

Manitowoc library has new Youth Services manager

KRISTIN STOEGER

FOR USA TODAY
NETWORK-WISCONSIN

It is my sincere pleasure to introduce the newest member of our management team at Manitowoc Public Library to the Manitowoc community.



Stoeger

Julia Lee is our new Youth Services manager. Her first day was May 1, so by the time you read this, Julia will be a seasoned veteran with one full week under her belt.

Julia's department utilizes the skills of six individuals who work tirelessly to provide library services to our community's youth from birth to 18 years of age. These six people create the foundation behind our summer reading program for teens and children, our yearly Battle of the Books, 1000 Books before Kindergarten, and so many more programs, events and services.

Julia joins us from Waseca Public Library in Waseca, Minnesota, where she was the children's curriculum coordinator. In this position, she was in charge of system-wide children's services and programming



PROVIDED

Julia Lee comes to Manitowoc Public Library from Waseca Public Library in Minnesota, where she was children's curriculum coordinator.

from Baby Lap-Sit story times to Harry Potter Yoga.

While living in Minnesota, she also gathered more library experience focused on youth services at Brainerd Public Library and Bemidji Public Library.

Julia brings a passion

for library science and an enthusiasm for children and teen services to our community. She has a proven track record of successful, innovative ideas and dramatically increased children and teen services at Waseca Public Library.

Over the course of a

short six-month period, Julia increased the attendance of a particular after-school program from a maximum of 12 participants to more than 60 children on average on a monthly basis. She also greatly increased community engagement with the library. Her outreach

and collaborative efforts with local organizations resulted in new events for the community such as the Waseca Water Carnival and BREW (Bike Ride Explore Waseca), which brought families together and got the library out into the community.

As a direct result of Julia's efforts, Waseca Public Library was awarded the Community Development Award in 2017 for its commitment to enhancing and enriching their community through programming, volunteerism and outreach.

And to top all of this off, Julia is also a published author. While living in Brainerd, Minnesota, she had her first young adult novel, "Seven Stones," published by Riverplace Press in 2015.

While the bulk of Julia's library experience transpired in Minnesota, she's a native of Wisconsin. Julia grew up in Muskego, Wisconsin — a short drive south of Manitowoc. She still has family and friends in the area. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a bachelor's of science in education and a minor in theater education, and began teaching at Badger High School in Lake Geneva. Fortunately, the lure of library science captured her and she received her master's in library and

information science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

As Julia makes her transition to the area, she wanted to share a few words with the community:

"A true cheesehead, I am so excited to be moving back to my home state (and so close to Green Bay)! The Manitowoc area is beautiful, and we intend to take advantage of the trails, parks and Lake Michigan!

"I am thrilled to be the Youth Services manager at Manitowoc Public Library. I hope to bring enthusiasm, energy and creativity to all aspects of Youth Services. My goals are to make the library a welcoming place of discovery, fun and innovation, and to provide the resources and programs to make Manitowoc Public Library a true community space for all youth."

We at Manitowoc Public Library are very excited to welcome Julia to our team. She has the passion, enthusiasm and innovation to continue moving Manitowoc Public Library — especially our youth services — forward.

Please join us in welcoming Julia and her husband, Shane, to our beautiful stretch of the Lakeshore!

Kristin Stoeger is library director at Manitowoc Public Library.

May 14, 2017

Manitowoc library preps for Digital Arts Project

JASON KUNDE

FOR USA TODAY
NETWORK-WISCONSIN

With summer approaching, Manitowoc Public Library and Rahr-West Art Museum are looking forward to the second annual Digital Arts Project.



Kunde

The Digital Arts Project is a program geared toward teens ages 13-18 in the local school districts who want to develop and demonstrate their artistic style using digital equipment.

Students will attend weekly workshops, either at the library or the museum, instructed by local talent over the course of 12 weeks. At the end of the 12 weeks, the students will learn how to set up their final creations in a gallery-like setting for a final exhibition to be held for family, friends and the larger community. To register for the program, visit www.manitowoc

library.org.

