

THE STORYLINE

A quarterly publication of the Oak Park Public Library

SPRING 2017

News | Events | Stories



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OAK PARK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
oppl.org



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Spring 2017
Vol. 2, No. 2
March | April | May

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BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Find board meeting dates and locations at oppl.org/board, and get in touch at board@oppl.org.

LIBRARY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David J. Seleb
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Get to know your library staff at oppl.org/about.

Share comments and questions at oppl.org/contact and on social media.



ON THE COVER

Photos of community members helped build this butterfly collage in the Main Library Idea Box in 2016. On page 10, see how the Idea Box is all about transformation and building community in 2017.

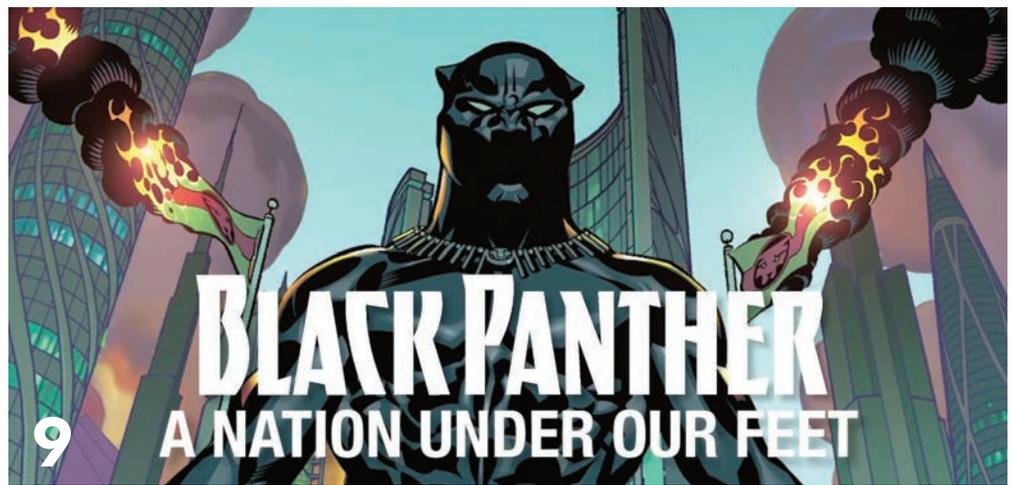


PHOTO COURTESY OF OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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☞ This issue showcases select events and classes at the library this spring. View all at oppl.org/calendar.

OUR MISSION & VISION



TO EMPOWER *every voice in our community*

What drives our work? Our community's aspirations—what you've told us matters most to Oak Park: literacy, education, affordability, diversity, inclusion, equity, health, and safety.

This year, we remain fully committed to our mission to share the information, services, and opportunities that fulfill these aspirations.

We also remain committed to professional public library values: promoting the growth

of local and diverse materials, protecting intellectual freedoms, securing the right to privacy, providing spaces and opportunities to connect, and opening access to reputable, fact-based information for more meaningful civic engagement.

In this and upcoming issues of *The Storyline*, we look forward to sharing the work we do and how together we can support our community's aspirations.

BECAUSE FAKE NEWS *can have real-world consequences.*

As your public library, we provide spaces for conversation and offer you free access to trustworthy, fact-based resources that can help you separate rumor and opinion from reality.

Because facts, critical thinking, and knowing how to judge the quality of your sources always matter.

As Dr. Carla Hayden, the 14th Librarian of Congress, told *The New York Times Magazine*, "Librarians have been pounding on this issue in a different way for a while—that

just having computer literacy is great, but as information professionals, we're always looking at what's the most authoritative source for the information and teaching information literacy."¹

Or as we saw a librarian post on Facebook in January: "If you cite Google and you aren't writing about Google or Google's history, I'm gonna cry big tears all over your paper and get it wet."²

Learn more about how libraries are transforming lives at oppl.org/about.

WE PLEDGE

The following is an excerpt from the Our Voices pledge, an initiative of the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom.

Learn more at

ourvoiceschicago.ala.org.

"The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. Yet even as our society becomes increasingly diverse, the mainstream book and publishing ecosystem has not met that diversity with a diversity of voices.

And while there has been an unprecedented explosion of writing by small and indie publishers and self-published creators, many libraries and librarians do not yet have the tools they need to bring these materials into the library to provide access to the diverse communities we serve.

[We pledge to] assert the freedom to read as a freedom to read diverse, quality content of all kinds. Join us in raising our voices and raising the voices of those we do not yet often hear.

¹ Ana Marie Cox, "Carla Hayden Thinks Libraries Are a Key to Freedom," *The New York Times Magazine*, Jan. 22, 2017.

² Stephanie Unertl, ALA Think Tank Facebook group, Jan. 19, 2017, accessed Feb. 3, 2017.



IN YOUR WORDS

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST



‘Citizen participation at its best’

BY MARY ROSE LAMBKE,
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK PARK & RIVER FOREST

As part of the League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest Observer Corps, I attend Oak Park Public Library Board of Trustees open monthly meetings, typically held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Main Library.

As the league focuses on civil participation in public policy issues and voter education, the library “shares the information, services, and opportunities that fulfill Oak Park’s aspirations,” according to its new mission statement.

At library board meetings, I see elected officials and library staff

come well prepared to discuss complex agendas. I have witnessed a commitment to community, as well as respect for all and for civil dialogue—even as debate and disagreement may ensue with thorny policy issues.

I have also observed an intellectual energy, creative and compassionate problem-solving, and an openness to the health of our community.

It is watching citizen participation and a governmental body at their best.

Through the league and the library, Oak Parkers have access to exceptional resources for citizenship, for education, and for participation in their community. I feel fortunate to be a part of them both.



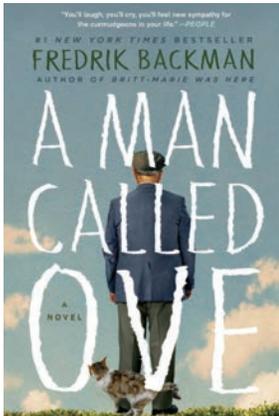
The library partners with and supports the work of the League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest, a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. Find upcoming candidate forums at lwvoprf.org.

