

Wilmette Public Library Director's Report – April 16, 2024

Library Activities for March-April 2024

Anthony Auston, Director

Welcome Desk & Shelving (Manager Patsy deVuono)

The Welcome Desk transferred 331 phone calls in March, noting about a 50% decrease in call handling since the introduction of the new telephone system and its autoattendant feature. Welcome Desk staff answered 379 reference and 552 directional questions in March. The library had 21,096 visitors in March, averaging nearly 680 users each day.

Shelving staff receive and unpack interlibrary deliver bins every weekday morning. These bins include Wilmette items returned to other libraries as well as holds from other libraries to our patrons. Shelving staff unpacked and processed 293 bins in March.

The monthly AMH totals included 67,754 items processed in March. Continuing with past trending data, approximately 38% of those items are routed to Circulation as “exceptions” for further handling, including manual disc/part accounting/verification.

In March, Shelving staff supported other departments by:

- Charging 434 WonderBooks and Vox Books
- Cleaned 45 discs that patrons had returned with notes for cleaning
- Processing 12 carts of weeded materials

Activities for the team this month included:

- Welcome Desk staff continue to master the new telephone system and help IT troubleshoot the equipment. We don't receive nearly as many phone calls as we have in the past, but still have a lot of tasks to do. We direct patrons all over the library. We accept donations and hand out tax receipts for donated materials. We keep all information about the phones and desk up to date. We keep the logs for the Person In Charge and one for auditorium use. We answer patron questions when we can, and we greet everyone who comes through the door.
- Some patrons are not happy with the new phone system, stopping at the Welcome Desk to tell us they miss talking to a friendly voice, or don't know who they need, etc. We try to assure them that we are still available and they can talk to a person, explaining how to do that (press “0” for the Operator.
- Shelver Mary Dormin continues to coordinate with Adult Services to pull books for maintenance and reconsideration. She is currently working with Assistant Manager Rachel Garcia on the Fiction collection.
- Mary Dormin and Michael Mah both helped out at Maker Fest on Saturday, March 9. The Shelving Department lent a number of carts for the presenters to use. That day was exceptionally busy, making it hard to shelve, but we were all caught up by Monday.

- The Welcome Desk distributed eclipse glasses in advance of the April 8 solar eclipse event on the library lawn, as well as the morning of the event. Over 100 patrons lined up to receive a complimentary pair of glasses, which were gone in about 5 minutes. Additional glasses were made available to attendees of the event that afternoon.
- Our student interns were off for spring break, and their absence was felt during that week. Aidan informed us that he will be attending summer school this year, and is excited to be working with us over the summer.

Collections / Technical Services (Manager Jessica Thomson)

Physical (Adult and Youth Services)

The Library of Things Committee added a page turner for e-readers and a tool kit.

The travel books that are not part of annual series (such as Fodor's and Frommer's) will now be considered new and shelved with the new non-fiction in the Recent Arrivals room.

Carly Stauss, Cataloging Librarian, has been working with Sheri Reda, Youth Services, on revising call numbers in the Youth folk tales collection, as well as revising numbers in the non-fiction collection to provide more specificity in the areas of science and history.

Carly continues to review CCS reports for data clean-up including lost items and items that are 6 months past due.

Shanti D'Costa and Laura Krimsin-Morales collaborated on a new template for printing acquisition cards for video games. This eliminates hand writing the information for each video game title.

Technical Services and Facilities withdrew from the catalog, marked withdrawn, and packaged 42 boxes of books to be sent to Better World Books.

Top circulating titles in March:

- Adult fiction: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garums
- Adult non-fiction: *While You Were Out : An Intimate Family Portrait of Mental Illness in an Era of Silence* by Meg Kissinger
- Teen fiction: *Demon Slayer* by Koyoharu Gotoge
- Teen non-fiction: *Illinois Rules of the Road*
- Youth fiction: *Dragon Ball Z* by Akira Toriyama
- Youth non-fiction: *The Great Chicago Fire : Rising from the Ashes* by Kate Hannigan
- Adult multimedia: *The Holdovers*
- Youth multimedia: *Wonka*

Digital (Digital & Maker Services)

Online Resources and eContent

This month Digital & Maker Services Manager Lauren Kelly attended the Electronic Content Consortium's All-Member meeting on March 7 as an Executive Board member. Topics discussed in the meeting included: the Equitable Access to Electronic Materials Act, annual usage and fees, review of the consortium's collection development plan, and upcoming training opportunities.

Lauren Kelly also ran digital usage reports for Wilmette Public Library cardholders living in Kenilworth, using the new card number range put in place early last fall. Capturing these digital circulation statistics will allow us to account for the actual digital usage by Kenilworth cardholders, anticipate the digital needs of that community, and better advocate for collecting the costs associated with delivering those digital services.

Lauren Kelly also met with Adult Services Manager Cathleen Blair, Youth Services Manager Andrea Vaughn Johnson, and Director Anthony Auston regarding online resources, providing vendor updates and discussing budgeting, new additions, and underperforming products.

Online Resource Highlights for March 2024

- Our Local History site has been down all month, so reported usage was 0 in March. We hope access gets restored as soon as possible, and Local History & Genealogy Librarian EvaAnne Johnson is working with our hosting vendor to resolve the issue.
- LinkedIn Learning had a strong month, with 173 videos viewed, up from an average of 120. Topics include: Using Microsoft Teams and Outlook Together, Lessons on Happiness, Operations Management Foundations, Social Media: Designing a Consistent Brand, and more.
- ProQuest: Heritage Quest saw a spike in usage in March, with 1803 documents accessed. The average for the fiscal year was 35 documents. This indicates a power user found the product and used it heavily in March.
- Gale Business: Plan Builder also saw a spike in usage, with 68 searches, up from an average of 2 the rest of the fiscal year. This also indicates a power user found great value in the resource this month.

OverDrive

18,948 checkouts

- 9,808 ebooks (51.8%)
- 6,159 digital audiobooks (32.5%)
- 2,981 eMagazines (15.7%)

The top digital titles by checkout:

1. *The Women* by Kristin Hannah (eBook) - 68
2. *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride (eBook) - 52
3. *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett (eBook) - 49
4. *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett (eAudio) - 43
5. *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese (eBook) - 37
6. *The Women* by Kristin Hannah (eAudio) - 37
7. *The Bee Sting* by Paul Murray (eBook) - 33
8. *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride (eAudio) - 31
9. *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros (eBook) - 27
10. *Happy Place* by Emily Henry (eBook) - 27

The most popular magazines:

1. The New Yorker - 426
2. Us Weekly - 117
3. The Week - 76

Full summary of digital items added in the past three months:

Collection	January	February	March
eAudiobooks	775	1159	1801
eBooks	1640	1690	3527
eMagazines	280	50	98
Hoopla items	944	894	902
Monthly total:	3639	3793	6328

Full summary of digital items withdrawn in the past three months:

Collection	January	February	March
Hoopla	690	406	422

The complete July to-date FY2023-24 digital resource statistics are appended to this report.

Technical Services Statistics

Full summary of materials added in the past three months:

Collection	January	February	March
Adult Fiction	554	424	490
Adult Non-fiction	375	461	364

Teen Fiction	43	20	26
Teen Non-fiction	3	11	0
Youth Fiction	572	301	518
Youth Non-fiction	157	36	160
Adult Magazines	475	465	451
Youth Magazines	32	37	33
Adult Multimedia	114	147	113
Youth Multimedia	89	173	14
Other (Library of Things, etc.)	27	42	56
Monthly total:	2441	2117	2225

Full summary of items withdrawn in the past three months:

Collection	January	February	March
Adult Fiction	625	597	384
Adult Non-fiction	369	520	323
Teen Fiction	21	24	22
Teen Non-fiction	0	1	14
Youth Fiction	560	517	384
Youth Non-fiction	21	116	94
Adult Magazines	928	466	489
Youth Magazines	153	3	4
Adult Multimedia	294	428	98
Youth Multimedia	14	9	66
Other	5	3	0
Monthly total:	2990	2684	1887

Circulation (Manager Matthew Hoffman)

The library welcomed 159 new patrons in March.

Circulation staff completed the first National Change of Address (NCOA) library card bulk update of 2024.

Current and Past Circulation by Fiscal Year

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21*	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
July	68,740	66,182	33,804	59,462	59,742	60,736
Aug	67,729	64,303	50,795	21,368*	59,932	62,545

Sept	62,444	59,292	55,261	64,184	53,587	49,229
Oct	62,202	60,195	55,820	50,538	53,994	55,226
Nov	61,400	61,307	46,631	53,720	54,850	52,926
Dec	56,962	55,668	35,822	51,141	51,452	53,499
Jan	60,403	61,130	31,822	53,798	57,424	56,360
Feb	56,946	57,932	32,640	49,767	52,127	54,534
March	62,305	29,435*	52,239	55,073	61,616	58,430
April	59,323	28*	52,875	53,537	54,517	
May	59,032	87*	54,781	51,235	53,990	
June	61,772	7,422*	56,560	55,012	56,630	
Total YTD	739,258	522,981	559,050	618,835	669,861	503,485

*FY 19/20: building closed for a portion March-June due to pandemic

*FY 20/21: building hours reduced by 20% overall due to pandemic

*FY 21/22: building closed in August for 2 weeks for capital repairs

Wilmette Public Library Monthly Statistics as a Whole For 3/2024	
Total Checkins	32,326
Checkout Stations	19,274
Leap Checkout and Renewal	11,767
Total Checkouts	31,046
Auto-renewal	26,435
Power PAC Renewal	382
Leap Checkout and Renewal	234
Checkout Stations	223
Total Renewals	27,384
Number of your Library's items checked out system-wide	30,956
Holds Placed through your interface	6,355
Holds placed for/by your patrons	6,878
Holds Held	7,064
Holds Checked out	6,285
Holds Cancelled	1,270
Holds Unclaimed	933

Number Of Items Currently Out	36,254
Unexpired Patrons on file	15,723

Wilmette Public Library 24/7 Pickup Lockers Monthly Statistics For 3/2024	
Total Checkouts	296
Wilmette Cardholder	78
CCS and/or Reciprocal Borrower Cardholder	57
Holds Held	299
Holds Unclaimed	39

July to-date FY2023-24 circulation statistics are appended to this report.

