Craft Club- Popular New Program at Minneapolis Central

Craft Club is a popular new program started in 2018 through a seed grant and also with funds from the Friends of Minneapolis Central Library. Craft Club has also received ongoing donations from staff and community members.

Associate Librarian Mirra Neiman noticed patron interest in crafting projects during Community Clubhouse, Coffee and Conversations and pop up programs for Cargill Hall exhibits. Upon connecting with a Clubhouse volunteer, the program idea was born. The program started with 5-8 patrons coming twice a month to the library atrium. Interest grew and the Club soon moved into the Commons. By the end of this past summer the Craft Club was expanded to being held every Monday from 10:30 am-noon. Attendance has steadily grown to an average of 30+ attendees at every session. The Club is staffed with 5 librarians and also volunteers.

When people walk into the Craft Club, they see a room set up with a variety of projects. One table is dedicated to knitting, one to crochet and other needlework, one beading table and one paper crafts table. There is also a sewing machine for patrons to use. Patrons are encouraged to pursue any craft that they are interested in with initial assistance from a staff member. As they advance on their projects, staff check in as needed. Patrons have also started assisting each other in current and future projects.

The main audience for Craft Club is adults; a mixture of patrons experiencing homelessness, new Americans, adults with their young children, as well as an organized group of developmentally disabled adults. Crafting is a great way to connect people around similar interests that also promotes a sense of accomplishment and pride in the work they have made. Our patrons have mentioned a sense of normalcy, calm and purpose they feel from Craft Club that can carry over to other areas of their life. All supplies are provided by the library as well as a safe space to work, develop and store projects as they learn.

Friends of the Minneapolis Central Library Annual Meeting
Monday February 11, 2019  5:30 pm Room 270

All members are welcome to attend. The meeting room can be found in the NE corner of the second floor. The agenda includes the president’s annual report, election of board members and 2019 planning. The Board will welcome several new members.

Monthly board meetings from now on will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month. Information about Friend’s activities can be found in past issues of the LINK posted on the hclib.org website under “support your library”. Select the local group for Minneapolis Central Library.
Ellen Wolfson
Minneapolis Central Library Supporter

Ellen Wolfson, a longtime MCL advocate passed away December 3rd, 2018 at the age of 92. As a fan of Central Library, Ellen was among those invited to organizational meetings in 2011 to begin the new Friends of MCL. Ellen worked with others to write the first by-laws when this group incorporated in 2012. She was one of the first Board members and continued to contribute by volunteering at all events. With her enthusiasm and delightful hats, she was a role model for us all. Ellen’s presence at Board meetings added an alert mind and sunny disposition. Her laughter and obvious enjoyment of all topics related to her beloved library were a joy to experience. Kristi Pearson, Director of the Friends of Hennepin County Library said “Ellen was a passionate library supporter and champion who gave generously of her time and talents. We shall miss her infectious smile and collaborative spirit here at Friends of HCL.”

She was honored at a remembrance gathering on December 14th. Her contributions to the city of Minneapolis were described by several political leaders. Mayor Jacob Frey described her important early support and how she made him a part of her family.

Ellen enlisted in the US Cadet Nurse Corps at the age of 17 in 1944 to receive nurses’ training, a university scholarship and to support her country with this much needed skill. She wrote of the challenges of early nursing practices in her “1944 Memory” in the University of Minnesota Nursing files. While a surgical nurse, she worked for nurses’ pensions through the MN Nursing Association. She was an activist her entire life and used her excellent social skills and interest in others to create a large circle of friends and memorable parties with her husband Stanley.

Ellen’s daughter, Sara, stated that “Minneapolis Central was the only library” for Ellen and the family requested that donations in her memory be made to MCL. The Friends of MCL made a tribute donation to FHCL for a bookplate in her honor.

Hennepin County Library
Honors Arvonne Fraser

In December the Hennepin County Library announced that the Southeast Library will be renamed for Arvonne Fraser, past Friends of MCL Board member. This honor was initiated by a resolution of County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. The approved resolution stated in part that “Whereas Ms. Arvonne Fraser was a leader in women’s rights, a long-time activist in elevating women’s influence on public policymaking and a passionate advocate for public libraries,” and that “Whereas while Ms. Fraser was chair of the Friends of Minneapolis Public Library she worked tirelessly to raise money for additional library hours...” and that she died “leaving a legacy...demonstrating a longstanding love of and commitment to public libraries”.

The Hennepin County Library-Arvonne Fraser is currently closed for renovations and will reopen later in 2019. The Friends of MCL Board is delighted that Arvonne’s stewardship and support for the public library system will be recognized.

Revisit Vinyl

The Vinyl Revival Project has been coming together over the past year as the library has purchased equipment to play LPs and tried out some pop-up programs at other library events, such as Cargill Hall exhibits and Shake Rattle Read in the Children’s Library. The project was officially launched on Saturday, January 19th, Producer/MC/hip-hop artist and educator Toki Wright led a listening and vinyl appreciation event in the Commons at Minneapolis Central Library. The Listening room has a turntable, two headphones and some comfy chairs. Patrons can reserve the room as they would any meeting room.

Vinyl Revival Listening Room
Room N-301, Floor 3
Stop by, listen, give the vinyl collection a spin!
Listen to a rotating selection of vinyl records curated by local artists. Reserve space online at hclib.org, call 612-543-8136 or stop by the 3rd floor at Minneapolis Central.
Friends of MCL Support Successful 2018 Family History Fair

The Family History Fair on October 27th attracted over 230 attendees from the Metro area as well as outstate Minnesota and neighboring states. Pictured here are presenters and genealogy groups who assisted the community to uncover their family history as well as suggest new avenues of research. The Friends of MCL were active in their support by donating their time and funding for the event expenses. Genealogist Elizabeth Gommoll gave the keynote talk on “Where They Were” with advice on locating an ancestor's place of origin. Workshops included using DNA for genealogy, locating military records and using the Library databases such as Ancestry Library Edition.

February Central Library Events

**Feb 6th**
- 9:00am- noon: Personal Finance Coaching with the Volunteer Lawyers Network Private meetings in room N207
- 5:30-7:00pm: Patent Workshop for Inventors, Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners  RKMC meeting room 2nd floor  *Registration required

**Feb 13th**
- 10:30- 11:30am: WWII History Discussion; Magnet Program held at Westminster Presbyterian Church 1200 S. Marquette (Reading packet available at the MCL 4th floor desk)
- 6:00-7:15pm: Global Conversations- The Middle East: Regional Disorder  *Registration required
- 6:00-8:00pm: Launch Your Food Business in room N270.

**Feb 28th**
- 10:00-11:00am: Health Care Directives with the Metro Area Agency on Aging

*To register and to check out more events go to the hclib.org website and look under events.*

Did You Know?

Friends of MCL post event reminders on Next Door, the online community you can join for your neighborhood. Valarie Griep, the Friends’ Social Media Coordinator, keeps us updated on Central Library’s latest news and events.
Thank you to our 2018 donors!

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Lois Steer and Larry Peterson
Linda Voss
David Wolfson and Sara Miele

2018 Board of the Friends of the Minneapolis Central Library

Front row: Linda Brehmer, Jennifer Samaha, Staff Liaison Dillon Young, Carol Jordan, Susan Hanna Bibus.
Back row: Chuck Griep, Valarie Griep, Carol Siegel, Marcia Rinek, and Bob Callahan. Not pictured: Ellen Wolfson

Friends of MCL meetings are held in room N270 on the 2nd floor of the Minneapolis Central Library the 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30 pm.