

THE STORYLINE

A quarterly publication of the Oak Park Public Library

WINTER 2017/18

News | Events | Stories



reflections on...

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Cultural identity
and empathy

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made modern

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Being a welcoming
community

OAK PARK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
oppl.org



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Winter 2017/18
Vol. 3, No. 1
Dec. | Jan. | Feb.

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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

Dole Branch, 1976, by Elaine Hale, hangs in the Dole Branch Meeting Room, one of eight meeting spaces now free for nonprofits to reserve (oppl.org/spaces). More about our permanent collection: oppl.org/art



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Photo by Jordan Campbell



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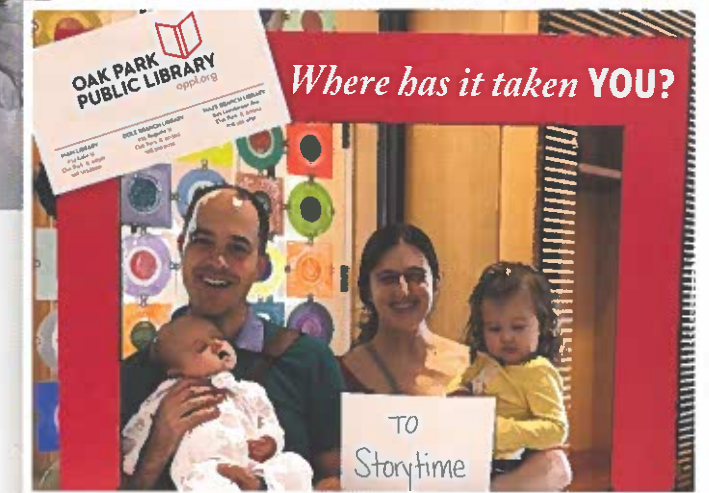
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This issue showcases select events and classes at the library this fall. View all at oppl.org/calendar.

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 whose work is featured in this issue, including Anne Bensfield, Jordan Campbell, Tina Harle, Shelley Harris, Jenny Jackson, Debby Preiser, and Kathryn Rolfs.



Thanks for sharing your answers on social media with us using #OPLibraryCard! Looking ahead, we are energized to move forward on our vision to "empower every voice in our community": oppl.org/vision



REFLECTIONS:
Where has your library taken you?

Winter is often a season of reflection, resolution, and renewal. In that spirit, we're reflecting in this issue on all the ways we've worked to carry out our library's mission and vision in 2017, and looking forward to what we can accomplish together in 2018.

IN 2017, YOU...



Saw greater cultural diversity, including reflections of your own identities, in our collections. *More on pages 4-7.*



Gained more access to Oak Park's local history, both in person and online. *More on pages 8-9.*



Heard more from communities that "can often go unheard." *More on pages 10-11.*



Built a better world, along with almost half of all Oak Park kids in grades K-3. *More on pages 12-13.*



Had tough conversations about what it means to live a good life, and how to have a good death. *More on pages 18-19.*

More to come in our 2017 Annual Report, due this spring.

looking AHEAD

This fall, we held a series of Harwood Community Conversations to listen to our community's shared aspirations, which drive our work. We also held conversations with staff to focus on how we can make our library the best place to work. Look for more on what we're learning in the spring issue of *The Storyline*, and at oppl.org/listen.

Thank you for using your library!

A WINDOW to the world

We live in a time and place of intercultural conflicts and misunderstandings,” said Multicultural Learning Librarian Naomi Priddy. “We know diversity and inclusion are values important to Oak Park, and that’s why our goals with the Multicultural Collection include developing global citizens and building empathy.”

For the past year, Dole Branch has been home to the Multicultural Collection, full of books, artifacts, and films exploring continents and countries around the world, as well as issues like human rights, immigration, disabilities, and family diversity. And it’s been growing under Priddy, who curates this strong resource to build empathy among individuals, families, and classrooms.



Library staff supported District 97’s annual Ethnic Festival in May 2017, bringing the Multicultural Collection into the community via the Book Bike.

Check it out!

Browse collection materials on Dole Branch shelves and find them in the library’s online catalog. Some items are for display or in-house use only, but most can be checked out for up to four weeks (with no holds or renewals): oppl.org/multicultural

“The Multicultural Collection is here to be a window into other communities around the world, and a mirror to reflect ourselves and our own cultural identity.”

—Naomi Priddy, Multicultural Learning Librarian

DIVING INTO DIFFERENT CULTURES

“Using the books and artifacts, we can get a window into different worlds outside our own,” Priddy said. Even seemingly mundane objects can prompt unexpected questions and open up topics spanning continents and centuries.

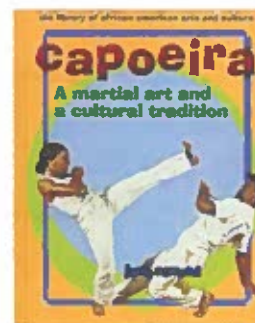
When volunteer researcher Stacy Fifer first picked up a woven rattle identified as being from Ghana, likely made after 1980, she didn’t expect to discover anything too interesting. “But I’ve made the richest discoveries with this simple rattle,” she said. “One of the fun things about doing this research is I’m never sure what I’m going to find.”

Fifer runs L’Institut français d’Oak Park, has a PhD in French and Francophone Studies, and specializes in Sub-Saharan African Francophone literature. As a library volunteer, she dedicates her time and expertise to researching the collection, working with Priddy to uncover stories behind the artifacts, most of which came to the library from

Oak Park Elementary School District 97, where the collection began more than 30 years ago.

“We don’t know for sure where this came from,” Fifer said, referring to the musical instrument she’s discovered is called a caxixi rattle. It’s played in Western and Central Africa, as well as in Brazil, where it’s used in capoeira, the Brazilian dance that uses martial arts movements and music.

