We are pleased to announce: *Alex & Me* by Irene Pepperberg as the 2011 selection for On the Same Page!

Meet the author at the Main Library on March 5.
On the Same Page Celebrates 10 years of Community-Wide Reading

This February and March marks the 10th anniversary of On the Same Page, a community-wide reading program organized by the Public Library in partnership with other arts and cultural organizations. To help celebrate a decade of reading with one another, this year the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden will be partnering with the Library as we read and discuss Alex & Me: How a Scientist and a Parrot Uncovered a Hidden World of Animal Intelligence—and Formed a Deep Bond in the Process by Irene M. Pepperberg.

Parrot Party at the Cincinnati Zoo: February 5, 1:00 p.m.—Calling all Parrotheads! Help us kick off the 10th Annual On The Same Page community-wide reading program with a Parrot Party at the Cincinnati Zoo in the Frisch’s Theatre on Saturday, February 5, from 1:00—4:00 p.m. Learn all about these fascinating birds and see the Zoo’s parrots in action! All activities are free with Zoo membership or admission. Zoo admission is half price January—February. Frisch’s Theatre, Cincinnati Zoo www.cincinnatizoo.org 3400 Vine St., (513) 281-4700. After the program, be sure to visit the Main Library or any of our 40 branch locations to pick up a copy of Alex & Me.

Alex & Me Author Event: March 5, 2:00 p.m.—Meet Dr. Irene M. Pepperberg, the author of Alex & Me, at the Main Library (in the Reading Garden Lounge) on Saturday, March 5, at 2:00 p.m. A book signing will immediately follow the event. Books will be available for purchase.

Pet Day at the Main Library: March 20, 2:00 p.m.—“Paws” from your busy schedule and bring your pets to the “purr-fect” outing at the Main Library Atrium on Sunday, March 20, 2:00 p.m. Discover your pets’ hidden world of animal intelligence while enjoying an afternoon of fun activities. Meet representatives from local organizations that will help you learn more about keeping your pet healthy, happy, and safe. Pets must be leashed or caged at all times.

Visit www.CincinnatiLibrary.org/samepage for a complete list of programs, book discussions, discussion questions and more.

Community Partners: On the Same Page is a project of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and is made possible in part by the Friends of the Public Library and Joseph-Beth Booksellers with media support from 91.7 WVXU and Cincinnati Magazine. Other partners this year include The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, The Mercantile Library, and the Cincinnati Art Museum.
Planning for a Strong and Vibrant Future

One of the most important tasks of any organization is developing its strategic plan. We spent much of 2010 working on a plan to guide us through the next few years.

Through the process, we looked at actual cardholder use of the Library and asked for your input on our services through online and in-person surveys. Utilizing this data, which provided fascinating insights into where we succeed and, more importantly, where we fail, we developed our new strategic plan.

The new Plan, approved by the Library Board in November, has five major goals: to achieve financial security, to advance the use of digital content, to excel in customer service, to become the first choice for information, and to support literacy and lifelong learning.

Over the next 12–18 months, we’ll be implementing new initiatives to help us reach the goals, but we didn’t wait for the planning process to be completed before we began making changes. As we received data that identified areas that needed to be addressed, we made immediate changes.

You told us many of our computer equipment was too old and lacked the software you need. We purchased computer equipment and are currently installing the new equipment.

You told us you wanted a mobile website so we’re creating one. We expect this new website to be available in early 2011.

You told us you wanted more copies of new titles so we changed our buying after looking carefully to see where the demand was growing.

You told us you needed access to our services remotely so we’re creating a Virtual Information Center just to serve our customers accessing the Library remotely. This new department will be fully operational in February 2011.

We’re listening so keep telling us what you want and need, and we’ll work hard to change to better meet your expectations.

The new Strategic Plan will be critical in our decision-making process as demand for our services continues to grow and change while funding remains a challenge. Having this to help determine the best use of our limited resources will ensure that the Library continues to invest in the services most needed by our community and remains a good steward of the public funds we receive.

