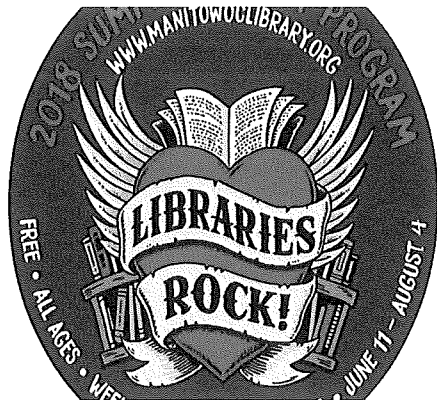


# Manitowoc Public Library's Summer Reading Program: Everything you need to know

Julia Lee, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 8:22 a.m. CT June 2, 2018



(Photo: Courtesy of Manitowoc Public)

Rock out at Manitowoc Public Library this summer! Our Summer Reading Program — Libraries Rock! — has programs, prizes and fun for everyone. Whether you're 2 months old or 92, your MPL is THE place to be this summer! From concerts to catapults, craft beer to carnivals, the Summer Reading Program is packed with fun events, programs and activities for kids and families, teens and adults.

Starting June 11, all ages can sign up for our Summer Reading Program to earn free books, weekly prizes for kids, and enter into our raffle drawing for fabulous prizes.

Kick-off week starts June 11 when you can sign up for our eight-week Summer Reading Program. Registration is simple: come to the library, fill out a quick digital form, get your swag bag, and start reading! As a bonus, the first 225 people who sign up will get a pair of free Brewers tickets, while supplies last. While you're here, why not make a button and take a fun rock-star photo at our photo booth?

Kick-off week continues with our Teen Kick-Off Party with music, games and food at 3 p.m. June 12 (grades 6-12) and a family concert with David Landau at 2 p.m. June 14. This show is interactive and high energy — and one you will not want to miss!

## Kids' highlights

- **Maker Mondays:** Love to tinker, build and create? Can't get enough computers and coding? Our Maker Mondays are the place for you, Mondays, June 18-July 30 at 1 p.m.
- **Family Activity Nights:** Family Activity Night is held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Be a fan of the library, as parents and children participate together in a variety of activities. Each Family Activity Night lasts approximately 30-45 minutes, depending on the activity. Highlights include: June 12, Wildlife of Wisconsin: The Night Shift; June 26, Drive-In Movie; July 3, Patriotic Party; July 17, Talent Show!; and July 31, Harry Potter Birthday Party!
- **Special Summer Events:** Every Wednesday at 2 p.m., we'll have special programming including Touch the Trucks, Glaze & Paint (registration required) and Painting the Library Red, White, and Blue (registration required). New this year: we will be accepting phone call registration reservations for Paint the Library starting June 11. You **MUST** talk to a live youth staff member at 920-686-3030 to ensure a spot. If calling to register, you must pick up your tickets within two days of registration. Once all the windows are gone, there is still a ton of fun to be had with sidewalk chalk.

- Summer Carnival: Aug. 4, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. We are partnering with the farmers' market to create a carnival for all ages.

## Teen highlights

- Rhythm & Tunes with Taku Ronsman and Teen Summer Kick-off Party. 3 p.m. June 12.
- Videogame Camp using Bloxels: June 18, 20, 21 at 3-4 p.m.; June 25, 27, 28 at 3-4 p.m. (registration required)
- Fairy House Flowerpots and Photo Tiles, 2 p.m. July 2
- Henna Tattoos with Amy Wilde: July 12, teens 3-5 p.m., adults/family 6-8 p.m. (registration required)
- LARPing with Dystopia Rising, 1 p.m. July 21
- Nuts and Bolts About Robots, 2 p.m. July 26
- In addition to our regular teen programming, Manitowoc Public Library is once again partnering with Rahr-West Art Museum to offer our Digital Arts Program (DAP) featuring digital drawing and videography from June 12 to Aug. 28. Registration is open! Sign-up information can be found on Manitowoc Public Library's website.
- Know any teens who love to read? Battle of the Books is back! Join Manitowoc Public Library's team as we compete for the trophy and bragging rights by testing your knowledge of our eight specially chosen books. Registration begins on June 11.