Capoeira was developed by African slaves, mainly from Angola and the Congo, who practiced war dances in their home cultures before being sold to what would become Brazil, Fifer notes. To continue their combat fighting under plantation owners watchful for signs of rebellion, slaves disguised it as dance set to music, and it continues in this form today.



“This one rattle could be used by middle school teachers to do research projects that would end up in very different places,” Fifer said, noting that students and teachers could explore not only music but also the development of an Afro-Brazilian cultural identity, colonialism, and slave resistance. “That’s part of the beauty of this collection.”

Another facet: centuries after originating with African slaves in Brazil, capoeira is now being used in therapy to heal trauma of former child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, providing a way for them to learn how to live with others in a community.

“She’s finding so much depth and ways things are connected,” Priddy said. “It’s amazing that someone like Stacy, who has this incredible expertise, is dedicating her time to this collection.”

REFLECTING OURSELVES

The collection also can help us understand our own cultural identities, and how those identities affect how we act and understand the world around us. For example, Priddy said, one book in the collection—*Fascinating: The Life of Leonard Nimoy*—reflects how she came to understand her own cultural identity, both as a Jewish American and a *Star Trek* fan.

As one of the only Jewish kids in her hometown, Priddy said, most of what she heard about Jewish identity came from history class and was related to the Holocaust. “Which, while really important to learn about, isn’t the only thing I should know about my cultural identity,” she said. “Learning that Nimoy was Jewish, and that his Jewish identity informed how he played the character Spock, played a big role in me understanding what Jewish identity meant outside that one point in history.”

Fascinating tells the story of Spock’s famous “Vulcan salute,” which came from Nimoy’s childhood memories of a hand gesture used in a blessing at synagogue. “So it’s no surprise to me that I’m a big Trekkie today,” she said.

SEEING OUR COMMON HUMANITY

“If we are able to explore other cultures and root ourselves in our own cultural perspectives, we can build empathy,” Priddy said. “To me, that means seeing each other in our common humanity and understanding new and different cultures in their own terms.” ▶

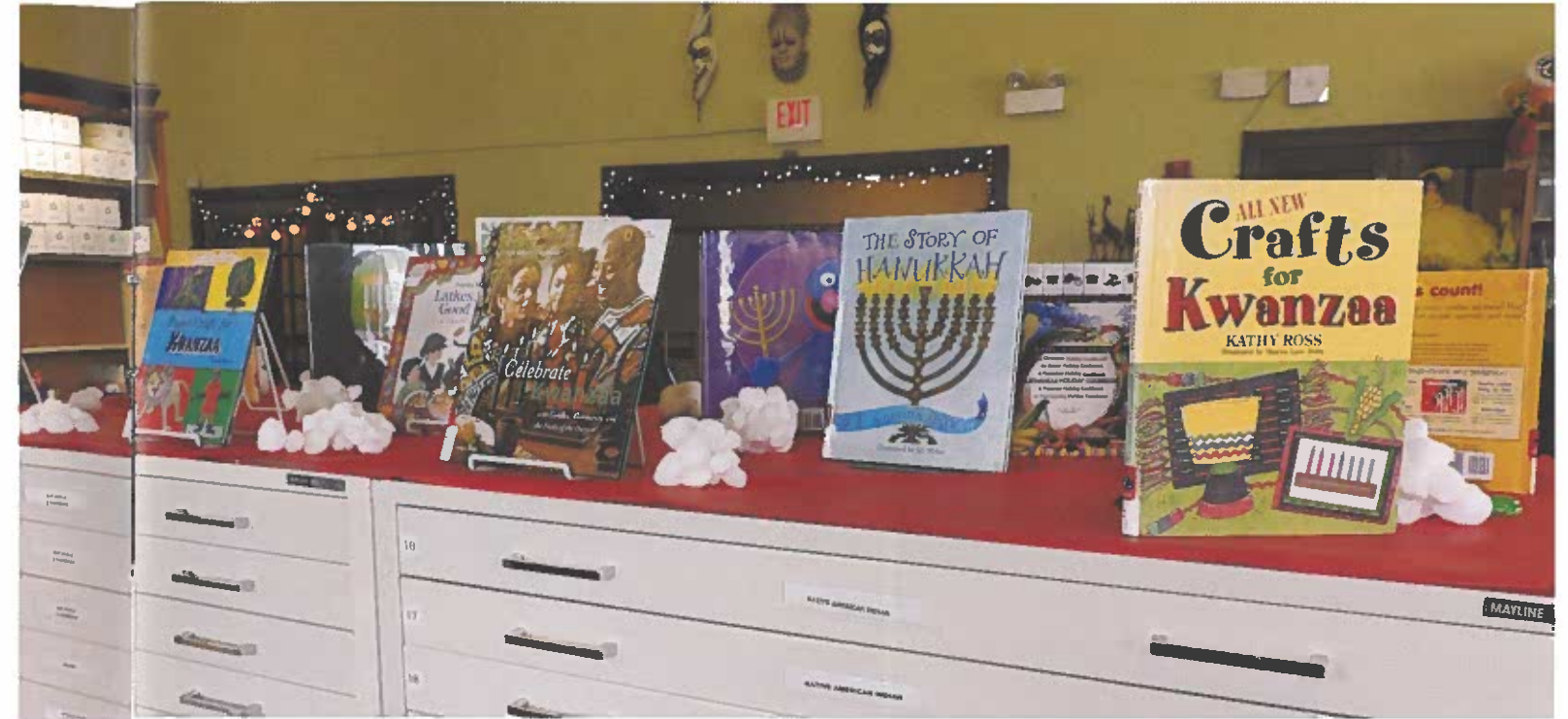


In the collection

Multicultural Learning Librarian Naomi Priddy holds a handcrafted doll from Japan, donated to the library's Multicultural Collection by an Oak Park resident who hosted an exchange student from Japan.



