

LIBRARY MATTERS

HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY

SPRING 2024



NEW MURAL BLOSSOMS

Check out how HPL is honoring a former leader.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fall fundraiser gets new host and needs your help!



HEDBERG
PUBLIC LIBRARY
Building Community

HedbergPublicLibrary.org

MAIN STREET HOURS

316 South Main Street
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED

HPL EXPRESS HOURS

Uptown Janesville • 2500 Milton Avenue
Janesville, Wisconsin 53545

Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday CLOSED

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

Monday, May 27

CONTACT US

Information Desk 608-758-6600
Children's Desk 608-758-6585
Questions@HedbergPublicLibrary.org

PROGRAM REMINDERS

Never miss out on a program when you subscribe to receive weekly calendar reminders. Visit our website for details.

MEDIA RELEASE

All persons visiting Hedberg Public Library may be photographed or recorded by library staff, local media or others. These images may appear without compensation or notification in the newspaper, regional broadcasts, publications, productions, on the Web, or in other printed or electronic materials related to the role and function of Hedberg Public Library. Individuals who do not wish to be photographed or recorded at a library program should contact library staff. Please note that no names will be used without expressed permission.

Please note: Programs may be filmed by JATV public access.

ON THE COVER

Muralist Emily Balsley stands in front of her finished mural in The Children's Room. Learn more on page 4.

ENTERING A NEW SEASON FOR HPL

A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR



Spring has sprung – extra early it seems – and Hedberg Public Library is entering its own pivotal season of change.

At the time of this printing, we are in the final stages of our director search, and a new face may already be walking through the stacks as you read these words. With new leadership comes the potential for new ideas, and we're excited to usher in a fresh perspective to help those ideas grow. We don't know exactly what's on the horizon, but I do know that our staff stands ready to support our new director as they explore our library and our community.

Spring is also a time to celebrate the successes of the previous year through the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) Annual Report. Each year, library's across the state provide DPI with

numbers that help them create a snapshot of how residents are using their libraries. And each year we share some of those numbers with you, offering our own snapshot of local services and resources. You'll see that data in the graphic at right, with a few notable increases.

Library visits were up 45%, a number we've watched slowing climb back toward pre-pandemic numbers. We know we may never reach those old statistics as people learn to use their libraries remotely and in new ways, but it's great to see patrons coming back to our stacks. We're also excited by the 150% increase to our digital space - our new website! Library staff spent a considerable amount of time last year building an improved, responsive site that better reflects the 21st century library we strive to be. It's great to see that people are finding it useful. And last, but certainly not least, we note the continued increase in the use of our study and meeting rooms. Our 2019 renovation prioritized creating areas of collaboration and these numbers show how well-used and appreciated those spaces are.

We've experienced some turbulent changes the past few months, but I'm proud to say we are ready for what the spring season has to offer. We will continue to discover, share, create, and connect - offering services and resources that build community, while welcoming a new member of the team at the helm.

For updates and announcements on the director search - and lots more great information - visit our website at HedbergPublicLibrary.org. Or stop in and say hello! We're ready to welcome spring - and YOU - into the library!

Charles B. Teval
Interim Library Director

*Tell us your
library story!*

Use the QR code or visit our website to share your story.



DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATES

The posting for the Director position closed on Sunday, January 14, and Bradbury Miller Associates reports that they received 16 applications.

On January 10, the Library Board held a special meeting with Bradbury Miller Associates to conduct an information and training session on what to expect during the interview process.

The Search Committee, which consists of select library board members and a City of Janesville Human Resources representative, worked with Bradbury Miller Associates to conduct preliminary interviews with seven candidates on February 12 and 13. Of those seven, three have been invited to return for final interviews, which are scheduled for March 6 and 7. Finalists will have an opportunity to visit the library, greet staff, and explore the city of Janesville. Watch our website for updates.

2023 @ YOUR LIBRARY

BUILDING COMMUNITY // Discover. Share. Create. Connect.

