

THE STORYLINE

A quarterly publication of the Oak Park Public Library

SPRING 2018

News | Events | Stories



**YOU
BELONG
AT YOUR
LIBRARY.**

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civic literacy muscle

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early readers

OAK PARK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
oppl.org



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Spring 2018
Vol. 3, No. 2
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Get to know us and our core values at oppl.org/about.



ON THE COVER

Jacob Hashimoto's *skip skitter start trip vault bounce*—and other attempts at flight graces the Main Library's second floor wall as one of 28 works in the library's public permanent art collection. Learn more at oppl.org/art.



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Photo by William Camargo

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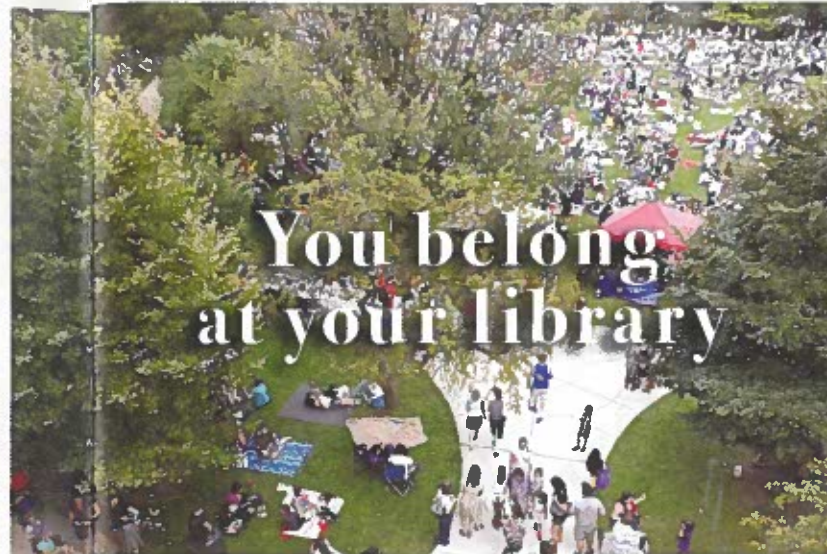
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➔ This issue showcases select events and classes at the library this spring. View all at oppl.org/calendar.

The Storyline is published quarterly as a service to the Oak Park Public Library community. Contact us at communications@oppl.org: Rebecca Price, Graphic Designer; Jodi Kolo, Manager. Many thanks to library staff and community photographers whose work is featured in this issue, including Ashley Boyer, William Camargo, Joselyn Daker, Bob Danstrom, Tina Harle, Dale Nowicki, Kristen Romanowski, and Sarah Yale.



How did we engage, learn, and steward in 2017? Find out at oppl.org/annual-report

Much has changed in our world, nation, and village since public library doors opened in Oak Park in 1903. And still, much remains the same—including your public library being a “center of social and intellectual activity ... a place for forming and expressing public opinion” ... about “not only literature, art and science... but politics as well.” We know these words are as true today as when first spoken by U.S. Rep. George E. Adams more than 100 years ago.*

As time ticks on, your library continues to engage, to learn, and to steward. In pursuit 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, the library's strategic objectives are to:

- **ACT** intentionally to ensure diversity, inclusion, equity, and safety;
- **LEAD** our community in conversation about all its aspirations and values;
- **BUILD** a learning organization focused on empathy, curiosity, and adaptability;
- **SHARE** spaces, opportunities, and content to increase key public literacies—including early childhood, civic, digital, and financial;
- **MEASURE, EVALUATE, AND COMMUNICATE** our impact; and
- **RESPECT AND PRESERVE** Oak Park's capital, environmental, and historical resources.



Who informed these strategic objectives?

YOU! THROUGH HUNDREDS OF INTERACTIONS AND COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS HELD LAST YEAR.

More: oppl.org/listen



THROUGHOUT 2018

We will continue to learn from and act on what our community tells us it needs to thrive. We want to hear from you. Please join the conversation. —Executive Director David J. Seleb

WHAT KIND OF COMMUNITY do you want to live in?

Throughout 2017, we continued using the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation methods to build deeper public knowledge for action.

Hundreds of library patrons, local governmental peers, and key community partners confirmed they value literacy and education; diversity, inclusion, and equity; and health, safety, and affordability. People also revealed an increased anxiety and a desire to act with greater speed and determination to make progress. Further analysis indicated two encompassing themes:

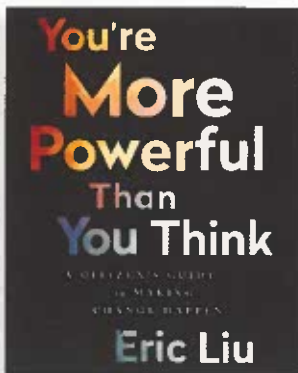
1. COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Concerns people have under this theme include anxiety about community affordability and the rising cost of living, rising taxes, and increasing threats to safety and property. People talked about an increasing lack of awareness about what is happening in and around the community, a lack of people actively working to achieve progress, and barriers to all these aspirations—including a coarsening of culture and a lack of empathy.

2. CORE VALUES

Conversation participants often returned to previously stated aspirations in the conversations—including education, inclusion, equity, and financial stewardship—when talking about what they considered to be core community values. Frequently, people talked about their concerns regarding the values of inclusion and equity and the gap they see between the real presence of these values and people's perceptions of them. There was a measure of discouragement throughout the conversations regarding the ways local governments at various levels were working with and communicating with the community.

*A Brief History of the Organization, Building, and Dedication of Scoville Institute (Chicago: John Morris, 1888): 40-41. Main Library Local History collection.



“Because your ability to get heard depends on your ability to articulate.”

—Eric P. Liu, author of *You're More Powerful Than You Think: A Citizen's Guide to Making Change Happen*

LIBRARIES LEADING *in a democracy*

Where can a public library have its greatest impact? Many of us take for granted the incredible individual power that comes with being able to read and write. Oak Park's 2018 projected demographics* tell us that 65 percent of Oak Parkers have earned a bachelor's, master's, doctorate, or other professional degree. More than 30 percent have earned an associate's degree, have some college education, or have earned a high school degree/GED equivalent. Less than 5 percent have not graduated high school. These stats assume most Oak Parkers are in a somewhat decent literacy spot.

