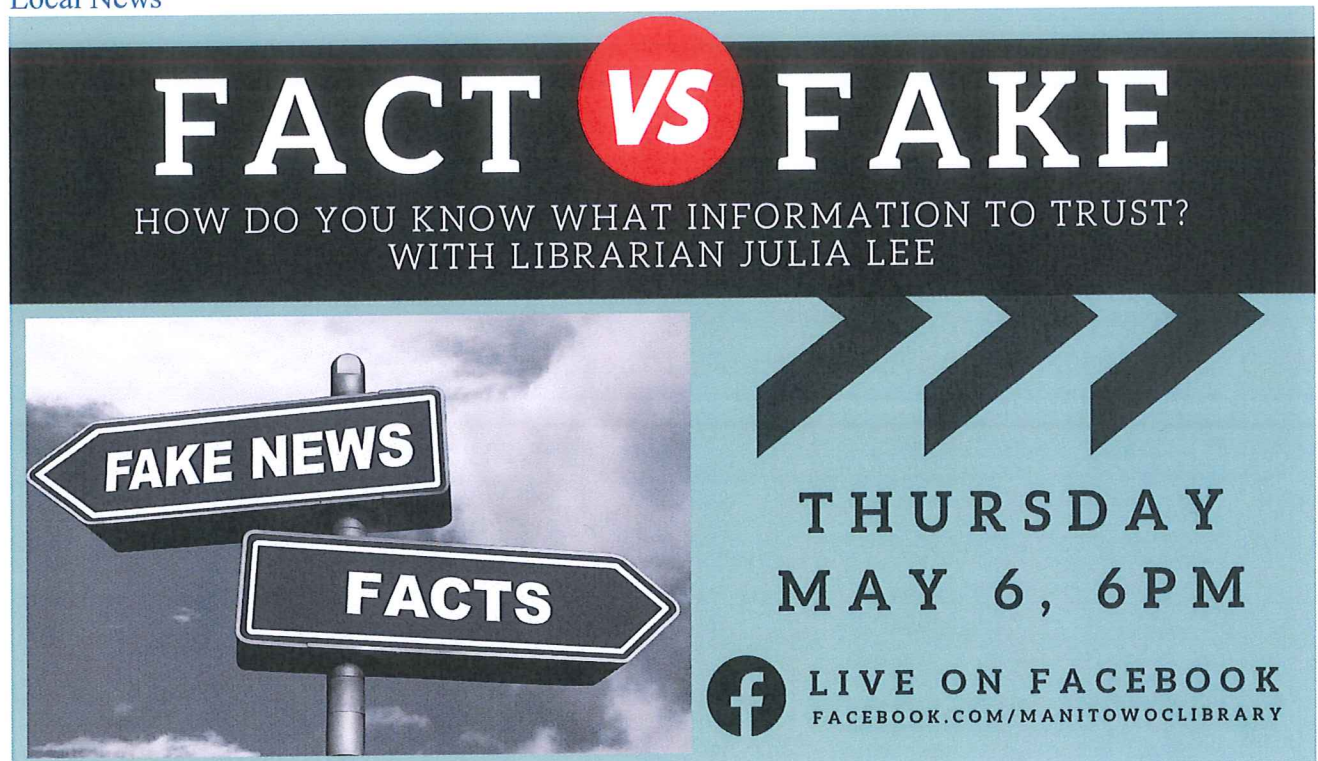


Manitowoc Public Library Librarian Discusses “Fake News”

May 4, 2021 3:30 PM
Local News



The following article was submitted by Julia Lee, a Librarian at the Manitowoc Public Library.

“Fake news” is a term we have often heard over the past few years—but it’s certainly not a new phenomenon.

According to the *Smithsonian Magazine*, examples of fake news in America can be traced back to before the Revolutionary War. One such example would be the *Boston Gazette*, a newspaper published and printed by Sons of Liberty leader, Samuel Adams. Apparently, Adams was not too concerned about how factual his stories actually were. In 1765, he wrote slanderous and untrue articles about a rival named Thomas Hutchinson, saying that Hutchinson supported the hated Stamp Act. After reading Samuel Adams’ rhetoric, a mob formed and arsonists burned Hutchinson’s house to the ground—even though Thomas Hutchinson did not actually support the Stamp Act.

