

# the storyline

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## THE STORYLINE

Vol. 4, No. 2

### TURNING OUTWARD

In our newly redesigned library magazine, we're reflecting more widely on our community's aspirations in action, sharing stories that illustrate who we are and where we are heading.

- **Have a story to share?** Email us at [communications@oppl.org](mailto:communications@oppl.org).
- **Looking for events?** Pick up monthly print calendars—for families, adults, and teens—at the library and at 55 more Oak Park locations, or visit [oppl.org/calendar](http://oppl.org/calendar).

### BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Find board meeting dates and locations and meet the trustees at [oppl.org/board](http://oppl.org/board).

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### COVER

The Book Bike at Ascension Parish's Oktoberfest in September.



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### EMPOWERING EVERY VOICE

The Oak Park Public Library publishes *The Storyline* twice a year in support of its vision to empower every voice in our community and its mission to share the information, services, and opportunities that fulfill Oak Park's aspirations. Contact Writer and Editor Kristen Romanowski, Graphic Designer Rebecca Lang, and Director of Communications Jodi Kolo at [communications@oppl.org](mailto:communications@oppl.org).

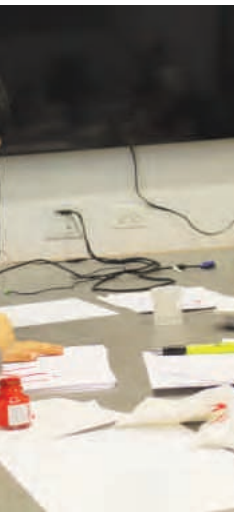


Photo by Lisa Rader

I love how each person can find a way to make the library special to them, since it goes well above and beyond a place to simply check out books.” –Library patron

## Building community

**H**ere in Oak Park, we’re fortunate to have a community that uses—and champions—our public library. Last year, an average of 2,000 people visited the Main Library, Dole Branch, and Maze Branch every day. And that’s not counting all those who visited our mobile “Paperback Rider” at 117 block parties and events around town during Book Bike season.

They are regulars who come to read, work, and attend community meetings. They are caregivers and small children connecting through lively storytimes (such as Drag Queen Storytime, pictured top left). They are new and old friends, artists and writers, and activists and citizens who work to improve our world. They are entrepreneurs, job-seekers, and tutors and students.

As one person told us in a survey, “Our library is \*the\* community hub in Oak Park.”

And as sociologist Eric Klinenberg wrote last year in *The New York Times*, “Libraries don’t just provide free

access to books and other cultural materials, they also offer things like companionship for older adults, de facto child care for busy parents, language instruction for immigrants and welcoming public spaces for the poor, the homeless and young people.”\*

Klinenberg is the author of *Palaces for the People*, our pick for this summer’s One Book, One Oak Park series. Through reporting and research, he shows how places like public libraries, churches, schools, parks, and barbershops—what he calls “social infrastructure”—shape the way people interact and build community. Join us as we connect around this great read all summer (see page 9).

In this issue of *The Storyline*, we share some of the ways people are building community and realizing their aspirations, both inside the library and around town.

And as always, we want to hear from you. How are you using your library? How are you building community? Email us at [communications@oppl.org](mailto:communications@oppl.org) and let us know.

\*Eric Klinenberg, “To Restore Civil Society, Start With the Library,” *New York Times*, Sept. 8, 2018, [nytimes.com/2018/09/08/opinion/sunday/civil-society-library.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/08/opinion/sunday/civil-society-library.html)

# All are welcome

## 'Rich in resources when we engage'

**T**he most beautiful thing about the Main Library's pop-up barbershop, says Josh Easter, is not the free, professional haircuts. It's the conversation, and the way it unfolds.

"We do it in a circle, with talking pieces," says Easter, one of two AmeriCorps members who facilitates the series in the Idea Box, located inside the Main Library entry vestibule. "Everyone gets to add something. In our barbershop, it's always peaceful."

While waiting for haircuts from local barbers, patrons share ideas and local resources and talk about their lives in a peace circle format.

"What we have seen take place in this safe space," says Social Services Specialist Stephen Jackson, "is people realizing communities are rich in resources when we engage."

All are welcome, including children and teenagers. The shop's very first client was a woman, Jackson says. And in April, Children's Services Librarian Beronica Puhr became one of the more than 100 people who had gotten haircuts since December.

"As a full-time employee who can never make it to salons, I'm so thankful this service was available," Puhr says.

Historically, the barbershop has played an important role in American culture. Besides being the place to get a fresh cut, barbershops are also traditionally known as spaces where conversations are candid and confidential, and all patrons have a voice.

The series is tentatively scheduled to continue on the second and third Mondays throughout 2019. More: [oppl.org/calendar](http://oppl.org/calendar)





## ‘There’s no one way to communicate’

**T**his spring, we started digging in for the first full season of the Maze Branch Sensory Garden.

Launched last fall with local families who have kids with disabilities, the garden is completely accessible and offers programs through summer and fall.

