TO: RPL Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: June 26, 2019  

**Action Items**

**Modification in the open hours for the Frederick Douglass Community Library (Reeves)**

We are requesting a change to the operating hours at the Frederick Douglass Community Library as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Current Hours</th>
<th>Proposed Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12 pm - 7 pm</td>
<td>11 am - 7 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10 am - 6 pm</td>
<td>11 am - 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12 pm - 7 pm</td>
<td>11 am - 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10 am - 6 pm</td>
<td>11 am - 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12 pm - 6 pm</td>
<td>11 am - 6 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10 am - 2 pm</td>
<td>10 am - 2 pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Opening an hour later Tuesdays and Thursdays will allow for 9 am specialized services such as story times to occur while the library is closed and the noise level will not disrupt adult patrons using computers or tables for tutoring. Staff also

Site Supervisor Erin Clarke analyzed usage data over a period of one year to support this request. We have also received feedback from patrons indicating they find our hours very confusing – they would prefer a more consistent schedule. This update maintains the increase from 36 open hours to 40 open hours but will better accommodate our patrons.

The anticipated new schedule would begin on Monday, August 5. This will allow staff enough time to adjust schedules accordingly and to notify patrons of the hours change.

**Board Action Requested:** Approval of the change of hours for the Frederick Douglass Community Library.

**Professional Services Agreement for Erie Canal Grant Educational Consultant (Uttaro)**

The Board accepted the Erie Canal grant at the March meeting which utilizes the services of a consulting teacher to create content for the project. We are now requesting approval of a professional services agreement with Andrea L. Geglia in the amount of $3,675. Geglia will work 105 hours at $35/hour to develop educational resources and lessons on the Erie Canal for fourth-grade teachers and students for our RochesterVoices.org website. The project is funded by a grant from the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor.

**Board Action Requested:** Approve a Professional Services Agreement with Andrea L. Geglia in the amount of $3,675.
Library Store Agreement (Harrison)
The Friends and Foundation of RPL (FFRPL) manages the Library store per an annual agreement with the Rochester Public Library. For FY20 the agreement will revert to prior agreements, generating $35,000 for the Central Library in FY20. The FFRPL shall continue to provide $5,000 for Branch Library support, but generated from other unrestricted fund sources.

Board Action Requested: Renew the Library Store Agreement with the Friends and Foundation of RPL for the fiscal year 2019-20.

Library Trust Fund Allocation for FY20 (Harrison)
The RPL Board finance policy statement allows for the annual distribution of 5% of the average value of RPL trust funds over the past twenty fiscal quarters, previously from past twelve quarters. The enclosed spreadsheet includes this proposed draw for FY20, the allocation from the Reynolds Board, and the proposed transfers of restricted FFRPL-held endowments for materials purchases. The Finance Committee approved the increase in quarterly average as submitted, which is reflected in the amended policy statement for consideration in August. The withdrawals were unanimously approved by the RPL Finance Committee at its meeting on June 7, 2019.


Proposed Central Library Capital Improvement Budget for 2019-20 (Harrison)
Enclosed is a summary of the 2018-19 program and what is proposed for 2019-20. A number of unanticipated, priority expenses impacted capital funds this year, including replacement of children’s room carpet following damage from fish tank breakdown ($15,917), repairs to Rundel elevators, and masonry stabilization ($43,762). As a result, and with the pending bid results of the Master Space Plan Phase 4/Technology Center, several expenses were deferred or allocated through the operating budget (exit lighting, plumbing repairs).

For the upcoming year, we have reduced the amount of contingency for the Technology Center based on the final cost estimate for the project, and have allocated funding for snow removal tractor replacement. The security system upgrade and replacement of Rundel exterior doors will occur in FY20. Each year facilities staff maintains standard allocations to replace carpet ($8,000), energy efficiency upgrades ($8,000), painting ($8,000) and roof repairs ($8,000). $5,847 is allocated for contingency.

The proposed budget includes $78,847 in unexpended funds carried over from FY19, as of June 5th. The FY20 City allocation is $88,000. This year we recommend allocating the Fenyvesy Central library trust fund for the re-bid of the Rundel Terrace Reconstruction project, to support alternate work for bus shelter replacement ($23,885).

Board Action Requested: Approval of the 2019-20 Central Library Facilities Capital Budget.

CampbellNet Solutions Professional Services Agreement (Harrison)
The Library currently has an agreement with CampbellNet Solutions to provide assistance, on an as-needed basis, in maintaining library telecommunications equipment, data switches, and network connectivity issues at remote locations. CampbellNet provided essential network support services during our transition to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone services, as well as our recent network cabling upgrade planning for the Central Technology Center. The contractor will bill for services rendered at a rate of $150 per hour. If there is a need for parts or equipment replacement, RPL will pay state contract pricing, or the actual cost paid by the contractor. The total amount of the contract will not exceed $3,000 with a term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.
Board Action Requested: Approval of a professional services agreement with CampbellNet Solutions for an amount not to exceed $3,000.

Professional Services Agreement for Computer Equipment Repair (Harrison)
The Library has used the services of Tri-Delta Resources to fix computer equipment on a time and material basis for the past several years. We would like to continue this service in FY20 for both the Branch and Central Libraries. Costs will be based on an hourly rate of $75 for small equipment (PC’s), and $125 for large equipment (servers), with the replacement parts billed at State Contract rated. Total cost of the agreement will not exceed $3,000 with a term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Board Action Requested: Approval of a professional services agreement with Tri-Delta Resources, Inc. to provide computer equipment repair service for the Central and Branch Libraries at a cost not to exceed $3,000.

Discussion Items

Updated Funding Agreement with FFRPL – The FFRPL Board and Director have recommended some changes to the annual funding agreement between FFRPL and RPL. The proposed changes were discussed at the FFRPL Board meeting on June 20; we recommend discussion among the RPL trustees at the June 26 meeting. Documents will be provided at the meeting and Finance Director Harrison and RPL Trustee Hamilton will walk the board through the original version of the agreement and the new agreement.

Revision to RPL Investment Policy – The Board Finance Committee met on June 7, with new investment advisors Alesco and discussed an update to the RPL Investment Policy. Brie Harrison will introduce the revised policy at this meeting with voting to take place at the August board meeting.

Report Items
Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director reporting

Recommended Reading/Viewing
- Can Reading Really Improve Your Mental Health? www.bbc.com/culture/story/20190527-can-fiction-really-improve-your-mental-health
- Students Talk Graduation Despite RCSD Concerns - https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/news/2019/05/30/students-talk-graduation-despite-rcsd-challenges
RPL Strategic Plan – The current RPL Strategic Plan goes through 2020. RPL Senior Management and I will present an update at the August meeting on the progress we’ve made on the plan. At that time, I will ask RPL trustees for discussion and guidance on moving forward with renewing or revising the plan for 2021-2025. Think about the strategic priorities – Education & Engagement, Sustainability & Resources, and Stewardship & Curation, all tied together by Community. Have priorities changed? What do we anticipate in the next 5-10 years? How can we better integrate the RPL Strategic Plan with the City and County plans? How will we engage staff, trustees, and the community in a review of the current plan and a revision for 2021? Just some things to think about!

Social Media Engagement, Alicia Gunther reporting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 2019</th>
<th>RPL Twitter</th>
<th>MCLS Twitter</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Facebook Calendar</th>
<th>Instagram</th>
<th>YouTube</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Profile/Page Visits</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Followers/Page Likes</td>
<td>5 (1,755)</td>
<td>4 (2,027)</td>
<td>47 (4,303)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>27 (1,249)</td>
<td>2 (85)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Likes/Favorites</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engagements</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>11,842</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Check In/Mentions</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Messages responded to</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Reach</td>
<td>12,100</td>
<td>8,714</td>
<td>44,917</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>956</td>
<td>—</td>
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<td>Video/Story Views</td>
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<td>—</td>
<td>2,160</td>
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<td>306</td>
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<td>Saves/Actions on Page</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Constant Contact Newsletter

Central
- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 929
- Click through - 68

RPL
- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 1,657
- Click through – 60

New subscribers – 9
Central Library Updates
Assistant Director Sally Snow reporting

Arts & Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- The Intersection of Lyric and Narrative: A Four-Week Class in Flash Fiction & Prose Poetry: Sarah Freligh, local poet and writing teacher extraordinaire, led an enthusiastic group of writers through a series of inspiring and useful exercises intended for poets wanting to bust out into prose and fiction writers yearning to be poets. Students left class with drafts-in-progress and a list of markets for their finished work. Here are a few comments taken from the class evaluation: “I feel more confident as a writer.” “I learned techniques and craft for writing fiction in a short amount of time.” “This class opened up my mind to the possibility of writing fiction which I haven’t tried in years.”

