

March is a busy month in the library world. From Dr. Seuss's birthday, March is Reading Month, to Pi Day, there is lots to celebrate! This month I would like to highlight our Library Display Cases. What makes these display cases unique is that they are available for the community to show off their prized personal collection of items. For libraries, this is another way to engage with our communities with out a lot of staff time spent!

February we hosted a collection of vintage valentines and wooden boxes from BDL's own Lynnell Eash. During March we have a collection of Music Boxes and Carousels from Theresa Broadwater. Anyone who is interested in highlighting their personal collection of treasured items can contact the Coldwater Branch.



### **Adults:**

Now that the snow is behind us (fingers crossed) and the sun is shining, let the Adult Programs roll! Recently we hosted three great programs including:

- Knitted Knockers: This is an organization that sponsors programs to create handmade breast prosthesis for women who have undergone mastectomies or other procedures to the breast. This was first of a two-part session to crochet/knit following the specific pattern and then be able to donate to this great cause!
- The Amazing Honeybee: Beekeeper and mentor Charlotte Hubbard brought the world of the Honeybee to BDL. She discussed the international bee crisis, the role and behavior of the honeybee, and things we can do to help.
- Ordinary Men, Perpetrators, Bystanders, & Victims in the Holocaust: Dr. Eli Rubin, WMU Professor of History, discussed how non-Germans took part in the killing of their neighbors, their motivation, and in some cases, their complacency during the Holocaust.

### **Kids' Place:**

March is Book Bingo! Based upon a child's age, they are asked to complete several reading/library related tasks in order to make a Bingo. Some of the categories include; read a graphic novel, listen to a book, attend a library program, or write a book review. Parents and children alike seem to like the challenge of exploring the variety of materials we offer. It's not unusual to hear this challenge has helped them discover new areas of reading interest. In the first week alone 97 children were enrolled!

Also as part of the March is Reading month celebrations, Kids Place will be hosting several classes. Special visitors from Pansophia Academy and the Branch Area

Career Center Tot Spot will be given a tour of the library, information about the library, and a BDL goodie!

Linda Dull, Children’s Services Coordinator, attended a workshop entitled: “Stories to be Sung & Songs to be Told” This was perfect timing as the 2018 Summer Reading Theme is “Libraries Rock” and music is heavily featured. Looks like Opera going to make an appearance as summer Saturday Program! So if you hear operatic singing, just know Kids’ Place staff is practicing for their debut in July!

Lastly special thanks to Laura Odom for putting the HomeSchool Adventure Children’s Native American symbol strips into a beautiful wall hanging. Next step will be to get it framed!

- Traveling Tales – Argentina: This program couldn’t not have been done with our special presenter Kimberly Ewers and the Kiwanis Club. Kimberly, who lived in Argentina, proved to be a vibrant presenter. Kiwanis club members, who help cover the cost of these programs, are some of the first to arrive and the last to leave and are an integral part of these programs success!
- Stuffed Animal Sleepover: Stuffed animals were treated to an overnight visit to the library! Their children left them after a special story time and craft for a night full of mischief. I am glad to report that no stuffed animal was left behind and their owners were glad to have them back and see all the pictures of the fun they had!
- Cat in the Hat – Special visitor and always a crowd favorite, The Cat in the Hat, came for storytime, crafts, and activities.
- Tween Club- This month, the Tween club had fun making a variety of fake blood and experiments with Valentine candy.



**Teen Space:**

Almost 9 months after the Teen Space was opened, the sign officially claiming the Space is up! We have included a thank you to the Branch Area Community Foundation who provided the grant that kick started this



project. We also thanked our dedicated Teen Advisory Council, who without their creative vision and focus, the space would not be what it is.

For March we have started a weekend book club. Teens come together to talk about their literary adventures. They can share books they loved or hated all while enjoying snacks! Book Clubs are often hard to engage this population in and we hope that by keeping it wide open and about books in general, we can start the dialogue! Often during the last few weeks, the staff in the Teen Space have been working with teens on their writing contest entries. We are looking forward to seeing what great short stories, Flash Fiction, and Poetry they came up with!

Also in the last month, we hosted programs including; STEAM Power, Teen Trivia, Book to Movie Club, Writers Club, Wild at Art, Crafternoon

Submitted:  
Kimberly Feltner



### **Alganssee Branch reports:**

Our program for Valentine's Day was cancelled because of snowstorm.

One Book One County Read is in progress, we have one book, one CD and a DVD for all to enjoy.

There have been 5 teens interested in Teen Writing Contest, hope they all follow through. I keep

reminding them to get their stories finished and entered by March 30th.

I am still ordering new books and DVD's and withdrawing older books.

I am still learning something new every day!

Thank You

Alganssee Branch Manager

### **Bronson Branch reports:**

Francis Fletcher was the winner of the Beat the Winter Blahs goodie basket this year.

Family Lego Night was unbelievable! We had hoped for as many people as we had at the Family Electronics night but we more than doubled that number with this event. All ages! We had toddlers to grandparents and every age, including teens, in between. We were asked many times that evening if we would have it again and the answer is yes. Right now, we have around 5000 Lego pieces but may need to invest in more. Very popular event.

We celebrated Middle Name Pride Day on March 9. That day Kay, Olethia and Alan were working the desk, i.e. Lynnell, Jessie and Steve. When we could, we asked people what their middle name was and did they know why that name was given to them. It was fun to hear some of the stories. Everyone was offered an official "Hi my middle name is \_\_\_\_\_" nametag and these were worn with pride. We had two contests, match celebrities with their middle name and match Disney characters with middle name. Those who tried it were given a piece of candy.