Watch the video to learn more: oppl.org/multicultural



GROWING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

"We're hoping this collection reflects other cultures outside Oak Park, but also that it reflects the stories and heritage of residents of Oak Park today," Priddy said. "We're interested in hearing from you and what you'd like to see in the collection. That could mean talking to me about items that would be meaningful and that we could learn from. Or it could mean sharing artifacts from your own collection with us."

To ask a question or set up an appointment to discuss a donation, visit oppl.org/multicultural.

WITH LOCAL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

As a former classroom teacher and instructional design specialist, Priddy works to support local teachers with her expertise and library resources. For Hispanic Heritage Month this fall, District 97 educators and students explored items from the collection, learning about Hispanic authors and artifacts from the Spanish-speaking world.



Mexican tin art mirror



Facets Kids

new!

INDIE, WORLD FILMS FOR KIDS

Oak Park cardholders will soon have free access to films from around the world, including entries in the annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival, through our new partnership with Facets Kids, a streaming service produced by Facets, the longtime award-winning Chicago film distributor, educator, and curator of independent, world, and classic film. The films, including live action, animation, and non-English language with subtitles, offer families an enjoyable outlet for content that provokes thought, emotion, and critical thinking. More: oppl.org/kids

"We're thrilled to partner with Facets to provide our community with the opportunity to access unique children's films offering diverse global perspectives on universal themes."

—Eric Pasteur, Collection Management Librarian

EVENTS *this winter*

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 4–5 pm, Dole Branch. Discover new cultures and interact with artifacts from the Multicultural Collection. Ages 4+.

KWANZAA: A CELEBRATION OF FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND CULTURE

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 3:30–4:30 pm, Dole Branch. With visiting storytellers, African drumming, shekere playing, and audience participation, learn about Nguzo Saba principles (unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith). All ages.

ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE: SANCTUARY CITY POSTCARDS

Friday, Jan. 26, 11 am–12 pm, Dole Branch. See page 13 for more.

Our monthly language practice groups are open to speakers of all levels who want to enjoy casual, open conversation with other learners and aficionados. And new this January, a conversation hour for Spanish speakers at Dole Branch!

ITALIAN CONVERSATION HOUR

Wednesdays, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, 7–8 pm, Main Library Small Meeting Room

FRENCH CONVERSATION HOUR

Wednesdays, Dec. 20, Jan. 31, Feb. 28, 7–8 pm, Maze Branch

NEW! NUEVO! SPANISH CONVERSATION HOUR

Saturdays, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, 3–4 pm, Dole Branch



We use objects from the Multicultural Collection in all kinds of library programs. In the new Spanish Conversation Hour, we can imagine objects like this Guatemalan mask sparking conversations that go beyond "¿Dónde está la biblioteca?"

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

FRIDAYS IN FEBRUARY OPEN HOUSES

Fridays, Feb. 2-23, 2-4 pm, Main Library Special Collections. Drop in to see highlights including Frank Lloyd Wright's Wasmuth Portfolio, Ernest Hemingway's high school papers, Grand Army of the Republic volumes, and early photographs of Oak Park by Philander Barclay.



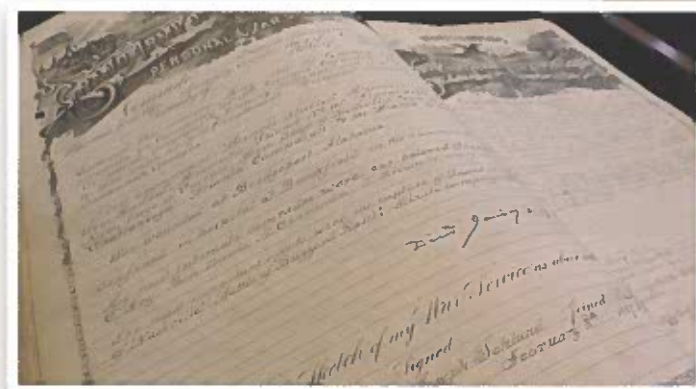
Visitors get an intimate look at architectural drawings from Frank Lloyd Wright's 1910 Wasmuth Portfolio, his first published work. "People love the idea of being able to see behind the scenes," said Leigh Tarullo, Curator of Special Collections.



The Frank Lloyd Wright family on the porch of their Oak Park residence on the corner of Forest and Chicago Ave., 1904.

FINDING ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

Jon Veal, the library's second artist in residence, spent his Mondays this fall diving into our Special Collections. While most of his residency was spent leading kids in grades 6-12 in art projects and social justice workshops, Veal drew inspiration from the library's Special Collections to research and inform his own artwork, to be completed at the end of his three-month residency. Learn more at oppl.org/art.



Bringing local history INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

To better preserve and provide access to Oak Park's history and local content, in 2017 we made some updates to our Special Collections. "I feel I'm carrying on a tradition started by the earliest librarians here, who knew they needed to focus on and collect these artifacts and stories for the community," said Leigh Tarullo, Curator of Special Collections.

A BETTER WAY TO DISCOVER Local history enthusiasts, genealogists, and researchers now have a better way to find and access items from both the library and the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park (EHFOP), thanks to an Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board grant that helped

us make the contents of many collections more transparent and searchable in 2017. "Before, people had to call us up to ask whether we had something, then we had to go digging through boxes," Tarullo said. "It's all about expanding access and letting people know what we have before they come into the library, so they can better target their research and not waste time." The collections inventoried online (oppl.org/special-collections) include photographs of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture, correspondence by local authors including Ernest Hemingway, rare books, ephemera, and movie posters. "These items not only provide insight into the early history of Oak Park, but also detail some of its most important residents, institutions, and

their achievements," Tarullo said, noting that the grant has paved the way for her team to continue inventorying collections owned by both the library and EHFOP. "This is just the tip of the iceberg."

