

THE STORYLINE

FALL 2017

A quarterly publication of the Oak Park Public Library

News | Events | Stories



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YOUR ASPIRATIONS:
How they drive our work

PAGE 4
YOU'RE INVITED!
*Help shape the direction
of your community*

OAK PARK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
oppl.org



IN THIS ISSUE

Fall 2017
Vol. 2, No. 4
Sept. | Oct. | Nov.

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BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Find board meeting dates and locations at oppl.org/board, and get in touch at board@oppl.org.

LIBRARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David J. Seleb
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Get to know us and our core values at oppl.org/about.

Share comments and questions on the library's social media channels.



ON THE COVER

Our community's aspirations, shown alongside drawings by Oak Park artist Sydney Patterson (see page 13), are the basis of everything we do. Learn more about our community-first approach starting on page 3.

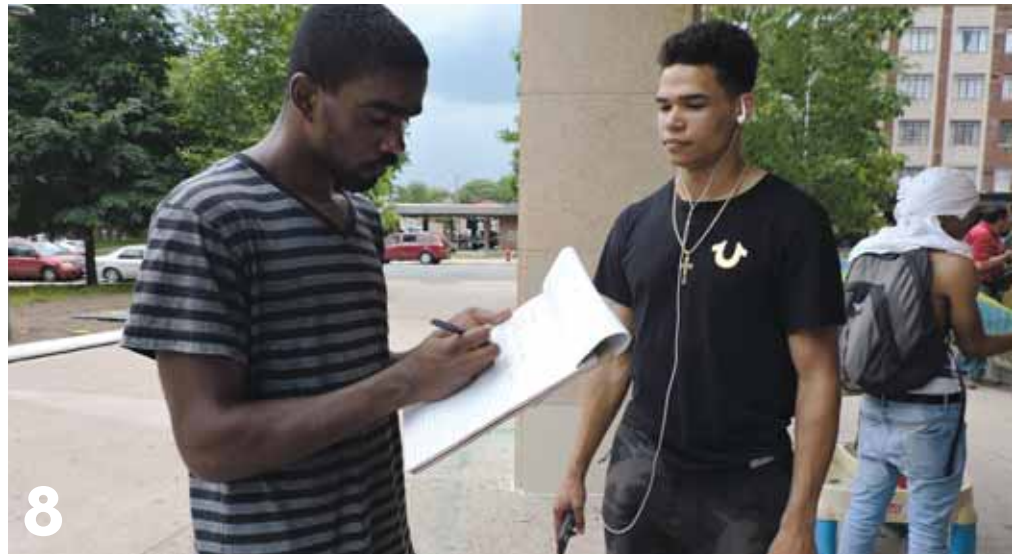


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➔ This issue showcases select events and classes at the library this fall. View all at oppl.org/calendar.

The Storyline is published quarterly as a service to the Oak Park Public Library community. Contact us at communications@oppl.org: Kristen Romanowski, Writer/Editor; Rebecca Price, Graphic Designer; Jodi Kolo, Manager. Many thanks to library staff and community photographers and artists whose work is featured in this issue, including Anne Bensfield, Stephen Jackson, Sydney Patterson, and Sarah Yale.



Four years ago this October, Executive Director David J. Seleb attended a three-day workshop so influential it forever changed the way he looked at his work and the direction of the Oak Park Public Library.

“In my 28 years working in libraries, I’ve been introduced to lots of initiatives, and I’ve sat through countless conferences, webinars, and workshops,” Seleb said. “I’ve forgotten about nearly all of them, but not Harwood.”

The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation is a nonpartisan nonprofit whose mission is to combat divisions in society by teaching, coaching, and inspiring people and organizations to solve pressing problems and change how communities work together. Its signature “Turning Outward” approach has been adopted by communities around the world and by large nonprofit networks including the American Library Association.

Turning Outward means using the community, not a conference room, as the central reference point for organizational decisions. Learning about the approach back in 2013, Seleb saw it was one the library could take in Oak Park.

“It’s not about us, it’s about the community.”

—David J. Seleb, Executive Director

SHARED ASPIRATIONS

“The difference with Harwood is its orientation and focus,” Seleb said. “Harwood has taught me that it’s not about us, it’s about the community. Without that understanding, I don’t believe we would have accomplished what we have so far.”

Implementing the Harwood approach meant “talking to people about their lives in the community and what’s important to them,” he said. “Then reflecting and

seeing whether we’re being intentional and authentic, using our resources wisely, and meeting community aspirations.”

Starting in 2014, the library reached out to Oak Park residents and community partners at all three library locations

through a series of Harwood Community Conversations—moderated, “kitchen-table” conversations that ask: What kind of community do you want to live in? Why is that important to you?

How is that different from what you see now? What are some of the things that need to happen to create the kind of community you want?

The conversations included diverse groups of people of different ages, races, genders, and socioeconomic circumstances. “And yet, we were struck by the consistency of the messages we received and the passion with which they were delivered,” Seleb said. “When we focus on intrinsic things, we agree on a lot more than we think.” ▶

COMMUNITY FIRST

▶ continued from page 3



ON A MISSION TO EMPOWER

The shared community aspirations that came from these conversations—literacy, education, diversity, inclusion, equity, health, safety, and affordability—became the foundation of the library’s strategic planning process in 2015 and led directly to the library’s priorities of engagement, learning, and stewardship and its mission to empower every voice in the community.

The initial conversation series at the library also led to dozens more outside its walls—with partner organizations, government peers, parent groups, active patrons, and people not currently using

the library. Even more are happening this fall (see sidebar).