- Terrarium Necklace: “Super cute” are words I heard someone use to describe these Terrarium necklaces. This was another creative class taught by Kathleen Rullo, and our patrons love her classes. Students were provided with a miniature glass terrarium to fill with decorative sand and/or moss; tiny figurines like cats or skulls were then added inside the jar to complete this mini terrarium necklace. Cork top and cord was added to make a necklace.

- Artist at Work: Artist Nancy Colsman demonstrated all the steps involved in creating stained glass art as part of the “Artist at Work” series. She brought in a morton glass cutting system, grinder, soldering iron, foil and examples of finished work and works in progress. Her demonstration was informative and entertaining, and she answered a lot of audience questions about getting started in creating stained glass.

Business & Social Sciences, Darlene Richards reporting

Meetings

- Sarah Bishopp Vélez attended an online demo of the SourceLink software system. Partners of the RIT Center for Urban Entrepreneurship (CUE) are interested in SourceLink as a tracking and referral system for entrepreneurs in the Rochester area. This comes after their initial chosen provider, UniteUs, bowed out of their agreement at the last minute. After the online demo, CUE partners agreed to go forward with SourceLink.

Programs

- Bishopp Vélez hosted the First Wednesday program this month. Laurie Enos, the president of Blue Lilac Marketing, presented “Get Started Building Your Social Media Presence” as part of the monthly First Wednesday workshop series. The forty-two people in attendance learned about using social media to grow their businesses. Topics discussed included the basics of social media, which social media tools are best for individual business, and tips on how to successfully use social media to promote a business.

- Roc City Scavenger Hunt, May 6 – 20, Bishopp Vélez partnered with Kiva Rochester to offer a scavenger hunt throughout the City of Rochester in celebration of National Small Business Week (May 5 – 11). Scavenger Hunt participants made purchases at one of 18 small businesses and dropped receipts off at the library to
enter the contest. Winners were chosen to receive $25 gift cards to Fifth Frame Brewing, Scratch Bakeshop, Salty Boutique and The Op Shop. Op Shop donated their gift card, others were purchased by FFRPL.

**Small Business Consulting**
- Bishopp Vélez assisted with several market research and industry questions this month, on topics such as accounting, male grooming, and the fashion industry. She also provided basic information on financing options for small businesses, made several referrals to partner organizations such as Kiva and SCORE, and provided business plan templates.
- Richards also provided industry information on the topics of air guns and an overview of the chemical industry and green companies.

**Anecdotes/Other**
- Clerk Elizabeth Jones happened to be walking by the desk while it was quite busy and asked one of the patrons if there was anything she could help with. The patron explained that he had worked with Darlene Richards before and she had agreed to order some exam books. Jones recognized the titles and told him she had remembered working on the request. He was wondering if any were currently available and while they walked over to the Test Books section he explained that they were an indispensable resource while studying for the exam, he said he wouldn't have been able to afford them himself and couldn't thank us enough for rushing them in. He noticed that we had ordered multiple copies and explained that if we hadn't he may not have been able to renew them or come back that day and get the ones he wanted to review further. The patron shook Jones’ hand and asked her to thank Richards for purchasing the titles.
- Richards assisted one of the patrons that had attended Bishopp Vélez’s Business Opportunity program presentation last month. He came in asking for information about business plans. She sent him five sample business plans and showed him the Small Business Resource Center. He was very grateful. He said he had not been to the library in years and he went downstairs to get a library card.
- Richards assisted a patron in 2017 find books on the topic of adoption. Almost two years later he contacted her again asking if she had a list of the books he had checked out. She told him they would only show up on his record if he had fines on the books. It just so happened, he had fines and she was able to pull the books. Richards inquired if it was an international adoption because the library had several books on that topic. The patron said yes, he would be going to India to get his nine-year-old son soon. Richards congratulated him on his persistence. He had narrated to her how he had to wait a long time to get his son, because he is a single father over the age of fifty.

**Database Statistics:**
- Ibisworld: 62 Hits
- ABI/INFORM Collection: 15 sessions; 88 searches; 121 documents
- Business Market Research Collection: 14 sessions; 99 searches; 31 documents
- Entrepreneurship Database: 14 sessions; 88 searches; 31 documents
- Digitized Newspapers U.S. Northeast: 14 sessions; 82 searches; 2 documents
- Value Line: 281 logins; 5875 searches; 2009 downloads
- Foundation Directory Online Professional: 37 searches
- Statista: 46 regular searches; 28 results click; 17 downloads
Children’s Services, Tonia Burton reporting

Meetings and Trainings
- Librarian Katie Powell and Children’s Services Consultant Tonia Burton visited with seven pediatric residents from the University of Rochester Medical School throughout the month of May. The residents learn about programs and services in the community to share with their patients when visiting the clinic.
- Burton and Powell attended the May MCLS Children’s Services meeting. Burton invited Laura Hurwitz the Early Childhood Specialist at the Monroe BOCES 1 Regional Early Childhood Direction Center to share a brief overview of Developmentally Appropriate Practice and its implications for best meeting young children's developmental and learning needs. Using Developmentally Appropriate Practice as the lens, we talked about strategies for engaging young children in early literacy and learning experiences in the library setting. This included sharing resources from the Center for Early Literacy Learning http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/librarians1.php and Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy https://www.clel.org/. During the next school year the Center will be changing direction and there will be a larger focus on early literacy. This was a great introduction for all who attended and a chance to start thinking of how we can collaborate in the future.
- Burton met with Library Assistant Jasmine Santiago, Lincoln Library, for a brief orientation of children’s services. Santiago is entering her first summer as a Children’s Services staff member and is interested in learning more about storytimes and programming. Burton will be meeting with Santiago over the next several months to help develop Santiago’s experience and education in children’s services. Santiago will be visiting storytimes and outreach visits with other children’s services staff to observe over the next year. She will also be participating in Raising a Reader end-of-year events.
- Brighton Library invited Burton to share storytime training with their volunteers who perform Chinese Storytime on Sundays at the library.
- Burton hosted the monthly meeting of the Head Start Policy Council on May 15. The council had its monthly policy meeting while children enjoyed the Children’s Center play area and Secret Room.

Outreach/Community Contacts
- Children’s Librarians Miranda Hazen and Katie Powell visited the Metro YMCA to offer storytime to their seven preschool classes.
- Burton, Rochester Public Library Outreach Librarian Pat Connor, and Pittsford Library Director Amanda Madigan attended the Rochester Red Wings Annual Education Day. Though the rain delayed the game by several hours, attendees spent a lot of time visiting the community organization tables.
- A patron donated two new dolls for the George Cooper Doll Collection. We are accepting dolls from countries not already owned that represent current community cultures. The new dolls came all the way from Burma!

Education and Engagement
- Burton has been working with students in the Becoming An Engaged Professional class for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Nazareth College. The students assisted with creating and delivering literacy activities for Raising a Reader families at the Annual Spring Egg Hunt. As part of this collaboration, Burton has worked with Dr. Melissa Johnson to assess student’s communication, teamwork, and growth over the semester. The students presented their work at a Spring Celebration at Nazareth. Professors in the department attend and students from the class
share their experiences over the semester. Other organizations who host students are the Neurogenic Communication and Cognition Clinic at Nazareth and CDS Monarch. Listening to all the groups present gave valuable insight into ways we can strengthen our collaboration and make the library experience more vigorous for the students and library.

