

# Library Services Monthly Report

## August 2019

### Youth and Family Services



**Insect Zoo from Iowa State University** was a huge hit with lots of insects to view and several to touch. Kids and families enjoyed learning about critters that they might see in their own yards and some that are more rare.

**Mini Makers** concluded its summer session at the beginning of August with magnet experiments, a duct tape city, galaxy pinwheels, and more. This program was so successful this summer that we decided to make it a weekly drop-in program during the school year so children ages 2-6 and their caregivers can come engage and learn with fun STEM activities.

During **Create Club**'s final session geared towards youth ages 7-10, they created UFO spinning tops made out of recycled DVDs and marbles. The group talked about planets in our solar system to wrap up the summer's theme of A Universe of Stories.

The **Bees Readers** drew a large group of children and caregivers for their final storytime of the summer.

The **End of Summer Reading** ice cream party was great fun with over 100 attendees coming to celebrate their summer reading accomplishments. As a tie-in, we had plenty of leftover ice cream, so we decided to have a **Back To School Ice Cream Bash**, which was also well-received, with nearly 100 students coming to finish out their summer at the library.

**Miss Iowa** Emily Tinsman came down from the Quad Cities on August 12 to read with students and share her love of learning and music. She majored in music and education, and shared several fun books with a small group of fans. After sharing books, she worked on a simple shaker egg craft, took photos, signed pictures, and even let the children try on her crown!

### Tweens & Teens

Our fantastic volunteer, and local chess coach, Shawn Johnson facilitated a **chess tournament** here at the library in August. He always has a nice turnout for his chess programs. He will facilitate ongoing monthly chess nights through December.

### Adult Education

The **August First Friday** program by Tanis Sotelo, Japanese Culture & Taiku Drumming, drew 105 people. Tanis demonstrated how the drum is played and its cultural significance. He also had a variety of masks and performed the dragon dance with the dragon head mask. Tanis stated, "This is the largest group I have ever performed in front of. I'm a little nervous."



Fifteen regular members and two new members joined **Beyond the Book Club** to discuss “Lost Children Archive” by Valeria Luiselli. Over a plate of rosquitas de mentas (Honduran butter rose cookies), the club discussed the current events at the southern border, the emergence of creative nonfiction in modern, award-winning literature, what comprises a family unit, and prejudice throughout the globe.

Two Burlington Firefighters presented a program on **Fire and Fall Prevention for the Aging**. Five seniors, six adults, as well as a Mom and her two young children, learned about smoker, space heater, and household appliance safety. Their program was designed by the National Fire Protection Association and covers cooking, the Stop, Drop, and Roll method, (which was demonstrated by our youngest participant), and smoke alarms. They connected with a few participants to set up smoke alarms and test them in their homes. Burlington Firefighters will also come to your home and test your smoke alarms if you can’t and do not have an alternative for someone else to assist you. We can promote this service to our Home Library patrons.

Jerry Rigdon shared his research about the **150th Anniversary of the Total Eclipse** which covered parts of southeast Iowa in midday darkness. His presentation was comprehensive and engaging and the time spent on audience discussion produced thoughtful answers regarding the science of astronomical events. 65 participants joined us for this event.

Stephanie provided excellent commitment and coordination to the **Clothing Swap**. She has several new duties in her role and is currently supplementing the workload of a coworker on leave while training another in processing. Our Friends volunteers Judy, Cindy, and Tom are to be commended as well for their hard work on this worthwhile program. 950 items were donated at the library before the event. An additional 485 items were brought to the event by participants. 81 visitors participated this year, including several new faces to the library space. 559 items were exchanged and the remaining items donated. A mother-of-the-bride outfit complete with jewelry and heels was brought in which will now be used for another upcoming wedding. Leftover scarves have been repurposed for the interactive weaving wall in the children's department. Several Facebook comments commended the library’s social objectives in the program including Olivia Schneider who said, “This is a brilliant idea! Love it! Unfortunately I won’t be able to make it today but keeping an eye out for next time!”

## **Outreach/Marketing**

Kathy Murphy has been representing the library at the Farmers Market all summer.

Youth staff attended the BCSD Open Houses to provide people with up-to-date information about library resources. Amy visited Aldo, Allison went to Black Hawk, Becky was at Ed Stone and BHS, Donna covered Grimes, and Melissa took North Hill and Sunnyside.

Amy, Becky, and Allison attended the Annual Teacher's Reception on August 28. Hundreds of area teachers flocked to Pzazz to gather resources, information, and support. We shared upcoming programming, resources for teachers and students, and of course, chocolate!

## **Professional Development**

Amy attended the School Library Journal Teen Webinar. She acquired book titles to order for the collection from the sessions, which included Lunch Keynote with Becky Albertalli and Aisha Saeed, True Life: I write Young Adult Nonfiction, Mental Health, Activating Empathy, and Closing Keynote with Nikki Grimes.

STEM Training took Becky on the road a couple of days in August. On the 14th, she went to Bettendorf for Making STEM Connections, the award we won from the Governor's STEM Council provided this training. On the 26th, she went to Coralville for a full day of STEM training from the state library. At both of these trainings, she got a lot of good information to use in CoLaboratory, Mini Makers programs, After School programs and more. Coming up in September is a full day of Hummingbird Robotics training in Coralville; we received Hummingbird as part of the STEM award. She plans to use some of the ideas at the upcoming Homeschool & CoLaboratory programs.

### **Other News/Meetings**

Bridges added a collection of always available (simultaneous use) titles on issues such as mental health and abuse. They also added more funds to shorten the wait lists on holds by buying more licenses for titles and buying more license renewals. They are extending the magazine pilot so users can continue to download magazines on Bridges as well as RBDigital. They also added 600 Marvel titles as well as other graphic novels and comics.

Joseph Burgus and Nancy Halls joined the library team as part-time Aides. They are both beginning their training at the Customer Service desk.

A student from SCC was placed at the library for work study and is assisting with shelving and inventory, as well as other projects, this semester.

Rhonda participated in city department and attorney meetings and the leadership and CARE interdepartmental meetings.

Rhonda attended the Friends of the Library board meeting. The board approved a donation of over \$9700 for staff training, landscape maintenance, preschool outreach, program expenses, and newsletter postage.

### **Preview Upcoming Programs**

September brings back weekly classes for kids, and we are all (staff and children alike!) ready to get back into the swing of things. Friday Friends and Lego Club return as bi-monthly drop-in programs, and Mini Makers makes its regular programming debut on Tuesday afternoons.

October's First Friday will be a program on the Iowa State Constitution.

# August 2019 By the Numbers

Visitors

0 1 3 6 9 5



416

Meeting Room  
Reservations

<p>92 Laptop Checkouts</p>	<p>2,367 Wi-Fi sessions</p>
<p>5,624 Database Uses</p>	<p>5,411 computer logins</p>

Classes and Events

Adults 12

Youth 17



Participants

Adults 596

Youth 1960

Nonprint Items

Borrowed

Adults 12,451

Youth 1,764



88

New Borrower  
Accounts Opened

Books & Magazines

Borrowed

Adults 9,936

Teens 1,000

Tweens 529

Children 8,244



Downloads

Books 1,125

Music 499

Audio 877

Magazines 234

Videos 113

