

REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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The Illinois Library Association Reporter

is a forum for those who are improving and reinventing Illinois libraries, with articles that seek to: explore new ideas and practices from all types of libraries and library systems; examine the challenges facing the profession; and inform the library community and its supporters with news and comment about important issues. The *ILA Reporter* is produced and circulated with the purpose of enhancing and supporting the value of libraries, which provide free and equal access to information. This access is essential for an open democratic society, an informed electorate, and the advancement of knowledge for all people.



ON THE COVER

The last time the Naperville Public Library's 95th Street branch underwent improvements was in 2009; the building was originally constructed in 2003. This year's dramatic makeover follows on the heels of renovations at two other branches: Nichols Library and the Naper Boulevard Library, completed in 2015. The 2018 renovation focused on replacing finishes with ones suited to the heavy use this library experiences, and reimagining the entire lower level. Here, the remodeled children's play area and feature wall anchor the youth services space, while a new teen area, new computer area, additional seating areas, and a new accessible entrance round out the new and improved benefits for Naperville's community.

The Illinois Library Association is the voice for Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. It provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois and for the library community in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all. It is the eighth oldest library association in the world and the third largest state association in the United States, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. Its 3,000 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

The Illinois Library Association has five full-time staff members. It is governed by a sixteen-member executive board, made up of elected officers. The association employs the services of Blaida and Associates for legislative advocacy. ILA is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization.

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See ILA calendar for submission deadlines for the *ILA Reporter*. Copy should be submitted by email to ila@ila.org. You are encouraged to include press-ready digital photos (300 p.p.i.) and graphics with your articles, which will be included on a space-available basis.

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Library Buildings

2018

We received unprecedented response to our calls for submissions for this annual architecture feature this time! Sixteen libraries of all sizes—mostly public libraries but also one school and one academic library—across the state in communities from small to medium to large, completed building projects in 2018. Projects ranged in scope and budget from very small interior renovations that did not require an architect, to completely new buildings, and everything in between; we're pleased to showcase the array here.

Algonquin Area Library District



Architect: Dewberry

Type of project: Expansion and renovation

Total cost: \$6.2 million

Service population: 41,000

Library director: Sara Murray

What people are saying:

"I'm completely amazed by the transformation! I look around at all the open space and you've utilized it beautifully. You took something good and made it amazing."

"We are loving the expansion! We are so blessed to have an amazing library within reach. Thank you for all you do!"

"Congrats Algonquin Area Public Library! It's a beautiful space and we are thankful for it."

"Congratulations! What a spectacular space!"



Bethalto Public Library District



Architect: Clark Design

Type of project: Renovation/expansion

Total cost: \$194,200

Service population: 15,828

Library director: Mary Brewster

What people are saying:

"It is very elegant and relaxing. The kids' space seems safer. They can be noisier and not bother anyone. I want to bring my granddaughter."

"It looks super jive."

"Fantastic job on the remodel! We love the kids' section! Thrilled to have such a great place to spend time in the coming years."



Elmhurst Public Library



Architect: product architecture + design

Type of project: Renovation

Total cost: \$1,400,000

Service population: 41,000

Library director: Mary Beth Harper

What people are saying:

"We absolutely love the new theme. Please pass along our sincere thanks to whoever is responsible for making our little girl very happy. You all have done a wonderful job and we are very appreciative for all your efforts!"

"It's been very busy! The books are always all over the floor, which is great because you know people are poring through them."



Fox River Grove Memorial Library



Architect: Wold Architects and Engineers

Type of project: Renovation

Total cost: \$375,000

Service population: 4,200

Library director: Nicole Steeves

What people are saying:

“It is encouraging to see the investment into improving a pillar of our community. One of my favorite places in town! Well done FRGML.”

“What a gem of a community resource we have in our newly renovated library! Whether you are in need of using current technology, finding a great book, learning a new skill, exploring wonderful treasures in the youth services area or perhaps just needing a cozy spot to relax by a fireplace, our wonderful library has it all. The physical space has always been inviting, but it’s even more so now with the fresh updates. Our library embodies the unique spirit of our small town while offering lots of excellent resources!”

"I love that our small town has such a wonderful library for all community members to enjoy. The beautiful new space was created to welcome all ages and make all feel comfortable. And, because of our responsible library board, the taxpayers were not asked to burden any cost. A true win-win for everyone."

"The Fox River Grove Library revitalization draws our community together in a space that serves us better and brings us to the library to read, learn, and celebrate."



Glen Ellyn Public Library



Architect: product architecture + design

Type of project: Renovation

Total cost: \$1,800,000

Service population: 27,450

Library director: Dawn Bussey

What people are saying:

"I love the lobby renovations! Great choice in picking the carpet since the area will be very high traffic."

"A new drive-up window—now that's service!"



Itasca Library



Architect: product architecture + design

Type of project: Renovation

Total cost: \$808,730

Service population: 8,649

Library director: Tuki Sathaye

What people are saying:

"I love the new openness of the library and it was a fantastic idea to close the upstairs section and move the coffee up there. "

"I really like the way that the kids' section is organized now and my grandson is enjoying the new items in the play area."

"Great idea to move the computers downstairs. It's much easier to get help now."



Litchfield Public Library District



Architect: Evan Lloyd Associates

Type of project: New building

Total cost: \$1.65 million

Service population: 8,962

Library director: Sara Zumwalt

What people are saying:

“The new facility is bright, clean, and very welcoming.”

“Amazing new library with room for everyone!”

“Such an awesome, cool space! My kids love it here and so do I.”



Morton Public Library



Architect: Dewberry

Type of project: Renovation

Total cost: \$347,859

Service population: 16,630

Library director: Alissa Williams

What people are saying:

"We love all the fun, bright colors in the children's area."

"The refreshed library feels so much more spacious."

"I love the new arrangement for the new books. They are so much easier to see."



Mount Prospect Public Library



Architect: Meyer, Scherer,
& Rockcastle Ltd.

Type of project: Renovation

Total cost: \$500,000

Service population: 53,930

Library director: Marilyn Genter

What people are saying:

"It's very open and bright. Clean."

"Modern and technological!"

"I like picking up my own holds, it's quick and easy, but I still like chatting with staff."



Naperville Public Library



Architect: Williams Architects

Type of project: Renovation

Total cost: \$2,747,000

Service population: 147,682

Library director: Julie Rothenfluh

What people are saying:

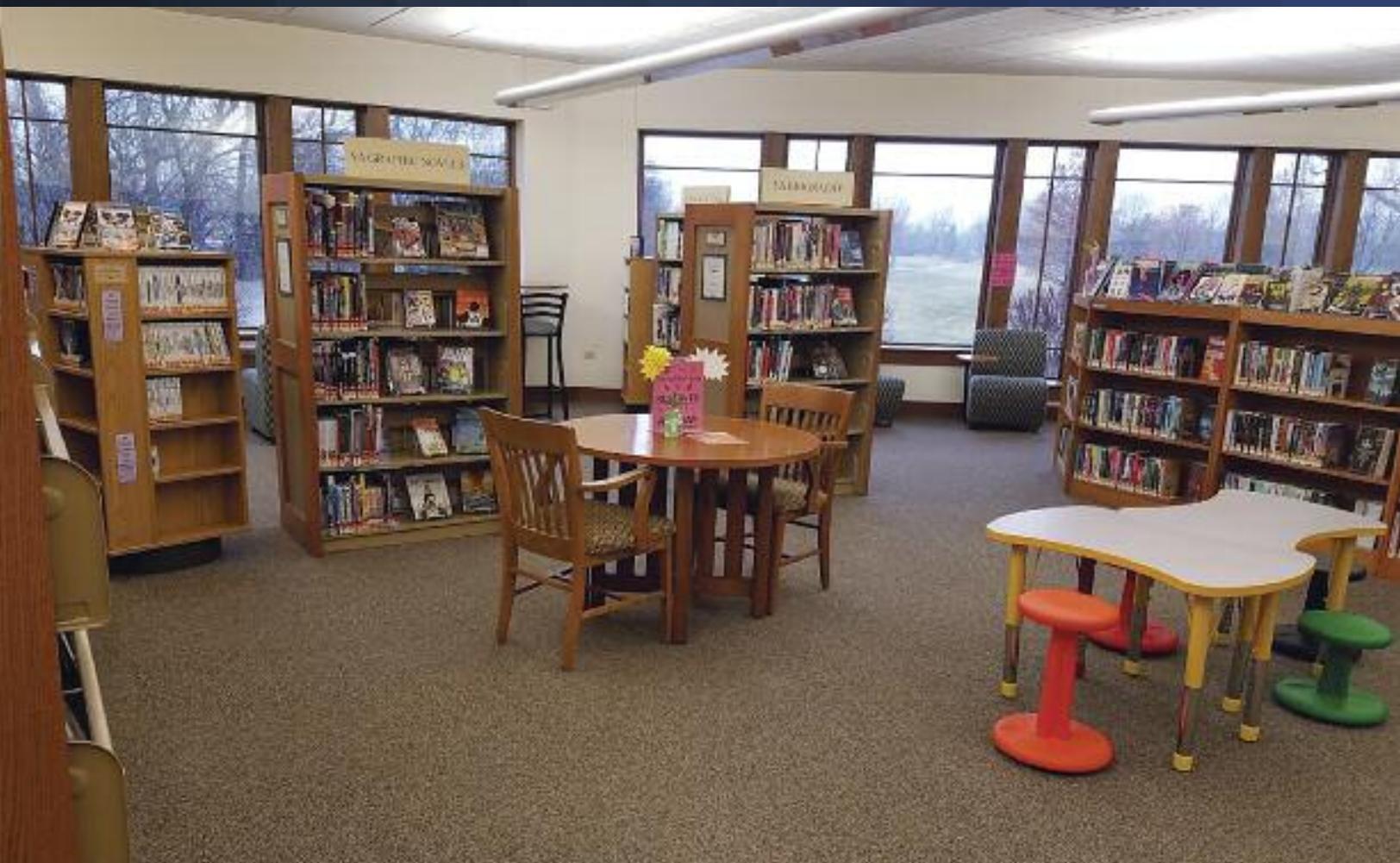
"I love the reading nooks. You did a great job repurposing the space. It looks inviting!"

"This is probably one of the best libraries that I've come across in recent times. The interior design is very modern."

"A community gem! This newly remodeled library has 13 conference rooms, a game area with comfortable chairs, sound studio, a computer station on both levels, a designated children's play area, a teen space, silent rooms, and lots of comfortable seating."



North Riverside Public Library



Architect: N/A

Type of project: Renovation

Total cost: \$26,726

Service population: 6,276

Library director: Natalie Starosta

What people are saying:

“Did you add on? This is so much more spacious than it was!”

“We’ve never had so many areas to work and such an amazing view.”

“When did you get that fireplace? I didn’t know that you had this view!”



Northbrook Public Library



Architect: product architecture + design

Type of project: Renovation

Total cost: \$420,625

Service population: 33,400

Library director: Kate Hall

What people are saying:

“The Collaboratory is AMAZING! It is a source of pride for the library and the entire Northbrook community. I want to compliment your staff for their amazing attitude and willingness to help. You can tell they love what they do and it shows. Keep up the good work!”

“I am so impressed with the Collaboratory. It is an amazing opportunity to educate people about STEAM. I wish this was around when I was growing up!”



Roselle Public Library District



Architect: Dewberry

Type of project: Renovation

Total cost: \$158,414

Service population: 22,791

Library director: Samantha Millsap

What people are saying:

"The recent renovations, along with other recent changes, have transformed the library from feeling like a small-town library to one that you are proud of and happy to go to."

"It's a lot brighter up here! I feel like this is a lot safer for my little ones."

"I love this natural light. It feels a lot more welcoming in here."



University of Illinois Springfield Norris L. Brookens Library



Architect: FWAI Architects, Inc.

Type of project: Renovation

Total cost: \$521,000

Service population: 4,956 students plus 863 faculty and staff

Library director: Pattie Piotrowski

What people are saying:

"I really love the new space. The renovation has made the space so bright and open, and I can see the whole room."

"I didn't know you had this furniture or so much space. Moving the book stacks to another floor has certainly created more work space."

"The space by Popular Books is like my living room. I can be comfortable there."



West Leyden High School, District #212, Northlake



Architect: SPM Architects, Inc.

Type of project: Addition

Total cost: \$4,605,000

Service population: 1575 students in grades 9–12
and 156 faculty

Library director: Janine M. Asmus

What people are saying:

“The library is full of natural light and gives the students a chance to read and learn with a stunning view of the building's courtyard and the natural elements that surround us.”

“This space is so much more than a traditional library of yesteryear. With a modern maker space available to support a growth mindset, reading and math centers, a quiet study room, a stage, and more, this is now the heart of the school.”

“The library is now a pride point for the students, staff, and community. Students want to congregate there and use all of the resources the library has to offer.”

“The modern furniture and lighting along with endless resources helps students feel like they are on a college campus which, in turn, will help propel them into their futures.”



Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District



Architect: product architecture + design

Type of project: Renovation/expansion

Total cost: \$2.1 million

Service population: 17,343

Library director: Rebecca Wolf

What people are saying:

“The renovation has just created this energy. It’s now a 21st-century library that doesn’t just lend books; it’s a community center.”

“It’s just totally spruced up, light & airy.”

“It’s so warm, open and welcoming.”

“Now having study rooms gives everyone in the community more options for spaces to work, meet, and study.”



Disaster Preparedness and Recovery in Libraries: Bracing for the Worst, Helping the Community Heal

Librarians of all types have come to learn that the unexpected is part of the job. But what if “the unexpected” takes the form not of a challenging reference question or a query for a hard-to-find book, but a fire extinguisher that explodes, a tornado or hurricane that devastates nearby communities (if not the library itself), or a fire that causes enough damage to require a long-term recovery project? These are all disasters to which libraries are vulnerable. While libraries might seem a haven of sorts from the chaos of the real world, they are hardly immune to catastrophes. Even though the initial aftermath of a disaster may seem overwhelming, libraries can mitigate the long-term effects through planning for the possibility of a catastrophe and seeking community assistance on the path to recovery. And, in some cases, libraries can help communities themselves heal.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Some library disasters might seem predictable and almost inevitable, depending on the library’s location and the condition of the building. But what about those freak accidents for which there is almost never a contingency plan? Such was the case for Resurrection University’s library, in which a fire extinguisher exploded through a series of mishaps, starting with a student leaning back in a chair against the fire extinguisher, and ending with the extinguisher falling to the floor and going off suddenly. In the instance of Kansas State University’s Hale Library, the fire resulted from roofing work that, ironically, had been undertaken to protect against water leaks from storms and ice melts. More information about this incident is available on the library’s blog at <http://blogs.k-state.edu/hale/>. In the case of the Litchfield Public Library, a toilet overflowed and flooded the children’s section, leaving water that was four inches deep.