## Adult highlights

- State of Craft Beer, 6 p.m. June 13
- Adult spelling bee — the Brew 'N Bee — at PetSkull Brewery 6 p.m. July 11
- Henna Tattoos with Amy Wilde, July 12, teens 3-5 p.m., adults/family 6-8 p.m. (registration required)
- Krazy Daze Used Book Sale July 12-15



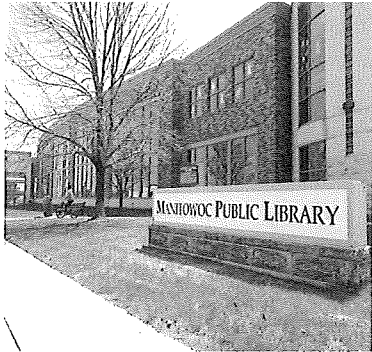
Julia Lee (Photo: Courtesy of Manitowoc Public Library)

WOW! MPL ROCKS! And did we mention that all of our prizes and programs in the Summer Reading Program are absolutely free?!? See you at the library!

*Julia Lee is the youth services manager at the Manitowoc Public Library.*

# Love comic books? Learn how to make your own at Manitowoc library

Susan Murtaugh, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 6:30 a.m. CT June 5, 2018 | Updated 8:37 a.m. CT June 5, 2018



(Photo: Josh Clark/USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin)

Hey, kids, the Digital Arts Program (DAP) is back again this summer! This collaborative program offered in partnership between Manitowoc Public Library and Rahr-West Art Museum will be offered to teens ages 13-18.

First up is "B MarvelOUS," taught by me, Susan Murtaugh, a retired advertising design professional and who remains in the game as a practicing digital artist. I've been working with digital art ever since its inception and I'm extremely excited to be teaching with DAP this summer as this enthusiastic class will be a first of its kind.

"B MarvelOUS" is personal. It's a comic. You're the star, be it the hero, the villain or an innocent bystander. You'll show and tell us your story in comic book form, which you'll write, draw, color and assemble digitally during the workshop. You'll be taught how to use apps (software) on your own tablet or iPad. Don't worry — if you don't have one, MPL has iPad Pros and Apple Pencils that you can use. It's been said that the interplay of words and images of comics work together, causing the reader to exercise both visual and verbal interpretive skills. As the one who creates the comic, you will be improving both skills equally as well.

You'll be making a script, planning the layout, drawing the comic and getting feedback from me and the other creators in the class. You'll also be inking, coloring and lettering your work. I'll be able to provide a wealth of information about how the pros do this in the "real world" and doling out some secret and not-so-secret advice on how to make your work the best it can be.

When your masterpiece is finished, it will be professionally printed and hung at the Rahr-West Art Museum for a one-of-a-kind show, opening with a party, of course, from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 28.

On June 12, there's an orientation for the program at 1 p.m. in the Franklin Street Room. "B MarvelOUS" classes will all be held at the library from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on June 19, June 26 and July 10. There is no charge for the classes, but you must register online to take part. Enrollment is limited and only a few open spots remain, so get going and sign up now at [www.manitowoclibrary.org](http://www.manitowoclibrary.org).

It should be noted that not only does the library have books, but also much of the new technology and leading-edge equipment to create original digital art projects in drawing and movie-making. The library's Community Creation Room (CCR) has a video creation station, which includes specialty cameras and professional-grade editing software. And there's also a music creation station with the entire tech of a sound recording studio. Not to mention those iPad Pros and Pencils that I mentioned earlier. Everything you need to brainstorm, organize, create, refine and produce your masterpiece.



Susan Murtaugh is a retired advertising design professional and nationally recognized digital artist.  
(Photo: Provided)