Yet, there is another kind of power—and equalizer—that comes with literacy in specified areas and in having deeper proficiencies, competencies, and knowledge about this topic or that process. That said, how can a library, a highly trusted resource for championing literacy overall, be more intentional about moving the needle on deeper civic knowledge? How does a library support the individual, the community?

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITY

Public libraries can help you do your homework and create community value by building common ground, according to Eric P. Liu, author of *You're More Powerful Than You Think: A Citizen's Guide to Making Change Happen* and founder of Citizen University. Liu spoke at an Urban Library Council



“We can make that change little by little every day. It's important to surround yourself with people who want to make a difference,” said playwright Daryl Satcher at October's Youth Social Justice Conference. More: oppl.org/social-justice

annual conference this fall where he said, “Public libraries can be power stations to plug into the grid of public life.”

FOCUSING ON FOUR MAIN LITERACIES

Civic, early childhood, digital, and financial literacies are at the intersection of library resources and our community's aspirations. Focusing on them aligns what we do best with what we hear our community needs most. And it is where your investment in your public library can have the biggest impact, individually and collectively.

In 2018, we are focusing on public spaces, opportunities, and content related to:

- **LEARNING** more about where we live, meet, and connect with our neighbors and becoming more informed citizens (civic);
- **PREPARING** our community's babies, toddlers, and preschoolers to arrive “ready to learn” come kindergarten (early childhood);
- **GAINING** technical skills to navigate a world that demands we can apply for a job and pay bills online, as well as explore passions and enjoy new learning through creation as inventors, artists, and crafters (digital); and
- **SECURING** jobs, building new businesses, and developing longer-term career options (financial).



Leading in individual areas of practice, each librarian gears his or her talents for in-depth research and local relationship building around a specific topic. Here they pose at the Main Library with Carole Harrison's brass and copper sculpture titled *Unity and Growth*.

LEADING *by example*

A LIVING WAGE AND FAIR WORK WEEK

Using dollars saved through sound money management and lower debt payments (from construction of the current Main Library building), the library was able to make big changes for many employees in 2018. “This is the third year running that the budget has moved the library closer to providing a living wage and fair work week,” said library Deputy Director Jim Madigan. The Board of Library Trustees approved a 2018 budget that will raise the library's entry-level minimum wage. This continues to move the library toward alignment with Chicago's minimum wage. The 2018 budget also supports an increase in library employees with access to benefits. In 2017, less than half (42 percent) of library staff had paid time off and retirement benefits. In 2018, more than two-thirds (67 percent) have access.



Watch Myers' TED Talk: *How to Overcome our Biases? Walk Boldly Toward Them* at oppl.org/about.

ONE BOOK, ONE LIBRARY STAFF

Since January, we've been reading Verna Myers' *Moving Diversity Forward: How to Go From Well-Meaning to Well-Doing*. Throughout the year, in support of the library's strategic objective “to act intentionally to ensure diversity, inclusion, equity, and safety,” we will continue to share and apply what we are learning in our everyday work.

RACE & SOCIAL EQUITY

We are one of 132 public libraries who have signed the Urban Libraries Council's statement on race and social equity.

As leaders of North America's public libraries, we are committed to achieving racial and social equity by contributing to a more just society in which all community members can realize their full potential. Our libraries can help achieve true and sustained equity through an intentional, systemic, and transformative library-community partnership. Our library systems are working to achieve equity in the communities we serve by:

- Eliminating racial and social equity barriers in library programs, services, policies, and practices;
- Creating and maintaining an environment of diversity, inclusion, and respect both in our library systems and in all aspects of our community role;
- Ensuring that we are reaching and engaging disenfranchised people in the community and helping them express their voice;
- Serving as a convener and facilitator of conversations and partnerships to address community challenges; and
- Being forthright on tough issues that are important to our communities.

Libraries are trusted, venerable, and enduring institutions, central to their communities and an essential participant in the movement for racial and social equity.

➔ See the full list of supporting public libraries by state at oppl.org/about.

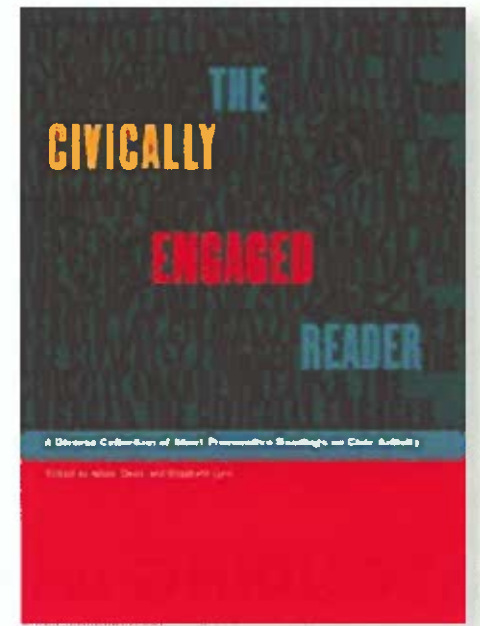
*Source: Nielsen's Spotlight Environments Analytic U.S. Census Bureau data

PUBLIC libraries

can be power stations to plug into the grid of public life," said Eric Liu, author of *You're More Powerful Than You Think*. Civic literacy includes learning more about where you live, connecting with neighbors, and becoming informed citizens.



Need a public space to connect your nonprofit group? We welcomed more than 100 new community organizations in 2017 after opening up the library's public meeting room policy last year. Learn how to rent a meeting space at oppl.org/space.



NEW THE CIVICALLY ENGAGED READER: OAK PARK

Tuesday, May 8, 7-8 pm, Main Library Book Discussion Room.