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While libraries located in areas vulnerable to natural disasters, such as hurricanes and tornadoes, may have come to expect them, the timing, location, and extent of the damage can be hard to predict. The tornado that struck the Peoria area in November of 2013 was a complete surprise. Fortunately, neither the Washington District Library, nor the Fondulac District Library, experienced much more than minor damage, and, in the case of the Fondulac District Library, this was especially fortuitous, as the new library building had opened just two weeks earlier.

Probably the most effective way for a library to prepare is to create a disaster plan. While this will not cover all contingencies, it will at least give staff and visitors an idea of how to keep themselves safe, while at the same time protecting library materials to the greatest extent possible. The plan should specify which sections of the building are the most secure for sheltering. It should prioritize those parts of the collection the library should try to salvage, depending on the type of damage. Give staff members a copy to have at home, in case they need to come to the assistance of co-workers who are on-site. Also, give out “pocket-sized plans,” which staff can consult easily, especially during evacuation. Make sure to include phone numbers to call in the event of an emergency. Each library should ensure that the plan addresses any vulnerabilities specific to its location.

Staff should consistently practice for emergency scenarios so that, when the worst happens, their reactions are second nature. Rely on a representative or trainer within the organization, if one is available. In the case of a somewhat foreseeable disaster, such as a hurricane, remove any furniture or other items from particularly vulnerable areas. The San Juan Community Library in Puerto Rico did this for a breezeway, to prepare for the possibility of a hurricane. Make certain any precautions, such as sprinkler systems, are up-to-date and will not cause additional damage due to malfunctioning.

RESPONDING TO THE INITIAL INCIDENT

Due to the unpredictability of these events, the amount of damage and the effort that the library will have to devote to the recovery process can vary. With an incident even as seemingly minor as a fire extinguisher’s exploding, the damage can be

extensive. Literally every inch of the library and adjacent areas was coated with dust, and it filled the air for a week. While there was no permanent damage, the cleanup process was continuous.

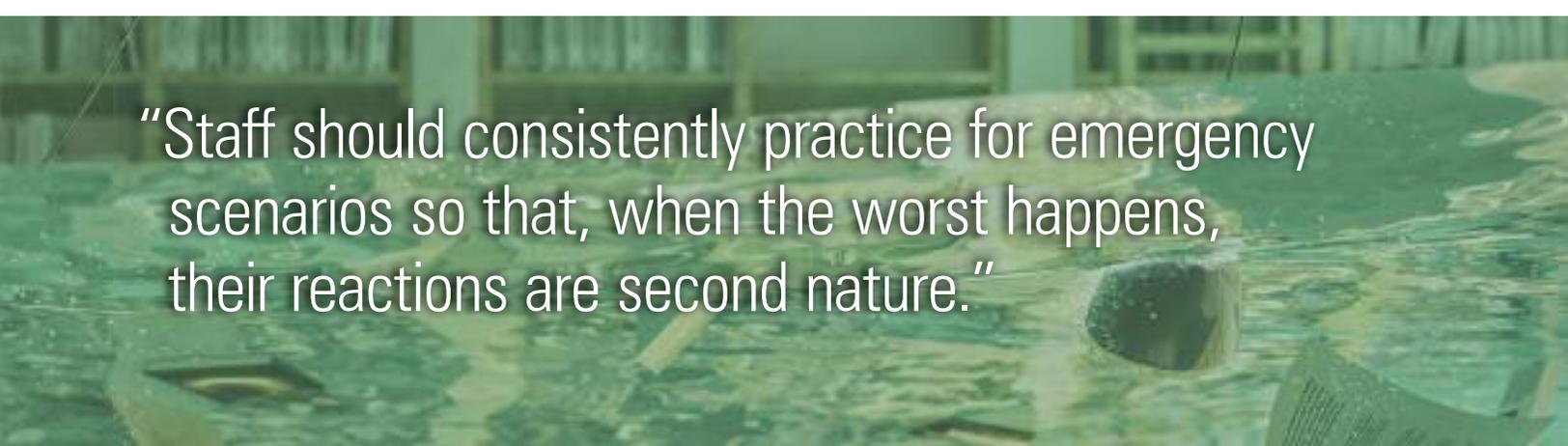
Although the first thought that might come to mind, when thinking of libraries and disasters, is damage to books and other materials, remember that library staff and users are also vulnerable, even if they are not in the immediate vicinity of the disaster. The first step, of course, is to evacuate users and staff and, if possible, account for everyone who was in the building at the time of the incident. The next step is making certain that no one enters or reenters the area of the disaster until emergency responders have arrived. Make sure first-aid kits and other emergency supplies are readily accessible. In the case of any airborne hazards, such as the dust from the fire extinguisher, being close to a hospital emergency room, with its supply of facemasks and air filters, was a stroke of good fortune.

The short-term impact can go beyond physical damage, however. In the case of a hurricane, for instance, cell phone services might go down, making it extremely difficult for library staff to communicate directly with first responders and neighbors. If entire communities or regions lose internet access, it will not be possible to convey news and updates on the recovery process via email or websites. Even if a library escapes the disaster unscathed, power outages and other problems might delay reopening.

MINIMIZING THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS

As overwhelming as the initial damage from the disaster might seem, it is vital for library staff not to panic, as even measures taken after-the-fact can mitigate, at least to a degree, the long-term impact. Start the cleanup process as soon as it is safe, to prevent secondary damage from water, mold, and other hazards. Determine which materials are a total loss, and dispose of those. If necessary, move salvageable items to a secure location nearby, such as a departmental or branch library.

If the library has a large number of staff members who are volunteers, they can be a valuable resource should regular staff be unavailable or overwhelmed. This can be especially true of



“Staff should consistently practice for emergency scenarios so that, when the worst happens, their reactions are second nature.”

a nonprofit, community-based library, such as the San Juan Community Library. After Hurricane Maria struck in 2017, volunteers helped remove books that were blocking an entrance, and then, once they had regained access to the building, pushed out standing water. A nearby church provided additional helpers. The Carbondale Public Library was in a similar situation when vandals almost destroyed its Japanese garden. The garden had already been maintained by the Evergreen Garden Club, so volunteers were readily available to help with replanting and other recovery activities. For public libraries, bringing in city services can help, as the Fondulac District Library did with a street sweeper that cleaned up the parking lot following the tornado.

The building recovery is paramount, but so is restoring library services as much as possible in the interim. The San Juan Community Library already had a virtual library open 24/7, so this was able to take over many services normally provided by the physical location. Access can still be a challenge, however, if residents lose internet connections or cell phone coverage. Hale Library has opened a service desk in the Kansas State University student union that offers information and reference services, along with access to reserves and interlibrary loan. To restore other services, such as study spaces, Hale Library has worked with the university's information-technology department and opened study centers around campus while providing an interactive map of campus to show students where the centers are located.