“Over the past four years, we’ve become a very different kind of library,” Seleb said. “We are more aware and always thinking about what opportunities there are for the library to help support our community’s needs. We’ve learned the only way we can be successful is if we are driven by what our community’s real aspirations are.”

Learn about some of those successes, and hear from some community partners the library collaborates with, on the following pages and at oppl.org/listen.

What kind of COMMUNITY do you want to live in?

This fall, you’re invited to help shape the direction of your community. In a series of 90-minute Harwood Community Conversations, open to everyone, Executive Director David J. Seleb will guide groups of 10–15 people in talking about how to move Oak Park forward. RSVP at oppl.org/calendar to join a session:

- **SEPT. 18:** 6–9 pm, Main Library Small Meeting Room
- **OCT. 18:** 12–2 pm, Maze Branch Meeting Room
- **OCT. 19:** 12–2 pm, Dole Branch Meeting Room
- **NOV. 9:** 6–9 pm, Main Library Community Engagement Space

To learn more or to host an on-site conversation with your community organization, please contact Seleb at d.seleb@oppl.org.



OFFERING MORE FREE PUBLIC SPACES TO CONNECT

To reduce barriers and support more groups connecting and taking action to improve our community, in April we eliminated library meeting space rental fees for nonprofits. We also added another option for groups needing access to technology: the Main Library Computer Classroom. Now nonprofits like the Collaboration for Early Childhood can reserve it for free, as they did this summer for early childhood teachers going through a new state training and education requirement that’s mainly accessible only online. More: oppl.org/space

“It is difficult for me to put into words what this means for my students, who do not have the technology or support that the library and the Collaboration are able to provide. This opportunity not only benefits our teachers but the children they serve as well.”

—Diana Rosenbrock, Collaboration for Early Childhood



WORKING TOGETHER *toward community aspirations*

PARTNERING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

In April, our More Than a Month team (oppl.org/more) convened 12 community organizations and over 50 attendees for a Social Justice Conference at the Main Library. To confront challenges that marginalized populations face daily, workshops and panel discussions explored criminal justice and sentencing disparities, education and health inequalities, and economic and political disenfranchisement, adding up to what one participant called “seven hours of revolution, solution, equity, and empathy.” Middle School Services Librarian Jose Cruz said the day helped build tighter networks across organizations, and led directly to this October’s Youth Social Justice Conference (see page 13).

ELIMINATING OVERDUE FINES

Since we went fine free on June 1, more than 1,000 Oak Park Public Library cardholders have re-engaged with us. Whether it’s been to borrow new books, movies, or music, conduct online research, or use a library computer, this means about 1,000 people who weren’t using their local public library, for one reason or another, now are. More: oppl.org/fine-free

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION

For July’s Mental Health Awareness Month, we partnered on a family film screening and discussion at the library with the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park and NAMI Metro-Suburban, a grassroots family and consumer self-help support, education, and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with mental illness, and the lives of their families and friends, in west suburban Cook County.

“Everyone sees the library as a safe place to go, and when we talk about mental health it’s a scary topic. When we bring programs to the library, there is no stigma.”

—Vanessa Matheny, Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township

EMBEDDING OURSELVES IN THE COMMUNITY

During the school year, Librarian Rachael Bild works with the Oak Park and River Forest High School Library every Wednesday morning to share skills and knowledge. As all our librarians do, she focuses on a service area—in her case, service to high school students—to deliver in-depth research and support with related programming and resources, based on what the community wants from the library and expects to learn. More: oppl.org/staff

“Students, teachers, and administrators come to know Rachael and reach out to her with ideas and questions. It is important to all of us that our student patrons feel welcomed at both libraries.”

—Ann Carlson, Oak Park and River Forest High School Librarian



STRONGER TOGETHER

Community Resources Team members among guests on The Doris Davenport Show (1490 AM) in June. More: bit.ly/2x9aAg



Last March, as part of our strategy to rethink how we engage with all patrons, we hired a social worker—a first for us, but part of a growing trend for public libraries, including those in Evanston, Denver, and Washington, DC.

“Around the nation, public libraries have become de facto community health centers for people who don’t have access to other resources,” said Community Resources Manager Robert Simmons.

Simmons and his team—including Community Resources Specialist Stephen Jackson, who focuses on youth development, and four part-time Safety and Security Monitors—work to connect patrons with the services they need, and to ensure a safe environment for all.

“The team really makes the effort to talk to people and get to know them, including kids,” said Children’s Digital Learning Librarian Anne Bensfield.

“There’s been a lot of improvement, and it’s changing the culture. And I’m happy that people are getting linked with services in the community beyond what’s here at the library.”

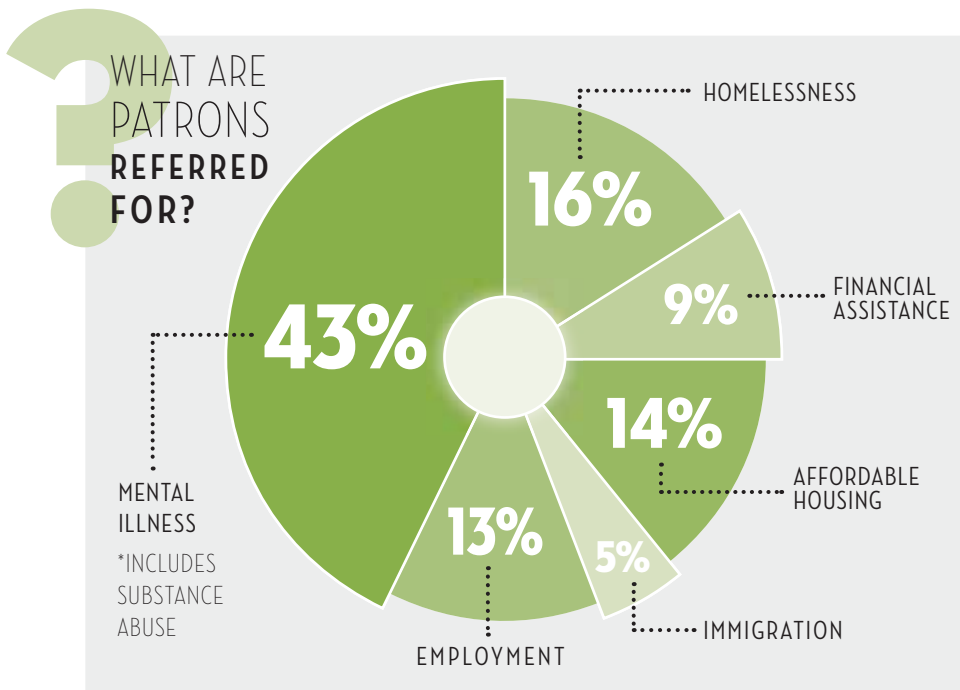
WHAT DO THEY DO?

