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2020 Census

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SAVE THE DATE
The Great Gatsby Gala
October 17, 2020

A Community Beyond Books
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What is the 2020 Census and why does it matter? The decennial census plays a large role in the geographic distribution of an estimated $675-800 billion in federal funds nationwide. These federal dollars are spent on services such as healthcare, transportation, social welfare, and schools, and equate to approximately $1,500 per person per year for the local community. A complete and accurate count helps ensure that the needed funds are distributed appropriately.

Beginning in March 2020, each household will receive an invitation in the mail to complete a census questionnaire. There are many reasons to respond on or before April 1, 2020 and to encourage others to do the same.

1. The U.S. Constitution requires that every resident be counted.
2. Not only is it required by law, but it’s your civic duty to participate.
3. The number of representatives for each state is determined by the number of people living there. Did you know that Illinois has lost residents for the past five years in a row, reporting the second-largest decline in population among the 50 states? Approximately 168,682 residents have fled Illinois over the past five years, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This means we have already lost one seat in the House of Representatives. If we do not count everyone remaining in our population, we are at risk of losing a second seat.
4. It is a quick task, only eight questions or so, and takes an average of 15 minutes per household to complete.
5. You can complete the census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail. The first announcement will be mailed to you starting March 15. Look for the postcard, which includes a unique code that is tied to your address.
6. All information submitted to the U.S. Census Bureau is confidential. It is not shared with law enforcement or other governmental entities. Any census employee who breaches this confidentiality commits a federal crime—punishable by time in prison, a fine, or both.

So, there is no reason not to participate, and there are very compelling reasons to do so!

Beginning March 15, the Glen Ellyn Public Library will provide four computers specifically designated for the public to use to respond to their questionnaires online. Library staff and volunteers from the League of Women Voters will be available to assist as needed. We will also hold a variety of programs at the library and around Glen Ellyn to inform and educate the community. Check this issue of The Guide or our online calendar for program details. During these events, we will provide mobile support with iPads as well as interpreters to help people complete their census questionnaires.

In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that have yet to respond.

You can help advocate for a complete and accurate count! Ask your friends and neighbors whether they have completed the census. One of the best ways you can show your support for the 2020 Census is by making sure you know the facts. Review the basics of the 2020 Census at 2020census.gov/en/how-to-help.

As always, please feel free to contact me at 630-790-6760 or director@gepl.org with questions or comments.

Dawn Bussey
Executive Director
The 2020 Census: Why It’s Important
Wednesday, March 25 • 7-8:30 pm
Matthew Green, associate professor of sociology at the College of DuPage, will explain the reason for the U.S. Census and why an accurate count of our population is so important. He will also discuss specific 2020 Census issues and how the census can help us understand American society.

Discover Your Heritage with Census Data
Thursday, April 9 • 7-8:30 pm
Explore various types of censuses, such as federal, school, military, Native American, mortality, and agriculture, that can be used to enhance your family history from Tina Beaird, local author and historian.

For Young Adults

Your America, Your Voice
The 2020 Census will gather information about the residents of the United States. What is your perspective on living in America? Take the survey at gepl.org/your-america-your-voice or at the library in the High School Room. For high school and college students.

Your America, Your Banner
Thursday, May 7 • 4-5 pm • High School Room
Paint a banner to reflect the perspectives of the Your America, Your Voice survey! The banner will be displayed in the High School Room as an illustration of what’s important to high school and college students in this community, and to help communicate their vision for the future.

local love
CHICAGOLAND AUTHORS

By Brenna Murphy
Readers’ Advisory Librarian

“This spring, as we participate in the 2020 Census to gather information about the people who live in the United States, I thought we could highlight a local group you may not know—our Illinois authors! Here are three books written by authors with ties to Chicagoland.

The Most Fun We Ever Had by Claire Lombardo
(born and raised in Oak Park, IL)
Set in Chicago and Oak Park, The Most Fun We Ever Had is a multigenerational tale of the Sorenson family: Marilyn, David, and their four daughters. It all starts when teenage Jonah, given up for adoption by one of the Sorenson daughters fifteen years ago, reunites with the family. Now the Sorensons must face their personal demons and their shared family history. This is a beautifully written story for fiction fans.