HELPING THE COMMUNITY RECOVER

Even if the library survives the disaster relatively unscathed, it can still play a crucial role in helping the community, including people who may not use the library, recover. In the case of the Washington District Library, it worked with the Morton Library and other volunteers to digitize photos discovered in the aftermath of the tornado, then posting the images to the library's website so that people could claim the photos. The Fondulac District Library undertook a similar endeavor, offering digital restoration of photos and other damaged materials, including providing the images free of charge on a flash drive. The flash drives came from donors or volunteers.

Simply being open, and serving as a place with reliable internet access and a climate-controlled environment, can help members of the community who are trying to get back onto their feet. If possible, link to emergency recovery information, including national organizations' pages, on the library's computers. Misinformation can be rife in the aftermath of a community-wide disaster. Provide space for people to meet, and, if the library has

a collection of games or toys, make these readily available so that community members have an opportunity to relax. If the recovery process requires more than what the library and the community can provide, contacting national organizations, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Red Cross, can bring in additional resources. Ideally, the financial impact of a disaster is mitigated if the library has adequate insurance in place (please see the sidebar "Q&A with the Libraries of Illinois Risk Agency" on p.43). Holding a fund-raiser, such as a GoFundMe campaign, can draw additional financial support.

Regardless of the type of damage, the library should keep its patrons up-to-date on the recovery efforts, including a timetable of when the library itself expects to reopen, and which services will be available in the meantime. A website that the library regularly updates is an option if most patrons and other stakeholders still have internet access. This is the approach that Hale Library has taken during the ongoing recovery from the fire, with its "Hale Library: The Next Chapter" blog.

PREPARING IN ADVANCE . . . OR IN HINDSIGHT

Even if a disaster is the result of a freak accident or a once-in-a-lifetime storm, library staff should never take it for granted that a similar disaster (including on a smaller or larger scale) will not happen again. In the case of fire extinguishers, for instance, make certain they are open and not placed near seating areas, and have security cameras facing those areas. Ensure that supplies, such as face masks, gloves, and wet-wipes, are close at hand. As far as preventing damage to library materials, a large room air purifier that can be activated after the incident is the best investment. If space permits, move books, computers, and other vulnerable items to areas of the library that are less likely to receive damage.

Regardless of the type of damage or the length of the recovery process, it can be tempting for libraries to focus on their weaknesses and second-guess themselves over the precautions they failed to take. But emphasizing strengths can be just as important, not just for repairing the library, but also for helping the broader community heal. Again, each situation is different, and the library should tailor its preparations and responses to the needs and resources of the community it serves. This may force the library to stretch the boundaries of its mission and seek resources beyond those normally available, but, in the end, the library and the community can strengthen their bonds and become better prepared for any future disasters.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

American Red Cross

<https://www.redcross.org>

Department of Homeland Security

<https://www.dhs.gov>

Disaster Information Management Research Center

<https://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov>

Federal Emergency Management Agency

<https://www.fema.gov>

National Disaster Preparedness Month

<https://www.ready.gov/september>

Finding Common Ground: Collaborative Training for the Cultural Heritage and Emergency Response Communities,

developed by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
<https://guides.mblc.state.ma.us/finding-common-ground>

ILA



HIGHLIGHTS

- Increased Coverage and Limits
- More Control
- Decreased Cost
- Return on Surplus
- Safety and Training Programs
- Fully Transparent

MEMBER TESTIMONIAL

“Because of my association with LIRA, I am a more sophisticated professional and steward for the library and community. I’ve learned more than I had in almost 30 years working in libraries about safeguarding community assets as a direct result of my involvement with LIRA. Hopefully, additional Illinois libraries will come to understand LIRA is more than insurance; it’s a community pulling for each other, contributing to a greater good, and ensuring all are stronger, safer, smarter, and better as a result.”

– Tina Hubert, Six Mile Public Library

For additional information visit www.lirapool.com

Q&A with the Libraries of Illinois Risk Agency

LIRA serves its Illinois member libraries through a unified cooperative that offers relevant value-added services; proven leadership and management; and exceptional insurance providers who offer comprehensive, fiscally responsible property, casualty, and workers compensation insurance. This collaborative pool began in 2013 with twenty-five members and has since grown to more than fifty across the state. Here, the LIRA experts share some thoughts about how insurance can help mitigate the financial impact of a disaster. Learn more at www.lirapool.com.

Q: Why should libraries purchase insurance coverage for disasters? Is such coverage separate from other types of insurance, or is it part of a larger package?

A: Insurance is purchased to protect your library from the financial hardship a loss may cause. Most often, natural disasters cannot be predicted and can have the potential to cause quite severe damage. A natural disaster such as a storm with strong winds, flooding, or hail can cause a significant amount of property damage. A typical property policy will include coverage from damage caused by natural disasters such as storms, fires, tornados, and cold weather property losses up to the amount insured after your deductible. Coverage for natural disasters such as a flood or earthquake is not included in a standard property policy. In order to have coverage from a loss associated with a flood or earthquake, you must be sure you request the coverage from your current broker or carrier. It is easy to think these things won't happen to you . . . you are not in a flood zone or haven't seen flooding in your community in years. However, a flood doesn't always necessarily mean a stream of rushing water coming down the street in to your library. It will protect your library against damage caused by heavy or prolonged rains, storm surges, or blocked storm drains. Additionally, Illinois has exposure to earthquakes because of the New Madrid Fault line. Over the last several years, it has been known to cause moderate shaking.

Q: Does the size and type of the library (public, school, academic, etc.) affect what kind of disaster insurance a library should buy? Does the insurance normally cover all types of disasters, or just specific ones?

A: Your insurance property limits will be based on the library's property and contents values. For flood and earthquake we recommend obtaining at least \$1,000,000 in limits for each. However, the limits may increase depending on the amount of values and size of the library. Natural disasters that are not included in a standard property policy are flood, earthquake, tsunami, and hurricanes.

Q: If the worst happens, what steps does a library need to take to ensure that as much funding as possible is available for the recovery process? What role does an insurance adjuster play in this?

A: If the library has proper insurance in place, they would only be responsible for their deductible. Anything above the deductible will be covered by the insurance carrier until its limits are exhausted. It is worth noting, in a traditional stand-alone placement, that flood and earthquake deductibles can be much higher than your property deductible. Having a reliable and knowledgeable adjuster is key when a disaster occurs. He or she can help mitigate the loss from the get-go and therefore drive down the total cost of the claim as well. For instance, if a pipe bursts, the adjuster can assist with having a company immediately come out to mitigate the damage and quickly dry out floors/walls to avoid mold or warping.

Q: If a library suffers a disaster and does not have appropriate insurance coverage, what alternatives are available for funding the recovery process?

A: When a loss occurs and an entity does not have appropriate coverage they can seek help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Q: What services does the Libraries of Illinois Risk Agency offer that libraries recovering from a disaster could find especially useful? Are there any other insurance groups that can provide disaster coverage to Illinois libraries?

A: LIRA has a third-party administrator (TPA) who is able to step in when disaster strikes. The adjusters from LIRA's TPA have seen many natural disaster losses and are able to determine the appropriate next steps. The TPA handles each claim from start to finish on behalf of the library. She or he is able to step in and help mitigate the loss and work on the member's behalf to find reliable companies to make repairs. Because TPAs have expertise in this area and are able to act quickly and thoroughly, they often drive down the total cost of the claim as well. Traditional insurance companies will have adjusters who act on behalf of the carrier and the client as well. However, they do not typically handle a claim from start to finish for their client. They may only advise on estimate repair costs and preferred vendors.

