



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

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

6:30 P.M.

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Community Meeting Room

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

Members Absent: Tori Foreman

Staff: Karen Danczak Lyons, Teri Campbell, Kim Hegelund, Justine Janis, John Devaney, Connie Heneghan

Presiding Member: Benjamin Schapiro, President

ALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM - A quorum was present and President Schapiro called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm.

CITIZEN COMMENT – No citizen comments

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the January and February Bills and Payroll and Minutes of January 17 and February 21, 2018 Board Meetings** Vaishali Patel moved to approve the Bills and Payroll and the minutes of the two meetings. Shawn Iles seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Robert Crown Branch Library Project Update** – Director Karen Danczak Lyons reported that design and planning is ongoing. The groundbreaking is scheduled for June 8, 2018 and construction will begin immediately thereafter. The library branch will tentatively open September 2019 and library staff are beginning to plan for the collections at the branch, with an emphasis on cultural diversity and inclusion of Spanish-language materials.
- B. Robert Crown Branch Library Hours of Operation** - Director Danczak Lyons asked the trustees whether the new branch hours should be consistent with the North and CAMS locations (which are closed on Thursdays and Sundays) or should adopt different hours. Benjamin Schapiro and Vaishali Patel agreed that the Robert Crown branch hours should align with peak activity at the community center. Director Danczak Lyons will work with City of

Evanston Parks and Recreation to learn more about foot traffic at Robert Crown. Director Danczak Lyons also stated that the new branch will require additional staffing, compared to CAMS. Shawn Iles and Adam Goodman both supported dedicating additional resources in order to reach more Evanstonians and have a greater impact on community. President Schapiro asked for this discussion to be continued at April Board Meeting.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Director's Report-** Director Danczak Lyons reminded Board Members about changes to City of Evanston email forwarding.

STAFF REPORT

- A. Administrative Services Report** – Assistant Director Teri Campbell reported that Kathleen Lanigan, long-time business librarian, retired. Hiring is ongoing to replace her position as well as several other open positions. Library finances are in good standing. John Devaney, Facilities Supervisor, reported that improvements to the North branch location are complete and weatherproofing of the main library will be done in August.
- B. Polaris Update and Circulation Policy** – Kim Hegelund, Assistant Circulation Manager, reported on the new Polaris integrated library system, which will include a new catalog for patrons and new staff workflows. The new system will go live April 17. All public service staff are currently undergoing training on the system and planning for the four-day transition starting April 13. During the transition, checkouts will still happen but patrons will need to bring their library cards. Patrons will not be able to receive new library cards, access their online account, or pay fines during that four-day transition period. Changes to current library requirements were proposed to align the policies of each member of the consortium. The changes call for patrons to present picture ID, proof of residency and date of birth. In addition, the option for text messaging notification has been added with the new ILS system. Those who elect to use this option will need to submit wireless carrier information. Some changes were met with concern by Trustees Goodman and Schapiro. They asked for modified language to be more inclusive and reduce barriers to getting a new card. Those policies will be discussed at the April Board Meeting. The proposed policy changes to 3) allow patrons to link cards and 4) send patrons over the age of 18 to collections for fines or lost materials over \$25 were approved unanimously by voice vote. Sandra Smith motioned and Adam Goodman seconded. Finally, Hegelund recommended that inactive accounts from 1983 – 2010 be purged from the system, which includes \$393,498 in uncollectable debt. Sandra Smith motioned and Adam Goodman seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote.

- C. Social Work Update** – Library Social Worker, Justine Janis, reported on social work at the library since February 2017. Since that time, she has provided 470 hours of service to patrons, about half of which are homeless and 79% are from Evanston. She’s also provided 140 hours of support to staff, including quarterly staff training. Partnerships with organizations such as Connections for the Homeless and Trilogy Behavioral Health are strong and allows for seamless hand-off of patrons. Upcoming programs such as the Mental Health & Wellness Fair in April and the Girls be Heard! workshop are also providing much needed supports to patrons.

BOARD REPORTS

- A. Development Committee** – Shawn Iles reported on the Donor & Volunteer Recognition event on May 3.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of 2017 Illinois Public Library Annual Report** – Direct Danczak Lyons asked for approval of the 2017 IPLAR. Adam Goodman motioned and Sandra Smith seconded The Board approved this with a unanimous voice vote.
- B. Approval of Resolution for Signatories on Vanguard Account** – Direct Danczak Lyons asked to add Teri Campbell as a signatory on the Vanguard account. Adam Goodman motioned and Sandra Smith seconded. The Board approved this with a unanimous voice vote.
- C. Approval of Healthy Workplace/Sexual Harassment Policy Update** - Direct Danczak Lyons asked for approval of the City of Evanston sexual harassment policy. Adam Goodman motioned and Sandra Smith seconded. The Board approved this with a unanimous voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved to Executive Session at 8:37pm to discuss the Library Director Evaluation Process.

ADJOURNMENT – President Schapiro motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:06pm.

The motion was seconded by Sandra Smith and approved by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vaishali Patel

Approved April 18, 2018

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 6:30 pm Evanston Public Library,
Community Meeting Room.**

Library Director's Report March 21, 2018

Updates:

Summer Reading:

All of the program and event descriptions and the reading log for the 2018 Summer Reading Program (SRP) have been finalized and submitted to Jill Schacter and the graphic artist. The development team worked with Renee Neumeier and Kim Hiltwein to develop a process for soliciting donations for the program, including a letter that was sent out to area businesses. This year we'll be piloting raising awareness through the distribution of one page flyers at the schools and in the Round Table. The SRP booklet will be available at all library locations and community locations throughout the City as well as at community events.

ETHS Black Summit:

Multiple staff members volunteered at the event. They assisted with setup, registration and some staff took part in the breakout sessions.

Outcomes:

Assessments, Metrics and initiative results:

Computer/Internet Use													
	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	FYTD
Main	4,080	3,741											7,821
North Branch	191	225											416
CAMS	467	440											907
Computer Lab	154	150											304
Overall Computer/Internet Use	4,892	4,556	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,448
Website Visits													
All Location	45,235	39,492											84,727
Wifi Users													
All Location	25,000	25,000											50,000
Library Visits													
Main	40,320	35,827											76,147
North Branch	3,798	3,593											7,391
CAMS	3,362	3,338											6,700
Overall Library Visits	47,480	42,758	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,238

Partnerships and collaborations:

Please note the numerous partnerships highlighted in the reports below.