“We have a wide range of supports so anyone can come in and be comfortable and included,” says Children’s Librarian Shelley Harris. “Everyone deserves ways to be engaged in their community.”

The garden is located in the outdoor courtyard on the south side of Maze Branch. Down the wheelchair-accessible sidewalk and amid the ring of wind chimes, you’ll find raised beds and planters with flowers and vegetables to touch, feel, smell, and even taste.

This season we’re adding signs identifying the plantings, including labels in braille.

“There’s no one way to communicate,” Harris says. That’s why—in addition to supports like gloves if you don’t want to touch dirt, pads for kneeling, a bench for sitting, and grips to make tools easier to hold—we also offer augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) boards showing pictures and words related to gardening.

These picture boards can supplement or replace verbal

speech. For those in our community who use AAC to communicate, Harris says, “one of the best ways to make an inclusive, welcoming space is to have their language front and center.”

And that’s why a permanent sign with an AAC board welcomes visitors to the garden off Harrison Street. “Now people who use AAC can see their language in their community,” Harris says. “For someone who uses AAC, that’s huge.”

### MAKING ALL VISITS ACCESSIBLE AND FUN

In addition to supported nature play and gardening programs, the library offers programs especially for those with disabilities, including supported cooking, yoga, and musical theater.

For all family programs and everyday visits, Harris asks, “What can we do around the library to make everyone’s visit accessible and fun?”

Supports available include weighted pillows, fidgets, visual schedules, scanner pens, noise-canceling headphones, resistance bands, wiggle seats, sensory brushes, and pinwheels (which can serve as a visual cue for deep, calming breaths).

To access any of these at the Main Library, just ask at the Children’s Services desk. Learn more: [oppl.org/kids](https://oppl.org/kids)

# Generations connect

## ‘I’m trying to meet the kids where they are’

**E**very Saturday, a group of families gathers at the public library for Arabic Calligraphy Club. They bring supplies: plain white paper, pens and markers, canvases, bottles of ink. And, of course, snacks—butter cookies, a few tomatoes, falafel, chocolate.

“It’s good family time,” says Nadine Naber, who comes with her husband and two sons, ages 7 and 11. Together, they practice speaking, writing, and singing in Arabic. With some adults originally from Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt, they use different dialects but share a desire to pass on Arabic language and culture to their kids.

The club, which reserves free meeting and study rooms at the Main Library on some Saturdays (they meet at the Brookfield Public Library as well), is a secular alternative to Arabic classes that take place in religious settings.

“We wouldn’t be able to do it if we didn’t have the space,” Naber says, adding that the kids didn’t focus well when they tried meeting at their homes.

At the library meetups, the focus is on art, fun, and personal connection. Ismail Hummos, who teaches the group with help from his 15-year-old son, says he doesn’t think language should be taught through dictionaries and books. Instead, they mix language and art, penning Sufi poems, their names, and popular sayings (“Patience is the key to success”).

“With most of these weekend classes, children are forced to go learn their parents’ language,” Hummos says. “I’m trying to meet the kids where they are. I want to make sure they’re excited to come here and learn, to have fun.”

Naber says her family now draws together more at home. On Fridays before movie night, they sit down and practice calligraphy.

“I think we’re all yearning to find something inside us, something artistic locked inside us,” Hummos says. “And once we find it, it’s a real source of joy to us as human beings.”

Learn more about reserving library spaces: [oppl.org/spaces](https://oppl.org/spaces)





Libraries are the kinds of places where ordinary people with different backgrounds, passions, and interests can take part in a living democratic culture. They are the kinds of places where the public, private, and philanthropic sectors can work together to reach for something higher than the bottom line.”

—Eric Klinenberg,  
*Palaces for the People*  
(see page 9)

## Teens are empowering themselves to lead

**I**n March, more than 140 people brought their passion, energy, and expertise to the Main Library for the Youth Social Justice Conference. This year’s theme was Educate to Liberate.

“It was so motivational,” said one participant after the day of community building, inspiring speakers, and meaningful discussion.

Students from Oak Park and River Forest High School’s S.A.F.E. club (Students Advocating for Equity) and the library’s Living History Project, among others, spoke out about issues that matter in their lives. Participants said they loved “all the young teens inspiring other young teens” and opportunities to think about how they could create change.

“I’ve seen all too often our youth waiting for adults to give them permission to have power,” says Cynthia Martz, who helped plan the conference as part of the 18-month IMLS-Triton College Activating Community Opportunities initiative between the library, Triton College, and the Equity Team. The initiative provided tutoring, mentorship for young people headed to college and careers, and support for families. “Allowing spaces like this to exist allows more accountability on the part of adults. It’s time for us to examine our own bias and connect with the youth that are doing the work.”

More: [oppl.org/teens](https://oppl.org/teens)



Photos by Paul Goyette



➔ More about our work with the Harwood Institute: [oppl.org/listen](https://oppl.org/listen)

## ‘No change comes easy’

**R**ich Harwood hears people everywhere asking, “Do our lives matter? Will I be seen and heard? Does hope still matter?”