UPDATED SPACES In 2017, we updated our spaces to better preserve and improve access to the items within, owned by both the library and EHFOP. We installed new shelving and storage systems, LED lighting, UV-blocking window film and light-blocking shades, and a new HVAC system to control humidity levels. We even got a new doorbell to better accommodate visitors. Come see our spaces in February's series of open houses, or schedule a visit at oppl.org/special-collections.



WRIGHT-INSPIRED MINECRAFT In August, kids in grades 2-8 explored our staff-designed Frank Lloyd Wright MinecraftEdu World in the Main Library Idea Box, surrounded by a Unity Temple mural by artist Jill Kramer. Inspired by images from Special Collections, kids built their own MinecraftEdu creations and learned more about the famous designer—including that he was an avid car collector!

what are their STORIES?

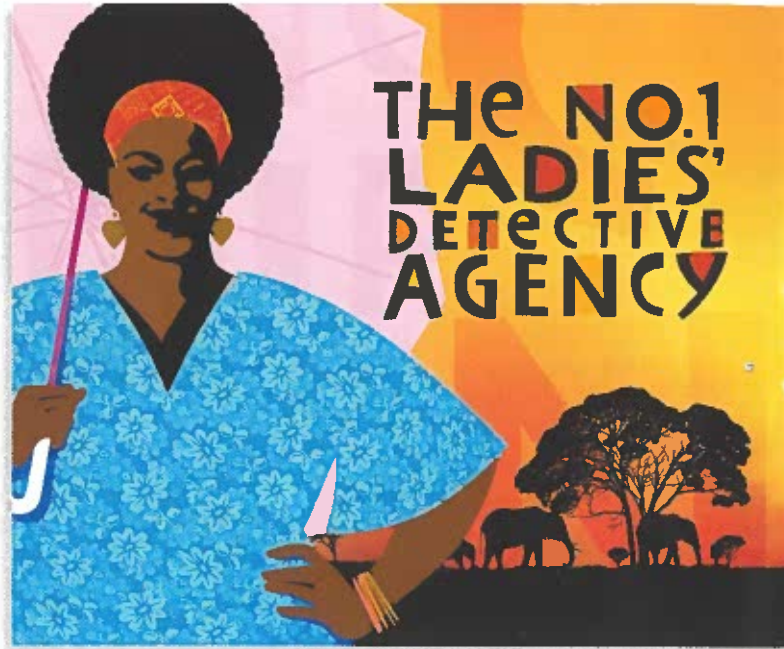
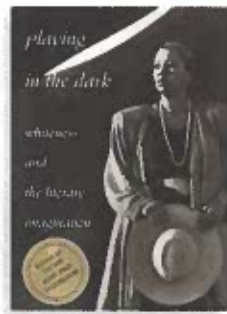
"He seems so incredibly distant," said artist in residence Jon Veal one Monday in October, examining a newspaper clipping of a photo of Frank Lloyd Wright and his family. The 1904 photo, in which Wright sits apart from his wife and children, was donated to the library by Wright's son John, and published in the *Oak Leaves* in 1969. While exploring the library's Wright collections—including original architectural drawings from Wright's 1910 Wasmuth Portfolio, three photo collections of his buildings, and binders of clippings compiled by past librarians—Veal mused on Wright's family life and the lesser-known architects who worked in his Oak Park studio. "We hold up geniuses, but behind geniuses are teams of people,"

he said. "Those who have worked for masters, what did they think? What are their stories?" One such person is Marion Mahony Griffin, an overlooked female architect now believed to be responsible for a large number of the 100 plates in the Wasmuth Portfolio. For the rest of his residency, Veal planned to do more research on Griffin, and ultimately "lift her up" in the art he'd create at the end of his residency. What interested him about her? "Just learning about how much work she actually did, and the fact that she did die rather penniless in Chicago. How does one labor for one of the most prominent, maybe the greatest architect of the 20th century, whose hand is so talented that it rivals his, how does someone so diligent ... what led her to that point?"

BEYOND *black history month*

Now in its third year, More Than a Month is "a space for dialogue where topics significant to minority communities are celebrated and heard," said Health and Wellness Librarian Susan McClelland, "giving voice to communities that can often go unheard."

Through year-round programs and events including film screenings, lectures, health demonstrations, music and dance performances, art exhibitions, and book discussions, the library program series strives to enrich understanding of a complex, historical legacy and to widen knowledge about the scope of black history. Inspired by the documentary film *More Than a Month* by Shukree Tilghman, this series explores the African diaspora, revealing black history beyond its February traditions and placing it within American history at large. More: oppl.org/more



Photos by Jordan Campbell

EVENTS *for adults & teens*

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FILM FESTIVAL
Main Library Veterans Room.
We'll mark the 32nd anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and celebrate the legacy of the modern Civil Rights Movement and the African diaspora.

Saturday, Jan. 6, 2-4 pm:

Get Out

Sunday, Jan. 7, 2-4 pm:

Putney Swope

Saturday, Jan. 13, 1-3 pm:

I Am Not Your Negro

Sunday, Jan. 14, 2-4 pm:

The Battle of Algiers

Monday, Jan. 15, 2-4 pm:

Small Island

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2-4 pm:

No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency

LET'S CONVERSATE
Tuesdays, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, 5-6:30 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room

MORE THAN A MIC
Wednesdays, Jan. 31, Feb. 28, 5-7 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room

TONI MORRISON, PLAYING IN THE DARK
Saturday, Feb. 10, 12-1 pm,
Main Library Book Discussion Room

70 ACRES IN CHICAGO: CABRINI GREEN
FILM SCREENING
Sunday, Feb. 18, 2-5 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room



IGNITING *involvement*

October's Youth Social Justice Conference, planned by library staff and youth coordinators, was "an amazing experience" that drew a multigenerational crowd of more than 70 adults and teens to confront challenges that marginalized populations face daily, said Middle School Services Librarian Jose Cruz. "We hope it reignited young people's desire to get involved."