Adult and Teen Services (Manager Cathleen Blair)

Genealogy and Local History

On Saturday, March 2, Genealogy and Local History Librarian EvaAnne Johnson hosted a two-part House History Workshop, a popular program that has become an annual success. The first session featured guest historian Julia Johnas, who tailored the presentation for Wilmette homes. The second session was an interactive one, in which the twenty-nine attendees could look through treasures from our Local History Room and find insights about their own homes. These discoveries included names of previous residents and of the architects who built their houses, the original names of their streets, and locating the houses in our Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Several attendees made follow-up appointments for a visit to the Local History Room to do a deeper dive into the history of their house.



Maker Fest

Adult Services staff were proud to partner with Digital and Maker Services to support the success of Maker Fest on March 9. An estimated 700 patrons of all ages came to the library to interact with the exhibitors and learn more about the library's new makerspace, The Studio. Teen Services Librarian Krista Hutley served on the Maker Fest planning committee and helped coordinate teen and adult volunteers with Youth Services Librarian Jennifer Lee. In addition, Krista and Manager Cathleen Blair served as designated floaters to assist in multiple areas as needs arose and also staffed the Welcome Table. In the closing hours, this role uniquely positioned Krista to personally greet many exiting attendees who gushed about how fun and amazing Maker Fest was and wanted to know when next it would be offered.

Women's History Month

One of the Library's spotlight programs for Women's History Month was a unique writer/dramatist combination presentation *Edith: The Rogue Rockefeller McCormick*. Author Andrea Frederici Ross shared insightful commentary on this remarkable life, regularly pausing for choreographed interruptions from in-character performer Ellie Carlson, who voiced Edith's opinionated takes on her family and history. Each of the fifty-nine attendees was enthralled, and many expressed enthusiasm for inviting historical and literary dramatists as a recurring offering.

Outreach to Older Adults

On March 12, Senior Services librarian Jillian McKeown hosted Mather Senior Living's Short Story Book Club's discussion of "Drinking School" by Art Hoppe. The story was written in the late 1960s and the group offered personal insights into the various movements of the time.



On March 22, Jillian McKeown and Digital and Maker Services staff Sabrina Nizzi hosted a Technology Drop-In at Mather Senior Living. Jill demonstrated ebook borrowing and use, and Sabrina assisted residents with technology questions such as navigating email and phone apps.

Department Activities: Services

Business Services

Though the Library is proud to offer dedicated business and financial resources presentation programming, of equal service to the community is that of meeting individual patron inquiries at point of need. Business Librarian John Amundsen serves as in-house specialist in connecting patrons with the best resources to address what are often complex questions:

- A regular business patron emailed John seeking a list of all landscaping firms in Evanston and Wilmette. Using Library subscription resource Data Axle, John was able to efficiently supply the requested information to the patron.
- On March 12, John met with a business patron looking to work on a business plan. John demonstrated how multiple Library subscription resources (Gale Business: Plan Builder, Statista, and Mergent Intellect) could supply vital business intelligence research and how to collate these insights into a lean, canvas-formatted planning document.
- In one challenging request, a patron asked for the closing price of a now-obsolete security on a date in 2005. After multiple staff consulted available local resources and discovered that level of historical data was not easily accessible, John employed his connection to specialist peers in the RAILS Business Interest Group. One member library still held a reference volume with daily closing prices through 2011 and was able to supply the desired information, satisfying the need more quickly and with fewer processes than requisitioning newspaper microfilm from an outside source.

Hosted Visits

Jillian McKeown and Digital and Maker Services Manager Lauren Kelly gave Emma Rand, Mather Senior Living's Creative Experiences Manager, a tour of the Studio in preparation for a proposed Mather resident field trip to the library in April.

Collection and Advisory Services

Among featured collection spotlights in March were “Take a Kitchen Staycation: Cookbooks That Transport Us,” “Irish Authors,” “Oscar Favorites,” and the dialogue-sparking “The Book Was Better?”



Staff Activities and Special Projects

Assistant Manager Rachel Garcia was invited to contribute ideas for the expansion of the Public Library Reading Program through the Yiddish Book Center. This is the same program for which the Library received a grant in 2023. The Center won a grant from the Lilly Foundation which will allow them to expand this valuable initiative. Several librarians from past programs met to discuss possibilities with leadership from the Yiddish Book Center and a representative from the American Library Association.

Jillian McKeown contacted Melanie Berman, New Trier Township's Outreach & Communications Director, and she will now include senior/older adult programming events in New Trier's weekly e-blast.

Jillian McKeown hosted the second Programming for Seniors in Public Libraries RAILS networking group with 49 people in attendance. Guest speaker Kathryn Zahm, Manager of Illinois Pathways to Health, shared about the state's older adult programming series addressing physical health.

Krista Hutley reviewed two books for the Young Adult Service Forum's annual Tournament of Books, choosing one winner to advance in the competition of best YA books published in 2023. Her contribution is posted here: <https://yasfnews.wordpress.com/2024/03/23/she-is-a-haunting-vs-a-long-stretch-of-bad-days/>

Krista is completing the American Sign Language for Librarians 2 course through ALA's e-learning platform. The final course in this three-part bundle will be American Sign Language with Children in the Classroom and in Storytime: A Practical Guide, one the instructor has assured Krista will offer relevance to teen services as well.

Statistics of Note

- In March, library staff delivered items to 35 residents in the community.
- Library staff performed 10 notarizations in March.

Service Desk Statistics

With three months of data collected via Gimlet software fully launched at service desks in 2024, identification of trends in times, locations, and categories of questions is beginning to emerge:

- The busiest hours at the Adult Services desks are 3-5pm, and the hour in which staff are least likely to be juggling simultaneous multiple requests is 7-8pm.
- By slim margin, Friday edges ahead of Monday in terms of total daily weekday questions, with average of 39 per hour.
- Narratively, Sunday is often reported as the busiest day, but Saturday reflected a higher question-per-hour rate in March.

- In coming months, data comparing specific categories of questions will be explored in additional detail. This month two categories with notable gains were Advisory (suggestions of items to read, watch, or listen to) and Teen (collections or services).

Type of Question	Total Tallied at AS Service Points in March	Change in Number from Previous Month*	Percentage of AS questions in March
Collection	1233	+14%	46%
Reference	832	+4%	31%
Study Room	357	-8%	13%
Directional	183	-6%	7%
Equipment	51	-25%	2%
1:1 (extended assistance and tutorials)	12	-43%	1%
Total	2668		

*March data includes Spring Break, which has anticipated impact on several services

Location of Question	Total Tallied at AS Service Points in March	Change in Number from Previous Month	Percentage of AS questions in March
Recent Arrivals Desk	1591	+6%	59.6%
Reference and Technology Desk	1028	+2%	38.5%
Offices	43	-14%	1.6%
Roaming – First Floor	6	+100%	.2%
Total	2668		

Format of Question	Total Tallied at AS Service Points in March	Change in Number from Previous Month	Percentage of AS questions in March
In person	1649	-4%	62%
Phone	972	+24%	36%
Email*	45	-16%	2%
Appointment*	2	-86%	--
Total	2668		

*likely underreported, as are transitioning different reporting practices for these methods

Additional program details and statistics are appended to this report.

Youth Services (Manager Andrea Vaughn Johnson)

Programs

In March, Youth Services presented 54 scheduled programs with a total attendance of 2,252 patrons!

In our monthly Art for Big Feelings program, YS Librarian Sarah Jo Zaharako read *Don't Hug Doug (He Doesn't Like It)*, and made these excellent high-fivers.



In Sheri Reda's Temari Balls program, kids learned to make this beautiful traditional Japanese craft with balloons and yarn.



During Spring Break, we offered concerts, drawing workshops, drop-in crafting, coloring and sticker parties, the Imagination Playground, and other special events.

A patron raved about Youth Services Librarian Jennifer Lee's Sticker Party drop-in program, sharing what a fantastic idea it was and how she's recommending this activity for her child's next birthday party. Inexpensive, kid-centered, process art fun, for the win!



For the March STEAM Lab program, kids had a great time doing a cup stacking challenge! Ozobot, Sphero, and Beebot tested the cup stacking skills.



K-9 Reading Buddies

On March 7, patron Sophia brought her signed copy of *When Things Aren't Going Right, Go Left* by Marc Colagiovanni and Peter H. Reynolds to read to Truffle! Jennifer Lee took this fantastic picture of the brand new book, *No Cats in the Library*, with K-9 Reading Buddy, Truffle. Truffle loved reading *No Cats in the Library*!



Family Storytime was packed every Tuesday and Wednesday! Here is Youth Services Librarian Amanda Jacover delighting the crowd.



Outreach



School Engagement Librarian Eti attended Marie Murphy's author visit with Megan E. Freeman, author of *Alone*, which just won the 2024 Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award! *Alone* is also on the Highcrest 6th Grade Reading Challenge list.

Amanda and Eti were invited to Avoca West's highly anticipated author visit with Peter H. Reynolds and Marc Colagiovanni, celebrating the release of their new book, *The Reflection in Me*. Our library beasts loved meeting Peter and Marc!



Eti visited Joseph Sears School all day Friday, March 8 to celebrate Read Across America week, sharing powerful picture books like *Change Sings* and *Punky Aloha*, introducing our library beasts to new friends, and sharing ways to celebrate our nation of diverse readers, with more than 380 students.



Eti visited Highcrest Middle School to host Summer Reading Club focus groups during lunch on March 14 to get input from middle schoolers about ways to improve our program for tweens/teens and help encourage participation. Other local schools have also been invited to give their feedback.

Middle School students from Roycemore School visited the library on March 18 to interview Youth Services librarians Eti Berland and Jennifer Lee for their passion projects focused on library work, the freedom to read, and generifying collections.

March 31 was International Transgender Day of Visibility, which celebrates transgender identities while also drawing attention to the discrimination transgender people face. On the staff blog we highlighted just a few recent books for young people that explain gender diversity or feature transgender characters.

<https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/posts/march-31-trans-day-visibility>

Special projects

Children's Bookmark Contest

Starting in March, children in grades K-8 are invited to submit their best bookmark design by Monday, April 22. All entries will be displayed in our Youth Services department starting May 6 in honor of Children's Book Week, and winning bookmarks will be printed for patrons to enjoy throughout the year. Entry forms are available at the Youth Desk and on our website.

<https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/childrens-bookmark-contest>



Shining a Light on Women's History

Celebrating Women's History Month is a great opportunity to inspire new generations of girls to think expansively about what they can do in the world. Youth Services Librarian Sheri Reda recommended resources on the staff blog to explore the world of women's achievements.

<https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/posts/remember-ladies>

Additional program details and statistics are appended to this report.