The team helps patrons who need advocacy, information, and referrals to social services, especially those experiencing homelessness, poverty, and mental health and substance abuse disorders. They also train library staff in ways to serve at-risk populations, and collaborate with area organizations like Housing Forward, Oak Park Township, and school districts 97 and 200.

“The key is having relationships, not just in Oak Park but in the entire Chicagoland area, to get people what they need,” Simmons said.

After getting to know Simmons last fall, Housing Forward Street Outreach Specialist Ebony Martin now visits the library twice a week, getting clients housing support much faster. “We collaborate to keep as much peace in the library as possible,” Martin said. “I get a lot of referrals from Rob, and we share resources with each other.”

This year, Simmons met a young mother who was living in an abandoned building with her 5-week-old baby. Within 48 hours, he connected her with Martin, who placed the mom and her baby in a hotel and then a



WHO'S BEING SERVED?

2/3 ARE OAK PARKERS

2/3 ARE ADULTS

1/3 ARE FAMILIES WITH KIDS

transitional shelter, and helped her access services through New Moms and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

“Before, we didn’t have much time to get to know people and their needs,” Simmons said. “Now there’s a greater awareness of what’s happening in people’s lives. We also have more options for how to handle situations, how to de-escalate problems before they start affecting other people using the library.”

WHAT'S THE IMPACT?

As of April 2017, the team had served 247 individuals and families, mostly Oak Park residents making less than \$12–15,000 a year.

“It’s monumental and priceless for people to have access to this at the library, someone they can turn to,” Simmons said. “Most people we work with are six degrees of separation from comprehensive resources. They don’t have a neighbor or someone else to connect them to a service right away. Through a referral-based model, we’re able to identify vulnerable patrons who for years were not receiving community-based outreach support. Now they have that.”

As one community partner, Lisa DeVivo, Executive Director of the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township, said, “We are stronger together, bringing resources out to the community in a safe, educational environment. We are working toward the same goals to achieve collective impact.”

More: oppl.org/resources

Ensuring safety OFFERING RESPECT

As one of the library’s four Safety and Security Monitors, Aaron Alonzo’s goal is to make sure the library is safe and accessible for all. A former police officer, he draws on his experience and training every weekday morning as he makes his rounds throughout the Main Library, monitoring all areas including restrooms, watching for unattended belongings, and ensuring everyone follows the library’s rules of behavior (oppl.org/rules-behavior).

At the same time, Alonzo isn’t your typical security guard. “My goal is not to kick people out and police them, but to establish relationships, get to know people and how I can help them,” he said.

As part of the library’s Community Resources Team, which focuses on making the library safe for everyone and connecting patrons with social services, he works to engage with patrons, especially those experiencing poverty, homelessness, mental health issues, and addiction, and to refer them to the library’s social worker for more support.

RESPECT & DIGNITY

“A lot of the time, you get further by treating someone with respect and dignity,” Alonzo said. “When I talk with patrons who may need extra services, I’m not looking at them like I’m better than them. I’m thinking, you’re a person just like me, except you’re in a situation that’s unfortunate.”

When he took the job in March, he “started by having conversations with people, shaking their hands, finding



out what they needed, seeing if there are things we can do to help them get back on their feet, to feel good about Oak Park and the library, to feel that they were given an opportunity here.”

VISIBILITY

Often, simply his presence can nip problems in the bud, he said. “I have a lot of patrons tell me, ‘You’re always around. You’re everywhere!’ The best way to do my job is to make sure people can see me. The last thing we want is for patrons to feel uncomfortable at the library and decide not to come back. We want the library to be accessible for everyone whose goal is to use our resources, however that may be.”

UPHOLDING THE RULES

Patrons who do violate the library’s rules of behavior may be asked to leave the premises for a period of time, and typically meet with the Community Resources Team before they can return. “Some people won’t show up again. They don’t want our help and don’t want to be bothered,” he said. “But for those who do want to keep coming here, we expect you to uphold the rules of the library, and we’re going to keep asking you what you’re doing to better yourself.

“I’m glad I’m a part of this. I see the difference we’ve been able to make, and the people we’ve been able to help.”

STRONGER TOGETHER

Leading Edge peer mentor Jonathan Beech (*right*) interviewed pedestrians on Lake Street this summer in an exercise on leadership.



Adding VALUE

What's your personal mission? What are three qualities of a great leader? What would you say to a young man who stopped you on the street to ask?

For five Wednesday afternoons this summer, participants in the library's

Leading Edge youth development program set out from the Main Library to pose such questions to pedestrians in downtown Oak Park.

"My question made people think," said Jonathan Beech, 21, who's been a peer mentor in Leading Edge for two years. "And it got me outside my comfort zone."