- The Children’s Center and the University of Rochester Mechanical Engineering Department teamed up and spent the spring semester developing an interactive display. The library served as the client and the students had a list of requirements and needs as well as pie in the sky ideas. Burton met with the students each week to hear about the evolution of the project and to approve or request changes. The students presented their design on May 2, at the University of Rochester Design Day with the rest of the Engineering Department.

- The Chemical Engineering Department at University of Rochester has been working on the Toys for Tots program. Students get donations of children’s toys that require the use of small motor skills and make the toys accessible for individuals who do not have the ability to access a toy in that way. This project is important because it gives the children a strong sense of empowerment and motivation to develop other skills. Cause and effect developmental learning from activating a toy can stimulate acquiring additional skills for those with limited mobility. The students adapted eight different toys that will be added to the MCLS catalog for patrons to borrow.
Programs
- The Children’s Center was running full “force” for May the 4th Be With You (Star Wars Day). Over a dozen members of the Rebel Legion and Vader’s 501st Garrison Excelsior were in costume (as well as a life-sized R2D2!) to engage Star Wars fans. Themed snacks, LEGO Lab, and many more activities were on hand for families to enjoy.
- Our Girl Scouts troop had a busy month learning from women in STEAM fields. They participated in a printmaking class from Small Fry Art Studio, where they learned printmaking vocabulary and made a series of prints with a plate made from cardboard and foil. Seneca Park Zoomobile’s “Amazing Adaptations” program introduced them to several live animals and the adaptations they use to survive in their environments. A student in the University of Rochester’s neuroscience program led the girls in making soda using the carbon dioxide produced by dry ice. She also talked about being in college and her medical school aspirations, which was a great experience for participants. June is the last month for this program, which will conclude with a trip to Strong National Museum of Play.

Raising A Reader
- Burton attended the Volunteers of America Literacy’s Books & Breakfast parent event. 80 Parents and children learned how to Make Good Connections when reading and connecting activities in their day back to books they have shared. After they completed the Making Good Connection’s Activity, the children chose a free book to take home.
- Powell facilitated storytimes for 15 classes at four Raising a Reader sites. Teachers commented that they appreciated that the stories, songs, and pacing of the sessions were developmentally appropriate for each age group. Bags were collected from each site and will be inventoried and cleaned in the coming weeks.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

New borrowers – 147
Access cards – 3
Notarial Acts – 109

Programs
Brian DiNitto taught 14 computer classes. 67 people attended.

Anecdotes/Other
- Chad Cunningham contacted a patron to let her know that a book she had on hold was not going to be available as it was falling apart. The patron had requested the book to help her further develop the character that she plays at Genesee Country Museum. She described how people build their characters by finding information relevant to their character’s job and the time period. Cunningham referred her to the Science division so that she could find more books about herb use during that time period.
- On Fridays there is a Friday Dance inspired by (and at the encouragement of) Martha Ruggeri from LAS. Ruggeri, Sochia, Stephanie Penns, and Paula McKnight were having a Friday Dance and a patron joined in.
- Information Center staff helped a patron reset her tablet. The language on the tablet was Farsi and none of the menus were readable by staff. By using knowledge of other tablets, and internet searches, staff were able to reset her tablet back to factory settings so she could use it.
- Information Center staff helped one of our regular patrons with her cart. One wheel fell off. Information staff members used some mad wicked MacGyver skills and got it back on using paperclips. She was very appreciative.
• A patron is going to start an insurance company job and needed to know how to upload and send images from his camera to an email address. Information Center staff spent an hour with him showing him how to integrate his laptop, camera and email to send photos, an important skill for his new job.

• Information Center staff helped a deaf patron to obtain his birth certificate from North Carolina so he could re-establish his driving license. The patron stopped by the library to let us know that he received his birth certificate in the mail. He was so grateful that he could now get his driving license.

Local History & Genealogy Division, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs
• Part-time Genealogy Specialist Barb Koehler presented one session of her series of TGIS: Think Genealogy It’s Saturday at Central Library, entitled “Researching City Directories.” After the group disbursed, a regular attendee asked for help finding death information about an ancestor. Following his clues, and information, I had to go back & forth with resources before finding the notice in the D&C. As this process developed, other members came back to view the exchange and all were able to see the give and take sometimes necessary. The death notice revealed not only the exact date of death, but names and locations not previously known to the researcher. They were very surprised and happy.

• Koehler also presented a talk entitled “Library Resources and Ancestry” at the Fairport Public Library.

• Six additional programs were offered in conjunction with the Stonewall: 50 Years Out exhibit. These included the May edition of the Rochester’s Rich History series, “The Rochester Gay Liberation Front,” presented by Tim Judd; Brae Adams’s talk, “Seek Ye First the Kingdom: The Story of LGBT Acceptance in Rochester Churches and Beyond”; screenings of two films on Stonewall and LGBTQ+ activist Marsha P. Johnson, The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson and Happy Birthday, Marshal (the latter was followed by a panel discussion that explored the specific challenged faced by LGBTQ+ persons of color); a Harvey Milk Day commemoration; and a walking tour of LGBTQ+ Historic Sites.

Exhibitions
• The library’s traveling suffrage exhibition, Because of Women Like Her...Winning the Vote in New York State, remains on display at the Richardson-Bates House Museum in Oswego, NY, complementing an exhibit about their local legend: suffragist and Medal of Honor recipient, Dr. Mary Walker.

• Remembering Lewis Henry Morgan remains on display in the Exhibits Hall outside the Local History & Genealogy Division until June 15. It will be replaced by a new display about a local black family (some of whom are library patrons) who trace their time in Rochester to the late 19th century, and the ways their experiences overlap and shape key moments in the city’s history. This exhibit, Everyday People: The Dinkle Family and Rochester’s African American Past, will open July 1, with a public reception to be held later that month.

Community Outreach/Meetings
• FT Historical Services Consultant Christine Ridarsky and FT Librarian II Gabe Pellegrino hosted a group of students from Rochester City School District’s Roberto Clemente School 8 who were starting a unit of study on Frederick Douglass. Ridarsky created four stations where the students were able to explore maps, city directories, photographs, and biographies of Douglass’s family members.

• Ridarsky led a tour of the High Falls Historic District for a group of about 15 Allendale Columbia middle and high school students who were participating in a short course on Innovation in Rochester. The following day, Ridarsky and Pellegrino hosted the group for a research session in the Local History & Genealogy Division.
They investigated topics such as flour milling, the economic benefits of the Erie Canal, the Holly Pump system, and the growth of nursery industry.

- Ridarsky and FT Historical Researcher Michelle Finn hosted a group of middle and high school students from Allendale Columbia School for a tour and discussion about the *Stonewall: 50 Years Out* exhibit. After viewing the exhibit, the class visited the Teen Center where exhibit planning team member Jeremy Tjhung led a workshop as part of a short course on Art & Activism.
- Ridarsky met with Corn Hill Historian Jim DeVinney to discuss his goal of developing an extensive exhibit on the Corn Hill neighborhood.

**Professional Development**

- Fess attended a “Disaster Preparedness & Community Resiliency Planning” workshop at the Rochester Regional Library Council. This program looked both inwardly and outwardly at the role of libraries in responding to disaster scenarios. It included discussions of both how libraries can prepare themselves for disasters through creating appropriate recovery plans and the roles libraries can play in their communities by providing needed resources and services to a disaster-stricken populace.
- Koehler attended a DNA workshop at the Irondequoit Public Library and received information about useful websites and techniques for assessing Ancestry.com DNA results. The tips provided were particularly helpful for finding common ancestors when there is not a linked family tree. She will be using the information in the final T.G.I.S. session for the season in June.

**Collections**

- May saw steady progress in collection maintenance. Fess carried out routine filing of pamphlets and ephemera over the course of the month and continued work on the map indexing project.
- The division accessioned one new collection in May: the Riley and James families’ collection of postcards and photographs. The collection has been completely arranged and described. Fess also continued processing major collections housed in the document cases, focusing on the Albert G. Smith papers and the Stewart family papers. The Albert G. Smith papers is a particularly extensive and complex collection, the arrangement of which is turning out to time-consuming. He also pulled several collections that had been previously arranged and accessioned them as a first step toward future description.