The focus of this year's program will be centered on digital photography and digital film. The program will kick off June 13 with an orientation for all registered participants to discuss the goal of the workshops, the instructors involved in leading the workshops, and where the workshops will be held. Instructors for the workshops are still to be determined.

Digital photography is the first workshop and will cover variations of taking photos, using filters and enhancing the final photo for display. Workshops will be from 1 to 2:30 p.m. June 20 and June 27. The students will use iPad Pros supplied by the library and museum, and work with different apps on the iPads to use the various techniques given by the instructor.

The second workshop, digital film, will span seven weeks. Workshops will be held on Tuesdays, July 11-Aug. 23, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Students will spend half of the time learning the different aspects of creating digi-

tal film content, including: storyboards, dialogues, dubbing and editing. The students will spend the remaining time in the workshops taking the skills they have learned and creating their own movie to be debuted at the final exhibition. The students will have access to the iPad Pros supplied by the library and museum, along with the equipment available in the library's Community Creation Room.

Registration for the Digital Arts project is required and can be found at www.manitowoclibrary.org. Students can choose the workshops they would like to attend, and students who register and attend both workshops will be awarded a Digital Arts Certificate at the final exhibition. There will be 20 spots available in both workshops. Sessions for both workshops will be held at various locations. No session will be held July 4.

The Digital Arts Project was originally made possible in 2016 from a grant awarded by the

West Foundation. As a result of last year's success, Rahr-West Art Museum and Manitowoc Public Library have brought it back for another year funded out of normal operations.

Any questions regarding the Digital Arts Project can be directed to me at 920-686-3028 or email jkunde@manitowoc.org. Spots are filling fast; don't miss your chance to sign up for this free digital arts-focused summer event.

Jason Kunde is IT specialist at Manitowoc Public Library.

Dewane presents 'The Accidental Hero'

TIM GADZINSKI
FOR USA TODAY
NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Not only does Manitowoc Public Library strive to present interesting and stimulating programs that appeal to a wide range of individuals in our community — we strive to present stimulating, wide-ranging programming that originates from within our community.

Manitowoc is composed of fascinating people who have experienced amazing things and have incredible stories to tell. Patrick Dewane is one of those people.

Not that the story that he has to tell revolves

around himself, per se. Rather, it's the story of his grandfather, Matt Konop, and his experiences as a soldier during



Dewane

World War II. Dewane's grandfather rarely talked about his service during his lifetime. However, after Konop's death, Dewane discovered that his grandfather had secretly put his odyssey to the page.

His grandfather's basement yielded a treasure trove of typewritten accounts, photos and rare film footage. Dewane has turned this

incredible story into a one-man, multimedia show titled "The Accidental Hero," which he will be performing at the Capitol Civic Center on May 23.

Before the curtain rises, Dewane — along with a special guest, Lincoln High School history teacher, Carl Sieracki — will give a presentation at the Manitowoc Public Library at 6 p.m. Monday which compares the wartime experience of his grandfather with the everyday lives of citizens at home along the Lakeshore during this time period.

It's an incredible opportunity to examine history in a local context, most especially with Memorial Day just

around the corner.

While I don't want to give too much away, I will reveal that during the last week of WWII, Dewane's grandfather — whose family emigrated from Czechoslovakia in the 1860s to pursue the American Dream — played a major part in the liberation of his family's home country. Because of his fluency in Czech, Konop received the dangerous assignment of commanding the advance party to liberate Czechoslovakia. The Czechs couldn't believe the miracle of "being liberated by one of [their] own." He couldn't believe the hero's welcome that greeted him. It deeply changed his notion of what it meant

to be both Czech and American.

This is where the story takes an unusual turn, becoming something more mythic than a soldier's tale of survival. It highlights how the path one travels rarely leads directly to the destination. At the Czech border, his curiosity drew him into the country of his ancestors. What he found changed his life. Konop discovered an identity lost in his family's pursuit of the American ideal. Like all great epic heroes — from Luke Skywalker to Harry Potter — his was a story of family. He was embraced by the tribe he never knew. But, unlike Luke or Harry, Konop's story is true.