HOPE IN THE FACE OF HISTORY
The daylong event kicked into high gear with a stage reading of an original play that took participants through the 1960s to the present. Performed by A Leading Man Productions, the play explored race and American history, touching on the Black Power movement, the FBI surveillance of black activists under J. Edgar Hoover, the War on Drugs, and the Iran-Contra scandal, all through the eyes of Marvin Gaye and Tupac Shakur.

"What Marvin Gaye was singing about then, it's still going on," one audience member observed in a Q&A.

"We feel like we're living in a state of emergency," responded Daryl Satcher, the play's writer. "If we keep looking to the same solutions, it's going to keep repeating."

Is there any hope? "It's about us. We can make that change little by little

every day," Satcher said. "It's important to surround yourself with people who want to make a difference."

Actress DeZhané Rouse added: "As long as God continues to give me my voice, my passion, I have hope. Every day that you have breath, you have a chance to change the world."

BRINGING THE HEAT
After workshops diving into hip-hop, foster care, sports, coding, and student handbooks, the conference closed with an open mic hosted by award-winning poet and library staff member Vann Harris.

One performer stood before the crowd and shared that the day's discussions of issues affecting young people, especially people of color, made her feel empowered. With parents from Ethiopia, she said she's often been told, "You're really pretty for a black girl."

One of her hopes for the future? "Someday, someone will say you're really beautiful as a person," she said. "I wish we would all appreciate the beauty of the world. There are beautiful people everywhere."

Participant Phyllis Duncan said the library should hold the youth conference every year. "It has really brought awareness, and opened hearts and minds," said Duncan, who founded the support group Mothers of Murdered Sons. "I'm impressed with the job the young people did. Today we did not look at each other as black and white, we looked at each other as human beings."

More: oppl.org/social-justice

TEEN SERVICE CLUB
Tuesdays starting Jan. 9, 3:30-5 pm,
Main Library Book Discussion Room.
More: oppl.org/teens

for further reading & watching

- *Black Labor, White Wealth* by Claud Anderson
- *The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution* (DVD)
- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander
- *Our Black Year: One Family's Quest to Buy Black in America's Racially Divided Economy* by Maggie Anderson
- *We Were Eight Years in Power* by Ta-Nehisi Coates





AN IMPORTANT school supply

Ahead of this school year, we worked with District 97 to make signing up for an Oak Park Public Library card part of the school registration process—and issued cards to more than 800 students whose parents took advantage. “We’ve had lots of kindergartners coming in using their brand-new library cards for the first time,” said Children’s Digital Learning Librarian Anne Bensfield. “They’ve been excited to check out American Girl dolls, iPads, picture books, and more!”
More: oppl.org/card

building a BETTER WORLD

Children of all ages, including almost half of Oak Parkers in grades K-3, joined our all-summer reading program in 2017. With a “Build a Better World” theme, it was “one of the most feel-good ever,” said Elementary School Services Librarian Genevieve Grove.

KINDNESS, COMMUNITY ACTION

Besides reading hours upon hours and earning prizes, kids built a better world through actions like cleaning up litter, offering random acts of kindness, creating art and poetry, and reading to younger kids and older adults. They also wrote and sent postcards to government officials, painted kindness rocks to leave around town, and gardened at Sugar Beet Schoolhouse’s All Ages, All Abilities Garden at Cheney Mansion.

“We love interacting with families in different venues and getting kids involved in their community from an early age,” Grove said.

ALL WELCOME, ALL SUMMER

In 2017 we expanded the program through August, to last the entirety of Oak Park Elementary School District 97’s summer break. Although most who participated were Oak Parkers, the program was open to all, no matter where they live, a change we first made in 2016.

“We’re happy to know we connected with many kids for even a brief time,” Grove said. “Some might have visited the library only once or twice this summer or saw the Book Bike during its weekly visits to lunch at a food pantry. Still, we got the chance to tell them we’re proud of them and that the library will always welcome them through our doors.”

GROWING early readers



Research tells us how important it is to introduce literacy concepts to children in their first years of life, even as newborns. So we were delighted that the very first child to enroll in our 2017 summer reading program was a 3-month-old baby!

“When you introduce literacy from birth, you’re priming the child for a lifetime of learning,” said Early Literacy Librarian Shelley Harris.

From our new program 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten to our ever-popular weekly storytimes, discover all the ways we can help you grow a reader: oppl.org/early

EVERYONE IS WELCOME STORYTIME
Friday, Jan. 26, 10:30–11 am, Dole Branch.
Celebrate teamwork and unity. Ages 3–5.

ART FOR SOCIAL CHANGE: SANCTUARY CITY POSTCARDS
Friday, Jan. 26, 11 am–12 pm, Dole Branch.
Consider what it means to be a welcoming community. We’ll explore items from our Special Collections and Multicultural Collection, then create postcards illustrating what we’ve learned. Best for ages 5+.

In February 2017, Oak Park became a “sanctuary city” by passing a Welcoming Village ordinance. Village staff, including police officers, do not collect information on residents’ or visitors’ immigration status, and decline to assist federal immigration enforcement operations. More: oak-park.us/our-community/community-relations/welcoming-village

The Oak Park Art League’s “Sanctuary City” postcard project creatively explores Oak Park’s Welcoming Village ordinance, human rights, and diversity. The postcards will be included in a May 2018 exhibit at the Art League, in its Art for Social Change series. More: oakparkartleague.org



featured EVENTS

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

HAMILTUNES: AN AMERICAN SING-ALONG
Saturday, Dec. 30, Sunday, Dec. 31,
2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room.
Costumes encouraged. All ages.

FREEDOM SONGS: BILL BRICKEY
Monday, Jan. 15, 10:30–11:15 am,
Main Library Veterans Room. In honor
of Martin Luther King Jr., learn songs
that helped shape the Civil Rights

Movement with the Old Town School of Music’s Bill Brickey. All ages.