Kimber L. Fender
Executive Director

It is a pleasure to announce that the Hamilton County Commissioners have appointed Allen G. Zaring IV as Trustee to fill the vacancy on the Library Board. He will be sworn in as Trustee at the January 11, 2011 Annual and Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Zaring currently serves as Chairman of the Library Foundation Board and has served as a Director of the Foundation since 2006. In addition, Mr. Zaring served on the Library Levy Campaign Committee.

In addition to chairing the Board of the Library Foundation, he is a member of the finance and capital committees of Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, the board of advisors of the Xavier University Entrepreneurship Center, the economic development advisory committee of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and served as co-chair of the effective governance committee for Agenda 360.

Mr. Zaring lives in Columbia-Tusculum with his wife and three children.
Freedom’s Struggle: African Americans in the Civil War

2011 marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War. Among the war’s many aspects, none was more important than the struggle for freedom. The Library is proud to present three programs that highlight African Americans’ contributions to the struggle that defined the meaning of the nation. All programs will take place at the Main Library in the Genealogy and Local History Department study area.

Slavery and Freedom on Burge Plantation: Uncovering the Lives of Slave Ancestors in Bondage and on the March with Sherman

Join Genealogist Mildred Baynes at the Main Library on Saturday, February 5, at 3:00 p.m. as she describes her research leading to the discovery of slave ancestors on a Georgia plantation. This journey uncovered the stories of two ancestors who were born in bondage, fought for freedom in Sherman’s army and returned to live out their lives on the very site of their enslavement.

Camp Nelson: Black Soldiers and Refugee Slaves in the Civil War

Author and genealogist Larry Hamilton explores the famous Camp Nelson, the Union Army camp in Kentucky that became the nation’s third largest recruiter of African American soldiers during the Civil War. Mr. Hamilton discusses the camp’s historical importance as well as the role it played in his own family history at the Main Library on Saturday, February 12, at 3:00 p.m. Camp Nelson is a major backdrop in Mr. Hamilton’s acclaimed work of historical fiction Lucy’s Story: Right Choices But Wrongs Still Left.

Honoring the Black Brigade: The Story of the Cincinnati Park Board’s Monument to the Gallant Defenders of Cincinnati

In September of 1862, Cincinnati was gripped by fear that an advancing Confederate force would soon invade the city. In response, thousands of men were called to defend the city. Among these were many African American residents who were involuntarily impressed into service. This group of men would become known as “The Black Brigade of Cincinnati.” Although their service was involuntary, they served honorably in building defenses for the exposed city and were among the very first African Americans to serve for the Union in the Civil War.

Join Art Administrator for the Cincinnati Park Board Jan Brown Checco and her design team at the Main Library on Saturday, February 19, at 3:00 p.m. as they discuss the creation and implementation of the monument honoring the Black Brigade of Cincinnati. The monument will be unveiled in 2012.

Watch for more Civil War events at the Library throughout the year!
Meet Urban Fiction Author Kole Black

Author, screenwriter and social commentator Kole Black will share his life and work at five Library locations this February and March. Black is the author of four urban fiction novels — The Chance She Took, The Risk of Chance, The Game of Chance, and Chance & Drama — as well as non-fiction books on male/female relationship issues. Books will be available for sale and signing.

• Forest Park Branch Library, Saturday, February 19, 3:00 p.m.
• College Hill Branch Library, Tuesday, February 22, 6:00 p.m.
• Avondale Branch Library, Monday, February 28, 6:00 p.m.
• Walnut Hills Branch Library, Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.
• Corryville Branch Library, Saturday, March 12, 4:00 p.m.

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This January, the Library will honor the life and the dream of America’s greatest champion of racial justice, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with celebrations of art, music, stories, songs and more! The Main Library’s Children’s Learning Center invites children of all ages to "Lift Up Your Voice: A Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.", on Monday, January 17, from 1:00—4:00 p.m. Hear “Martin’s Dream” and sing freedom songs with Deondra (Kamau) Means from ArtReach, a division of the Children’s Theatre of Cincinnati. Then, build a Community Canvas with Happen, Inc. Enjoy crafts and other activities, too! Sponsored by the Friends of the Public Library. For a complete list of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day programs at your local Library, visit us online at www.CincinnatiLibrary.org/programs.
What's New at the Friends' Shop?