Hold the second Tuesdays each month, May through October, for a new library-led discussion series intended to "foster respectful, open discussion that promotes civil discourse, civic engagement, and social justice."

May's discussion will cover: "They'll Say, She Must be From Another Country" by Imtiaz Dharker and "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost.

From the title's introduction: "The Civically Engaged Reader makes available a collection of readings that will stimulate a range of responses—evoking pleasure, challenging our opinions, maybe even troubling our conscience. Readings are short and provocative, raising deep questions about civic activity. They have this potential not so much because of what they prescribe or proscribe but because of what they provoke. In a word, they provoke reflection."

Copies of the book will be available at the Main Library. Copies of the individual poems will be available at the May 8 discussion.



Above from left: Library Executive Director David J. Seleb, Sarah Glavin, Christian Harris, Maryanne Mohanraj, Theodore N. Foss, Janet Kelenson, and Matthew Fruth. Not pictured: Carmenza Millan.

MEET YOUR ELECTED BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Your elected Board of Library Trustees meet monthly and have eight primary responsibilities, according to current board bylaws. These are: determine library policies, employ a capable library administrator, secure adequate funds for library operations, approve expenditure of library funds, provide and maintain adequate facilities, insure a representative selection of library materials, promote use of the library within the community, and perform other duties as outlined in Illinois Compiled Statutes. Learn more at oppl.org/board.



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE AND THE FAIR HOUSING ACT

Saturday, April 21, 1-5 pm, Main Library.

A community forum hosted by the Oak Park Regional Housing Center exploring the past, present, and future of fair housing, racial integration, and inclusion in Oak Park.

HELPING YOU STRENGTHEN YOUR CIVIC LITERACY MUSCLE

FAMILY LEARNING AND SOCIAL CHANGE

A crisp January morning resulted in a warm community response during two Dole Branch events focusing on family learning and supporting the Oak Park Art League's *Art for Social Change: Sanctuary* exhibit.

About 20 families joined for Everyone is Welcome storytime and a sanctuary city postcard-making session.

The goal for both programs was to "include more of a youth voice around this important issue," said Neighborhood Services Librarian Sarah Yale.

"It was moving to watch the families sing and dance along to 'Clap for Love' and 'The More We Get Together,' then lean in and talk about what it means to be welcoming toward others," Yale said.

Books, artifacts, and more were highlighted from the library's Multicultural and Special Collections.

Added Manager of Special Collections Leigh Tarullo: "We were thrilled to share resources at an event that not only celebrates Oak Park's unique history of open housing but also looks toward the future and talks about what a welcoming community is today."



OAK PARK ART LEAGUE
CLASSES • WORKSHOPS • GALLERY • STUDIO

ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE: SANCTUARY NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF POSTCARD ART

Exhibition: May 11–June 1 | Reception: May 11, 7–9 pm

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Ordinance (1968) and addressing current sanctuary city political rhetoric, the Oak Park Art League calls on creatives nationwide to participate in a postcard project that explores legislative policies of past and present that support diversity, inclusion, racial equity, and human rights. Submit a postcard through March 31. More: oakparkartleague.org

ASK A LIBRARIAN OF PRACTICE

To support community needs and use librarians' expertise in more focused ways, we follow a librarians of practice model. Each librarian gears his or her talents for in-depth research and local relationship building around a specific topic that informs how we select and maintain collections, develop programming, and cultivate community partnerships. Have a question or idea about how the library can work with you and your local organization? Find a specific librarian of practice at oppl.org/staff or ask us now at communications@oppl.org.

GET ANSWERS AT OPPL.ORG/CIVIC

Did you know that you can connect with Oak Park taxing bodies and contact elected officials, all in one place? At oppl.org/civic, you also can get information about 2018 elections and tax season, referendums, evaluating sources, and being an informed consumer. Here are topics already featured:

- Preparing for upcoming elections (local, state, and federal);
- Getting a referendum on a future ballot (you'll need to petition);
- Evaluating sources of news and information (is it fake news?);
- Contacting elected officials (local, regional, and national);
- Being an informed consumer (tips on identity theft);
- Finding out more about where you live (welcome to Oak Park).

Have a question not answered here? Email us at communications@oppl.org.



Adult Education and Job Seekers Librarian Rashmi Swain poses with two recent graduates of Housing Forward's Career Passport program.



SECURING *new jobs*

Financial literacy includes ensuring everyone in our community can navigate a world that demands we can find and apply for jobs online.

As a primary school educator in India and a Hindi instructor for graduate students from Western countries, Oak Park Adult Education and Job Seekers Librarian Rashmi Swain has long practiced her passion for sharing the empowerment that learning can provide.

So when then Housing Forward employee Suzanne Till approached Swain for support in teaching Housing Forward clients in its Career Passport program, Swain was intrigued.

"I recall Suzanne saying 'you know how they say it takes a village to raise a child? Well, with homelessness, it takes many villages,'" Swain said, referring to Till's proposal that Oak Park join the Maywood-based program supporting its clients looking for jobs.

Till, also a former AmeriCorps volunteer who recognized the power of collaboration, asked Swain if she would commit to teaching a small group on short notice, and use library space and computers to do it.

"Yes!" was Swain's immediate reply.

In the Main Library's Computer Classroom, Swain connected with five Career Passport participants in three, two-hour sessions. Week one focused on computer basics. Week two introduced the library's strongest online resources for job seekers: Brainfuse JobNow, Business Source Premiere, Lynda.com, and ReferenceUSA. Week three was about pulling it all together: finishing resumes, practicing interview skills, and learning how to get access to more—including live interactive online help.

Swain gave program participants library cards, weekly homework, and new skills to potentially move them forward in their job search. She also shared her compassion, dedication, and commitment to learning. At *Storyline* press time, two of the program's five participants had conducted interviews, and one had landed a new full-time job.

"Members of the class were grateful for the newfound knowledge on library services for employment seekers while developing more trust in Rashmi," Till said. "Their trust meant it was easier

for them to ask her questions and step outside their box of comfort while improving job searching skills."