**Digital Projects**
Pellegrino continues to work on cataloging the remaining electronic files from backup DVDs. Partially complete records are being held in an OCLC save file. When they are complete and the files have been uploaded, he will be able to enter these into CARL and report on all the titles. At this point, only one title was available on the server and uploaded into the catalog: *How a woman builds houses to sell at a profit for $4,000: the story of Miss Kate Gleason's housing enterprise at East Rochester, N.Y., where a hundred fireproof dwellings are being "manufactured"*. This title, an offprint from a 1921 issue of *Concrete* magazine, exists in our vertical files on encapsulated sheets. It is a wonderful article written by the engineer herself on the planning for Concrest, her East Rochester housing development, including house plans, interior and exterior photographs, and technical information on the building of the homes. This is a unique title, held by no other libraries, except those who actually hold the original magazine. It can be accessed through our catalog or directly at this link: [http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/How_a_woman_builds_houses_to_sell.pdf](http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/How_a_woman_builds_houses_to_sell.pdf)

**Rochester Voices**

- Ridarsky and Finn reviewed applications, interviewed candidates, and identified an educational consultant who would be an excellent fit for the “Erie Canal for the Classroom” project. Assuming all goes smoothly, we hope to bring her on board for a July 1 start date. The majority of her work will be accomplished over the
summer, with the end goal being a suite of educational resources for teachers and students learning about the Erie Canal in the fourth grade. These resources will be mounted in the “Classroom Connections” pages of the Rochester Voices website. This project is supported by a grant from the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor; the project end date is January 15, 2020.

- Finn consulted with staff from the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library on a grant application to the Community Foundation for the Rundel Terrace Outdoor Classroom project, which will connect directly with RochesterVoices.org and feature the newly created Erie Canal resources, along with the site’s other educational elements.

Social Media
Staff from the Local History & Genealogy Division contributed content for 14 social media posts in May: three on Twitter, three on Facebook, six Facebook Events, and two blog entries on www.rochistory.wordpress.com. The reach of these posts was 8,033: 4,748 on Facebook, 940 on Twitter, and 2,345 on our blog; 134 people engaged with Local History posts on Facebook, three on Twitter, and 111 on our blog. Part-time Library Assistant Emily Morry contributed one blog entry this month: “From Liquors to Bitters: The History of the Fee Brothers, Pt. 2.” This blog had a reach of 844, engaged 12 viewers, and generated six link clicks. Substitute Librarian Christopher Brennan contributed a blog entry: “The Fiery Cross: the Forgotten History of the Ku Klux Klan in Western New York.” This blog had a reach of 1,501, engaged 99 viewers, and generated 65 link clicks.

Volunteer/Intern hours
Volunteers from the Rochester Genealogical Society contributed 12 hours of service in May and assisted three patrons. In addition, we were assisted by four volunteers (Nancy Martin – 2.5 hours, Ira Srole – 33.25 hours, Kevin Allen – 4 hours, and Noeme Liestman – 12.75 hours). In all, volunteers and interns contributed 64.5 hours.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference
During the month of May, RMC handled 1,273 reference questions and 426 non-reference transactions and for a total of 1699.

Circulation
- In May, RMC rented 6 pieces of equipment and circulated 10,517 items or 48% of the Central Library’s total circulation of 22,092 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog and Telephone are added). **When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, we circulated 15,950 items! That is 50% more circulations that are not counted**
- Hoopla circulations for May totaled 1356: (346 Movies/TV. 572 Audiobooks. 140 Music. 207 eBooks. 91 Comics.) 380 patrons used the service during May with 54 new users registering and 86 patrons using all seven circs (23%). Average cost was $2.10/item.

Stewardship and Curation
On May 17th, the Reynolds Media Center started circulating Video Games. The initial collection is 15 PS4 games and 15 Xbox One games. (Most rated M for Mature) As of 5/31 there had been 37 circulations in CARL.

Programs
- Rochester premier of the film Milford Graves Full Mantis on May 1, w/Derrick Lucas from WGMC radio
- First Friday Film series on May 3, showed the movie Mary Poppins Returns.
In conjunction with the Stonewall Exhibit, RMC showed the film *Death and Life of Marsha P Johnson* on May 8.

May 12, was our See It First movie. We presented *Fighting with My Family*.

*Happy Birthday Marsha P Johnson*, a second film in conjunction with the Stonewall Exhibit, was shown on May 22.

Friday May 31, was the Short Films Sandwiched In. This month’s category was “friendship” shown through various short films.

**Displays/Exhibits**
The Reynolds Media Center created new Video Games, Music CDs and new BOCD displays as well as a set of trailers from recent film releases purchased by RMC. The Reynolds Media Center produced 4 brochures listing the new Video Games, new acquisitions in DVD, Music CD and BOCD formats. RMC also posted 4 stories to Facebook.

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**Science & History Division, Jennifer Byrnes reporting**

**Programs**

- Got health?: Hearing Loss Can Affect Anyone: It Could Be You! The presenter was Mary Chizuk, Co-Chair of Healthy Living with Hearing Loss, Rochester Prevention Research Center, University of Rochester Medical Center.
- Two programs were co-sponsored with the Art Division: Adult Legos and DIY Beauty with Gina Marie: Making Body Butter.
- Rochester Inventors Group: This networking group meets monthly at the Central Library and discusses aspects of the intellectual property process.

**Outreach**

- Byrnes, Meddaugh and Jalisa Egues, our Summer of Opportunity Student who is a sophomore at Our Lady of Mercy School for Young Women, attended “Thrive: Women Leaders Connect & Learn.” Egues was introduced to County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo and learned about the fine art of networking. Meddaugh made an important connection with the County’s department of economic development and Byrnes connected with current and aspiring business owners.
- Byrnes and Meddaugh attended the Chamber’s program “Cannabusiness” on the burgeoning medical marijuana industry in NYS. Through the Entrepreneur’s Network, Byrnes has been working with Flower City Solution, which oversees the NYHempLab. Also, plants are one of the most frequently patented items, so the Carlson Center will be dealing with this issue in the years to come.
- Byrnes attended Conscious Capitalism: From Purpose to Profit Conscious Business Summit. Richard Sheridan, author of Chief Joy Officer, gave the keynote speech.
- Byrnes was interviewed by Beth Adams on WXII’s morning radio show about Civic Saturday.
- Nash attended the Greece Historical Society’s Spring Dinner program. He was asked to be a greeter and do outreach for Central at the GHS Annual Strawberry Festival in June.
- Nash’s article on the “Chair of Honor,” which is located in the Vietnam Learning Center at Central, was published in the May issue of “Between the Lines,” a publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Thankful comments were received from vets for Central’s efforts to have this chair as a public reminder regarding POW/MIA issues.
- Nash was invited by the Military History Society of Rochester to see their new expansion and view and discuss new displays on the Civil War.
Consulting
• Carlson Center for Intellectual Property: 17 in person, 2 by email, 1 by mail, 5 by phone, 1 Patent Virtual Assistance Center appointment, 132 Webpage views.
• Ask the Experts Program: Meddaugh held Office Hours at Venture Creations Incubator at RIT.
• The Center celebrated its 20th anniversary as a USPTO Patent and Trademark Resource Center. Over 3 days the following events took place: Patent and Trademark Searching with United States Patent and Trademark Librarians, Intellectual Property Expo, celebration reception and keynote speaker Susan Tull, Using the USPTO Website to Answer Common Questions about Patents and Trademarks.

Partner Organization Statistics
Library Resource Outreach Center – 50
Volunteer Legal Services Project – 16
Nurse Barb – 14
STI Testing – Not available at this time.
360 Collaborative Network Referrals – 4

Anecdotes/Other
• Nash received an inquiry letter and a bibliography from a retired RIT teacher who inquired if Central would be interested in the donation of her personal collection of books on the Civil War. They have arrived, and Nash will be inspecting each title for possible inclusion in Central’s collection.
• Nash ordered several books on the Israeli/Palestinian peace process. A local organization’s inquiry via “Ask the Librarian” on the issue and donation of money to FFRPL funded the purchase of the books.
• A high school librarian from Warsaw Central emailed Levi regarding an end of the year social studies research project for their advanced senior high school students. The school lacks the resources and the time to do a field trip. Alla turned to Steve for help to gather 90 books on 20 research topics. The grateful school librarian will pick up the books at Central.