In a time when Americans feel divided, the president of The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation is on a mission to encourage us to “get on a path where we tap into the best within us”—to get off the sidelines, find out what we share in common, and actively build on it.

Our library embraces the Harwood Institute’s “turning outward” approach, which is a posture, a stance. It means we choose to ground our work in the aspirations of the community. And to treat people as citizens, not consumers.

Anyone can adopt this stance. Do you look inward, or reach out? In April at the Main Library, on the first stop of a two-year national tour, “Finding Dignity, Hope, and Community in America Today,” Harwood shared three practical ways to move forward.

**Focus on shared aspirations.**—When we talk about problems, we wonder why they aren’t solved. We point fingers, and the discussion turns toxic. To get on a more

hopeful path, we need to change the conversation. “When we talk about our aspirations, we realize we share things in common,” he said. “We develop a shared language and a sense of possibility.” That’s important because no single institution or citizen can achieve a community’s aspirations alone.

**Restore our civic confidence that we can get things done together.**—But, as one audience member asked, how do you do that when those who show up—like those in the library’s Veterans Room that night—aren’t fully representative of Oak Park? Bottom line: Try to get more people to the table, but start with those who show up and are ready. Because the work of moving forward can’t wait.

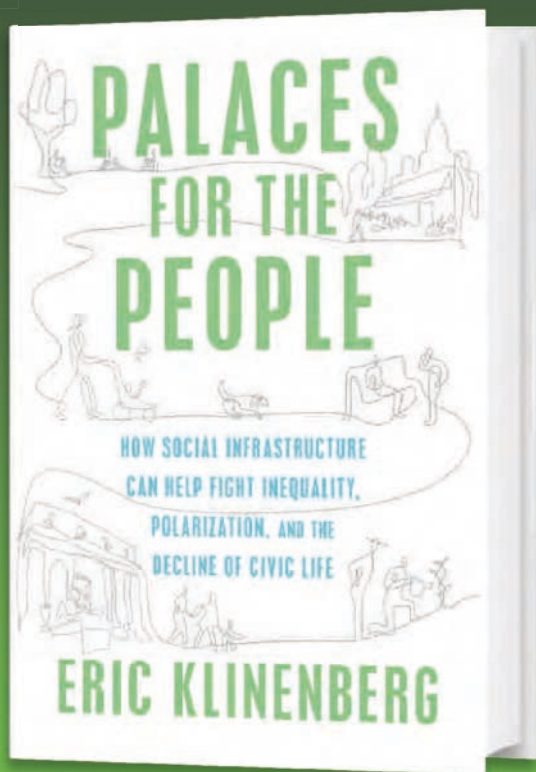
**Create a shared can-do narrative.**—While Oak Park should celebrate its history of racial integration and progressive values, it can’t rest on its laurels. Organizations that span borders are increasingly important, as are courage, humility, and making room for the next generation of leaders. “This work is messy, it’s hard, it can create tension, and we need to be prepared for that,” he said. “No change comes easy.”



*“Palaces for the People is timely and relevant in today’s divisive climate. It illustrates what makes neighborhoods and communities strong and healthy, even when times are tough.”*