Digital & Maker Services (Manager Lauren Kelly)

Maker Fest



The Experiential Learning & Maker (ELM) Committee ran Maker Fest on Saturday March 9! The event was a resounding success and saw approximately 700 attendees. There were 15 exhibitors from the Wilmette area, who provided interactive experiences such as woodworking, fabric arts, basket weaving, bookbinding, electronic music creation, robotics, and more. Wilmette Library also exhibited at the event, promoting our Library of Things collection and showcasing a VR Experience. The Studio saw approximately 350 visitors, all of whom seemed enthused about the tools and services we offer. 3D Printing and the Digital Embroidery Machine were the stars of the show. Based on preliminary survey data, patrons were exceedingly happy with the event. One person even suggested we do it quarterly!





The Studio

In March the Studio team had 241 reference interactions in the space, including 60 Studio tours. The response of patrons has continued to be overwhelmingly positive. Many folks are excited about the transformed space and seem inspired about what they can create using the Studio's tools and equipment.

Projects this month included: Embroidering dates on fabric for a wedding gift, Easter themed buttons, sewing a fabric tote bag, 3D design with Tinkercad, and more.

Studio Updates

- Studio staff are settling into the new service point, and providing friendly, helpful service to patrons. The space is especially busy on weekends, and the staff is figuring out how to best set patron expectations and communicate how to use the equipment in the space during these busier times.
- Digital & Maker Services Librarian Janet Piehl and Digital & Maker Services Manager Lauren Kelly have begun to plan instructional documentation for The Studio, including introductory projects and instruction binders.
- Teachers from Lincolnwood School in Evanston came by to see the Studio and work on plans for a space at their school. They expressed interest in bringing students and/or staff for a visit.
- A patron in the Studio complemented the design on TV slides and graphic design at the library in general.
- In March Digital & Maker Services Associate Ethan Herdrich created projects for the display to show examples of what the Silhouette Cameo can create. His theme was “March Madness” and included paper cutouts, stickers, and Print & Cut examples that were all basketball related.
- Digital Services Assistant Doug McGillivray has continued to improve his maker skills and become an expert in the software and equipment we offer in The Studio. This past month he spent time learning how to properly create stickers and permanent vinyl cuts utilizing Silhouette Studio and Cameo 4. Doug has gained fluency and feels confident helping patrons troubleshoot issues and create his own projects.

3D Printing

Patron Prints: 63

Program Prints: 14

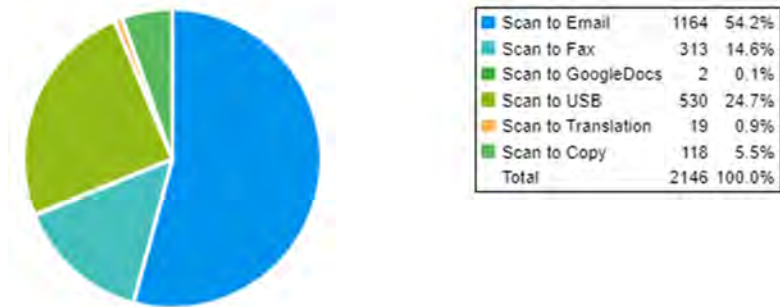
We have had a notable uptick in 3D print submissions since the Studio opened. Submissions have just about doubled compared to pre-Studio numbers. The prominent placement of the machines along with promotion have made this service more popular.

Technology Desk + Department Updates

- In March DMS Staff had 571 Reference Transactions and conducted 10 1:1 help interactions at the Technology Desk. 1:1 Tutorial topics include: help with Amazon account and ordering, scanning and uploading rebate forms, updating Apple Watch, information on Apple ID, help with Goodreads, Microsoft Word formatting a legal document, and more.

- In March 2146 pages were scanned at the Scan Station.

Delivery Method



- The TBS computer management system also allows for usage reports. In March we had: 1186 bookings of 1st floor PCs, 18 bookings of the Studio Mac, and 30 uses of the Digitization Station.
- In this month’s DMS department meeting, the team discussed the newly implemented 1:1 computer station behind the RA desk, scheduling weekends in June, study room procedures, computer reservations, Staff Day, and the new phone system.
- Digital Services Assistant Alex Barzallo researched batch photo scanner options this month, and compiled his findings in a document, making a recommendation to purchase one in the new fiscal year. Based on a patron request, a batch scanner would speed up the time it takes to digitize a large quantity of photographs.
- Digital Services Assistant Sabrina Nizzi accompanied Senior Services Librarian Jillian McKeown to an offsite visit at Mather Place, providing technology help to older adults at the facility. Sabrina is also joining the Community Engagement Committee starting in April.
- Digital Services Assistant Finn Dos Santos worked on the library’s typewriter this month, taking it apart for cleaning to fix an issue it was having.

Program Highlights

Digital & Maker Services Librarian Janet Piehl ran this month’s Maker Garden. This month’s theme was the same as February, “Building Rocks!” Patrons were invited to stack, build, and design using rocks. This was a weatherproof, low maintenance choice for late winter.

The Digital & Maker Services Department planned and scheduled programs for June, July, and August. DMS is offering a mix of digital literacy, technological productivity, maker, and video game / coding programs for all ages. This upcoming newsletter cycle also has two outside groups presenting on mending and bicycle maintenance.

- Digital & Maker Services Librarian Janet Piehl led kids in grades 5-8 as they designed fake food as April Fools’ tricks. Participants came up with some crafty pranks. As part of this

program, Janet put out a set of supplies (putty, sandpaper, paint markers, etc.) in the Studio for the participants to embellish their projects post printing.

- Digital & Maker Services Associate Ethan Herdrich ran a program along with Teen Librarian Krista Hutley called Virtual Reality: Explore & Play. Teens played a multiplayer game called “Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes,” a communication-based game that tasks the player in VR with diffusing a bomb while the other player, not in VR, looks through a manual and tries to talk the other player through diffusing.

Additional program details and statistics are appended to this report.

Communications and Events (Manager Sarah Beth Brown)

March Programs

Program coordinator Jennifer Bartel hosted a variety of cultural and educational events for adults in March. Highlights of the programs hosted by the C&E department include:

- A popular Armchair Travels program this month was a travelogue of Budapest with Jeff Klapes with 44 patrons attending. We chose this program to showcase a larger European city we have not had a presenter offer in recent years.
- We hosted a concert with *Funky Enough* led by Wilmette resident Sam Grossner with 56 patrons attending. Patrons have expressed they enjoy concerts of different genres like blues, pop and folk, but our jazz and classical concerts continue to see strong attendance as well.
- We hosted an adult Make a Natural Bath Bombs program with Soapy Roads of Lombard, which was full with a waitlist. Craft programs with in-person outside presenters seem to work best mornings and early afternoons overall, and they complement our in-house offerings from The Studio as well.
- We partnered with Adult Services to host *Edith: The Rogue Rockefeller McCormick*. The program was a two-woman show with author Andrea Frederici Ross joined by a historical re-enactor Ellie Carlson. The program was well attended with 59 patrons. We have received requests for historical re-enactors, so we plan to host more of these programs.

Jennifer has also worked across departments on several library-wide initiatives. She has lead the coordination of our programming for the total solar eclipse on April 8, including activities the day of the eclipse, associated astronomy events ahead of time, and distribution of eclipse glasses in the lead-up to the event. She has also been working on getting a start on Summer Reading, helping to provide programming to support the reading initiatives coordinated by our Adult and Youth Services departments.

March Communications

April/May newsletter

Communications and Events manager Sarah Beth Brown published our April/May newsletter, which was mailed to homes the last week of March. This issue was jam-packed with programs from our four programming departments, featuring a wide range of events and highlighting our new maker space, The Studio. We have been working on design tweaks to ensure that all of our programs can be highlighted well amid so much information to share. As always, it's exciting to share the huge amount of programs that our staff have planned with the community, and we were also pleased to include features on national poetry month, a national library week library crawl, and major features on The Studio and the upcoming series of Let's Learn Together, as well as a teaser for Summer Reading for kids.

Graphic designer Sarah Rose facilitated the approval and printing of the newsletter with our print house, as Sarah Beth was away from the library. One of our goals has been to ensure that more of our individual tasks in the C&E department can be covered by other staff members, and it has been great to be able to use our team more fully.



Maker Fest

We were thrilled to help with the promotion and execution of Maker Fest, which returned for the first time since before the start of COVID-19. Graphic designer Sarah Rose did a huge amount of work for this event, including designing giveaway swag items, staff t-shirts, promotional designs to be used online and in print, and a detailed map for patrons to use the day of the event to facilitate finding each demonstration. The map is a major design effort that is produced in a short period of time, and Sarah once again did great work. Sarah Beth and communications coordinator Lydia Fair worked together on a communications plan for the event, including a variety of online and print promotions. This successful event was a great cap for a busy winter where we worked on introducing The Studio to the Wilmette community. Sarah, Sarah Beth, and Lydia all attended Maker Fest to take photos to share from the event and for promotional use throughout the year.



Website Accessibility

One project Sarah Beth has been working on in March and will continue through the spring is making improvements to website accessibility. While our overall site is highly accessible to community members of all abilities, we periodically take time to ensure that all of our pages and vendors meet current guidelines. Sarah Beth has been working on this, ensuring that all of our design changes are meeting the best practices for website accessibility, and coordinating with our vendors when improvements can be made on the back end of our site. We are always looking for ways to make our services more accessible.

Sarah Rose worked closely with Youth Services on the April Library crawl. She worked with Andrea as well as Glencoe and Winnetka-Northfield Libraries to design a set of bookmarks and stamps to be used for this fun initiative with The Book Stall. She researched vendors and products and created signage and graphics for promotion. Thanks to Amy Jung for her help getting the supplies shipped out to the other libraries! She has also started working on Summer Reading Club, which is always a major graphics effort, and is helping the Staff Day Committee with branded giveaway items. In addition to these larger projects, she managed the daily flow of requests for collateral items, including signage for Easter closure, information about the children's bookmark contest, and a variety of flyers, brochures, nametags, and other print and digital pieces.

Lydia Fair also had a productive month managing our online communications during a very busy season. She did a large amount of promotions for Maker Fest, in addition to being onsite to take pictures throughout the day. We shared live stories on our Instagram account, which is always a fun addition to an event! She has been working on slides for our digital signs, which have been updated throughout the building. We're excited to have unique sets of slides for The Studio and the Teen Room! In addition to these larger projects, she has updated the website, written and edited blog posts and items for the April-May newsletter, written and sent a variety of email newsletters, and done work to manage our online photo bank.