A Puzzling Assortment
Choose from the Friends’ Shop’s vast puzzle assortment for children and adults
• Puzzles (24–1500 pieces), including large-size pieces for easy handling, $4.99–$21.99
• Classic games like Chess, Dominoes, Mancala, Backgammon and Scrabble, $6.99–$25

Charming Valentine’s Day Gifts
Enamel heart charms are whimsical additions to any keyring, necklace or charm bracelet.
• Charms, $4–$6; Lampchain Necklace, $3; Large Silver Keyring, $5. Special Offer: Buy any three charms and receive the necklace free!
• Tagua nut bracelets by Hope For Women, $17.99

Noteworthy Notecards
Cut through the electronic clutter with a personal hand-written connection.
• Notecards from Iota and many others, $8.95–$18
• Also shown: Stuffed animals from Jellycat, $12.50–$20

The Library Friends’ Shop, Hours: Monday – Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Main Library — Mezzanine Level, (513) 369-6920, libraryfriendsshop@hotmail.com
Special thanks to our members who joined or renewed between July 1 and November 30, 2010. Due to space limitations, only memberships of $25 and up are listed.

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You're invited to become a Library Friends’ Member. Email friends@pl.ch1@fuse.net or call (513) 369-6035.
“My Castle on the Nile:” Illustrated Sheet Music by Black Composers, 1828-1944 on View at the Main Library, January 7—February 28

The significant contribution of African American composers to this country’s musical heritage is vividly demonstrated through illustrated sheet music drawn from the Public Library’s extensive holdings as part of an exhibit, “My Castle on the Nile.” The striking covers of these compositions are hand-drawn, many of them reproduced as brightly colored chromolithographs.

Curated by Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Theresa Leininger-Miller, the exhibit, on view in the Main Library’s Cincinnati Room January 7—February 28, takes its name from J. Rosamond Johnson’s song from the landmark musical, *In Dahomey*. Created and performed entirely by African Americans between 1902 and 1905, it showcased the talent of conservatory-trained composer Will Marion Cook and the popular vaudevillians Bert Williams and George Walker.

Other featured works include sheet music by Francis Johnson (1828), the first African American composer to not only have his works published as sheet music, but the first to give public concerts and to participate in racially integrated concerts in the U.S. A diverse range of musical styles by celebrities, such as Duke Ellington, James Reese Europe and Thomas “Fats” Waller, will also be featured along with accompanying illustrations.

**Opening Lecture with Dr. Theresa Leininger-Miller January 8:**
Explore the stories and meanings behind the compositions and their illustrations with Dr. Leininger-Miller on Saturday, January 8 at 2:00 p.m. at the Main Library.

Strobridge Lithography Company Posters on View This Spring

From March 7—May 28, come visit the Cincinnati Room and discover the creative imagination of one of America’s most famous printing companies. In conjunction with the Cincinnati Art Museum exhibit, The Amazing American Circus Poster, the Public Library will display circus and theater posters from its extensive collection of prints by the Cincinnati-based Strobridge Lithography Company. Founded in the late nineteenth century, when lithography was replacing woodblock and engraved printing, Strobridge became the largest producer of circus, theatre and magic posters in early twentieth-century America. Their colorful, detailed, high-quality posters helped define a period of American visual history and bear vibrant witness to a time when this form of popular art was moving to the center of outdoor commercial advertising.
For nearly a decade you may have heard Colonel Dean Smittle every weekday morning at 7:55 a.m. on Jim Scott’s 700 WLW morning radio show offering his commentaries on current events and military briefings. You may have also seen him provide military analysis on WCPO-TV9’s “Good Morning Tristate.” Now you can meet the Colonel in person at the Main Library on Saturday, January 15, at 2:00 p.m. as he discusses his new book, *Thumbs Up America: Americans at War, 2010 A Brief History*, and presents a slideshow in the Huenefeld Tower Room. Books will be available for sale and signing following the program.