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sánchez
(lives in Chicago)
Set on the south side of Chicago, I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter is a coming-of-age story about teenage Julia. After her sister unexpectedly passes away, Julia is left to deal with her grief, depression, anger, and parents who do not understand her. Julia is a flawed and difficult character, which makes her all the more relatable. Sánchez gracefully writes about mental illness, family relationships, and the immigrant experience in this contemporary novel. She was a featured young adult author through the Glenbard Parent Series in November. View her “GPS Take 5” at gepl.org/take5.

An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago by Alex Kotlowitz
(lives in Chicago)
Journalist Alex Kotlowitz chronicles some events in the roughest neighborhoods of Chicago. He introduces several people who have been affected by violence, including a reformed gang member, a school social worker, and a witness to a shooting. This moving, candid, and well-researched read captures the reality of gun violence in Chicago.

To find other local authors, visit our Emerging Authors Collection on the 2nd floor of the library. The Emerging Authors Collection offers local authors the opportunity to have their books on shelves and in circulation, receive wider exposure, and reach an audience they might not otherwise influence. A book’s author or publisher may donate a book written by a resident of the greater Chicago metropolitan area or which takes place in metro Chicago. Learn more at gepl.org/emergingauthors.
ICash: Illinois Unclaimed Funds
Monday, April 6 • 10 am-4 pm • Lobby
A representative of the Illinois State Treasurer will help you discover if the state is holding money (ICash) for you. The State Treasurer is holding 2.5 billion dollars in unclaimed funds for Illinoisans. The State holds these lost funds until they are claimed by either the original owner or their heirs. Property is returned at no cost with the proper identification.

Guardianship of Young Adult Children

Monday, April 6 • 6:30-8 pm
When children become young adults, family tragedies can have serious financial and legal implications. Learn from guardianship lawyer Shirley Ramadani of Piercey & Associates how parents and young adults (18+) can protect themselves.

Building a Healthy Credit Score
Wednesday, April 8 • 6:30-7:30 pm
Whether you have a long history, you’re just getting started, or you need to re-establish credit, Bob Moyotl of United Real Estate–Chicago will provide tips on how to achieve creditworthiness.

Next Chapter Book Club
Wednesdays • 6:30-7:30 pm
March 4, 18; April 15, 20
Next Chapter Book Club is a community-based book club for individuals with developmental disabilities. Members read together, hang out, make friends, enjoy a snack, and have fun. To sign up, please contact Tanya King, Outreach Librarian, at tking@gepl.org or 630-790-6745.

GPS Book Discussion
Monday, March 9 • 7-8 pm
Dr. Willard will present “Growing Up Mindful, Capable, and Resilient” at the Marquardt Administration Center in Glendale Heights on Tuesday, March 10 at 7 pm, and Wednesday, March 11 at noon. See glenbardgps.org/upcoming-speakers for more details.

Brown Bag Book Club
Wednesdays • March 11, April 8, May 13 • Noon-1 pm
Bring your lunch and discuss a different book each month. Coffee and dessert will be provided.

Thursday Evening Book Club
Thursdays • March 12, April 9, May 14 • 7-8 pm
Copies of book discussion titles for the Brown Bag and Thursday Evening Book Clubs are available on the 2nd floor near the study rooms.
By Carrie Jeffries
Circulation Department Director

"Whenever a new acquaintance finds out I work at a library, I am often regaled with stories where, as children, they felt admonished by a librarian when they had to pay for a late or lost item, and those memories stayed with them through the years. Fortunately, libraries have evolved greatly since that time!

Recently, to encourage cardholders to rediscover the library and to make using the library more convenient, we stopped charging late fees for overdue items. On January 2, 2020, we also cleared all late fees for items checked out at GEPL, fees prior to 2019 and any associated suspended borrowing privileges.