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

Knuffle Bunny program



Thanks to Meyer and Imagine U theater our successful partnership continues to support their children's theater and bring popular programming to our families.

A thank from Imagine U at NU:

Dear Martha,

Thank you again so so much for putting together a beautiful event in promotion and support of *Knuffle Bunny*. It was truly a wonderful morning, and I am so glad that this partnership is beginning to flourish. What an awesome way to engage the Evanston community not only in their local library but in the family series at NU.

As promised, here are some photos I took from the reading/performance.

Thanks again,
Amy Nadal

Meyer, Iverson and Mo along with our stellar volunteers from the Chinese Community held another successful Chinese New Year celebration to welcome in the "Year of the Dog."



Volunteer, Linda Wu introduces a chinese dance:



And of course, a parade:



We also continue to partner with COE and local family oriented businesses in the Little Explorers program. We were represented at this year's open house by Miguel Ruiz and our Bilingual Storytime and Craft with Hilda Gonzalez and artist Mr. Piloto was a part of this year's progressive play date.

We partnered with COE PRCC to promote the upcoming children's theater production of The Phantom Tollbooth. PRCC staff held a theater games event here for patrons.

Wilson attended ALA midwinter. He currently is serving on the ALSC budget committee. While there he attended several programs on diversity.

Wilson served as a judge for the Audie's Award for audiobooks and as a judge for the Society of Midlands Authors Children's Fiction Award. These were both on his own time.

Upper El is a relatively new program for us. Iverson coordinates our Saturday teams once each month to create a hang out space for young patrons in grades 3-5. Sindelar has been the craft coordinator for the sessions. Her specific duties included craft prep (some children did 4 crafts each) and a secret valentine book program for February. The book program was a hit with the gentle readers and gung-ho readers of the group.

This program supports the joy of lifelong learning and the pleasure of reading.
Outcomes:

This program continues our work to develop programming that appeals to upper elementary students.

Outcome:

A wide array of programs that strengthened community partnerships, built our community of users, reinforced literacy and learning.

**Children's Outreach Highlights from Laura Antolin include:
Community Partnerships:**

● **IWSE Teen Baby Winter Wonderland:**

Tabled at event, provided library information, library cards, interacted with families

- Impact: Library resources shared with families with at-risk children.
- Outcome: 35 participants, 3 library cards made

● **Y.O.U. :**

Meeting to plan SRP participation of Y.O.U. elementary youth

● **STEM Fest:**

Planning committee meeting for K-5 STEM Fest; will provide session and booth again this year.

● **EC2C:**

Our Parent/Caregiver Empowerment team is planning a Community Play Date (June 2) at Family Focus. The Community Play Date will focus on the *Talk Read Sing* community campaign and invite community members with kids 0-3 to attend and take part in activities and music and take home resources and books.

Monarch Readers Committee:

Participated in final year as reader for the Monarch Committee Award in Champaign/Urbana to choose 2019 Monarch Award books.

Communityworks grant:

- Home Daycare Book bags were delivered to Home Daycare providers and centers (IWSE (4 bags), Kindercare (3 bags) and YMCA Head Start (2 bags).
 - Impact: Children are supported in their early literacy development to get ready for kindergarten through 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: 23 Book Bags were delivered (14 Book bags to home providers and 9 Book Bags were delivered to centers.) Home daycare providers and center teachers will have additional resources to increase literacy. Center teachers have all thanked me for delivering Book Bags and remarked on how the books have added to their classroom.

Y.O.U.:

At Washington and Walker Schools, I set up books in the lobby - other students and teachers are always interested in looking at the display and at Washington, I often check out 1-2 books to other students after serving Y.O.U. youth. At Oakton, books are displayed in the gym and at Dawes, I'm in a classroom.

- Visited Oakton Y.O.U. and checked out books to afterschool youth
- Visited Washington Y.O.U. and checked out books to afterschool youth
- Visited Dawes Y.O.U. and checked out books to afterschool youth
- Visited Walker Y.O.U. and checked out books to afterschool youth
 - Impact: Through these partnerships, library services will be expanded to provide more equitable access to programs and services.
 - Outcome: 23 books were checked to you at Oakton; 22 books checked out to youth from Washington; 30 books were checked out to youth at Dawes; 23 books checked out to youth at Walker. Students at Washington told me it was hard to pick their book because there were so many good books to choose from. Students show excitement and interest in choosing their own books to read - 100+ books are provided for students to choose from.

D65:

- **Head Start PD Workshop:**

Prepared early math and literacy session for Head Start administration staff: I presented an engineering challenge that I use in STEAM Club with parents and children, and engaged participants in early math and literacy examples and activities including hands-on pom pom shooters and sensory bags.

- Impact: Math, early literacy STEAM activities shared with Head Start staff
- Outcome: 20 participants engaged in literacy and learning activities.



Hi, thank you so much for the time you spent and putting your presentation together for a mid service. I've gotten really good feedback. Although, Family Center teachers we're disappointed they couldn't do your hands on activity. So, if there's any way you could figure out how to provide an activity for them it would be greatly appreciated. I'm guessing the Infant Welfare Society teachers probably felt the same way.

*Lisa Merdinger MDHD,MS.,CLS
Education, Disabilities, Mental Health Monitoring Specialist, JEH*

● **K-Tours:**

Library card application and window marker delivery in advance of King Arts, Washington and Bessie Rhodes K-Tours in March.

- **LEAP at JEH:**

Construction 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 a total of 344 preschool students and 84 teachers/staff in 26 classrooms (the last day of Construction LEAP was on February 1 with the final three classrooms - 30 children, 10 staff)

- **Washington Afterschool stories and STEM/craft activity:**

Read 2 books and the kids made animal masks.

- Impact: Library resources and STEM/craft experiences are shared with children (Title I school)
- Outcome: 27 participants (25 students, 2 staff)

- **Dawes Afterschool stories and STEM/craft activity:**

Read 2 books and the kids made animal masks.

- Impact: Library resources and STEM/craft experiences are shared with children (Title I school)
- Outcome: 28 participants (25 students, 3 staff)





Washington School Afterschool





Dawes School Afterschool

- **PACT at JEH:**

LEAP Construction - this PACT program introduced parents to our LEAP Construction unit, including reading *One Big Building* by Michael Dahl, modeling construction and families working together to design and build building/structures.

