Contents

4 • Meet the Author Series
5 • 2012 Laman Fellow
6 • Exhibits
8 • Lionels at Laman
10 • Children’s Department / Teen Center
12 • Summer Reading Series
14 • Lamanpalooza
16 • Live @ Laman
17 • Fit 2 Live
18 • Reel Classics / Community Cinema
19 • Zinio for Libraries
20 • Argenta Branch
21 • Main Street Post Office
22 • Argenta Art Walk
23 • Homebound Services
At the conclusion of 2012, the William F. Laman Public Library System can report a very successful year of serving North Little Rock and the surrounding community. Currently, the William F. Laman Public Library System has over 58,000 people registered for library cards. In the past year there have been over 254,000 items checked out to the community we serve and over 365,000 people have used either the main library or the Argenta Branch. The exhibit hall in the main library has consistently drawn visitors from around the state; in fact, this year, 17,439 people visited the exhibit hall.

Arguably, one of the greatest assets for the community of North Little Rock is that the William F. Laman Public Library System provides continued access to public computers; in 2012 the library served more than 12,500 individuals in this area. At the conclusion of the year, the William F. Laman Public Library System had provided more than 80,000 hours of public computer usage.
Meet the Author Series

As a part of the Adult Summer Reading Program, Laman Library welcomed four authors in the “Meet the Author Series.” Each author’s books were available for sale and signing at the conclusion of each of their presentations.

SENATOR DAVID PRYOR

This year, the library was honored to host former Senator David Pryor who discussed his career and book, “A Pryor Commitment.” The book follows Mr. Pryor’s career of public service in Arkansas history: he has been elected state representative, congressman, governor, and, alongside Dale Bumpers, U.S. senator (1979–1997). Through it all, Pryor’s curiosity, compassion, and concern for ordinary Americans draw the reader from one colorful vignette to another.

JANE F. HANKINS

Next up was Jane F. Hankins who read from her brand new novel, “Madge’s Mobile Home Park.” This story is set in the fictional town of Peavine, Ark. – “The Little Town that Grows on You” – and is billed as the first of the Peavine Chronicles Series. The jacket includes glowing blurbs from such Arkansas notables as First Lady Ginger Beebe, The Rep’s Artistic Director Bob Hupp, and Hankins’ husband, TV news anchor Craig O’Neill.

DR. DAVID LIPSCHITZ

The third author in the series was Dr. David Lipschitz who discussed his latest book, “Dr. David’s First Health Book of MORE (Not Less)”. This book reviews ten steps to a long, independent and healthier life. As the baby boomers reach the age of 60 and beyond it becomes ever more important for them to do what it takes to prepare for a healthy and a better future, always living in dignity, in your own home without ever having to depend on others. It’s more than just an apple a day, an occasional trip to the doctor or committing to get into shape.

MARA LEVERITT

The final author in this series was the 2012 Laman Library Fellow, Mara Leveritt. Mara talked about her work in progress, “Justice Knot,” the follow-up to her highly acclaimed true crime book, “Devil’s Knot.”
Mara Leveritt

Mara Leveritt, a contributing editor to the *Arkansas Times* and past Arkansas Journalist of the Year, was awarded the 2012 Laman Library Writers Fellowship to continue work on her book, “Justice Knot.” Her writing examines the events that culminated last year when the West Memphis Three were suddenly released, without trials, from sentences they were handed almost eighteen years ago. In August 2011, in a brief court hearing that the judge said will likely be scrutinized for years to come, the men both pleaded guilty to murdering three eight-year-old children and stated that they did not commit the crime. The state accepted that plea, sentenced the men to time-served, and allowed them to go free, requiring neither probation nor parole.

