

April 2018 Library Services Report

Youth and Family Services

Sensory Storytime had a variety of sensory and tactile stations for children ages four and up. Children played with play-doh, kinetic sand, and bubbles and participated in other fine and large motor skills activities.



On April's no school day, we continued the double feature of **Jaffa Book Club** and a **Movie**. This month's book was "The Most Magnificent Thing" by Ashley Spires and the movie was Ferdinand. As our crowd was a bit younger this month, the children created their own "most magnificent thing" using playdoh, followed by a snack, and unison read of our book. One lucky child was sent home with their own copy of the book!



About 40 people attended **April's Family Night Unplugged: Butterflies & Books with Starr's Cave**. The night focused on butterflies, habitats, and migration. Children and their families created an edible butterfly and a butterfly craft. They had a special visit from Starr's Cave Naturalist Kent Rector. Kent read a story to the children, dressed up a volunteer as a monarch, and finished the evening by playing a migration game outside where our own butterfly garden will soon be established!



Tween Book Club had a Skype visit with Jackie Nastri, the author of the Swirl series that the group had just finished reading.



Tween STEAM Nest-Building Challenge allowed kids to think about the birds building their nests this spring. First, they constructed nests using twigs and other materials. Then, they placed eggs inside to create individual nests to take home.





Thanks to support from the Library Foundation, we hosted author **Mike Mullin for a writing workshop** on April 12. We partnered with the school district to maximize the impact of Mike's visit to Burlington. On April 11, shortly after arriving in town, Mike presented two assemblies at Aldo Leopold Middle School, one for the 6th grade and the other for 7th-8th grades. On Thursday the 12th, he repeated the assemblies at Ed Stone Middle School. The total number of students and teachers attending was approximately 500 for each school. At the writing workshop, we had 12 people get some inspiration for their writing. Mike is the author of the *Ashfall* series and his new book *Surface Tension* comes out May 8. We were able to provide students

with some advanced copies of *Surface Tension*, and several copies of *Ashfall* in the months before the event. He shared with Becky that he has gotten several emails from students thanking him for coming.

We opened up meeting rooms for tweens and teens to access three big screens and gaming systems for our **Video Game Night**. It was a fun way for kids to socialize and unwind together.



Facilities Updates

Thanks to funding from the Friends of the Library, we installed news signs in the youth area that are more colorful. The multimedia sign replaced a DVD sign and is more versatile to include dvd, blu-ray, music cds, and whatever new comes our way. We also updated both the graphics and tweens signs. In the fall we would like to add a few more signs to draw attention to collections and help people find what they need. Options include toddler books, picture books, first reader-beginning chapter books, nonfiction, junior fiction, and teens.



Adult Education Services

The **16th annual Genealogy Workshop** featured Maureen Taylor who is known for her work with historic photographs. Friday started with four free sessions. Russ Fry gave one presentation and our own Mallorie Graham gave the other three. They were well attended with 37-43 people in each session. That evening, seventy-eight people attended the dessert buffet and heard Maureen speak on early photography. All of the Friday sessions were at the library. The Friends set up a special sale of genealogy and local history related items and Burlington By The Book had a sale table at the library, too. On Saturday, the event moved to the Capitol Theater and 113 people attended. Maureen spoke on a variety of topics, including military records, city directories, and online resources. She also offered additional 10-minute photo consultations for a fee. The bookstore, the historical society, and the genealogy society exhibited and had items for sale at the Saturday event. The small registration fee covered the cost of using the theater and the food on Friday night and Saturday's lunch. The Foundation sponsored the speaker and covered all costs related to bringing her to Burlington. Next year's event will be March 29-30 and feature Michael Strauss.



The **First Friday Series** for April featured “Presidential Marriages & Romances” presented by Tom Emery. It was a fascinating look at the personal relationships of our U.S. Presidents and their impact on the politics of the time. Forty-five people were in attendance.

Lois made her quarterly visit to **Robinson Heights** to assist people with their technology questions. She also was at Hy-Vee for **Tech Tuesday**. She assisted two people with downloading books and two people with reference questions. This new monthly outreach helps spread the word about the library and make services more visible even to those who don’t use the service that day.

Beyond the Book Club discussed *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang. The importance of food in relationships, culture, religion and storytelling was discussed from a variety of perspectives in the group including vegans, farmers and others learning more about these ways of life. One of the club’s regular attendees submitted a letter to the editor of the Burlington Hawk Eye in recognition of Burlington Public Library during National Library Week which they read to the group at the April gathering.

Sam spoke at a panel discussing the importance of LGBTQ fiction for a **Burlington PLFAG program** at the Capitol Theatre. She provided information on library resources. You can read more at www.thehawkeye.com/news/20180406/lgbtq-fiction-panel-discussion-talks-of-awareness-acceptance.



