

Youth Services Enhances Special Needs Programming

In April during National Library Week, libraries and their patrons talk about the importance of access to information and enrichment for everyone. Youth Services has been placing special emphasis on the daily practice of this idea, working to make programming offerings welcoming to children of all abilities.

“We want to be a resource for families who have children with special needs as well as a place where all children can come and feel comfortable while enjoying a story, working on skills, or just having fun,” says Youth Programming Coordinator Erin Emerick.

One week last April, coinciding with Deaf History Month, Open Storytimes featured a student sign language interpreter. Youth staff took this opportunity to let patrons know that sign language service is always available for Library programs with at least one-week advanced notice. Books and DVDs teaching sign language were displayed and available for checkout.

“The interpreter was very professional and pleasant and took the time to repeat signs as requested. She worked with the storytime presenter in emphasizing certain words like the colors, which reinforced her presence and made her a part of the activities,” says Emerick.

White boards with magnetic picture schedules were added to the storytime rooms and are being used widely in storytimes and other programs.

Staff is tapping into outside resources, such as The National Lekotek Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to making the world of play accessible to children who have disabilities or special needs. Last April, Lekotek’s Stories and Play for Children featured Lekotek staff leading participants through a variety of books and activities.

First, time was spent doing a greeting rhyme to introduce each child. Between each story,

activities included a craft where children painted raindrops to tape on a mural, and a sensory activity in which children planted a few seeds in dirt inside egg carton cups and sprayed them with water.

Perhaps the biggest benefit of this program, however, was the learning experience for Youth staff as they increase and refine services to those with special needs. This year, staff is adding “Sensory Storytimes,” which will feature stories, crafts, sensory activities, music, and play, sometimes including apps on the iPad.

Staff also attend quarterly meetings of the networking group SNAILS (Special Needs and

Inclusive Library Services) to share ideas, learn techniques, and discuss challenges. For example, staff learn how to structure programs. “For children with special needs, an intimate setting works better,” says Emerick.

But there are events that will draw a crowd. In September, Beth Finke and her Seeing Eye Dog won the attention of patrons on a Sunday afternoon, even while the Bears were playing the Packers. Finke is the author of a children’s book, *Hanni and Beth: Safe & Sound*, as well as a memoir, *Long Time, No See*. Finke spoke to patrons about her experiences being blind, her writing, and her Seeing Eye dogs, and then answered many audience questions.

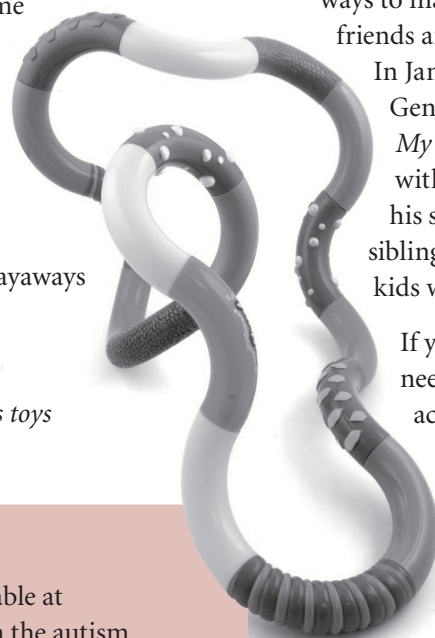
“Her dog mostly slept by her feet the whole time, and was very excited when it was time

to take her harness off so that the kids could pet her,” Emerick said.

Fiction and nonfiction books about blindness and guide dogs were on display as well as a few playaways and DVDs about dogs.

Some of the special needs toys offered for checkout.

We want to be a resource for families who have children with special needs.



Beth Finke and her Seeing Eye Dog

Youth staff members also look for ways to engage children with special needs within general programming.

“Many Youth programs already work well for children of all abilities, and we are always willing to make special accommodations if they are requested,” Emerick says.

Tales With Tails and Playtime @ the Library, she adds, are well-suited to children of all abilities.

Sometimes the presenters are already on alert for ways to make patrons with special needs—or their friends and families—have a positive experience.

In January, the Library hosted (via Skype) Gennifer Choldenko, author of *Al Capone Does My Shirts*, the story of a young boy who lives with his father on Alcatraz and takes care of his sister with autism. Choldenko, who has a sibling with autism, was able to connect with kids who also knew people with special needs.