And while fake news isn’t new, the internet has made it far easier to spread false information faster and to a much wider audience than Samuel Adams ever could with his *Boston Gazette*. There you are, scrolling through your favorite social media platform and suddenly you see it: a news headline that makes you stop in your tracks. The headline makes you so angry, before you know it, you’re sharing it on your page and friends are adding outraged comments.

The internet is a powerful tool for sharing and spreading information, but it can also be a minefield of misinformation. A constant barrage of newsfeeds and posts has left us with an overabundance of information—information accompanied by very few facts. How can we even begin to sort through the rubble to find the nuggets of truth? It’s a tricky landscape to navigate—but never fear! Your friendly neighborhood librarians are here!

Here are some helpful tips from [FactCheck.org](https://factcheck.org) on “How to Spot Fake News”:

Consider the Source. Not all sources are created equal. Click away from the story to investigate the site and its mission.

Read Beyond the Headline. News headlines are created to draw attention. Read a little further before you decide to pass along shocking information.

Check the Author. Another tell-tale sign of a fake story is often the byline (a line in a newspaper that states who wrote the article). No byline is a big red flag. If there is an author listed, Google them! Find out if they are who they say they are, and if they have a history of bias.

What’s the Support? Many times these bogus stories will cite official—or official-sounding—sources. However, once you look into it, the source doesn’t back up the claim. If an article provides links to sources (and all articles should—like this one! Make sure to click on those links!), click on them to find out what the information is really saying.

Check the Date. Some false stories aren’t completely fake, but rather distortions of real events. Old inflammatory headlines circulate on social media all the time and people do not realize the “news” they’re sharing actually took place months or sometimes years ago.

Is This Some Kind of Joke? Remember, there is such thing as satire. Normally, it’s clearly labeled as such and sometimes it’s even funny. When in doubt, investigate the site further.

Check Your Biases. This is the most difficult tip of all. If you find yourself getting emotional over a headline or article, step back and ask yourself if your own beliefs could be affecting your judgment. Slanted or biased sources often play to emotions and tell their readers what they want to hear.

Consult the Experts. Librarians are trained to help evaluate information sources and Manitowoc Public Library is here for you!

To learn more about how to evaluate information and news sources, join MPL Librarian, Julia Lee, for a virtual informational presentation aimed at helping you be a more confident media consumer. “Fact vs. Fake: How Do You Know What Information to Trust?” will take place on Thursday, May 6 at 6 PM. You can tune in on [Manitowoc Public Library’s Facebook page](#) or [Youtube channel](#).

Manitowoc Public Library Promoting Reading Materials Focused on Mental Health

May 5, 2021 | 3:30 PM
Local News



The following article was submitted by Lisa Pike from the Manitowoc Public Library

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, a month dedicated to helping end the stigma of mental illness and promote resources for those in need of help.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), one in five U.S. adults experience mental illness each year and one in six U.S. youth experience a

mental health condition each year—and only about half of each age group will receive treatment. Part of the reason treatment is so limited is that 55% of U.S. counties do not have a single practicing psychiatrist. This is where books and libraries can try to bridge the gap.



Lisa Pike

Books are powerful medicine for the mind through relieving stress, alleviating loneliness, and allowing readers to develop empathy. Fiction and nonfiction titles that relay their stories through the lens of a person with mental illness are beneficial to those who have mental illness and those who do not.

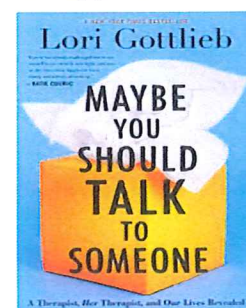
For people who have a mental illness, these books provide much-needed representation and can defeat feelings of isolation through connecting with another's experiences. For those without a mental illness, these books provide a better understanding of what it's like to live with one. This is especially important for those with a family member, friend, or other loved one who lives with mental illness. Reading books in which the characters manage mental illness helps to inform and create empathy, which in turn battles insensitivity and misunderstanding.