370,283 TOTAL VISITS 45%



195,358
LIBRARY VISITS



11,433
BRANCH VISITS



163,492
WEBSITE VISITS



453,567 PHYSICAL ITEMS
128,320 EBOOKS & DIGITAL ITEMS

573,611 TOTAL ITEMS
CHECKED OUT



22,117
COMPUTER SESSIONS



29,555
WI-FI SESSIONS



4,136
VOLUNTEER HOURS



790 PROGRAMS
26,263 ATTENDEES

102 COMMUNITY
OUTREACH VISITS
7,816 OUTREACH
ATTENDEES



4,064  45%
MEETINGS &
ROOM BOOKINGS

ATTENDED BY
10,034  65%
PEOPLE &
ORGANIZATIONS



12,241 QUESTIONS

ASKED & ANSWERED BY OUR FRIENDLY STAFF



SAVE THE DATE

HPL is pleased to announce Ann Garvin, Ph.D., USA Today bestselling author, will serve as the keynote author at HPL Book Fest 2024 on Saturday, June 22. Garvin is the author of five novels and currently teaches creative writing at Drexel University.

HPL Book Fest is in its third year and previously featured Wisconsin Poet Laureate, Dasha Kelly Hamilton in 2022, and New York Times best-selling Humorist, Michael Perry in 2023.

The day-long celebration of local writers and books will include craft-focused writing workshops and an author fair during which local writers will be able to promote, sign, and sell copies of their works.

An author reception featuring Garvin will follow the keynote.

Visit our website for details!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The **Creatures Ball** needs YOU to spend **A Night at the Library!**

The HPL Foundation is looking for some enthusiastic volunteers (18+) for our annual Mingle Murder Mystery fundraiser. *No experience necessary.*

WHO WE NEED:

- Actors* (to play suspects/witnesses)
- Dancers*
- Ticket takers
- Bartenders

WHEN WE NEED YOU:

Volunteers need to be available on **Friday & Saturday, October 18 & 19.**
**Additional practice dates will be required for Actors and Dancers.*

Interested?

Email jswenson@hedbergpubliclibrary.org or call 608-758-6600.

A Night at the Library raises funds to support library programs and services not covered by the annual budget.

To learn more, visit the library's website.



[HedbergPublicLibrary.org/murder](https://www.hedbergpubliclibrary.org/murder)

HPL express

your uptown library

STOP IN TO OUR NORTHSIDE BRANCH

Browse books, movies, music, and more at Uptown Janesville - or visit the library's calendar for a full list of programs and events happening at the branch, including our Monday Meet-Ups for kids and families, and the brand new Walking Club.



2nd Annual Jigsaw Puzzle Competition Saturday, April 27

12:30-3 p.m.

Back by popular demand
- open to all ages!

Form a team and put
together 300-, 500-,
or 700-piece puzzles.

*Registration is required.
Visit our website for details.*

HPL Express @ Uptown Janesville
Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
2500 Milton Avenue • Janesville, WI



WE BRING THE LIBRARY TO YOU

Hedberg@Home is a materials delivery service made possible by generous volunteers. It provides regular home delivery of library materials to patrons in Janesville who are unable to visit the library due to age, a temporary or permanent physical condition, or lack of transportation.

Rosemary Kautz, has been making deliveries since 2014. She enjoys getting to know the patrons she serves, like Todd Roepke. Todd is blind and truly appreciates the materials Rosemary makes available to him.

To volunteer or learn more, call 608-758-6592 or visit HedbergPublicLibrary.org and click on Materials Delivery under Services.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL POETRY MONTH



Teen & adult poets are once again encouraged to submit an original poem to be considered for our next Poetry Pathway.

In partnership with the City of Janesville Recreation Division, Poetry Pathway brings the beauty of prose to city parks!

Deadline: April 30, 2024

Submit your poem online, or stop in for an entry form.

HEY PEEPS, LET'S GET CREATIVE

Back by popular demand, our Peeps-o-Rama competition makes the best of a sticky situation!

Join your library Peeps® and create a diorama using Peeps® mallow treats (more than one entry is welcome) - and then vote for your favorites in our Peeples Choice Awards!

Use your imagination, skills, and at least one Peeps® mallow of any variety to create a unique take on a book, movie, pop culture, or ANYTHING that inspires you!

Visit our website for entry and voting details.

Diorama Drop-Off:

Wednesday, March 20 - Saturday, March 23 (by 10 a.m.)