—Health and Wellness Librarian Juanita Harrell

# Connecting over one great read

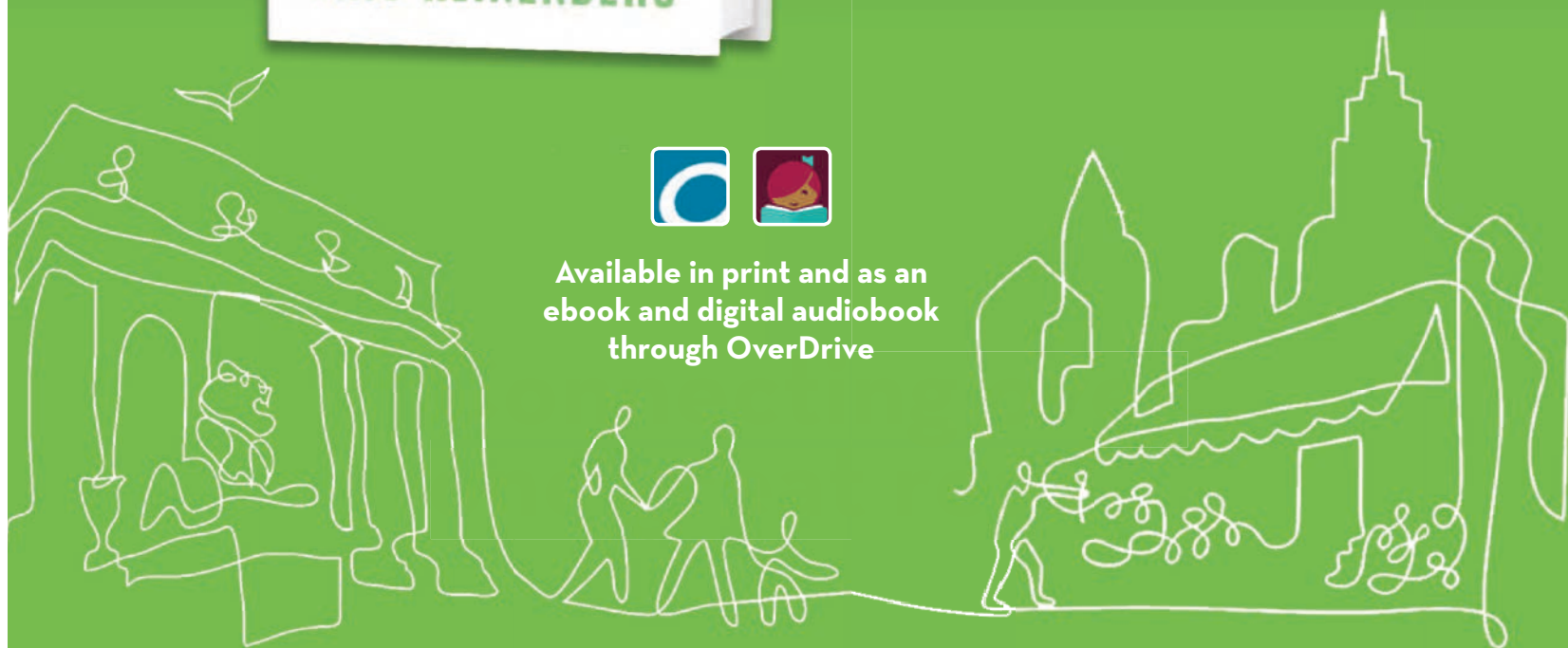


**MEET AUTHOR  
ERIC KLINENBERG**  
Wednesday June 5,  
7-9 pm, Main Library  
Veterans Room

**Reserve a copy, attend  
a discussion, and more:**  
[oppl.org/one-book](http://oppl.org/one-book)



Available in print and as an  
ebook and digital audiobook  
through OverDrive



# Bringing the library to you



**Pop-Up  
Library  
in the Parks**

**NEW!  
Park District  
of Oak Park  
Neighborhood  
Nights**

**...and more!**



Collaboration for  
Early Childhood  
*Strong Start. Bright Future*

**NEW MOMS**  
HOMES · JOBS · STRONG FAMILIES

[oppl.org/bike](http://oppl.org/bike)



“

**Social and emotional learning** is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.”  
 –Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (casel.org)

“What do you think ‘anxious’ is? Have you ever had butterflies in your tummy?” Children’s Outreach and Programming Specialist Jenny Jackson always integrates social and emotional concepts into her storytimes, including at PreKindergarten Partnership (PKP) classes at Longfellow Elementary, one of two state-funded early childhood program sites in Oak Park Elementary School District 97.

## ‘This is an area of need across Oak Park’

**H**ow do we, as a community, support our children in their earliest years, so they arrive at kindergarten ready to learn and develop to their fullest potential across their whole lives? “At the library, we’ve realized one of the best ways we can support young children is by offering opportunities for social and emotional learning,” says Lori Pulliam, Director of Public Services and Programs. “Listening to experts and families themselves, we know this is an area of need across Oak Park.”

### A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

In 2016, the Collaboration for Early Childhood partnered with the Erikson Institute to study how young children in Oak Park are developing in five key areas. Using the Early Development Instrument, kindergarten teachers in all eight Oak Park public elementary schools evaluated

students’ ability to meet expectations in physical health, social competence, emotional maturity, language development, and communication skills.

Among early findings: across Oak Park, 27% of kindergarteners were not on track for emotional maturity, which includes helping others, tolerance, and empathy.

“All of our children are capable of greatness, as long as they are growing in an environment of people who support their progress,” says John Borrero, Collaboration for Early Childhood Executive Director. “Beyond looking at individual children, we have to also look at neighborhoods and systems. In addition to supporting teachers, we have to support parents in their efforts to be partners. Similarly, a thoughtful investment in our children includes a view of educational outcomes that begins in early childhood and extends through the completion of a child’s academic career.”