Like others in the program, Beech has developed his own mission statement: "To help individuals with their problems by listening ... and assuring them that they can reach their full potential and expectations."

Leading Edge provides peer mentorship and social-emotional

support to youth ages 14–21, the majority of whom are performing in the bottom 25th percentile in school and qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch.

It's about life skills and making connections, said Community Resources Specialist Stephen Jackson, who leads the library program and previously ran a motivational mentorship program at Oak Park and River Forest High School through the Oak Park Township.

As someone who prefaces all feedback with "May I add value?" and whose mantra is "I'm still learning," Jackson serves as a model for youth ▶



"AT SOME POINT, YOU WANT TO BE THAT PERSON TO KNOW," said Community Resources Specialist Stephen Jackson (*right*), shown here with his own mentor, motivational speaker Dr. Samuel Betances (*left*).

“My question made people think. And it got me outside my comfort zone.”

—Jonathan Beech,
Leading Edge peer mentor

practicing skills like organization, patience in the face of adversity, self-care, and strategic decision making.

He also offers young men the benefit of his deep roots in the community, knowing where to turn if kids need help with schoolwork or finding jobs and mentors.

For one of the group’s weekly sessions, Jackson brought in his own mentor, motivational speaker Dr. Samuel Betances, who discussed ways to excel in school and in life: how to work confidently with others to reach your goals, advocate for yourself and those who look up to you, and avoid what popular culture says constitutes manhood.

“At some point, you want to be that person to know, to give back,” Jackson said. “I want to add value. And I want these young people to feel they’re adding value to each other’s lives, to the world.”

Beech, who graduated this summer from Triton College and is headed to North Carolina A&T State University this fall, said he mentors high schoolers in Leading Edge “to give back, be a role model and mentor to younger kids. I was in their same position once. I want to give them my knowledge and advice for how to cope with situations.”



Participant Oswald Delgado said the program was about “more than making the bike, it was about making memories and connections.”

YOUTH EARN A BIKE *with Greenline Wheels*

For the past two years, Oak Park’s Greenline Wheels has partnered with the library’s Leading Edge youth development program to teach Oak Park and River Forest high schoolers to assemble, maintain, and safely ride bicycles.

Eight OPRFHS students have gone through the six-week Youth Earn a Bike program, ultimately earning their own bike, helmet, and accessories, including lights and racks.

Jalal Williams, Greenline Wheels Manager/Bicycling Outreach, said the program gives students a sense of accomplishment and ownership. “Not only do they have a bike that they can show off to their friends, they’ll

have the pride of being able to say that they built it themselves,” he said. Some have had little or no previous mechanical education and initially struggle with finding the right tool for a particular job, he added. “However, by the third week they are comfortable using tools to make repairs and adjustments to their bikes.”

Greenline Wheels, 105 S. Marion St., is a nonprofit managed by the Active Transportation Alliance that seeks to contribute to the vibrancy of Oak Park and River Forest by promoting cycling as a sustainable and affordable form of transportation, as well as provide quality youth and adult bike education programs.

More: activetrans.org/blog/training-next-generation-people-biking





SOCKTOBER

Oct. 1–31, All library locations. Socks are among the most requested items at shelters. To benefit our neighbors at Housing Forward, we're collecting new socks all month. Learn about more ways to help at housingforward/give.



STORYTIMES

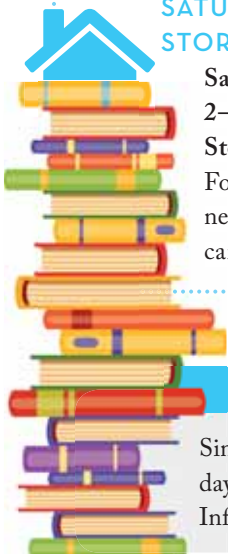
More: oppl.org/storytimes

BE OUR NEIGHBOR

Mondays, Sept. 11–Nov. 13, 4–5 pm, Main Library Storytime Room. Focuses on social-emotional skills that prepare kids for future success. Ages 3–6 with caregivers.

SATURDAY SENSORY STORYTIME

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2–3 pm, Main Library Storytime Room. For kids with special needs ages 3+ with caregiver support.



BUILDING HOME LIBRARIES

Since spring, we've taken children's books that have been retired from library collections and donated them to local daycares, food pantries, Little Free Libraries, and the Children's Clinic, which is sponsored by the Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society and encourages every child who visits the clinic to take home a free book from its Giving Library.

NEW in November

“The more books a child has read, the more words a child has heard, the better off they will be once they start school,” said Early Literacy Librarian Shelley Harris. “They’ll have a strong foundation for learning how to read, for learning how to learn.”

That’s why this November, we’re launching a 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. The goal—for children to read 1,000 books with their families before starting kindergarten—may sound overwhelming, Harris said, but “if you read one book a night, you’ll finish in less than three years.”

Although many families already have strong reading routines in place, Harris said, “we know there also are families who don’t know all the benefits yet, or

who don’t have those structures in place yet. We hope to reach those families especially.”

Starting Nov. 1, at any library location, families can sign up babies, toddlers, and preschoolers for the long-term program. For every 100 books read, kids earn a sticker to take home and one to put up in the library, as visual reminders of the community’s progress.

Once a child finishes 1,000 books, they can pick out a book to take home and keep, have their photo taken, and attend a graduation party at the library. “It’s our way to celebrate their accomplishments and cheer them on,” Harris said.

Join us for the all-day kickoff party at the Main Library on Saturday, Nov. 25. Learn more at oppl.org/kids.