Teen Central, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs
• Z3Ke Nova is set to release his second album in June! Look for it. The library was responsible for his ability to create it.
• YA Librarian Antoine McDonald reports that during the month of May, he helped two students fill out and complete the universal application for the various HBCU’s.
• Also, Teen Central partnered with The Center for Youth in a Sex Education Forum. It was packed with students that were all engaged and appropriately behaved. It turned out to be a really great experience for the teens. McDonald was asked to repeat the program from teens that were unable to attend that day.
• Also, the Kick-boxing Self Defense Class was a great success. There were participants of all ages and levels of ability which made the class compatible for different backgrounds.

**imagineYOU – Jeffery Bostic, reporting**

454 Visitors
See what a Wednesday can look like in imagineYOU...
[https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/EaiDWTTixJ1NoyyHga2n7woBU-2aOS9IZMdaDzC8LZbKUQ?e=KaLPPx](https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/EaiDWTTixJ1NoyyHga2n7woBU-2aOS9IZMdaDzC8LZbKUQ?e=KaLPPx)

**TedxRoc**
ImagineYOU participated in TedxRoc at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. A table was set up for visitors to play the Oculus Rift and create music with our software instrument.

**E-Sports**
The E-Sports computers are still as popular as ever. Crowds gather when a player is close to taking first place in a Fortnite match. Players also enjoy taking each other on in 1v1 matches or leveling each other up on their personal accounts. The divider separating the computers has been removed to allow for crowds to watch both players without as much struggle and movement between the computers. The VR station was also moved to a different corner due to the crowding.

**Virtual Reality**
The BeatSaber records continue to be sought after on the oculus. Some users have put in enough effort to leave sweat all over the controllers.

**Saturday Classes**
A family attended all of the Saturday classes this month. They were able to learn about logo creation, cartoon photo creation, and photography.

**Glass Room**
Songs are created in the glass room almost daily since the introduction of the studio equipment. Other teens utilized the glass room to practice playing the piano.

**Studio**
The studio has been in use by certified individuals. Josh Pettinger, CEO Wicked Squid Studios certified two more individuals this month. So far there are 26 people certified to use the studio in the digital media lab.
Branch Library Updates

Assistant Director Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting

Workplace Inspections
All workplace inspections were completed. The inspections were designed to help identify hazards throughout the branches. Our primary goal was to assess office space and determine safety concerns. Jeff Moore, Safety Coordinator for the City, provided written reports and recommendations for each branch. Site supervisors have 60 days to make corrections, and order recommended supplies. A follow up inspection will be conducted the first week of August and a final report will be submitted to senior management with recommendations.

Volunteer Legal Services Project
Representatives met with Branch Administration and the site supervisors to discuss free legal services for patrons. The goal of VLSP is to improve the quality of life of low-income residents of Monroe County by ensuring the existence of a readily available panel of skilled volunteer attorneys to resolve serious legal problems. VLSP will pilot their services at Sully and Lincoln and offer legal clinics in addition to a comprehensive resource guide.

Training Module for Site Supervisors
Currently, I’ve been working on a training Module for the site supervisors that would focus on Leadership Development. I met with the City’s Training Director Dr. Johnda Ash to solicit guidance and feedback. I also met with Glenn Gardner, RPL Board Member to gain insight to his previous work experience with training, etc.

Safe To Be Smart Program, Derrick Coley reporting

The Arnett site
- Shetora Banks celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a cooking demonstration. The teens assisted with the preparation of tacos, a traditional Mexican dish.
- Banks continues to assist teens with job searches and online applications.
- She had her hands full with gang members fighting at the Arnett teen space this month, which affected the entire library. I assisted in the resolution with Banks, Site Supervisor Bruce Tehan and Chris, the Arnett Security Guard. We were able to talk with the parent of a teen involved and issued barring letters to teens. This is to eliminate the threat of retaliation in the near future.

The Phillis Wheatley site
- Lynnicsha Bostick-Beckford chaperoned a fieldtrip to the Lilac festival for youth. The youth got to see live stage performances and sample foods from a variety of vendors.
- Bostick-Beckford facilitated a healthy food, “Mix and Mingle” for all youth at Wheatley. The youth made their own yogurt cups with a variety of ingredients.
- Bostick-Beckford hosted a poetry slam in the community room. The participants ranged from adults to children that read or free-styled their art for all to see and hear.
- Lastly, Bostick-Beckford facilitated game day with Uno cards and provided snacks.

The Maplewood site
Mark Dixon facilitated a STEM program using Nintendo LABO. He used a new LABO vehicle kit for the youth to build from scratch following specific instructions. The youth were able to make a variety of augmented reality devices that controlled digital vehicles on land, water and in the air. This project took time and team work to complete. The older teens play tested all the control devices and then they invited all the youth to participate on
the large television in the community room to play. Dixon said, “The literacy aides were great help with assisting the elementary aged youth participate.” The LABO kits are a huge hit with all the youth to get them into STEM activities!

**The Lincoln site**
- Vera Haygood continues to provide job search and application assistance.
- Vera has been playing board-games with the teens create interest in more than just Facebook.
- Many of the male teens have been playing digital games through the computer and on the PlayStation in the meeting room.

**The Sully site**
- George Carter facilitated a reading of the book *Long Way Down* for the teens. The teens read for about 30-minutes and had an open discussion about the reading with Carter and YA/librarian, Jacob Bigelow.
- Carter continues to teach and play chess with teens that want to learn the game.
- Carter has been assisting teens with internet sign-on daily.

**Teen Central site**
- Lydia Williams and John Hylton worked together to make prom dream a reality for 4-teens that have been motivated students throughout the year. Williams and Hylton used their contacts and resources to help in getting dresses, tuxedos and tickets for the teens. The above and beyond mentoring by STBS staff is making a positive impact on some of Rochester teens that frequent TeenCentral.
- Williams and YA librarian McDonald nominated the Shining Teens for the month of May. The male and female teens have shown perseverance in the face of adversity by not letting family problems and the stress from being an inner-city teen stop them from advancing toward their goals. The male student won prom king and the female student has been gainfully employed at DeltaSonic with help from Williams and McDonald.
- Hylton and McDonald held a group meeting for teens wanting to participate in the Link Mural Project. The teens also met with local artist Chloe Smith to discuss layout and vision.
- Williams facilitated teen appreciation day by serving the teens pizza and letting them know that they are special to TeenCentral staff.

**Branch Administration, Patricia Connor reporting**

**Programs**
- Tonia Burton, Amanda Madigan (Pittsford Community Library) and Connor represented the Monroe County Public Library at the Rochester Red Wings Education Day. Burton brought the prize wheel and school students spun the wheel and then were shown a picture of a book character to identify in order to claim their prize. Since there was a three-hour rain delay, there were a lot of wheel spinners to keep the table hopping.
- Connor, along with Maria Heeks-Heinlein and Caitlyn Stahovic-Barnes, took the prize wheel for another spin at the *Spring into Safety Event* sponsored by Rochester Regional Health. Children and parents who attended received free bike helmets, child ID safety cards and information about summer programs and safety. To save resources,
Connor started an email distribution list for branch program flyers. Several families signed up at this event and sign-ups will continue at future Outreach endeavors.

