Many of us are finding ourselves in the unexpected position of being caregiver's. Some of us have been for quite some time and are experiencing the challenge of doing a difficult task during extra difficult times. The American Library Association has put together a list of helpful resources for caregivers. There are links to government resources, as well as employer resources. Not only can you find tools for helping caregivers, but also info to help yourself as you carry the burdens of caregiving. Take care of yourself, too!

(Larger view on page 2)
ILS CORNER
BY SHERYL VANDERWAGEN

Please submit changes to your 2020 Holiday schedules as soon as possible. Directors and ILS reps were emailed the 2021 Holiday Schedule Request form. Please submit that to me by December 18th if possible.

Circulation Forum meeting scheduled for December 2nd has been cancelled due to the current situation with your libraries. The next scheduled meeting is February 24, 2021 at 1:30 pm.

The new app [Capira] for 29 shared ILS libraries that we have been working on for several months launched in Google Play and the Apple App Store this month. We’ll be working with a few volunteers from member libraries on publicity/promotional materials to use with patrons.

LIBRARY CLOSURES AND CURBSIDE WEB PAGE
BY LLC STAFF

Thom and Dave worked on the website, along with a new form for submitting library closures and whether member libraries are utilizing curbside. Take a look! This is easily accessible from the COVID-19 page of our website.

LIBRARY DIRECTORS
TRANSITIONS

Coopersville Area District Library – It has been a privilege to spend my adult career as an employee of the Coopersville Area District Library. I have had a rich experience, both in my role as Children’s Librarian for seventeen years and then as the Director since 2011. What a joy it has been in my life. My career has allowed me to be creative and to lead, and it has allowed me to follow my passion for learning. It is with a grateful heart that I announce my retirement. It is time for me to pursue other efforts. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support. I cherish the friendships I have made and the comradery we share in our love for books and knowledge. I leave knowing that the library is in good hands with a dedicated board of trustees and a stellar staff.

(Photo of me with my 3 year old grandson Drexler Mol who is participating in my library’s 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program)

The library has welcomed Elyshia Hoekstra as the new Director. Elyshia has been serving as Director for the Dorr and Hopkins libraries.
Fennville District Library: We will be participating in a federal grant to study health and wellness programming in public libraries. Community Health and Wellness: Small and Rural Library Practices, Perspectives and Programs will study public libraries in Oklahoma, Vermont, North Carolina and Michigan. The project will run from 2019 through 2022 and was funded by a $475,785 IMLS National Leadership Grant. The researchers will perform an in-depth analysis of how small and rural public libraries support community health and wellness through public programs. – Teresa Kline

Flat River Community Library: We partnered with Mission Point Healthcare Services and Meijer to provide a free flu shot program in November – more than 70 community members of all ages visited the library to get vaccinated. – Mattie Cook

Howard Miller Public Library: Please join us in extending best wishes to Barb VanKuiken, who is retiring on December 31st. Barb has served Zeeland and the surrounding communities since August 2011. In April 2013, she was promoted to the full-time position of Administrative Assistant. We feel blessed to have spent the past 9 years working alongside Barb as she shared her talents with our community. Barb had many responsibilities as Administrative Assistant that were vital to the library’s continued success, but not visible to the public. Yet, she was able to engage with patrons through her creativity. Barb not only developed and maintained a number of our collections (including our growing DVD selection), but she inspired delight and awe in patrons through her front desk displays. Whether she created a winter wonderland, a 3-D effect for summer reading, or a geometrical modern art, library users of all ages would make comments about their favorite part of the display. It isn’t her displays that we will miss most about Barb, but her personality. Her quick wit will keep you laughing with her and her big heart shows you she cares. We want to thank Barb for her years spent in our team and wish her happiness in her retirement. Thank you Barb for all that you’ve given us! – Lindsey Kult

(Continued on page 4)
Ionia Community Library: Here is the flyer for a new program that we have started. The teens (grades 6-12) pick up a Grab N Go craft bag with an Among Us handwarmer craft, Among Us Shrinky Dink keychain craft, bookmark to color, candy, and a kit to make a S'more in the microwave (including instructions). We will meet weekly via Zoom until Christmas to play the game together with kids we know locally. I also created a display of books in the Teen Room of books with mustaches on them. If someone checks out one of the books, they get a fake mustache and a mustache temporary tattoo. This has been really popular! - Shanni Kerr

Kent District Library: "is pleased to announce the selection of Jaci Cooper to serve as the Director of Projects & Planning. She will oversee KDL’s portfolio of projects, process improvement, municipality building projects, strategic planning and system-wide calendaring... She was a Circulation Assistant at the Cascade Township Branch and worked as the Executive Assistant before moving into her new role at KDL."

"is pleased to announce the selection of Christine Mwangi to serve as the new Development Manager. She will plan, create and execute key fundraising strategies for KDL... [and is] a Kenyan native and fluent in Swahili.

Loutit District Library: In June 2020, the LDL youth department, in collaboration with Spring Lake District Library, the Tri-Cities Historical Museum, Ottawa County Parks and Recreation, the City of Grand Haven, and the Village of Spring Lake, debuted the first in a series of StoryWalks®. Pages from the picture book In the Tall, Tall Grass by Denise Fleming were posted on signs along a meadow loop at Hemlock Crossing Park, along with ideas for things families could do, talk about, and look for as they strolled. To date, Loutit has offered 8 different storywalks, encouraging families to read and explore at our many local parks, paths, and trails. This project has been very well received, providing a socially distanced activity for patrons and an opportunity to get out and explore new places. As one family said, "We love storywalks and hope it continues into the winter. We have learned a lot about our area and it’s nice to know where all the good hiking spots are for kids!" Plans are in the works for LDL Storywalks to continue all winter long! - Pamela Feutz

Tamarack District Library: TDL Library Card Tree: Your Passport to Knowledge - We have received 150 library cards, and counting, for our tree(s). We have 7 trees with cards. The furthest library card came from Australia. We are so excited and thankful that the library community is so giving. As more cards keep coming in, we plan on continuing to grow this project. I hope you all enjoy the trees too. Here are some pictures. Please also check out our Facebook page or website for more pictures. - Erin Griffin

"Kuja pamoja ni mwanzo, kukuwa pamoja ni maendeleo; kufanya kazi pamoja ni mafanikio."

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." - Henry Ford
American Library Association’s Midwinter Conference is now virtual and open for registration. Visit the registration page to see speakers, sponsors and more.

"Highlights include:
- Symposium on the Future of Libraries, offering sessions on future trends to inspire innovation in libraries
- News You Can Use with updates that highlight new research, innovations, and advances in libraries
- Interactive author events/Awards celebrations
- The Library Marketplace: Exhibitors, Stages & Resources with NEW Presentation Stages
- Live Chats
- Networking opportunities
- and more!"

Here is a website you might share with your patrons with infants and toddlers. They have created an indoor activities kit to help "talk, read, sing, and play your way through the day."

Are you looking for a good podcast? WebJunction has you covered with a list of podcasts on books, libraries and librarians. They even have a link to one for kids. Help pass the time or maybe be inspired - give these a listen!