Housing Forward Executive Director Lynda Schueler said in an email to the library's executive director: "Thank you for sharing [Rashmi] with our students, she was a great new addition teaching keyboard skills and job search resources. We very much look forward to making her a part of future classes."

"It's so rewarding to be part of a process that teaches skills and offers resources to support change in people's lives," Swain said.

Swain also works with job seekers enrolled in Oak Park Township's Job Readiness Program and has connected the township and the African American Christian Foundation with space to host the Community Job Fair at the Main Library on April 19 (see page 9).

"Rashmi Swain, indeed, is a treasure for the community of Oak Park and the people she serves. It is truly my pleasure to know her," said Till.

More: oppl.org/job-search

Featured events

Find all events and details at oppl.org/calendar and in monthly print calendars at any library location.

LEARN TO USE TWITTER FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Tuesday, March 13, 6:30–8 pm,
Main Library Computer Classroom.
This interactive workshop provides tools and strategies that can help small businesses create, design, and launch successful social media campaigns using Twitter. Register now.

COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

Thursday, April 19, 10 am–1 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room.
The African American Christian Foundation (AACF) and the Oak Park Township will co-host a community job fair. A list of employers will be available closer to March 1. To learn more, please call the AACF directly at 708.848.1700.

Business resources

Find industry information and access subscription-based online resources at oppl.org/business.



BUILDING *businesses*

Financial literacy includes supporting local entrepreneurs and helping connect the small business community.



Business and Government Librarian Bridget Optholt

In her daily work focused on connecting people to whatever it is they need to launch and grow their own business, Business and Government Services Librarian Bridget Optholt notes a trend.

"How can I use social media to help launch and grow my business?" is one of the most asked questions I get," Optholt said.

So after being introduced by a colleague to Mickey Bryant of TeamsWork Instructional Design & Training Development Group, Optholt had a business idea of her own. She approached Bryant, a local instructional designer specializing in helping small businesses succeed in social media marketing. The two developed a new series of library programs focusing on what her patrons were telling her they needed.

The new curriculum focused on businesses using Facebook, Twitter, and

Instagram. The content addressed many of the same questions Optholt is asked most often. The first hands-on workshop was this fall—held in the Main Library Computer Classroom—and was filled to capacity.

One attendee shared: "Other than using LinkedIn, this was my first introduction to social media for business. I had some great takeaways from the class and enjoyed talking with some of the other attendees. This was truly one of the most useful classes I've taken here or anywhere."

Interested in learning how social media can help your business? Register to join us on Tuesday, March 13, to learn how to use Twitter for your business. For more details, see sidebar and visit oppl.org/business.



Q & A WITH BRIDGET

I'M THINKING ABOUT STARTING A NEW VENTURE. WHAT CAN THE LIBRARY OFFER ME?

Bridget: Your library has free connections and resources to help you dive deeper into your specific needs and to help inform your best next step.

I HAVE A GREAT IDEA FOR A NEW BUSINESS? WHERE SHOULD I START?

Bridget: I start with where are you in the idea process? Do you know your product and audience? Have you written a business plan? Have you done your market research to determine if it's a viable idea? I keep asking questions to find out how the library can best support where they are in the process.





GAINING *technical skills*

Digital literacy includes learning new career skills—such as coding and—exploring creative passions as inventors, artists, and crafters with new technology.

INTERNET FROM ANYWHERE

Forty mobile hotspots were added to the Oak Park collection in December 2017, empowering Oak Park Public Library cardholders with more free options to connect to the internet from anywhere.

“Providing mobile hotspots for checkout is about increasing access and offering more ways for all Oak Parkers to get more from their public library services and resources,” said Oak Park Public Library Executive Director David J. Seleb.

The small, lightweight 4G devices connect WiFi-enabled smartphones, tablets, and laptops to the internet from any location within Sprint’s 4G coverage area. One hotspot connects up to 10 WiFi-enabled devices; a fully charged device lasts about six hours.

Check out and return devices, which come in a zipped bag with a power cord, adaptor, and instruction card, at service desks in all three library buildings. Learn more at oppl.org/mobile-hotspots.



SPACE FOR INTENTIONAL DIGITAL LEARNING

“Never nail anything to the floor.” It’s advice we take to heart as community needs evolve and library collections and services must quickly and responsibly adapt. Take, for example, the Main Library’s Technology Center. Since the building opened in 2003, the space had been filled with public desktop computers, open to all.

As we grow the library’s digital services and collections—offering mobile hotspots, laptops for on-site use, and expanded wireless printing—we also now have staff who specialize in digital learning. This has enabled us to add more sessions for community support and to rethink existing space use for more intentional digital learning.

expanded tech sessions & new workshops @ OPPL.ORG/DIGITAL

The Technology Center is home to new equipment, including a new 3D printer, laser cutter, scan/copy/print station, and an oversized copier with advanced functionality. While some of these tools currently are used only at librarian-led public events, plans are in the works to expand access to new maker technology in the second half of this year. “These are powerful resources for all of us, but especially for inventors, artists, and crafters,” said Digital Learning Coordinator Deidre Winterhalter.

Have a tech question? Get answers about using devices for downloading ebooks, movies, and music, and understanding online privacy and security at expanded one-on-one and new drop-in tech sessions.

Ready for group learning? Find workshops details on topics such as travel apps and websites, cutting the cable cord, downloading ebooks, and more.

More: oppl.org/digital

UPDATE: *girls who code*

Since launching weekly meet-ups in January at the Main Library, the new Oak Park chapter of Girls Who Code (GWC) is off to a very strong start!

GWC, a nonprofit working to close the gender gap in technology, also provides connections to a national sisterhood dedicated to helping young women continue to develop computer science skills for community impact.

“Now, a dedicated group of 14 girls meet weekly to code and are diving into their ‘CS Impact Project,’” said High School Services Librarian Rachael Bild.

As a central part of a GWC club experience, girls work together on a Computer Science (CS) Impact Project, using computer science to solve a problem relevant to their club and their community. Through the experience, girls also learn fundamental concepts of loops, variables, conditionals, and functions that form the basis for all programming languages—applicable whether building a website, an app, or a robot.