**Community Outreach**
The Northwest Service Center schedules several outreach opportunities during the spring/summer months for the City residents served in the quadrant. The first outreach was held for JOSANA neighbors at the Soccer Stadium. Connor tabled at this event and provided library program and services information for those who attended. (Priority #2—Sustainability and Resources)

**Arnett Branch, Bruce Tehan reporting**

**Programs**
- The children’s area programs included a fun game involving our murals, a visit with a Tail Waggin’ Tutor, LEGO Club, Homework Help, Story-times and arts and craft projects.
- YA Librarian Nancy Cholewa conducted several programs this month including crafts, cooking and STEM programs.
- Youth prepared for Mother’s Day by making terrariums with plastic globe terrariums and air plants. We made them extra fancy using florist marbles of various colors.
- To make the Mom’s happy, we learned how to prepare a simple, health and tasty chicken dish with a fancy salad and a truffle dessert. Food programs are always a huge hit and this one was no exception. It was interesting that some of the kids were really into the cooking, while others acted almost afraid of the activity. Everyone enjoyed the food and teens were provided with recipes for the meal. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations).
- Adult Librarian Ginger Brewer-Bennet had several well attended programs during the month including a home energy program, a Rochester Regional Health’s Mobile Mammography Center visit, and healthy feet program.
- Arnett offered two information sessions by the Urban League of Rochester about its Steps to Success Program, a program geared towards young adults reentering the workforce. The program focuses on young adults living in the Rochester area who may have dropped out of high school or who may have been involved with the criminal justice system. The Urban League offered information on occupational skills training, TASC instruction, legal services, case management, etc. (Priority #1 Provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs and services based on community needs)
- The TASC tutoring program has been going very well. Tutor Jim Lynch has been doing a phenomenal job teaching adults who have been trying to prepare for the GED in order to further opportunities of employment and education. One of his students has been working very hard and her efforts have paid off. She recently passed her Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) this past week and shared her success with Lynch and the library staff. She came to TASC Tutoring because she needed help with developing her math skills. She was academically challenged and had an IEP diploma. She needed to pass her TEAS test in order to be admitted to a Nursing program. She was ecstatic and referred a friend of hers to TASC who will take TEAS
test in June. *(Priority #3 Stewardship and Curation: Provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs and services based on community needs)*

**Community Outreach/Meetings**

- Books by Bike was out three times during May. At an event hosted by the Rochester Police Department, I used Books by Bike to give away free donated books. Stephen Shon from the Irondequoit Library, whom I have been mentoring as part of the Monroe County Library mentoring program, is very interested in Books by Bike so we took it out for a ride and restocked several Little Free Libraries. *(Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Expand our visible presence in our community)*.

- Nancy Cholewa took the Books by Bike to a neighborhood Bike Clinic being hosted by the Arnett Block Association and His Branches Health Care. Cholewa reports, “Several of our young patrons came down with me, where we met other neighbors. We received a warm welcome and held storytime while the organizers got set up for the day. It was a very exciting afternoon with 15 youngsters receiving free bikes and several got a riding lesson to help them get started enjoying their new bikes. Safety was the word of the day and the kids were outfitted with a bike lock and a helmet to go with their new bike. A good time was had by all.”

- Cholewa also attended an event with Johanna Buran at the Memorial Art Gallery to do outreach during their Asian Culture Day on May 11. They were able to engage with many new American’s and give them information about Maplewood’s English and Citizenship classes. They also spread the word about the VIP passes, the Empire Passes, Summer Reading and the summer lunch program through our partnership with Foodlink.

**Charlotte Branch, Paul Tantillo reporting**

**Staff Updates**

- We’re happy to welcome our new literacy aide Diarra McFarland to the Charlotte team. McFarland previously served as a summer literacy aide/regular literacy aide at Lyell Branch. She’s happy to return to library work, and we can already see that she has great rapport with kids. She’s been very interactive with our younger patrons. On her first day she jumped right into the scheduled parachute play activity and had a lot of fun with the little ones.

- We congratulate library clerk Yamilet Torres on finishing her Associate’s Degree at Monroe Community College in May. This fall she’ll begin work on a Bachelor’s Degree at Nazareth College.

- We also congratulate library page Amber Vallentin on completing her Phlebotomy Technician program.

**Programs**

- We had a big turnout for Clean Sweep on May 11. Community Place of Greater Rochester has sent volunteers to Charlotte for several years now, and they didn’t fail us this year. A group of about 18 staff
and clients from Community Place arrived to help us out. In addition, we had 16 volunteers from the Alfred State Alumni Association, and several people came on their own. We had close to 40 volunteers. We spread mulch, weeded and pruned, raked leaves, picked up sticks, planted grass seed, and generally got the grounds spruced up. The weather was cool but brilliant, and everyone had a good time. (Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships).

• On May 18, we hosted a perennial swap. The way these swaps are supposed to work is that folks bring some divisions of whatever plants are surplus in their gardens. They leave them for others to take, and in turn help themselves to what others have brought. This is the second time we’ve tried this, and it does get a good response. We had more than 20 people participate. Some patrons stumble across the program when they come to the library, and some (usually the plant lovers) mark their calendar in advance, and everyone loves getting something for free. However, we have found that patrons do not bring enough of their surplus plants to make the program self-sustaining. Both times that we’ve held a swap Charlotte staff have brought things from their gardens to help stock the event. Without these extra plants to “prime the pump”, there really wouldn’t be enough contributions to make the swap successful. However, with the extras brought in by staff this one went very well. The weather was good [the swaps are held outdoors] and it made an attractive spring program offering.

• Speaking of plants, Children’s Librarian Kim Whittemore held a make-and-take planting program. We rooted some cuttings from the library’s houseplants, and kids and families were invited to pot up the cuttings to take home. Response was quite good. She reports “Our make-n-take planting program allowed families to plant a plant to take home. I was surprised that some of our younger visitors were quite comfortable in independently getting to work, while some of the adults expressed that they had never planted anything, and needed some coaching!” (Priority #1 Provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs and services based on community needs).

• Our first Branch Staff Development day was on May 20. I was unable to be there, but we had a list of projects to accomplish, staff had plenty to keep them busy. We didn’t have much cleaning or decluttering to do, since we had already done that for our April safety inspection. Instead, we focused on the collection. Staff completed end-of-the-year ordering and receiving; some folks worked on displays; we did our monthly weeding; we continued database cleanup in anticipation of using Collection HQ; we reclassified a number of things that, due to the quirks of the Dewey system, were shelved in odd places; and selectors did deep dives into the parts of the collection they are responsible for. Duff reports: “Our first Branch Staff Development day was a busy, productive one. I was able to evaluate each item in our large print collection. Combining a dusty book report with hands on inspection, I identified items needing mending or deletion. Shifting and placing some volumes face out helped to create a more appealing, searchable display in LP. Time was given to correcting CARL.X data, checking the content of our electronic game collection and finishing preparations for next year’s book discussion group. It was beneficial to have patron-free time to deal with entire collections, spreading out as I worked.”

Frederick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs

• Ngo hosted Nazareth College students for homework help and student engagement throughout the spring semester. Dr. Hiley from Nazareth worked with Tonia Burton and had the students working on a senior
project with criteria and the students came in to talk with kids, play games, help with homework, and participate in Raising a Reader events. Burton and Ngo were invited to the student presentations for the end of the semester. The students made great remarks about the library kids and their needs for positive interactions, which they said were very good with staff at the Douglass Branch. *(Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships).*

- Stahovic and Isaac Lewis, Literacy Aide wanted to have the kids watch older Disney films. To start off the Memorial Day weekend Stahovic-Barnes and Lewis did a marathon of classic Disney movies after talking with kids previously about ones they haven’t seen. May 24, was a Friday with no school so the TV was brought out they watched *Beauty and the Beast, Aristocats,* and *Aladdin* in honor of the live action release. Stahovic-Barnes hopes to plan a Disney Day for some time in July with other activities. Ngo pulled some titles and they created a Disney theme for the month. We started showing films not on Mondays because the kids all asked to watch something. The kids, even older ones, have loved watching *Lion King, Peter Pan, Hercules,* and *Mulan.* While showing *Lion King,* we had almost every child and teen sitting in to watch the movie.

- As discussed at the Branch Retreat, we decided to try running our quarterly book sale the same week as the Lilac Festival. Despite being rained out early in the week, we took in almost twice what we normally do for a regular book sale. We plan to have our spring book sale at the same time as the Lilac Festival next year as well.

