

Education & Skills for Life

Recent Accomplishments

- Programs to Go – Systemwide 755 program to go packets were distributed. 701 for children and 54 for teens.
- Jon Ebron (Teen Services) hosted an Anchorage Reads book discussion for teens as well as coordinating distribution of the book to teens and teachers.
- Kids Book Club wrapped up with very good retention over four weeks of programming. Of 16 registered users, we full participation the first week and no less than 10 over the remaining meetings.
- Muldoon replaced florescent lights with LED units and re-painted the three biggest walls on the main floor. The result is a much brighter space.
- Nicole (Adult Services) designed, printed, and put together packets for the APL Spring Cleaning Challenge Program.
- Meneka (Adult Services) continued Facebook Live sessions about tax-related issues in partnership with United Way of Anchorage and Job Lab with YWCA.
- Meneka (Adult Services) launched PACE course based on Anchorage Reads for educators to get continuing education credit by participating in the program and creating plans for incorporating antiracism into their classroom curriculum and practices. 10 educators are enrolled.
- Meneka (Adult Services) created library news page with information on the municipal election to continue to encourage civic engagement.
- Mary Jo received an email on Friday, February 12 from a patron praising Tamzan for her excellent service:
 - *Today, my favorite employee Tamzan shared with me that you sent my email "lovin'the MiFi" out to all. Thanks. However, I should have mentioned how fabulous Tamzan has been to me: Brilliantly selecting material, giving me updates, & helping me on PCs. She is a super star among many stellar employees.*
- MV partial reopened providing access to computers for the MV community. This came at a critical time for our community with the AHFC Rent/Utility Relief applications requiring online submissions.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Wee Be Jammin – planning a special virtual WBJ music time for kids five and under, supported by a program to go packet kids can pick up to make their own instruments.
- Summer Reading – planning outdoor programs for the summer and working with Parks and Recreation on location. Working to launch summer reading in the schools with giveaways.

- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services) is currently coordinating entries for the Creative Writing Contest, hosted by UAA and ADN. The contest deadline was February 15 and has entries for grades k-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, and open to the public.
- Nicole will continue communication with possible challenge partners for gardening challenge (May-June).
- Andy (Adult Services) is working on programs for the Anchorage Job Fair, April 28 & 29. Programs will be: Orientation for the Job Fair, Resumes Creation, Job Interview readiness, Linked In use.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Nicole (Adult Services) is waiting on communication back from cooperative extension contact
- Mountain View is down one staff position with Don Skadsem's retirement.

Bridge to Information and Resources

Recent Accomplishments

- Marketing efforts to reach underserved and disconnected patrons have resulted in 300+ re-engaged library cards from the recent direct mail campaign.
- iHeart Media influencer campaign kicked off with highlights for LENA Start!, early literacy, core services and Personal Librarian.
- Claire Agni (Gerrish Library) became a certified Notary Public and began offering free notary services on February 20.
- APL provided additional communication for MOA COVID-19 activities including vaccine availability, relief programs and public health messaging.
- Kelsey Skrobis (Youth Services) joined two Countdown to Kindergarten events run by Anchorage School District to help promote library materials, early literacy, and kindergarten readiness skills.
- Jon Ebron (Youth Services) worked with Migrant Education department with Anchorage School District as a teen activity consultant to help make the program more interactive, engaging and teen friendly.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services) Hosted early literacy chat on polishing virtual Storytime for 14 librarians.
- Reference Statistics
 - Telephone Reference: 1277 calls answered
 - E-Mail Reference: 48 e-mails answered
 - Personal Librarian (Research) 13 personal requests in February.
- Adult Services provided 19 programs with a total of 473 attendees.
- Sarah Preskitt worked with Meneka Thiru to present a resource list about women's activism and activists in Alaska in partnership with the Anchorage Museum for their virtual Lunch and Learn series. This series coincides with their current Extra Tough exhibit about Alaskan women and their achievements.
- Meneka (Adult Services) presented to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Gig Economy Network on APL resources relevant to entrepreneurs and gig economy workers. The Chamber received positive feedback on the presentation.
- Meneka is working with the Veterans Center to connect them with MiFi's so they can help veterans with job applications.
- Nicole assisted city with maintaining COVID response website.