- Impact: Early literacy skills gained through participation in PACT LEAP storytime/activity.
- Outcome: 29 people participated: 12 families consisting of 15 kids, 12 adults and 2 staff







- **STEAM Club w/Ms. Laura at JEH:**

STEAM Club offers families an introduction to STEAM topics and the opportunity to learn experientially. Families participated in Engineering challenges building with craft sticks, 3 oz plastic cups and 1 inch wooden blocks, including a challenge to see who could build the tallest structure. Families brought home craft sticks and plastic cups to continue building and 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: 49 people participated: 17 families consisting of 27 kids, 19 adults and 3 staff.









STEAM Club w/Ms. Laura at JEH

- **STEM/LEAP and storytime session in 2 toddler classes at Doorway to Learning (Family Center):** The STEM program was practicing with levers and included moving pom poms into muffin tins using tongs and tweezers, cutting paper and craft foam with scissors and playing with a simple catapult. This program was conducted in the two toddler classrooms. I brought back the Pizza LEAP unit in order to build on previous experience. In both classrooms the play benefited from familiarity and the play was extended including using the order forms and pencils in one classroom. Storytime and songs in infant room.
 - 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 levers with 16 children and 6 staff in the Toddler classes; Pizza LEAP and storytime with 19 children and 10 staff in the Toddler classes and infant class. Total: 51 (35 children, 16 staff)

Hi Ms. Laura!

So great to catch up with you yesterday! Thanks for giving us feedback and suggestions on how to increase attendance, and for sharing information about the Winter Words program - I can't wait to share that with our families!

I also wanted to tell you about a conversation I had with two of our center-based parents that attended your Playing to Learn workshop in January. They both mentioned how their children LOVE playing with the color sorting tin the parents made during your workshop. One of them mentioned that they collected things from around the house for the child to sort and another said she purchased specific things from the dollar store that her child could use with her color sorting tin. So exciting to hear about how our parents are engaging with their kids in a playful way and extending the learning from your workshop to home!

Thank you so much for partnering with us! I'm delighted to be able to share that everyone here, from our toddlers, to staff, and our parents recognize the value you bring with each visit.

*Happiest Friday!
Audrey*

*Audrey Sherer
Family & Community Engagement Specialist
District 65 Family Center
1500 McDaniel Ave
Evanston, IL 60201*

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: 78 (60 children, 18 staff) at Baby Toddler Nursery; 18 (12 children, 6 staff) at Teen Baby Nursery.

Kindercare Storytime:

- Storytime and songs for toddlers at Kindercare
 - Impact: Library resources shared and early literacy skills gained through participation in storytimes for at-risk children.
 - Outcome: 12 (10 children, 2 staff)

Learning Bridge Early Education Center storytime:

- Storytime and songs for two preschool classrooms (Blue and Yellow rooms)
 - Impact: Library resources shared and early literacy skills gained through participation in storytimes for at-risk children.

- Outcome: 36 (32 children, 4 staff)

Bright Horizons Preschool Storytime:

- Storytime, songs and valentine craft for one preschool classroom
 - Impact: Library resources shared and early literacy skills gained through participation in storytimes
 - Outcome: 20 (18 children, 2 staff)

COE Community Centers:

- After School programs:
 - Visited and provided valentine arts activity to students at Fleetwood (K-1) and checked out books to students at Robert Crown.
 - Impact: Reinforcing positive interactions with books and the library and skill acquisition through art activity.
 - Outcome: 8 participants in activity at Fleetwood (counselors took activity to older kids, as well) 33 participants at Robert Crown and checked out 15 books.



Robert Crown Afterschool Adventures



Fleetwood K-1st



1st



Fleetwood K-



Fleetwood K-1st

Book Buddies:

- Storytime and craft w/NU JumpStart student coordinator and student volunteers at Reba Early Learning Center - we had three Book Buddies programs at Reba in February. 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.

- We've had so many NU volunteers that for all of the sessions in February, we've been able to bring Book Buddies to two classrooms on the same day. That means that we see twice as many children on those dates and I bring twice as many books and move from one classroom to the other to do my storytime. The preschoolers are incredibly excited to see us arrive.
 - Impact: Library resources are extended into 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: 116 (62 children; 39 NU volunteers, 15 staff) participants at Reba

Teen Services Highlights from Renee Neumeier and team include:

Programming



Know Your Rights

Patrick Keenan-Devlin from the Moran Center led a discussion about everyone's rights when questioned by a police officer and if their personal property is searched. He discussed both what the law says and also the reality people often face.

Outcomes: Fourteen teens attended this event in the Loft. Many of these teens participated in the discussion and shared examples from their own lives. Overall, the event went well and was a good format.

Loft staff are considering how we can build on this event and encourage discussions on other important teen related issues.

Anime Club

Tyler hosted the Anime Club on March 1. Eleven teens attended the event. Participants watched episodes of different anime shows and connected over their shared interest in Anime/Manga. Tyler also worked with participants to make comic/manga themed buttons using withdrawn materials.

Outcomes: This was the first Anime Club after the time change from 6:30 pm to 4:30 pm. There was a shift in attendance from the previous events. We saw more of our after school regulars participating than previously. While the number of participants increased, we did also see a decline in new participants. This could be the result of the time change or due to something else. Participants were engaged with the activities. A number of interesting discussions related to anime also happened at the last meeting.

Loft Lab: RumbleBots



Tyler continued our ongoing inquiry based learning program series with RumbleBots. RumbleBots are small contraptions made from everyday objects that move when placed on a vibrating surface. The goal of this program was for participants to design a RumbleBot that moved in a straight line as fast as possible. Participants also explored how energy is transferred between objects and how it can be focused to propel objects in a desired direction.

Outcomes: Four teens attended this workshop. All of them were engaged with the activity and were able to design a working RumbleBot by the end. We also saw the teens developing an initial design and then iterating or creating new designs. Some of the participants did get frustrated and discouraged at certain points. Addressing this issue has become a recurring problem in programs like this. Tyler did come away from this program with ideas about to potentially address this issue.

Hacking Electronics

Tyler continued the Hacking Electronics workshop series in the Loft on February 18. Participants created a reaction game using a programmable microcontroller. They created a circuit using buttons and then wrote code to control actions when these buttons were pushed. The game worked by waiting for a light to flash after a random time interval and the first person to push their button won.