Will you be ready to vote in local municipal elections on Tuesday, April 4? Find your polling place and more at oppl.org/vote.

Best books of 2016

We asked, what was the best book you read in 2016? In paper and online surveys, 140 of you answered the call. Here are some of your responses:

MOST RECOMMENDED



FICTION

▶ **A MAN CALLED OVE** by Fredrik Backman
“Heartwarming story. Theme: ‘It takes a village.’”

“It’s great when people work together, even when they don’t mix so well together.”

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD by Colson Whitehead
“So well written, and a fabulous story.”

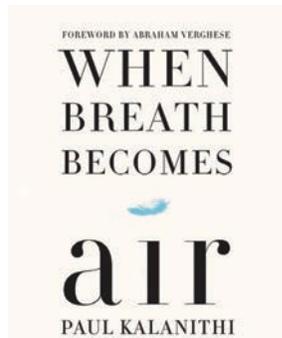
“I couldn’t stop thinking about this book after I read it. It really brought home the horrors of slavery and is beautifully written.”

NONFICTION

DARK MONEY by Jane Mayer
“I think it tells us a lot more about the current situation than [J.D. Vance’s] Hillbilly Elegy ever did.”

WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR by Paul Kalanithi
“Excellent writing about a difficult topic.”

“Inspiring, gritty, true.”



BIO & MEMOIR

MY PARIS DREAM by Kate Betts and **YEAR OF YES** by Shonda Rhimes
“I found both of these fun, inspiring, and easy reads, which is mandatory with four kids under 5.”

GRAPHIC NOVELS

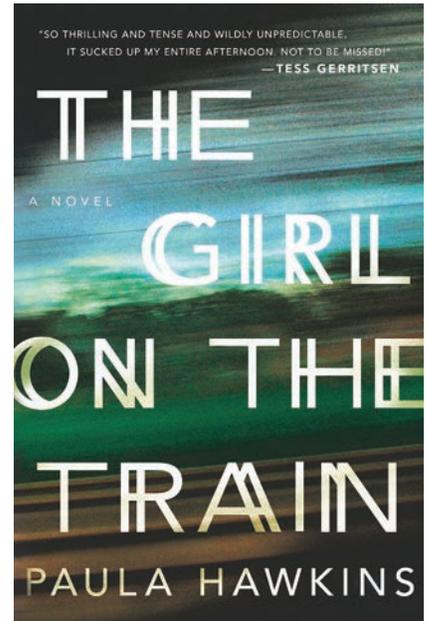
HYPERBOLE AND A HALF by Allie Brosh
“It’s the first time I read a graphic novel. I’d been avoiding them, thinking they were just comic books. I was wrong. It made me laugh out loud many times, and addresses the author’s depression and anxiety in an honest, heartbreaking way that I can identify with.”

BEVERLY by Nick Drnaso
“A graphic novel that is haunting, hilarious, and relatable for any coming-of-age teenager.”

➔ More graphic novel picks on page 8.

YOUNG ADULT (YA) FICTION

THE RAVEN BOYS (SERIES) by Maggie Stiefvater
“Very well-developed characters. Believable magic. Teens that read like teens. Intriguing plot. Everyone should read more YA!”



MOST CHECKED-OUT BOOK IN 2016

AUTHOR EVENTS

AUTHOR JANIS JOHNSTON: MIDLIFE MAZE
 Wednesday, March 8, 7–9 pm, Main Library. Join Janis Clark Johnston, EdD, psychologist and author of *Midlife Maze: A Map to Recovery and Rediscovery After Loss*. Through firsthand stories and practical exercises, Johnston leads readers through the midlife maze to a place of recovery, purpose, and peace.

AUTHOR ROB ELDER: HIDDEN HEMINGWAY
 Thursday, April 6, 7–9 pm, Main Library. Join Oak Park author Robert Elder to hear stories from *Hidden Hemingway: Inside the Ernest Hemingway Archives of Oak Park*. This hardcover coffee table book features never-before-seen items, such as family photos, teenage diaries, bullfighting tickets, love letters, and even a dental x-ray.



★ **COMING IN APRIL:** We’ll announce the 2017 One Book, One Oak Park summer reading title. About the 2016 selection, Ta-Nehisi Coates’ *Between the World and Me*, one survey respondent said, simply: “It was raw, real, and unforgettable.”

Library-led book GROUPS

To learn more and to subscribe to our monthly Authors & Books email, visit oppl.org/book-groups.



Library Assistant **Donna Ioppolo**, who's worked at the library since 1998, remembers the first book discussion she ever led, on *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden:

"It started off with one man who stood up and said, 'I hate everything about Japan. I hate everything about Japan because of Pearl Harbor.' And a woman across from him said, 'Well, my son married a Japanese girl, and she's lovely.' And I sat back and said to myself, where do I go from here?"

Ioppolo, who leads the monthly *Detection by Daylight* book group at Maze Branch, summarized her approach, then and now: "If you can back up your opinions

with anything in the book, that's fine; we can agree to disagree."

Kat Butler, who's part of the *Detection by Daylight* book group, said she appreciates that approach. "If you're going to have a group leader, they have to have a dispassion from their own viewpoint," Butler said. "And that's key to the success of this group. Donna has her own ideas, but she can step back and let you voice your own ideas and feel good about them."

As for that first memorable discussion, Ioppolo said, "I don't know if at the end of the night the man changed his views at all, but at least he got a chance to listen to someone else with a different viewpoint."

MONA ELTAHAWY

Headscarves and Hymens

Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution

'Courageous . . . In the hands of Eltahawy, so many silences are opened. This is a ground-shaping book' COLUM MCGANN

AN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DISCUSSION

Wednesday, March 8, 7-8:30 pm, Main Library

Join us to discuss Egyptian-American journalist and activist Mona Eltahawy's 2015 book, *Headscarves and Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution*.

Eltahawy is a controversial social critic and advocate for women's rights in the Middle East and the West. In *Headscarves and Hymens*, she confronts the "toxic mix of culture and religion" that conspires to rob women of their individual autonomy and civil rights.