Libraries help this process by providing a variety of fiction and nonfiction for a variety of audiences. Our hope at Manitowoc Public Library is that someone who is seeking help for themselves, or a friend, or a loved one will pick up one of these books. The help people may receive from these titles can come in many forms. A book may be helpful to someone by allowing them to identify with a character and feel less isolated in their struggles. It may also provide resources to connect with a therapist. A book could even give advice on the best way to start a conversation with someone concerning mental health.

The following are a few titles that we offer at Manitowoc Public Library, that excel in their approach to placing the topic of mental illness into the conversation:

“Maybe You Should Talk to Someone,” by Lori Gottlieb

A therapist finds herself on the therapy couch after a major shift in her life. As she begins exploring her own problems, she finds connections with her patients that she never saw before and how they are dealing with similar struggles. Gottlieb uses



“Life Inside My Mind: 31 Authors Share Their Personal Struggles,” by Jessica Burkhart, et.al.

[illegible]

“Some Kind of Happiness,” by Claire Legrand

WHEN SADNESS
IS AT YOUR DOOR

Eva Eland

One of the many goals of National Mental Health Awareness Month is to start open, frank conversations about mental illness and health. We hope that these titles may be able to jump-start one or many such conversations or even lead to a library visit to discover more helpful resources.

Manitowoc-Calumet Library System Hosting “Battle of the Books”

May 11, 2021 | 6:00 PM
Local News



The following article was submitted by Manitowoc Public Library Associate Carrie Pearson.

The Manitowoc-Calumet Library System “Battle of the Books” will be happening this summer and Manitowoc Public Library is excited to return to the competition after winning last year for the 7th year in a row!

So, what is Battle of the Books? It’s a MCLS book trivia competition. Each of the six libraries in our system gathers a team of Tweens and Teens, ages 11-18, who test their knowledge of a list of books they read throughout the summer. This year we have eight highly-praised contemporary books in a variety of genres for Teens to choose from. Teens DO NOT have to read all the books! They can, however, read as many books as fit into their lives, even if it’s just one. Any knowledge is useful to a team.

There will be one big change to the competition this year—it will be hosted on the online quiz platform, Kahoot! We learned a lot of lessons last year after our first virtual competition—namely lessons of technical difficulties and time lags over internet connections. To make the competition fairer, each teen participant will now be able to log into the competition and answer questions individually on a smart device. As in years past, the quickest answer wins! But another change Kahoot brings is that the questions will all be multiple choice or True/False! This new format will really make it any team’s year to win the tournament!

Manitowoc Public Library values accessibility to all patrons’ comfort levels. With this in mind, our team will have a hybrid model of virtual and in-person practices. Teens can choose what works best for

their lives and schedules—coming to the library in-person for practices or joining-in virtually using Google Meet. Not only is the virtual method a great option for those who may not be comfortable gathering in groups yet, but also for Teens with busy schedules who might not be able to make it to the library in-between extracurriculars, work, social schedules, etc. In-person practices will be limited to ten teens in order to meet social distancing standards as well.

The MPL team will also be able to choose when practices will be meeting! After difficulty getting more than half of the team together for pre-scheduled practices, the library came up with the idea to have team members submit their schedules via a Doodle Poll in order to determine what time works best for the majority of team members. We're extremely hopeful this will help our team build good camaraderie prior to the competition.

One real advantage to the Battle of the Books happening in summer is that all the reading Teens will be doing will count towards the Summer Reading Program, where Teens can enter to win fabulous prizes! This Summer Reading Program has more chances to win than ever before! Even if you read just one day out of the summer, you get one raffle ticket to enter into our grand prize drawings. One of our grand prizes for Teens to enter to win this year is a Nintendo Switch Lite, which is perfect for the brand new video game collection we will be introducing this summer!

Without further ado, I would like to announce the 2021 Battle of the Books Title Choices by genre:

Fantasy/Science Fiction—*Burn*, by Patrick Ness: set in an alternative history during the 1950s where dragons have evolved alongside humans, this novel follows Sarah and her father after their financial situation forces them to hire a dragon to help on their farm in rural Washington. Little do they know this dragon brings with him a prophecy about the end of the world, a deadly assassin, a cult of dragon-worshippers, and two FBI agents.