Email, Social Media, and Communications

Email newsletter statistics from March:

- 102,912 Sends
- 2,188 clicks

A few of our more popular posts from March:

Wilmette Public Library is at **Wilmette Public Library**
 Published by Lydia Wpl · March 20 at 4:15 PM · Wilmette · 🌐

Our Children's Bookmark Contest is underway! Now through Monday, April 22 kids in grades K-8 are invited to design a bookmark. 🎨 The winning entries will be printed and distributed at the library starting May 6, in honor of Children's Book Week!

See below for more information and the entry form. 📄
wilmettelibrary.info/childrens-bookmark-contest



See insights and ads Boost post

👍👍 13 2 shares

Wilmette Public Library
 Published by Lydia Wpl · March 21 at 4:30 PM · 🌐

Check out Kanopy's great collection of films celebrating Women's History Month, including "The Codebreaker," "Daring Women Doctors," "Sheer Good Fortune - Celebrating Toni Morrison," and more.

Get started watching with your library card! 📺 kanopy.com/en/wilmette/category/15759



See insights and ads Boost post

👍 4

wilmettelibrary
 Original audio

wilmettelibrary It's Read Across America Week and our librarians are celebrating by sharing books that show all children they are reflected and respected! All of these recent Caldecott and Newbery award winners are available to check out from the library. How are you celebrating Read Across America Week?

#readsacrossamericaweek

artsycornersstudio Wow!!! You guys are so fun!!!
 ↳ Reply

doloresmaatman Well done ladies! 🙌👏
 ↳ Reply

View insights Boost reel

👍👍👍 Liked by elalibrary and 21 others
 March 6

Add a comment...



Wilmette Public Library is at **Wilmette Public Library**
 Published by Lydia Wpl · March 6 at 4:00 PM · Wilmette · 🌐

Teens from the North Suburban Special Recreation Association got a behind-the-scenes tour of our automated materials handling machine and made customized buttons during their visit! The library welcomes patrons of all abilities. Schedule a staff-led tour to learn about library programs and resources that are just right for you and your family or group.

Learn More 📄
wilmettelibrary.info/services/accessibility



See insights and ads Boost post

👍👍👍 Illinois Library Association and 17 others

Album **Maker Fest 2024**

Wilmette Public Library
 Published by Lydia Wpl · March 13 at 9:50 AM · 🌐

We loved sharing Maker Fest with our community! Check out our album to see some highlights from the day, and stay tuned for fun Maker programs for all ages throughout the year.

#wplmakerfest



See insights and ads Boost post

👍👍 28 2 comments

Information Technology (Manager Michael Pocrnich)

IT Manager Michael Pocrnich and IT Assistant Christine Hightower completed a wide range of troubleshooting and system improvements for both the staff and public in March. Projects this month included: researching equipment updates and replacements, workstation, software, and peripheral troubleshooting, relocation, configuration, installation, and network optimization. Department staff assisted with hardware and software updates and troubleshooting; spam email maintenance; equipment installation, maintenance, and training; document and instruction creation; support to public meeting room reservations; Maker Fest support; support for Minecraft Club; coordination with CVI on resolution of open tickets; self-checkout station maintenance; resolution of ongoing challenges with the patron wireless printing interface; browser troubleshooting; routine maintenance; equipment cleaning; and other updates.

Staff also worked on a number of special projects, including: continued troubleshooting and support for the recent telephone system upgrade; configuration and troubleshooting of the Youth iMac stations; organization of the JAMF Pro server for management of our Apple devices; installation and troubleshooting of the One-on-One computer for Adult and Digital & Maker Services; optimization of the Studio laptops; resolution of outstanding issues with contracted vendor TBS regarding patron printing, ghost booking, and guest passes; troubleshooting of equipment with contracted copier/printer vendor ISBS; and researching a ticketing system solution to help the IT and Facilities teams manage their projects and workflows, as well as create/maintain a record of procedures for resolving troubleshooting requests.

Facilities/Safety (Manager Marcos Levy)

As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, we have been evaluating areas of operational efficiency to be better stewards of the environment. The following activities are currently being evaluated:

- Replace current liquid soap dispensers with foam soap
- Replace C-Fold paper towels with automatic metered dispensers. With better quality paper products, patrons will not need multiple towels
- We are experimenting with a new vendor to manage our discarded media materials. Thrift Books will collect unwanted donations from the Friends, former library materials, and nearly all other forms of media except music CDs.

Reznor Heat Exchanger Update

Following negotiation with the manufacturer, we were able to lower the cost of replacement by \$6,000. From my experiences at former libraries along the north shore, our HVAC equipment is in excellent performance condition with Hill Mechanical as our service provider.

Our sidewalk snowmelt stopped working briefly due to a small part malfunction. The snow event was not significant and we were able to make sure the patrons were able to safely enter the building. Our long range goal is to extend the snowmelt to cover north side of the building.

Human Resources (Manager Michael Boone)

Recruiting & Personnel

Administration

After a couple of searches, we have hired **Sandra Discepolo** as our new **Finance Manager**. Sandra brings over 25 years of finance experience, spanning different industries, but all rooted in fiscal responsibilities, such as bank reconciliations, accounts receivables and payables, and payroll processing. Currently, Sandra serves as the CFO/Comptroller and HR Manager for Mid-Town Distribution in Skokie. Earning an MBA from the University of Louisiana, Sandra has also worked on a contract basis for several local businesses and managed the financial operations for up to seven companies at once. Sandra's first day will be Monday, April 15.

Circulation

After interviewing 5 internal candidates, we have selected **Megan Noone** for the **ILL Assistant** position in Circulation. Megan has been working as a full-time Circulation Assistant since they started back in November of 2021. During their time here, Megan has excelled at learning all of Circulation procedures quickly and helping to train other new hires on the department processes. Megan, who is a member of our IDEA Committee, has also taken on projects in our Technical Services department where they corrected call numbers for a large portion of the non-fiction collection, and they've offered assistance in the Computer lab in our Digital & Maker Services department. Most currently, Megan started training to serve as a substitute in our ILL function. Megan's official first date in this role is still being determined, and we are confident that with their experience and skill set, they will be a valuable addition to this function.

Policy

On Tuesday, March 26, Human Resources Manager Michael Boone attended the Board of Library Trustees Policy Committee meeting where Executive Director Anthony Auston presented the board with a draft copy of policies to review, including the new Human Resources policy, which had just been reviewed by our legal counsel. The policy is largely based on our current Employee Handbook, and has been expanded to include areas not previously included in policy. The committee asked poignant and thoughtful questions regarding the material, and were overwhelmingly supportive of the additions and changes that were made. A few of the key changes included the addition of the Illinois Paid Leave For All Act, and the expansion of the Tuition Reimbursement program. The committee agreed to put the policies up for review and approval at the April Board meeting.

Health/Safety

WIN HR Overview Webinar

On March 20, HR Manager Michael Boone participated in a webinar sponsored by the Wellness Insurance Network (WIN) Management Group, who is the broker for our medical and dental

insurance. During this webinar, we reviewed administrative and billing processes, the BCBS benefits website, cost saving strategies, and compliance updates.

Special Projects

Surveys

HR Manager Michael Boone is busy compiling data for the upcoming **2024 Library Survey**, sponsored and facilitated by HR Source, which collects compensation information from several area libraries as well as companies in different industries, and uses this information for benchmarking purposes. Deadline for this information is April 19, 2024.

The US Census Bureau has launched their **2024 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll**. This survey, which collects comprehensive employment and payroll information for state and local governments, is used to help develop policies based on public activity. Deadline for survey completion is May 9, 2024.

Staff Anniversaries

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Date of Hire</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Theresa Hightower	Circulation	3/13/1990	34 years
Ernesto Abonce	Facilities & Safety	3/11/2002	22 years
Janet Piehl	DMS	3/26/2007	17 years
Kathy Kraemer	Circulation	3/27/2007	17 years
Ken Kraemer	Facilities & Safety	3/4/2011	12 years
Rachel Garcia	Adult Services	3/30/2018	6 years
Jessica Thomson	Technical Services	3/25/2019	5 years
Kate Jordan	Circulation	3/7/2022	2 years
David Powell	Facilities & Safety	3/23/2022	2 years

Select Staff Meetings & Workshops

Staff regularly attend conferences and developmental webinars, and are actively cultivating new skills through dozens of programs and workshops on a diverse range of topics, including:

March 4-8 was ALA's Interest Group Week. This year's offerings consisted of 30 discussions and programs over the week, which were free and available online.

- Jessica Thomson, Technical Services Manager, attended:
Metadata Interest Group, Publisher-Vendor Library Relations, Library Facilities & Interiors, Faceted Subject Access, Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning in Libraries, Cataloging Norms, MARC Formats Transition, Technical Services Workflow Efficiency, Bibliographic Conceptual Models, Creative Ideas in Technical Services, Collection Management in Public Libraries, Role of the Professional Librarian in Technical Services, and Middle Managers.

- Carly Stauss, Cataloging Librarian, attended: MARC Formats Transition, Bibliographic Conceptual Models, and Creative Ideas in Technical Services.

March 21-22: PowerUp Conference, Madison, WI (Andrea Vaughn Johnson)

- Lucia M. Gonzalez Opening Keynote
- Marketing Culturally Relevant and High-Quality Collections through Reader's Advisory
- Library Leadership The Lasso Way
- Everything Grows Together: Defining Goals for Learning Readiness
- Managing Youth Services Staff Through Creativity, Collaboration, and Compassion
- Elevating your Program Assessment: A new digital toolkit to measure learning in hands-on programs
- Lessons in Practical Leadership
- Closing Keynote Closing Keynote

Meetings and Webinars:

3/1: LACONI-Recharge planning meeting (Sarah Jo Zaharako)

3/4: ALSC co-chairs meeting (Sarah Jo Zaharako)

3/4: Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee (Anthony Auston)

3/4: Public Services Managers Meeting

3/5: Networking meeting with Megan Sanks, Deerfield Public Library YS librarian (Sarah Jo Zaharako)

3/5: Staff Day Committee

3/5: Wilmette Leaders Group (Anthony Auston)

3/7: Electronic Content Consortium Annual Meeting (Cathleen Blair, Lauren Kelly)

3/8: Library of Things Committee

3/11: School Facilitators Meeting (Eti Berland)

3/12: GNCRT Addressing Challenges Committee (Eti Berland)

3/13: CCS Executive Committee Meeting (Anthony Auston)

3/13: Vendor Meeting: Schedule 3W (Cathleen Blair, Rachel Garcia)

3/13: LegacyTree Webinar: Artificial Intelligence and Genealogy: New Beginnings in 2024 (EvaAnne Johnson)

