

Mercer Island Library Activities Report for April, 2016

Operations Manager Joe Baldwin has been focused on preparing for the move into the temporary service site at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - 8501 SE 40th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040. The temporary site will maintain full operating hours and will offer holds pickup, a small browsing collection and 7 public computers. The temporary library will also have programming such as Story Times, Play and Learn, Opera Preview and Talk Time. It is expected that the library will operate out of the temporary location through early July.

Signs announcing the library's closure and move to the temp site have been posted in the library, on the [KCLS website](#) and on local & systemwide social media, including the Mercer Island Library's [new Facebook page](#).

Staff are busy preparing the building and collection for construction, clearing out drawers and closets, packing up supplies, etc. The library's collection will remain on site during construction but will be protected (likely wrapped in plastic) to protect it from damage, dust, etc. It will not be accessible during construction.

Services to Teens at the Mercer Island Library

The Mercer Island Library hosted a workshop this month as a follow-up to *The Hunting Ground* event, with staff from [LifeWire](#) and a Youth & Family Services liaison at the high school presenting. "All You Need is Love" focused on healthy relationships (sexual or non-sexual), consent, and bystander intervention in situations involving sexual assault. Students broke out by gender identity to discuss their respective concerns and talked as a large group. Of interest is students' concern about the use of offensive language that promotes "toxic masculinity" and violence. They are working with counselors, teachers, and LifeWire (all present at the event) to develop training and guidelines for further conversation. The conversation thus far has been primarily teen driven, which is exciting. It is also thrilling that the library can serve as a safe place to have these conversations.

On Saturday April 23, Arwa Mokdad, a high school sophomore and member of the Teen Advisory Board, hosted a panel discussion on Islam ("Islam: What Do You Want to Know?"). Attendance was excellent, with approx. 25 high school students in the audience of approx. 75.

The program panelists are listed below. Each discussed an issue, followed by audience Q&A.

- PANELISTS FOR "Islam: What Do You Want to Know?"
Sally Jo Gilbert de Vargas - a public school educator for over 35 years, Gilbert de Vargas spoke why she converted to Islam and what it means to her.
- **Dalia Nayfeh** - a senior at the University of Washington and a former MIHS student, Nayfeh spoke about modern Islam, specific to Mercer Island, college life, and Seattle.
- **Imam Jamal Rahman** - a popular speaker on Islam, Sufi spirituality, and interfaith relations and one of the "Interfaith Amigos" with Rabbi Ted Falcon and Pastor Don Mackenzie, Imam Rahman started the conversation by defining Islam.
- **Fawzi Belal** - the Director of Coaching at the Federal Way Football Club, Mr. Balal concluded the opening discussions by talking about terrorism and Islamophobia in post-9/11 America.
- **Doctor Aisha Jumaan** - a consultant with the US Dept. of State about health related projects in Yemen, Dr. Jumaan spoke about women in Islam.

[An opinion piece written by Arwa](#) appeared in the *Reporter* last week; she put a tremendous amount of careful effort into the event.

This event was the first in the series "Conversations for Strong Communities" on Mercer Island in April and May. The Teen Advisory Board has been instrumental in developing the topics and brainstorming about questions for panelists and presenters for all of the events. Subsequent presentations include:

- A workshop/discussion about racism is taking place on May 7.

- A panel of Mercer Island adults and teens will talk about the impact of racial stereotypes in everyday life, followed by the [Stanley Ann Dunham scholarship awards](#) on May 21. The Teen Advisory Board and KCLS Teen Librarian Carrie Bowman are working with Naomi Moore (former TAB member and 2015 winner of a scholarship) to set the agenda and create questions for the panel.

Teen Librarian Carrie Bowman worked with a former 6th grade teacher at IMS and the IMS Book Club (6th and 7th graders) to select poems for Poetry Month projects. Highlights include passing out poems to students and staff during lunch on Poem in Your Pocket Day, creating Poetry Month banners, and posting poetry all over the walls at the middle school.

Bowman is also working with PEAK (Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club) to figure out ways to provide space for students after school during the Library Refresh. There may be opportunities for programs at PEAK using KCLS STEM programming kits.

Services to Children

Story times will continue on their usual days & times at the temporary site:

- Tuesdays, 10:30 – Young Toddler Story Times for ages 12-24 months with adult
 - Tuesdays, 11:30am – Toddler Story Times for ages 2-3 years with adult.
 - Thursdays, 10:30am – Infant Story Times for ages newborn to 12 months with adult (no class May 19th)
 - Thursdays, 1:00pm – Preschool Story Times for ages 3-6 years with adult
- *****NO** story times on Tuesday, May 10th during moving to temporary location

Play & Learn will continue to meet on Wednesdays at 10:30am. **NO** class on May 11th.

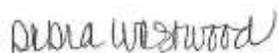
Children's staff have been busy with outreach, hosting booths and story times at the MI Parks & Recreation's "Leap for Green" event, the Mercer Island Preschool Association's 50th Anniversary Circus, at the the Child Care Resource Fair at Bellevue College and the Factoria Mall's Kids Safety Fair. The Library 2 Go van will also make an appearance at the Stroum Jewish Community Center's Truck Day on May 19th.

Services to Adults

The library's *Talk Time* held each Monday afternoon at Mercer Island continues to attract a good audience, often 15 people or more. *Talk Time* will continue to be held at the library's temporary location at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church during the library's remodel.

Just before the library closes on May 8, Norm Hollingshead will present his last Opera Preview of the season: *The Flying Dutchman*. It's not unusual for Norm to have a near capacity crowd for his Opera Previews at Mercer Island.

Questions or additional information? Please don't hesitate to let me know.



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