Additional resources:

www.ready.gov/business
www.ready.gov/planning

Winning the ILA Resources and Technical Services Forum Scholarship

I was very grateful to the Resources and Technical Services Forum for giving me the opportunity through their scholarship to attend the Illinois Library Association's Annual Conference in Peoria this year. Over the course of three days I was exposed to an inspiring range of perspectives on library service that truly left me feeling energized and ready to approach my job duties at home with new enthusiasm.

My current job responsibilities at the Champaign Public Library are primarily in technical services, but I also work four hours each week on my library's information desk and am involved in promoting readers' advisory services to our customers. I was happy to see that the diverse variety of programs offered at the conference would allow me to attend programs related to all of my job duties. I was especially pleased that there were so many technical services-focused sessions on the conference schedule, as that isn't always the case! I was able to benefit from hearing more experienced catalogers present on "Wrangling AV with RDA," which really got into the nitty gritty of how each cataloging field has been affected by our shift to RDA standards. My notes from that particular session might be fairly unintelligible to non-catalogers, but the conference also had a valuable session encouraging everyone to avoid thinking of technical services as its own impenetrable area completely separate from other departments: Thursday morning's "Technical Services ARE Public Services: Providing Excellent Customer Services through Cataloging and Technical Services Projects." From adding numbers to the spine labels of books in series to going the extra mile to ensure that all books on a given topic are near each other on the shelf, the presenters made a strong case that Technical Services staff can both listen to and proactively address the needs of other staff in their library.

We are currently working on revitalizing and expanding our Readers' Advisory services at Champaign, and I therefore attended a number of RA-focused sessions to see what other libraries are doing to get ideas. One of these was "What They Want Where They Want It: Passive Advisory for Books, Movies & More" on Tuesday afternoon. Since most library customers don't interact directly with staff to seek out recommendations during their actual visits to the library, these presenters offered ideas about how to make staff picks more easily accessible. An idea I found especially intriguing in this panel was to include all staff across all departments when collecting staff recommendations, thus encompassing a much greater range of reading/viewing/listening tastes than if you only pull from one or two departments. The presenters also advocated allowing staff to submit reviews in a variety of ways rather than insisting that everyone type something up, thereby hopefully including even those who aren't confident writers. I love this idea of getting the whole staff excited about recommending their favorite titles to customers. A panel I attended on Wednesday afternoon, "Readers' Advisory: Turning Ideas into Action," hit on these ideas again and introduced the idea of rewarding staff for being "caught" booktalking and offering training and encouragement to all staff to feel more confident when asked for recommendations. I'm excited to explore this at our library and to think of ways to involve a much greater number of staff in Readers' Advisory efforts in the future.



“In our current cultural climate it’s become very clear that the question of how to embrace and promote diversity is one of the most important questions facing libraries today.”

In our current cultural climate it’s become very clear that the question of how to embrace and promote diversity is one of the most important questions facing libraries today, and I was glad to see it come up repeatedly over the course of the conference. Opening speaker Gene Luen Yang introduced conference-goers to his “Reading without Walls” challenge, which encourages readers to pick up books that will serve as windows into new perspectives and lived experiences. He also talked about the importance of books as mirrors for those who don’t often see their own identity represented in popular media. One of the most exciting aspects of the conference for me this year was the opportunity to hear directly from diverse populations on how libraries can better serve their needs. On Wednesday morning I attended a fascinating presentation titled “Cultivating a Neurodiverse Workforce: Why Your Staff Should Include Employees on the Autism Spectrum.” I appreciated the takeaway messages that neurodiversity is an important (and too often overlooked) area of diversity and that each individual on the autism spectrum should be approached as exactly that—an individual—rather than drawing conclusions about all people with autism based on experiences with one person. The next morning I entered a packed room for “Life through a Transgender Lens,” which featured several transgender individuals speaking about their experiences and how they would like to be treated when they enter a space like a library. I was very appreciative of the speakers’ willingness to make themselves vulnerable by openly sharing their experiences with such a large group.

Throughout my time at the conference I was impressed by the enthusiasm and energy I saw all around me from peers taking a break from the day-to-day concerns of their libraries to spend some time thinking about the future and imagining new possibilities for their spaces and communities. The conference was a great opportunity to meet colleagues from all around the state and to benefit from their knowledge and expertise, and I returned to my library with many new ideas to think about applying to our collections and outreach. Again, I am deeply thankful to the RTSF for the scholarship that allowed me to come to Peoria. **ILA**

About the Resources and Technical Services Forum Scholarship

The ILA Resources and Technical Services Forum has established a scholarship to offset registration, travel, and lodging for one technical services staff member who would not otherwise be able to attend the ILA Annual Conference. For more information or to apply, please visit www.ila.org/about/awards-and-scholarships.

Reaching At-Risk Youths One Book at a Time

Reading and talking about books can be life altering. Staff at Vernon Area Public Library in suburban Chicago and Glen Carbon Centennial Library in southwestern Illinois can each attest to the power of the written word: they've seen its transformational capacity firsthand in the book discussion programs they conduct at the juvenile detention centers in their districts, which do not have funds to provide reading materials. Both libraries were recipients of grants from the American Library Association's Great Stories Club, a reading and discussion program that gives underserved youth the opportunity to read, reflect, and share ideas on topics that resonate with them. ALA's Great Stories Club provides grant recipients with reading lists, books to keep, discussion questions, and programming tips.

"READ FOR LIFE" BOOK DISCUSSIONS

On an October morning in 2016, staff and administrators from the Lake County Hulse Juvenile Detention Center joined ten teenage boys for the 100th meeting of the Read for Life book discussion at Vernon Area Public Library in Lincolnshire, Illinois. In attendance were the boys' teacher, Bob Pakaski, librarians Gina Sheade and Pam Minarik, and special guests that included Hulse managers and therapists, library director Cindy Fuerst, and other library administrators.

As the discussion began, Sheade and Minarik demonstrated an easy rapport with the students. "We feel privileged to share our love of books and reading . . . and to hear them share their insights, feelings, and experiences," said Sheade. The young men also view the book group as a privilege. During the discussion of *Prisoner B-3087*, a Holocaust novel by Alan Gratz, they paid close attention to the talk around the table, responding to questions, asking questions, and contributing observations.

The young men are part of FACE-IT (Family and Community Engaged in Treatment), a program at the Hulse residential center where probationers ages 14 through 17 typically stay six to nine months. FACE-IT strives to "enable delinquent youths to function productively within society." To Sheade and Minarik, the delinquent youths are just teens. "We don't know how they landed where they are. Our aim is to change how these intelligent boys look at the world," said Minarik.

The Read for Life book discussions began in June 2006 after Sheade and Minarik were awarded a grant from the American Library Association's Great Stories Club. Funded by Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network, the Great Stories Club was designed to reach underserved library populations through books. Sheade and Minarik envisioned a discussion group that would "inspire teens who face difficult situations to take control of their lives by embracing the power of reading as a tool for self-exploration and a meaningful way to connect with the wider world."

During the summer of 2006 the Read for Life group met monthly at the detention center. The Great Stories Club grant provided all participants with copies of three books—*Stuck in Neutral* by Terry Trueman, *The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson, and *Born Blue* by Han Nolan. Ten FACE-IT students received the books to read and keep. The librarians developed discussion questions and selected small treats related to each book's themes for the participants to enjoy.

