

Support & Public Services Report to the Mead Library Board of Trustees

Submitted by Cheryl Nessman

March, 2026

Staffing:

- Aleah Hill has been hired as the new Circulation Supervisor and began on 4/13/26
- We have posted the Associate Librarian position that Aleah vacated
- Rachele DePagter, our Youth Services and AV cataloger, retired after 41 years of service. That position has not yet been posted as we explore our options.
- The following staff members attended the national Public Library Association Conference in Minneapolis at the end of March:
 - Shannon Ribich (Circulation Library Assistant)
 - Aubrey Laux (Adult Services Associate Librarian)
 - Kelly Rohde (Adult Services Librarian)
 - Matt Beinemann (Young Adult Librarian)
 - Alison Loewen (Children's Librarian)
 - Saraya Currier (Children's Associate Librarian)

Programming/Exhibit/Outreach Highlights:

- March:
 - There was a full room for the Academy Talk: Finding Home Among the Stars, with Anishinaabe photographer, Travis Novitsky, and UW Madison's Professor of Astronomy, Dr. Robert Mathieu, that took place the evening of March 19th.
 - Wintergreen was held on Saturday, March 21st with lots of activities for the whole family. There were 927 people in attendance and we received a lot of great feedback.
- April:
 - The Children's area wrapped up its annual Peeps Diorama Contest with 24 entries this year. They are on display in the 1st floor wall display unit.
 - Our 2026 Maker in Residency has begun, with [Nenglee Vang offering workshops on Hmong Cross-Stitch on Saturdays](#).
 - Our staff working group on Programming for the Unhoused has fostered a new partnership with the **Job Center of Wisconsin**. [schedule a 1-hour session with Nicole Grumly on Wednesday's from 10am - 1pm](#). This program is scheduled through October, but we are hoping to extend it beyond that date.
 - [Myths & Mistakes in Estate Planning with Tracy Gibson](#) will be held on April 23rd at 6pm.

- We have started up our [Memory Cafes](#) again, this time holding all programming at Mead PL.
- May:
 - Preregistration for the Summer Reading Program (theme: Unearth a Story) will begin on May 1st. Participants will log their reading from May 26th to Aug. 8th. More information on all of the fun programs and activities that will be available will be coming soon.
 - The 7th annual [Mead Con](#) (formerly Mead Comic Con) will be happening on Saturday, May 2nd, alongside Sheboygan's Sheboycon.

Collections

- We are working to combine our Young Adult and Adult Graphic Novel/Manga collections

Patron Services

- We are implementing LibraryIQ and SmartyCat services which are designed to help with collection management and evaluation, as well as with targeted marketing of materials. LibraryIQ also allows libraries to customize the statistical dashboard to assist with programming and outreach efforts.