JOIN AN ONGOING GROUP

5 LIBRARY-LED BOOK GROUPS

- **Brown Bag** | Suspense mysteries | Tuesdays, 12 pm, Dole Branch
- **Detection by Daylight** | Detective mysteries | Tuesdays, 12 pm, Maze Branch
- **The Lives They Lived** | Biographies & memoirs | Tuesdays, 7:30 pm, Maze Branch
- **Words on Wednesday** | Fiction & nonfiction | Wednesdays, 1 pm, Main Library
- **Read & Reflect** | Nonfiction | Fridays, 12 pm, Dole Branch

➔ Find specific dates at oppl.org/book-groups.

➔ PLUS 3 NEW ONES! (see page 7)

OAK PARK READS

NEW

QUARTERLY

NEW MOMS BOOK CLUB | Wednesdays, 7–8 pm, Maze Branch

“As a new mom, you’re still a person who needs to have interests,” Library Assistant Lauren Cooper said. “It’s good to take time for yourself, and then get out to actually talk with others.”

That’s why she’s launching a new book group especially for new moms, which will meet quarterly “to give you time to finish a book,” Cooper said.

“The mom guilt can sink in pretty fast when you try to make time for yourself,” she said. “My hope is that someone who hasn’t felt able to do that sees this as an opportunity.”

- **MARCH 8:** *The Mothers* by Brit Bennett



DONNA'S DISCUSSION TIPS

Starting your own book club? Take these tips from longtime discussion leader Donna Ioppolo.



1. PICK A GOOD

BOOK. “Look at books that have multiple entryways into them. For mysteries, it might be a historical aspect. Or location, as in *The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency*, a series set in Botswana. Setting can be just as important and interesting as the plot.”

2. DO YOUR RESEARCH.

“Sites like **ReadingGroupGuides.com** and **LitLovers.com** offer background info and hundreds of discussion questions. Read the five-star and the one-star reviews on GoodReads and Amazon. If you love a book, you also want to be aware of the downsides. See what other people are saying.”

3. CREATE AN OPENING FOR

ALL. “Make it a point to get the quiet ones to talk, and the chatty ones to listen. Wait until a talkative person takes a breath, and then turn to a quiet one to ask, what do you think? Allow time at the end to offer a chance for someone who hasn’t spoken yet.”

4. ASK FOR EVIDENCE.

“Ask people to comment based on what’s in the book rather than their opinions. So if someone says, ‘I think Mrs. Bennet, the mother in *Pride and Prejudice*, is a real shrew,’ what’s your evidence for that?”

5. PLAN FOR NEXT TIME.

“If the group is starting to become regular, always know the next book you’ll be reading, and when and where you’re meeting.”

NEW

MONTHLY



BOOKS AND BREWS

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 pm, Beer Shop, 1026 North Blvd., Oak Park

“Meet new friends, discuss new books, and enjoy some drinks with us,” said Adult and Teen Digital Learning Librarian Rose Barnes. With Arts & Culture and Readers’ Advisory Librarian Margita Lidaka, she leads this new monthly book group for adults 21 years and older at Beer Shop, 1026 North Blvd.

“We’ll discuss books of all genres.

Not necessarily the big-name authors, but books that have mass appeal.”

Copies are available at the Main Library one month before discussion.

- **MARCH 14:** *The Girls* by Emma Cline
- **APRIL 11:** *Tell The Wolves I’m Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt
- **MAY 9:** *Dark Matter* by Blake Crouch



NEW

MONTHLY

BYOBOOK | Wednesdays, March 15, April 19, May 17, 6:30–7:30 pm,

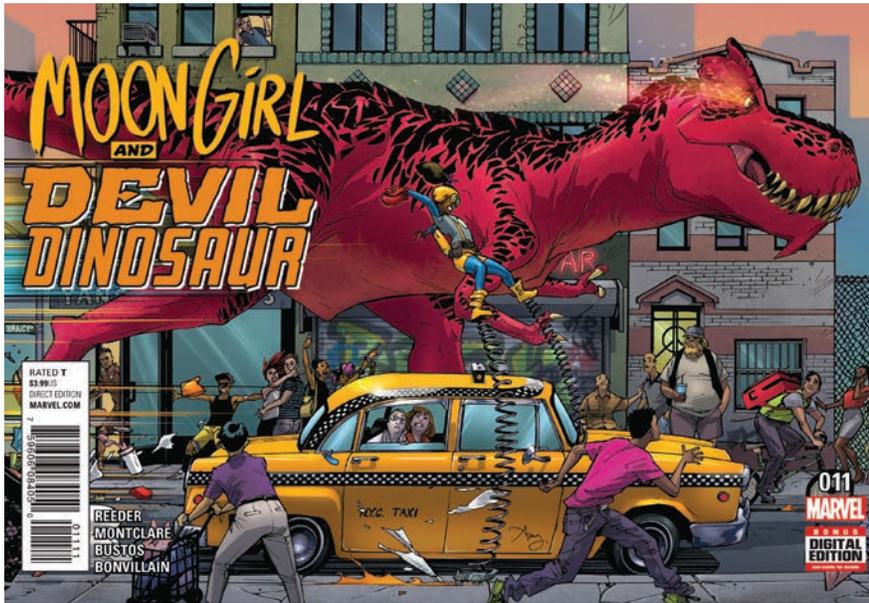
Main Library *Register now

“There are many different reasons a person connects with a book, and it’s personal,” said Materials Services Librarian Barbara Fitzgerald.

BYOBook is a new monthly group where we’ll have relaxed, open conversation and trade book recommendations.

“Come and share your thoughts about what you’re reading,” Fitzgerald said, “and get new ideas for what to read next.”

OAK PARK READS



We asked our patrons last year, what was the best book of 2016? (See page 5.) In nominating a graphic novel, one reader told us, “I’d been avoiding them, thinking they were just comic books. I was wrong.”

This change of heart makes High School Services Librarian Rachael Bild happy. But it doesn’t really surprise her.

