

Monthly Activities Board Report February 2025

Kudos:

For Tara:

“I was so pleased when I read through this month's Pilot to see that you're doing Spice Club! It sounds really fabulous, and I hope it will be well received by the community! Also, I was so excited to read about the seed exchange! I am so looking forward to attending and bringing all of my seeds! Thanks for the awesome work that you do!” - Ariella-Sophie Sternberg, Community Outreach & Engagement Manager, Clackamas County Arts Alliance

For Spice Club: “Thank you for doing this!!! We LOVED it! The carrot soup was amazing 🥰”

Two kudos for Melissa and Nicole:

HUGE thank you for cleaning up (after a little kid got sick at Circ). You guys are amazing! This could not go unnoticed- Fida Thank you all for cleaning and helping the child and mom during an unpleasant public experience. -Kelly

Improving Library Services at the Point of Need:

Jessalynn and Eileen signed up 30 people for library cards at Lot Whitcomb Elementary School's Family Night. While there, they had many conversations with patrons **concerned about library fines**. Jessalynn shared the following:

- For one patron, I was able to waive the late fines on her child's card to put them back in good standing and reassure her that no one else in the family had fines. She was very relieved and planned to bring her children back to the library!
- For another regular patron who expressed concern over not always being able to pay her fines, I made sure she knew she could always ask for fines to be waived to check out, and that we are happy to do so in order to keep her family using the library.

Jessalynn shared storytime and delivered another set of 40 books as well as an outreach book set to students in the after-school CARE program at Ardenwald Elementary School. The books are available for the students to use on site for the next 6 weeks.

Supporting Staff:

We welcomed new on-call staff members, Cassidy, Dana, Hannah, and Sage to the library team! Throughout the month of February, staff assisted in the on-boarding and training of the four new on-call Library Assistant I's. The new staff participated in a half-day orientation and training session with Kelly and then an additional 8 hours of shadowing library staff at circulation, children's, and adult services.

Sara O’Donnell and LINCC Network Member Services Librarian KT Austin served on the interview panel with Jana for our on-call librarian recruitment. We look forward to announcing new hires in early March.

The February snow day closures resulted in a small backlog of holds and returns which staff were able to work through during the next week. From checking in returns, shelving, and locating items on the Picklist, everyone worked together to get us back on track.

Helping Milwaukians Most in Need:

Clackamas County Parole and Probation created a video about our partnership. It really does a great job in 1.5 minutes of explaining the impact of the outreach services they provide to folks in our library and community:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNYtqta8v-g>

Helping Milwaukians Most in Need at the Library 2024

	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul
Weekly Tuesday Outreach Clients	5	20	13	15	6	11	7	13
Water Bottles/Granola Bars	46	52	62	139	129	132	97	100
Outreach Card Referrals	5	8	8	5	6	8	9	13
Bus Passes	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	3	6
Parole and Probation Outreach	22	30	35	30	20	20	16	no data
PITS Outreach Referrals noted	7	2	7	4	3	4	6	5
Cooling Center Days	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	0	5
Extended hours of Cooling Center	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5	0	18
Cooling Center Participants	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10	0	65
Cultural Passes	102	141	153	170	113	143	195	159
Rent Well Participants	8	8	11	8	4			

Community Partnerships, Collaborations and Connections:



The library hosted a Naloxone training presented by Katie Knutsen from Clackamas County Public Health. Four community partners shared information in the lobby before and after the program. All 43 attendees – including 6 library staff - left with Naloxone kits and a better understanding of how easy it is to prevent overdose deaths.



The library wrapped up acting as a winter drop-box location for the Oregon Humanities' Dear Stranger Project, which is OH's ongoing letter exchange program. Library patrons were invited to write a letter to an anonymous stranger and receive one in return. A new writing prompt will be announced in spring, [so we'll act as a drop-box location for one more round](#). Afterward we will send the box on so that it can visit another library.



The Clackamas ESD offered free developmental and hearing screenings at the library for children ages 0-5 after our baby storytime on February 6.

Programs

Patrons of all ages created valentines to be distributed to Meals on Wheels participants at our Cards for a Cause program. Students from Portland Waldorf School got in on the fun too and contributed additional cards, for a total of 200 valentines for Milwaukie's homebound seniors.



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Tara scheduled a Synthesizer Petting Zoo for Saturday, February 15th to promote our Library of Things collection. Over 80 library patrons of all ages stopped by the community room to befriend, pet, and play an array of electronic instruments courtesy of Synth Library of Portland. Synth Library Portland is a collectively-run arts non-profit providing low-cost access to electronic music gear and education.