When the pilot program ended, Lake County Circuit Court officials concluded it had proved that "the motivation to read can significantly contribute to moral, spiritual, and intellectual development." Court and library administrators agreed that the project should continue. "You have single-handedly motivated a group of youngsters to read and to listen. All the boys want to do is to talk to you about books. That's some magic," wrote FACE-IT teacher Jack Cantor to Minarik.

[continued on page 48]



Read for Life is now in its thirteenth year, having reached hundreds of at-risk youths through monthly book discussions supported by grants, private donations, and library funding. Books are selected in consultation with the FACE-IT teacher, zeroing in on literature that interests teens and includes character development, role models, and problem solving. Minarik has spearheaded the program since Sheade's retirement in 2016 and a new adult services librarian, Laura Cohen, joined as a discussion leader.

PAIRING BOOK DISCUSSIONS WITH THERAPY DOGS

Another recipient of an ALA Great Stories Club grant is Glen Carbon Centennial Library in Glen Carbon, Illinois. In 2009 the library began holding book discussions at the Madison County Juvenile Detention Center in nearby Edwardsville. The grant money provided funding to purchase books and for the library to lead book discussions for two detention center classrooms of boys and girls ages 10 to 18. Book selections comply with the Great Stories Club requirement that reading material focus on "the art of change: creation, growth, and transformation."

In 2016 Glen Carbon's youth services director, Magi Henderson, met with detention center staff and administrators to suggest that they add therapy dogs to the book discussions. Since studies have shown that therapy animals reduce stress and facilitate social connections she thought they would be a good fit with the participants. Detention center administrators were receptive to the idea and worked with Henderson to identify any pet allergies or fears of dogs among the participants.

Henderson coordinated with Got Your Six Support Dogs, a nonprofit organization in Collinsville, Illinois, that also places trained service animals with veterans and first responders suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Five trained therapy dogs, four of them rescued from shelters, attended a fall 2016 discussion at the juvenile detention center.

When the discussion of Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* got under way, Henderson noted how the students relaxed and grew more receptive. "They became so focused on the animals that they were able to forget about themselves," said Henderson. The discussion shifted from a Q&A to a sharing of experiences and thoughts. Henderson gained new insights into the students' worlds, which she deemed well worth being occasionally upstaged by five friendly dogs.

The program was such a success that the Got Your Six Support Dogs organization continues to take therapy dogs to the Madison County Juvenile Detention Center for the book discussions. The animals also visit one or two Sundays each month to teach students about dog care and training.

Since 2009 Henderson has led about twenty-five book discussions at the detention center, with therapy dogs accompanying the last eight sessions. The program has given young people a space to discuss their thoughts and know that they're heard. The outreach program is supported by grants, private donations, and minimal funding from Glen Carbon Centennial Library Junior Friends group to provide snacks for participants.

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BEST PRACTICES

After thirteen years of partnering with the Hulse Juvenile Detention Center, Vernon Area librarian Pam Minarik offers tips for librarians seeking to reach students housed at detention centers in their districts.

Tip 1: Begin by setting up an appointment with a member or members of the facility’s educational services staff—a superintendent or lead teacher—to ask key questions:

- What are the ages and genders of youths at the facility?
- How many youths are usually housed there?
- How many classrooms does the facility have?
- Does the center have an on-site library or another way to provide students with reading materials?
- Do any students have off-campus privileges that would allow them to have supervised visits to the library?
- What initiatives and programs are used by staff to encourage students to read?
- Does the center work with other community partners to offer programs to the youths?

Tip 2: From the outset, it is imperative to convey enthusiasm. Suggest ideas about how the library can partner with the detention center to improve student access to reading materials and resources. Programs might include:

- Small group discussions of novels, held at the library or detention center
- In-classroom short story discussions for youths who cannot leave the facility
- Librarian-presented, in-classroom book talks, ideally with copies of recommended titles
- Lending materials to teachers for classroom use

Tip 3: Keep logistics in mind:

- Library staff may need to undergo background checks to enter the facility
- Student access to computer and internet resources may be restricted
- Reading and discussion materials may need to be approved by detention center staff
- Participants may rotate frequently depending on the length of their incarceration

BEYOND BOOK DISCUSSIONS

There are many ways that libraries can make a positive difference in the lives of detained youths, encouraging them to forge a new way forward and become engaged community members. Glen Carbon and Vernon Area libraries have extended outreach to detention center youths to include:

- Donating withdrawn library books to the facility, which requires minimal staff time and immediately increases student access to reading materials and resources
- Providing materials for and leading STEM activities at the detention center
- Computer-based job training for older teens, led by a local community college’s work force development program and held at the library
- Computer and technology training sessions, held at the library, for detention center teachers and staff

One incarcerated youth expressed thanks for library-donated books: “The books that we have received are very helpful. The books also answer some of the questions we have about life. Having more books would be better, because almost all the books that are in our possession have been read cover to cover. We greatly appreciate the fact that we have these books to occupy our time. Reading these books has changed the way some of us think.”

As teacher Jack Cantor, from the Hulse Detention Center, wrote to Vernon Area Library, “Reading is life and without it life is indecipherable. Thank you for supporting what we may become—citizens capable of problem solving and making the most positive choices.”

For more information on the ALA Great Stories Club grants, visit <https://apply.ala.org/greatstories>. 

The Room Where It It Happens: Planning a “Hamiltunes: An American Sing-Along” Program for Libraries

On a Saturday night last December, the audience at Homewood Public Library was enlivened by an intergenerational group of patrons performing on stage. By the third song, the audience clapped and yelled as they enthusiastically heard the first line: “I am not throwing away my shot!” It took only a limited amount of encouragement from the emcee for the audience to spell out the name of the main character: A-L-E-X-A-N-D-E-R. That night, the revolution was in full swing as performers and audience members interacted for the library’s third “Hamiltunes: An American Sing-Along” program.

REWIND

“Hamiltunes” is a sing-along event that originated in Los Angeles in late 2015 by Hamiltunes LA, a nonprofit that began as a group of friends who had started singing songs from the Broadway musical *Hamilton* at public gatherings. In June 2017, Homewood Public Library’s youth programming librarian Kelly Campos was on Twitter when *Hamilton* show creator Lin-Manuel Miranda tweeted a link to a press release on BroadwayWorld.com.

It mentioned the release of *The Hamilton Instrumentals* as well as the show producers’ authorization of a free sing-along program through Hamiltunes LA. Campos emailed the group immediately to sign up. A couple of months later, Hamiltunes LA approved the one-year licensing agreement. Homewood then paid for music licensing through ASCAP and purchased the instrumental tracks. The library set a December 2017 date for its first licensed event.

Campos and Ashley Sander, the library’s event coordinator, collaborated on ways to make their program a celebration of both the show and the talent in the community. Because the “Hamiltunes” agreement was written for individuals and not libraries, they researched how Hamiltunes LA first started and how other libraries had done *Hamilton*-related events before the press release. While there are different ways to do the program such as regular karaoke and curated performances, they decided to run the event as a sing-along with a participant sign-up lottery that would be open to anyone ages eight and older. Doing it that way allowed them to reach a wider audience with varying ages and backgrounds. “When people can unite around a fandom, they immediately have common ground,” said Campos.