3/14: Young Adult Services Forum (Krista Hutley)

3/14: Community Engagement and Outreach Committee

3/15: ATLAS Middle Managers Meeting, on-line (Jessica Thomson)

3/18: Roycemore student meeting (Eti Berland and Jennifer Lee)

3/19: Space Needs Assessment Kickoff Meeting

3/20: CCS Acquisitions Technical Group Meeting, on-line (Megan Brown, Shanti D'Costa)

3/20: Teen/Tween Program Planning (Krista Hutley)

3/20: LegacyTree Webinar: 7 Tips for Using AI as Your Genealogy Assistant (EvaAnne Johnson)

3/22: CCS Budget & Finance Committee (Anthony Auston)

3/25: Yiddish Book Center: Future of the Public Library Program (Rachel Garcia)

3/26: Association for Professional Genealogists Chicago Region Meeting: AI and Genealogy
(EvaAnne Johnson)

3/26: North Suburban Library Directors Meeting at Lincolnwood PL (Anthony Auston)

3/26: CCS Leap Tools for Weeding webinar (Megan Brown, Shanti D'Costa, Emma Standard)

3/27: Illinois State Genealogical Society Meeting: Networking for Historical Societies & Libraries
(EvaAnne Johnson)

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Attachments

March program statistics;

March circulation statistics by item and material collections;

March online resource statistics by title and category;

Select news articles referencing or related to Wilmette Public Library

March 2024 Program Statistics

Dept	Contact	Title	Virtual/In-Person	Date	Start time	Reg. #	Attend #
AS	EvaAnne Johnson	Discover the Story of Your House	In-person	2-Mar	1:00 PM	30	29
AS	Rachel Garcia	Classics & Contemporary Book Discussion	In-person	12-Mar	10:30 AM	NA	10
AS	EvaAnne Johnson	Breaking Down Irish Brick Walls (Virtual)	Virtual	14-Mar	7:00 PM	33	22
AS	Cathleen Blair	Edith: The Rogue Rockefeller McCormick	In-person	20-Mar	7:00 PM	NA	59
AS	Jillian McKeown	Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning Basics	In-person	26-Mar	7:00 PM	48	42
AS	Rachel Garcia	Read Around the World Book Discussion	In-person	28-Mar	2:00 PM	NA	3
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Opera Lovers Lecture Corps (Virtual)	Virtual	4-Mar	7:00 PM	31	22
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Make a Natural Bath Bomb	In-person	5-Mar	10:00 AM	20	20
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Armchair Travels	In-person	7-Mar	1:00 PM	NA	36
CE	Jennifer Bartel	At Home Film Series (Virtual)	Virtual	12-Mar	7:00 PM	7	5
CE	Jennifer Bartel	International Marinades (Virtual)	Virtual	13-Mar	7:00 PM	24	24
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Funky Enough	In-person	15-Mar	7:00 PM	NA	56
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Budapest (Virtual)	Virtual	18-Mar	7:00 PM	50	44
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Splinters: Another Kind of Love Story (Virtual)	Virtual	18-Mar	7:00 PM	NA	
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Illinois Libraries Present: Ruth E. Carter (Virtual)	Virtual	20-Mar	7:00 PM	12	7
CE	Jennifer Bartel	International Film Screening	In-person	21-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	4
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Armchair Travels	In-person	21-Mar	1:00 PM	NA	18
CE	Jennifer Bartel	Driving Forces (Virtual)	Virtual	25-Mar	7:00 PM	29	24
DMS	Linnea Lundberg	Cutting the Cable Cord (Virtual)	Virtual	1-Mar	5:00 PM	30	30
DMS	Lauren Kelly	Maker Fest	In-person	9-Mar	10:30 AM	NA	700
DMS	Linnea Lundberg	3D Design Your Own Photo Frame	In-person	12-Mar	5:00 PM	7	6
DMS	Linnea Lundberg	Excel Basics	In-person	14-Mar	4:00 PM	2	2
DMS	Janet Piehl	April Fools' Day Tinkercad Workshop	In-person	22-Mar	10:30 AM	8	7
DMS	Ethan Herdrich	Virtual Reality: Explore & Play	Virtual	22-Mar	6:00 PM	5	2
DMS	Ethan Herdrich	Minecraft Club	In-person	28-Mar	4:30 PM	10	10
DMS	Alejandro Barzallo	Cyber Security (Virtual)	Virtual	29-Mar	5:00 PM	23	12
TEEN	Krista Hutley	DIY Kawaii Accessories	In-person	8-Mar	4:30 PM	2	0
TEEN	Krista Hutley	Dungeons & Dragons	In-person	21-Mar	1:00 PM	4	3
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Little Dabblers	In-person	23-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	116
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	1-Mar	10:00 AM	NA	45
YS	Ruth Bell	Building with Bits and Bobs	In-person	2-Mar	2:00 PM	NA	27
YS	Jennifer Lee	Drop-In Free Play	In-person	3-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	38
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	4-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	42
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	5-Mar	10:00 AM	NA	33

March 2024 Program Statistics

YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Big Kid Storytime	In-person	5-Mar	4:00 PM	NA	11
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Temari Balls	In-person	5-Mar	7:00 PM	11	12
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	5-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	50
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	6-Mar	10:00 AM	NA	46
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Pajama Storytime	In-person	6-Mar	6:30 PM	NA	12
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	6-Mar	9:15 AM	NA	39
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	7-Mar	9:45 AM	NA	42
YS	Sarah Zaharako	Art for Big Feelings	In-person	7-Mar	4:00 PM	12	10
YS	Eti Berland	K-9 Reading Buddies of the North Shore	In-person	7-Mar	6:00 PM	NA	12
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Little Dabblers	In-person	7-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	84
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Chess Club	In-person	8-Mar	2:30 PM	NA	12
YS	Jennifer Lee	Drop-In Free Play	In-person	10-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	37
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	11-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	33
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	12-Mar	10:00 AM	NA	44
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Big Kid Storytime	In-person	12-Mar	4:00 PM	NA	8
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Improv at the Library	In-person	12-Mar	7:00 PM	1	1
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	12-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	50
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	13-Mar	10:00 AM	NA	49
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	13-Mar	9:15 AM	NA	27
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	14-Mar	9:45 AM	NA	37
YS	Jennifer Lee	Tween Lab: Decorated Water Bottle	In-person	14-Mar	7:00 PM	3	2
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Little Dabblers	In-person	14-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	77
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Lego Club	In-person	15-Mar	4:00 PM	20	19
YS	Sarah Zaharako	Open Books, Open Minds: A Let's Learn Together Program	In-person	15-Mar	10:00 AM	NA	28
YS	Jennifer Lee	Drop-In Free Play	In-person	16-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	42
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	18-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	51
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	19-Mar	10:00 AM	NA	51
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Big Kid Storytime	In-person	19-Mar	4:00 PM	NA	9
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	19-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	58
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	20-Mar	10:00 AM	NA	55

March 2024 Program Statistics

YS	Jennifer Lee	STEAM Lab: Coding and Cup Stacking Challenge	In-person	20-Mar	4:30 PM	14	14
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Graphic Novel Book Club	In-person	20-Mar	7:00 PM	2	2
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	20-Mar	9:15 AM	NA	33
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Babytime	In-person	21-Mar	9:45 AM	NA	30
YS	Eti Berland	2nd and 3rd Grade Book Club	In-person	21-Mar	7:00 PM	8	5
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Little Dabblers	In-person	21-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	116
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Mandarin-English Bilingual Storytime	In-person	22-Mar	10:00 AM	NA	15
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Spanish-English Bilingual Storytime	In-person	23-Mar	1:30 PM	NA	11
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Chess Club	In-person	23-Mar	2:30 PM	NA	12
YS	Jennifer Lee	Coloring Party	In-person	24-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	103
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Drop-In Crafting	In-person	25-Mar	1:00 PM	NA	35
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	25-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	100
YS	Jennifer Lee	Sticker Party	In-person	26-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	142
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Andertoons: Draw Your Own Adventure	In-person	27-Mar	3:30 PM	9	8
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Andertoons: Draw Your Own Adventure	In-person	27-Mar	4:30 PM	10	10
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Wiggleworms Party!	In-person	27-Mar	10:00 AM	NA	214
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Imagination Playground	In-person	28-Mar	9:30 AM	NA	50
YS	Eti Berland	Family Game Day	In-person	29-Mar	3:30 PM	NA	13
YS	Andrea Vaughn Johnson	Family Storytime	In-person	29-Mar	10:00 AM	NA	26
YS	Lisa Bigelow	Family Lego Drop-In	In-person	30-Mar	2:00 PM	NA	4

04/01/2024

**Wilmette Public Library District
Activity At Wilmette Library Stations
Monthly Statistics For 03/2024**

Material Type	Number Of Items	Local Charges	Local Renewals	Total	Total + Lender	CCS ILL Lender	CCS ILL Borrower	Ratio
AV equipment	5	4	0	4	4	0	0	0.80
Bag	562	398	311	709	709	0	0	1.26
Blu-ray	1,662	291	144	435	485	50	54	0.26
Blu-ray New	153	148	3	151	171	20	7	0.99
Book	167,101	20,214	21,092	41,306	43,139	1,833	2,406	0.25
Book Hot	796	1,039	1	1,040	1,040	0	2	1.31
Book New	5,721	3,037	1,935	4,972	5,623	651	415	0.87
Boxset	0	11	13	24	24	0	11	0.00
Boxset New	0	3	1	4	4	0	3	0.00
Cassette	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
CD	13,814	594	416	1,010	1,259	249	118	0.07
CD Audiobook	5,665	226	211	437	492	55	36	0.08
CD Audiobook New	136	65	45	110	127	17	7	0.81
CD New	150	73	43	116	135	19	4	0.77
DVD	13,858	1,913	1,146	3,059	3,318	259	303	0.22
DVD New	323	417	36	453	491	38	26	1.40
eAudiobook	62,192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
eBook	79,384	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
eMagazine	4,962	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
ILL Material	0	70	9	79	79	0	0	0.00
Kit	6	8	0	8	8	0	1	1.33
Large Print	5,786	391	363	754	860	106	49	0.13
Large Print New	349	110	57	167	223	56	19	0.48
Magazine	3,754	299	716	1,015	1,015	0	1	0.27
Magazine New	245	2	0	2	2	0	0	0.01
Mobile Hotspot	20	28	1	29	29	0	0	1.45
MP3 Audiobook	0	2	3	5	5	0	2	0.00
Multimedia Kit	28	8	2	10	10	0	8	0.36
Newspaper	919	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Online Resource	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Other	21	337	1	338	338	0	1	16.10
Other Audiobook	0	4	0	4	4	0	4	0.00
Playaway	2,316	394	319	713	751	38	15	0.31
Playaway Audio Hot	0	2	0	2	2	0	2	0.00
Playaway Audio New	73	33	21	54	67	13	2	0.74
Record	1,564	5	3	8	8	0	0	0.01
Scores / sheet music	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	0.00
Seasonal AV	165	3	0	3	3	0	0	0.02
Seasonal Book	2,383	388	7	395	398	3	1	0.17
Special Collection	145	85	3	88	88	0	0	0.61
VHS	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Videogame	1,138	435	474	909	940	31	27	0.80
Videogame New	13	8	7	15	15	0	3	1.15
Totals	375,635	31,046	27,384	58,430	61,868	3,438	3,528	0.16