No More Late Fees means that items still have due dates, but most will automatically renew if you need a little more time to finish them or get them back to the library. In order to ensure that other community members can still access information, items that are not returned by 42 days past their due date will still be considered lost and their replacement cost will be billed to your account. Cards will be restricted once five or more items are overdue.

The new SWAN Libraries App, available for your smartphone or tablet through the iOS App or Google Play Store, allows you to view your due dates at any time. You can also check due dates on your receipt, by asking at the Library Services Desk, or by logging in to your Account online at gepl.org.

Other recent changes at the library include the following additions:

• conveniences like youth StackPacks (curated bundles of books ready to go), the drive-up window, and an on-site cafe
• fun, educational youth PlayPacks (backpacks filled with educational toys for kids to check out and take home), including American Girl dolls
• a growing collection of GEPL Gizmos, so that you can take home a sewing machine to complement your book about how to sew!
• access to the full Consumer Reports website, complete with Product Reviews, Ratings, Recommendations, and the Buying Guide for cars, appliances, and electronics

I am excited about our decision to stop charging late fees for overdue items and hope that this change, the new SWAN Libraries App, and our continuing evolution make your library the source of enduring fond memories!
EVERYONE COUNTS!
understanding the census

By Joshua ES O’Shea
Young Adult Librarian

“The 2020 Census helps us understand our nation and the people who live in it. If young people or new citizens don’t take part in the census, their values and concerns are less likely to be addressed in laws and policies.

For me, Woody Guthrie’s “This Land Is Your Land” conveys the sentiment that everyone counts. Everyone should have representation. Sometimes we might feel like our government isn’t listening. Our local and federal governments need to know how the United States is changing so that they can represent and support our population appropriately. The census is a means to tell the people who govern exactly whose interests they are charged to represent. The diversity of humanity can be recognized concretely through the census.

As the cliché says, children are the future. Being a Young Adult Librarian, I say that even if you’re in high school and not yet able to vote, you can advocate for a complete and accurate count to better your future. You can encourage your family to complete the census questionnaire, because the results will affect the life you live in the coming years. Grab your opportunity to make sure that you, your family, your friends, and your community have a voice and fair access to federal funds.

Over the next few months, as the census progresses and accumulates information about the population of the United States, the library would like to gather perspectives from high school and college students. While the census helps us understand our nation and the people who live in it, we’d like to use a survey to find out what’s important to and unique about the students in this community, and what their vision is for the future. Take the survey in the High School Room or online at gepl.org.

Everyone counts!
Tech Help One-on-One  
Wednesday • 2-4 pm ✩
March 4, 18; April 8, 22; May 6, 20
Get hands-on instruction with your tablet, smartphone, or computer, or learn more about the library’s online digital resources, materials, and circulating devices in a 30-minute one-on-one appointment with a librarian.
To request a day and time that better suits your schedule, please contact the 2nd Floor Information Desk at 630-790-6630.

Building a Business Website  
Thursday, March 12 • 6:30-7:30 pm  
Get hands-on experience with a website-building tool and hear first-time website tips from a local small business owner.

Microsoft Word 101  
Thursday, March 19 • 7-8:30 pm  
Need to create a professional-looking document for business or personal use? Learn how to format a document, change fonts, and insert images using Microsoft’s Word application.

Blockchain 101  
Monday, March 23 • 6:30-7:30 pm  
Blockchain is more than just Bitcoin. Learn about blockchain, how it works, and an overview of some of its alternate uses from Erik Ford of Ford Wealth Management, LLC.

Microsoft Excel 101  
Thursday, April 16 • 7-8:30 pm  
Learn how to create, edit, save, and insert images into a spreadsheet using Microsoft’s Excel application.

Google Sheets 101  
Wednesday, May 13 • 6:30-8:30 pm  
Learn how to format a spreadsheet, change fonts, insert images, and more using Google’s Sheets application.

Digital Literacy 101  
Thursday, May 14 • 6:30-7:30 pm  
In this introductory class, we’ll think about the different ways that digital information is consumed, distributed, and created. We’ll also discuss the implications as well as potential consequences of finding and sharing information online.