Outcomes: Four teens attended this workshop. Each teen created a working version of the reaction game. They successfully followed a circuit diagram to create the necessary circuits and then wrote the necessary code to finish the game. Each participant was also able to describe how everything worked and some were able to describe how the game could be improved.

LEGO Robotics Open Lab

Tyler facilitated the LEGO Robotics Open Lab on February 22. This open lab is an opportunity for teens to explore coding and robotics using LEGO Mindstorms EV3 education kits.

Outcomes: One teen attended the open workshop. He enjoyed building a LEGO robot and successfully finished his project. Tyler hopes that interest in this event will grow. He is considering changing the format from an open lab to more structured activities if attendance remains below capacity.

Community Engagement/Outreach/Partnerships

Y.O.U. After School Enrichment

Tyler continued facilitating the Y.O.U. after-school enrichment program in February. They meet weekly on Tuesdays at 5:00 pm. This program is focusing on Robotics and Coding for 7 weeks. During February, Tyler used the library's Spheros to continue the participants introduction to how coding can be used to control robots for different purposes. At the last session, they also used LEGO robotics kits to construct their own robots.

Outcomes: Overall, this series of programs is going well. There have been some engagement issues some weeks, which is to be expected from a group of middle school students having already spent a full day at school. In response to this, Tyler developed a different approach. Instead of trying to lead the entire group through an activity, Tyler created written instructions for the participants to follow, which enabled them to move at their own pace and freed Tyler up to better facilitate the activity.

Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program Session

The Loft hosted an information session presented by City of Evanston staff on the MSYEP. COE staff were able to connect with many of the teens in the space and let them know about the process for attending the fair, the types of positions available and how to apply.

Outcomes:

Exposed teens to the application and hiring process, which will help them long term when they are applying for other jobs.

Program/Outreach Planning

Free Comic Book Day

Tyler continues to work with other library staff and finalize the plans for *Free Comic Book Day* activities on May 5. They have confirmed their comic book order with Comix Revolution. Tyler will also start working with TAB to prep giveaways and other materials for the event.

Y.O.U.

Code-a-thon

Y.O.U. contacted Tyler about participating in their Code-a-thon event on March 17. Tyler is working with Laura Antolin to prepare a small workshop on how to program LEGO Mindstorms robots for kids in grades 4-5.

LEGO Sumo

Tyler continues to work with Y.O.U. on our LEGO Sumo competition. Teams of kids will construct a robot to push an opponent's robot out of a ring. The event will be held at Y.O.U. to help strengthen our partnership with them. We are actively promoting the event now and accepting team sign-ups through the month of March. We have eight team slots available. This limit is based on the number of kits the library and Y.O.U. own.

Summer Reading and Summer Enrichment

Renee and Tyler met with Y.O.U. staff to discuss bringing the summer reading program to the Y.O.U. summer middle school site this year. We created a calendar and confirmed the dates the teen services staff will check in and visit Y.O.U. for the summer reading program. We also discussed running another summer enrichment series for their middle school site. We are going to work with Miguel Ruiz to tie our plans into the Photovoice program he will also be running with Y.O.U. in the summer.

Evanston Innovation Educator Mini Conference

Renee continued to facilitate the planning of the mini conference. Registration was distributed and a lot of face to face marketing occurred. All the tables for the networking sessions have been setup and include teachers and out of school educators. The breakout sessions will focus on digital making, lo tech and no tech projects and 3D printing. Renee is one of the presenters for lo tech and no tech. We have also secured many raffle prizes and giveaways for attendees.

Program Task Force

Tyler is working with Russ Johnson to coordinate future meetings. The task force has completed rough drafts for both internal and external program planning forms. These forms will be used to help staff streamline the program planning and assessment processes.

Grants:

Motorola Solutions Grant:

In partnership with District 65, EvanSTEM and Schaumburg Township District Library we submitted a letter of inquiry for funding the teen services summer robotics and game design camps that target middle school students who are underserved and underrepresented in STEM fields. The camps will be inquiry based, which allows them to be more student driven. The camps will be piloted at EPL in 2018 and then expanded to Schaumburg and another location in Evanston in 2019.

Professional Development:

PLA: Tyler and Renee worked with colleagues Janet Piehl and Katie LaMantia to develop and practice their PLA presentation; *Inquiry Based STEM Programs*. In order to prepare for the programs, all presenters have piloted inquiry based STEM programs at their library and done additional research on inquiry based learning and the Next Generation Science Standards.

City of Learning:

Tyler and Renee were both trained to use the City of Learning platform and will be piloting using it with their summer STEM camps.

Tinker:

Renee and Tyler helped facilitate the February Tinker meeting at Alsip Merrionette Park Public Library. The meeting focused on Lego Robotics and Tyler presented how to use Lego Mindstorms EV3 with iPads. This was the farthest south we have hosted a meeting, about 20 people attended. We began planning for our April meeting which will focus on coding. Renee and Tyler met with Dr. Mike Horn from NU, and he will be presenting on coding tools and research he has developed at the April meeting.

Community Engagement Highlights from Jill Skwerski include:

- RAILS Community Engagement Networking Group - Co-chaired quarterly regional meeting at New Lenox Public Library. 30 librarians from across Illinois met to learn about ways that libraries reach beyond their physical spaces to connect with their community.
 - *Outcome* - represented EPL at regional gathering with opportunity to learn from others doing similar work and share work the EPL is doing in our community.
- Mental Health Parity Workshop - Partnered with Bipolar and Depression Alliance to bring informational program to EPL.
 - *Outcome* - Continued to position EPL as a place where community members can receive reliable, expert information and enhance their health literacy.

- STI/HIV Testing - Newly formed partnership with staff from Howard Brown Hospital provides monthly HIV counseling and confidential syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia screening. 9 community members received testing.
 - Outcome - Continued to position EPL as a place where community members can receive reliable, expert information and enhance their health literacy. Furthered EPL's position as a holistic community center.