As part of its mission, the William F. Laman Public Library System strives to enhance the community by providing public access to literature and other information. However, Laman Library also seeks to encourage the creation of literature by Arkansans, for Arkansans. For that reason, Laman Library founded the Laman Library Writers Fellowship in March 2010 to provide grants to writers that will assist them in the writing and publishing process.
The Exhibit Hall

The Exhibit Hall had an outstanding year in 2012 in which the Library was able to feature eight different exhibits. One of the most interesting exhibits of the year was “Inside Peanuts: The Life and Art of Charles M. Schulz.” This exhibition contained reproduction comic strips and preliminary sketches that followed the development of the characters who made up the unique world of Peanuts. This exhibit included quotes by Schulz explaining his art, and selected Peanuts collectibles from six decades.

Another highlight of the year was “The White House Garden.” Organized with the White House Historical Association, The White House Garden traced the development of the gardens and grounds from the plans of Pierre Charles L’Enfant to the present.

And finally, arguably the most emotional exhibit of the year was, “Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings.” This exhibit focused on how the book burnings became a potent symbol during World War II in America’s battle against Nazism. The total attendance for the exhibit hall was over 17,400 during the year.
All Aboard!
Lionels at Laman

Back for their fourth “repeat performance,” hobbyists and members of the Lionel Collectors Club of America presented this hands-on train display that was fun for all ages!

The 14x20-foot exhibit consisted of a bi-level layout with a triple arch, double-decker bridge at the center of the display. This dramatic feature makes it the largest Lionel exhibit thus far. The bridge is a one-of-a-kind item made especially for this installation by TW Trainworx in Dallas, TX. Visitors also experienced more model buildings from the “North Pole” and “Snow Village” collections, modern and vintage trains and many of other accessories. Children were encouraged to operate the trains and accessories, providing for a more exciting experience.

Over 5,000 people came to the Lionel Train exhibit which ran from December 13 through December 31.
Children’s Department

Children’s Department had a very successful year! Attendance was excellent at all of our weekly programs, especially Babytime, where attendance grew dramatically. Children and families appreciated sharing unique stories and special craft projects at our library.

Our patrons participated in an array of exciting events from Black History Month (offering daily activities such as trivia games, bingo and crafts) to the Twelve Crafts of Christmas. For National Library Week, in April, the UCA Theatre performed a very entertaining play, “The King of Ice Cream Mountain,” at the library. Our Fall Fest was a great success; the costume contest and special concert featuring Brian and Terri Kinder drew a huge crowd.

Our monthly “Family Night” programs were equally successful. Patrons enjoyed a variety of themes and activities, such as an Artist Party, Amazing Adventures in Africa and Night Shivers. Night Shivers was a special introduction of the Summer Reading Program, Dream Big, READ!

These events promoted literacy, learning and fun! Patrons had a wonderful time with the help of our creative and motivated staff in the Children’s Department.
In 2012, teens brought to life two of their favorite novels! The Teen Center transformed into The Capitol of Panem as the tributes trained and competed to become the lone victor of *The Hunger Games*. Then teens joined the likes of Harry Potter and Ron Weasley as they grabbed their brooms and headed to the plaza for our Muggle Quidditch Match.

This year the Teen Center welcomed two authors! Robin Becker, author of *Brains: A Zombie Memoir*, who discussed all things zombies while Jenny Torres Sanchez, author of *The Downside of Being Charlie*, Skyped with the teens about her book. Both authors answered questions, encouraged teens to write, and gave copies of their books as prizes!

September was art month in the teen center! Throughout the month teens created masterpieces which were exhibited in an Art Show Open House for the community. The creativity didn’t end there! Teens created original puppet shows for our Children’s Department, showcased their talents in monthly Open Mic Nights, represented North Little Rock in the National WrestleMania Reading Challenge, and even created costumes for our monthly Anime Nights!
Summer Reading Series

The Summer Reading program was the largest yet! We had 534 people sign up to participate in the “You Read to ME” (children who are being read to), reading a total of 8,980 books. There were 866 students from grades 1st–6th who read 12,437 books as well as 471 teens involved in the program who read 5,752 books. This was the third year we offered the Adult Summer Reading program with 319 adults signing up and reading 1,617 books. The total number of books read during the seven week Summer Reading Program was 27,169.