Microsoft PowerPoint 101  
Thursday, May 21 • 7-8:30 pm  
Learn how to create, edit, and save slideshow presentations using Microsoft’s PowerPoint application.

Goggles On: Take a Virtual Vacation with Oculus Rift  
Stuck at home over spring break? Grab a group of friends and jet off on an exotic trip with Oculus Rift! Climb a mountain or explore an underwater safari park. One-hour sessions are available on a regular basis for ages 13 and up. Please call the 2nd Floor Information Desk at 630-790-6630 to reserve your spot.

Computer Science Programming Club  
Tuesdays • March 10, 17, 24 • 7-8 pm ✩
Discover computer science through instructor-led and video-based activities with different themes like sports, art, and game design. Each week, use the Scratch programming language and the CS First Google Curriculum to complete a different project! For grades 4-6.

Try It, Make It!  
Thursday, March 26 • 4-5 pm  
In this DIY open lab, learn about and use “maker” tools like sewing and Cricut (electronic cutting) machines and a 3D printer. For kids of all ages.

Minecraft Masters  
Thursdays • April 9, 16, 23, 30 • 6:30-7:30 pm  
Minecraft allows users to interact with the game by writing code that makes avatars able to do things like jump 100 blocks high, dig through mountains, and make it rain chickens! Each week, practice and improve your Minecraft coding skills so that you can become The Ultimate Creator! For grades 4-8.
STORYTIME

Spring Storytimes
April 6-May 16

The Glen Ellyn Public Library offers a variety of storytimes for children starting at birth. During librarian-led programs that incorporate stories, songs, movement, rhymes, and other activities, your child will learn to love reading and the library. Bilingual storytimes in both Spanish and English, and Sensory storytimes are offered once a month. More details and the complete spring schedule at gepl.org/storytime.

SMART STARTS

Spring Smart Starts
March 9-26

Smart Starts is a hands-on, interactive environment where adults help children develop early reading, writing, math, and science skills through play. Crafts, games, and experiential activities have a weekly theme and are designed for children ages 2 to 6.

Baby Playgroup
Fridays • March 13, 20, 27 • 1:30-2:30 pm
Meet other adults and babies at this open playgroup featuring the library’s collection of developmentally-appropriate toys. For birth to 24 months.

Walking Wednesdays
Wednesdays • May 6, 13, 20, 27 • 11-11:30 am
Meet at Bike Rack on North Side of Parking Lot
Enjoy a walk on the Prairie Path (weather permitting) while listening to short stories, then recap with a snack in the Butterfly Garden. For ages 4-7 and their grownups.

book DISCUSSION

Plots ’n Pizza
Tuesdays • March 3, April 7 • 6-7 pm
Kids and their grownups can enjoy friendly conversation and fun activities while snacking on pizza at this monthly book club. Copies of book discussion titles are available at the Youth Desk. For grades 3-5.

Ukulele 101

Saturdays • April 4, 11, 18, 25 • 2:30-3:30 pm
Learn how to play the ukulele in this four-week beginner class. Strum along and discover new chords and songs while embracing the simple joys of music. Instruments will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Students will need to practice on their own time outside of class. For grades 3-5.

Let’s Build
Wednesday, April 1 • 1-3 pm
Calling all engineers! Use a variety of materials to design and build whatever inspires you. The sky’s the limit! For kids of all ages.

Engineering Club

Thursdays • April 9, 16, 23, 30; May 7, 14 • 4-4:45 pm
Design and build with LEGO® blocks and other materials. Participate in weekly build challenges. For grades k-5.

Meet a STEAM Expert

Monday-Saturday, May 18-23 • 10:30-11 am
Listen to a STEAM expert read a story and then participate in a related STEAM activity. As part of the series, we’ll have experts in Geology, the Human Body, Electricity, Chemistry, and more! For ages 3-6 and their grownups. Limited to the first 20 children to request a name tag.