- Cook County Meds Lobby visit - Cook County MEDS is an educational campaign working to share information with Cook County residents about the importance of proper medication storage, management, and disposal of prescription drugs.
 - Outcome - Continued to position EPL as a place where community members can receive reliable, expert information and enhance their health literacy

- ECF Grant Submission: Career Online High School - In collaboration with staff from the National Able Office, submitted a grant proposal to bring online access to an accredited online, career-based high school completion program. More info [here](#).
 - Outcome - Completed grant writing process with support from both EPL and National Able development staff. Learned about process of partnering on grant writing as well as about utilizing grants as a means to further EPL's mission and goals.

- Kettering Foundation: Learning Exchange - Attended 2 day workshop (fully funded by Kettering) on the topic of deliberative democracy and more specifically, what do we know about how libraries work with citizens to productively address a community problem?
 - Outcome - Along with Latino Engagement Librarian, represented EPL in a group of librarians from across the country coming together to discuss ways that libraries can positively impact community. Potential grant opportunity to do deliberative work in Evanston.

- Navigating Real Life Diversity - As a 4 year community partner in this D65 PTA Council program, once again provided full mobile library services at NRLD event, held at Family Focus. Checked out materials, distributed copies of *Citizen*, issued one new library card.
 - Outcome - Provided access to library services at a place where community was gathered. Supported community partner in effort to bring topical information to their program.

- Leadership Evanston: Community Organization Speed Dating - In partnership with Kathy Lyons from the Center for Independent Futures, represented EPL at monthly LE cohort meeting to talk about our work with CIF as an example of how Evanston organizations work together on behalf of the community.

Latino Engagement Highlights from Miguel Ruiz include:

Community Engagement

1. *CoE Welcoming America Initiative:* With Community Engagement Librarian, officially began partnership with CoE Equity & Empowerment Coordinator and CoE Personnel to initiate membership in the national Welcoming America Network

Outcome: Further enhanced library partnerships with CoE and enhanced library stance as a community leader in EDI initiatives. Membership provides access to partner cities and resources regarding a movement of inclusive communities becoming more prosperous by making everyone feel like they belong.

2. *Citizenship/DACA Information:* With Community Engagement Librarian, began partnership with World Relief Chicago to start tabling at the library regarding information on U.S. citizenship and DACA renewal information.

Outcome: Partnership provides access to professional information and legal referral at the library regarding issues affecting our Latino and immigrant communities. Partnership will also potentially lead to hosting Citizenship workshops and DACA workshops at the library or other community spaces.

3. *Evanston Explorers Expo:* On behalf of the Youth Services Department, tabled at the Evanston Explorers Expo event at Fleetwood-Jordain Community Center.

Outcomes: Interacted with over 60 participants to share library resources and information. Spoke with four Spanish speaking families regarding new Spanish language programming at the library; 3 families attended the advertised programs.

4. *ETHS Career Options Night:* On behalf of Teen Services, tabled at the inaugural ETHS Career Options night.

Outcomes: Assisted 25+ individuals (including 13 Spanish speaking residents) in exploring career resources available in the library. Also provided general reference services to Spanish speaking residents.

Programming

1. *PhotoVoice ECF Grant Submission:* In partnership with the KIDS Global Network, Y.O.U., Chute Middle School, & the ETHS Students Without Borders Club, lead the development of a 2nd round grant submission for social justice oriented narrative photo project.

Outcomes: Enhanced partnerships with the aforementioned institutions, and developed grant writing skills in partnership with Director of Development and Development Associate.

2. *Bilingual Storytime:* With the Youth Services Department, assisted Hilda Gonzalez and local artist, Alfonso "Piloto" Nieves, to host Spanish Bilingual Storytime.

Outcomes: 60+ participants, including numerous Spanish speaking families explored educational song and storytelling along with hands-on art activities. Families expressed the value of bilingual programming at the library.

3. *COCO Film Screening:* Presented the Disney/Pixar film, COCO, in Spanish.

Outcomes: Received incredibly positive feedback from participants, which included 150 community members, a majority of which were from our Latino community.

Professional Development

1. *Kettering Foundation Conference:* With Community Engagement Librarian, attended the bi-annual Kettering Foundation Conference focused on community Engagement.

Outcomes: Discussed and explored strategies on deliberative dialogue, a method/approach to engaging community members in conversation around challenging topics. Offered an opportunity to join research in this model.

2. *Navigating Diversity Panelist:* Participated as a District 65 PTA panel representing EPL discussing EDI issues and challenges facing the Latino community in Evanston.

Outcomes: Informed 40+ audience members of issues affecting the Latino community in Evanston, and the challenges and opportunities we face in Evanston.

Neighborhood Services Highlights from Connie Heneghan and team include:

Programming

- 1) North Branch hosted four weeks of Tail Waggin' Tutors offering children the opportunity to practice their reading in a pressure free environment and bolstering learning and literacy.
- 2) CAMS Branch showed the family film: *Paddington Bear*
- 3) Offered 24 storytimes at the branches including Park School, Mandarin, Book Babies, Time for Twos, and Preschool, helping "Provide all Evanston residents equitable access to the resources, spaces and information needed to support and nurture their educational, entertainment and cultural needs."
- 4) Lincoln Chess Club met twice at CAMS Branch.
- 5) The branches offered three book discussions this month including Dostoevsky, *Citizen and Americanah*.
- 6) On a snowy day, despite a brief power outage at North Branch, some were determined to read.

Staff attended the following training:

- 1) Beyond Diversity debriefing Feb. 6 (K Kniffen & R Stevenson)
- 2) Beyond Diversity library follow up Feb. 14 (R Stevenson)
- 3) I.D. (the play at ETHS Feb. 5 (N Engel, K Kniffen, C Heneghan)
- 4) Assertiveness Training with Justine Janis (N Boyce)
- 5) Webinar on Juvenile Nonfiction (P Shapiro)
- 6) Polaris training videos (all staff)
- 7) Webinar on nonfiction (P Shapiro)

Adult Services Highlights from Heather Norborg and team include: Programs and Events February 2018:

Book Discussions:

Narrative Non-Fiction Book Group:

Kim Hiltwein's group read *The Devil in the Grove* - regular attendance, 2 new people that came just for this discussion. The star was our 93 year old participant who remembered the rise of Thurgood Marshall and segregation. It was very interesting to hear her speak.

Sci-Fi Book Group:

Lorena Neal and six members of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Group met to

discuss "The Intuitionist," by Colson Whitehead. The group will discuss "A Canticle for Leibowitz" by Walter M. Miller for our March meeting. 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.