View & Vote: Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Winners Announced & Displayed: March 25-30



2024 HPL SUMMER LIBRARY CHALLENGE



EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF YOUR LIBRARY... AND BEYOND!

June 10 - August 2
for all ages

Register online or at the library starting June 10. Watch our website and social media for SLC updates, registration information, a full list of summer activities, and adventurous reading recommendations for all ages!

#HPLSummer
#AdventureBeginsAtYourLibrary
#BuildingCommunity
#DiscoverShareCreateConnect

HONORING A BELOVED CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN



In just five days, Madison, WI-based artist Emily Balsley transformed a wall in the Cathy Norris Picture Book Garden of The Children's Room at Hedberg Public Library from ordinary to extraordinary.

Work on the colorful mural started on Tuesday, January 23, 2024. While Emily brought the garden image to life, all were welcomed to watch her paint, and she graciously made time to engage with in-awe onlookers - children and adults, alike. In addition to whimsical animals, insects, birds, and vegetables, the mural includes a few of the five practices integral to early literacy: read, sing, and play.



Janesville is no stranger to Emily's art, which can also be found outside St. Mary's School; her illustration portfolio includes books for kids of all ages, magazines, posters, apparel, maps, puzzles, and games.



The design and execution of the mural are funded by the Cathy Norris Memorial Fund through the HPL Foundation. Cathy Norris was a long-time and beloved Children's Librarian who was instrumental in establishing the

welcoming vibe and early literacy practices of The Children's Room at HPL.

"She created a wonderful spirit in the Children's Room that continues to this day."

Julie Westby, Children's Librarian

"Cathy was an advocate for children, teens, and their families at the library and in Janesville," says Julie Westby, Children's Librarian at HPL. "She created a wonderful spirit in The Children's Room that continues

to this day. I was very fortunate to work with her from my first day in 1998 until she retired in 2006."

Cathy is credited with or had a hand in creating many long-standing in-library and library outreach programs, including baby programming, learning through play programming, Janesville's Battle of the Books, the library special needs visits, and first grade visits - which just completed its 24th year.



Active in the library and throughout the community, Cathy also founded and supported a puppet troupe with local adult volunteers, says Jamie Swenson, HPL Youth Services Associate, who knew Cathy both as a library patron at the age of 8 and later a coworker. "There were elaborate homemade puppets and sets including a large puppet castle that was used for extremely popular shows in The Children's Room." Tickets were free, but the shows quickly reached capacity each time. "They often had to add extra shows to accommodate the crowds," recalls Jamie. "As a child, I remember that getting a ticket to the library puppet show was a big deal!"



"So much of what Cathy stood for is still reflected in the current staff," Jamie adds. "It's wonderful that we have a colorful mural now as a daily reminder of Cathy and her unwavering commitment to Janesville readers."

Both Julie and Jamie have special memories that highlight the spirit of Cathy, which is reflected in the bright and playful nature of the mural.

"Cathy had a wonderful sense of humor and encouraged YS Staff to be playful," recalls Jamie. "She supported crazy ideas and allowed people to try different programs/ideas. One time she let me have two giant mountains of sand delivered to the JPAC parking lot for the Summer Library party. Everyone had a fantastic time digging for hidden dinosaurs in the sand (and then



taking home buckets of sand for their sandboxes too!)"

"Cathy was always willing to do anything to support the success of library programs, even if it meant doing something silly," says Julie. For example, she and The Children's Room staff dyed their hair green because readers reached a mid-summer reading goal of 24,000 books. When summer readers reached the end of summer goal of 32,003 books, Cathy, Julie, and a representative from each elementary school completed the "Ultimate Jungle Challenge" which included running through jungle slime (made in Jamie's kitchen) with a Tarzan yell and eating a chocolate-dipped bug.

Yet another year, Jamie recalls, Cathy happily allowed staff to store REAL cow pies in the stairwell for our cow pie throwing contest. "The pies heated up and set off the alarm system! Whoops!"

"The families of Janesville benefitted from having Cathy lead the Children's Room for over 30 years."