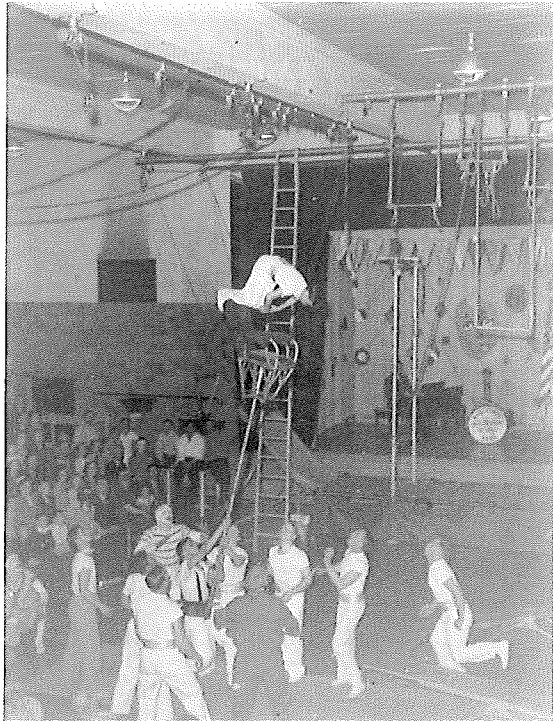
The second stage of DAP will feature videography classes taught by Justin Schnell starting on July 17 and running through Aug. 21. Upon completion of the entire 12-week workshop you will be awarded a Digital Arts Certificate. This certificate recognizes demonstrated competence with contemporary art, digital technology and exhibition techniques.

So, what are you waiting for — sign-up for DAP today and let your digitally creative side run wild!

*Susan Murtaugh is a retired advertising design professional and nationally recognized digital artist.*

# Manitowoc library exhibit explores 26 overlooked stories that helped shape the community

Meredith Meier, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 9:22 a.m. CT June 15, 2018



(Photo: Courtesy of Manitowoc County Historical Society)

Chances are you may not know, but my bachelor's degree is in history, which I pursued primarily because I love history.

My love of history started in fifth grade when my teacher, Mr. Paul, taught me history is more than just memorized dates, people with funny-sounding or hard-to-pronounce names, and random events in faraway places.

History is the nonfiction, actual, real-life accounts of individuals who lived and struggled and made an impact during their lifetimes.

Let's be honest — it's easier to remember the dates and names when there is an engaging story that puts the names and dates into context. He was a great teacher and he made history come alive for me.

As a kid, during summer break, I would pick a person or topic to read about and would write down what I learned. One summer, I chose Theodore Roosevelt and I spent hours at my local library looking for and checking out books on Teddy. I loved every minute of it!

Needless to say, many years later, my passion for history is still quite alive. One of the favorite parts of my job is helping people research local history topics. That's why I jumped at the chance to have Manitowoc Public Library host an exhibit from the Manitowoc Historical Society. It's a great opportunity to explore local history with 26 stories of people, places and events that helped to shape our community into what it is today.

That's right — 26 stories, which, coincidentally, just happens to be the same number of letters in the English alphabet. Hence, the name of the exhibit: "Manitowoc County A to Z."

Imagine what you could learn about the history of Manitowoc County by perusing this alphabet-themed exhibition. Take "C" for "Circus," for example. Not only does the circus have a strong history in Wisconsin, but a resident of little ol' Manitowoc County established a clown school right here in town during the Great Depression. This meant Manitowoc residents could see a circus every day! The graduates were so well taught that major circuses regularly visited Manitowoc to recruit talent from the clown school. Who knew Manitowoc County had such deep circus roots?

"Opera Houses" (representing "O") were places of entertainment and physical activity in Manitowoc County before radio and silent films (and further down the line, "Talkies") became staples of distracting the masses. The grandson of the former owner of the Opera House in Two Rivers, Robert Niquette, wrote in a monograph for the Manitowoc County Historical Society: "It was a time when home grown talent, traveling play groups, and vaudeville, and circuses were front and center." Niquette described the building as the social center for the growing city. The hall was completed in 1873 and called Turner Hall, which began as the headquarters of the Turner Verein Society, a German organization built on the motto of "Sound Mind in a Sound Body." It was the place of activity and exercise for the Turners. The group would practice often using the swinging bar, perfecting their acrobatics and developing a floor show.



Meredith Meier (Photo:  
Provided)

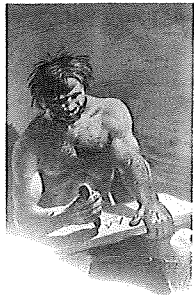
And that's just a taste of the overlooked historical tidbits contained within this fascinating exhibit. To learn about the rest of the historically-themed alphabet, visit Manitowoc Public Library and explore our local history as you peruse your way through Manitowoc History A to Z. Who knows — perhaps local history will come alive for you via an utterly unexpected historical nugget!