**Anecdotes/Other**

The weekend of May 17 & 18 would have been the Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival. Since the festival was not held this year, Stahovic-Barnes joined the rest of the committee Friday night at iSquare for the presentation of the Victoria Brooks Scholarship. This is given to a teen on behalf of TBF to attend classes with Writers & Books. Saturday was spent working with the Teen Book Festival committee on bringing the festival back in 2020 and making other changes as well. The committee will meet again in September. Stahovic-Barnes also met with the committee for the Greater Rochester Teen Read Week. This year the committee will be hosting Greg Neri in October. Stahovic-Barnes is the point person to bring the author to Maplewood Community Library for an author visit that week.

**Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lehman reporting**

**Programs**

- In May we celebrated Cinco de Mayo with the movie *Coco* and popcorn for snacks. Afterwards, Jessica Blanco led the craft program with tissue paper and piping. Some children made flowers, others worked on banners or Mexican flags.

- Later in the week, Jasmine Santiago led a small story time with *Llama Llama Home with Mama.* The younger children loved the book. Then, the group took some time making Mother’s Day cards for the mother figures in their lives. There was lots of glue and glitter going around.

- For Santiago, the greatest new challenge was her first big group for story time. Santiago read *Creepy Pair of Underwear and Chancho el Pug.* We sang “Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, We’re Going to the Moon” and blasted off as rocket ships. It was a great learning experience. While Santiago was on vacation, Blanco led a Movie Program. Blanco played the *Lego Movie Justice League* with positive results.

- Also, we hosted a quartet from the Eastman School of music (organized by the Joseph Ave Arts and Cultural Council) as well as a Science Saturday presented by the Roc March for Science. Both events occurred back to back on a Saturday and were well attended. Many patrons expressed an excitement and appreciation for the activities. *(Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships).*
Community Outreach/Meetings/Training
- Jasmine Santiago joined the Neighborhood Safety Center on their walk down Clinton Avenue. Starting from Norton St, the group travelled door-to-door visiting businesses and speaking with the people of the neighborhood. The group’s focus was to share information on local business and services and ask questions about concerns and needs in each area. Officers Moses Robinson and John Marsh accompanied the group for our protection. *(Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Expand our visible presence in our community).*
- Also, Santiago attended the Children’s Services Meeting, on May 8.

Toy Library
- May’s numbers may reflect colder, rainier weather than usual, but it was a busy month in many other ways. Sarah Fitts Romig was busy talking to 200 families for four straight hours at the transition to K event and many families had not heard about the Toy Library. She was able to provide flyers for the summer program and appreciated Sully making 50 extra copies to meet the demand.
- She also did outreach at Downtown United Presbyterian Church at their adult forum. She learned this week that at least one attendee will be making a contribution to the Toy Library through FFRPL.
- Groups from Eugenio Maria de Hostos and School #16 visited. Both field trips went very well.
- The Toy Library staff worked very hard on the day Lincoln was closed to clean the storage area which is now less cluttered.

Teen Services
- During the month of May, Tim Ryan brought in his virtual reality system for the PlayStation 4. Ryan was able to gather 9 teens to attend and participate in the program. It was the first time any of these teens had
experienced using the VR system. The teens were able to experience a few VR selections including *Deep Sea Dive*, *Hot Air Balloon Ride*, and the horror video game, *Until Dawn*. The teens were amazed by the experience and very engaged throughout. The teens expressed extreme interest in doing these VR programs again in the near future; Ryan will continue to provide access to a variety of entertaining as well as educational VR experiences.

- Also in the month of May, Ryan put on a Super Smash Bros. Tournament for the teens to participate in. Food was provided and a certificate was given to the winner. The teens had a great time being able to play something aside from their usual ROBLOX on the YA computers. More entertaining gaming programs will be utilized in the future in correlation with educational and literacy programming.

- We continue to offer the TASC and New American Program (NAP) programs at Lincoln. We regularly have one or two attendees to the TASC tutoring classes meeting with Lynch. Lynch reports that he has a few students who are working towards hopefully taking the TASC test soon.

- The women in the NAP program continue to work on their community quilt and enjoyed a presentation from Consumer Credit Counseling Services in May. Sister Beth reports that most attendees to the program are regulars; however, there have been one or two new attendees that have arrived in May. We are hoping that the increased publicity is helping to make individuals more aware of the program.

- We were lucky enough to have David Pacific, the new executive director of the Joseph Ave Arts and Cultural Council (JAACA) drop off complimentary tickets to a show at the Lyric theatre in mid-May as well complimentary tickets to a show by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in late May to give away to patrons. In total there were about 60 tickets altogether, and I am happy to report that when I left for vacation on May 24, there were only ten RPO tickets remaining. We loved being able to offer this to our patrons and are hopeful that our continued relationship with JAACA will allow us to continue offering this type of service in the future. *(Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships)*.

**Anecdotes/Other**
In the month of May, Ryan worked with an adult patron who needed help securing a specialist for a severe medical issue he was experiencing. Ryan sat down with the patron and went to a variety of sites that give reviews and background information on physicians including the New York State Department of Health. The patron had arrived in a very concerned and anxious state of mind as he had been having extreme difficulty locating the information he needed in order to make an informed and educated decision regarding the physician. He was very grateful for Ryan’s assistance and expressed his thanks for the help he received at the Lincoln Branch Library.

**Lyell Branch, Shamika Fusco reporting**

**Programs**
Lyell’s Artist of the Month is Avery & Zoe. Avery & Zoe can usually be found in the library on Friday evenings. Their moms have been bringing these girls to the library for years. They truly enjoy coming to the library and taking advantage of whatever we have to offer. Most recently they created Mother’s Day mugs and frames to show their appreciation for their moms.
• The weather is consistently nice enough for our Bike Clinic to be outside. There has been lots of interest from adults & youth from our library’s neighborhood once Eric of DreamBikes set up shop outside behind the library. One grandmother brought her two grandchildren and their two bikes so they could get back on the road for spring! We saw a group of children across and slightly down the street, Jennifer Cherlin approached them about getting their bicycles fixed and shortly afterward, they very enthusiastically came over for their tune-ups. Cherlin wrote 2 letters for 2 patrons on library letterhead, so that they could receive a bike from R Community Bikes. (Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships).

• This month we extended Sexual Assault Awareness by showing the documentary *The Rape of Recy Taylor*. We had the honor of meeting some of her family members as well. They attended the screening and we took a picture of them. Some of them were in town for a family reunion which is why they have the same shirts on. (Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Create and maintain essential library relationships).

• Our food pantry is still quite the hit. It runs solely on donations from patrons and community organizations. Each month, someone is generous enough to donate something to keep this service going. This month we received a gracious amount of tuna from our anonymous donor. (Priority #1 Provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs and services based on community needs).

Branch Development Day
The Branch Staff Development Day was a success. We have expanded the Teen/YA section by placing a taller bookshelf towards the exterior of the Adult space. The area looks less cluttered and is quite the clean and approachable space. During the earlier parts of the day Adults tends to migrate over there because the lighting and decluttered feel is enticing. The space is appreciated by teens and gives them a clear understanding of where their space is designated. The anime and manga collection have been placed together, in efforts to make them more accessible. In addition to redesigning the teen space we were able to prepare many of the DVD’s for processing. We also tackled the staff area shelf by sorting various craft and art supplies into storage bins and labeled them accordingly. Long overdue reports as well as general weeding were conducted. Unfortunately, we found a trace of bed bugs, therefore the building had to be exterminated.