® YOUR CHILD'S BRILLIANT BRAIN: A TWO-PART PARENT WORKSHOP

Tuesdays, Oct. 10 & 17, 7–8:30 pm, Main Library Storytime Room. For parents, teachers, and leaders: learn how to cultivate conditions that can unleash the next generation's brilliance. Neuroscience and Mindset Educator Stefanie Frank shares the brain science behind how adversity and toxic stress affect learning and executive functioning, as well as how empathy, connection, and self-expression are “neurobiological imperatives” for brain growth and maturity, for babies to teens. Register for one or both sessions.

FEEDBACK from 2016 parent workshops:

“HELPFUL” “very informative” “brilliant”
“thank you for bringing growth to my mind!”



STEFANIE FRANK is a psychologist specializing in neuroscience and child and adolescent development. She trained at the New York University Institute of Prevention Science, Child Study Center, and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Children's Education and Rehabilitation

Center, where she designed and facilitated social and emotional skills training interventions for toddlers, pre-K students, and parents. Her work focuses on the cross-section of neuroscience, mindfulness, and social-emotional development to help people uncover the mind's natural ability to manifest highly desirable outcomes in all aspects of life.

® Some events require registration. See all events at oppl.org/calendar.



Photo courtesy of Sean Gaskell

HANDS-ON LEARNING

MUSIC OF THE WEST AFRICAN KORA

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 3–4 pm, Dole Branch. Musician Sean Gaskell demonstrates the kora, an ancient 21-string harp from West Africa. For children and their families, featuring artifacts from the library's Multicultural Collection.

® ENCHANTED HALLOWEEN

Saturday, Oct. 28, 6–7:30 pm, Dole Branch. Our annual costume party, now with artifacts from the Multicultural Collection. Ages 4–10, with an adult. Register now.

NEW

AtoZ WORLD CULTURE is a one-stop student research resource for countries, and offers teachers lesson plans and class activities. It's one of the online resources supporting our Multicultural Collection.



More: oppl.org/online-resources

OPPL.ORG/MULTICULTURAL

GRADES 6-12

Photos courtesy of Jon Veal



“IF YOU LISTEN AND EMPOWER [KIDS] WITH THEIR OWN PLATFORM, THEY COME UP WITH SOME PRETTY DOPE STUFF.”
—JON VEAL, ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

As Tubens did in his residency through writing workshops and open mics, Veal will meet with youth in grades 6–12 after school, engaging them in learning about visual literacy. He hopes to develop public programs that engage kids of different ages, from different schools, as well as youth and families together.

“Part of my art, I feel I’m a facilitator. I really love helping people,” he said. “Being part of the library family, even for a few months, is really exciting for me.”

Veal, who said he had “the greatest time as a kid in Oak Park” before moving away at age 11, is based on Chicago’s South Side, where he has worked with the Rebuild Foundation on its mission to strengthen communities through free arts programming. As a transdisciplinary artist who focuses on “the egalitarian nature of art and the conversations of visibility, economics, and politics around race,” he said, “I use all of the disciplines I have. I use my skills in film, in painting, in music, in choreography. I bring all these skills together and create a kind of symphony.”

On working with youth: “It’s exciting and challenging at the same time. Kids have a lot to say. If you listen and empower them with their own platform, they come up with some pretty dope stuff.”

More: jonveal.com

EMPOWERING YOUTH *through art*

After the success of our first artist residency earlier this year with poet Luis Tubens, our second artist in residence joins the library in September—transdisciplinary artist and Oak Park native Jon Veal.

“The goal is to connect with teens and tweens after school through creative activities,” said Lori Pulliam, Experiences and Initiatives Manager, Public Services. “It’s about engaging and relationship building. The youth are here not just to hang out, but to learn.”

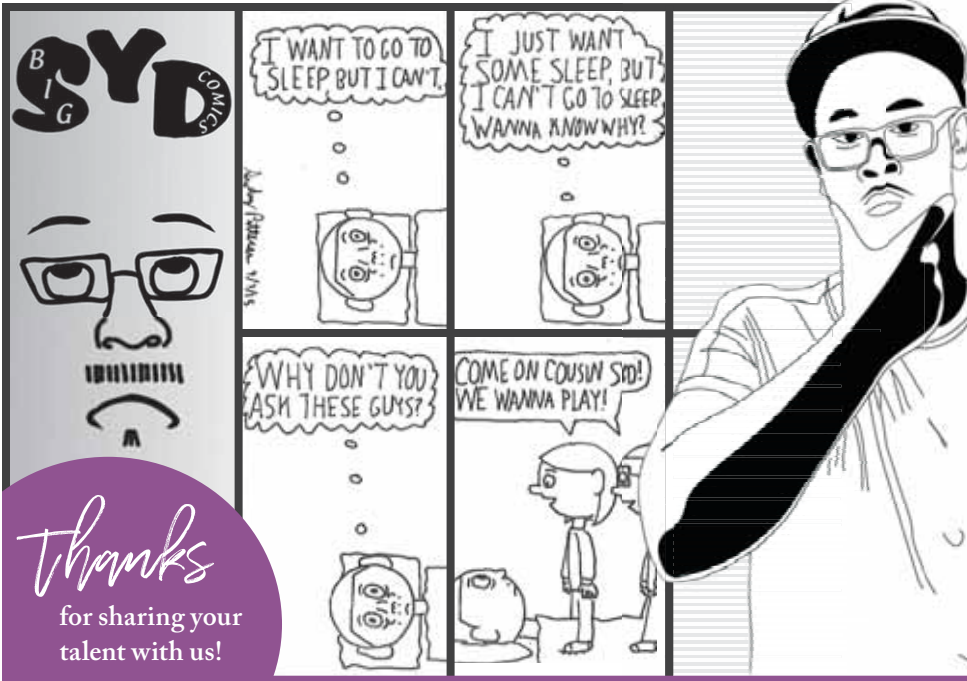
Get involved

TEEN SERVICE CLUB

Tuesdays starting Sept. 12, 3:30–5 pm, Main Library Book Discussion Room. Help with a variety of projects, including working with library materials, crafting for library programs and displays, and completing service projects for local organizations. Ages 13–18. More: oppl.org/volunteer

FASHION U

Thursdays, Sept. 14, 21, 28, 4–6 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Make your own T-shirts, 3D-printed jewelry, and more! Design your own logo and learn how to market and sell your pieces. This weekly program will provide training, tools, and space to get creative.



