

February 2019 Library Services Report

Youth and Family Services



A new session of weekly early literacy classes began in February. New to the lineup is **Family Storytime**, which is geared towards families with children of multiple ages. Families engage with books, storytelling, songs, rhymes, and play. Another new class is **Rocket Readers Club**, a program for children ages 5-6 to build literacy skills and foster a love of reading. Children and their caregivers in this class enjoy slightly longer books and develop reading skills to support reading success at school and home.

Family Night Unplugged: Stuffed Animal Workshop had to be postponed due to weather issues in January. Thankfully, this fun, unique event was rescheduled in early February. Children came to the library to stuff their very own stuffed animal to take home. After stuffing each animal, we had a special "wishing ceremony" and filled out a birth certificate. We then shared snacks and stories.

February's Jaffa Book Club featured "Secret Pizza Party" by Adam Rubin. We had a pizza party along with the book.

Two youth participated in February's **Pardon My Fines** opportunity. Jill Moore from Big Red Dog AAT Group brought her dog Sadie to read with children. In the future, Pardon My Fines will be an ongoing opportunity. Youth can check in with the youth staff anytime to read off fines.



Our third annual **Family Night Unplugged: Stuffed Animal Sleepover** was a great follow up to the Stuffed Animal Workshop. Kids came to the library after hours with a special stuffed friend. They colored a "blanket" for their friend, created a name tag, then enjoyed snacks and stories before tucking in their animals and singing them a lullaby. After the families left, we photographed their stuffed friends doing fun and silly things around the library. They were able to come back the next morning and having breakfast at the library before bringing their animals back home.



Tween Mother/Daughter Book Club began their book discussion and made some cookie mix to take home and bake.

College Prep Night had one student but she got some one on one advice. The coolest thing was she was applying for a scholarship that Becky's daughter won several years ago, so she got some very specific advice. She worked on making some files with information that is commonly asked on applications to save herself some time.



STEM Fest 2019 was a huge success. With over 1700 people in attendance, we were very busy showing off Makey Makey. Families could play a piano with frogs, draw with gummy bears or play Whack a Mole with pepperoni & cheese sticks! We were interviewed for the Hawkeye and the article appeared the following day.



Adult Education

That's Yesterday's News had fifteen attendees research the opening of the Montgomery Ward Department Store using copies of local history resources and newspapers. Participants are encouraged to share their memories of the era covered during each session and to explore the context of the featured event in the framework of cultural, social, commercial, and political data uncovered from that time.

Nine enthusiasts of *Hamilton: An American Musical* enjoyed a sing-a-long of Act 1 at the **Hamilton Listening Party**. Between songs, historical facts which are relevant to the musical's narrative and characters were shared through use of resources available in the library collection.

Valentines for Seniors, popular annual event, held strong despite harsh winter weather. Sixteen participants made handmade valentines with recycled materials from previous library programs for community seniors. Bethany coordinated this program for the first time this year and will ensure that the products of this social event are delivered to members of our Home Library service.

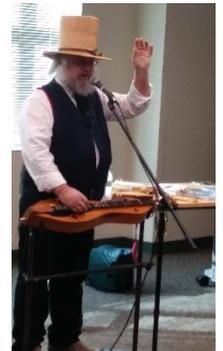


Twenty-four members of **Beyond the Book** checked out copies of the library's discussion series *Hummingbird House* by Patricia Henley and attended the monthly event which unpacks diverse cultures and perspectives in literature. In this novel, an American midwife travels to Central America to care for the women and children suffering through war. A few attendees have visited areas mentioned in the story and brought souvenirs to show, and our baker in the group again found a connection to a manageable recipe within the story and brought blueberry muffins which were briefly mentioned by the protagonist.



Tech Tuesday at HY-VEE on Agency had three members of the community join us for tech assistance. While the discussion of library resources is always a highlight, perhaps the best part of this month's program was downloading Freegal on their devices and singing along to Perry Como's "Ko Ko Mo (I Love You So)" over a cup of coffee - talk about celebrating Libraries Love You month!