“More and more high-quality graphic novels are being published all the time, and the audience for them is growing,” she said, pointing to Marvel’s *Black Panther* series revived last year by Ta-Nehisi Coates (also the author of the 2016 One Book, One Oak Park title, *Between the World and Me*), the all-ages crossover *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur* (whose main character is “this super genius little black girl”), and civil rights leader

John Lewis’ award-winning memoir trilogy, *March*.

“There’s a renaissance on,” Bild said. “And I knew if we didn’t invest a little more in our graphic novel collections last year, we were going to miss it.”

Adult and teen graphic novels circulate better than average at all library locations, Bild said, yet early 2016 data showed the library was not putting enough money toward them based on demand.

In response, the library boosted its budget for those collections in the middle of last year.

“We have so many graphic novel readers in this community, and there are so many awesome books being published,” Bild said. “I’m glad I can buy more of them for our readers, so people can find what they’re looking for on the shelves.”

READ TO ORDER

To help you find your next great read, the Read to Order team wants to hear all about your literary preferences.

Read to Order is a free service for Oak Park Public Library cardholders 18 years and older. Just fill out an online form, and our expert team will respond with titles for you to review and borrow through the library catalog.

“I’ve been impressed at the wide variety of tastes Oak Parkers have,” said Arts & Culture and Readers’ Advisory Librarian Margita Lidaka.

With an average response time of two days, the team is ready to take your order at oppl.org/read-order.

♥ COMICS? DON’T MISS...
MINICON: Saturday, March 18,
1–4 pm, Main Library

NEW TITLES BY GENRE, SENT STRAIGHT TO YOUR INBOX



STARTING
MID-APRIL



The library will launch a service that emails you monthly with new titles listed by genre, such as thrillers and suspense, historical fiction, horror, romance, and picture books. Sign up and customize your library email preferences at oppl.org/enews.



MARCH 2



MARCH 17

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRINITY ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCERS



FRIENDS FOLK MUSIC CONCERT: DAN WEBER

Thursday, March 2, 7–9 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Dan Weber left his hometown in 1989 in a beat-up '78 Pontiac Trans Am with a guy he'd met in a bar the night before, and he never looked back. Along the way he picked up stories, hitchhikers, and, eventually, a guitar. He's now an award-winning songwriter. Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Park Public Library.

SIGMA ALPHA IOTA MUSIC FRATERNITY: OPERA

Sunday, March 12, 2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Chorus members of the Lyric Opera of Chicago will perform favorite songs.

TRINITY ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE

Friday, March 17, 10–11:15 am, Main Library Veterans Room. A very special St. Patrick's Day performance. Ages 2+.

JAZZ CONCERT: PHARLIS JAMES

Thursday, April 27, 7–9 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Enjoy smooth jazz with the baritone balladeer and jazz vocalist Pharlis James and pianist Bobby Schiff.

HAMILTON'S WOMEN

Sunday, April 30, 2–3:30 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Actress and scholar Leslie Goddard brings the Schuyler sisters to life in this collaboration with the League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest.



CELEBRATING SENIORS WEEK: MAY 18-25

More: celebratingseniors.net

JILLANN GABRIELLE: THE GARBO, THE MUSICAL

Thursday, May 18, 7–9 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. See an original one-woman musical about the enigmatic Swedish film star, Greta Garbo (1905–1990). Considered by many the greatest film actress of all time, Garbo's image was that of androgynous glamour. Thirteen clever, witty songs and humorous monologues make this musical insightful and fun.

OAK PARKERS ♥ HOOPLA

More and more of you are discovering Hoopla, our digital media service that lets you stream and download movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics, and TV shows. From July through December 2016, an average of 120 Oak Parkers created new accounts each month, said Collection Management Librarian Eric Pasteur.

Oak Park's top genres? Mystery, self-help, and children's audiobooks; action & adventure and comedy films; and soundtracks and pop music. More: oppl.org/downloads



IDEA BOX

BUILD A BETTER WORLD *in 2017*

The top New Year's resolution for 2017? To be a better person, according to the Marist Institute for Public Opinion.

It's fitting, then, that "Build a Better World" is this year's theme for the Idea Box, which is located just inside the Main Library entrance. With a focus on our community's aspirations, we'll have dedicated times every week when staff and community members facilitate workshops, storytimes, crafting sessions to benefit local organizations, and more.

This spring, we'll Picture a Better World and Grow a Better World in the Idea Box. Stay tuned as we roll out the ideas!

WHAT'S THE IDEA BOX?

Since 2012, the Idea Box, located just inside the Main Library entrance, has offered monthly installations focused on learning through tinkering, fun, experimentation, and play.

Past exhibits have asked visitors to create works of art with found objects; to post wishes, poems, and origami on the walls; and to dance their hearts out under a disco ball.

See past installations on Flickr: bit.ly/1Qgi4S7

WHAT'S NEW?

This year, the Idea Box is evolving into a space where library staff lead creative and digital learning workshops that use our new 3D printer, sewing machines, music-making tools, and more to facilitate new learning experiences.

We're also opening the space to community members who want to lead workshops that speak to Oak Park's community aspirations and the library's mission.