In addition to reading, the library offered 94 programs including storytellers, magicians, speakers from Heifer International, Arkansas Parks and Museums, animals from the Little Rock Zoo and many other educational agencies and entertainers. The attendance for these programs was 7,358.

To add to the fun of reading, the library gave each child who signed up a bag with a reading log, bookmark, pencil and stickers. Each time the children reported their reading, they received stickers. It’s a joy to see the children’s faces as they put their stickers by their names each week. By the end of July there wasn’t any wall space in the children’s area without sheets of paper covered in stickers. Prizes are given each week to the children reporting. Both children’s and adults’ names are put into a drawing for larger prizes each week they report their reading progress.
Lamanpalooza 2012

Lamanpalooza 2012 was a huge success for the William F. Laman Public Library System and for the community of North Little Rock. This was the third annual Lamanpalooza and it continues to be our biggest one-day children’s event of the year.

In 2012 we were able to purchase 17 prizes to give away during the event. Some of the prizes included an iPad 2, a 40” TV, kids’ bicycles & tricycles, a TV from the Teen Center, an X-box, a PlayStation 3 from Argenta, and several gift cards. With the popularity of Lamanpalooza over the years it was not a surprise that we also had 30 donated prizes to give away from 12 different local businesses. The Arkansas Federal Credit Union, the North Little Rock Visitors Bureau, Moose Cleaners, Hodge Podge gift shop, The Clinton Center, Millennium Bowl, the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame, L’Oreal, US Pizza, Dixie Café, Western Sizzlin’ and the Arkansas Travelers all made prize donations.

Once again this was a very successful event for the community and the estimated attendance was over 1,500 people.
It was another stellar year of performances for the Laman Library’s most popular program. Live@Laman has consistently offered an evening of musical entertainment every second Thursday of the month. We’ve hosted some of the best music groups Arkansas has to offer, and our packed houses are proving that Live@Laman is the place to be when it comes to quality entertainment for our patrons. This year we featured the following musical artists: The Smittle Band, Rodney Block, Audrey Dean Kelley, Amy Garland, Ramblers, Diamond State Chorus, Episcopal Collegiate School’s Steel Drum Band, and Still on the Hill. It truly was an outstanding year with a wide variety of music to entertain our community. The total attendance for Live@Laman during 2012 was 1,198.
Fit 2 Live is an initiative created in 2009 by the City of North Little Rock and the North Little Rock School District to address the obesity epidemic in our city and to make the healthy choice the easy choice for our residents. In partnership with the City of North Little Rock, Fit 2 Live at Laman is held on every third Tuesday of the month. Patrons enjoy learning about nutrition, exercise options, healthy grocery choices, meal planning and more.
This program screens classic films in conjunction with The Rep’s production schedule. Prior to the screening of each film, one or more members of the Arkansas Repertory Theatre’s artistic team leads a brief discussion on a current Rep show, offers behind-the-curtain insights and hosts an audience Q&A.

This is a free monthly screening that is presented on the first Tuesday of each month. The series engages communities through films produced by the Independent Television Service (ITVS) and features monthly screenings followed by panel discussions with leading organizations, local communities and special guest speakers. The program is designed to help people learn about and get involved in the social issues raised in the documentaries. Community Cinema partners in Central Arkansas include UALR Public Radio/KUAR FM 89.1 and The Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN).
Anncing Zinio for Libraries

The world’s largest newsstand is now on your library’s website

The William F. Laman Public Library System, in partnership with RBdigital from Recorded Books, the world’s largest independent producer of audiobooks, was pleased to announce the availability of Zinio™ for Libraries. This is a new edition of the popular digital newsstand Zinio™ that’s been designed specifically for library patrons.

