many book groups; the concierges and the security staff shepherding patrons and keeping them safe; Kim Coffman getting a NASA grant all on her

own; the shelvees quietly ensuring that our collection is well-displayed; Tim Longo and Technical Services bringing EPL into the 20th and then the 21st centuries; Justine discreetly and tenderly offering comfort to a patron in distress; Heather and her adult services team cultivating the intellectual interests of our diverse community; everyone in the Children's Room spreading Library Love; Jill Skwerski and Miguel embedding library services far beyond our walls and vigilantly protecting the rights of immigrants; Renee magically making the library a cool place for teenagers; the circulation staff courteously helping patrons at the end of their visit; Laura Antolin tirelessly promoting early literacy and the summer reading game; John Devaney overseeing with surgeon's skill capital projects on time and on budget; Jill Schacter, Jess, and Wynn spreading the word and helping us look for money beyond our comparatively modest tax levy; and Helen and Lea making EPL and the Board run like a top.

I could go on and on, but I told myself that my farewell memo would not exceed two pages. Simply put, you are living proof that it takes a library to raise a city.

A word about Equity. "Equity" is a fuzzy term. It means many things to many people. Equity is hard to define and it is hard to measure, especially in the context of a public library. EPL does not promise outcomes and we do not track what our patrons do, what books they read, or what programs they attend. To the contrary, we guard our patrons' confidentiality zealously. But, here is what I do know about Equity. Equity should never be weaponized and it should never be politicized as it has been in the last eight months. When that happens, a lot of innocent people, including volunteers, get hurt. Here's what else I know about Equity: EPL is doing it, every day and in every way.

Despite our renaissance, many Evanstonians still do not know about the depth and breadth of the services we provide. I would urge all of you to trumpet what you do, all day and every day. Become walking, talking EPL advertisements. Send your neighbors the monthly reports of the Library Director which highlight the dizzying array of programs we offer and partnerships we have forged. Encourage patrons to actually attend board meetings to see how contemplative, frugal, and visionary the Board and staff are. Master your own EPL Elevator Speech. If you do this, our citizens will realize that public libraries are beautiful and necessary and that EPL has always been on the cutting edge of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Finally, please consider hiring me one day. I still plan to be a children's librarian when I grow up.

Peace,

Michael Murphy Tannen, EPL Trustee