YOUTH SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Saturday, Oct. 21, 10 am–4:30 pm, Main Library. In this youth-directed conference featuring a panel discussion, 5–7 breakout sessions, and an open mic, teens and adults will explore issues including restorative justice, creating empowering youth spaces through art, confronting racism through theater, and addressing microaggressions in the classroom, using culturally relevant strategies like hip-hop and call-and-response, and merging real stories with theory, research, and practice.

“We want it to be engaging and fun, very spirited, and equally welcoming to youth and adults,” said Middle School Services Librarian Jose Cruz.

Starting this summer, library staff and youth coordinators have been working together in committees to plan the conference. Goals include having library staff and youth interact more, developing a youth council at the library, and encouraging youth who want to continue this type of work around the community.

More: oppl.org/social-justice

Thanks
for sharing your
talent with us!

MEET THE COVER ARTIST

Sydney PATTERSON

As a high school junior, Sydney Patterson won a \$1,000 scholarship to pursue his passion for comics through a mentorship program that paired library staff mentors with Oak Park and River Forest High School students. Now a recent grad, Patterson creates *Big Syd Comics*, featuring himself as a cartoon character placed in humorous situations. And he’s contributed his art to the cover of this issue! Learn more about Patterson at bigsydcomics.weebly.com.



Q: WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO MAKE ART?

A: Art has always been a passion for me. I make my comics based on the random events of my life. I try to create my own style of (clean) humor through my cartoon character (which is me). I also got a lot of inspiration from reading the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series and the Big Nate books. The Peanuts comics also play a huge factor in my inspiration.

GET CREATIVE WITH COMICS

MAKE YOUR OWN COMICS

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 4–5:30 pm,
Main Library Small Meeting Room.
Love to draw or write stories? Learn some fundamentals of creating comics, and then make your own mini-comic. No previous skill necessary.

SELF-PUBLISHING COMICS

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 4–5:30 pm, Main Library Small Meeting Room.
Take your comics or notebooks full of characters to the next level. Get your work publication-ready and learn what it takes to sell at a con or a store. All attendees will be invited to sell at Pocket Con, a comic book convention for youth, held Saturday, Dec. 16 at the Chicago Cultural Center, that celebrates people of color in the comic world.

DIGITAL LEARNING

TECH *workshops*

All workshops are held in the Main Library Computer Classroom. Register now at oppl.org/tech.

LEARN THE BASICS

R BASIC INTERNET

Monday, Sept. 18, 10–11 am

R BASIC MICROSOFT WORD

Monday, Oct. 2, 7–8 pm

R INTERMEDIATE MICROSOFT WORD

Monday, Oct. 9, 7–8 pm

R BASIC MICROSOFT EXCEL

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7–8 pm

R INTERMEDIATE MICROSOFT EXCEL

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 7–8 pm

R INTRODUCTION TO GMAIL

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7–8 pm

R GOOGLE DRIVE BASICS

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 7–8 pm

Can't make a **CLASS?**

Access self-paced tutorials or sign up for one-on-one help at oppl.org/tech.



NEW *workshops this fall*

R CUT THE CABLE CORD

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 7–8 pm. Learn about different streaming options like Netflix, Hulu, Roku, and Apple TV.

R INTRO TO EBOOKS

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 11 am–12 pm. Learn how to download digital books, audiobooks, magazines, and movies from the library's collections.

R AIRBNB & MORE

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7–8 pm. Learn how to create an Airbnb account, become a host, search and reserve home rentals, and get safety tips.

R INTRO TO PODCASTS

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 7–8 pm. Learn how to subscribe to podcasts for your device and get started with some of our favorites.

MAKER *series*

R CREATE A PAPER BOOKMARK

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 7–8 pm. Create a paper bookmark using our Silhouette Cameo vinyl cutter. Design your item in Silhouette Studio, and the machine will cut it out for you to take home.

design. Items will be printed and ready to be picked up one week after the class. Basic computer and internet skills are required.

R 3D PRINT A COOKIE CUTTER

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 7–8 pm. Use online tools to create a custom cookie cutter based on your favorite

R GREEN SCREEN PHOTOS

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 7–8 pm. Bring your family and take a holiday photo in front of our green screen. You can choose from a variety of props and backgrounds. We will print a copy of the photo and email you the digital file.



Digital learning workshops for KIDS & FAMILIES



All of these workshops are held in the Main Library Storytime Room. Register now at oppl.org/kids.

CODING

CODING & ROBOTS PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 11–11:30 am. Through playing with robots, kids and their grown-ups will learn the basics of computer coding. Space is limited to 15 families. Free tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Main Library Children's Services desk. Best for ages 3–5.

CODEMANIA: CODING APPS AND WEBSITES

Thursday, Oct. 19, 4–5 pm. Join us for a sampling of coding apps on our in-house tablets and learn more about computer science for kids! Grades 4+. Register now.

3D PRINTING

TECH FOR KIDS & TWEENS: GETTING STARTED WITH 3D PRINTING

Thursday, Nov. 2, 4–5 pm. Experience our 3D printer and learn how to create your own 3D object using CAD software. Designs are printed after class and can be picked up the following week. Grades 4+. Register now.

