Monthly Narrative  
Gere Branch Library  
July 2017  
Submitted by Brenda Ealey, Gere Branch Manager

- We welcomed Courtney Schnabel as an Aide on July 20th.
- Sandy Wallick attended the retirement party for Sharon Osenga in Ravenna on July 7th. Sharon has served 31 years as a Regional Library System Administrator in her office out of Kearney - currently the Central Plains Library System.
- Pat Sloan met with Unique Management on the 12th.
- Brenda Ealey joined Jessica Guo (Gere’s intern) for the summer interns’ lunch at BMPL on the 14th. Lunch was part of a daylong tour that included stops at Nebraska Library Commission, Love Library Learning Commons (UNL) and Innovation Campus.
- Sue Block, Cally O’Brien and their families attended the Annual Staff Picnic on the 29th.
- Diane Vanek was hired for Gere’s 30 hour Library Service Associate Position effective July 13th.

GOAL 1: SUCCESS - The resources of Lincoln City Libraries will reflect the community’s value for education and support our community’s ongoing success.

LIBRARY OBJECTIVES:
1. Build a new main library on the Pershing site.
2. Strengthen library facilities system wide.
3. Strengthen library collections including books, eBooks, music, movies, and DVDs, etc. to reflect customers’ changing needs and interests.
4. Strengthen library virtual services (website, online catalog, etc.)
5. Collaborate with event sponsors to promote and celebrate community successes.
6. Innovate new ways to provide services that support literacy, learning and literature.
7. Innovate and use creative planning to make buildings flexible and responsive to customer priorities, including upkeep and maintenance.
8. Acknowledge and celebrate diversity in our community.

- Thanks to Gere staff (Meagan, Beth, Diane, Kristen, Corey, Sarah), under Pat Sloan’s supervision, for assistance with the shift of the adult fiction collection so that all genres are now interfiled.
- Meagan Moore was approached by an older gentleman at the desk saying – “You look like a lady that knows all about fly-fishing!” Meagan assured him that she was not that lady but was happy to help him find what he needed and after a few questions located a freshwater fly-fishing guide and DVD on tying flies.
- The new meeting room projector has been used several times this month with success and eliminates hazards of electrical cords on the floor. Gere also received a replacement mic for the Lightspeed unit.
- Pat Sloan participated in a conference call with SirsiDynix on the 20th. During that conversation staff were able to problem solve an issue reported of significant numbers of items showing up as InTransit at checkout at Gere. They discovered the 3M SelfCheck machine that had been transferred from BMPL to Gere in June required a change in settings to indicate the SelfCheck was located at Gere not BMPL.
- Kristen Adams provided displays for History; Books about Books; Music & Movies; Eclipse 2017 and Fox on the Fairway (Playhouse Production). We had a circulation of 545.
• Gere had 31 adult volunteers who gave a total of 612 plus hours during July. Our top four volunteers had 86.5, 85, 67.5 and 66.5 hours each. Amazing! Pat Sloan also trained a new volunteer to join the crew.

GOAL 2: ACCESS - Library services will engage people when they are available and where they work, shop, and participate.

LIBRARY OBJECTIVES:
1. Strengthen system-wide outreach to allow library staff to participate in the communities and neighborhoods served.
2. Strengthen service delivery at off-site locations.
3. Strengthen programming (youth, teen and adult) to accommodate work and family schedules.
4. Collaborate with new partners to better serve working families.
5. Innovate new ways to better serve working families.

• Kristen Adams created a booklist and activity sheet for Morrill Hall’s Regenerative Medicine event.
• Corey Goettsche led a One Book One Lincoln book discussion of *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi for the Aspen Book Club with 6 folks attending on the 11th.
• Cally O’Brien participated in a meeting for the Fall Reading Challenge at BMPL on July 20th to make plans for events and prizes that will target Dads.
• The Better Builder Bootcamp was July 5th and had 75 attend with Sandy Wallick, Wyatt Packard and Jessica Guo hosting. Sandy adjusted plans so that most of the activities could be held indoors due to the hot weather. One of the popular activities was flying foam airplanes outside. The mother of a young boy confined to a wheelchair asked for more info on where the planes were purchased as it was an activity that he could easily participate in without difficulty. Mad Science of Iowa was the 11th and had 92 attend with Sarah Easton, Wyatt Packard and Jessica Guo hosting. Magic with Jeff Quinn was the 19th and had 265 attend and hosted by Cally O’Brien and Beth Kimmerling Dumler. Hampstead performance of Pinocchio was the 21st and had 212 attend and hosted by Diane Vanek and Jessica Guo. The Heavy Equipment Encounter was the 23rd and had 127 attend and was hosted by Sue Block, Kristen Adams and Wyatt Packard. Pat Sloan shared the following gate counts coinciding with the busyness of summer reading – particularly on program days:
  May 25 - 1,520 on the first day for signing up for Summer Reading
  May 30 - 1,692 closed for 2-day Memorial Day Holiday
  June 7 - 1,473 Kokyo Taiko Drummers
  June 20 - 1,437
  June 21 - 1,431 Saltdogs visit
  July 5 - 1,463 Better Builder Bootcamp
  July 11 - 1,405 Mad Science of Iowa
  July 20 - 1,518 Try It Thursdays – Lego Build
  July 21 - 1,428 Musicville (Community Playhouse) & Hampstead Stage Company - Pinnochio

• Gere’s collaboration with Lincoln Community Playhouse Youth Theater Arts class provided a performance preview of *Musicville* on the 21st with 50 in attendance.
• Kristen Adams planned and hosted Try It Thursdays at Gere this summer. On July 6th and 20th we had Lego days with 39 and 64 attending. (Sandy Wallick filled in for Kristen on the 6th.) On
the 13th, youth formed teams to build newspaper forts. On the 27th – they made catapults with craft sticks, rubber bands and plastic lids and launched pomp poms.