His was a real epic homecoming. As he freed the Czechs, they liberated him.

When you come right down to it, it's the journey that makes a story epic. Do yourself a favor — come hear Dewane on Monday.

It's an absolutely fascinating story, especially when contrasted off the rich WWII-era history of the Manitowoc area.

It's about family. It's about community. It's about destiny. If these stories aren't told — and if they aren't heard — they will fade away forever. And that, truly, would be a tragedy.

Tim Gadzinski is Marketing associate at Manitowoc Public Library.

Many Manitowoc markers and sites honor veterans

DAVID ELLISON
FOR USA TODAY
NETWORK-WISCONSIN

These days, Memorial Day is a familiar presence on the legal holiday calendar. It's interesting to note, however, that it wasn't



Ellison

established until after the Civil War. It was officially proclaimed by General John Logan — the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic — that "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion."

The date of Decoration Day, as it was called then, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

Even with Decoration Day in place, the North and the South maintained their own days of re-

membrance until after World War I, when the holiday changed from honoring those who died in the Civil War to honoring those Americans who died fighting in any military conflict.

Additionally, "Memorial Day" was not designated Memorial Day until post-World War II, and it wasn't until 1967 that federal law declared Memorial Day as its official name.

Many reminders of our veterans are all around us.

The Manitowoc County Veterans Memorial Park is situated on North 18th Street across from Evergreen Cemetery. Included among the markers there is the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial. The dedication of the memorial took place five years to the day of World War I's Armistice Day — Nov. 11, 1918. The memorial is also known locally as "The Eternal Flame."

On Memorial Day in 1969, Manitowoc's American Legion Post 88 dedicated "The Eternal Flame" to all the veterans of Manitowoc County.



JULIA POE/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN
The mural, on the side of the Historic Richter Vinegar Plant, was inspired by a black-and-white photo of a 32nd Infantry Division (Red Arrow Brigade) soldier, D.F. Hirsch of Milwaukee, a Specialist Fourth Class. His image was taken by a military photographer during training at Fort Lewis in Washington state in May 1962, preparing for a potential threat in Berlin.

The flame was kept burning with donations from the American Legion, other veterans' organizations and other altruistic citizens of Manitowoc County. In 1993, funds were received from the Fanny Angus Healy Trust for perpetual care of "The Eternal Flame" and the Veterans Memorial.

There's also Red Ar-

row Park on South Ninth Street, named to honor the Red Arrow 32nd Infantry Division, composed primarily of soldiers from Wisconsin and Michigan. This summer, on July 15, the City of Manitowoc and the Friends of Red Arrow Park will be rededicating the park on the 100th anniversary of the forma-

tion of the 32nd.

Most prominently, we have an actual World War II submarine, the USS Cobia, parked in the Manitowoc River. Guided tours of the Cobia are given practically every day at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum.

One of the titles in Manitowoc Public Library's collection is Manitowoc County Historical Markers and Memorials, which offers information about these and many other monuments, made up of statues, plaques, buildings and flag poles in the area.

MPL also took part in a project that made hundreds of photographs available in a collection titled "The Home Front: Manitowoc County in World War II." You can view these photographs online at <https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/WI/HomeFront/>.

Manitowoc Public Library has received thousands of donations over the years for what we refer to as "Memorials." Memorials are gifts from people who are honoring family and friends, both those who

have passed on and those still living. Typically, these donations are made because the honorees enjoyed using MPL for many years. When a Memorial book is added to the collection, we put a plate in the book naming the person being honored and the name or names of the donor, unless the donor wishes to remain anonymous.

Memorial Day honors those who have given the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country as a member of the United States Armed Forces. While memorials are interwoven into the fabric of our daily lives, Memorial Day helps us to focus on those Armed Forces members who are no longer with us.

As a result of this honorific remembrance, Memorial Day has become one of our nation's most revered holidays.

Thank you to all those who have served, and continue to serve, in protecting our great nation!

David Ellison is Adults Services librarian at Manitowoc Public Library.