The **Seed Swap** was a collaborative effort with the Friends of the Library to provide an interactive installation at the Footnotes Shop during the month of April. A special sale featured gardening books in the shop and a display featured gardening books from the circulating collection in the library. Space to bring seeds and take seeds held miniature envelopes and pens to collect and mark specimens. Dozens of packets and homemade folders of seeds were exchanged during the campaign. Next year, the Friends would like to host this in May and invite participants to share their seed stories and photos on the library’s social media spaces. The swap was highlighted at www.thehawkeye.com/news/20180405/bpl-is-hosting-seed-swap-program.

Professional Development

City IT staff provided a training on email scams for staff members to help avoid falling victim to ransomware and other problems that could be damaging to library operations.

As the ILA chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, Sam was interviewed on The Exchange with Mary Hartnett. Sam unpacked challenges, how they are processed in various institutions and libraries as well as national trends. On Iowa Public Radio’s River to River, she focused on Intellectual Freedom principles and how the ALA Bill of Rights was born in Des Moines, Iowa. You can find more at kwit.org/post/exchange-february-28-2018-orange-city-library-books-controversy and iowapublicradio.org/people/ben-stanton#stream/0.

The ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom invited Sam to serve on a working group of seven librarians in different types of libraries. This group is tasked with updating the Intellectual Freedom manual from the American Library Association and will present their work to Council at the ALA Annual Conference in June. In April the group reworked “Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource,” “Library Meeting Room Policy in Context of the U.S. Constitution,” and “Interpretation and History of Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource.”

Other Activities and News

Becky Ruberg successfully applied for a STEM grant that includes training and materials for STEM classes.

Rhonda participated in the department meetings and attended the council meetings and work sessions.



The library staff hosted the annual Volunteer Recognition Reception on the evening of April 19 to honor many volunteers from teens to seniors who make the library a brighter place.

The library nominated three volunteers for the Mayors Volunteer Awards. Cindy and Tom Murphy were honored for their tireless work with the Friends sorting donations, organizing the book sales, stocking the Footnotes shop, and staffing the shop. Teen volunteer Bhavya Vats was honored for her consistent, efficient work helping with shelving and special projects.

Rhonda attended the monthly Friends of the Library board meeting at which the board approved a donation of over \$4,400 to the library for newsletters, class supplies, landscape maintenance, summer reading expenses, and development of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative starting up this fall.

The Friends also held their Annual Dinner Meeting on April 27 with Bob Hansen as their featured speaker. Lois Rigdon and John Walz were elected to the board. Bob Glaser and Bob McAnally left the board because their terms ended. Both had served as president during their time on the board. The Friends fiscal year runs from May 1 – April 30. In the fiscal year that they just ended, the Friends of the Library granted over \$40,000 to the library for a wide range of needs from supplies and snacks for classes and events to a new water fountain for the lobby and new bags for the home delivery routes.

Rhonda attended the quarterly Foundation meeting at which that board approved just over \$50,000 for technology needs, the genealogy workshop, and the upcoming LED conversion project.

Hope Haven clients made fabric bookmarks in honor of National Library Week. Library users enjoyed choosing a bookmark when they came up to checkout their materials.



Looking Ahead

- May 19: Friends of the Library Used Book Sale with a member preview on May 18.
- May-September: Pop Up! Library at the Jefferson Street Farmers Market to share information, have materials for checkout, and offer the chance to make a simple craft.
- June 1: Dean Klinkenberg, “The Mississippi River in Song: What the River Means to Us”
- June 4: Summer Reading Begins. The incentive programs and classes/events will continue through August 4 for all ages.

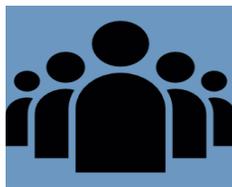
More information is available on the library website or Facebook page or by asking a staff member.

Mission Statement: The Burlington Public Library creates opportunities for people of all ages to connect with others, to learn about the world around them, and to imagine the futures before them.

April 2018 By the Numbers

Visitors

0 1 4 6 3 7



505

Meeting Room
Reservations



160 Laptop Checkouts



2603 Wi-Fi sessions



6,863 Database Uses



4,670 computer logins

Classes and Events

Adults 10

Youth 99



Participants

Adults 413

Youth 4712

Nonprint Items

Borrowed

Adults 10,852

Youth 1,412



91

New Borrower
Accounts Opened

Books & Magazines

Borrowed

Adults 8,022

Teens 604

Tweens 253

Children 5,779



Downloads

Books 1,017

Music 420

Audio 716

Magazines 117