This exhibit will be at MPL until the end of June, and as is the case with the vast majority of programming at the library, admission is free!

*Meredith Meier is public services associate at Manitowoc Public Library.*

# Manitowoc played major role in World War II, from building submarines to selling war bonds

Carl Sieracki, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 5:42 a.m. CT June 21, 2018



MIRRO Joo planting his next letter of corn.



Clever Josie out-smarting MIRRO Joo.

(Photo: Courtesy of Manitowoc County Historical Society)

Walking around downtown Manitowoc today, I cannot help but feel the deep impression left by the city's huge footprint in World War II.

Most people are familiar with the fact that Manitowoc produced submarines for the war effort. The presence of the USS Cobia moored along the riverwalk serves as a constant reminder, but the ghosts of the war are everywhere.

I love driving from Custerdale (where shipyard workers lived), heading downtown past Holy Family Memorial hospital, where cadet nurses were trained. Then, I continue past Holiday House (now Ascend Services, the old train station) behind the Post Office where so many men went off to war. From there, I cut over to Washington Street, where, until recently, the hulk of the Mirro building stood as a whisper harkening back to the wartime industrial prowess that was Aluminum Goods Manufacturing.

Just down the street is the Lakeshore Cinema (formerly the Mikadow and WOMT studios), and finally down to the Briese Malting silos (Rahr Malting), which played a clandestine role in the war.

Yes, the evidence is everywhere.

My curiosity over the years has led me to find out so much about the tremendous role this little community made to help Uncle Sam. For instance, did you know Manitowoc County led the nation in production of canned evaporated milk, in the coatings on aerial torpedoes, and was second only to Milwaukee in raising money for the war effort through war bond drives?

Companies who contributed to the war effort included: Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company, Burger Boat, Aluminum Goods Manufacturing (later Mirro), Carron Net, Kahlenberg Industries, White House Milk Company, Schwartz, Heresite Coatings, and Paragon Industries to name but a few. They made everything from landing craft, to wooden minesweepers, shell casings and canteens. Two Rivers played their role, too, producing nets, gun cleaning patches and assembling electronics boards.



Andrew Miller, undated (Photo: Manitowoc County Historical Society)

I found that besides the military industrial production, Manitowoc found other ways to serve the country. Civic patriotism extended beyond monetary contributions. The rationing of commodities such as gasoline, meat and sugar, as well as the conservation of materials and energy, were integral to the war effort. Paper drives, rubber drives, scrap metal drives, collection of cooking fats and electricity

blackouts all were used as demonstrations of the peoples' personal contributions from adults to enterprising youngsters.

Finally, there was the military presence in the city, as well as the constant stresses of military involvement by Manitowoc County's sons, brothers and fathers. Submariners were stationed in Manitowoc while their boats were constructed and did their "sea" trials in Lake Michigan. Manitowoc embraced these boys as if they were their own.

Additionally, the serious business of war was never forgotten. Successes were celebrated and losses were mourned both privately and communally. There were heroes like USS Rasher, the fifth submarine built here, which was the second-highest scoring boat during the war, and heroic losses like Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Andrew Miller, killed in France.



A photo of the Andrew Miller historical marker at the Manitowoc County Veteran's Memorial. (Photo: Manitowoc County Historical Society)



Carl Sieracki (Photo: Provided)

Boys became men under fire and most came home to restart interrupted lives. Life in town returned to "normal," Manitowoc grew in its industrial prowess until the 1970s, and has continued to be proud of its vaunted history attached to the war.

Manitowoc Public Library has a wonderful digital collection, "The Home Front: Manitowoc County in World War II," which, combined with interviews and other research, have culminated in a presentation titled "Subs, Shells and Scrap Drives: Life in Manitowoc during World War II," which I will be presenting in MPL's Balkansky Community Room at 6 p.m. June 28. I hope you can join me for a look back at the Manitowoc of the 1940s. Admission is free, and spending some time with the history of your hometown is always a profitable experience.

*Carl Sieracki is a local historian and Manitowoc Lincoln High School social studies teacher. He will present "Subs, Shells and Scrap Dives" at Manitowoc Public Lib*