- Cally O’Brien and Beth Kimmerling Dumler hosted Escape the Library on July 17th, as a combined program for teens and adults. Participants preregistered and 88 people experienced the program coordinated with Escape Lincoln – who provided all the props, puzzles and stayed in the room to help guide any groups that got stuck. Cally had Dairy Queen coupons to distribute as prizes, so she hid them in the room for random groups. Groups participating included Lincoln school teachers, and a group from the Lighthouse who stayed around after for a library tour and for the youth to update or get library cards. Cally asked summer reading volunteers to be the testers and experience the room prior to the actual program.

- Cally O’Brien reported that only 3 teens participated in the Teen Break Room this month.

- Beth Kimmerling Dumler and Pat Sloan hosted Rosalie Lippincott’s Memories of the North Platte Canteen presentation for the adult summer reading program at Gere on the 10th with 72 attending. The program was combined with Gere BooksTalk this month.

- Fay Minor led the Legacy Estates Book Group on July 3rd with 11 in attendance. They discussed the book – Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford.

- Sandy Wallick had 14 join her for the monthly Storytime at St. Mark’s on the 11th. They requested an ice cream theme and were making ice cream when Sandy arrived. 😊

- Meagan Moore’s Art Lab had 4 sessions this month with 58 attending and 19 of which were new to the group. Art Lab activities included decorating small tote bags that were filled with basic hygiene products to donate to the food drive; creating sculptures from various mediums including, playing cards, wire, Styrofoam, clay, drinking straws, marshmallows and toothpicks; upcycled art day using discarded or recycled items – the favorite station being the tin can robots from cans, milk jugs and bottle caps; and a paper arts and drawing day.

GOAL 3: ACHIEVEMENT - Library services will promote literacy, learning and success for young people.

LIBRARY OBJECTIVES:
1. Strengthen partnerships to provide crucial early learning experiences.
2. Strengthen programs that address summer learning loss.
3. Strengthen early literacy programs.
5. Strengthen programs that promote teen leadership and success.
6. Collaborate with youth agencies that foster learning.
7. Innovate new services to promote learning.

- Meagan Moore shared this customer service story: “I helped a young lady in a hijab who needed resources for studying math. She said that she was going into middle school next year, and she felt nervous and that she wasn't prepared. I encouraged her forethought and determination to learn, especially in the area of math. Together we looked through both juvenile and adult resources, settling on a pre-algebra and beginning algebra book. I have never seen a young person so excited about math in the summertime (I know I was not enthused), but I was glad to help her find the information she needed in order to build her confidence and skill set for the unknown.”

- Gere’s registration for Summer Reading 2017 totaled 876-Adult, 2342-Children & 652-Teen. Total: 3870 registered at Gere.
• Sue Block’s RAP (Read Aloud Please) Around the Year group celebrated Nebraska’s Sesquicentennial Celebration and read Nebraska Nightcrawlers from the American Chillers series by Johnathan Rand. The story takes place in Denton Nebraska and this month’s craft was painting live worms and then rinsing them off and releasing in Gere’s natural prairies space. They ended the program by eating gummy worms. There were 16 attending.

• Aaron, from East High School, shadowed at Gere on the 5th as part of summer class requirement. During his time he was able to observe and participate with Meagan Moore in Art Lab.

• Diane Vanek had 13 Baby Storytime sessions with 351 attending. Themes were: Firecrackers; What is in the Green Grass?; Sprinklers Splashing; What is in My Garden? Diane’s storytime babies joined the storytime toddlers and enjoyed playing in the sprinklers and pools following Sprinklers & Splashing.

• Sandy Wallick and Cally O’Brien had 12 preschool Storytimes with 336 attending and themes of: Fruit; Big Machines; Camping; and Big and Bad. Fay Minor filled in at Preschool Story Times on the 3rd, 10th and 17th.

• Sue Block had 21 Toddler Times this month with 616 attending. Toddler Time themes were: Let’s Celebrate Birthdays; Zoo Day; Let’s Go to the Beach; Let’s Go to a Construction Site. At the end of Beach day learning times Sue had small wading pools and sprinklers set up on Gere’s east lawn for the children to splash in and enjoy. The construction theme fell on the same week as the Heavy Equipment Encounter – which was a big hit.

• Meagan Moore assembled 360 Book Bundles this month – 146 First Readers; 123 Picture Books; and 91 Family Movie Bundles.

• Diane Vanek has TAB applications out for recruiting TAB members for the 2017/2018 year and has contacted current members for interest in returning.

• Cally O’Brien distributed play money to the summer reading volunteers to use to vote for their favorite food and theme idea for the end of the summer celebration at Gere. The amount of play money volunteers received was based on how many shifts they worked and the tasks they completed during their shifts.

GOAL 4: OPPORTUNITY - Library services will respond to the particular needs of people living in poverty.

LIBRARY OBJECTIVES
1. Strengthen computer and Internet access that people need to live their day-to-day lives.
2. Collaborate with community agencies and be a driving force in organizing responses to needs identified through the Vital Signs report.
3. Collaborate with community and government agencies.
4. Innovate new ways for the library to meet the needs of those in poverty.
5. Review library policies for their impact for those in poverty.

• Gere participated in the American Red Cross Blood Drive at Lincoln City Libraries on July 28th with 24 donors. Gere staff & customers also participated in the food drive for the Food Bank.

• Sandy Wallick presented to the SCC Head Teacher class and the Early Language and Literature Class on the 24th with 18 attending, 9 each class.

• Brenda Ealey participated in American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska board meeting via conference call on the 15th, and a staff meeting on the 6th at the ACLU office.