WORLD READ ALOUD DAY: READING WITHOUT WALLS
Thursday, Feb. 8, 1:30–2:30 pm,
Maze Branch. In this international literacy event, we’ll challenge each other to Read Without Walls with books, music, and other items from our Multicultural Collection.

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCES

We know you love using the Museum Adventure Pass to get deals at Brookfield Zoo, Legoland Discovery Center, and Chicago Botanic Garden.

Did you know there are also 14 more area attractions providing you with discounts and special offers? These include buy one, get one free admission at The Children’s Museum in Oak Lawn and at Bronzeville Children’s Museum, the first and only African-American children’s museum in the nation.

FREE DAYS FOR ILLINOIS RESIDENTS

Many local big-name museums not in our Museum Adventure Pass program offer free admission days for Illinois residents with valid ID. We’ve pulled together a list and links at oppl.org/map.





Left: Teacher Librarians Jennifer Nelson (Brooks Middle) and Jamie Winchell (Julian Middle) tinker with a Makey Makey programming kit at the Main Library. We partner with District 97 teacher librarians on digital learning initiatives, supporting schools with resources and collaborating on programs, like past years' Parent Tech Night, which has evolved this winter into Oak Park Code Fest (see page 15).
Right: Youth and adults worked together in an Hour of Code session at October's Youth Social Justice Conference at the Main Library (see page 11).

LEARN TO CODE

“Coding is all about giving instructions to a digital device, using a language it understands, so that it does exactly what you want it to.”
—Sean McManus, author of *How to Code in 10 Easy Lessons*

Why should kids as young as kindergarteners learn to code?

“This is no different than students learning Spanish or Sign Language at a young age. Coding is learning the language of technology.”
—Erin Howe, Hatch Elementary Teacher Librarian

“It allows them to think abstractly and solve problems, something that will help them in other subjects and activities.”
—Katie Noonan, Irving Elementary Teacher Librarian

“It’s about working together, and stopping to think and apply our knowledge strategically. This is something we all should be doing, so why not start now?”
—Melinda Maneck, Holmes Elementary Teacher Librarian

resources for kids & adults



“Lynda.com, with your library card, has hours of in-depth, step-by-step video instructions, from the definition of code to advanced concepts in programming, with all major programming languages.”
—Deidre Winterhalter, Oak Park Public Library Digital Learning Coordinator

“Code.org has fantastic opportunities for beginner and intermediate coders. Check out the Hour of Code portion of their website to try fun lessons with the characters from Minecraft, Star Wars, Angry Birds, and more.” —Laurie Conley, Whittier Elementary Teacher Librarian

Discovery Kit backpacks like our Robot kit, Raspberry Pi kit, and Doodle Bot kit are filled with fun coding projects. More: oppl.org/kids



EVENTS FOR ALL AGES

OAK PARK CODE FEST
Wednesday, Jan. 17, 6:30–8 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room. Coding teaches computational thinking, decision making, and troubleshooting and prepares kids for a highly digital society. Explore coding apps, robots, and websites in hands-on stations facilitated by Oak Park public librarians, District 97 teacher librarians, and District 97 students. For families with students in grades K–8. Registration encouraged. Walk-ins welcome.

GIRLS WHO CODE
Wednesdays starting Jan. 10, 5–7 pm, Main Library Computer Classroom. Girls Who Code (girlswhocode.com) is a national nonprofit working to close the gender gap in technology. Join a sisterhood of supportive peers and role models as you use computer science to impact your community. No experience needed. For girls ages 12–18.

HOUR OF CODE FOR ADULTS
Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:30–8:30 pm,
Main Library Computer Classroom. Try basic coding techniques in a play-based atmosphere. Register now.

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

a girl who CODES

Carli Tucci, a junior at Oak Park and River Forest High School (OPRFHS), came to us in August with a community need and a plan to address it: start a Girls Who Code (girlswhocode.com) club at the library.

“I thought a lot of people in Oak Park and River Forest would be interested,” she said. “Girls Who Code is excited about opening up the field to more girls.”

Girls Who Code is a national nonprofit working to close the gender gap in technology. After-school clubs are hosted in places like schools, community centers, and libraries, creating a safe and supportive environment of peers and role models where girls in middle and high school can learn to see themselves as computer scientists.

Starting in January, girls ages 12–18 can join our new weekly club at the Main Library, facilitated by High School Services Librarian Rachael Bild

and Digital Learning Coordinator Deidre Winterhalter. It’s free and open to girls of any skill level (see sidebar).

Tucci was introduced to Girls Who Code at a different public library last year, an experience that she said led her to take an Advanced Placement Computer Science course at OPRFHS and made her realize coding is a useful skill for pursuing her interests in biomedical engineering.

“So many career options open up if you can speak the language of Java or Python,” she said. “Coding is one of the widest kinds of fields, and a good skill to have going into college.”