If you have questions about special needs programming or want to discuss accommodations with Youth staff, call 847/253-5675.

Before Your Visit, Get Ready With Online Tools

If you have a child with special needs, you can plan a visit to the Library using tools available at mppl.org/kids/special-child-at-the-library. Four social stories, or tools to help those on the autism spectrum better understand how to interact in an effective and appropriate manner, can be reviewed online. Social stories include *Going to the Library*, *Going to Storytime*, *How to Get a Library Card*, and *How to Check Out a Book*.

The Web page also includes a list of resources for both adults and children on autism, Down syndrome, and hearing impairment. The Library features a collection of Braille books as well as toys designed for children with special needs. You can see a picture of each toy available for checkout as well as its status.

SPECIAL PULLOUT SECTION
Save for Future Reference



Reduce Your Waste Line Event

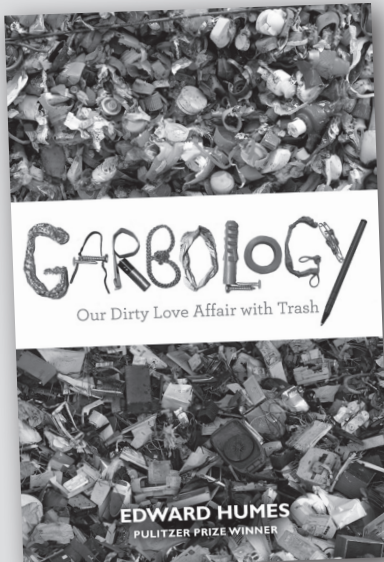
Get Started Changing the Earth for the Better—
One Habit at a Time

Beginning April 20 through May 31, the Library's Green Committee challenges the community to tackle behaviors that result in garbage production, from switching to reusable water bottles to recycling more household trash to skipping containers when possible. Stop by the Library lobby and tell us how you are reducing waste in your household. Commit to this pledge for 21 days to be eligible for a drawing.

In addition, the Library will be participating in TerraCycle's Personal Care and Beauty Product Brigade to collect used packaging from health and beauty items. Accepted waste includes shampoo and conditioner bottles; hair spray and gel containers and triggers; lip balm tubes; face soap dispensers and tubes; face, hand, and body lotion bottles; and makeup cases, tubes, bottles, and pencils.

In May, the Green Committee will bring you programming, including a discussion of *Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair With Trash* by

Edward Humes, centered on helping Mount Prospect residents think about how they can join together to preserve the planet for current and future generations.



Library Honored With Chamber Partner Award

Last winter, a fire destroyed two downtown Mount Prospect buildings. While no one was hurt, a few businesses were displaced—one of them an important resource for other businesses in the village.

The Library was pleased to be able to offer temporary office space to the Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce during early 2014 while the Chamber searched for new space after the fire. We are equally pleased to have been awarded the Chamber's Business and Community Partner award during the annual Dynamic Year Luncheon earlier this year.

The Library and Executive Director Marilyn Genthner were honored for offering a conference room to the Chamber before the group's move to its current



Chamber of Commerce staff in their temporary location at MPPL.

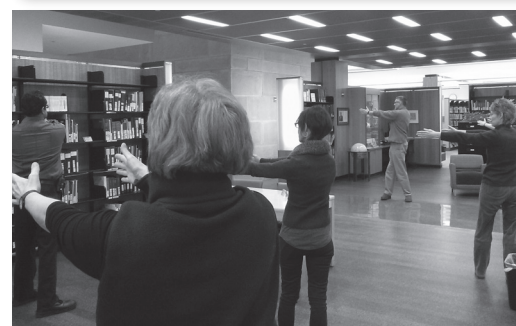
location at 662 E. Northwest Highway. The Library was also recognized for its collaboration with the Village and Chamber on the Entrepreneur's Café series.

Additionally, Business Reference Librarian Joe Collier was praised for the level of service he offered to local businesspeople and entrepreneurs.

The Business Supporter award went to Le Peep Café, which also welcomed the Chamber and offered meeting space in the days following the fire.