More: oppl.org/idea-box



5+5=10, OCTOBER 2013



JACKSON, JULY 2014



ART ATTACK, JUNE 2012



THE FIFTH SEASON, MARCH 2016



See a few upcoming events happening in the Idea Box on page 11. ➔

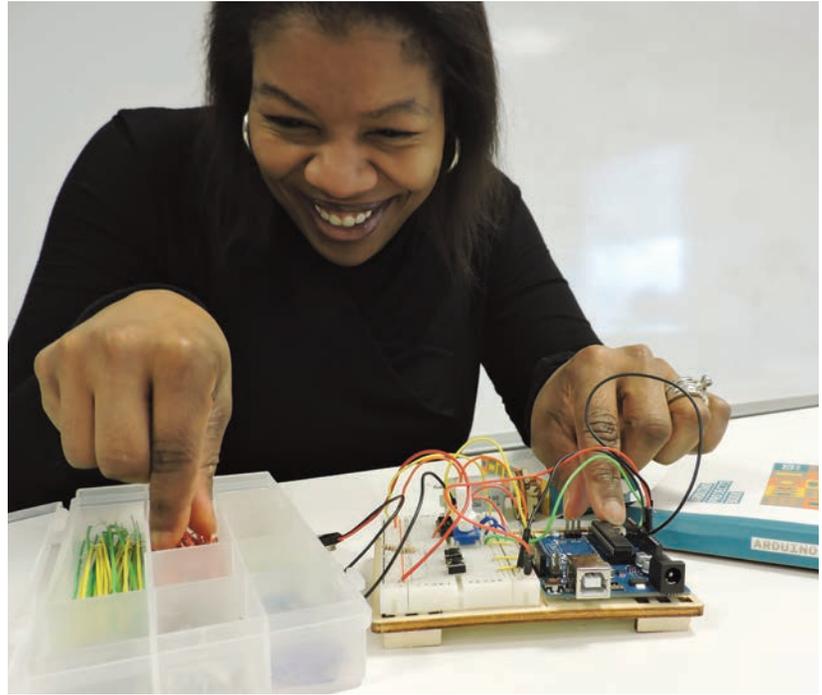
MAKER WORKSHOPS



LEARN. TINKER. CODE. CREATE. *in new programs*

The library is rolling out new maker tools this year, including a 3D printer and six Arduino coding kits that kids, teens, and adults can start experimenting with in programs this spring.

“We’re a community resource to help people learn new things, and we’re matching interest,” said Digital Learning Coordinator Deidre Winterhalter. “These programs give people a chance to see what these tools are like.”



DIGITAL SERVICES SPECIALIST TONI MCGEE TINKERS WITH AN ARDUINO KIT. ONE OF THE NEW MAKER TOOLS WE'RE USING IN WORKSHOPS THIS SPRING.

MEET THE 3D PRINTER

“I really like the 3D printer as a community commodity,” Winterhalter said. “It’s not affordable to buy one for your own house, but you can come to the library to see how it works and to see if you’re interested.”

Using the free software Tinkercad, participants will create their own 3D designs, to be printed after class and picked up the following week.

FOR TEENS & ADULTS

® INTRO TO 3D PRINTING. Tuesdays, March 14, May 2, 7–8 pm, Main Library Idea Box. Basic computer skills required. Register now.

FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

® GEMS JR.: MEET THE 3D PRINTER
Tuesday, April 4, 2–3 pm, Main Library Storytime Room. For girls in grades 2–4. Register now.

HOMESCHOOL MEET-UP: MEET THE 3D PRINTER
Thursday, April 6, 12:30–1 pm, Main Library Children’s Study Room A



BEAT BOX | Saturdays, March 11, April 8, May 13, 12–2 pm, Main Library Idea Box. Learn the ins and outs of creating beats and electronic music! Make your own instruments and production tools in this hands-on monthly workshop. Build a midi controller, design sounds using synthesizers and samples from nature, compose and perform songs from scratch, and more! No experience necessary. Tools and supplies will be provided. For teens ages 12+ and adults.

CODE WITH ARDUINO FOR TEENS & ADULTS

® Wednesday, April 12, 6:30–7:30 pm, Main Library Idea Box. Learn to control basic electronics using Arduino, an open-source platform.

“With our six Arduino kits, you can code for something as simple as turning the lights on and off, or you can design a smarthome,” Winterhalter said. “It depends on what you’re interested in and able to do.”

No experience necessary. Register now.

MORE FOR KIDS

® GEMS JR: FUN WITH HTML
Saturday, March 4, 3–4 pm, Main Library Computer Classroom. Join local computer programmer Laura Zinthefer for coding fun with HTML. For girls in grades 2–4. No experience necessary. Register now.

STOP-MOTION ANIMATION DROP-IN WORKSHOPS

Tuesdays, March 28, April 4, Main Library Lobby Community Space. See page 17.

DIGITAL LEARNING



REGISTER NOW: OPPL.ORG/TECH

All workshops are held in the Main Library Computer Classroom.

R INTRO TO COMPUTERS

Wednesday, March 1, 10–11 am

R BASIC EXCEL

Tuesday, April 4, 7–8 pm

R BASIC MICROSOFT WORD 2010

Tuesday, March 21, 7–8 pm

R BASIC MICROSOFT POWERPOINT

Wednesday, April 26, 10–11 am

R INTERMEDIATE MICROSOFT WORD 2010

Tuesday, March 28, 7–8 pm

R INTRO TO GMAIL

Wednesday, May 17, 7–8 pm

R INTRO TO GOOGLE DRIVE

Wednesday, May 24, 7–8 pm



NEW! Come learn about our favorite websites and apps in these interactive classes. Bring your own device or use our computers. Register now.

R GARDENING WEBSITES & APPS

Wednesday, March 8, 7–8:30 pm

R TRAVEL WEBSITES & APPS

Wednesday, April 19, 7–8:30 pm

➔ **MORE!** Learn about travel apps for kids and families in *DigiTales* (page 16).

Did you know...

- You can learn at your own pace with online tutorials through Lynda.com. Tutorials are available in the library for everyone, and outside of the library for Oak Park Public Library cardholders.
- Dedicated technology assistants are available during busy times on the Main Library's third floor to answer basic computer and printing questions.
- You can make an appointment for one-on-one help. Learn more at oppl.org/tech.

R ONLINE COUPONING

Wednesday, May 10, 10–11:30 am, Main Library Computer Classroom

R BE A SMART CONSUMER WITH THE LIBRARY'S ONLINE TOOLS

Wednesday, May 31, 9:30–11 am, Main Library Computer Classroom

CAREERS & BUSINESSES



OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CO-WORKING COMMONS

Mondays, March 20, April 17, May 15, 9 am–5 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room. Do you work from home and crave some creative interaction every once in awhile? Use the library to create and explore with like-minded entrepreneurs like yourself. Bring your own computer and lunch, and we'll provide the coffee!