Graphic Novel Book Group:

Heather Norborg and 5 members of the League of Graphic Novels Readers group met to discuss *Wonder Woman: The True Amazon* by Jill Thompson. Our next book is *Imagine Wanting Only This*.

History Book Group:

Jeffrey Garrett and 10 members of the History Book Group met Monday evening, March 5, to discuss *Hero of the Empire* by Candice Millard. Our next book is *SPQR* by Mary Beard, which we will be discussing on May 7.

ReadAbility Book Group:

This weekly group is for adults with disabilities. They spend 3 months reading a book aloud and discussing together. We consistently get at least 6 regular members per meeting, and sometimes have up to 10 people attend. The participants are enjoying the book and ask lots of questions.

Mission Impossible Dostoevsky:

- Russ Johnson led 5 Brothers K discussion groups (2/15, 2/18, 2/19, 2/22, 2/26). Heather Norborg, Kim Hiltwein, Lorena Neal, Jeff Balch each led one group.
- Russ Johnson wrote discussion questions for 5 discussion groups and found supplementary articles *Alice Neel's Brothers Karamazov* by Dan Piepenbring and *How to Read Crime and Punishment* by Gary Saul Morson. Added them to the blog's Resources page.
- Posted "Russian TV's 'Bratya Karamazovy'" to the MI: Dostoevsky blog.

-- Responded to countless participant questions, scheduling conflicts, and other MI inquiries in a timely manner via phone and email.

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

Evanston Reads: *Citizen* (Kim Hiltwein & Heather Norborg)

Kick-off Event (2/11) The kickoff event hosted Alicia Crosby from the Center for Inclusivity, along with panelists Darren Calhoun and Jes Scheinpflug. It was a moving conversation about identity with intersections of race and gender/sexuality. There was a point where people had to write their names on name tags and issue themselves pronouns (he/she/they) and it was telling that this was the first experience most people in the room had with this request. It illustrated the need for inclusion in all forms and in all situations. This links to the themes addressed in the book. It was a meaningful event and there were tears of happiness amongst a few attendees and an overall feeling of community. I was interviewed for *The Daily Northwestern* and it can be found here: <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2018/02/11/lateststories/epl-hosts-panel-book-centered-identity-injustice/>

Citizen discussions:

- EPL partner organization Dear Evanston hosted a discussion of *Citizen* for their February meeting on Feb. 21.
- North Branch Book Group read *Citizen* on Feb. 22
- Lorena Neal attended a discussion of our Evanston Reads book, *Citizen*, by Claudia Rankine, at the home of Carol Bobrow on Feb. 22. Our group of 6 were all participants in the City of Evanston's "Beyond Diversity" training in January, and we agreed to read and discuss this book together to continue our engagement on issues of racial equity.

Local Art Exhibit of student art from D65 middle schools around issues of race, identity and citizenship.

Outcomes: Book discussion groups promote the library strategic goals of engagement and literacy. The ReadAbility group also improves Access to the library's resources for adults with disabilities.

Author Events (Russ Johnson):

"The Underground Railroad: Next Stop... Freedom!" (2/7) - Hosted Deena Uzzell's follow-up program to her fall presentation on the Black Whalemens in Moby-Dick. Designed a lobby poster and flyer, and promoted the reading via EPL's Facebook page and direct email. Assisted with tech set-up at the event, introduced Ms. Uzzell, and helped facilitate the Q&A.

Outcomes: Continued to offer programming of interest to history buffs, the African-American community, and anyone celebrating Black History Month.

Legal Programming (Lorena Neal):

The February session of Law At The Library, on Cleaning Up Your Credit, was attended by 6 people. Our March session will be on Buying and Selling a Home.

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 April.

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).

Digital Literacy Programming (Heather Norborg):

Our Thursday Tech Tutorials partnership with volunteers from North Shore Village and SASI continued in February, with an average of 12 attendees at each event and two events per week.

We have two open part-time technology trainer positions.

Current Events & Other Programming:

MENA: On February 26, Lorena Neal hosted a MENA lecture featuring Turkish-American author Elif Batuman reading from her novel "The Idiot." 86 people attended. Bookends

& Beginnings provided copies of the book for sale at the event. Our next MENA lecture is on April 23, and is called "When Law is Not Enough: Controversies over Muslim Rights in the U.S.," with Nadia Marzouki.

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.

The Singing Revolution: Lorena Neal worked with the North Shore Choral Society to host the showing of the documentary "*The Singing Revolution*" (with introduction by and Skype interview with the filmmakers), on Feb. 17. 78 people attended, including the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Estonia, Siim Soot.

Outcomes: This community partnership advances the library's strategic goals of engagement (with another community group) and learning (about the Estonian independence movement).

Olivia Mo participated in the Children's Department's Chinese New Year program.

SCORE Counseling (Heather Norborg): 8 individual had one-on-one appointments with SCORE is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow and achieve their goals through education and mentorship.

Career counseling (Heather Norborg): 4 individuals had one-on-one appointments with our volunteer career counselor.

Northlight Theatre Inside Look: Skeleton Crew (Heather Norborg): Feb. 6 Three members of Northlight Theater presented the historical and political context of the play, Skeleton Crew, by Dominique Morisseau, to 15 attendees.

Ongoing Projects:

Local Art @ EPL (Russ Johnson)

-- Coordinated the striking of NU's Scientific Images exhibit.

-- Worked with Renee to install the D65 Big Read-related exhibit in the main 2nd floor exhibit space. Then, transferred the exhibit to the 2nd floor landing on 2/28 to make room for main March show.

-- Planned a closing reception for the National Vegetarian Museum exhibit in March. Scheduled for 3/24 and will feature Chicago writer Robert Grillo reading from his book *Farm to Fable*.

Program Task Force (Russ Johnson)

-- Created a Google Form version of the draft Program Proposal for outside groups. Shared the draft with the Admin team in advance of Tyler's and my presentation. Reached out to fellow task force members to schedule our standing monthly meeting.

BOOKS ON WHEELS (Julie Rand)

- Signed up 3 new BOW patrons
- Sent welcome letters to new BOW patrons
- Followed up with delinquent patrons about lost, overdue books.