Motion Notion Patrons, Staff Got Active With Instant Recess

Patrons of all ages took a quick, healthy break with Library staff weekdays from January through March. Instant Recess met at 4 p.m. for ten minutes in the Genealogy area and was an easy way to keep everyone on the move and winter brains in the groove. Library staff led low-impact, simple physical activities that included Irish dancing, yoga, moving to Motown music, party games, and wacky wedding dances. During finals week, teens took a break from studying and joined the group.



Clockwise from top left: Participants enjoyed party games, Irish dancing, and yoga.

Help Us Get to 1,000 Facebook Likes

As our Facebook page nears the important milestone of 1,000 "Likes," we want to thank those who have already clicked the blue button and given us the online thumbs up. Facebook is another way for the Library to let you know what's going on and what services and programs we offer. But patrons can also use Facebook to communicate with us. Tell us what you are reading, ask us a question, or just let us know that you stopped by. And, tell your neighbors who have not "liked" us that this is a great time to join the conversation.

Remember, you can also Tweet us @MPPLibrary. Teens can follow @MPPLTeen on Instagram to see what's going on for 6th-12th graders. We hope you enjoy connecting with us on social media!



MPPL Awarded Grant to Support Digital Collections

The Mount Prospect Historical Society and the Mount Prospect Public Library received a grant for \$5,660 from the Illinois State Library to digitize 50 artifacts from the Historical Society's collection. MPPL's grant was part of a total of \$485,779 in grants to 13 libraries.

The grant will support the "Dimensions of Life in Mount Prospect" project and will continue to add to the Library's contributions to the Illinois Digital Archives, maintained by the Illinois State Library. Mount Prospect-related items in the collection include photos, oral histories, and copies of phone books, newspaper clippings, and letters.

With the grant funds, MPPL and MPHS will identify artifacts for digitization, hire a professional photographer to digitize the materials, and provide relevant information on each piece, including date, location, and names as well as a description of each item. Some new equipment will be purchased as part of the grant as well.

"Mount Prospect residents are proud of the village's history and always eager to learn more and see images from the past," said Librarian Anne



St. Paul Lutheran School, Grades 2 and 3, 1920-21

Shaughnessy, who will lead the digitizing work at MPPL. "We are happy to be able to make more of Mount Prospect's history accessible to the public."

To view Mount Prospect-related collections and other historical artifacts, visit the Illinois Digital Archives website at www.idaillinois.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/mountpro001



(Above) Oldest commercial structure in Mount Prospect in 1910. Built in 1880 at 2 East Northwest Highway, this building housed the first post office, a general store, and, around the turn of the century, an ice cream parlor.

Elm Street, 1927



Limited Tax Forms Available on the Second Floor

Both the federal Internal Revenue Service and the State of Illinois have drastically reduced the number and variety of forms they send to the Library for public distribution.

We will only be receiving a limited number of the federal forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ. The Library will not receive instructions, schedules, or other numbered forms. Except for some Illinois 1040 forms, the Library will also not receive any copies of state forms for distribution.

A set of reproducible state and federal forms will be available for photocopying, or you may access the forms you need online and print them from a

Library computer. For assistance, please ask at the Reference Desk on the second floor.

For more detailed information, contact the Internal Revenue Service (www.irs.gov) at 800/829-1040 for individual assistance and 800/829-4933 for businesses. The local office phone number is 847/737-6688.

For the Illinois Department of Revenue (www.revenue.state.il.us) call 800/732-8866. The local office phone number is 847/294-4200.

For more detailed information and links to forms and filing help, visit the Tax Information page on our web site at mppl.org/research/taxes.

MPPL Teen Librarian Helps Group Name Top Audiobooks

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), recently announced its 2015 Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults list.

MPPL Teen Librarian Colleen Seisser chaired the committee that chose the audiobooks.

"This was a great year for audiobooks!" said Colleen. "Those who follow our list will be excited to see stellar productions with narrators who excel at bringing the stories to life and also many examples of extra production soundscapes that uplifted fantastic books to amazing audiobooks."

The 2015 Amazing Audiobooks list is comprised of 27 fiction and 2 nonfiction titles and features recordings covering a wide range of interests for young adults, from historical fiction to horror to realistic fiction.

The list is aimed at young adults ages 12-18 and is drawn from the previous two years of spoken-word releases. The full list can be viewed at www.ala.org/yalsa/amazing-audiobooks.



Colleen Seisser

Foundation Board Welcomes Two New Members



Mount Prospect Public Library Foundation

of developing and managing an endowment fund through fundraising and charitable contributions.