Item Count is where the Item Owing Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Local Charge is where the Station_Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Local Renewal is where the Station_Library = YOUR LIBRARY

Lender is where the Item Owing Library = YOUR LIBRARY and the Station_Library not = Item_Library

Borrower is where the Station_Library = YOUR LIBRARY and Item Owing Library not = Station_Library

04/01/2024

**Wilmette Public Library District
Activity At WLK Branch Stations
Monthly Statistics For 03/2024**

Collection	Number Of Items	Local Charges	Local Renewals	Total	Total + Lender	CCS ILL Lender	CCS ILL Borrower	Ratio	Auto Renewals
Fiction	47,847	5,288	3,295	8,583	9,553	970	840	0.18	3,175
Magazines	4,378	239	549	788	788	0	1	0.18	544
Multimedia	34,917	3,244	1,719	4,963	5,667	704	525	0.14	1,634
Nonfiction	62,522	4,310	5,133	9,443	10,427	984	764	0.15	4,867
Online	139,153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Other	726	913	324	1,237	1,237	0	0	1.70	296
Teen Fiction	2,768	354	361	715	766	51	77	0.26	352
Teen Multimedia	80	17	14	31	38	7	5	0.39	14
Teen Nonfiction	433	62	89	151	159	8	17	0.35	86
Teen Online	2,920	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Youth Fiction	44,703	12,349	11,669	24,018	24,475	457	821	0.54	11,352
Youth Magazines	540	62	167	229	229	0	0	0.42	162
Youth Multimedia	6,250	1,323	1,131	2,454	2,532	78	66	0.39	1,104
Youth Nonfiction	23,879	2,572	2,633	5,205	5,384	179	229	0.22	2,575
Youth Online	4,483	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
Youth Other	33	17	0	17	17	0	2	0.52	0
Totals	375,635	30,750	27,084	57,834	61,272	3,438	3,347	0.15	26,161

Item Count is where the Item Owning Branch = YOUR BRANCH

Local Charge is where the Station_Branch = YOUR BRANCH

Local Renewal is where the Station_Branch = YOUR BRANCH

Lender is where the Item Owning Branch = YOUR BRANCH and the Station_Library not = Item_Library

Borrower is where the Station Branch = YOUR LIBRARY and Item Owning Library not = Station_Library

Auto Renewal numbers are included in the numbers in the Renewal column

Category and Product	Metric Captured	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total
General Reference											
AP Stylebook	Page Views	6	8	6	6	30	4	22	4	6	92
CLCD: Children's Literature	Results	55	25	180	100	0	0	0	125	155	640
Consumer Reports	Page Views	1402	1130	1306	1557	1823	1150	1291	1267	1115	12041
Consumers' Checkbook	Logins	0	1	2	1	8	0	1	6	7	26
EBSCO Database Package	Total Requests	31	31	24	16	10	12	39	52	0	215
Encyclopedia Britannica	Documents + Media	49	29	36	60	86	177	86	94	89	706
Explore More Illinois	Uses	9	8	2	7	4	0	5	5	3	43
Facts on File (Infobase)	Total Views	0	12	4	19	1	21	27	14	15	113
FirstSearch (OCLC)	Total Searches	543	732	199	119	254	67	158	493	166	2731
Gale Directory Library	Retrievals	0	4	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	9
Gale eBooks	Retrievals	1	2	5	10	0	21	5	10	5	59
Gale General One File	Retrievals	22	37	19	11	9	29	22	42	26	217
Gale Legal Forms	Retrievals	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	7
Novelist	Total Requests	80	202	53	78	157	294	85	248	0	1197
Oxford English Dictionary	Total Item Investigations	15	39	18	26	40	56	59	45	0	298
Pebblego and Pebble Go Next	Article Views	1	0	2	5	2	0	1	10	1	22
ProQuest: CultureGrams	Total Pages Viewed	0	0	0	7	41	6	29	0	24	107
Public Records / Check Illinois	Total Visitors	279	251	151	157	165	159	173	174	0	1509
Scholastic Teachables	Documents	145	123	35	25	64	21	167	76	48	704
SimplyAnalytics	Maps Created	6	1	2	5	1	3	5	1	3	27
World Book	Content Views	17	10	2	11	24	5	10	10	4	93
Periodicals											
DLIL magazines	Checkouts	605	572	979	2497	2721	2817	3130	2659	2981	18961
LexisNexis - NexisUni	Retrievals	70	115	113	262	30	102	175	263	138	1268
Newsbank Chicago Community Collection	Full Text Views	21	28	22	21	5	5	55	17	27	201
Newspaper Archive	Total Page Views	42	31	105	16	7	8	15	140	93	457
New York Times Digital Edition	Usage Sessions	815	870	836	921	620	576	593	654	754	6639
PressReader	Issues Opened	1117	1140	1319	905	679	614	654	882	795	8105
ProQuest: Chicago Tribune	Total Documents	362	443	274	364	260	355	186	107	74	2425
ProQuest: Chicago Tribune Historical	Total Documents	115	519	123	50	292	244	160	277	178	1958
ProQuest: Newspapers.com	Total Documents	92	481	448	81	2	41	36	24	308	1513
ProQuest: New York Times	Total Documents	73	53	104	82	56	102	44	13	47	574
ProQuest: New York Times Historical	Total Documents	62	20	35	8	20	13	5	7	25	195
ProQuest: Research Library	Total Documents	65	84	66	169	188	110	92	174	121	1069
ProQuest: Wall Street Journal	Total Documents	480	524	591	704	549	787	394	264	328	4621
Genealogy											
Find My Past	Total Views	13	34	10	97	10	44	7	2	34	251
Local History Digital Collection	Page Views	11458	5441	6008	2649	9075	2506	9958	7696	0	54791
Newsbank Heritage Hub	Full Text Views	3	35	11	11	1	0	1	5	31	98
ProQuest: Ancestry Library Edition	Total Documents	970	2154	1644	609	148	146	171	195	380	6417
ProQuest: Fold3	Total Documents	26	46	16	25	21	1	13	2	78	228
ProQuest: HeritageQuest	Total Documents	56	6	29	16	3	27	139	2	1803	2081
Online Learning											
Brainfuse	Database Usage	58	46	31	106	40	178	75	48	21	603

CreativeBug	Total Views	14	35	62	54	62	74	126	63	123	613
Gale Courses	Enrollments	0	12	14	21	11	2	7	7	7	81
Gale UDemy	Total Videos Viewed	112	293	105	59	52	99	184	291	57	1252
LinkedIn Learning	Total Videos Viewed	103	182	207	144	28	88	141	71	173	1137
Mango Languages	Total Sessions	92	101	86	70	88	61	73	56	98	725
Muzzy	Sessions	1	8	0	5	0	4	2	1	2	23
Niche Academy	Total Views	49	15	18	50	31	23	65	5	39	295
Business / Finance											
Gale Business Insights	Full Text Retrievals	0	0	2	0	1	0	12	0	3	18
Gale Business: Demographics Now	Retrievals	5	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	13
Gale Business: Entrepreneurship	Full Text Retrievals	0	11	4	0	0	4	4	2	4	29
Gale Business: Plan Builder	Retrievals	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	86
Mergent Archives	Pages Viewed	0	1	7	1	7	6	0	0	4	26
Mergent Intellect	Pages Viewed	57	60	82	103	46	39	19	43	89	538
Morningstar	Record Views	40	77	53	238	615	272	124	420	188	2027
Reference Solutions	Total Searches	75	85	48	47	58	66	35	124	44	582
S & P Net Advantage	Total Usage	125	231	435	376	153	142	247	349	245	2303
Statista	Searches	25	10	20	17	9	15	14	24	14	148
Value Line	Logins	393	448	502	532	575	558	574	546	524	4652
Weiss Ratings	Page Views	31	8	34	31	76	6	5	8	13	212
eBooks / AV											
DLIL eBooks	Checkouts	7814	7604	8803	9429	8703	9571	10367	9758	9808	81857
DLIL audiobooks	Checkouts	5393	5536	5242	5504	5500	5751	6015	5758	6159	50858
Hoopla	Circulations	1426	1506	1432	1456	1541	1424	1547	1483	1483	13298
Kanopy	Plays	845	724	920	937	945	922	1056	1065	895	8309
Tumblebooks	Book Views	7	14	141	40	77	16	114	42	20	471
OTHER											
App	Sessions	1429	1466	1371	1423	1489	1350	1598	1300	1446	12872
Website	Sessions	17598	18477	16845	16699	15582	15246	20039	16996	17418	154900
Scan EZ Station	Pages Scanned	1549	1783	2859	2127	2002	2422	2693	2818	2146	20399