A retired Air Force Colonel with military experience that spans several decades in two branches of service, the Army and Air Force, Mr. Smittle not only focuses on military news, he reminds us all of the sacrifices being made by those serving in the armed forces for our great country. Colonel Smittle’s lectures, like his radio briefings, change often to reflect the news of the day. He scans newspapers, news magazines, and specialty publications such as *Defense News* and *Foreign Affairs* and searches the Internet looking for information others would miss. He is also the local representative and spokesperson for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, which provides scholarship funds for children of Special Operations personnel killed in combat.

**Reading Gains Mileage with Kids at Library**

The Public Library is partnering with the Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon and the Nutrition Council to help youngsters “Be Smart, Eat Well and Move More.” Through April 30, kids (ages 5 to 12) are invited to keep track of the distances they move, the healthy food choices they make and the time they spend exercising their brains with the Library by logging their efforts on the Kids Marathon “Hog Log,” available at all 41 locations and online at [www.flyingpigmarathon.com](http://www.flyingpigmarathon.com).

The Kids Marathon allows youngsters to finish the 26.2 miles of a marathon in incremental steps, a half-mile or mile at a time, during the months leading up to the Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon on Sunday, May 1. The 26th mile of the ‘course’ will be run on the actual Marathon course on Saturday, April 30, during Flying Pig Marathon weekend.

To learn more about healthy nutrition choices, tap into the vast reading resources and fun stuff from the Library by visiting Kidspace, the Library’s kid friendly website at [kidspace.cincinnatilibrary.org](http://kidspace.cincinnatilibrary.org).

**Teen Drawing Contest**

From January 1–31, teens are invited to participate in the Library’s first Teen Drawing Contest. This year’s “Fan Art” theme calls for teens to recreate a scene from their favorite book. Winners will receive art supplies! For entry information, go to [teenspace.cincinnatilibrary.org](http://teenspace.cincinnatilibrary.org).

**Jazz of the Month Club**

Well-known jazz artists will perform in the Main Library’s Atrium on select Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. as part of the Jazz of the Month Club, supported by internationally known saxophonist and authority on jazz education Jamey Aebersold. This is the fifth year Mr. Aebersold has generously supported these quality jazz performances at the Library.

**February 19:** Jada • Mike Wade, trumpet • Marc Fields, trombone • Kevin Engle, tenor & soprano sax
Dan Karlsberg, piano • Michael Sharfe, bass • Art Gore, drums

**March 19:** Ron Jones Quartet • Ron Jones, alto sax
• Jim Connerley, piano • Sonny Stephens, bass
• Jim Leslie, drums
New Service Provides SNEAK PEEKS of the Latest & Greatest Reads

Place your copy on hold in advance of its release! Just like its name promises, Sneak Peeks offers readers a glimpse of the hottest new titles scheduled for release at the Library. Through this new service, customers can take advantage of placing advance holds on the latest titles six to eight weeks, before they're even published!

- Every other month, twelve different fiction and six nonfiction titles will be featured.
- Displays promoting the latest titles will be available at all 41 Library locations.
- Printed copies of the Sneak Peeks list will be available at the displays as well.
- For added convenience, customers can use their smart phones to scan the QR code on the display and link directly to the Library’s Sneak Peeks webpage. There, they can place holds on Sneak Peeks that interest them. It's that easy!

Here's a sample of Sneak Peeks to be released in January & February of 2011:

**FICTION:**
Fadeaway Girl by Martha Grimes (February 3)
Night Vision by Randy Wayne White (February 22)
Treachery in Death by J.D. Robb (February 22)

**NONFICTION:**
Townie: A Memoir by Andre Dubus III (February 28)


E-Mail Receipts at the Public Library

Feel like you're drowning in paper? Did you know that we've added a convenient new feature to our self-service checkout machines that makes it possible for you to request an email receipt for the items you've checked out? Here's how it works: the next time you're using one of the self-check machines to check out material, just touch the "Done - email receipt" button at the bottom of the screen. The receipt will immediately be sent to the email address associated with your library card. That's it!

Haven't added an email address to your account yet? Not to worry—use our online form and our staff will take care of updating your record.