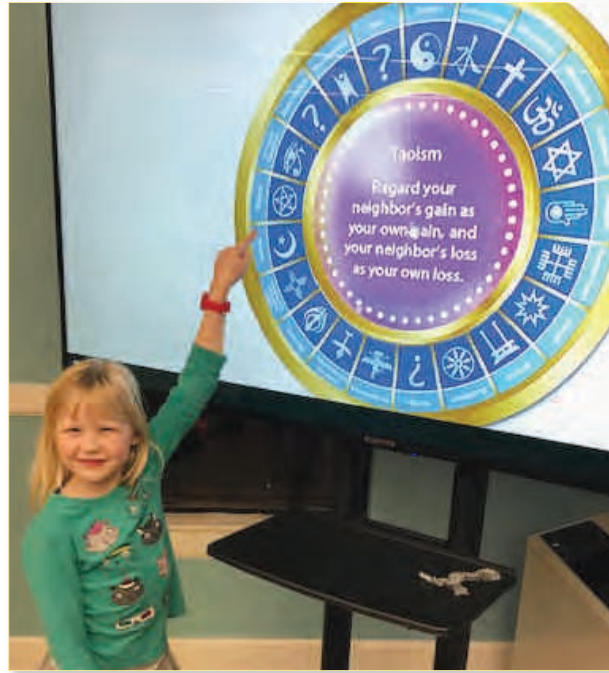


## Welcome, New Moms

In April, New Moms Oak Park Center and Clare Place opened their doors to the community, inviting us in to see their beautiful new building at 206 Chicago Ave. We shared a storytime hour with families who came to see the new Oak Park location, which provides 18 permanent supportive homes for previously homeless families with young children, plus space for community programs and an outdoor playground.

“For more than 35 years, New Moms’ mission has been to interrupt the cycle of poverty for young moms and their children by offering life-changing housing, job training, and family support services,” says Laura Zumdahl, New Moms President and CEO. “We are excited to expand our capacity to provide holistic services that result in deep and lasting change for the families we serve.”

More: [newmoms.org](http://newmoms.org)



## ‘The whole world needs more respect, love, curiosity, and acceptance’

**K**rista Soli Foster always imagined “going on a pilgrimage” to different centers of worship with her daughter, learning about their core values. She wants to model respect, love, curiosity, and acceptance for Lydia, age 6, who is being allowed to make up her own mind about faith and religion.

“Then I started to think, ‘Why keep this to myself?’” she says. “The whole world needs more respect, love, curiosity, and acceptance!”

In response to Soli Foster’s ideas, we launched the Social-Emotional Learning Series last year. It uses books as the foundation for family conversations about topics like compassion, gender, and disability. In January’s

World Religions and Beliefs workshop, we read books, explored the Golden Rule, and drew pictures of our own beliefs.

At home afterward, Lydia (pictured above) encouraged her father to draw his own picture, and hung the family’s three pictures in their front window. “Now when neighbors visit, she takes them aside to tell them all about our pictures!” Soli Foster says.

Soli Foster says the workshop gave her tools to help guide her daughter, and “the fact that it was all presented with love and understanding filled Lydia with joy and a sense of deep acceptance that I wish more people felt when discussing other religions.”

### Grow with us

**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING SERIES CONNECTEDNESS**  
Tuesday, July 16, 4–5 pm, Dole Branch.  
Best for ages 5–10 with caregivers.

**COMMUNITY EMPATHY SERIES**  
Wednesdays, June 12–Aug. 14, 4–5 pm, various locations. Best for ages 5–10 with caregivers.

MORE [OPPL.ORG/CALENDAR](http://OPPL.ORG/CALENDAR)



# A **UNIVERSE** *of Stories*

## **Summer Reading Program**

**JUNE 1-AUGUST 16**

**Open to kids age 3 through grade 9  
who live anywhere on Earth  
(no library card required)**

**[oppl.org/kids](http://oppl.org/kids)**

# What to read next?



## Find yourself in a book

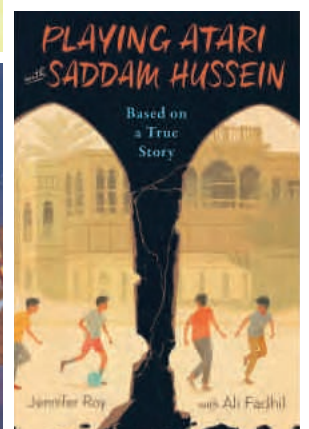
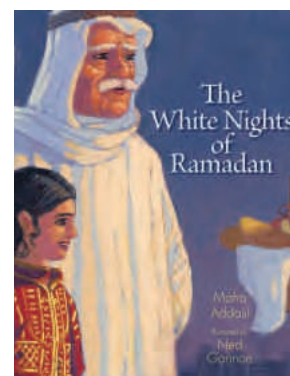
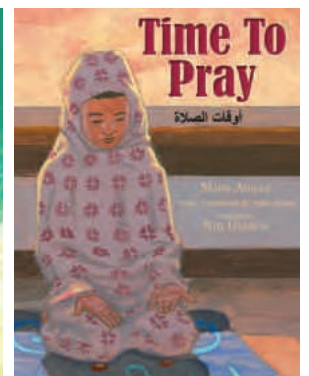
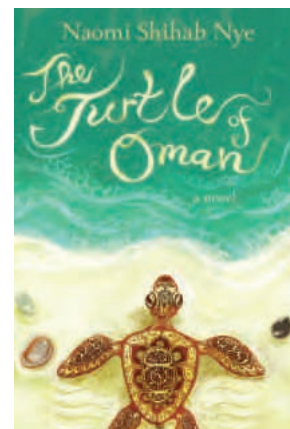
Every year, our librarians review all our curated reading lists for kids and families, making sure we're intentionally including books that represent diversity in race and ethnicity, gender, disability and neurodivergence, and more.