Fantasy/Science Fiction—*Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*, by Kwame Mbalia: Tristan is grieving the loss of a dear friend when a strange creature steals from him in the middle of the night. When he pursues the creature, he accidentally punches a tree, which opens up a portal to another dimension. Tristan finds himself in the middle of a battle fought by heroes from African American folklore and the only way to win is to win the favor of West African gods.

Graphic Novel—*The Savage Beard of She-Dwarf*, by Kyle Latino: based on the popular webcomic, She Dwarf believes she could be the last dwarf in the world. Hoping to find evidence of more of her kind, she sets out to find the lost great dwarven city. Forced to take on a partner for help on her mission, the pair will fight monsters and hidden dangers before She Dwarf can find the truth about her people.

Historical Fiction—*Kent State*, by Deborah Wiles: based on the tragic real events of May 4, 1970, when American troops fired on and killed four Kent State University students in Ohio during a protest of the Vietnam War. This verse novel uses multiple points of view to give voice to the horror and chaos of that day. More than 50 years later, there is still disagreement as to what happened and why.

Horror—*Rules for Vanishing*, by Kate Alice Marshall: once a year, a path appears in the forest and a ghost girl beckons people to play her game. In a faux-documentary style, readers follow Sara a year after her sister disappeared playing the ghost girl's game. After a mysterious text invites Sara to play the game as well, she's determined to bring her sister back before she's lost forever.

Mystery/Suspense—*The Inheritance Games*, by Jennifer Lynn Barnes: Avery is just trying to get a college scholarship when a random billionaire suddenly dies, leaving her his fortune in his will. The only catch is she has to move into his mansion. Unfortunately, the billionaire's

recently-disinherited family is still in the house and believes she must be a con artist. To solve the mystery, Avery will have to navigate the sprawling estate filled with secret passages, riddles, and codes.

Non-Fiction—*Folding Tech: Using Origami & Nature to Evolutionize Technology*, by Karen Latchana Kennedy: what do self-assembling robots, space probes, and crash-absorbing cars all have in common? They were all designed based on origami, the ancient art of paper folding! Examine how origami crosses with mathematics to become a tool to solve the most complicated problems in engineering, architecture, technology, and medicine today! The book also includes instructions for scientific origami projects for readers to try at home!

Realistic Fiction—*Don't Read the Comments*, by Eric Smith: in the online gaming world, Divya goes by DIV and is a rising star. But, in real life, she's using her sponsorships to help her mom with rent. Aaron is only interested in gaming, not becoming a doctor like his mother wants, so when he happens to meet celebrity gamer DIV he jumps at the chance to join her crusade. However, when internet trolls begin a campaign against them that crosses into real-life doxxing, the two will have to team up IRL (in real life) to stop them.

All of the books are available as ebooks except for our graphic novel, *The Savage Beard of Shedwarf*, which, as a webcomic, is already available for online reading at shedwarf.com. All of the books except for the graphic novel are also available as e-audiobooks as well on Overdrive (for computers) and Libby (for smart devices), which you can access for free with a Manitowoc Public Library physical or virtual library card.

Battle of the Books will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM and practices will be held weekly throughout the summer starting with an orientation taking place on Thursday, June 24, at 4 PM. You can sign up for the MPL's Battle of the Books team on the library website at www.manitowoclibrary.org/teens/battle-of-the-books/.

Teen Services hosts summer teen programming every Friday starting June 18. We're having our Henna Teen Kick-off on June 18 and are partnering with Lakeshore Humane Society to bring teens Cats and Crafts on June 25 to start the summer off! To see the full list of summer fun for Teens visit our website: www.manitowoclibrary.org/srp/. For more Teen Services news, follow the Teen Services Instagram at [@mpl.teen](https://www.instagram.com/mpl.teen/) (<https://www.instagram.com/mpl.teen/>).


Manitowoc Public Library Encouraging you to “Get Caught Reading”

May 13, 2021 | 5:00 PM

[Local News](#)

MANITOWOC PUBLIC LIBRARY

Get Caught Reading



May is National "Get Caught Reading" Month.

Find a fun spot.
Snap a pic of yourself, family, or pet reading a book.
Email your photo to thorstketter@manitowoc.org.

Submissions May 1-23 | Voting May 24-31

Photo Contest

Photographs will be posted to MPL's Facebook page for voting.

