



JANUARY 2022

# MONTHLY REPORT

## *From the Director*

Youth Services returned for the winter session. Toddler/Baby Time resumed as an online weekly program, and Family Storytime started up again at the Stein-Boozier Barn in Memorial Park. Outreach Librarian Deborah Gitlitz served as a member of the national Caldecott selection committee, which selected the best children's picture book published in 2021 by an American author; the Caldecott winner and honor books were announced on January 24, 2022. Deborah also facilitated "Mock Caldecott" discussions in several classrooms where students discussed and chose their favorite contenders.

Adult programs continued in virtual formats. Dr. Bill Thierfelder returned for the second part of "Our Solar System" with a focus on the Asteroid Belt and gas giants. Article Club and the English Class & Conversation Group met. Book Club discussed two titles by John le Carré. Genealogy Club met online for the first time since November 2021. An American Red Cross blood drive was held on January 24, 2022.

Due to the current rise in COVID-19 cases, in-person programs in the library have been postponed until at least April.

Library services expanded with an increase in the public computer use time limit to sixty minutes, and with the reopening of a study room for public use. Both the computer workstations and study rooms can be reserved during library open hours.

Planning progressed for the Library's upcoming 40th Anniversary Celebrations. The birthday week of February 13 through 19 will feature activities that share information about the Library's history as well lesser-known library resources.

Library staff participated in the first of three Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion trainings. Additional trainings will occur in February and March.

Three new on-call reference librarians have been hired. They will begin training in early February.

A retirement party was held for Library Services Manager Steven Engelfried, who retired at the end of January after eleven years with the city. Steven has been instrumental in creating children's programming as it exists today at our library. Steven will be deeply missed!

*-Shasta Sasser, Interim Library Director*