BUSINESS PLANNING | OPPL.ORG/BUSINESS

FUNDAMENTALS OF CREATING A BUSINESS PLAN

Wednesday, March 22, 6–7 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Learn the basics of putting your business idea on paper. This class teaches you the fundamental content you need to begin writing a business plan and is aimed at those who have a business idea but need to think through all of the details.

HOW TO CHOOSE A LEGAL STRUCTURE FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Wednesday, April 12, 6–7 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. The business structure you choose will have legal and tax implications. Learn about the different types of business structures and find the one best suited for your business.

REGISTER NOW: OPPL.ORG/JOB-SEARCH

R FIND YOUR NEXT JOB WITH THE LIBRARY'S ONLINE TOOLS

Thursday, April 6, 9:30–11:30 am, Main Library Computer Classroom. Learn the main features of Brainfuse JobNow, Business Source Complete, Lynda.com, and ReferenceUSA. We'll also cover the Applicant Tracking System, a screening tool used by employers. Register now.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK: APRIL 30–MAY 6



#DreamSmallBiz | sba.gov/nsbw

CELEBRATE NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Wednesday, May 3, 6–8:30 pm,
Main Library Veterans Room. Have a business idea but don't know where to start? Or a business you'd like to grow? Learn from local business owners about what it takes to start, market, and grow a successful business. After the lecture, stay to network and to pitch your business strategy.

OPPL.ORG/BUSINESS

Team up with your library to:

- Request a one-on-one mentor appointment with SCORE Chicago at the Main Library.
- Sharpen technical skills with Lynda.com online courses, anywhere, anytime.
- Rent a meeting room, connect to free WiFi, print wirelessly, use public computers, borrow a laptop for on-site use, and access copiers, a fax machine, and more.
- Discover industry trends and collect valuable data with online resources, including:
 - **Business Source Complete:** essentials for the business researcher
 - **ReferenceUSA:** directory of 14 million businesses and 89 million residents

FINANCIAL LITERACY



MONEY FOR COLLEGE

Tuesday, April 18, 7–9 pm, Main Library Veteran Room. See page 18.

DEMYSTIFYING THE ESTATE PLANNING PROCESS

Tuesday, April 25, 2–3:30 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Interested in learning more about the estate planning process? We'll cover topics like estate planning terms, wills, trusts, estate and other taxes, powers of attorney, and living wills. Presented by the Chicago Estate Planning Council.

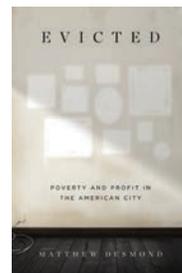
📌 ONLINE COUPONING

Wednesday, May 10, 10–11:30 am, Main Library Computer Classroom. Want to save some money with coupons but don't know where to start? Want to share a favorite coupon website? Join us! Bring your own device or use our computers. Register now.

WORDS ON WEDNESDAY:

EVICTED: POVERTY AND PROFIT IN THE AMERICAN CITY

Wednesday, May 17, 1–2:30 pm, Main Library. Learn more about library book groups on page 6.



📌 BE A SMART CONSUMER WITH THE LIBRARY'S ONLINE TOOLS

Wednesday, May 31, 9:30–11 am, Main Library Computer Classroom. Learn about the library's online tools that can help you get product ratings, reviews, buying advice, and care and repair tips, plus ratings on local services like plumbers, dentists, and insurance companies. Register now.

ONLINE TOOLS FOR CONSUMERS & INVESTORS

Find these and more at oppl.org/online-resources.

- **Consumer Health Complete:** For the health-conscious consumer, covers all areas of health and wellness from mainstream medicine to the many perspectives of complementary, holistic, and integrated medicine.
- **ConsumerReports.org:** Ratings, reviews, recommendations, and buying advice from the source that buyers trust.
- **Consumers' Checkbook:** Ratings on Chicagoland service firms and stores, such as auto repair shops, plumbers, dentists, banks, and insurance companies.
- **Morningstar Investment Research Center:** For both the savvy investor and the newbie, provides not only financial stock and mutual fund information but also over 100 classes on stocks, funds, and portfolio building.
- **Value Line:** Access to leading publications covering stocks, mutual funds, options, convertible securities, and educational articles.

TAX DAY IS APRIL 18 THIS YEAR (THAT'S NOT A TYPO)*

Looking for tax forms? At the Main Library, you can print popular federal and state forms on demand, at no charge, from a dedicated station in the lobby. At Dole and Maze branches, just ask for help at the service desks.

**Learn why Tax Day is April 18: efile.com/tax-day-deadlines/#april-18*





ONE EARTH FILM FESTIVAL MARCH 3-12

Now in its sixth year, One Earth Film Festival creates opportunities for understanding climate change, sustainability, and the power of human involvement through sustainability-themed films and facilitated discussion.

Films are screened at different locations around Chicagoland, including the Main Library. See the whole lineup at oneearthfilmfest.org.

MAIN LIBRARY

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

9:30–10:15 am: Films for families and kids ages 3–6+.

10:30–11:30 am: Films for families and kids ages 7–11+.

3–5 pm: *At the Fork*

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

7–9 pm: *Shifting Sands*

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

3–5 pm: *Toxic Chemicals: Kids in Danger*

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST KIDS' SUMMER CAMP EXPO

Sunday, March 19, 2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Learn about all the fun youth day programs available this summer from a variety of local organizations. See the whole list at oppl.org/calendar.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

VOLUNTEER MEET AND MATCH

Wednesday, April 26, 4–8 pm, Main Library.

Find the perfect local volunteer activity at this one-stop fair organized by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation. Learn about opportunities with more than 30 local organizations, including West Cook YMCA, Housing Forward, the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest, Ten Thousand Villages, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at Triton College.



ONE VOLUNTEER'S STORY

After retiring from a time-consuming technology career in 2015, Louise Mezzatesta felt ready to take on new challenges. She came to the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation's Volunteer Meet and Match fair at the Main Library last year, and found a match: helping plan the Oak Park Regional Housing Center's annual fall benefit gala.

The experience has been rewarding, Mezzatesta said, as the Housing Center's mission is important to her. A resident of Oak Park since 1958, "I got my first apartment in Oak Park through the Housing Center," she said.