The Glen Ellyn Public Library offers a variety of storytimes for children starting at birth. During librarian-led programs that incorporate stories, songs, movement, rhymes, and other activities, your child will learn to love reading and the library. Bilingual storytimes in both Spanish and English, and Sensory storytimes are offered once a month. More details and the complete spring schedule at gepl.org/storytime.
Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin started Earth Day on April 22, 1970 to celebrate the environmental movement and encourage environmental mindfulness. Did you know that the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts all originated from Earth Day?

Earth Day is celebrated by over a billion people every year and there are lots of ways to model environmental mindfulness at home. Here are some Earth Day-inspired activities that will help your children develop empathy for the natural world.

• Go for a walk and play a nature edition of I-Spy. Use the real names for trees or other plants to help strengthen your child’s language development. Consider picking up any trash you see on your walk and talking about how litter affects nature.

• Check out a nature PlayPack at the library. Nature PlayPacks provide activity ideas, recommended by the Park District, for you and your children to take to Glen Ellyn’s unique parks. Some PlayPacks include scavenger hunts!

• Encourage unstructured playtime outside. Spending time outside not only encourages respect for nature but has endless benefits on overall health. It can also reduce stress and negative emotions that children experience. Jumping, running, and climbing builds their gross motor skills and strengthens bones.

• Ask your child questions about what they see or have them comment on their surroundings while playing outside to develop their keen observation skills. Opportunities to learn about scientific concepts like animal behavior, weather, the water cycle, and plants abound in nature!

• Model “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.” Consider switching to reusable straws, cloth diapers, and silicone storage bags to reduce waste. Walk more instead of driving to limit pollution. Unplug charging devices from the wall when they aren’t being used to conserve energy. Color on both sides of a page. Melt down multiple broken crayons into one giant crayon as a fun art project. Reuse newspaper scraps and junk mail as note paper before recycling.

• Practice yoga outside. Focus on intentional breathing and have children visualize animals or plants. Poses like the cobra, downward dog, and tree are especially child-friendly.
“W”e’ve all heard that it’s important to read out loud to kids. However, according to Brightly, an online source for grownups to find helpful parenting tips about reading: “Only 17% of parents of kids ages 9 to 11 read aloud to their children. Yet 83% of kids ages 6 to 17 say being read to is something they either loved or liked a lot.”

When I think back to my favorite book memories in elementary school, the first is my older brother reading The Wizard of Oz to me at bedtime and the other is my fifth grade teacher reading both My Side of the Mountain and James and the Giant Peach to us during class.

Kids can listen at a higher level than they can read themselves, and this helps introduce them to new, higher-level vocabulary words. It’s also a great way for children to learn important life lessons. It can be easier for them to internalize the life lesson when they think someone else, like a character in the book, is teaching it to them, as opposed to a parent lecturer. And having a grownup in the room when they arise helps foster discussions about social issues or challenging topics.

According to Brightly, reading to older kids also:
• lets them experience the joy of the story
• models fluent reading
• helps expand their vocabulary
• exposes kids to new titles, authors, and genres
• builds awareness and empathy
• improves kids’ long-term reading success

Most of us have childhood memories surrounding books and reading. We’d love to hear about yours! Visit the Youth Desk or respond to our periodic book recommendations on social media. Pick up a treasured title from your childhood to read to your kids the next time you’re in the library. Who knows—it might become their favorite, too!
Glen Crest Fine Arts Night
Wednesday, March 11 • 5-7 pm
Meeting Room & 2nd Floor
Celebrate the visual arts, music, home arts, band, orchestra, and chorus talents of Glen Crest Middle School students.

The Middle Squad 🎨
Wednesdays, March 25-April 15 • 4:30-6 pm
Work with library staff to prepare for programs, pull books, and help as needed. Please visit the middle school volunteer page at gepl.org to fill out an application. For grades 6-8.

Garden in a Book 🎨
Tuesday, April 28 • 4:30-6 pm ♥
Celebrate Earth Day by re-purposing a book as a planter. We’ll supply the materials; you bring the creativity and a tiny trinket or special stone that makes it yours. For grades 6-8.