On Saturday February 1st we launched Spice Club, and it was so popular that our Friends' group doubled our budget for the program (50 kits were assembled and by the end of the first day we only had 3 kits left). More spice kits were made available on



Wednesday, February 12th. Spice Club is a bimonthly program made possible by the support of the Friends of the Ledding Library.



The Oregonian
February 12 at 4:06 PM

Free spice clubs allow patrons the chance to explore new seasonings without a costly initial investment.



OREGONLIVE.COM

'Spice clubs' are the hot new trend at local libraries

Free spice clubs allow patrons the chance to explore new seasonings without a costly initial invest...

138

13 shares

The Oregonian interviewed Tara and two LINCC colleagues at the West Linn and Canby libraries about their popular spice club programs.

On Saturday February 22nd we held our 2nd Annual Seed Swap, with guests from the OSU Master Gardeners, Milwaukie Rotary Pollinator Pathways, and Heirloom Seedhouse. Over 80 guests attended to swap seeds and gardening advice. The swap was followed by a Seed Starting class presented by Evan Gregoire of Heirloom Seedhouse.



On February 26th, we hosted a talk on Georgian Cuisine by James Beard-nominated chef and cookbook author Bonnie Morales to celebrate the launch of Spice Club. 42 culinary explorers attended.

EXPLORING GEORGIAN CUISINE

02.26.2025

Bonnie Frumkin Morales MILWAUKIE LEDDING LIBRARY

A display of Georgian cuisine ingredients and dishes. The display features hanging red chili peppers, stacks of terracotta pots, and various jars and bottles of spices and oils. The background is a dark, textured wall.

Winter weather means large crowds at storytime! We hit maximum capacity at all but one of our all-ages storytimes, and welcomed 20 people to the Saturday Spanish storytime as well.

Scavenger hunts remain wildly popular in the children's library. This month's hidden picture challenge was candy hearts.

Book club news for February: The Daylight Book Club read *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis. The Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club talked about *The City We Became* by N. K. Jemisin. The evening Ledding Book Club discussed *The Other Americans* by Laila Lalami.

Save the Dates (upcoming programs)!

Wendy Usher, with Oregon Humanities, scheduled to present What Matters at Life's End on May 17th at 2:00 PM

Robert is working with Ida West from Association of Financial Educators to plan a presentation on Women and Money and Women and Investing. Specific Subjects and dates to be scheduled in May and June.

Book Displays:



February book displays in the library included "Celebrate Black Voices" (separate displays in lobby, teen room, and children's library), Ramadan, and "RED Any Good Books Lately?" (books of all genres with red covers).



Other Highlights:

The Library of Things collection offers families a wealth of playtime options. It's been fun this winter to watch caregivers and kids spend hours sharing puzzles, new games, or toys. Play is a child's most important work. We're happy to provide the space for that year-round!

Video games in the teen room offer the same chance for teens. Most days you'll find a group of gamers trying their luck with the teen room Xbox.

The Milwaukie Arts Committee installed the first art exhibition in the Community Room.

Ben Dewey, Hamid Shibata Bennett and Sarah Love McCoy are the featured artists for this quarter and hosted an Open House. Sarah Love McCoy will continue to coordinate the art space in the library for the Milwaukie Arts Committee.

Alex completed an analysis of library visits since making hours adjustments in May and October. Here are the results of that data.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
617	681.5	701	661	649.4	591	605.3	Average patrons for whole of 2024
662	665	707.	663	637.28	584	580	Average patrons after Sun/Mon Hour change May 5
636.25	653.25	659	646.45	614.6	607	603	Average patrons after big hour change Oct 1
	2nd busiest	Busiest Day					Least Busy

	Ledding Library			Statistics			
			February	2024			
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Circulation	52509	55611	49,237	44289	24776	54,184	43,247
Patrons	18125	18831	15039				
New Cards	322	377	313				
Computer use	1120	1096	1096				
Wifi Sessions	1361	1644					
Questions (all desks)	2726	3173	2470				
Programs							
Adult Programs	12	14	4				
Attendance	393	213	73				
Juvenile Programs	22	27	25				
Attendance	1349	1219	1044				
Teen Programs	2	8	4				
Attendance	117	20	16				
Total Programs	36	49	33				
Total Attendance	1859	1452	1133				
Volunteers							
Number	73	73	68				
Hours worked	432	509	386				