One recent addition: Arab Heritage Reads, a list with fiction, nonfiction, and picture books by Arab and Arab-American authors and illustrators. Some are set in Lebanon, Iraq, and other Arab League countries; others tell stories of Arab families who move to America.

While a few exceptions were made for Arab American National Museum award-winners by non-Arab authors, Elementary School Services Librarian Genevieve Grove says the list doesn't include, for example, nonfiction with general information about Islam from a non-Arab author.

And as with any of our reading lists, "This one has room to grow and adapt in the future," Grove says. "I'm looking forward to sharing this list with the community!"

More: [oppl.org/reading-lists](http://oppl.org/reading-lists)





➔ More: [oppl.org/teens](https://oppl.org/teens)

## Middle schoolers matter

We know the middle school years can be a time when kids need even more adult guidance, places to go, and things to do. That's why, in addition to two full-time librarians who work with middle and high schoolers, we've added two more staff members dedicated to serving tweens and teens.

**BERONICA PUHR**, previously a library assistant, became a full-time Children's Librarian in January, with a particular focus on middle school services. She's wasted no time engaging young people with activities including a book club, yoga, crafting, gaming, a food science series, and more.

Remembering her own middle school years, Puhr says she knows the impression adults can have on young people. "I want to make sure I treat middle schoolers and young adults with the utmost respect," she says. "Anything you say or do can have such an impact."

**LUIS TUBENS** also joined the library as a part-time Teen Programming Specialist this year. Since he became the library's first artist in residence in 2017, Tubens has drawn in lots of middle schoolers with writing workshops, open mics, and a chess club.

"I enjoy what I receive from the youth more than what I give," Tubens said back in 2017, when he started leading poetry workshops at the library. "It inspires me and keeps me on my game."





### ¿DE VERDAD? C'EST VRAI?

At the library, 19 staff members across service areas speak 14 languages and dialects other than English, from American Sign Language to Urdu.

## Expanding our world languages collections

**T**hose in our community who speak and read in languages other than English will find even more at the library this year, as we add Arabic, Chinese, and Polish to the Adult World Languages Collection. This collection already offers fiction and nonfiction (including graphic novels and teen fiction) in French, German, Italian, and Spanish.

The Children's World Languages Collection is growing as well. The shelves are full of books and movies in all languages mentioned above—plus Dakota, Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Russian, and even more.

These collections are growing thanks to work our librarians have been doing since last year: analyzing the collections, researching Oak Park demographics, and meeting with local educators to learn which languages they are teaching and which communities they see potential growth in.

And our community is responding: as these collections grow in size and quality, their circulation continues to grow

as well. Find them at the Main Library and through the catalog: [oppl.org/catalog](https://oppl.org/catalog)

### ORIGINAL VOICES

When selecting titles for the Adult World Languages Collection, the library places great importance on original-language material. For example: “We want to have German books written by German speakers, rather than having English works translated into German, all the while being aware of diversity,” says Manager for Branch and Access Services Martyn Churchouse.

One recent add is *Die Mittagsfrau* (The blindness of the heart) by Julia Franck, an East German-born feminist author who spent time in a refugee camp in her youth.

“Another example is ensuring that Spanish-language materials cover the entire Spanish-speaking world,” Churchouse says. “And I’m trying to uncover the complex diversities within those boundaries, such as Turkish diaspora writers writing in German, or Francophone African authors.”

### BON ANNIVERSAIRE!

In French Conversation Hour, we’re celebrating five years of building community. At Maze Branch, we’ve built strong relationships and a tight community of lifelong language learners, from teens to retirees. Check out our French and Spanish conversation groups, offering language practice for learners at any level: [oppl.org/calendar](https://oppl.org/calendar)





### SHARE YOUR STORIES

What changes in the world have surprised you the most? Who has been the biggest influence on your life? Try asking a grandparent, neighbor, or friend today. And while you're at it, record those conversations for the Oak Park Oral History Project!

This new digital library initiative, funded in part by a grant from AgeOptions, captures and shares local oral histories. You can check out a recording kit or use your own equipment, and submit your conversation to the public collection online.

"It's so interesting to hear people's experiences and find that there is so much we all have in common," says Digital Learning Librarian Rose Barnes. "Hearing people's stories forges connections and builds community, for generations to come."

Learn more: [oppl.org/oral-history](http://oppl.org/oral-history)

## Are you a local author, musician, or filmmaker? Your creative work belongs at your public library.

Oak Park Creates is an opportunity to share your creative work—your book, your music, your movie—and have it become part of a unique and growing local creators' collection. Anyone with direct ties to Oak Park, including current and former residents and those who work or attend school here, can submit materials for consideration to include in the collection. Learn more: [oppl.org/creates](http://oppl.org/creates)

### SUBMIT YOUR WORK

Physical and digital books, movies, and music are considered for inclusion in this local creators' collection.

### CREATE WITH PRESSBOOKS

Just getting started? Need to finalize your book? Easily create professional print and ebook editions with Pressbooks.