[continued on page 52]



RISE UP

The library opened audience registration two months ahead of each sing-along. An additional link on the registration page led to a Google Form for performer sign-up. Children under the age of 13 needed parental permission to participate. Beginning with the second “Hamiltunes,” participants signed up for an unlimited amount of parts within as many songs as they wanted, as opposed to just three for the whole show. An additional note stated that performers were required to sing the ensemble parts from backstage.

Although the form included a question about the confidence level of a participant’s talent, Campos and Sander were more focused on ensuring that there would be various ages performing at the same time. The age spread during all three events was between 8 and 65. Campos notified participants about two weeks in advance of their songs and parts. Participants usually did not know nor met each other until the night of each sing-along. One participant came from middle Indiana and drove two hours to perform at the library for the original event.

“[‘Hamiltunes’] allows folks who may not have a chance to perform on stage a place to show off their skills as well as create space for folks to overcome fears of singing in front of others,” stated Hamiltunes LA cabinet member Jack Kelly in an email interview.

If someone received a part that they realized they were not comfortable with, they contacted Campos so she could reassign it. She mentioned how a nine-year-old received two parts and songs in the first event but decided to drop one. The part he kept was Hercules Mulligan’s rap in “Yorktown.”

“He was really nervous about dropping the f-bomb. His parents were like, ‘It’s okay, it’s for the show. You don’t have to do it, but it’s okay,’” Campos explained. Meanwhile, the teenagers rooted for him backstage and gave words of encouragement. “When he said it, everybody went ‘Ahhhhh!’ It was the most amazing thing. These are kids who would never see each other. Yet, they had this really great moment of togetherness around a show that they all love.”

THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENED

Campos and Sander originally thought the first “Hamiltunes” was going to be inside the library’s 68-capacity meeting room. They had to reconfigure their plans once the registration count surpassed it and reached 130, including 20 participants. They decided to stage that and subsequent sing-alongs in the adult services department, just outside of the meeting room. The room became a performer check-in and audience snack area. A section of the youth services area served as the backstage.

Four staff members, two teen volunteers, and one security monitor worked the program for all three runs. As the emcee, Campos made announcements, ran the music, held up audience participation signs, and fixed any onstage difficulties. A backstage manager kept performers on task, facilitated prop swapping, and reassigned absentee parts. Sander and a second staff member were co-house managers. They took care of audience check-in, gave out raffle tickets, replenished snacks, and managed offstage difficulties. The security monitor enforced the no-videotaping policy (per the licensing agreement). The teen volunteers set up and tore down the audience and snack areas. They also sang background vocals for some of the songs. For the third “Hamiltunes” in December 2018, two additional staff members helped the teen volunteers move shelves and set up seats.

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The stage included one stereo, two speakers, five microphones, five music stands, and five binders with the CD lyrics between the entrance of youth and adult services. Three additional song binders were located backstage next to the prop table.

For the first event, it took Homewood's team almost two hours to set up, with the biggest challenge at the time being how to smoothly run the sound system. Weeks in advance, Campos used Audacity, a free audio editing software, to rip both the instrumental and soundtracks and layer them. For each "Hamiltunes," the left speaker had the instrumental track on 100 percent volume, while the right speaker had 20 percent of the soundtrack's volume infused with 80 percent of the instrumentals' sound. She did this so performers heard their place in the songs. Campos also included fifteen seconds of silence between songs to give time for applause and character switching. Although there were syncing issues during that event, they were rectified in subsequent sing-alongs.



WHAT TIME IS IT?

The December 2018 program had a mixture of novice and advance performers with the majority of participants appearing to be under age 30. Additionally, there were smaller parts left open for audience members who wanted to participate onstage. Campos made a request for volunteers during each announcement before the first song. Three audience members signed up for the small parts and a couple of the ones left by absentees. Other performers took the remaining songs after the final call for audience volunteers.

Campos and Sander decided between the original and second events to include audience participation. At the December 2018 sing-along, Campos encouraged this by holding up signs with heavily repeated words and phrases that the audience could sing with the ensemble. The audience also sang along with the performers to songs that they knew by heart.

"We have gotten a lot of people who attended the program in the past who were not our regular patrons," Sander said. "They said, 'I didn't know libraries did things like this.' If it's gets them to come back to the library, then it's absolutely worthwhile."

The three-hour event included a fifteen-minute intermission to raffle off Hamilton-related swag such as *The Hamilton Mixtape CD* and *Hamilton: The Revolution*.

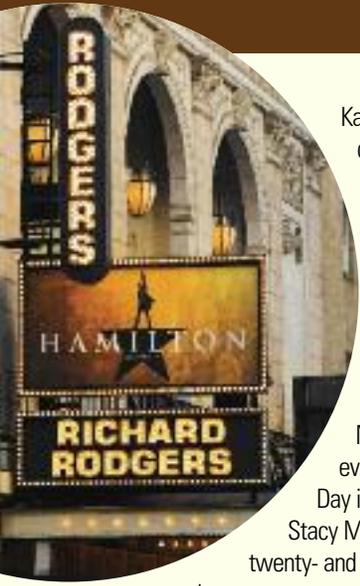
WHAT COMES NEXT

The December 2018 "Hamiltunes" was Homewood's final performance under Campos' licensing agreement with Hamiltunes LA. She and Sander believe that they may get another license down the road but for now would like to see what other libraries do with it. As part of a session at the ILA Annual Conference in October 2018 focusing on the iRead summer reading program, Campos presented the event as part of the committee's 2019 Summer Reading Program theme "It's Showtime at Your Library." An entry in the 2019 iREAD Resource Guide features more information about the licensing process and step-by-step advice about setting up an event. The Resource Guide and other iREAD materials are available for purchase at ireadprogram.org.

Campos, Sander, and Kelly agree that "Hamiltunes" is "the perfect library program" because it engages the community and includes history and the arts. "My advice would be to allow your community's passion to drive the sing-along, promote diversity and inclusion, and lean into the themes presented in the show," Kelly said.

Added Campos, "If nobody in your library is a fan of the show, do not attempt it. It only works if you have multiple staff members who love the show and want to get down and dirty with it because it's a lot of work. It's rewarding and fun. It gets people excited to come into the library." **ILA**

Tomorrow There'll Be More of Us: Hamiltunes Programs around the State



Karaoke inside a meeting room dimly lit by candles, a projector screen, and a summer evening's light. A free-flowing two-day event to help bring in the new year. A performance hosted by the local theatre association. These are the ways **Niles-Maine Public Library District, Oak Park Public Library, and Kankakee Public Library** brought "Hamiltunes" to their patrons.

Niles-Maine presented its first "Hamiltunes" event after hours the Friday after Independence Day in 2018. Adult and Outreach Services Assistant Stacy Moss-Paul, who does programming for twenty- and thirty-somethings, planned and marketed the event as costumes-optional karaoke. While one-fourth of the 50-member audience were within her target age group, the majority of patrons who volunteered to perform that evening were ages twelve through eighteen. The teens utilized the wireless mics by walking and singing up and down the aisle. Moss-Paul said it was one of the "most amazing" nights of her life.

"Many of these kids didn't know each other," Moss-Paul said. "They came together to make this night about having fun and engaging in history. Seeing the kids engage with each other and exchange numbers to make future plans, that was the most successful piece of it."

