

Openness, Inclusivity and Civic Engagement

Susan Wolf, Reference Manager
Northbrook Public Library

Background

Previous initiatives

Displays and exhibits

TEDx

Up for Discussion

Community-led discussion groups

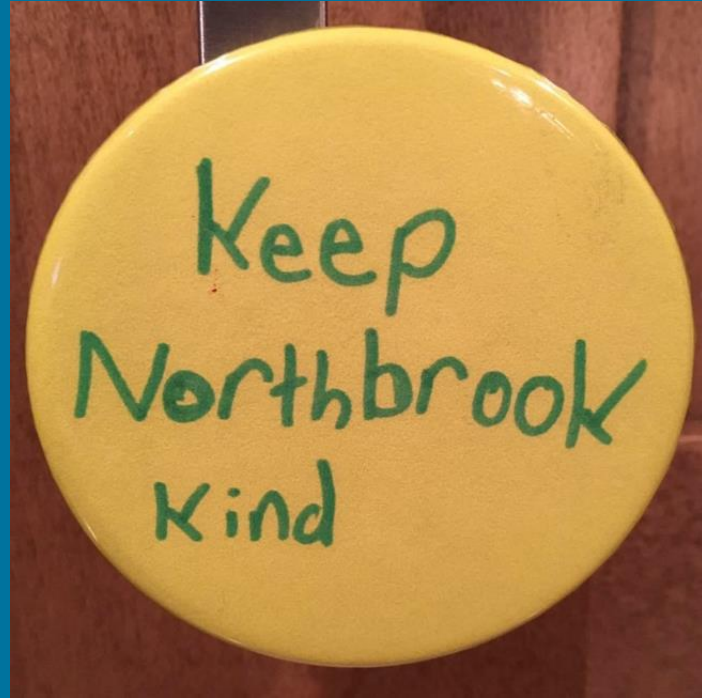


Our new library card and tagline



Kindness Rally

March 12, 2017

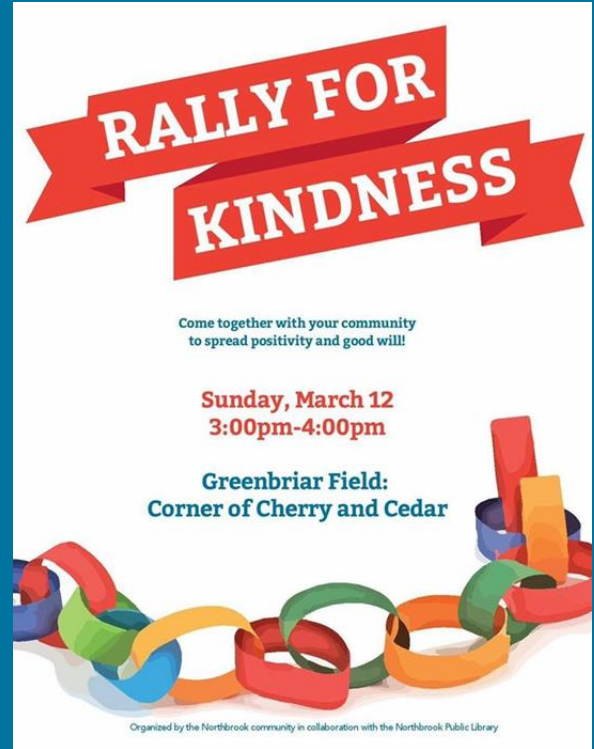


Community Involvement

How do you respond quickly to a patron programming idea?

How do you involve the community?

How do you reach the individual patron and the existing and established groups?



Feedback

“Kindness is as Kindness does”

“The Rally for Kindness was terrific”

“Do something kind today”

“Spread Kindness”

“We need positive outlets”

“Northbrook is Kind”

“Will this be an annual event?”



Engaged Citizenship Unconference

Sunday, May 7, 2017



Engaged Citizenship Unconference

Sunday, May 7

1:00-3:30pm

Auditorium & Pollak Room

Build new ideas and create bridges within your community in this open discussion, directed by you!
Registration is required. After registering, you will receive a link to share the conversation topics that interest you.

1:00pm

Check In & Voting

1:30pm

Keynote Presentation

2:30pm

Breakout Conversations

1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, Illinois 60062
847-272-6224 | www.northbrook.info



**NORTHBROOK
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Unconference Survey Questions

What topics would you like to discuss at this event?

Are there any topics that you have concerns about discussing?

Do you have any special knowledge or expertise about these topics? If so, what?

Healthcare



Creating a Diverse & Accepting Community in Northbrook

- Race
- Economics
- Gender
- Nationality
- Divided communities



Politics

- Resistance
- Local engagement/action
- Involvement



Racism



Immigration

- The Wall

Human/Civil Rights

- Gender
- Race
- Reproductive
- Immigrants
- LGBTQ



The Environment

- Local and national
- Climate
- Air/Pollution
- Water/Wastewater
- Democracy/Politics/Structure



Divided Country

- Respectful discourse
- Communicating with people who hold different viewpoints
- Resolving conflicts



Voting on the discussion topics submitted by patrons.

GROUND RULES

1. Listen actively and with curiosity; respect others when they are talking.
2. Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing; use "I" statements.
3. Ask questions to respectfully challenge one another, but refrain from personal attacks; focus on ideas.
4. Participate to the fullest of your ability and help make sure every voice is included.
5. Strive for understanding, not necessarily agreement or consensus.
6. Show respect for one another. Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses; they can be as disrespectful as words.

Please turn off (or silence) cellphones and other devices.

SELF-REFLECTION WORKSHEET

Please take a moment to reflect on your experience during the Unconference by answering the following questions. This worksheet is for you only; we will not collect it. If you have any insights or experiences you would like to share with library staff, email us at unconference@northbrook.info

1) What is one new idea or insight that you will take away from the Unconference?

2) Did you hear a point of view expressed that challenged you? What was it? How did it challenge you?

3) Did you do more listening or talking? Why?

4) If you were to participate in a program like this again, what is one thing you would do differently?

5) What is one action you could take or change you could make right now based on what you learned today? What obstacles might prevent you from doing this?

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

**I appreciate that the library
served as a place for this type of
gathering and discourse... I do
see it as the center of our
community, and a gathering
place for all.**

in competence Participant

Partnership with RAIN

Sessions seek to examine racism in Northbrook, on North Shore



Eileen Heineman, in blue and wearing glasses, makes a point during a June 14 discussion about racism awareness at the Northbrook Public Library. (Irv Leavitt/Pioneer Press)

Article about RAIN events at the library

Welcoming Spaces

Meeting Room Use

Partnerships with elected officials

Change in policy allowing use for political activities

Reach out groups using library meeting space

Challenges

Adequate staffing

Responding quickly to requests

Being fair to all groups

Communicating to staff

Thank you!