Mike Anderson, the Dulcimer Guy, performed at February's **First Friday** to a group of 48 people. He spoke about and played instruments that were popular during the Civil War.



Dr. Anni K. Reinking grew up in Burlington and was a 2003 graduate of BHS. She has traveled the world, become a mother and wife, and is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. In January 2019, her first book "**Not Just Black and White: A White Mother's Story of Raising a Black Son in Multiracial America**" was published by Front Edge Publishing and featured among Publishers Weekly's New and Notable Titles of African American Interest. Twenty-three members of the community joined us for this after-hours author reading to hear Dr. Reinking's presentation over light refreshments.

Sam taught a **Social Media class for local food producers** at the library in conjunction with the Iowa State Extension and Outreach office.

The library again offered space and a computer to support the Des Moines County Living Well and Extension Office's free tax preparation through the **VITA program** in February and into March.

Other Activities and News

Library Issues at the State Level

As the found of #IALibChat and ALA Councilor/ILA Executive Board member, Sam worked with the American Library Association, Iowa Library Association, and non-profit organization EveryLibrary to develop messaging and media to spread an immediate call for action when, in late February, a bill (SSB 119) was introduced in the Iowa Senate that would implement a number of changes being sought by the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB). Among the proposed changes, Section 13 of the bill would eliminate the requirement that every school district have a teacher librarian. Over 500 emails and letters, as well as thousands of social media engagements with Legislative Education Committee, were sent within a five day period. That proposed language was removed.

Meetings

Rhonda participated in city department and attorney meetings and the CARE and PRIDE interdepartmental meetings. She attended the council meetings and work sessions.

Rhonda attended the Friends of the Library board meeting as a liaison. The board approved a donation of \$3,200 for newsletters, presenter fees, program supplies, and a new chair for the youth area.

Rhonda met with a representative from Voc Rehab to discuss possible partnerships with youth, especially in the summer. Allison gave a tour to a group of students through this program who were doing career exploration on February 21. We are also planning a summer event for teens with Voc Rehab.

Rhonda met with the Community Volunteer Alliance to plan the Mayors Volunteer Awards Dinner in April.

Rhonda participated in a free Public Library Association webinar on outreach services which will be useful as we work on our strategic plan initiatives to get out into the community more.

Rhonda was invited to an introductory meeting of the Youth Committee for Iowa Works. Becky is going to be the representative to this new multicounty committee focused on teens.

Initiatives to Reduce Barriers to Service

The **Fresh Start Program** initiated in January was extended through February 14 due to weather conditions. Over 50 library materials were recovered as part of this program, and 104 library accounts were reactivated. The response to this one-time effort to remove barriers was very positive. In February, community members stopping in the library donated over \$100 to be used for fine forgiveness through a **Pay It Forward initiative**.

Looking Ahead

STEM night in March falls during Teen Tech Week, and we are celebrating with virtual reality headsets borrowed from the Science Center of Iowa.

April's Family Night Unplugged is going green. We will be creating new things from recycled materials, having "green snacks," and watching "The Lorax"

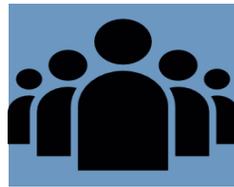
In March, Becky and community member Kathy Rashid will be taking seven of the **TICOS teens** to Des Moines for a Junior Optimists International convention. The kids raised most of their registration costs with a couple of fundraisers last October. They were able to cover \$100 of the \$125 cost of the conference per student.



February 2019 By the Numbers

Visitors

0 1 2 6 4 9



418

Meeting Room
Reservations



81 Laptop Checkouts



1,770 Wi-Fi sessions



3,826 Database Uses



4,217 computer logins

Classes and Events

Adults 10

Youth 88



Participants

Adults 252

Youth 3444

Nonprint Items

Borrowed

Adults 11,018

Youth 1,155



84

New Borrower
Accounts Opened

Books & Magazines

Borrowed

Adults 7,686

Teens 541

Tweens 273

Children 5,617



Downloads

Books 1,038

Music 857

Audio 758

Magazines 197