FAMILY 3D PRINTING WORKSHOP

Thursday, Nov. 16, 6:30–7:30 pm & Saturday, Nov. 25, 2–3 pm. Meet our 3D printer and work together to create your own 3D objects using the website Tinkercad. Designs are printed after class and can be picked up the following week. Ages 7–12 with a parent or a caregiver. Register now for one of the two sessions.



“Our family engagement programs are the most rewarding because we see parents and kids creating something and learning together.”

—Anne Bensfield, Children's Digital Learning Librarian

AUTHORS & WRITERS



for WRITERS

WRITERS' WORD FEAST

Wednesdays, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, 10 am–1 pm & Sundays, Sept. 10, Oct. 15, 1:30–4:30 pm, Main Library Book Discussion Room. For fiction writers of all types and genres. Share your work and receive feedback from the group. Feel free to bring food to share.

NaNoWriMo

Sundays, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1:30–4:30 pm, Main Library Book Discussion Room. Valuing enthusiasm, determination, and a deadline, NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) is for anyone who has ever thought about writing a novel. Every Sunday, we're giving participants three hours to just write, toward the goal of writing a 50,000-word novel by the end of November. More: nanowrimo.org

NO SHUSH SALON

Thursdays, 6:30–8:45 pm, Maze Branch. A monthly open mic for all creative types who want to share their works in progress or newly finished endeavors. We often begin with a featured performer/reader. More: noshushsalon.blogspot.com

Sept. 28: Author Patricia Ann McNair

Oct. 26: Author John McNally

Nov. 30: Open Mic!



meet the AUTHORS

STEVE BELLINGER AND JOSEPH RULLI: HISTORY IN FICTION AND NONFICTION: BOOKS FOR THE POST-TRUTH AGE

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Bellinger, author of the science-fiction time-travel novel *The Chronocar*, and Rulli, self-proclaimed history nerd and author of *The Chicago Haymarket Affair*, share information about historical research in fiction and nonfiction. For readers, writers, and researchers.

WILLIAM FARINA: THE GERMAN CABARET LEGACY IN AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Learn how the stylistic remnants of cabaret music from Weimar-era Germany are all around us.

JUSTIN GORDON: HOLOCAUST POSTAL HISTORY

Sunday, Sept. 17, 2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Gordon's *Holocaust Postal History* "represents a dual journey—one into the childhood delight of stamp collecting and the other into the adult horrors of Holocaust history."

GEORGE SWIMMER: RAILROAD COLLISIONS: A DEADLY STORY OF MISMANAGED RISK

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 7–9 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Citizen-advocate Swimmer spent 20 years investigating the causes behind railroad collisions and discovered a tangled mess of mismanagement.

MICHELLE CARTER: FROM UNDER THE RUSSIAN SNOW

Thursday, Nov. 16, 7–9 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Carter witnessed the second great Russian revolution, as a United States Information Agency Journalist-in-Residence working with Russian newspaper editors struggling to adapt to new press freedoms and a market economy in 1995.



Jane HIRSHFIELD
AWARD-WINNING POET, TRANSLATOR & ESSAYIST

Photo by Curt Richter

BARBARA BALLINGER LECTURE

2017 PRESENTER: JANE HIRSHFIELD

Sunday, Oct. 8, 2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room



The Book Table will sell titles, and Ms. Hirshfield will be available for signings immediately following her lecture. Refreshments will be served.

Jane Hirshfield is the award-winning author of eight collections of poetry and two books of essays. She has also edited and co-translated four books containing the work of poets from the past. Described by *The New York Times* as “radiant and passionate,” her poetry speaks to the central issues of human existence—desire and loss, impermanence and beauty, the many dimensions of our connection with others, and the wider community of creatures and objects with which we share our lives.

Each year, the Barbara Ballinger Lecture brings an accomplished author to speak in Oak Park. Hosted by the Friends of the Oak Park Public Library, this public event is free, honoring Ms. Ballinger and her 32 years of library service in Oak Park, including 24 years as head librarian. More: oppl.org/ballinger



IT MUST BE LEAVES

*Too slow for rain,
too large for tears,
and grief
cannot be seen.
It must be leaves.
But broken
ones, and brown,
not green.*

FROM COME, THIEF

WORLD WAR I AND AMERICA

1917 ★ WWIAMERICA.ORG ★ 2017



Commemorate the 100th anniversary of AMERICA'S ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR I

Explore America's entry into World War I in 1917 through music, author events, lectures, book discussions, film screenings, and more this October and November.

This program is part of World War I and America, a two-year national initiative of Library of America presented in partnership with The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the National World War I Museum and Memorial, and other organizations, with generous support from The National Endowment for the Humanities. More: oppl.org/ww1



FILM series

Wednesdays, 1:30–4:30 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room.
Film historian Doug Deuchler
will lead post-film discussions.