Metric Captured	Category	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total	Cost per Use
Page Views	General Reference	6	8	6	6	30	4	22	4	6	92	\$ 2.93
Database Usage	Online Learning	58	46	31	106	40	178	75	48	21	603	\$ 11.56
Results	General Reference	55	25	180	100	0	0	0	125	155	640	\$ 1.63
Page Views	General Reference	1402	1130	1306	1557	1823	1150	1291	1267	1115	12041	\$ 0.21
Logins	General Reference	0	1	2	1	8	0	1	6	7	26	\$ 17.31
Total Views	Online Learning	14	35	62	54	62	74	126	63	123	613	\$ 1.35
Checkouts	eBooks / AV	7814	7604	8803	9429	8703	9571	10367	9758	9808	81857	\$ 1.49
Checkouts	eBooks / AV	5393	5536	5242	5504	5500	5751	6015	5758	6159	50858	
Checkouts	Periodicals	605	572	979	2497	2721	2817	3130	2659	2981	18961	\$ 0.05
Total Requests	General Reference	31	31	24	16	10	12	39	52		215	\$ 19.47
Documents + Media	General Reference	49	29	36	60	86	177	86	94	89	706	\$ 0.79
Uses	General Reference	9	8	2	7	4	0	5	5	3	43	\$ -
Total Views	General Reference	0	12	4	19	1	21	27	14	15	113	\$ 32.30
Total Views	Genealogy	13	34	10	97	10	44	7	2	34	251	\$ 3.96
Total Searches	General Reference	543	732	199	119	254	67	158	493	166	2731	\$ -
Course Logins	Online Learning	0	12	14	21	11	2	7	7	7	81	\$ 65.42
Searches	Business / Finance	0	0	2	0	1	0	12	0	3	18	\$ 330.21
Retrievals	Business / Finance	5	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	13	\$ 151.44
Searches	Business / Finance	0	11	4	0	0	4	4	2	4	29	\$ 153.59
Searches	Business / Finance	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	86	\$ 22.89
Searches	General Reference	0	4	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	9	\$ 398.61
Retrievals	General Reference	1	2	5	10	0	21	5	10	5	59	\$ 60.81
Searches	General Reference	22	37	19	11	9	29	22	42	26	217	\$ 50.79
Searches	General Reference	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	7	\$ 658.83
Lectures Completed	Online Learning	112	293	105	59	52	99	184	291	57	1252	\$ 4.40
Circulations	eBooks / AV	1426	1506	1432	1456	1541	1424	1547	1483	1483	13298	\$ 2.13
Plays	eBooks / AV	845	724	920	937	945	922	1056	1065	895	8309	\$ 1.20
Retrievals	Periodicals	70	115	113	262	30	102	175	263	138	1268	\$ 3.94
Total Videos Viewed	Online Learning	103	182	207	144	28	88	141	71	173	1137	\$ 6.16
Page Views	Genealogy	11458	5441	6008	2649	9075	2506	9958	7696	0	54791	\$ 0.06
Total Sessions	Online Learning	92	101	86	70	88	61	73	56	98	725	\$ 4.71
Pages Viewed	Business / Finance	0	1	7	1	7	6	0	0	4	26	\$ 45.27
Pages Viewed	Business / Finance	57	60	82	103	46	39	19	43	89	538	\$ 16.40
Record Views	Business / Finance	40	77	53	238	615	272	124	420	188	2027	\$ 3.91
Sessions	Online Learning	1	8	0	5	0	4	2	1	2	23	\$ 73.91
Full Text Views	Periodicals	21	28	22	21	5	5	55	17	27	201	\$ 26.44
Full Text Views	Genealogy	3	35	11	11	1	0	1	5	31	98	\$ 19.29
Total Page Views	Periodicals	42	31	105	16	7	8	15	140	93	457	\$ 10.07

Usage Sessions	Periodicals	815	870	836	921	620	576	593	654	754	6639	\$ 0.36
Total Views	Online Learning	49	15	18	50	31	23	65	5	39	295	\$ 5.73
Total Requests	General Reference	80	202	53	78	157	294	85	248		1197	\$ 0.87
Total Item Investigations	General Reference	15	39	18	26	40	56	59	45		298	\$ 5.56
Article Views	General Reference	1	0	2	5	2	0	1	10	1	22	\$ 90.86
Issues Opened	Periodicals	1117	1140	1319	905	679	614	654	882	795	8105	\$ 0.64
Total Documents	Genealogy	970	2154	1644	609	148	146	171	195	380	6417	\$ 0.27
Total Documents	Periodicals	362	443	274	364	260	355	186	107	74	2425	\$ 2.46
Total Documents	Periodicals	115	519	123	50	292	244	160	277	178	1958	\$ 2.21
Total Pages Viewed	General Reference	0	0	0	7	41	6	29	0	24	107	\$ 12.95
Total Documents	Genealogy	26	46	16	25	21	1	13	2	78	228	\$ 5.57
Total Documents	Genealogy	56	6	29	16	3	27	139	2	1803	2081	\$ 0.34
Total Documents	Periodicals	92	481	448	81	2	41	36	24	308	1513	\$ 4.09
Total Documents	Periodicals	73	53	104	82	56	102	44	13	47	574	\$ 9.04
Total Documents	Periodicals	62	20	35	8	20	13	5	7	25	195	\$ 21.67
Total Documents	Periodicals	65	84	66	169	188	110	92	174	121	1069	\$ 4.96
Total Documents	Periodicals	480	524	591	704	549	787	394	264	328	4621	\$ 0.22
Total Visitors	General Reference	279	251	151	157	165	159	173	174		1509	\$ 0.38
Total Searches	Business / Finance	75	85	48	47	58	66	35	124	44	582	\$ 14.54
Documents	General Reference	145	123	35	25	64	21	167	76	48	704	\$ 1.35
Total Usage	Business / Finance	125	231	435	376	153	142	247	349	245	2303	\$ 5.37
Maps Created	General Reference	6	1	2	5	1	3	5	1	3	27	\$ 487.35
Result Clicks	Business / Finance	25	10	20	17	9	15	14	24	14	148	\$ 45.93
Book Views	eBooks / AV	7	14	141	40	77	16	114	42	20	471	\$ 1.36
Logins	Business / Finance	393	448	502	532	575	558	574	546	524	4652	\$ 0.73
Page Views	Business / Finance	31	8	34	31	76	6	5	8	13	212	\$ 13.18
Content Views	General Reference	17	10	2	11	24	5	10	10	4	93	\$ 21.79
Sessions		1429	1466	1371	1423	1489	1350	1598	1300	1446	12872	
Sessions		17598	18477	16845	16699	15582	15246	20039	16996	17418	154900	
Pages Scanned		1549	1783	2859	2127	2002	2422	2693	2818	2146	20399	

LOCAL NEWS

League of Women Voters of Wilmette celebrates 100 years with panel discussion



From left, Katie Degen, owner of Central Station Coffee & Tea in Wilmette, Kristyn Gibson, senior vice president, Rappaport Reiches Capital Management, Jill Hayes, professional civil engineer and vice president, Benesch, Iliana A. Mora, executive vice president and COO, Sinai Health System and Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, New Trier Township supervisor and employment lawyer, are panelists at the Women in the Workplace program at the Wilmette Public Library Auditorium in Wilmette on March 13, 2024. (Karie Angell Luc/for the Pioneer Press)



By [KARIE ANGELL LUC](#) | Chicago Tribune

PUBLISHED: March 19, 2024 at 4:39 p.m. | UPDATED: March 19, 2024 at 4:42 p.m.

Women's History Month and the 100-year anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Wilmette were recognized at the Wilmette Public Library on March 13 at the Women in the Workplace program held in the library's lower level auditorium.

The evening panel discussion featured all Wilmette residents with diverse career backgrounds. The program explored women's challenges and strategies for overcoming barriers in the workplace. The free event was sponsored by the League of Women Voters Wilmette, Village of Wilmette and Wilmette's Human Relations Commission.

The event had a goal to learn together and to advocate a more equitable community, according to promotional materials.

"I think it's really important to raise people's awareness of women's issues in whatever part of their life," said Laurie Leibowitz of Wilmette, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Wilmette. "We were also hoping that women who are having challenges in the workplace could come and learn from each other."

Swathi Mothkur of Wilmette, commissioner on Wilmette's Human Relations Commission, said the commission works to make Wilmette a more welcoming place.

She said a lot of what is happening in the reproductive rights space now is directly impacting women and their role in the workplace.



Center, Swathi Mothkur of Wilmette, member of the Human Relations Commission at the Women in the Workplace program at the Wilmette Public Library Auditorium in Wilmette on March 13, 2024. (Karie Angell Luc/for the Pioneer Press)

“A lot of women in the workplace choose to defer family planning for later,” Mothkur added. “Things like having that opportunity to maybe have children later in life rather than not earlier, those choices will affect women in the workplace.

Mothkur served as moderator. Panelists included Katie Degen, owner of Central Station Coffee & Tea in Wilmette; Kristyn Gibson, senior vice president of Rappaport Reiches Capital Management; Jill Hayes, professional civil engineer and vice president of Benesch; Iliana A. Mora, executive vice president and COO of Sinai Health System and Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, New Trier Township supervisor and employment lawyer.

It will be three years this coming June that Degen has operated the coffee shop business with a second location opening in the Wilmette train station more than one year ago. The first location is in downtown’s village center.

Being a panelist is a wonderful experience, Degen said, “My kids get to see me back in the workplace.”

She hopes the ongoing celebration of Women’s History Month each March keeps conversations moving forward.



Third from left, Katie Degen of Wilmette, owner of Central Station Coffee & Tea in Wilmette is a panelist talking with attendees before the Women in the Workplace program at the Wilmette Public Library Auditorium in Wilmette on March 13, 2024. (Karie Angell Luc/for the Pioneer Press)

“I don’t think just one conversation can change, it’s got to start on a more micro level with all of us in our organizations, our companies and what we’re doing within our family,” Degen said.

Degen’s spouse Giff Degen said, “Seeing what my wife is doing as a small business owner, I just want to give her the support that she needs.

“I know while she’s successful in her own right, the challenges that she has as a woman, just starting a new business, to kind of face it head on and to overcome certain obstacles that maybe others don’t, it’s just a true testament to her hard work and the person that she is,” Giff Degen said.

The spouse of Iliana A. Mora, Bodee Kittikamron, was in the audience. Both knew each other as students at New Trier Township High School and graduated as part of the New Trier Class of 1995.

“Iliana’s been working on behalf of driving and moving forward women’s issues for a long time,” Kittikamron said. “It’s been kind of our life’s mission.”



From left, Katie Degen, owner of Central Station Coffee & Tea in Wilmette, Kristyn Gibson, senior vice president, Rappaport Reiches Capital Management, Jill Hayes, professional civil engineer and vice president, Benesch, Iliana A. Mora, executive vice president and COO, Sinai Health System and Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, New Trier Township supervisor and employment lawyer, are panelists. On right is moderator Swathi Mothkur of Wilmette, member of the Human Relations Commission at the Women in the Workplace program at the Wilmette Public Library Auditorium in Wilmette on March 13, 2024. (Karie Angell Luc/for the Pioneer Press)

Iliana Mora said, “It’s great to be able to celebrate Women’s History Month and also talk to the community about what it’s like to be a woman in the workplace.”

Topics overhead among panelists during the program included childcare, family leave laws, loopholes and adherence plus sustainable dynamics among families for working parents.

With an overall snapshot of women in the workplace, STEAM career panelist and licensed engineer Jill Hayes said to Pioneer Press before the presentation she worked in an oil refinery for six months.