Mezzatesta said she looks forward to this year's fair and more opportunities: "The real blessing of volunteerism is the reciprocal benefit of participation. I get as much as I give, if not more."

EARLY LITERACY



FULL STORYTIME SCHEDULE: OPPL.ORG/STORYTIMES

STORIES ON SATURDAY

Saturdays, March 4–25,
10–11:30 am, Main Library
Storytime Room. Drop-in family
storytime.

10 am: Children ages 2–6 and
their caregivers attend a big, lively
storytime that’s full of favorites.

11 am: Children birth to 24 months
and their caregivers attend for
short books paired with songs and
rhymes modeled to introduce
pre-literacy skills.

DIGITALES

Fridays, 10–10:30 am, Main Library
Storytime Room. Stories and songs are
paired with apps and digital tools.
Best for ages 2–6.

March 31, April 28: Travel the Globe
We’ll work on building empathy and
cultural understanding while sharing
new places and stories through apps.

May 26: Road Trip Readiness
We’ll explore fun, free apps and tools
from the library’s digital collections to
keep your child busy and learning on
your next road trip and beyond.

ALL NEW, ALL TOGETHER

Coming soon to the Main
Library: a dedicated
section for all new children’s
books. Book covers will be
shelved with their covers out,
as you might see in a bookstore,
said Materials Services
Librarian Jenna Friebel.

“The idea is to make it
easier to browse all the lovely
new books,” Friebel said. “Our
patrons always want the latest.
We’re making them easier to
find, so you can grab and go.”
More: oppl.org/kids

ENGAGE DIGITALLY, THOUGHTFULLY

One Globe Kids is an app that
“lets you see what a day is like
for a child in Haiti, for example,”
said Children’s Digital Learning
Librarian Anne Bensfield. “You can
be transported to someone else’s world
without ever leaving Oak Park.”

It’s just one of the apps Bensfield
shares with families in DigiTales
(see above), along with library tools
like Hoopla and OverDrive. “We
want to give families ways to engage
thoughtfully with digital tools, to use
them together for learning,” she said.

Can’t attend? Stop into the library
for help anytime, and see more
librarian-vetted apps at
[pinterest.com/
learningatoppl](http://pinterest.com/learningatoppl).



ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

School's Out »

Oak Park Elementary School District 97's spring break is March 27–31. Join us for these special events, and find all events at oppl.org/calendar.

OPPL.ORG/KIDS

R YOGA

Monday, March 27, 10–11 am, Main Library Veterans Room. Join Kristen Mimlitz from Blissed Out yoga studio for a spring break yoga program. Best for ages 5+. Register now.



STOP-MOTION ANIMATION DROP-IN WORKSHOPS

Join staff from Steve & Kate's Camp and learn to create your own short stop-motion animations.

Main Library Community Space

- Tuesday, March 28, 2–3 pm
- Tuesday, April 4, 3:30–4:30 pm

R TRAVELING WORLD OF REPTILES

Wednesday, March 29, 10 am–12 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Join us for an up-close, hands-on experience about amphibians and reptiles from around the world. Register now.

R IMPROV PLAYHOUSE

Friday, March 31, 2–3 pm, Maze Branch. *Hansel and Gretel* with a twist—and the important lesson of being there for your family.



TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

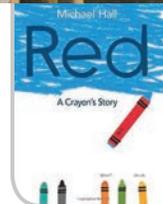
Learn the importance of staying true to yourself with this very special storytime. Ages 4+.

Main Library	Thursday, March 30, 10–10:30 am	Dole Branch	Friday, March 31, 10:30–11 am
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“Being yourself sometimes looks different for different people,” said Library Assistant Hal Patnott. “This will be a storytime that happens to feature trans-friendly selections, like one of my favorites, *Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall.”

Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31, is a day of empowerment and raising awareness of issues that affect the transgender community, and Patnott said the theme of the storytime is applicable to anyone: “You don't have to fit into the box that people tell you.” More: transstudent.org

? DID YOU KNOW? The library maintains an award-winning Transgender Resource Collection for everyone seeking information, including employers, medical providers, allies, friends, and family. More: oppl.org/trc



STAYING LOCAL FOR BREAK?

Explore other languages and cultures online with library tools such as CultureGrams, Mango Languages, and Muzzy! More: oppl.org/homework

➔ Also check out the library's Multicultural Collection, based at Dole Branch: oppl.org/multicultural



R Some events require registration. See all events at oppl.org/calendar.

HIGH SCHOOL



OPPL.ORG/TEENS

BEAT BOX

Saturdays, March 11, April 8, May 13, 12–2 pm, Main Library. Create beats and electronic music! See page 11.

MONEY FOR COLLEGE

Tuesday, April 18, 7–9 pm, Main Library. Get ideas and info from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

★ Volunteer with us

Starting in April, apply to volunteer with the library this summer: oppl.org/teens

Luis Tubens, a Chicago poet and vocalist with ESSO Afro Jam Funkbeat, is the library's first artist in residence. Since January, Tubens has been working with students in grades 6–12 at the Main Library, coaching them in writing workshops and open mic performances.

Here, Tubens shares some artistic observations:

Q: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ARTIST IN RESIDENCE?

A: That an organization values your work as an artist to the point where they want to be a curator, a promoter, and motivator of your craft. Museums and galleries are traditionally places where visual artists become artists in residence, but for a literary artist like me to have a library, and such a prestigious one like the Oak Park Public Library, recognize my work is a privilege.

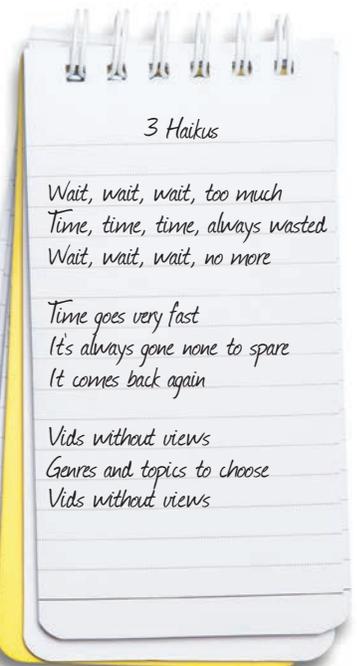
Q: WHAT ARE YOU LEARNING ABOUT OAK PARK SO FAR?