## Lively grows with the library

**L**ively Athletics didn't always sell kids' shoes. Five years ago, Anne Pezalla opened the store at 109 N. Oak Park Ave. with her sister Kate, selling women's athletic clothing and shoes.

In 2016, she started kicking around the idea of adding shoes for kids. She was participating in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program at the time, and one of their suggestions was to contact a local business librarian.

"I was pleasantly surprised to find that Oak Park Public Library had one of those," Pezalla says.

So she reached out to the person who would soon become her "secret new best friend": Business and Government Librarian Bridget Optholt.

"Bridget helped me access all kinds of online resources and catalogs so I could assess the market for kids' shoes in



our area," Pezalla says. "I was able to create a really, really accurate sales projection based on the data I accessed through the library."

Now, Lively Athletics carries shoes for kids from toddlers to preteens. And Pezalla says she's used the library every time she's thought about growing the business, like when they added a tennis department in 2018.

"Those getting into business for themselves should look to the library because they will be able to access resources that they could never afford on their own," she says. "Further, they'll access the expertise of the library staff who are there and want nothing more than to see them succeed."



## Resources for Rush Oak Park

**A** Lombard resident who has worked for Rush Oak Park Hospital for 14 years, Marina Antes discovered only in January that she could sign up for her own Oak Park Public Library card.

That's when library staff visited Rush Oak Park, 520 S. Maple Ave., where Antes works as a discharge liaison and education coordinator.

Because she's a non-faculty staff member, Antes doesn't have access to Rush University Medical Center's library. However, as someone who works for a local business, she is eligible for an Oak Park Public library card. So she signed up for one, along with nearly 50 colleagues.

Gaining access to the library's digital offerings "has opened up a lot more articles to me than Google Scholar," she says. With our catalog's Article Search feature, Antes can find and read full-text research articles and literature reviews from peer-reviewed journals like *American Journal of Nursing* and *Journal of Clinical Nursing*. She's used them to inform her own projects, from developing new patient discharge processes to educating hospital staff.

"As nurses, we should always be learning and be able to access knowledge and learning," Antes says. "It helps our patients on the back end, through all these resources that are open to us."

➔ Learn more about getting a library card: [oppl.org/card](https://oppl.org/card)