Downloadable eBooks and Audiobooks

In response to the explosion of interest in downloadable eBooks and e-audiobooks, we recently made a number of improvements to our website to make it easier for our customers to familiarize themselves with our collection of downloadable material.

The URL for the new “Downloadables” section of our website is: [www.cincinnatilibrary.org/downloadables/ebooks.html](http://www.cincinnatilibrary.org/downloadables/ebooks.html)

Highlights include:

- “New User Guides,” designed to walk you step-by-step through the process of downloading ebooks and audiobooks.
- Tips for searching the catalog for downloadables
- Book jacket slideshows, spotlighting new additions to our downloadable collection
- Frequently Asked Questions
- A color-coded table that highlights the differences between our two downloadable book services (the Ohio eBook Project and NetLibrary)

Our collection of downloadable books includes thousands of bestselling titles that can be enjoyed on your computer, e-reader (Nook, Sony Reader, etc.), or smartphone. And the best part? They’re available 24/7 and you don’t have to worry about late fees!
New Virtual Information Center Helps Customers Stay Connected to Their Public Library Onsite or Offsite

To help meet the ever-changing demands of our customers, the Library is proud to offer a new Virtual Information Center. The Center is specially designed to accommodate customers seeking information assistance and accessing our resources when they are outside the Library’s physical building. Staff in the Virtual Information Center will answer phone calls, respond to email questions, reply to text messages through “textalibrarian” and answer questions for customers online through “Know It Now.” Customers will also receive assistance accessing and using the Library’s wide variety of online and electronic resources including e-books and e-audiobooks.

“It’s an exciting time for the Library when we can provide services and resources that meet our customers where they are, regardless of whether or not they are present in one of our buildings,” said Kim Fender, Executive Director of the Library. “We want to make sure our customers realize this new department is an expansion of services not to replace face-to-face, personal service. Instead, the Center will focus staff resources on providing efficient, fast service to remote users while allowing our frontline staff to concentrate on serving in-person customers.”

In addition, services provided through this new Center will devote staff resources to web-based services of all types, while supporting use of the Library’s growing collection of downloadable materials. One more great benefit of this new service model is that it will not increase costs, plus it will be fully functional in early 2011. The creation of the Virtual Information Center continues the Library’s emphasis on providing future-focused, customer-oriented service to our community.

Library’s Book Blog Shares Reading Insights

Looking for something interesting to read? On Turning the Page, our staff of reading enthusiasts shares recommendations about new books and undiscovered treasures, spotlights news from the book world and offers thoughtful commentary on literary matters. Look for the link to Turning the Page on our homepage or visit the blog directly at www2.cincinnatilibrary.org/blog/.
The Library is deeply grateful for the generosity of our community and welcomes gifts of all sizes. Your donations are essential to ensuring delivery of excellent Library service and availability of the widest possible range of informational resources for all ages. For inquiries regarding contributions, please contact John Reusing, Development Director, at (513) 369-4591. The following gifts of $25 or more were received between July 15 and December 12, 2010.

Mr. & Mrs. Millard H. Mack
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Dr. & Mrs. Richard A. Meyer
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Michael J. Winrow
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10 Anonymous donors

Jared S. Stern, Jr., former chairman of U.S. Shoe Corporation, was not only a successful businessman, but also a recognized community leader honored with a Great Living Cincinnati award for his myriad civic contributions.

Mr. Stern was first appointed to the Library Board of Trustees in 1961. Upon his retirement from the Board in 2003, Library Trustees conferred upon him the honorary lifetime title of Trustee Emeritus in recognition of his devoted 42 years of service in providing guidance and input in making decisions that kept the Library one of the top ranked public libraries in the country. An avid Library supporter even before his Board appointment, Mr. Stern also helped establish the Friends of the Public Library in 1957. He passed away in January 2010, at the age of 91.
On behalf of the Anderson Township Library Association (ATLA), Treasurer Jeanne Shepherd, center, presented a check for $45,000 to Mt. Washington Branch Manager Larry Richmond, Jr. and Anderson Branch Manager Katie Greikenkamp. More than three decades, ATLA members have supported the special programs and projects at the Mt. Washington and Anderson branch libraries with their successful used book sales held annually in June and November.

