

It means the world to our family to be able to come in and see such a diverse selection, and the different displays. We are so proud of the work you do here.
Christine



GRACE
1000 Books Before Kindergarten
graduate in May 2022



PRANAMYIA
1000 Books Before Kindergarten
graduate in December 2021

A YEAR IN REVIEW

May 2021–April 2022

www.lakeforestlibrary.org/annual

A YEAR OF RENEWAL

An annual report provides the opportunity to pause and critically examine our accomplishments and challenges over the last year. During a year beginning with mask mandates and virtual programming, and ending with the “new normal” of hybrid offerings and grab ‘n’ go service, we found much to celebrate. Throughout the shifting landscape, we were guided by our mission of:

- ▶ Inspiring lifelong learning *by providing high-quality collections, resources, and classes.*
- ▶ Promoting the free and respectful exchange of ideas *through events such as discussion groups, book talks, author visits, and Foyer meet ‘n’ greets.*
- ▶ Building community *by partnering with local organizations, curating diverse and representative collections, and more.*

The year brought challenges which encouraged new innovations, expectations, and ways of engaging. As a result of staying agile, adaptable, and forward-thinking, the Library met the evolving needs of Lake Foresters and library patrons, and many of our metrics are rebounding to pre-pandemic levels. Select highlights of the year follow.

- ▶ The Library Board approved prioritization of the repair and restoration of the Dome and Rotunda.
- ▶ Upgraded internet to fiber for faster, more stable, and wider coverage throughout the Library and courtyards.

- ▶ Implemented RFID technology for faster patron checkout and installed state-of-the-art self-check machines for contactless service.
- ▶ The Foyer was refreshed, creating a space for conversation and reflection.
- ▶ The Lake Forest Library Foundation established an endowment to ensure the future success of the Library.
- ▶ High profile author events were offered including Maxine Bédát (Read Between the Ravines), Chris Bohjalian, Jamie Ford (Lake Forest Reads), Jasmine Guillory, Alex Kotlowitz, Jenny Lawson, Madeline Miller, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, and Nick Offerman, as well as prominent local authors including Margot McMahon, Katherine Reay, and Scott Spires.
- ▶ 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program grew with new participants, and we celebrated our first graduates, Pranamyia and Grace!
- ▶ StoryWalks continued at local schools and parks, and was also shared for the first time around the Library lawn.
- ▶ New collections were created including Lake Forest Authors, Wonderbooks, and Youth and Adult Accessibility Collections.
- ▶ Favorite literary programs were hosted including Lake Forest Reads, Blind Date with a Book, Read Between the Ravines, and Summer Reading.



Library Plinko at the West Side Market. (Below left) New self-check machines. (Below center) Read Between the Ravines featuring Maxine Bédát (Below right) Family STEAM Stations in the courtyard.

- ▶ Media Lab services and classes returned and were increasingly popular.
- ▶ Robust business and personal finance programs were delivered on topics such as cryptocurrency, government contracting, investing, and estate planning.
- ▶ We engaged with the community at the West Side Market and at area schools. We collaborated with and supported local organizations including Elawa Farm, Green Minds, Fill a Heart 4 Kids, Paws for Patrick, American Legion McKinlock Post 264, and more.

Our Year in Review reflects a year of refresh and rebound, while still in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. As a result, it also became a year of reflection as we began to see positive results from the Library’s response to challenges. We appreciate our patrons for being flexible and innovative alongside us, engaging with the Library in new and meaningful ways.

Respectfully,

Catherine A. Lemmer,
Executive Director



A YEAR OF SERVING LAKE FORESTERS

Library usage highlights

REFERENCE & READERS
ADVISORY ASSISTANCE

42,607    

CIRCULATION
BOOKS,
DISKS,
& KITS
276,601

TOTAL
PROGRAM
ATTENDANCE



31,843

PROGRAMS

657

MEDIA LAB
SESSIONS



283

950

Tech Help
Sessions

299

DVD2GO USES



3,267

WEST STATION BOOK DROP USES

DATABASES USES

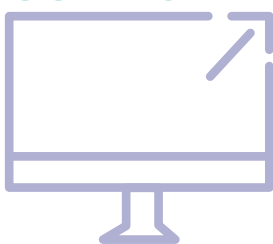


69,178

eMedia Borrows
LIBBY, HOOPLA,
CLOUD LIBRARY,
KANOPY, FREEGAL
73,938

11,268

COMPUTER



USES

NEW

PHYSICAL
MATERIALS
ADDED
11,819

190,157



PATRON
VISITS



WIRELESS SESSIONS

299,363



NEW
CARD
HOLDERS

9,377

I was waiting for the results of three COVID tests, and someone from the library dropped off my books at my house. I was so thankful since I couldn't go to the library at that time! I also recommend the Judy Levin program; she can take even a mediocre book and make you think about the topics in a way that makes you interested in the book.

Mary



Afternoons with Judy Levin hybrid book discussion. (Below left) Media Lab class on designing custom t-shirts with iron-on vinyl. (Below right) Margot McMahon event in the Reading Room.





It's just a joy to have a wonderful library in our city! Not only in a beautiful historic building, but with an outstanding highly qualified staff!
Sandra

Youth coding class program Sphero Mini Robot Balls to roll through a maze. (Below left) Cardboard creations. (Below center) Teen Paint & Sip masterpiece. (Below right) First Presbyterian Preschool visiting for storytime.



A YEAR OF GRATITUDE

Thank you to our donors & supporters!

Gifts to Lake Forest Library

\$10,000+

The Buchanan Family Foundation

\$1-\$499

Mary F. and David D. Grumhaus Fund
Margaret Abel, *in memory of the Mandahl Family*

In-Kind Gifts

Dean A. DeBiase, Sr.
Original Mark McMahon painting of Lake Forest Fourth of July Concert on the Green and three Franklin McMahon prints from the Vienna Opera Series

\$500-\$9,999

The Dick Family Foundation
The Estate of Rita Bark

Janette N. and Rian J. Murphy, *in memory of Jane Rumel Arvetis*
Reichert, Wessel & Allen, LLC, *in memory of Rebecca Sieh Gordon*
Camille and Keith Stohlgren, *in memory of Ed Kronkowski*
Camille and Keith Stohlgren, *in memory of Puiu Roman*
Camille and Keith Stohlgren, *in honor of Lorrie Nacius*
The Frolichstein Family, *in memory of Jane Rumel Arvetis*

The Great Books Foundation Board
Two copies of two-volume set of "Classic Readings for Discussion"

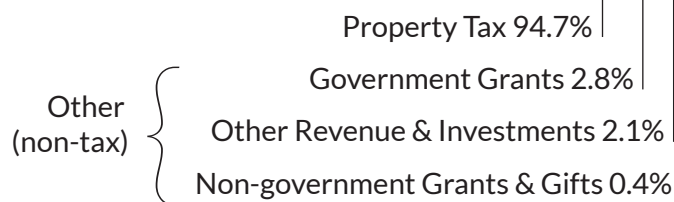
Rommy Lopat
Copy of "Montelona Farm: The Story of Pioneer William A. McConnell's Homestead in Richmond, Illinois"

Margaret Tomaselli
Annual subscription to "Fra Noi"

Gifts made to The Lake Forest Library Foundation endowment to secure the future of Lake Forest Library are reported separately. For additional information on the Foundation, please visit www.lflibraryfoundation.org.

FY2022 FINANCIALS

Revenue Total
\$4,618,813



Expense Total
\$3,697,626