Free Book Distribution sites (Jeff Balch):

- distributed approx. 900 books in Feb (minus 150 returns).
- initiated dialogue w/ Childcare Network of Evanston re: potential FBD participation
- returned shelving unit at the Civic Center to a more heavily trafficked area
- continued phasing out remote site donations
- with Dave Downen, brought in new volunteer Lynn Miller (replacing Steve Durham)
- continued processing "Withdrawn" EPL books (siphoned to FBD by Betsy)
- helped Dave and Lynn consolidate Withdrawn books, to free carts for Circ

Community Directory (Lorena Neal): On Feb. 14, I met with members of the City of Evanston's Age Friendly Evanston Committee to discuss their suggested changes to resources in the Senior Services section of our directory. I am reviewing these suggestions, and making updates to the directory as required. On Feb. 21, I spoke to Jessica Wingader at the City of Evanston regarding our Mental Health resources section. Jessica works with the Mental Health Board, which is interested in knowing which resources we feature, and helping us update those resources and add any additional

resources they are aware of. They are reviewing our directory now, and will be in touch about further action. I continue to update organizations in the directory each month.

Outcomes: This relates to the library's strategic goals of access and engagement.

Passive RA:

Heather Ross continued to update our procedures for displays, recommendations and bibliographies.

Book Displays: Lorena Neal created a book display called "Space Is Black," featuring works of speculative fiction by black authors, featuring black protagonists, and/or about the black experience

Training and Meetings:

Lorena Neal attended the February meeting of the Chicago Association of Law Librarians on Feb. 15.

Lorena Neal also attended both the City of Evanston and the library follow-up sessions for those who have attended the Beyond Diversity training, to discuss how to continue to integrate the training into our work at the library/for the city.

In late February, Jeff Garrett was interviewed by a reporter for Trib local about the new history book discussion group.

In February, Jeff Garrett also joined Betsy Bird's children's book reviewing team, focusing on international children's books.

Technical Services Highlights from Tim Longo and team include:

Items Added February 2017

Adult at Main=809
Adult at North=33
Adult at CAMS=35

Total adult items=877

Juvenile at Main=1301
Juvenile at North=54
Juvenile at CAMS=18

Total juv items=1373

YA at Main=272
YA at North=30
YA at CAMS=25
Total YA items=327

Total items added to collection in February 2018= 2577

Carts Ordered:

- Titlesource 360:
Evanston RW Adult Fiction: 619.15
Evanston RW Adult Nonfiction: 2281.45
Evanston PL Fiction- Mystery & Detective: 183.63
Travel: 47.54
Poetry: 107.16
Romance (Amazon): 391.43
Urban (Amazon) 40.36
Non-CLS Purchases: 1395.30
Non-CLS Most Wanted: 481.70
Most Wanted: 14.12
Poly: 486.85
Audiobooks: 1555.77
Ebooks: 4211.57
Large Print: 304.85
Amazon Books: 204.75
Amazon DVDs: 39.92
2018 High-Demand Titles (to reorder after Polaris): 1597.49

Lost Title Replacements: 228.46

Damaged Replacements: 805.09

Public Desk Question Patron Requests Fulfilled: 6

Misc: 484.52

Rotary: 14.95

North: 148.65

Crown Juv: 515.85

Crown YA: 151.32

Crown Adult: 155.90

Patron Requests:

Received 25 patron book requests for February. Will purchase 20 of the titles suggested.

Received 2 patron ebook requests for February. Will purchase 2 of the titles suggested.

Received 7 patron DVD requests for February. Will purchase 4 of the titles suggested.

Staff Requests:

- Olivia Mo: Suggested the purchase of 1 book. Purchased: 1
- Lorena Neal: Suggested the purchase of 1 DVD. Purchased: 1
- Heather Norborg: Suggested the purchase of 3 books. Purchased: 3
- Gabriela Mansera: Suggested the purchase of 1 book. Purchased: 1
- Brian Wilson: Suggested the purchase of 1 book. Purchased: 1
- Marlene Meyer: Suggested the purchase of 2 books. Purchased: 2
- Jeff Balch: Suggested the purchase of 1 book. Purchased: 1
- Teri Campbell: Suggested the purchase of 1 book. Purchased: 1

Donations:

Adult Gift Books Added to the Collection: 10

Adult Gift DVDs Added to the Collection: 4

Local Authors Added to the Collection:

The Cost of Compassion: Five Women Who Paid the Ultimate Price by Barbara Pawlikowski
Home and Castle by Thomas Benz

Weeding:

Books Sent to Repair: 29

Most Wanted Titles Weeded: 41

Most Wanted Titles Added to the Circ Collection (Main): 6

Grubby Transfer Titles Weeded: 8 – North, 2 - Main

Damaged Books Weeded: 179

Damaged DVDs Weeded: 26

Frankenstein DVDs Weeded: 7

CDs Weeded: 3

CD-ROMs Weeded:

Cassette Tapes Weeded:

Audiobooks Weeded: 1

Old Editions of New Books on Standing Orders Pulled: 43

Additional old travel & test books pulled: 7

Books Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc. : 11

Audiobooks Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc.: 5

CDs Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc.: 1

CD-ROMs Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc:

DVDs Sent to be Relabeled, Cataloged, etc: 4

Weeding Plan for Fiction

Missing: 53

Weeded: 1283

Weeding Plan for Nonfiction (700s

Missing: 15

Weeded: 228

Displays

First Floor – Read Black

Other Displays: Heather Ross will now be overseeing the Staff Picks as well as the second floor display areas.

Volunteer Highlights from Mary Kling include:

- Interviewed six volunteers
- Checked references of six volunteers
- Received requests for additional volunteers from Staff (Children's, Concierge, Flyer Distribution, Books on Wheels, ReadABLE Book Club)
- Placed new volunteers in Books on Wheels, Children's, ReadABLE Book Club, and Human Library
- Monitored Volunteer Evanston website for referrals and verification of hours logged by volunteers
- Met with Alecia Wartowski at NU's Women's Center to discuss Human Library
- Facilitated volunteers from NU Dance Marathon
- Updated volunteer information in Raiser's Edge
- Continued planning for Human Library with Julie Rand

Correspondence to share:

From NU Dance Marathon:

Hi Mary,

Thank you so much for this kind message, and for the opportunity to connect Northwestern students with the EPL's great work! Students really enjoyed their time at the EPL! We are so grateful we had this chance to continue to grow the partnership between NUDM and EPL, and we are so glad to hear that the support was helpful for you all.