Stephanie Davis brought in her Dr. Seuss collection to help celebrate his birthday. Little kids loved it! They were so excited to see those characters in the showcase. A cart of Seuss books sat next to the showcase and I think every book went out numerous times during the month.

Branch District Library information tables were setup at the schools during Parent Teacher conferences.

This month we will have tables at Anderson's Literacy Night, Ryan's Literacy in the Spotlight night and Anderson's Kindergarten Registration. We will also be at the countywide Science Olympiad, which is held in Bronson at the high school.

March is Board of Review time so the Township will be using their space more often this month and we will be working our programs around them.

We have a Stop Motion Animation workshop coming up for adults and then later in the month the Bowling Ball Garden Ornament workshop.

Teen, Tween and Teen, Kidz Crew and Preschool storytime all continue to be quite active.

To help kick off National Library Week in April we will be having a "Read-a-thon and Pizza Party" on Friday April 6 5:30-6:30. Families and individuals are encouraged to come, find a cozy spot somewhere/anywhere in the library and read for ½ hour. Read to children, read to themselves. Afterwards we will have a pizza party for everyone who read. Then on Saturday Jean Berg will be here to lead the discussion for the book "A Man Called Ove"

### Quincy Branch Reports:

- 4 teen programs were offered in the last month, with a dozen attending. The teens enjoy Jessica and Keeley very much and of course, love having snacks. The indoor snowball fight was a huge hit.



- Story Hour is running smoothly each Friday morning with 12-15 participants. Snacks are important as well and we thank the Friends of the Quincy Library petty cash for providing. One consistent daycare has been attending Story Hour for over 30 years.
- The adult February "Winter Blahs" contest winner was thrilled to receive the goodie basket (compliments of the Friends of the Quincy Library). She had never won anything before and was pleased that her photo was on the library Facebook page.
- I will be attending the Quincy Business Expo day at Quincy High School March 24. Thanks to Kimberly for putting together a giveaway basket.
- Patrons are checking out the One Book, One Community selection in preparation for the upcoming April book discussion.
- Summer programming is all booked, with two large adult programs also booked for the fall.



### **Sherwood Branch Reports:**

As you may have heard, we've been crazy busy at the little Branch in Sherwood. Our new furniture is in and we couldn't be happier! It was a long and very tiresome event; We literally moved thirteen bookcases to new areas to help accommodate the new cabinets behind our work counter - Some of you may recall how cramped and discombobulated the work space was, but now that space has doubled! (Happy dance) I wish I would have thought to take before pictures, but I was so excited to get going on this project, pics became an after-thought. However, I've included a couple of pictures so you can see the completed project. A huge thank you to John and Curtis for their time and hard work to help make this possible.

The past couple of months I've attended programs at the Union City Community Schools. Last month I attended Middle School Exhibition Night, and last week attended their Parent/Teacher conferences. Since then, Community Unlimited has asked me to make weekly visits to the preschool class to read to the kids. I'm beyond excited to once again have this opportunity. Also, I've been asked by the UCMS councilor to meet with her as well as other school staff to help them get better acquainted with Hoopla, Libby and Mel. I have extended this message to John and Kimberly and look forward to making this a

team effort. Tomorrow evening I will be attending UCES Family Literacy Night. I attend this annually and always look forward to sharing all of the great things BDL has to offer.

Next week I will be attending Spring Institute in Grand Rapids. This is an amazing event that definitely inspires new ideas, new contacts and programs.

Our Tween Crafts on Thursdays continue to go well, as do Kathy Barnes art classes on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Jess T and Keeley B have been doing a wonderful job over here with the teen programs.

We are eagerly looking forward to our One Book - One Community book discussion that will be held on Friday, April 12th at 4pm.

Until next month;

Best regards,  
Traci Counterman - Sherwood Branch Manager



### Union Twp. Branch Report:

I was very excited to bring back a program from the American Red Cross in February. The program was The Pillowcase Project. This project was implemented following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The Red Cross volunteers noticed that Loyola University students arrived at shelters carrying their valuables in pillowcases. This inspired Red Cross members to create a program for children to decorate pillowcases. Soon after the hurricane, The Pillowcase Project became a preparedness education program for elementary students. In 2013, the Walt Disney Company funded the design and development to create a nationwide project. The main goal of this project is to increase youth awareness of how to prepare for emergencies. This year during the presentation the volunteers spoke on winter preparedness and home fires. Each child was able to create their own pillowcase to use during an emergency and each received a Preparedness Workbook to take home to share with their family. 41 children in our community, thanks to the American Red Cross, are now better prepared for emergencies.

Our adult Spring into Reading program started on Valentine's Day and will end on the first day of spring March 20<sup>th</sup>. We have eleven adults signed up for this program.

On Valentine's Day children were able to make a lollypop flower for themselves or for a favorite valentine. We also had six teen programs throughout the month.

I participated in a summer reading webinar called Libraries Rock! Programming Ideas & Tips. It was very interesting with fellow librarians sharing ideas for summer reading that are in the Libraries Rock manuals.

Camri, our clerk, and Traci, Sherwood manager, attended the middle school exhibition and talent show to end the month of February. We will be attending more programs at the schools in the coming months.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Gottschalk