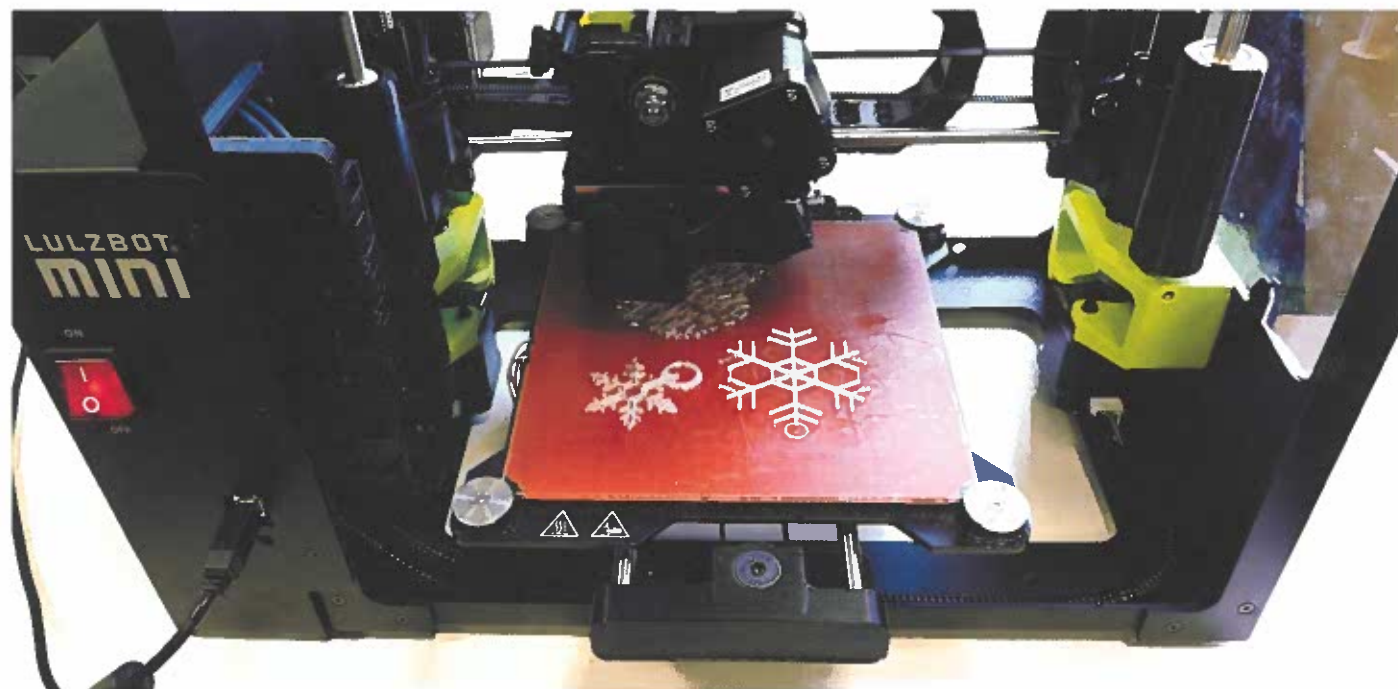
Tucci said she went into the Girls Who Code club not knowing much about coding, but she didn’t feel intimidated because of the club’s open environment.

“Everyone is in the same boat, and you don’t feel pressured,” she said. “If you’re interested, you can have a chance at leadership roles, or even just meet other girls.”

“By 2020, there will be 1.4 million open jobs in computing. These jobs are some of the country’s highest-paying and fastest-growing career paths. **But girls are on track to fill just 4 percent of them.**”

—Reshma Saujani, author of *Girls Who Code* (2017)

Left: Carli Tucci, OPRFHS junior



TECH workshops

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

MAKER SERIES

3D PRINTED ORNAMENT

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7–8 pm. Design an ornament using 3D design software and our 3D printer. Basic computer skills are required. Designs are printed after class and can be picked up the following week. Register now.

DESIGN A VINYL STICKER

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 7–8 pm. Design your own vinyl sticker for your car, phone, journal, or wall. Creations will be cut using our Silhouette vinyl cutter. Register now.

LED GREETING CARD

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7–8 pm. Learn a little about circuits and exercise your creativity to design a light-up greeting card. No experience required. Register now.

LEARN THE BASICS

LINKEDIN TIPS

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7–8 pm

HEALTH AND FITNESS APPS AND WEBSITES

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 7:30–8:30 pm

INTRODUCTION TO FACEBOOK

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 7:30–8:30 pm

BASIC MICROSOFT POWERPOINT

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 7:30–8:30 pm

BASIC MICROSOFT WORD

Thursday, Feb. 1, 3–4 pm

INTERMEDIATE MICROSOFT WORD

Thursday, Feb. 15, 3–4 pm

ONLINE CHAT

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7:30–8:30 pm



Can't make a CLASS?

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



#OPWATCHES new way to watch

Stream a variety of feature films, documentaries, and educational videos—up to 10 per month! Set up your account with your email address and library card: oppl.kanopystreaming.com

TOP KANOPY FILMS IN OAK PARK:

- *I Am Not Your Negro*
- *The Girl on the Train*
- *2 Days in Paris*

See more of what's popular in Oak Park on pages 18–19.



looking for MORE?

Find all events at oppl.org/calendar or pick up our monthly event calendars at any library location.

ARTS & CULTURE

ART RECEPTION: JOHN PADOUR
Sunday, Dec. 3, 3–5 pm, Main Library Art Gallery

ART RECEPTION: OAK PARK PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
Sunday, Jan. 7, 3–5 pm, Main Library Art Gallery

FRIENDS' FOLK MUSIC CONCERT: TRET FURE
Monday, Jan. 22, 7–9 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room

ART ASSOCIATES OF OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST: SUCCESSES IN SOLVING ART THEFTS & FORGERIES
Sunday, Feb. 11, 2–4 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: PORTRAYED BY ROBERTA RANDALL
Sunday, Feb. 25, 2–4 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room

AUTHORS

JEFF AND VAL GEE: THE WINNER'S ATTITUDE
Saturday, Dec. 2, 2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room

BARB WARNER DEANE: ON THE HOMEFRONT
Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7–9 pm, Main Library Veterans Room

WILLIAM HAZELGROVE: AL CAPONE AND THE 1933 WORLD'S FAIR
Thursday, Feb. 22, 7–9 pm, Main Library Veterans Room

SPRING AHEAD

Hosted by the Garden Club of Oak Park & River Forest

BETH BOTTS: BEHIND SPRINGTIME: WHAT'S GOING ON AS THE GARDEN COMES ALIVE
Sunday, Jan. 28, 2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room

SEED STARTING FOR VEGETABLE GARDENS
Saturday, Feb. 17, 10–11:30 am,
Main Library Small Meeting Room

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



Looking for general reading suggestions?
Sign up for curated lists at oppl.org/subscribe.