Dungeons & Dragons (& Donuts) 🎨
Wednesdays • May 6, 13
4:30-5:30 pm, 5:30-6:30 pm ♥
Over the course of two weeks, weave your Dungeons & Dragons story (fueled by donuts) with friends. For grades 6-8.

Bike Safety Rodeo
Sunday, May 3 • 12-2 pm • Duane/Lorraine Commuter Parking Lot
Learn important bicycle rules of the road and test your knowledge on a miniature riding course. Take part in on-the-spot bike checks, a bike decorating station, safety demonstrations, and even a few raffles! Participants must bring their own bike and wear a properly fitted helmet to participate in the riding course. In partnership with the Glen Ellyn Park District, Police Department, Northwestern Medicine, and The Bike Hub. For kids of all ages.

Kindness Club: Sunshine Kits
Monday, March 30 • 1-3 pm ♥
Assemble donations of pocket tissue, chapstick, hand lotion, mints, gum, large print crossword puzzles, and large print word searches into “sunshine kits” to distribute to the residents of Brookdale Senior Living. For kids of all ages.

During the month of March, the Youth Department will accept donations of pocket tissue, chapstick, hand lotion, mints, gum, large-print crossword puzzles, and word finds.

Spring Painting Workshop 🎨
Thursday, March 19 • 1-2:30 pm ♥
Celebrate spring in this watercolor painting class led by local art teacher Christine Thornton. Warm up by painting a wildflower, then challenge yourself to create an up-close image of a bunny’s face. For grades 1-5.

Project Fair 🎨
Wednesday, April 22 • 1-2 pm ♥
Showcase your projects from the year! Share an art piece, a science experiment, play an instrument or sing, or demonstrate another skill you learned! For grades k-6.
GEPL Receives Grant Funding for Census Outreach and Education

The Glen Ellyn Public Library has been awarded $10,000 for outreach and education efforts related to the 2020 U.S. Census on April 1, made possible by funding in whole or in part by the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) through a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).

During April and May, the library will conduct 10 census programs at various locations in Glen Ellyn. These initiatives will focus primarily on increasing the self-response rate of historically Hard-to-Count (HTC) populations, such as children under age five, non-English speakers, those without internet access, older adults, 18-24-year-olds, those at or below poverty level, and the homeless. “A real or perceived barrier exists to full and representative inclusion in the data collection process” for HTC populations, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Such groups may be hard to locate, hard to contact, hard to persuade, hard to interview, or pose a challenge in all four steps of the enumeration process. To overcome this hurdle, “Our programming will take us out to locations where these individuals already feel comfortable and frequently gather, like schools and houses of worship,” said library director Dawn Bussey. “We plan to bring professional translators, iPads, hotspots, and snacks to engage attendees while communicating the importance of completing the census, answering questions and helping individuals fill out their forms.”

The Glen Ellyn Public Library will also provide four computers specifically designated for visitors to use to complete their census questionnaires in the building beginning March 15. Library staff and volunteers from the League of Women Voters will be on hand to address concerns and assist as needed.

Where’s the Kiosk?

The Short Story Kiosk, donated by the Glen Ellyn Library Foundation in May 2019, is now traveling to area schools and businesses! It’s already made a stop at Glen Crest Middle School. Check for updates on gepl.org and social media in the coming months to follow its adventures.

Friends of the Library Used Book Sales

Purchase quality, gently used books at discount prices!

Saturday, March 14 • 9 am to 2 pm
Sunday, March 15 • 1 pm to 4 pm (Sunday only: Books by the Bag for $5 each)
Saturday, May 16 • 9 am to 2 pm

Support Friends of the Library when you shop at smile.amazon.com. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible items when you select Friends of the Library Glen Ellyn Free Public Lib as your charitable organization.

Present this coupon to receive one free regularly priced item with purchase of equal or lesser value. Limit one per customer. Valid at Friends of the Library Used Book Sales in the Glen Ellyn Public Library’s basement at 400 Duane Street.