The following article was submitted by Therese Horstketter, an Adult Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.

There are many things that one can be “caught” doing—but getting caught reading is healthy, entertaining, and, dare I say, law-abiding!

And there’s no better time to be apprehended while absorbed in a great read than May, which just so happens to be National Get Caught Reading Month.

For many readers, documenting the list of places to read and other ways to enjoy reading could fill the pages of a photo album or scrapbook. Well, that’s exactly what we’re hoping to accomplish at the Library this month.

Manitowoc Public Library is holding a “Get Caught Reading” contest to showcase the many ways that readers enjoy their books and the spaces in which they read. Do you have one favorite area where you head to get lost in a well-told tale? Does that locale change with the seasons? Or does the vibe of the book lead to a change of reading scenery? Do you always carry a book in your purse, suitcase, tote bag, or car, so that you never get caught without an engrossing story when the urge to read arises? Does your child always have a favorite book at bedtime or carry one around in their backpack?

Here’s a thought—why don’t you take this contest and use it as an on-ramp into our Summer Reading Program? Make this a fun last month of school activity before diving headfirst into summer. Perhaps arrange a scavenger hunt that leads folks into finding everyday things to read, like a cereal box or a menu or directions on how to assemble something. You and your family may discover just how many things that you read every day without even really paying attention to the fact that you’re doing it. Don’t forget that all reading is, well, reading!! It’s just that simple!

Snap a shot of yourself, family, friends, co-workers, pets, etc. reading! Be as original and creative as you choose, but remember that we are a family friendly place. So, if you take a pic of a reader in a bathtub, make sure that the bubble coverage is sufficient!

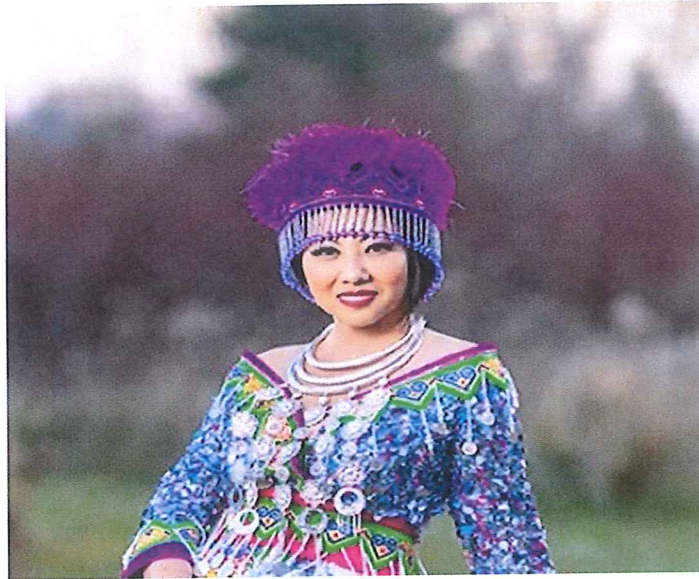
We will happily accept your photos, emailed to thorstketter@manitowoc.org, through May 23. Your entries will be posted on our Facebook page for voting from May 24 through May 31. Winners will be announced in early June. And Chamber Bucks will be awarded to the victors!

Posed or casual, kids and/or adults, I am sure everyone has some fun thoughts in mind—just snap and send! And “Get Caught Reading!”

Manitowoc Public Library Hosting Hmong Exhibit

May 24, 2021 | 5:00 PM

Local News



The following article was submitted by Dr. Kaonou Hang-Vue, "AHmong Friends" Exhibition Organizer.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This year, the city of Manitowoc, Manitowoc Public Library and Manitowoc Public Schools went big on celebrating AAPI Heritage Month, in particular Hmong culture. On April 19, 2021, Mayor Justin Nickels proclaimed May 14th Hmong American Day (Manitowoc is the second city in Wisconsin behind Appleton to celebrate this day). Manitowoc Public Library featured an all-Hmong exhibit called "AHmong Friends" beginning

on May 17, running through June 12, complete with a Hmong culture night celebration on June 1st at 5 PM. On May 14, 2021, Manitowoc Public Schools celebrated Hmong American Day in style by inviting their staff and students to wear Hmong clothes to school and took time to learn about the Hmong culture. Their beautiful pictures and touching stories flooded Facebook with Hmong pride. I'm so proud to call Manitowoc home!