“Through May, we will be working to create an interactive website with video games and information on a topic the girls choose and care about,” Bild said.

Coder Madeleine Swainston, an 8th grader at Julian Middle School interested in a career in computer science/game design, said “Coding is like a second language. You can understand what’s going on behind the scenes.”

“I want to use my skills and help people the best way I can,” said coder Cia Gladden, a junior at Chicago’s Saint Ignatius College Prep. Gladden plans to study computer science and linguistics to become a statistical analyst for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Volunteer and GWC mentor Valerye Antatis is a library practicum student pursuing her master’s degree in Library and Information Science through the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Now, as she works toward becoming a librarian focused on teens and technology, Antatis says “Girls Who Code is a very nice intersection for me, too.”

CODE FEST = LEARNING TOGETHER

More than 200 community members attended the first Oak Park Code Fest, a collaborative event led by the library, Oak Park Elementary District 97 teacher librarians, and community volunteers. Students in grades K-8 and families from all 10 public elementary schools attended, exploring coding apps, robots, and websites, and connecting with local experts who support and encourage kids’ digital learning.

For 90 minutes on a winter Wednesday night, kids of all ages, parents, grandparents, and caregivers learned together about emerging technologies at hands-on stations facilitated by Oak Park librarians, D97 teacher librarians, D97 students, the Oak Park Education Foundation, and the Oak Park and River Forest CoderDojo Chapter.

For more coding resources, visit oppl.org/kids-digital.

MORE FOR KIDS WHO (ALREADY DO OR WANT TO) CODE

Looking for coding websites, apps, gadgets, and books for kids recommended by our librarians and D97 teacher librarians?

Visit oppl.org/kids-digital.

Plus, check out Discovery Kit backpacks for hands-on learning with a tech focus. Our Bee-Bot kit (pictured above), Code-a-Pillar kit, Raspberry Pi kit, and Makey Makey kit are great places to start. And more coding kits for grade school students are being added to the collection. Search the catalog with the phrase “Discovery Kit” to see what’s available.



NEW

MAKER LAB SERIES FOR GRADES 6-12

Thursdays, March 1-May 24, 3:30-5 pm, Main Library.

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to experiment and learn with new technology, including a 3D printer and laser cutter.



Elliott is our first finisher for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten at the Main Library.



GROWING *early readers*

Early childhood literacy includes preparing our community's babies, toddlers, and preschoolers to arrive "ready to learn" come kindergarten. As part of her intentional work to ensure diversity, inclusion, and equity in all storytimes, Early Literacy Librarian Shelley Harris recently shared a resource she's found impactful in her everyday storytime work and when auditing Oak Park's early childhood titles:

Megan Dowd Lambert, children's literature professor and author of *Reading Picture Books with Children*, shares specifics about using a race-conscious lens and includes tips for talking about race at storytime:

- It's okay to point out racial differences in picture books: "Is that skin color darker or lighter than yours? How would you describe this skin color? Or yours? Or mine?"
- Use "fair/unfair" when talking about racial stereotypes or exclusion in picture books: "Wow, this picture book only includes white male inventors. That's unfair. Did you know that ____ created things, too?"

Let's read about some famous ____ inventors."

- Embrace cultural and racial differences and reinforce that "different" and "weird" aren't the same. "Why is her hair weird?" "Her hair is different from yours. Some people have straight, curly, or wavy hair. It's great that we're different."
- Respect children's curiosity by responding to their hard questions and sometimes embarrassing observations, or by admitting gaps in your knowledge. "Let me think about that for a while," or "That's a good question," or "I don't know" can be great replies.



Learn more at embrace.org.

SATURDAY STORYTIMES

In March, April, and May join us at the Main Library:

- **Children ages 2-6** and their caregivers are invited to Stories on Saturday (10 am) for a big, lively storytime that is full of favorites.
- **Children birth-24 months** and their caregivers are welcome to join us for Young & Restless (11 am) for short books paired with songs and rhymes modeled to introduce pre-literacy skills.

Note: no storytimes on March 31. See oppl.org/storytimes for specific dates and times.

CONGRATS, *Elliott!*

At 19-months-old Elliott's house, reading is definitely a priority! Here, Elliott poses for his celebratory "first finisher" photo, part of his formal recognition as the first child to finish the library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Learn more at oppl.org/early.

Since its November launch, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten has attracted more than 600 families to sign up with their babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. All are committing to the long-term goal of reading together before kindergarten begins.

As the program's first finisher, Elliott was able to pick out a brand new book to take home and keep, have his photo taken (see above), and be invited as a special guest to an upcoming 1,000 Books

Before Kindergarten graduation party. "It's our way to celebrate accomplishments and cheer on young listeners and readers," said Early Literacy Librarian Shelley Harris.

"The kids love the attention they get for all their reading, with even our youngest participants excited to show off their logs and get their sticker," Harris said, adding that "caregivers' enthusiasm about each milestone definitely reinforces a positive, joyful bonding experience."

WE ASKED ELLIOTT'S DAD IF HE HAD ANY TIPS FOR FAMILIES WORKING TOWARD 1,000 BOOKS:

My wife Liz and I have been reading to Elliott since we first brought him home. At the beginning it was easy, infants just sort of lay there. We've been fortunate that as he's gotten older and more interactive he loves when we read to him. Now at 19 months, he will sometimes initiate, bringing books to us. We've made that easy for him by keeping books in every room, and we've gotten in the habit of reading several times a day, a few books in the morning before work, in the afternoon, and at bedtime. We regularly attend the library's Young and Restless storytimes, and I think that has been a big help in making reading fun and interactive.

WHAT WORKED? WHAT DIDN'T WORK?

Elliott definitely has his favorites, so sometimes you'll be reading the same book five times in a row whether you want to or not! And some longer, text-heavy books that we read to him early on, *Winnie the Pooh* comes to mind, he gets a little bored with.