Jamie Swenson, Youth Services Assistant

A plaque will be mounted in memory of the unforgettable children's librarian. It will read:

The Cathy Norris Picture Book Garden is dedicated in loving memory of longtime Children's Librarian, Cathy Norris. She was the Children's Librarian at the Janesville/Hedberg Public Library for over 30 years. Cathy embodied a welcoming spirit and she valued everyone who entered the library, especially our youngest readers. It was Cathy's belief in early literacy education that helped create many of the programs that still reach out to our youngest patrons and their families. Cathy's quiet, unassuming, yet never-wavering advocacy for children is her legacy to the families of Janesville and to the Hedberg Public Library community.

"The families of Janesville benefitted from having Cathy lead the Children's Room for over 30 years," says Jamie. "She was patient, kind, and understood that libraries could play a significant role in early childhood education, how they could create a safe space for learning for older children, and could give teens opportunities to gain skills that would lead to more successful lives."

ALL ABOARD AT HPL



FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, THE LIBRARY HAS PARTNERED WITH THE WIS-ILL MODULAR MODEL RAILROAD GROUP TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS AND DISPLAYS TO SHARE THE GROUP'S KNOWLEDGE AND PASSION FOR MODEL TRAINS.

Comprised of train enthusiasts from Wisconsin and Illinois, the group displayed a collection of trains and accessories at HPL during the month of January.

A slideshow presentation by the group and Paul Swanson of the Lake States Railway Historical Association on Tuesday, January 16 featured a collection of pictures depicting Rock County steam and diesel trains. On Saturday, January 20, a full layout display was set up in HPL's Program Room for all ages to experience. Members of the hobbyist group were on hand to answer questions for the full day.

"I spent almost three hours at the Janesville Public Library enjoying the model train displays and all the literature," Dave Niedfeldt, City of Beloit, wrote in an email to City of Janesville's Deputy City Manager, Ryan McCue. "Your Library staff did an excellent job organizing and presenting the literature along with the Wisconsin & Illinois Model Railroad Club train displays."

Patron Lisa Mack shared in a message that her family enjoyed the "awesome" train display.

" My grandson is still talking about it. Thank you so much for planning stuff like this! "

Lisa Mack, Library Visitor



"We were glad to share the joys of model railroading with the community," the group noted on its Facebook page.

HPL HELPS PETS GO HOME



On the second Wednesday of each month, the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin (HSSW) hosts Adopt-a-Pet at the library. The partnership provides an opportunity for interested individuals to meet adoptable pets and learn more about the adoption process.

Even if the visiting pet does not find a "forever" home during the event, Faith Stephens, Public Relations and Community Outreach Coordinator at HSSW, says it's still worthwhile.

" Thanks to the partnership between HPL and HSSW, pets like Squonk get more socialization, exposure, and a better chance at adoption! "

Faith Stephens, Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin

In fact, Squonk (pictured above) was adopted just three days after attending the outreach event at HPL.

THE NEXT FURRY MEET & GREET

All are welcome to meet (and cuddle!) with the adoptable pets in the library's atrium.

**Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m.
March 13 • April 10 • May 8**

LIBRARY LOVE ON DISPLAY

February was Library Lovers Month and Mary Schweigl, Public Services Assistant II at HPL, played matchmaker for anyone ready to fall in love with a good book.

Schweigl and other library staff set the mood with a table for two and an opportunity to stare deep into the pages of your next favorite read.



NEW MONTHLY



Starting in March 2024, for the last week of each month, patrons will be able to choose from a selection of titles without using their monthly borrows.

Visit our website to learn more!

HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We appreciate the generosity of the individuals who gave to the HPL Foundation October - December 2023.

Interested in supporting your library?

Visit our website to learn all the ways you can give to HPL.

Marion J. and Robert C. Lietz Fund, Kay Briski, Steven Maciolek, Timothy and Bonnie Heindel, Kathryn Shebiel, Pam Wells, Charles Mowbray, John and Lynn Parr, Richard Thurner in Memory of Sherry Thurner, Roberta Kerr, Robert Ramsdell in Honor of Helene Ramsdell, Shih-Wen Chang, Larry and Karla Nitz, Claremont Jackman Foundation, Elizabeth Woodruff Charitable Trust

HPL FOUNDATION NEW HOST FOR FALL FUNDRAISER



The HPL Foundation is excited to announce that it is the new host for the library's annual fall fundraiser.

