

# Wilmette Public Library Annual Report

July 1 2017 - June 30 2018

Over the past year, we have tried new ways to reach out and extend our services. Professor Plum, the library's mobile book bike, debuted this year and visited the French Market and local parks to bring the library to where you are. Library staff visited preschools in the community, providing story times and delivering pre-selected bags of library items for preschoolers. Park District summer campers also received visits from Library staff who encouraged reading through early childhood programs and the summer reading club. We continued our popular Maker programming series which has seen participation from all ages. It is a great opportunity for multi-generational interaction. We have a drop-in Maker station near the check out counter to keep the momentum going.

We went through the rigorous process of developing a strategic plan for the next three years. We invited contributions from the community, stakeholders, staff members, and the Board of Trustees to help us craft a guiding document. The 2018-2021 plan, named *Shaping our Future*, includes five dynamic goals for the coming years.

We look forward to serving you in the coming year with outstanding programs and opportunities for creative engagement, all while maintaining a stellar collection of books, music, films, and "things," both physical and digital, to entice all our members. Stop by the library or visit us online: [wilmettelibrary.info](http://wilmettelibrary.info)



The 2017-2018 fiscal year was a time of change and growth at the Wilmette Library. In April 2018, the Board of Trustees appointed two long term department heads, Betty Giorgi and Gayle Rosenberg Justman, as interim co-directors while a search was conducted to replace outgoing director, Heather McCommond-Watts. With overwhelming support, Anthony Auston was selected from a field of candidates and came on board in November to take over the helm.



## 2017-2018 Community Partners

Go Green Wilmette, the League of Women Voters of Wilmette & Kenilworth, Mallinckrodt Community Center, New Trier High School, School District 39, School District 37, SCORE, the Village of Wilmette, the Wilmette Park District, and Friends of the Wilmette Public Library



# Planning for our Future

In fall 2017, we asked for community input as we embarked on creating a new strategic plan to guide the Library for the next several years. We asked the community to share their aspirations for their families, for the library, and for the village at large. We enjoyed small group discussions and on-the-street conversations, gaining insight into our shared values. With the valuable input from the community, library staff and board members created a dynamic plan, *Shaping our Future*, that moves us forward while embracing our traditional services. The plan outlines goals and initiatives in five areas:

**Growing Community:** Focus library services to promote strong connections in our community.

**Knowledge & Discovery:** Create an adaptable environment that encourages pursuit of knowledge and discovery to enrich your life.

**Diversity & Inclusion:** Create an inclusive environment so that all feel welcomed and served.

**Sharing Resources:** Allocate staff, facilities, and other resources effectively to provide outstanding library services.

**Marketing and Communication:** Increase visibility and awareness of the library's value to you and your community.

Interested in learning more about our Strategic Plan? Visit [wilmettelibrary.info/strategicplan](http://wilmettelibrary.info/strategicplan).

## Growing our Digital World

As the world grows ever more technologically connected, the Library's online services, technology workshops, and digital "branch" have continued to grow, reflecting the interconnected world around us. We added a new digital services department to the staff this year, allowing us to offer more computer classes and tech help, and staff to focus on ensuring that our digital services take priority.

**Fiber Optic Internet Service** In the spring, the Library switched to a fiber optic network for our Internet services. A fiber network offers top-of-the-line service, allowing the Library's Internet and wifi offerings to be significantly faster and more reliable than the previous cable network.

**New Catalog & Events Calendar** In April, we introduced a new catalog designed for an enhanced user experience, allowing patrons to select their notification preferences, providing automatic renewals when possible, offering access to digital collections, and featuring an interface designed for use on computers, phones, and tablets. We also upgraded our public calendar, featuring a new, attractive system that makes it easier to find the programs you care about.

**Maker Programming for All Ages** Maker programs bring new digital skills to life, from using the computer-programmable vinyl cutter to create etched wine glasses at a Maker After Dark event to learning to code with BeeBots to exploring upcycling at a Maker Materials event. It's great to have tech in your pocket or on your desk, but learning how to incorporate tech and a Maker philosophy in your everyday life can open up new worlds.