When we have a sitter or during the holidays when we had family around, we always encourage them to read to Elliott, and we think that has definitely helped with getting him more into reading and comfortable with it in different settings. We've also found that sometimes, when he gets fussy at meals or upset, one of his favorite books can be a positive distraction.

ANY FAVORITES? Since the start he has loved Sandra Boynton books and anything by Eric Carle. Lately he's been enjoying *Mo Willems*, the *Anna Dewdney Llama Llama* books, and he loves the *Mike Curato Little Elliot* books, of course.

—As told to us by Bob Danstrom

working toward 100%

Embracing a partner approach to empower tweens and teens

A partner initiative funded by a \$150,000 national leadership grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) last year is now in full swing at the Main Library.

Developed in partnership with Triton College, the Equity Team, Inc. (E-Team), and the library, “Triton College Activating Community Opportunities” was one of only 12 grants awarded nationally in its IMLS category. This work joins families and students in middle and high school with specially trained volunteers, tutors, mentors, and community resources for ongoing academic and social support.

“The grant allows Triton College to work closely with organizations and schools throughout the Oak Park community to address gaps in college and career readiness,” said Dr. Deborah Baness King, Triton College Dean of Academic Success.

Currently, 35 middle and high school students, mostly from D97 and D200, come to the Main Library after school four days each week. Since 2016, library staff members Robert Simmons, Director of Social Services and Safety, and Stephen Jackson, Social Services Specialist, have worked with the E-Team’s

SCOVILLE PARK PEACE CIRCLES

Pending spring showers, Social Services Specialist Stephen Jackson plans to bring back public peace circles to Scoville Park. Last summer, Jackson hosted a series of early Friday morning opportunities for intergenerational community building. “Peace circles are intentional safe spaces where each voice is valued,” Jackson said. For specific dates and times, visit oppl.org/calendar.



One Earth Film Festival Film instructor Jonathan Moeller shared recording and interviewing skills at the Main Library with students in the 100% College and Career Ready program.

Frances Kraft and Sheree Johnson, as well as Triton’s Dean of Student Services Corey Williams from the TRIUMPH and SURGE mentor programs, to first develop, then launch, and now run this collaborative initiative.

Dr. Carol Kelley, District 97 Superintendent said, “Our district is committed to providing our students with access to a system of supports that will enable them to thrive both in and out of the classroom. We believe this program will further strengthen this commitment, while also helping to advance our vision of creating positive learning environments for all students that are equitable, inclusive, and focused on the whole child.”

District 200 Superintendent Dr. Joylynn Pruitt-Adams added: “This is a great opportunity for our students to build connections with one another, through being both recipients and providers of tutoring and mentoring. We expect this will result in positive student outcomes, as well as enhance our collaboration with community partners.”

“This initiative began as a grassroots campaign to empower our community to prepare our youth to be 100% college and career ready. We have spent many months working with a dedicated team and the community to build its capacity, and will continue working together through the school year,” Kraft said.

To learn more, contact Kraft at 708.772.0704 and frk766@mail.harvard.edu.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Design. Play. Compose. Learn the ins and outs of creating beats and electronic music at Beat Box, an interactive hands-on musical workshop, which returns Wednesday, April 18.

MEET LOCAL FILMMAKER, WATCH GADGET GIRLS & EXPLORE GADGETS

Saturday, April 7, 2:30–4:30 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Join filmmaker Risé Sanders Weir to see and discuss her film *Gadget Girls*, which introduces middle school girls—some of whom have never held a screwdriver—to what you can do with math and science skills by attending GADgET (Girls Adventuring in Design, Engineering and Technology) Camp. The film follows as the campers complete their own designed and executed “gadget.” GADgET Camp is on a mission to build self-confidence one drill bit at a time.

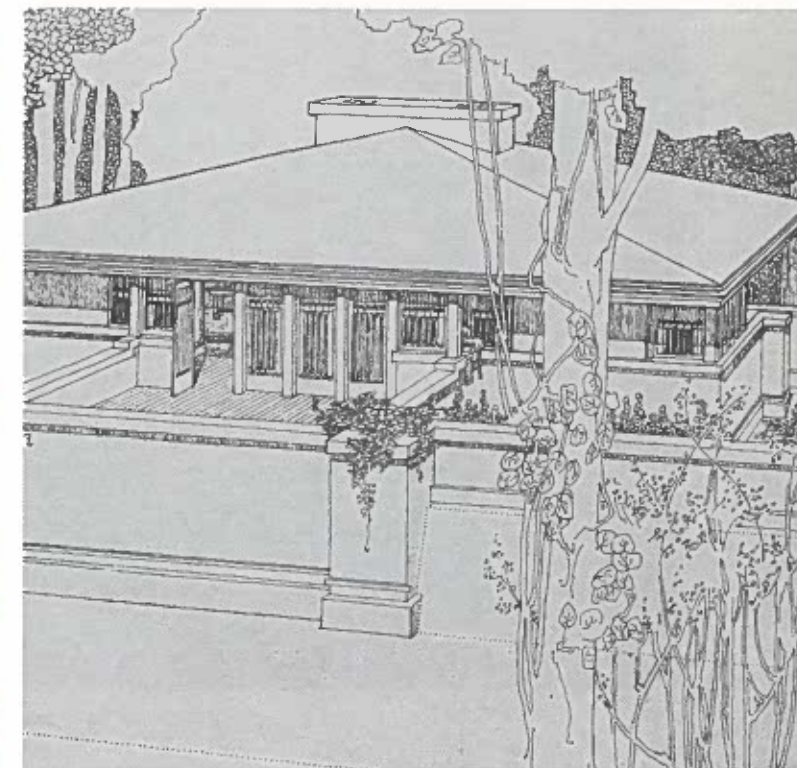


RISÉ SANDERS WEIR is a writer, director, producer, and supervisor who has been recognized with Emmy, Hugo, and Telly awards.