Read to Order

DISHES UP SUGGESTIONS TO FIT YOUR TASTES

Oak Park resident **Rence Powers**, a self-described voracious reader, gets ideas on what to read next mostly from friends, as well as from wandering through the library's bookshelves.

Last January, when she was looking for suggestions on books about personal development, she found another way to get inspired: Read to Order, the library's free service for adult cardholders in search of customized title suggestions.

After filling out the online form at oppl.org/read-order, describing her favorite authors (Brene Brown), books (*The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern), and genres (nonfiction and biography), she got a response from Readers' Advisory Librarian Margita Lidaka, who suggested four titles to try. Powers had already read one, Shonda Rhimes' *Year of Yes*, but said that "right on" suggestion simply let her know Read to Order is not an automated service.

"These are very personalized recommendations," Powers said. "It wasn't someone just sending me a list of the top personal development books."

Another bonus? "It made Oak Park feel smaller, more connected," she said. "Knowing someone at the library who could give me a personal book recommendation made me feel more at home."

Want suggestions customized just for you? Ask us at oppl.org/read-order.

#OPSUGGESTS...



"As author Roxane Gay says about this year's Pulitzer Prize winner: 'My God, what that book lays bare about American poverty. It is devastating and infuriating and a necessary read.' I was absorbed both by the research presented and the personal stories as the author follows eight struggling families in Milwaukee in 2008."
—Readers' Advisory Librarian Margita Lidaka



"An emotionally powerful and deeply moving generational story of a Korean family's struggle with racism, identity, and belonging after emigrating to Japan in the early 1900s."
—Adult and Teen Digital Learning Librarian Rose Barnes

here's what's been popular IN OAK PARK IN 2017

#OPREADS

FICTION *ebook*



Dive into digital

Find all the ways to access digital books and audiobooks, including what's compatible with your device, at oppl.org/downloads.



NEW! LIBBY, BY OVERDRIVE

Explore a new way to access ebooks and audiobooks with Libby, the mobile experience from OverDrive. Available for iOS, Android, and Microsoft Windows 10+.

NONFICTION *print*



A challenging community read

Participants in the 2017 One Book program, on Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal*, called it a great way "to connect with others over thought-provoking material" and "an opportunity to learn something I would not normally learn."



OF THOSE SURVEYED,
93%

said they'd recommend the program to others. Look for the 2018 One Book, One Oak Park title announcement this spring.

BEST TITLES? LET'S SHARE!

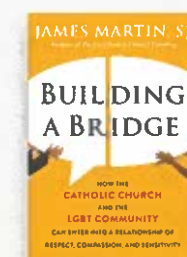
What did you read this year that's worth sharing? What struck a chord? Made you laugh out loud? Inspired change? Tell us by Dec. 31 at oppl.org/best17 or in person on your next library visit. We'll share your submissions in the new year.

Search Facebook and Instagram with #OPSuggests to see what else our librarians are loving.

"A powerful novel that follows a family in a post-apocalyptic America, where the traumatic events of a second civil war and a horrible plague push a young woman to make extreme choices."
—Materials Services Librarian Barbara Fitzgerald



"This book is a plea for the institutional church to open itself to dialogue with LGBT Catholics and for LGBT Catholics to have respect for the bishops in talking with them. It is the most controversial book published concerning matters of Catholicism in recent memory."
—Library Assistant Donna Ioppolo



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

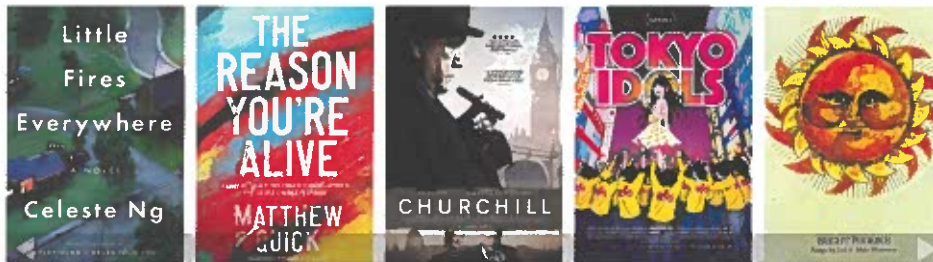
Library programs and classes are
often photographed and/or recorded
for promotional purposes. Please
let us know if you prefer not to be
photographed or recorded.



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

new arrivals and suggestions

OPPL.ORG/NEW



find, learn, and research



**ARTICLE
SEARCH**

Want to search
multiple resources
at once? Use the
catalog's Article
Search to find
full-text results:
bit.ly/zrKdt8C



**REQUEST AN ITEM:
WE FIND, BUY IT**

For items not currently
available in the SWAN
catalog, we can help Oak Park
cardholders find the best way
to fulfill their requests. Log in
to Clio, the library's request
system: oppl.org/request



**SEARCH
WORLD CAT**

Get help finding that
elusive title with this
catalog of books and
other materials in
libraries worldwide.
More: [oppl.org/
online-resources](http://oppl.org/online-resources)



REQUEST HOME DELIVERY

Are you a new parent? Recovering from an injury or illness? Our free Home Delivery service is available to all Oak Park cardholders unable to come into a library location, either indefinitely or for a short time.
More: oppl.org/home-delivery

holiday hours & closings

FRIDAY, DEC. 1 (STAFF INSTITUTE DAY)

- Main Library open 2–6 pm
- Dole Branch open 2–6 pm
- Maze Branch closed

SUNDAY, DEC. 24 & MONDAY, DEC. 25:

All library buildings will be closed.

SUNDAY DEC. 31: All library buildings will close at 5 pm.

MONDAY, JAN. 1: All library buildings will be closed.

DECEMBER 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
(31)						

JANUARY 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