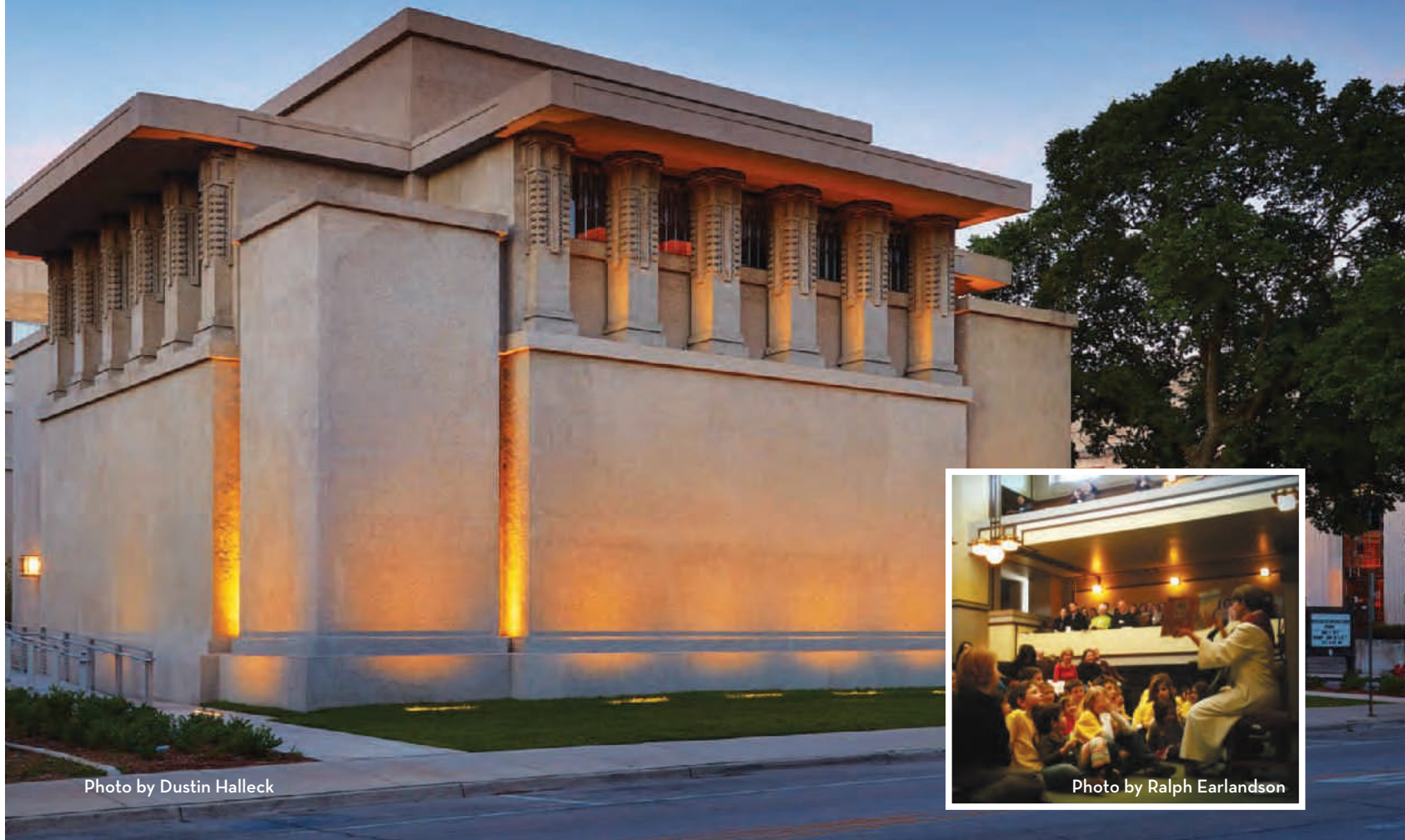


Photo by Dustin Halleck

Photo by Ralph Earlandson

## ‘We’re inextricably connected’

**I**n this summer’s *One Book, One Oak Park series*, we’re connecting over Eric Klinenberg’s *Palaces for the People*, which looks at how open, accessible spaces can promote civic engagement and social interaction (see page 9). The author uses the term “social infrastructure” for public libraries, parks, schools, community gardens, and other places where people assemble and engage, including religious institutions—which, he writes, “are not merely houses of worship but key sites for community building.”

One prominent house of worship in Oak Park is Unity Temple, the landmark designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in the early 1900s. It sits across the street from the Main Library, at 875 Lake St. And it’s home to those who find community in the Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

“We work on trying to be as welcoming as possible to anyone who walks through our door,” says Rev. Emily Gage. The congregation practices “radical hospitality” and welcomes people with all kinds of religious backgrounds and spiritual perspectives.

Unlike more orthodox religions, Unitarian Universalism

draws inspiration from a wide diversity of sources, including Jewish and Christian teachings, earth-based spirituality, humanist teachings, and people’s own experiences of mystery and wonder.

“A lot of what we talk about, and what we equip our children to do, is to make good decisions about how to live a good life,” Gage says. “And how to change the world to what we want it to look like.”

The religion’s seven principles include upholding the inherent worth and value of each person, and respecting “how we’re inextricably connected and what we do affects the people around us,” Gage says.

Living out those principles, the congregation collects money every week and donates it to organizations doing good work in the community.

And through their Faith in Action teams—“people power,” Gage says—they work for social justice, including advocating for immigrants and refugees, working to keep women’s health and reproductive services available, and supporting work to transform the criminal justice system.

Learn more: [unitytemple.org](http://unitytemple.org)

**MAIN LIBRARY**

834 Lake St. | 708.383.8200  
Monday-Thursday: 9 am–9 pm  
Friday: 9 am–6 pm  
Saturday: 9 am–5 pm  
Sunday: 1–6 pm

**DOLE BRANCH**

255 Augusta St. | 708.386.9032  
Monday: Closed  
Tuesday-Thursday: 10 am–9 pm  
Friday: 10 am–6 pm  
Saturday: 10 am–5 pm  
Sunday: 1–6 pm

**MAZE BRANCH**

845 Gunderson Ave. | 708.386.4751  
Monday-Thursday: 10 am–9 pm  
Friday: Closed  
Saturday: 10 am–5 pm  
Sunday: 1–6 pm



**2019 CLOSINGS | OPPL.ORG/VISIT**

Memorial Day: Monday, May 27  
All buildings closed

Staff Engagement Days:  
Friday, June 7 & Friday, Dec. 6  
Main and Dole open at 2 pm;  
Maze closed

Independence Day:  
Thursday, July 4  
All buildings closed

Labor Day: Monday, Sept. 2  
All buildings closed

Day before Thanksgiving:  
Wednesday, Nov. 27  
All buildings close at 5 pm

Thanksgiving: Thursday, Nov. 28  
All buildings closed

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day:  
Tuesday, Dec. 24 & Wednesday, Dec. 25  
All buildings closed

New Year's Eve: Tuesday, Dec. 31  
All buildings close at 5 pm

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*See you* **around town!**

**VILLAGE OF OAK PARK  
4TH OF JULY PARADE**  
Thursday, July 4  
Starts at 10 am at Ridgeland  
Avenue and Adams Street  
More: [bit.ly/OPJuly4Parade](http://bit.ly/OPJuly4Parade)

**FRIENDS OF THE  
OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ANNUAL BOOK FAIR**  
Friday, Aug. 2–Sunday, Aug. 4  
Oak Park and River Forest  
High School, 201 N. Scoville Ave.  
More: [oppl.org/fair](http://oppl.org/fair)

See where the Book Bike is going next: [oppl.org/bike](http://oppl.org/bike)

Dole Branch closed Saturday, June 22  
through Monday, July 8 for renovations.