A: That Oak Park is a diverse town with rich history and beautiful people. Probably what I found to be most delightful is the array of young people that use the library as a center.

Q: WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE?

A: I enjoy what I receive from the youth more than what I give. I am always surprised at the poetry and visual narratives that are produced from the workshops. It inspires me and keeps me on my game.

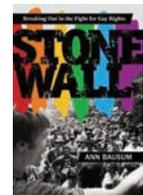
Tubens' residency at the Main Library ends in March, but you can see him perform as "Logan Lu" at the No-Shush Salon monthly open mic on Thursday, May 25, 6:30–7:45 pm, at Maze Branch. More: oppl.org/calendar



Created from student work at a writing workshop at the Main Library in January.

➔ NEW! TEEN NONFICTION SECTION on the Main Library's second floor.

"Over the last several years, there's been an increase in nonfiction published especially for a teen audience," said Materials Services Librarian Jenna Friebel. The new section will feature teen-friendly narrative nonfiction, like *Stonewall* by Ann Bausum and *The Nazi Hunters* by Neal Bascomb.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



Under construction: Oak Park's Unity Temple, as rendered in one of the Frank Lloyd Wright MinecraftEdu worlds that library staff are building for use in programs with kids this summer.

As we approach the 150th anniversary of Frank Lloyd Wright's birthday in June, staff are working behind the scenes to construct MinecraftEdu worlds featuring Wright's architecture for use in library programs this summer.

"People may not realize we have such talented staff members who love Minecraft and can create these worlds," said Children's Digital Learning Librarian Anne Bensfield.

As part of the Hacking Hemingway digital learning grant last year, staff created a Hemingway MinecraftEdu

program that had kids in grades 5–8 building their own structures and tackling challenges inspired by Ernest Hemingway and Oak Park.

This summer's MinecraftEdu programs will ask kids to examine what architectural features go into a Frank Lloyd Wright house, and then use their creativity to build their own.

"Parents have been really excited because, as they say, 'It's educational!'" Bensfield said. "The kids tend to say, 'It's Minecraft! It's fun!' You can see the learning happening, but they don't necessarily think about it that way."

With a \$2,900 Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board grant, the library is creating more accessible, searchable online inventories of select Special Collections this spring.

We're also adding even more photographic treasures from Oak Park's early days to the online Illinois Digital Archives and Digital Public Library of America, like the 1903 photo shown at left, taken by Oak Parker Philander Barclay. More: oppl.org/special-collections



ERNEST AND MARCELLINE HEMINGWAY AS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, 1917

AUTHOR ROB ELDER: HIDDEN HEMINGWAY

Thursday, April 6, 7–9 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. See page 5.

HEMINGWAY GRAD PARTY

Sunday, May 7, 3–5 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Famous locals Ernest and Marcelline Hemingway graduated from Oak Park and River Forest High School 100 years ago. Join us for a graduation party for the Hemingway siblings, hosted by Special Collections, with period refreshments, decor, and entertainment.

WEST ON MADISON STREET FROM OAK PARK AVENUE, 1903



VISIT US | OPPL.ORG/VISIT

MAIN LIBRARY

834 Lake St. | 708.383.8200
Monday–Thursday: 9 am–9 pm
Friday: 9 am–6 pm
Saturday: 9 am–5 pm
Sunday: 1–6 pm

DOLE BRANCH

255 Augusta St. | 708.386.9032
Monday: Closed
Tuesday–Thursday: 10 am–9 pm
Friday: 10 am–6 pm
Saturday: 10 am–5 pm
Sunday: 1–6 pm

MAZE BRANCH

845 Gunderson Ave. | 708.386.4751
Monday–Thursday: 10 am–9 pm
Friday: Closed
Saturday: 10 am–5 pm
Sunday: 1–6 pm

REGISTRATION

Some events require registration. Call 708.383.8200 or visit oppl.org/calendar for the latest information.

ACCESSIBILITY

For accommodations at an event or class, please contact us, allowing seven days’ notice to best serve you. See oppl.org/visit/accessibility.

PROMOTION

Library programs and classes are often photographed and/or recorded for promotional purposes. Please let us know if you prefer not to be photographed or videotaped.

The Storyline is published quarterly as a service to the Oak Park Public Library community. Contact us at communications@oppl.org: Kristen Romanowski, Writer/Editor; Rebecca Price, Graphic Designer; Jodi Kolo, Manager. Many thanks to library staff and community photographers whose work is featured this issue, including Jose Cruz, Debby Preiser, and Marcela Rafea.



ALWAYS BE LEARNING

For our Dec. 2 Staff Day, we gathered for a morning of learning from each other and reflecting on our values and our work.

With James LaRue, Director of the American Library Association’s Office of Intellectual Freedom, we talked about standing up for intellectual freedom in a “post-fact” society, and upholding the library as a place for civil discussion on difficult and perhaps unpopular topics.

We also discussed how we can provide the best customer experience to our patrons and support our community’s aspirations.

We’ll continue that conversation in our next half-day Staff Day, Friday, June 2 (libraries open at 2 pm), by diving deeper into our practice of “turning outward”—when we put our community at the center of everything we do.

Learn more: oppl.org/listen



“Prison libraries tend to be dismal, if they exist at all,” according to Chicago Books to Women in Prison, an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that distributes paperback books free of charge to incarcerated women nationwide. Last year the group mailed 3,310 packages of books and 561 blank journals.

In January, library staff shared their passion and expertise outside of work hours, spending an afternoon selecting books for those requesting everything from fiction to resources on starting a business upon release from prison. Learn more: chicagobwp.org

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

All library buildings will be closed Sunday, April 16 and Monday, May 29.

Friday, June 2 (Staff Day)

- Main Library open 2–6 pm
- Dole Branch open 2–6 pm
- Maze Branch closed

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