“You see some things and you hear some things,” Hayes said. “Now I’m in transportation, and it’s definitely different. I think things have changed.”

Even with some change, Hayes said the management and leadership in her industry remains male-dominated. She hopes with time, things will continue to change.

“It’s not oppressive, I think there’s opportunity and that there’s a strong community of women and so I feel like that somewhat equalizes it,” Hayes said.

Kristyn Gibson, also a panelist, indicated women are still underrepresented in her field, wealth management.

“I just think that so often we look to our parents and see a lot of our moms had less of a role in their finances and you may have grown up thinking that it wasn’t something you could do,” Gibson said. “And I just want my kids, and all kids to know that, you can do anything you want to do and that there’s a world out there. I just hope that girls realize that their opportunities are unlimited.”

Due to the statistical likelihood that their male partners will die before them, Gibson said even women who never had a role in their finances may have to eventually.

“80% of men will die married (and) 80% of women will die single,” Gibson stated. “And that’s really crazy when you think about it. So really, like 90% of women will be in charge of their own finances at some point in their life so to take ownership and understand it is important.”

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter with Pioneer Press.

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- 1** Massive cranes on ‘standby’ at Key Bridge collapse have storied pasts
- 2** Muslim women push Chicago community to join green Ramadan: ‘We are the caretakers of the Earth’
- 3** Aaron Taylor-Johnson, the reported new James Bond, accused of improperly building a lake on his English estate
- 4** Outer Banks bridge known for purple martin migration to close for 6 months starting in May
- 5** Florida’s 6-week abortion ban will have nationwide impact, critics warn



Local elected officials (left to right) Kate Gjaja, Kara Kosloskus, Sally Pofcher, Gail Eisenberg, Mary Anne O'Keefe and Anne Hart at a Wilmette Woman's Club event. | PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Wilmette, Community

News Briefs: Local women leaders sit on panel; Gala benefits New Trier students; Jeff Fox Field breaks ground in Highland Park

By Staff | 9:52 a.m. March 23, 2024

To celebrate National Women’s History Month, the Wilmette Woman’s Club hosted a panel discussion on March 14 at the WCW Clubhouse.

The free event featured five local female government leaders from a variety of backgrounds. The panel discussed their experiences in local government, sharing insights on leadership and more.

The panel was moderated by local realtor and author Ali Wenzke, and featured Wilmette Village Trustee Kate Gjaja, Park Board President Kara Kosloskus, New Trier School Board member Sally Pofcher, New Trier Township Supervisor Gail Eisenberg, Wilmette Library Board Vice President Mary Anne O’Keefe and Wilmette District 39 School Board Vice President Anne Hart.

“It was inspiring and informative to hear from these female leaders,” said Melinda Wold, chair of the Woman’s Club Activities Committee. “We appreciate their time and accessibility to hear from the community. These are the types of events that perfectly align with our WCW mission and we look forward to many more of them.”

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<https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/law-protections-illinois-libraries-workers/>

LOCAL NEWS

Lawmakers increase protections for Illinois libraries and its workers

By Yolanda Perdomo

Updated on: April 5, 2024 / 1:27 PM CDT / CBS Chicago

CHICAGO (CBS) — After recent threats against libraries and their workers in Illinois and around the country, state lawmakers are putting in protections to ensure the spaces stay safe.

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias is the driving force behind the legislation. Illinois State Rep. Anne Stava-Murray (D-81st) and State Sen. Laura Murphy (D-28th) are sponsoring HB 4567, which now heads to the House floor.

"Our librarians and libraries have faced an onslaught of threats of violence and ideological intimidation for simply serving their communities," said Giannoulias, who's also the State Librarian. "In the face of these threats, this bill highlights the commitment of our state to protecting library workers, access to information, and the free exchange of ideas."

The bill gives law enforcement agencies and State Attorneys tools to charge a threat against a library or a public employee, as it does for school and elected officials.

The move comes after several libraries across Illinois, including the Illinois State Library Building, received a bomb threat and other threats of violence.

In February, a Skokie man was charged for a fake bomb threat at a library in Crystal Lake. A state law to ban the banning of books went into effect on January 1.

According to the Secretary of State, between July and September of 2023, there were more than 20 known bomb threats requiring state and local police. Some libraries had repeated threats.

"Throughout the state and the nation, library professionals continue to face threats to their personal safety and welfare," said Cynthia Robinson, executive director for the Illinois Library Association (ILA). "The ILA strongly condemns all forms of violence, threats of violence, and other acts of intimidation in Illinois libraries."

The organization said Gurnee, Morton Grove, Oak Park, Park Ridge, and Wilmette were some of the suburban communities that experienced bomb threats against their libraries.

Colorado, California, Iowa, Tennessee, Utah, Texas, and Hawaii have had similar threats to their libraries and staff.

"This legislation will ensure our library workers have the same protections against threats and harassment as other public officials and human service providers," Stava-Murray said.

"Protecting the Right to Read in Illinois also means protecting the people who make it possible."

According to the Secretary of State's office, any threat that needs local law enforcement would require the offender to "reimburse first responders for the cost associated with the threat response."

"Our librarians and libraries provide for the most fundamental exchange of ideas and knowledge, and we will not let them be intimidated from doing so," said Murphy. "This measure protects them and the treasure of our libraries while also ensuring our law enforcement's time and taxpayer money are not being wasted."

It would also let law enforcement take action against electronic communications and social media threats.

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Winnetka, Community

What's up with this eclipse? How and where to view Monday's natural phenomenon

By Zoe Engels | 9:36 p.m. April 3, 2024



One of the most unique light shows you may ever see is just around the corner, and it won't require any electricity or special effects.



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A total solar eclipse will sweep across the United States on Monday afternoon, April 8, passing over the North Shore from approximately 12:51 p.m. to 3:21 p.m., according to [NASA scientists](#). During this time, the area will experience a rare, eerie daytime twilight.

Solar eclipses occur when the moon's orbit passes between Earth and the sun, blocking out the light of the sun totally or partially. In near and complete totality, a halo or crown — caused by the outermost part of the sun fittingly known as its corona — forms around the moon.

Compared to the last total eclipse in August 2017, this one has a wider path and duration, with totality expected to last for 2 1/2 minutes, [NASA scientists](#) say. Thirty-two million people across the U.S., including southern Illinois and central Indiana, will be in the path of totality, which is the track of the moon's shadow across Earth.

The North Shore will witness something similar, experiencing an impressive state of near totality with an estimated 92 to 93 percent of the sun expected to be blocked by the moon at 2:07 p.m, according to NASA's [interactive online map](#).

Safe viewing

To avoid eye damage, it is important to view the solar eclipse safely with solar viewers, special eye cover that look like the paper 3D movie glasses from the days of old. Experts warn that standard sunglasses are not effective against the intensely concentrated solar rays. Camera lenses, binoculars and telescopes should all have a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front.

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Most large retailers, such as Home Depot and Staples, are selling approved solar viewers, which can be handheld or eyeglasses. Toy shop **Wild Child**, with Glencoe and Wilmette locations, is also selling solar eyeglasses for \$5.99.

Local public libraries are giving away the glasses at their welcome desks, offering two per household until they run out. Wilmette and Highland Park Public Library are already out.

Scientists are warning that weather conditions could impact the local view of the eclipse and its impressiveness. Rain is on the forecast for Monday, but cloud cover will also impact the sight.

Where to view

Wilmette Public Library is hosting a viewing event from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on its front lawn and its auditorium, where officials will project the NASA livestream. They are out of solar eclipse glasses but still have some handheld solar viewers that they will handout at two per family until they run out. No registration is required.

Just outside the area, weather permitting, the Northbrook Public Library is hosting a viewing event at Tower Rink Field from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. — no registration is required; and Skokie's Emily Oaks Nature Center will set up a telescope and NASA livestream from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.. [Registration](#) is now open, and tickets are \$7.

And for those up for a drive (or train ride), the Adler Planetarium is scheduled to have a free, non-ticketed outdoor viewing event with safe solar viewing telescopes.

Now is the chance to see this phenomenon as the next total solar eclipse that can be seen from the U.S. won't be until August 2044.

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Zoe Engels



Zoe Engels (she/her) is a writer and translator, currently working on a book project, from Chicagoland and now based in New York City. She holds a master's degree in creative nonfiction writing and translation (Spanish, Russian) from Columbia University and a bachelor's in English and international affairs from Washington University in St. Louis.

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Anne Hughes (left) and Camelia Ho look toward the solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, on the lawn of the Wilmette library.

Wilmette, Community

Locals energized by solar phenomenon

By Joe Coughlin | 11:30 p.m. April 8, 2024



What a beautiful day for dark.

The clear sky and T-shirt weather gave North Shore folks an ideal setting Monday afternoon to safely catch a glimpse of



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the daylight dimming caused by a rare solar eclipse.



Ford Parker with his solar glasses for the eclipse on Monday in Wilmette.

Like a few dozen of their neighbors, Steph Rogers and Eve Williams found their way to the Wilmette Public Library to enjoy the phenomenon.

“It may be the last eclipse I get to see,” Williams said. “It is exciting to see one.”

The solar event — in which the moon’s orbit passed between Earth and the sun — began around 12:50 p.m. in Wilmette and reached its local crescendo of 94 percent totality at 2:07 p.m.

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Debbie Crowley was one of dozens of locals at the Wilmette library Monday.

Neighbors casually viewed the eclipse while chatting up fellow onlookers, some laying on the ground, lining the sidewalk and some shielding themselves safely behind the library's marquee sign.

Camelia Ho, 84, brought two homemade pinhole cameras, which allow for safe viewing of eclipses by allowing light to come through a tiny opening and project onto the opposite side of the contraption.



Camelia Ho shows off her homemade pinhole camera for safe eclipse viewing.

For her project, Ho used an empty cereal box for the main component and two toilet paper rolls for viewing. She said she missed the 2017 eclipse because she did not have solar glasses and was ready and waiting for this one, which she called “the best one yet.”

Thirty-two million people across the United States, including southern Illinois and central Indiana, were in the path of totality, which is the track of the moon’s shadow across Earth.



Ben Belkind, of Wilmette, tries to safely get a photo of the eclipse using his phone.

The next total solar eclipse that can be seen from the U.S. won't be until August 2044.

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Joe Coughlin

Joe Coughlin is a co-founder and the editor in chief of The Record. He leads investigative reporting and reports on anything else needed. Joe has been recognized for his investigative reporting and sports reporting, feature writing and photojournalism. Follow Joe on Twitter @joec2319

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