Zinio for Libraries provides a quick and easy way for patrons to read digital copies of their favorite magazines through a digital platform that recreates magazines page-for-page, including full-color pictures. Simply by using their library card, patrons will be able to read, interact with, and explore the largest selection of magazines anywhere.

Zinio’s wide range of magazines includes areas such as sports, entertainment, travel, business, and more. And with iPad®, iPhone® and Android® compatibility, Zinio™ makes it easy to view stunning digital magazines on the go, or on your PC or Mac. Zinio™ takes the reading experience even further with intuitive navigation, key word article search and interactive rich media elements such as audio, video, and live links.

View the Laman Library Zinio™ web page
Argenta Branch

It has been an amazing year for the Argenta Branch Library! Currently located in the old fire station and soon to be located in the old post office on Main Street, the Argenta Branch once again witnessed record breaking attendance in the children and adult programs.

In February, the Argenta Branch celebrated Black History with Richard Lindsey, one of six courageous black students who attempted to integrate North Little Rock High in 1957. Other exciting adult programs included: an autobiography writing workshop by Paula Morell, “All that Jazz” music performance by saxophonist Anthony Lofton, and a Trail of Tears program to name a few. The Summer Reading Program was a huge success with 176 adults and 204 children registered. The Children’s department turned up the music with a four part musical series by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra’s Rockefeller and Quapaw Quartet. Another sweet treat was the kid’s cupcake decorating program. The Children’s department added festive color and holiday cheer with its ornament decorating program.

Argenta Branch Library ended the year on a healthy kick. Mrs. Phyll, owner of Carousel Fit for Life, gave tips for healthy living and gave instructions on how to end the year strong. The Argenta Branch did just that!
Laman Library Purchases the North Little Rock Federal Post Office Building

In October of 2012 The William F. Laman Public Library System announced the purchase of the Old Main Post Office Building, located at 420 Main Street in North Little Rock, for $775,000. “We are very excited for this opportunity to improve and expand our services to the people of Central Arkansas” said, Jeff Baskin, Executive Director of the William F. Laman Public Library System.

The next step will be to renovate the entire building which will take place during 2013 at a cost of 2.8 million dollars. When it reopens in early 2014 it will replace the current Argenta Branch which is located at 506 Main Street in downtown North Little Rock. This newly renovated building will be comprised of 15,300 square feet which will contain a computer lab, reading room, café, exhibit hall, a one hundred and forty seat auditorium, and over twelve thousand books.

Jeff Baskin signs the papers to purchase the new home of the Argenta branch library.
Argenta Art Walk

For the fourth consecutive year, the Argenta Branch of the Laman Library has been involved in the Argenta Art Walk. This Art Walk is held on the third Friday of the month. From March through October the library takes pride in showcasing local artists in front of the Argenta Branch Library. The Art Walk is open from 5-8 p.m. During this time, the artists give demonstrations and their work is available for purchase.

Among of the featured artists of the year was Nancy Bounds, who shared her digital prints from Hurricane Katrina; Julie Holt, who worked with pottery; and Lisa Krannichfeld, who gave a painting demonstration.

During the months that the Laman Library participated, 853 people attended the Argenta Branch Library to see the artists at work.
In 2012, our Homebound Services expanded to three days per week and continues to grow! By the end of the year, we were delivering books, audiobooks, books on CD, and DVDs to 35 different people in North Little Rock. There’s no mistaking the joy our homebound patrons have as we ensure they continue to have access to their much-loved public library. Our staff works attentively to find the right items for each individual library patron and all our homebound friends look forward to library day. Laman Library takes pride in providing this service knowing we’re able to bring library service to those who are unable to physically visit the library.

In total, 3,189 items were circulated to homebound patrons in 2012, averaging out to 91 titles per homebound patron. These are some of our most avid readers and several have been patrons of the library for many, many years. Being able to continue to supply library material to our faithful book lovers who can no longer visit the library is a big part of our commitment to serving the entire community of North Little Rock.
The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person’s right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