The past few years, I've pondered how to share my beautiful and unique Hmong culture with the community. This collaboration with Manitowoc Public Library was the perfect platform to give the community a glimpse of who we are and where we came from as Hmong refugees of war. As I shared with Manitowoc Public Library's Youth Services Manager, Julia Lee, if you don't have a close Hmong friend, you may never get to wear Hmong clothes, see Hmong events/rituals or eat authentic Hmong food. Now, you have a Hmong friend in me as I share with you my Hmong culture!

When you've been a Hmong American living in the United States as long as I have, sometimes you only know enough of the Hmong language and culture to get by. Creating this exhibit made me realize the limited knowledge I held of Hmong history and the gap in education I didn't even know existed. Luckily, I also experienced the amazingly supportive extended Hmong family and network I have within the Hmong community who had my back. As I collaborated with family and community members, local artists, Hmong leaders, and Hmong small business owners to put this exhibit together, the process of coming together solidified what I already knew about my culture and my people—they are some of the most loving and generous supporters.

My goal for this exhibit was to give everyone a glimpse into the 45 years of Hmong people in the United States and our customs, traditions, and beliefs. Visitors will get to see up-close shaman tools, experience the creativity of the Hmong people through their normal, every day household objects back in Laos/Thailand, view some grand Hmong story cloths that brought the Hmong story alive, find out what a *qeej* is and more! Although I am very proud of how the exhibit came together, I

discovered I barely scratched the surface in other areas of Hmong culture. I guess that means there will be more to come!

To celebrate the conclusion of AAPI month and in conjunction with the “AHmong Friends” exhibit, Manitowoc Public Library is hosting its first Hmong Culture Night on June 1st at 5 PM. Local Hmong artists will display some of their talents through Hmong dancing and singing. You will be able to see some traditional Hmong activities like ball tossing and listen to traditional Hmong chanting. You’ll also have the opportunity to experience a Hmong book reading and hear some history on the Hmong people. The night wouldn’t be complete without a fashion show showcasing the beautiful variations in Hmong clothes. Youth who attend the exhibit can make some Hmong-inspired crafts to take home.

This is an event you will not want to miss! Registration is required and opens May 18. You can register online at manitowoclibrary.org/srp. Can’t make it in-person? We’ll be live streaming the event on the library Facebook page and YouTube channel. See you all there!

Manitowoc Public Library Executive Director Recaps the COVID Pandemic's Effect on the Library

May 25, 2021 | 5:00 PM
Local News



The following article was submitted by Kristin Stoeger, the Executive Director of the Manitowoc Public Library.

My, what a year this has been! Looking back over the last fiscal year, I am overwhelmed to remember all the ways our community adjusted and rose to meet the challenges of the pandemic. I could never have foreseen what we were to face, and yet, we came through together. A huge thank you to all our community members, businesses, and partner organizations! Your tenacity, commitment to our community, innovation, flexibility, and courage were an honor to behold and be a part of. We may

be a little battered, but I know we are coming out stronger than before the pandemic.

At Manitowoc Public Library, we started off 2020 with a huge celebration for our First Floor Redesign and quickly shifted into pandemic response. In 2020, we completed a major First Floor Redesign, focusing on supporting 21st century workforce skills. Through this redesign, we were able to build and expand on technology assistance offered to the community through the creation of our Idea Box. We were also able to create a business center, enhance digital literacy access, and provide areas for community connection.

This redesign project was completed and introduced in early 2020, just prior to the worldwide pandemic. We are in the process of rolling out access once again to many of these transformational elements. Stay connected on Facebook (www.facebook.com/manitowoclibrary) and our website (www.manitowoclibrary.org) for the latest updates!

Throughout the pandemic, the Library remained true to our mission to support our community's educational, recreational, and cultural needs. This meant adapting our service model to support virtual access to resources—including development of a curbside services model for library access which we will continue to use during, and beyond, the pandemic.

We continued to provide job assistance for the community in job searching, applying, and developing job skills.