- Community Resource Coordination Team: 47 Individuals served in Feb
 - Housing:
 - 4 families & individuals moved from homeless to housed with CRC Team assistance
 - 26 Coordinated Entry Assessments completed for individuals and families
 - 8 successfully referred to AHFC Rent/Utilities Relief (in-depth assistance)
 - 4 individuals & families referred to shelter resources
 - 10 individuals & families referred to rapid and long-term housing supports
 - Donations:
 - Thanks to the INCREDIBLE generosity of APL and Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness staff, we were able to give out gloves, hand warmers, mittens, coats, snow pants, socks, bags and other key items

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- APL continues to place paid ads in Sol De Medianoche with copy in both English and Spanish. Future ads will include computer access and Summer Reading/Early Lit opportunities
- Dimond Transit Center Express Library is nearing completion – we hope to launch this Spring.
- Samantha Blanquart (Youth Services) is working with Best Beginnings and Cook Inlet Tribal Council on their 3-year-grant program for early literacy and family reading.
- Kristie (Adult Services) will work with Science Friday to coordinate a virtual program.
- Nate Howes and Carolyn Bledsoe are working on labeling Chromebooks to make them available for patron checkout.
- Sarah and Meneka (Adult Services) will continue the partnership program with the Anchorage Museum. March's program will be on March 4 and feature Jon Mooallem, author of *This is Chance!*, his 2020 book about Genie Chance and the role she played in keeping Anchorage and the world informed in the hours following the 1964 earthquake. April's program on April 8 will feature the creators of a short film about Ada Blackjack, the lone human survivor of an arctic expedition in 1923.
- Meneka (Adult Services) is working with Off the Chain Bicycle Collective to put together a library in a box kit with bike tools, hopefully to launch next month.

Building Community

Recent Accomplishments

- February social media campaigns included Black History Month – honoring Black Poets
- Mayor's Task Force on the Alaska Room at Loussac Library formed and has met twice. A very engaged and diverse group of 25 community members who will help with final designs and public promotion.
- Linda Klein (Youth Services) participated in a virtual Read Across America event hosted by Urbana Regional Library in Frederick, Maryland. I read two books by Barbara and Ethan Atwater, illustrated by Mindy Dwyer: *How Raven Got His Crooked Nose*, and *Chia and the Fox Man*. These two books are adaptations of traditional Dena'ina fables. https://fb.watch/3_klt0Xnt2/
- Jim Curran (Muldoon) presented to both the Scenic Foothills and Northeast Community Councils meetings. The topic was limited-service reopening.

- Meneka (Adult Services) facilitated the first Community Connects event, the first in a series of three community conversations. Received good feedback from folks who attended.
- Sarah Preskitt (Adult Services) co-hosted first in series of collaborative events with the Anchorage Museum's Extra Tough Exhibit.
- Anchorage Reads launched this month. Good attendance at the book club and panel discussion events. Continued outreach to community organizations to encourage participation.
- Meneka (Adult Services) coordinated with Alyeska Resort to share library resources with their staff.
- Rayette Sterling (Mountain View) served as a judge for the Poetry Out Loud competition, sponsored by the Alaska Council for the Art.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Anchorage Reads committee members from APL and Alaska Humanities forum will be featured in a March article in Sol De Medianoche
- Artist Melissa Shaginoff is designing Land Acknowledgment signs for library entrances with an artistic design and a library-specific acknowledgment
- Elizabeth Nicolai (Youth Services) working with Alaska Afterschool Network on a grant for the national Leap Into Science program.
- Meneka (Adult Services) is working with the Alaska Black Caucus Allies for Change Economic working group to find ways that the library can support the Black community in Anchorage.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- The pandemic makes it a challenge to connect and maintain relationships with community partners.

Internal Goals and Strategies

Recent Accomplishments

- Jamie White, Sarah Preskitt, and Rebecca Barker have been exploring ways to support staff while we all navigate difficult experiences, changes, burnout, and other stressors to staff's mental health.
- Stacia (Adult Services) coordinated the online form so that staff could submit their wish list for the new director's qualifications/experience.
- Stacia (Adult Services) created a job advertisement meant to recruit an Alaska Fellow as a Volunteer Coordinator.

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- APL Brand Book has been updated to include a section on accessibility. New copies will be distributed and staff re-training is ongoing.
- Library Alaska Room on the bond in April – Prop 2. More info here: <https://librarychampion.com/take-action/bond/>
- Kristie (Adult Services) will be working with Rick on the room rental/alcoholic beverages paperwork.

- Meneka (Adult Services) is working with the Expectations for Public Interactions committee to develop outreach expectations and to-go kits.

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- It was decided to put a hold on the Alaska Fellow project. 2021 is not the year to put our energy into recruiting volunteers.

Library Board Updates

Recent Accomplishments

- Great all-board retreat!
- Library Foundation launched the mini-grant program - \$1-3K grants for library projects that any staff can submit.
- Library Foundation submitted grant requests to Alaska Community Foundation Social Justice Fund and Kenai Mountain-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area for Alaska Room

Next Steps/Coming Soon

- Beyond the Stacks: online author talk – late April
- Library Giving Day – April 7. We will likely do another drive for Digital Materials

Limiting Factors/Concerns

- Community Resource Coordination (CRC) Team: Partner agencies need to understand how the library can play a role in supporting our community members. The essential part of successful collaboration is communication and clear understanding of APL capacity, as well as the safety and rights of those we serve and employ, regardless of their abilities or disability status.
 - Solutions are coming: CRC team is working with Community Engagement librarian and leadership to create smooth channels for communication with partners like AHFC to get the essential resources they provide to the library patrons who need them