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Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center
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Jeanne Kortenkamp
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Upcoming Sales in January & February

Winter Warehouse Sale, 8456 Vine Street (Hartwell)
• Members Only Preview Sale: Thursday, January 13, 5:00–8:00 p.m.
• Friday, January 14, 10:00 a.m.–7:30 p.m.
• Saturday, January 15, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
• Sunday, January 16, 12:00–5:00 p.m.
• Monday, January 17, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Choose from thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, and more! Cash, checks, Visa, and MasterCard accepted. (Note: There is NO Bag Day at this sale.) For more information, call 369-6035, email friendsofplch1@fuse.net, or visit friends.cincinnatilibrary.org.

Bond Hill Branch Sale, 1740 Langdon Farm Road, 369-4445
• Thursday, February 24, 12:00–6:00 p.m.
• Friday, February 25, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
• Saturday, February 26, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

St. Patrick’s Day Celebration at the Main Library

Enjoy the Library’s St. Patrick’s Day Celebration of Song and Dance featuring a performance by the McGing Irish Dancers and Foley Road on Thursday, March 17, at 11:45 a.m. in the Main Library Atrium. The McGing Irish Dancers, a hallmark of the Library’s St. Patrick’s Day Celebration, have called Cincinnati home for almost 30 years. They have performed in Hollywood for the late Gene Kelly, danced in the Soviet Union, and toured with the Cincinnati Pops. The McGings are most proud, however, of their local ties to Cincinnati’s libraries, hospitals, charities and schools. Sponsored by the Friends of the Public Library.

The Friends of the Public Library generously purchased Charles Howland Hammatt Billings’ original 1855 sketchbook for the Library’s collection. An artist, designer, architect and illustrator, Billings created the likeness of Tom, Little Eva, Topsy and Legree for Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin. Billings also illustrated books by notable 19th century authors Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott and Charles Dickens but is best remembered as an illustrator of children’s literature. The sketchbook is signed and dated by the author. This year marks Harriet Beecher Stowe’s 200th birthday and the 150th anniversary of the Civil War’s beginning, an opportune time to feature the sketchbook. Pictured holding the sketchbook are, from left Friends Directors Mike Keslosky (Technology Committee Chair) and Mary DeCourcy, Library Executive Director Kim Fender, and Friends Director (Book Sale Committee Chair, Past President) Mary Lu Aft.

Foley Road musicians James Weatherstone and Kurt Emmerich combine their guitar work with dead-on vocals and soaring harmonies, producing an energetic sound that everyone will enjoy.
The Year of the Rabbit at the Main Library

Ring in the Year of the Rabbit at the Main Library’s Chinese New Year Celebration on Saturday, February 5, from 1:00—4:00 p.m. in the Children’s Learning Center. Children of all ages are invited to meet teachers visiting from Liuzhou, China—one of Cincinnati’s Sister Cities—and have fun with Chinese calligraphy, crafts, games, music, a dragon dance and more! Sponsored by the Cin-Liu Sister City Committee.

About the Cin-Liu Chinese Teachers Exchange Project

As part of a teacher exchange program with our Sister City, Liuzhou, China, ten Chinese teachers are visiting our city until April 15 to learn about American culture and language with the help of Library staff. The teachers arrived in November of 2010 to take part in the exchange program, which began in 2001 when the first group came to learn more about how our Public Library system works.

Since then, new groups of teachers have followed suit, bringing with them beautiful gifts of hospitality like Chinese ink paintings and red knot tied wall hangings, many of which are on display in the Main Library’s Children’s Learning Center.

Pictured, back row, from left, Hou Jun (Helen), Xu Cong Cong (Vivian), Zhang Xuan Qiong (Heather), Liu Wen (Sharon), and Zhang Ting (Nancy). Front row, from left, He Qiong Hui (Belinda), Jiang Xiao Qiong (Patrick), Xu Xi (Teresa), Yan Yu (Cherie), and Chen Wen Xia (Wendy).