- Oct. 4: *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930)
- Oct. 11: *Sergeant York* (1941)
- Oct. 18: *Wings* (1927)
- Oct. 25: *The Dawn Patrol* (1938)
- Nov. 1: *Paths of Glory* (1957)
- Nov. 8: *Joyeux Noel (Merry Christmas)* (2005)

BOOK discussions

*ALL QUIET ON
THE WESTERN FRONT*
Thursday, Oct. 12,
1:30–3:30 pm, Maze Branch

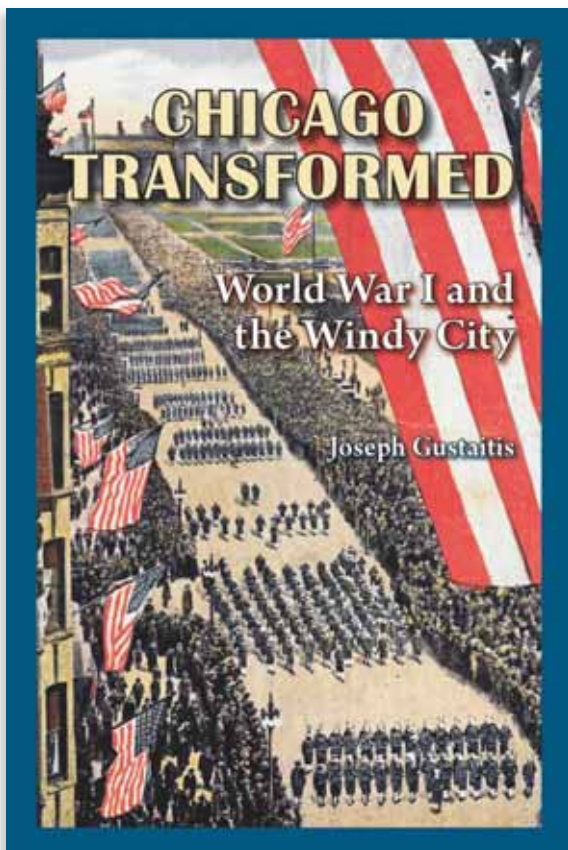
THE SUMMER BEFORE THE WAR
Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7–8 pm, Dole Branch

*WORDS ON WEDNESDAY:
A FAREWELL TO ARMS*
Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1–2:30 pm,
Main Library Book Discussion Room



The Oak Park River Forest History Museum, operated by the Historical Society of Oak Park & River Forest, debuts its World War I exhibit, *On the Homefront*, at its new location, 129 Lake St., on Saturday, Sept. 16. The exhibit includes the vintage WWI posters shown on this page. More: oprhistory.org





AUTHORS, PERFORMANCES, AND LECTURES

in the Main Library Veterans Room

JOHNNIES, TOMMIES, AND SAMMIES: MUSIC AND THE WORLD WAR I ALLIANCE

Saturday, Oct. 7, 2–4 pm

DR. PAUL HERBERT, FIRST DIVISION MUSEUM AT CANTIGNY: GREAT SOLDIERS OF THE FIRST DIVISION, 1917–1919

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7–9 pm

AUTHOR JOE GUSTAITIS: *CHICAGO TRANSFORMED: WORLD WAR I AND THE WINDY CITY*

Sunday, Oct. 15, 4–6 pm

AUTHOR KATHRYN ATWOOD: *WOMEN HEROES OF WORLD WAR I: 16 REMARKABLE RESISTERS, SOLDIERS, SPIES, AND MEDICS*

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2–4 pm

HEMINGWAY & WWI

After the U.S. entered the war in 1917, 18-year-old Ernest Hemingway was unable to enlist because of his poor vision. Instead, he became a Red Cross ambulance driver and was sent to Italy, where he was wounded in 1918. He drew on these experiences for *A Farewell to Arms*, his novel we'll discuss on Oct. 18 (see page 18).

AUTHOR STEVE PAUL: *HEMINGWAY AT EIGHTEEN*

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 6:30–8:30 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Longtime journalist and Hemingway student Steve Paul introduces his new book covering the extraordinary period when Hemingway's self-invention and transformation began.

A FAMILY DURING WAR

Sunday, Nov. 5, 3–5 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. A staged reading of letters young Ernest Hemingway wrote to his parents and others from Italy during the early days of World War I.



Ernest Hemingway at Lake Maggiore with Italian friends, 1918. Taken after Ernest was wounded and in recovery in Italy. See this photo and more from our library's Special Collections at idaillinois.org.

FOR KIDS

R KID INVENTORS

Thursday, Oct. 26, 4–5 pm, Main Library Storytime Room.

World War I sparked the creation of an abundance of surprising inventions. With electronic building blocks littleBits, unleash your innovative spirit and make your own unique inventions. Grades 2–4. Register now.



R Some events require registration. See all events at oppl.org/calendar.

VISIT US | OPPL.ORG/VISIT

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

REGISTRATION

Some events require registration. Call 708.383.8200 or visit oppl.org/calendar for the latest information and all events.

ACCESSIBILITY

For accommodations at an event or class, please contact us, allowing seven days' notice to best serve you. More: oppl.org/accessibility

PROMOTION

Library programs and classes are often photographed and/or recorded for promotional purposes. Please let us know if you prefer not to be photographed or recorded.



JOIN US TODAY!
Friend your library at oppl.org/friends.



**UNDERSTANDING
*the World of Islam***

In our continued commitment to Humanity 101—a comprehensive effort to promote and sustain robust dialogue and understanding between individuals and across communities about seven values that impact all human interactions and behaviors across disciplines—the library is proud to partner with The Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago for the series Understanding the World of Islam.

MEDIA REPRESENTATIONS AND NEGATIVE STEREOTYPING OF ISLAM, MUSLIMS, AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7–9 pm, Main Library

THE QUR'AN

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7–9 pm, Main Library



FOUR MORE LECTURES WILL BE HELD IN 2018; DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED.



FRIENDS' FOLK MUSIC CONCERT: JANET KRIST AND JIM BIZER
Thursday, Oct. 12, 7–9 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. This duo cuts a wide stylistic swath that reflects their eclectic musical backgrounds. More: jankristandjimbizer.com

BUILDING CLOSINGS

All library buildings will be closed on Monday, Sept. 4 and Thursday, Nov. 23.

All library buildings will close at 5 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 22.

SEPTEMBER 2017						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER 2017						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

