

LAC Minutes - (Wheaton/5/19-2025)

Attendees: Yesvy Gustasp, Chair; Dianne Whitaker, ex-officio; Members Ania Walle, Farah Nageer-Kanthor, Thelda McMillian, Megan O'Brien, Eric Wallace, Carol Bender, Barbara Freidman, Diana Dubrawsky,

Absent: Grace Manubay, Andrew Rein

Opening Business: Yesvy called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm the April 2025 minutes were unanimously approved and seconded by Ania Waller.

Membership Update:

Wheaton Library Managers Report to the LAC

Dianne shared the Agency Manager's Report for May 19, 2025.

Facilities:

- Library staff take care of the library but not the entire facility.
- No significant issues this month. Have been repainting front and rear entrance columns and these projects are coming to a close.

Collection:

- No major shifts in collection management.

Displays:

- Adult Area: Jewish Heritage, Environmental, New Books, Mental Health, Memorial Day, Asian American Heritage
- Children's Area: Mental Health, Mother's Day, Bike Month, Jewish Heritage

Program Highlights:

- Family Story times continue to be the programs with the largest attendance overall.
- Summer reading pre-registration on the theme of Color My World
- Asian American Heritage Month event on Beijing Opera on May 4th had over 100 people in attendance!
- There are teen programs on games, Nintendo Switch Gaming, Super Schhhh Smash games without sound, Fast Track Fridays Mario Event; STEM event on making a colorful banner
- New Orchestra event was on April 27th
- A number of Earth Day events including films such as Wild Robot and conversations about emergency preparedness
- AI for Boomers and Solar Bang program were both excellent
- Gearing up for June-July programs which will have an arts theme

Staffing:

- No news

Discussion

Megan asked about the AI for Boomers program to better understand if the program was geared towards teaching boomers how to use AI. Yesvy spoke highly of the program and the facilitator.

Don Libes with the Potomac LAC Branch joined the meeting to invite LACs to join the Montgomery County LAC Discussion Google Group, mocolac@googlegroups.com, about how LACs are working, communicating with members and patrons, etc. On June 25, 2025, this Group is hosting an event at the Kensington Park Library at 7pm.

Library Liaison Report

Grace Manubay was absent as she is on travel out of the country.

Discussion:

Dianne shared about a trip on May 2nd that included the Director, Regional Manager, and others who visited Westminster-Carroll County Public Library branch where they saw one of the nicest learning labs/maker spaces in the state Exploration Commons. There is a culinary arts kitchen, bank of 3D printers, laser, and audio-visual production, virtual reality, and high tech meeting facility. They also visited the Elkridge branch's tool library. This library houses tools and equipment for doing things around the house. Their most popular items are power washers and sewing machines which people are able to 'borrow'. After lunch at Ms. Shirley's, they visited Storyville, a complete room for children ages 0-7 where you can create your own story. They have a Pirate boat, lighthouse, and other interesting indoor playground. The group then visited an Arcade room with gaming computers with gaming chairs that young people can use to play games including Fortnite, Roblox, and other popular games. This offered Dianne and the group ideas for how to use different future upcoming library spaces.

Ania asked how the tool library operates and Dianne explained that anyone with a county library card is able to use the library and borrow tools. They have defined borrowing rules that include a specific amount of time during which they can pick up the tool. For some of the tools such as a sewing machine, patrons need to take a free class first before you can borrow the equipment.

Yesvy added that the County's Library Board meeting also addressed the LAC Handbook topic and encouraged us all to review this.

Unfinished Business:

Budget Updates:

A tentative vote on the FY26 budget was taken and the library's budget was accepted as presented. A small increase in the online resources and world language collection were accepted. The largest share of the budget is staff salaries. There will likely be impacts of the federal cuts that materialize in the Fall and the budget may be revisited at that time.

New Business:

Election of New Officers for 2025-2026

LAC Chair = 1 year and 2 years maximum

Main role = send agenda about a week ahead of time; Dianne sends a template to LAC to gather additional agenda items and share with LaChrista Prather on the Director's team and run the meeting according to Robert's Rule of Order

LAC Secretary = can be continuous but can be a challenging role.

Yesvy submitted that Farah and Megan will serve as Co-Chairs and Yesvy will serve as the Secretary for FY 2026. This motion was unanimously passed. The new Officers take effect July 1 to serve a term of 1 year until June 2026.

Discussion

- Questions/input about programming
 - Book Club: Dianne is still looking for a staff member who would be willing to work on this. Barbara has done some research and she is compiling a list of book clubs in the area that are open to anyone open to joining. She will share this with the LAC members and we can then decide if we want to start another one or attach to an existing Book Club. This may be an interim solution until we address if/how Wheaton may be able to support an evening book club with staffing, community support, etc.
 - Barbara will share this compilation with Yesvy who will share with the wider audience.
- New needs in the community for services
 - Yesvy raised the need to address the temperature in library.
- Community happenings that could have a library impact

Adjournment

Yesvy moved to adjourn at 8 pm and Ania seconded.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Wheaton LAC is on Monday, June 16th at 7 pm.