BEAT BOX

Wednesdays, April 18, 25; May 2, 9, 3:30–5 pm, Main Library Computer Classroom. In this hands-on workshop, you can make your own instruments and production tools, build a midi controller, design sounds using synthesizers and samples from nature, and compose and perform songs from scratch. No experience necessary; technology provided. Ages 12+. Register now.

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



Edwin H. Cheney House. Oak Park, IL. Oak Park Special Collections. Find digital images like this one at oppl.org/special-collections.

LEARN & CONNECT

SPANISH CONVERSATION HOUR/ CONVERSACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL

Saturday, March 3, April 7, May 5, 3–4 pm, Dole Branch. ¡Hola Oak Park! Join us for casual conversation and connect with local Spanish speakers seeking opportunities to develop their skills. Please note: this is not an instructional language class.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT OPEN HOUSE

Friday, May 18–Saturday, May 19, 2:30–4:30 pm, Main Library Special Collections. See rare Frank Lloyd Wright items—including Wasmuth Portfolio prints, original correspondence, photographs, and other Wright-related ephemera—on display.

HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, ILLINOIS!

Thursdays, 7–9 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Celebrate the Illinois Bicentennial with your library at upcoming programs this spring. More: oppl.org/calendar

March 15: 200 Years of Illinois Roads with David Clark
April 19: Why Illinois is Ground Zero for Innovation with John Wasik



On the Road with Roz by Roz Varon



APRIL 14



Celebrating Seniors

AUTHORS & BOOKS

AUTHOR MARGARET POWER:
HOPE IN HARD TIMES
Saturday, March 24, 2–4 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room.

Learn how 250 families of a western Pennsylvania town banded together to envision a new kind of community that raised standards of living through a cooperative lifestyle and fostered civic engagement.

AUTHOR TERRI GULDAN:
THE LETTER
Saturday, March 31, 2–4 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room.

Meet the author and hear the true story of her family's struggle through loss and back to normalcy after the death of her older brother in the Vietnam War. Through letters written by her brother and countless interviews with family members long after his death, the author brings to life a young warrior who left behind a void that can be felt decades later.

WLS-TV ANCHOR ROZ VARON:
ON THE ROAD WITH ROZ
Saturday, April 14, 2–4 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room.

Meet the award-winning TV traffic anchor as she shares stories of adventures in life and travel from her latest book, which chronicles her trips from the past eight years—including the inauguration of President Barack Obama, Route 66, the Jewish Deep South, Israel, Ireland, and the southern United Kingdom. The Book Table will have books for sale and signing.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
Sunday, April 22, 1:30–5 pm,
Maze Branch. Celebrate the birthday of the Bard of Avon with brain teasing trivia, a Shakespearean open mic, performers, and more.

CELEBRATING SENIORS WEEK:
APRIL 26–MAY 3, MAIN LIBRARY

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH TOMORROW?
Thursday, April 26, 2–4 pm

POP-UP FLORAL ART EXHIBIT
Sunday, April 29, 1–4:30 pm

OPEN CHESS
Monday, April 30, 6–8 pm

FOLK MUSIC CONCERT: DIANA JONES
Monday, April 30, 7–9 pm

TECH TIME DROP-IN
Tuesday, May 1, 9–11 am

CRAIGSLIST BASICS
Wednesday, May 2, 7–8 pm

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE SERIES
Wednesday, May 2, 7–8:30 pm

ITALIAN CONVERSATION HOUR
Thursday, May 3, 7–8 pm

Learn more at oppl.org/calendar and celebratingseniors.net.

Sea Inside by Bryan Northrup



MARCH 4



MARCH 22

Photo by William Camargo

ARTS & CULTURE

10TH ANNUAL OSCARTHON
Saturday, March 3, Main Library Veterans Room
9:15–11:05 am: *Coco* (PG, 2017)
11:10 am–1:15 pm: *Darkest Hour* (PG-13, 2017)
1:20–3:20 pm: *Big Sick* (R, 2017)
3:30–5 pm: *Abacus* (NR, 2016)

ART RECEPTION: BRYAN NORTHUP & FRAN SAMPSON: SUM OF US
Sunday, March 4, 2–4 pm, Main Library Art Gallery. On display through March 30.

FILM SERIES: DAME JUDI DENCH
Mondays, 1:30–4:30 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room
March 5: *Philomena* (PG-13, 2013)
March 12: *Victoria & Abdul* (PG-13, 2017)

GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK CONCERT: PHARLIS JAMES TRIO
Sunday, March 25, 3–4 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room

FOLK MUSIC CONCERT: DIANA JONES
Monday, April 30, 7–9 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room

ART UNVEILING:
rennie in rhapsody

Thursday, March 22, 7:30–8:30 pm, Main Library Community Engagement Space. Join us in unveiling the newest acquisition to the library's permanent art collection entitled *Rennie In Rhapsody*.

"I STARTED PAINTING ABOUT THE DISENFRANCHISED AND THE POOR. IT'S NOT COMPROMISING. IT'S RIGHT IN YOUR FACE. IT'S PRETTY RAW."

—Jesse Howard

Learn more about local artist and Oak Park Art League member Jesse Howard at jessehowardstudio.com and more about art in the library at oppl.org/art.

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



kanopy

Watch *Forest of Bliss* and other featured films, documentaries, educational videos, and TV shows on Kanopy. More: oppl.org/apps



BOOKS, MOVIES, music, and more

📌 DID YOU KNOW? More than 1.2 million items circulated through your library, and close to 65,000 new items were added to the collection in 2017. For adults, that included close to 11,000 books, 3,400 movies, and 31,000 digital titles. And for kids and teens, that included close to 13,500 books, 1,100 movies, and 600 digital titles. Looking for more library statistics? Visit: oppl.org/annual-report

★ WE'RE NOT JOKING: WANT TO BE THE FIRST TO KNOW? Before April 1, if you don't receive it already, subscribe to our monthly *News & Events* email at oppl.org/subscribe. On April 7, we will announce this summer's One Book, One Oak Park title. Connect with your neighbors, family, and friends by reading and discussing one great title.