"The HPL Foundation is honored to host *A Night at the Library* fundraiser," said HPL Foundation board member Aron Busan. "The event will be a fantastic evening to experience the Library after hours in a social setting and escape from the everyday world, while having fun and raising money for critical programs and services that are invaluable to the community."

Now in its 15th year, the mingle murder mystery invites guests to dress up, enjoy food and drinks in the stacks, and become amateur sleuths to discover who-dunnit by the end of the night.

Formerly a fundraiser for the Friends of HPL, the Foundation is excited to take on the

challenge of making the event an even bigger success in raising funds to support library programs and services.

"This is an incredible opportunity to tangibly support the library's promotion of creativity and imagination in the community," said HPL Foundation board member Jesse Otts. "It shows adults you don't have to be a kid to have fun and we are proud to support it!"

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 19** and look for more information, including ticket links, online and at the library this summer.

Volunteers Needed!

Call 608-758-6600, email Jamie Swenson at jswenson@hedbergpubliclibrary.org, or visit our website to fill out our special event volunteer form. A list of volunteer opportunities is available on page two of this newsletter.

Interested in becoming a sponsor?

Visit hedbergpubliclibrary.org/murder for details on how you or your business can support library programs and services through this event.

FRIENDS OF HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of HPL is a nonprofit volunteer group that supports the library in many ways. The Friends operate **The Ground Floor** in the lower lobby, selling used books, gifts, snacks, and beverages.

Membership dues and proceeds from the shop and other fundraisers enhance the library and its services.

Memberships start at just \$20.

Use our safe and secure PayPal link online OR fill out our membership form to become a Friend of HPL! Already a Friend? Renew today!

LOVE THE LIBRARY? BECOME A FRIEND!



The Friends of HPL would like to thank all of the donors who selected an ornament from the Giving Tree and generously donated that gift. The items will support library activities and projects that take place throughout the year and provide much needed assistance for the homeless.



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to learn more about the Friends of HPL!



FRIENDS OF HPL JOIN AREA CONSORTIUM

Representatives from 12 area Friends of the Library groups on January 30 at the Fitchburg Public Library to share their organization's history, swap ideas and success stories, and begin to explore challenges they face now and/or anticipate in the future.

Believed to be the first of its kind meeting for libraries outside of the Madison Public Library system, a follow-up meeting is already in the works for April.

 **The Ground Floor**
shop | eat | drink | read
at Hedberg Public Library

Visit our volunteer-run coffee shop and used book store to stock up on great reads and yummy snacks.



**DYK? Friends members get
20% off purchases at
The Ground Floor!**



A Service of the City of Janesville

316 SOUTH MAIN STREET
JANESVILLE, WI 53545

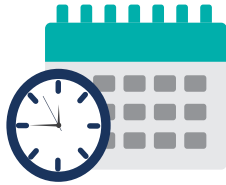
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HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Connect with HPL Online

Ready
Set
Library!
Celebrate
**NATIONAL
LIBRARY WEEK**
April 7-13



COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICE HOURS

Hedberg Public Library is proud to partner with several local service organizations to provide ongoing access to experts in our study rooms. *No appointment necessary. Walk-ins welcome.*

PROJECT 16:49
1st & 3rd Tuesday from 1-5 p.m.
STUDY ROOM 5

GIFTS MEN'S SHELTER
2nd Tuesday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
STUDY ROOM 5
4th Friday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
STUDY ROOM 1

**VA HEALTHCARE FOR
HOMELESS VETERANS**
Every Other Tuesday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
STUDY ROOM 4

SECOND HARVEST
2nd Tuesday from 2-4 p.m.
STUDY ROOM 4
4th Friday from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
STUDY ROOM 4

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF
SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN**
2nd Wednesday from 4-5 p.m.
STUDY ROOM 3
4th Wednesday from 3-6 p.m.
ATRIUM

MAIN STREET THRIVE
2nd Friday from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
STUDY ROOM 4

**ROCK COUNTY ADRC ELDER
BENEFITS SPECIALIST**
3rd Thursday from 11:30 a.m.-1p.m.
STUDY ROOM 4