In August of 2014, Amy Romanelli came on board bringing her marketing expertise and wealth of knowledge working with other charitable foundations. A 17-year resident of Mount Prospect, Amy was looking to become more involved in the community and recognized the positive influence of the Library in Mount Prospect. Calling the Library a “hub for the community,” Amy has hit the ground running with the Foundation Board, joining both the

The Mount Prospect Public Library Foundation (MPPLF) is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to its Board. The MPPLF was formed in 1997 by a dedicated group of Library supporters with the purpose

Fundraising and Marketing committees. She has also been active in planning the March Mini Golf fundraiser.

“We’re really excited about the Mini Golf event. It’s a great way to have fun and support the Library. It’s just one of the ways the MPPLF is working to support the Library’s valuable programs,” said Romanelli.

Longtime resident and community volunteer Eileen Mantych has joined the Board as Treasurer. Eileen’s experience as a CPA and involvement in auditing several nonprofit organizations make her a valuable asset for the Foundation.

“I enjoy volunteering and using my accounting education,” says Mantych. “For over 20 years our family has used the Library for a wide variety of activities, and when the opportunity came along to join the Foundation Board, I was eager to help keep our Library strong for future generations.”



Amy Romanelli



Eileen Mantych

The volunteer-based Board commits its time and energy year-round to help realize the goals that were set out almost 20 years ago. Members of the community also volunteer to help the Foundation and its many fundraising efforts.

Thank whooo?
Thank you!



We appreciate all that you do!

The Library would like to send a special “Thank You” to all the dedicated volunteers who gave their tireless energy, time, talent, and support in 2014.

Whether it’s behind the scenes or out in the shelves; delivering homebound patrons a new book or checking in attendees for our programs; helping to set up or working one of our many book sales—to all, we thank you!

We have over 100 volunteers of all ages who contributed hundreds of hours of service last year. Our volunteers worked onsite at the Main Library and South Branch and also “offsite” throughout our community. It is because of you that we are able to offer such a dynamic Library to our patrons.

If you’d like to join this spirited group of Library enthusiasts, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 847/253-5675.

Friends’ Book Group Has Been “A Delight”

Over the 25 years of its existence, the Friends of the Library’s book discussion group has read more than 300 books. But founder and leader Laura Luteri has read even more, as she has had to find the books for the group to read.

“That’s a lot of books in 25 years,” she says.

When the group started in 1990, book discussions were not as common as they are today. But Laura recalls that the first book they read together, Robert Fulghum’s *All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, sparked a conversation immediately. And a participant from the second-ever meeting is still part of the group today.

Laura, who volunteers her time to the group, has assistance in choosing the books from Library staff and from the group itself. She gives Collection Management Department Head Nancy Prichard a list of about 20 to 25 books, and Nancy determines which of the titles can be obtained in the quantities needed for the 15 to 20 people who attend monthly.

The titles run the gamut, Laura says. The group mostly reads fiction, but biographies and history also make the list.

Looking back, Laura says the best book the Friends group has read is Olive Ann Burns’ *Cold Sassy Tree*. The worst: a “very dry” biography of Thomas Jefferson.



Conversations often center on why characters act the way they do or why authors choose particular events or plot twists. And, she adds, they always pick actors for a movie version of the book.

“It’s not a shy group,” Laura says.

Their longevity and camaraderie earned the club a place in Ellen Slezak’s *The Book Group Book*, considered a classic primer on forming and maintaining a discussion group.

Laura, who has also served as a Library trustee and on the boards of the Friends of the Library and the Mount Prospect Public Library Foundation, says that the members have become friends, sharing not only conversation about books but life events.

“We share a love of reading and books, and that’s what it takes to make a good discussion,” she says.

Scan and Save or Send a Document From a Copier

All of the Library’s copiers now offer the option to scan a document or photo (PDF or JPG formats) to a USB flash drive or to send by e-mail, *both free of charge*.



To save a scan on a USB, bring your own flash drive or purchase one at the Circulation Desk (\$10 for 4GB). **To e-mail an item that you have scanned**, you just need to know the e-mail address.

Instructions are posted on the copiers, but staff are always happy to assist you with your scanning request.



Mount Prospect Public Library
explore the opportunities



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