We focused on community engagement through our virtual programming and providing quality and innovative programming to citizens of all ages.

We supported digital literacy through expanded Wi-Fi and circulation of wireless hotspots in our community. We supported education with enhanced access of Virtual Library Cards to students. Virtual Library Cards give students and teachers online access to all of the digital resources that

Manitowoc Public Library currently provides and those that may become available in the future. There is no physical card which exists; instead the Virtual Library Card is developed based on the student or teacher's school ID number. Instead of memorizing a new number, the student or teacher is only required to keep track of one number, which is connected to their school account.

Finally, the Library supported our area businesses through a month-long "Libraries Build Strong Communities" campaign where we incentivized shopping local. By shopping local during the month of September, the public received entries into raffle drawings at their local library. The raffle drawings were for gift cards to our local businesses to once again support them. This helped to promote our businesses during a difficult financial time and showcase all that our community is proud to offer.

Instead of allowing the pandemic to define us, the Library adjusted to develop service models, expand access to resources, and continue to enhance literacy in our community.

Manitowoc Public Library is committed to building a stronger tomorrow.



MPL Executive Director
Kristen Stoeger

Local History Expert Talks About the Collection of Photos at the Manitowoc Public Library

May 29, 2021 | 12:00 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was submitted by Meredith Gadzinski, a Local History Consultant at the Manitowoc Public Library.

Every so often, in my position as a Local History Consultant at Manitowoc Public Library, I receive questions about local historic photographs. When I finish helping the person, they tell me that MPL has such wonderful resources and they're thrilled to know about it. I think, YES!

I'm happy to say that even before my time started at the Library, this archival resource had been digitized and was available online free for browsing! I remember doing research for my undergrad assignments on Wisconsin History and actually using MPL's local history collection. Not only are there hundreds of historic photos to peruse, but full text histories, plat maps, and oral history records all housed within *The Manitowoc Local History Collection*. When I think about the digitized collection, I feel spoiled because not every community has this resource at their fingertips the way our community does. We're very fortunate that MPL took the initiative to get these historic photographs digitized.

Motorcycle Club No. 2



There are so many wonderful photographs to look through, but there are a few that I receive comments on often. For example, the photograph titled, *Motorcycle Club No. 2* (shown above), is one that comes to mind right away. The photo was taken on the corner of North 8th and Buffalo Streets on August 17, 1919. Looking at the photo, Kunz Motorcycle Olp & Co. is on the left. There is a man

dressed in white standing underneath the sign. To find this picture I just typed in “motorcycle” in a keyword search.

This database is maintained by UW-Madison—which is why a search of the collection yields results from the entire state. However, you can refine your search by clicking on “Collections” and choosing which one you want to search. For example, a favorite search of mine is “Parks”. I just love seeing the historic photos of our local parks. It’s fun to see how they once looked and how much they have changed.

Park Belles



To narrow down my search of parks I would choose “Manitowoc Local History” to see images of our community’s parks. One picture in particular, titled “Park Belles” (shown above), is a personal favorite. It shows a group of young women in Washington Park and behind them is the fountain that used to be in the park. The women are in beautiful dresses and all have parasols. There are so many trees in the park and you can see other people in the background mingling. It’s such a beautiful picture. It reminds me of our community and people coming together.

I love this photograph collection and I didn’t really even grow up here! When I look at the photos, I see a great community and its history. And my family isn’t in these photos. I can’t imagine what it must feel like to look through these photos and see one’s family members. Or to look at a photo of Downtown and remember what restaurants were open for business in the ‘60s or ‘70s where other businesses are now located.

Before I wrap up, I wouldn’t be doing a very good job if I didn’t empower you find these photo on your own. Simply go to www.manitowoclibrary.org and scroll down the page. On the lower right-hand side of the screen is an image that says “Manitowoc Local History Collection”. Click on it. A new window will load and you can either search or browse the images.

If you haven’t taken the time, I invite you to take a look at this wonderful collection and explore the history of Manitowoc and the surrounding communities through a wide selection of images, historical texts, and maps, and plat books that date back to the mid-19th Century. Whether for historical or genealogical research, school assignments, or business or civic presentations, this collection provides an in-depth look at Manitowoc’s rich history.