Digital



Computer Sessions  
27,046



Website Visitors  
165,970



Wifi Connections  
958,152

- ▶ Books & Magazines: 221,139
- ▶ e-Books & e-Audiobooks: 56,444
- ▶ DVD & BluRay Movies: 22,240
- ▶ Audiobooks & Music CDs: 31,306
- ▶ Streaming Movies: 2,698



# Collections

# Services 16,945 Active Cardholders

➔ **348,000 Annual Visits**  
*Nearly 1,000 a day!*



**One-on-One Tutorials**  
116



➔ **21,281 People attended Library Programs**  
*6,093 Adult, 15,188 Children*

**577 Library Programs**  
*295 Adult, 284 Children*



**3.9% of your property tax bill helps fund the Library**

Learn more about the Library's funding, expenditures, and long range capital plans at:  
[www.wilmettelibrary.info/library-finances](http://www.wilmettelibrary.info/library-finances)

**Finance**

## Getting out into the Community

While we love bringing people into the building, we also love getting out into the community. As our staff grows, we are excited to expand our ability to meet the community throughout the Village.

**Professor Plum, the Library Book Bike** Packed with giveaways and books donated by the Friends of the Library, and ridden by members of the staff and board, it was great fun to spot Professor Plum around town all summer.

**Expanded Youth Outreach** Staff introduced school library cards, themed book bags, circulating STEM kits, and preschool delivery at schools throughout the village. "Libraries Take You Everywhere" was a summer initiative to take stories to parks and facilities throughout the village. The Kindness Club, a monthly series where participants make items that are donated to local organizations and charities.

**Broader Services for Wilmette Teens** While the Library has always been a welcome destination for local teens during exams, over the past year we have expanded the array of programs we offer to include teen-specific gaming and hands-on activities, as well as passive craft activities that appeal to busy on-the-go teens.

**The Friends of the Wilmette Library** This past year, the volunteer-run Friends brought in more than \$40,000 to support library programs and initiatives. Friends sponsored programs last year included Summer Reading Clubs, One Book Everybody Reads, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, Sunday Classical Concerts, Greener Choices, After the Fast Lane, and more.

**Community-Centered Programming** In the fall, we transformed our traditional juried art show into a several-times-a-year community art show. This change has allowed us to feature more art by more talented residents of Wilmette and the surrounding areas. We also got to share once-in-a-lifetime event with the community during the solar eclipse in August 2017. Hundreds of community members gathered on the library lawn, sharing snacks and eclipse glasses as we watched this rare event.



# Sharing a Love of Literature and Culture

As a library, we are always committed to exploring new worlds through our collections and programs. The Library's calendar each year features an array of book discussions, classical concerts, scholarly lectures, and more. With more than 550 programs each year, there is something for everyone to learn, explore, and share at the Library.

**One Book, Everybody Reads Features A Gentleman in Moscow**  
 In its 13th year, the Library's community reading program, One Book, Everybody Reads, explored Amor Towles' *A Gentleman in Moscow* with a full slate of events exploring Russian culture, history, and politics. The author event broke attendance records for the series, as Mr. Towles spoke about his novel to a full house at the Wilmette Junior High auditorium. The Library thanks the Friends of the Wilmette Library for funding the One Book Series.



**Growing Book Discussions and Author Events** In addition to long-running discussion groups, we added a number of engaging ways for the community to share a love of reading and books. From a book group for teens and adults with developmental disabilities and a Meet the Author event featuring Scott Simon to a local author book fair and new bilingual Mandarin-English storytime, the Library provides exciting and diverse ways to explore literature and reading.

**Flourishing Concerts and Series** We welcomed back longtime favorites Petra Van Nuis and Bobby Lewis, as well as new performers including Trio Jayus and jazz pianist Chris White. A popular series on World War II explored all aspects of the war, from how the US came to be involved to the experience of living on the home front. We continued to enjoy presentations on being "green" from Go Green Wilmette; small business strategies from SCORE; and a wealth of lectures on health, self-improvement, theatre productions, and more.



**Circulation** Nearly 700,000 Total Checkouts



**E-Resources** 54,558 Logins to E-Resources

To learn more about the Library, visit us at [www.wilmettelibrary.info](http://www.wilmettelibrary.info).