PSSST! Based on the library's commitment to race and social equity (see page 5), you might expect to see a title related to that topic.



Q ENHANCE MULTICULTURAL LEARNING WITH OBJECT CARDS
Find items with cards through a catalog search:

1. Go to the catalog search box (or use the search box at top right of oppl.org with catalog selected).
2. Type in "object card" and press "search."
3. Look to the top left, under "Limit Search Results," then click the link "Special Collections" for results to appear.

NEW AT YOUR LIBRARY

Q LOOKING FOR KIDS' WORLD LANGUAGES TITLES? We have a new section for that! In the Main Library's Children's area, find books in multiple languages that open doors to new cultures, traditions, and ways we relate to one another. You can use the BBC's online resource Muzzy to help your kids learn languages—including Spanish, Italian, French, German, Chinese, and Korean. More: oppl.org/online-resources



🚲 MOBILE COLLECTIONS: WHERE SHOULD WE GO NEXT?
It's no secret, Oak Park's Book Bike has covered many long and winding roads during its last three seasons! See where the bike has been and share your thoughts on where we should bring mobile library services to next at oppl.org/bike.



🌸 HEADING TO WHAT'S BLOOMING ON SATURDAY, MAY 19?
Watch (weather permitting) for a *Paperback Rider* appearance at the Harrison Street Arts District festival, bringing the library to you and celebrating all that is spring in Oak Park!

📖 HOMEPAGE ACCESS TO ONLINE RESOURCES

Your library offers you more than 80 trusted subscription-based online resources in 12 different categories. Here's a short list to try this spring:

- **March** is National Nutrition Month. Check out Consumer Health Complete (oppl.org/online-resources) and RBdigital (oppl.org/apps) for digital health and fitness magazines.
- **April 21-28** is Money Smart Week, a national effort to help people better manage their finances. Check out Small Business Reference Center, Morningstar Investment Research Center, and Value Line.
- **May 5** celebrate Cinco de Mayo by brushing up on your Spanish through Mango Languages (for adults and teens). More: oppl.org/online-resources

🎬 LOVE INDEPENDENT FILM? Feature films, documentaries, educational videos, and TV shows from The Criterion Collection, The Great Courses, Music Box, First Run Features, Breaking Glass, and the Cohen Film Collection are streaming on Kanopy. Available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, and Chromecast, Kanopy offers cardholders instant streaming of more than 30,000 titles. Check out up to 10 items a month and keep titles for up to three days. More: oppl.org/apps

📌 Some events require registration. See all events and details 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

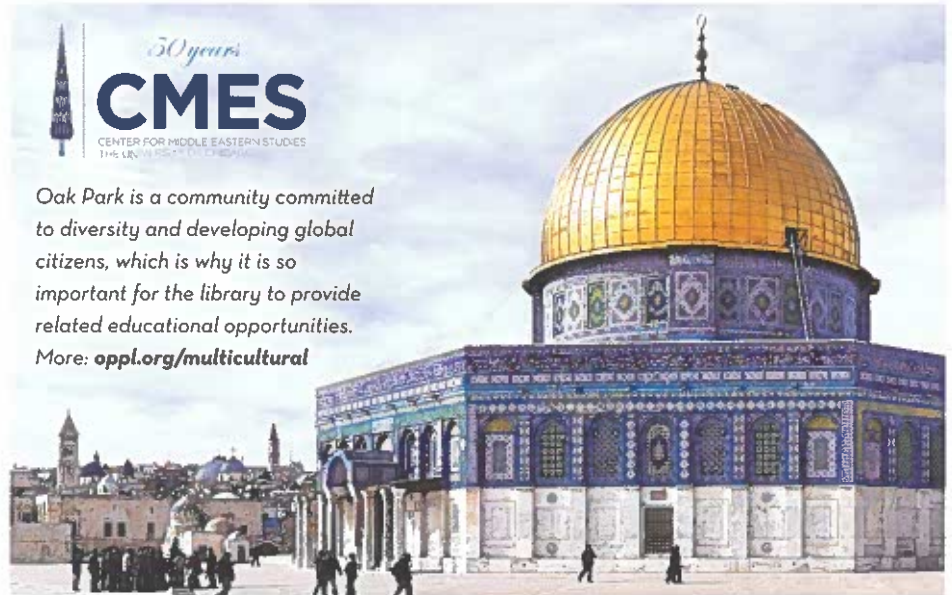
For accommodations at an event or class, please contact us, allowing seven days' notice to best serve you. More: oppl.org/accessibility

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.



Oak Park is a community committed to diversity and developing global citizens, which is why it is so important for the library to provide related educational opportunities. More: oppl.org/multicultural

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD OF ISLAM

Wednesdays, 7–9 pm, Main Library. In partnership with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago.

March 21: *The Origins and Historical Evolution of Islamic Civilization* with speaker Alexander Barna

April 18: *The History of Jewish-Muslim Relations* with speaker Orit Bashkin

May 16 (series finale): *Community Voices*, a panel discussion featuring local residents



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE SERIES

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 pm, Main Library

March 14: "What happens after you die?"

May 2: Spiritual practices associated with different faiths

June 27: Holy scriptures within faith traditions

FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION: THE FOUR HIJABS:

RECLAIMING 16 KORANIC VERSES THROUGH A MUSLIM FEMINIST LENS

Tuesday, May 8, 4–5 pm, Main Library

for **FAMILIES**



SONGKRAN: THAI NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Friday, April 13, 3:30–4:30 pm, Dole Branch. Ages 5+.

HOORAY FOR BOLLYWOOD

Friday, April 27, 4–5 pm, Dole Branch. Bolly DanceFit promotes the beauty of the Indian dance and music in this interactive workshop pumping up Bollywood beats.

BUILDING CLOSINGS

All library buildings will be closed on Sunday, April 1, and Monday, May 28.

Main Library and Dole Branch will open at 2 pm on Friday, June 8; Maze Branch closed.

APRIL 2018						
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29	30					

MAY 2018						
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JUNE 2018						
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