We are looking forward to continuing to work with you all in the future. Please let us know of any upcoming events or needs that we can support!

All our best,

Claire & Ellen

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

Upcoming events of Note:

Local Author Showcase: Memoir (Russ Johnson) - Added website and calendar blurbs, created a flyer, and designed a lobby poster for the 3/14 event. Promoted the reading via EPL's Facebook page and the Chicago Writers' Association page.

Goals: Continue our support of new and localish authors by starting an ongoing "showcase" event that will broaden the reach of these local books while best utilizing staff time.

Human Library 4/15 (Julie Rand)

- o Met with Mary Kling 2/8 and 2/15
- o Attended Human Library event at Lincoln Park Library on 2/10
- o Sent out mass email to library staff and volunteers asking for help in finding books
- o Contacted individuals and organizations to find books: Beth Emet, Muslim Women's Alliance
- o Created survey form for readers to fill out after attending HL event.
- o Filled out PR form for Human Library and sent to Jill Schacter to work on marketing.

Evanston Literary Fest (Russ Johnson)- Extensive planning for the fest which will take place May 12-20.

- Evanston Book Fair - Worked with John Wilson and Lynn Haller on planning a fair for May 12 that will feature local authors, presses, and literary organizations. Drafted an application to share with potential Book Fair participants and began generating a list of authors and orgs to invite. Met with Don to determine how many tables we can offer.

Goals: Continue our support of the local literary community. Give authors, presses, and lit orgs a networking opportunity, and a way for lit lovers to discover the great work happening in our community.

- "Beasts at Bedtime" - Scheduled an author event for May 13 featuring Evanston resident and DePaul professor Liam Heneghan. He'll share his book about environmentalism in children's lit. Arranged for Betsy to moderate.

Goals: Continue our support of the local literary community and offer programming of interest to environmentalists and lovers of children's lit.

- Charles Johnson Reading - Worked with John and Lynn to schedule a reading by Charles Johnson on May 15. Johnson is an Evanston native, the author of *Middle Passage*, and the second African-American author to win the National Book Award.

Goals: Continue offering readings by high profile authors, and events of interest to the African-American community and lit lovers of all types.

- Continuing work to schedule writing workshops and additional author events.
- (Heather Norborg & Russ Johnson) Planning for an event in May with local author Daniel Kraus whose book *The Shape of Water* was released on March 6, hot on the heels of the Academy Award Best Picture and Best Director wins for the film of the same title. Daniel and director Guillermo Del Toro collaborated on the idea for both the film and book together, simultaneously. Daniel has also recently been hired to finish George Romero's unfinished *Night of the Living Dead* novel. He's also written 6 YA novels (mostly horror/sci-fi), including *Trollhunters* with Guillermo Del Toro, which was made into a Netflix series.

Goals: Continue our support of local genre authors of high appeal.

-- "Getting off the Treadmill" - Scheduled a reading by Chicagoland writer Michael Lauesen for May 8.

Goals: Continue our support of local writers and offer programming of interest to people looking to make life or career changes.

-- North Shore Village Health series - Worked with Nancy Bashook to schedule a monthly series of health-related discussion called "A to Z Health Topics." Geared toward seniors, the series will begin by meeting March - June 2018. Added website and calendar blurbs, and distributed flyer. Also met with Sue McClelland about taking over coordination of this series.

Goals: Continue our relationship with NSV and offer programming of interest to our senior community.

Theater programming (Heather Ross):

Maintained contact with the Muse of Fire Theater company to confirm dates for performance in August.

African American Literature: (AAL Book Group)

Susan McClelland will relaunch the AAL book group. The first 2018 AAL book is the *Evanston Reads* title, "Citizen", on March 14, followed by, "We're Going to Need More Wine: Stories That Are Funny, Complicated, and True" by Gabrielle Union, on April 11. Other titles include: "Stay with Me" by Ayobami Adebayo (May 9), "Sing, Unburied, Sing" by Jesmyn Ward (June 13) and "what We Lose" by Zinzi Clemmons (July 11)

Excerpts from Patron feedback:

From Linda Balla, Main Library Children's Room:

I have dealt with two professors in the last week, one from Northeastern Il. U. and one from UIC. The first praised the list Charmoise made for "People of Color Picture Books" and asked if she could please have lists for everyone in her book group! She also praised our chapter book collection with so many children of color. The second professor said she was teaching a class on "Smart Money Week" for grade school teachers. She went to Glen Ellyn Public Library, which had none of the titles she needed. Then she came here, and Charmoise was able to give her all the titles she needs for Saturday. She said she was so glad we have such a good collection of picture books! Yeah for us! Linda

Linda Balla

Library Assistant

Re. Russ Johnson and Mission Impossible:-- From Tom Kingsley (MI: Dostoevsky participant): "I just wanted to express my gratitude for all that you accomplished in our recent journey. You were well organized, inspirational, challenging and you helped us form a group that was truly enthusiastic and involved. Nicely done, Russell. Can't wait for our next literary adventure!"

-- From Susan Roman (MI: Dostoevsky participant and retired Dean of Dominican's Library School): "Thanks for your amazing skills in leading our discussions. You are a gifted facilitator."

-- From Mo Ulicny (MI: Dostoevsky participant): "As always, thanks for such great leadership in our MI meeting yesterday. You have a great feel for letting everyone be heard but also moving the discussion forward. I always look forward to our sessions."

(Barb Levie): I was chatting with one of our former Senior Spelling Bee winners and we shared our disappointment that the Bee will not take place this year. But, he mentioned that he contacted one of our other Evanston winners (both were top contenders for 1st place over the last few years) and they decided to meet for dinner and get to know

each other better. So, he says, a friendship has blossomed and it started at an EPL program.

(Jeff Balch): Hi Jeff, This is Brian Kim from the Brothers K coffeehouse. Our bookcase is looking a little depleted, was wondering if I could get a few boxes when you guys have some surplus. Let me know....You guys are the best!

Hi Jeff, I was *very* disappointed to open my February calendar and see that I cannot attend our book group on the 20th as we will be out of town. However, I remember we had a couple people from other groups at our December meeting, and I am wondering if there might be a Thursday Feb 22nd book group that I could join. Thanks, Gail...Fun response!! thanks for sending it on to Russell, but very sorry to miss being with *my own group and leader* Gail