To create a colonial vibe, Moss-Paul dimmed the meeting room lights and placed candles in front of the projector screen. She also dressed as George Washington. A library staff member with past theatre experience served as the emcee. An intern worked on the technical aspects such as slide projection and music. Although Moss-Paul stated in the beginning of the program that the slides consisted of fifteen songs for anyone willing to sing them, participants sang those and others outside of the selection. The most requested tracks were "You'll Be Back" and "Non-Stop." In between performances, Moss-Paul asked trivia questions and had everyone sing "Happy Birthday" to a six-year-old audience member who also dressed as George Washington.

About six months earlier at Oak Park, Elementary School Services Librarian Genevieve Grove and Early Literacy Librarian Shelley Harris collaborated on a two-day, all-ages "Hamiltunes" sing-along in lieu of the children's department's annual New Year's celebrations. They knew third- and fourth-graders who were very interested in "Hamilton" and wanted to give them a kid-friendly atmosphere to perform. Each act took place during business hours on the last two days of 2017. Registration was not required; 80 patrons showed up on day one, almost half that on day two. Like Niles-Maine, anyone who wanted to sing in a mic did so and became song leaders.

For day one, Harris acted as house manager. She encouraged people to go onstage, gave information to patrons who came late, and directed people to the display and bibliography located in the back of the meeting room. The display included books about Hamilton, the time period, creative writing, and music theatre. For day two, Harris was both the house manager and emcee.

As emcee on day one, Grove (who also made the lyric slides) cued the music and the projected slides. She also managed the younger song leaders to ensure that they shared the mics as well as made sure there were additional mics on hand just in case others decided to become leaders mid-song.

"There was a girl up there singing 'Helpless' and she was by herself. Everybody else was singing along to it in the room. We knew we were getting to Hamilton's part." Grove explained. "Then this 25-year-old guy all of a sudden just grabbed a mic and was like 'yeah, I got this.' Everyone just went wild!"

Almost two weeks after Oak Park's program, the Kankakee Valley Theatre Association (KVTA) filled Kankakee Public Library's 240-capacity auditorium with people eager to participate in its ages 10 and up "Hamiltunes." KVTA Member and Past President Paula Sutter has partnered with the library for previous theatre events and thought the sing-along would be a good event to host there.

Sutter planned the after hours event, with assistance from KVTA Board Member Courtney Casteel, almost similar to the libraries. Like Homewood Public Library (see article), KVTA selected performers by lottery and did all the songs in one night. Like Niles-Maine and Oak Park, lyrics projected on screen. Like all three libraries, the majority of performers were 30 years old or younger. Unlike the libraries, 25 percent of the 50 performers had a theatre background. The remaining 75 percent had never been on stage until that night.

"['Hamiltunes'] helped introduce our theatre group to many new people," Sutter said. "As a result of that night, we have had several of the 'Hamiltunes' participants audition for our shows."

When asked about advice for future library programmers, both Moss-Paul and Grove suggested getting acquainted with hearing and reading the songs frequently during the planning stage. Adds Moss-Paul, "Talk to each other. Find out what things worked, what things didn't. Go see one for yourself. Understand how impactful [the show] is."

KVTA does not have another "Hamiltunes" in the works. Oak Park did a second sing-along early July 2018 but isn't planning a third one at this time. Niles-Maine plans to do its second "Hamiltunes" sometime this year.



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ILA Welcomes New Members

On behalf of the ILA community, Executive Board, and staff we would like to welcome our recent new members. We hope as a member of ILA you contribute, grow, and thrive within the library profession and the ILA community; and support ILA's continuing efforts to create and promote the highest quality library services for all people in Illinois.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

PrairieCat, Coal Valley

PERSONAL MEMBERS

Emma Andrews, McHenry Public Library District
Edie Elliot, Illinois Heartland Library System, Edwardsville
Kathleen Helsabeck, Quincy Public Library
Sara Johnson, Gail Borden Public Library District
Barbra Miller, Troy Community Consolidated School District 30C, Plainfield
William O'Hearn, Lincoln Library, Springfield
Jennifer Robertson, Carbondale Public Library
Brian Waalen, Oswego Public Library District
Leigh Anne Wilson, Carol Stream Public Library

STUDENT MEMBERS

Katy Jacob, Evanston
Sarah Zaharako, Berkeley, CA

TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Scott Parent, Eisenhower Public Library District, Harwood Heights



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ILA Candidates for 2019

The ILA Nominating Committee has announced the candidates for election in the spring of 2019.

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES

(three-year term beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022)

Charm Ruhnke, Peru Public Library

Veronica DeFazio, Plainfield Public Library District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(three-year term beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022)

A candidate from each pairing will be elected in accordance with the ILA bylaws as amended at the 1998 ILA Annual Conference; a total of four directors will be elected to serve three-year terms on the ILA Executive Board.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

Amber Creger, Schaumburg Township District Library

Stuart Griner, Chicago Public Library, Edgewater Branch

DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

Joseph Filapek, Aurora Public Library

Katrina Arnold, Broadview Public Library

DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

Megan Millen, Joliet Public Library

Su Reynolds, Lincolnwood Public Library

DIRECTOR AT LARGE:

Will O'Hearn, Lincoln Library, Springfield

Miguel Ruiz, Skokie Public Library

Any ILA member wishing to be added to the ballot by petition shall be added to the slate and placed in the paired candidate group that most clearly matches the affiliations of the petitioner as determined by the nominating committee. Petition candidates for vice president/president-elect will be added to the presidential slate as requested. The polls will open electronically April 1, 2019. In addition, paper ballots will be sent to persons requesting one. The return deadline is thirty days after the ballot is postmarked.

The electronic polls will close April 30.

Serving on the nominating committee are Melissa Gardner (chair), Betsy Adamowski, Veronica De Fazio, Gwen Harrison, Keisha Hester, Patrice Johnson, Amanda E. Standerfer, and Board Liaison Anne Slaughter.



Celebrate the accomplishments of your colleagues or yourself!

Nominations for the 2019 ILA Awards are NOW OPEN!

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If you have any questions about the ILA Awards, please contact the ILA office at (312) 644-1896 or ila@ila.org.

The deadline for all nominations is May 15, 2019



Illinois Library Association

Illinois Library Trustee Forum Workshops

ILA's Library Trustee Forum will host its annual workshops on March 9 and March 16, 2019. The workshops are designed to educate trustees on the ins-and-outs of their role and offer real-world solutions to issues affecting libraries. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a newbie, trustees at any level of their career will benefit from attending one of these workshops.



Amanda E. Standerfer

SPRINGFIELD

New to the trustee role and not sure where to start? Attend the Springfield Trustee Forum Workshop. Presenter Amanda E. Standerfer, Director of Development and Promotion for the Urbana Free Library, will teach participants how to succeed in their new roles, from the basics of deciding the mission and purpose of the library board and selecting a library director, to strategic planning, legal and ethical integrity, and becoming an advocate.

The workshop will be held on March 9, 2019, at the Illinois State Library in Springfield, IL. For more information, visit ila.org/trusteespringfield.



Gail Johnson

OAK BROOK

Learn how to create a successful succession plan for your library at the Oak Brook Trustee Forum Workshop. Presenters Gail Johnson and Pam Parr, from Face to Face Communications & Training, Inc., will guide participants through the hurdles of the succession process, from leadership development to board inclusion and offer additional tips, tricks, and techniques to ensure your library has an effective, lasting succession plan.

The workshop will be held on March 16, 2019, at the Chicago Marriott Oak Brook. For more information, visit ila.org/trusteeoakbrook.



Pam Parr





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