Cameron Street Ministries Peace Walk
Cameron Street Ministries celebrated their 7th Annual Peace Walk. When Jennifer Cherlin asked how & why the walk started, she was told: “So the streets are safe for our neighborhood children.” The youth walkers were very poised, reciting carefully written speeches before the march to & from the Lyell Branch Library. All 3 News outlets were present as were all the various youth and staff at Cameron, the local Police who ensured that walkers were safe throughout our walk, and the local Fire Department. A dedication was made for the new Teen Center at the conclusion of the walk. Groundbreaking is set to begin on creating their community garden space. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Expand our visible presence in our community).
Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- The children continue to want to sculpt using super light air-dry clay, which is non-toxic and doesn’t need to be baked to hold the form that is sculpted. The children enjoyed playing with the clay as it was easy to mold and there was a wide variety of colors. Some created miniature foods, animals, superheroes and flowers.
- Two groups of students from St. John Fisher College continue to volunteer and help children with their homework on Mondays and Wednesday. The third group of service-learning and community service students meets with a small group of children in first through third grade using the Seeds of Success program. The Seeds of Success program is designed to build resiliency in children from the City of Rochester that are impacted by poverty, trauma, and other challenges. The students will read books and run activities on topics like autonomy, persistence, and goal setting. Resiliency helps a child’s ability to deal with adversity and life stressors, which then leads to positive relationships and academic success. (Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Secure ample funding and resources).
- There were many teens who wanted to apply to the Summer of Opportunity Program through the City of Rochester. We ended up helping them with filling out the applications and the steps that followed. The teens who applied are eager to get a job and make money. The teens continue to enjoy Thursday coloring and have started to have chess games. The teens and tweens enjoy using the Nintendo Switch.
- The teen volunteers will continue until the end of their semester. One of the volunteers from Aquinas decided she wanted to create a crafting class for the children. Their first group went well so we did it every Thursday in March.

Outreach

- Evanna DiSalvo met Fran Carella at Mary’s Place, who is tutoring students for the naturalization exam so she brought him copies of worksheets and teaching aids that she has found helpful. She also spent a few minutes sharing tips she has learned and thoughts about the process.
- DiSalvo continues to visit the Nepali women at the RRRS (Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services) as they sew scrunchies. They have been joined by a man from Vietnam.
- Also, DiSalvo continues to meet with the clients of the Wachuku Foundation.
- With Pat Connor’s help DiSalvo filled in at OACES (Office of Adult Career and Education Services) Speaker Series.

Monroe Branch, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Margaret Paige, Children’s Librarian reports that her Babies & Books story and play time for the youngest patrons continues to remain near the top of participation for regular in-library programs. During the month of May, there were 37 participants involved in this weekly early literacy program. As mentioned in previous reports, parents appreciate the time of day and frequency of the program for their babies. Since this is a year-round program, it makes remembering “Every Tuesday at 2” easy for new and seasoned parents and
grandparents. They know that every week, unless it falls on a holiday or Paige is home sick, there will be stories, songs, games, and most importantly, other parents and babies to connect with at the library.

- The Seed Bank has become a tradition at Monroe for the month of May. Since we didn’t have an abundance of seed packets this year, we had to limit patrons to 2 packets each. I didn’t hear any complaints about this. We have had 34 people take seed packets. We also had patrons take out gardening books that we had received from the Rochester Civic Garden Center.

- Rebecca Hudson reports that she visited the Page Turners Book Club at School Without Walls on May 21. There were 10 students attending. She discussed programs we have coming up at the branch and left some flyers. Students and teachers alike were interested in hearing about Hoopla. She explained the service and handed out some teen-oriented Hoopla brochures.

- We are seeing more people come in to get items from the food truck. Last Friday, a woman and her young son stopped in for the first time. She came up to me and asked me questions about the New Life Emergency Food Cupboard that is down the street. We try to promote this food cupboard and they bring us donations every 2 weeks. Apparently, she received a letter saying her food stamps will be reduced to cover 2 people. She is the mother of 2 sons. She didn’t go in to why this reduction is happening. I told her that she should take items from our food truck to cover the holiday weekend. She proceeded to take a bag of food items. I was just happy that we were in a position to provide these items to her.

**Anecdotes/Other**

A woman that Scheg has been helping proof some of her writing assignments came into the library and announced she had passed all her coursework. She had gotten her cap and gown and was ready for graduation. We are so very proud of this woman. She turned to the library when she needed some help.

**Branch Development Day**

On Thursday, May 23, the Monroe Branch closed to do some cleaning and reorganization. Staff worked on:

- Packing up the items from the book sale from both floors
- Cleaning out the lost/found drawers
- Working on cleaning/organizing Branch Manager’s office
- Organizing and cleaning shelves in staff office area
- Cleaning/resurfacing DVDs
- Helping put up a new DVD shelving unit
- Working on Collection HQ lists.

Takeaways from this day: It was fun and very exhausting. We realized how much needs to be done. These days are also a positive way for the staff to work together. We had a food table set up in the teen area for breaks.
Sully Branch, Maria-Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs
- We have been working on a Harry Potter Program at Sully. Participants have a list of activities they can do to earn points for their house. One of the tasks in May was to make their own spell. One of the kids told me about the spell she created. “It’s fingerless ring less, it will take someone’s fingers away”. “Ouch”, Heeks-Heinlein said, “That’s a severe spell.” “What do you expect Ms. Maria, I am a Slytherin.”
- Young Adult Librarian Jacob Bigelow reports that the book discussion of Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds was quite successful. There was interest afterward about taking copies of the book home to re-read and look over. Teens were attentive during the readings and very respectful of the text. This program was a collaborative effort between Carter and Bigelow.
- We had our second Free For All event this month. This is like a garage sale, but no money is exchanged. Members of several Buy Nothing groups bring items they no longer want or need. Anyone can take what they want. We had 18 tables set up at the beginning, and a 19th table had to be added due to the large number of participants. By the end of the program most items were gone. All left over items did go home with the people who brought them. The library was able to pick up a cardboard cut out of Han Solo, which fit in perfectly with the day of the event, May the 4th.
- We held our second adult book club meeting in May. This month, we discussed Becoming, by Michelle Obama. We had another good turnout and lively discussion. The attendees stayed to talk for about 45 minutes after the discussion was finished, and the group is wasting no time in creating bonds with each other. When I asked the group if they would like to take the summer off, a unanimous decision was made to continue the discussions throughout the summer. One attendee commented that this time she spends at the club is for her. She said that she does things for people all the time, but this event is for her and she is happy we now have this group.
- The Transition to Kindergarten event at School #33 school was a big success this month. Nesbitt had the opportunity to table at the event with Susan Potera from Lyell. We spoke with around 500 people at this event, and gave away every single book, little prize, flyer, and application we brought with us. They had a Very Hungry Caterpillar sensory game set up that was very popular among children and enjoyed meeting many families who wanted to know how to get library cards, and what types of exciting things were going on at Sully and other libraries around the county. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Expand our visible presence in our community).

Anecdotes/Other
While changing the story boards for the story walk, one young man, pre-K age, and his grownup stopped to ask what I was doing. The grownup said that they read the story EVERY DAY. Another young man, about the same age, stopped and said, ”HEYYYY where’s Chase?!” Chase is one of the characters in Paw Patrol. They were not happy that I was removing Paw Patrol from the boards, but they were excited to see a new story to read. I explained to them, and two other adults who also stopped to ask what she was doing, how the current story was...
made and who illustrated it. Everyone was very positive with their comments (except for some disappointment of me taking Chase out of the boards) and expressed approval for the story.

**Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting**

**Programs**
Star Wars week was a blast. The children enjoyed the movies and craft projects. Their favorite, just like every year, was making light sabers out of pool noodles. We even had a couple to pose like they were ready for action. We made cards for Mother’s Day. They were jars filled with lightening bugs saying ‘Mom, You Light Up My World.’ Their favorite part was making the lightening bugs because they were able to use an ink pad to make their fingerprints. We also made some magazine art this month. They cut out different animal shapes and glued on strips of magazines to make colorful animals. Making Fairy Doors turned out to be a very creative project. The girls decorated their doors with all kinds of sparkles and beads. They made rainbow doors, and doors with patterns. Some made a couple and then glued them together. It was so they could have a fairy room.

**Anecdotes/Other**
- Each month, Haehn visits School#10 to meet with parents as they drop their children off for preschool. She works with their literacy coordinator and gives the parents tips to good reading skills. This month when she went one of the little ones had something to say her. He tugged on his mom’s jacket and said “Mommy, that’s the li-berr-ian. She comes and reads to us mommy.” It was great to see a huge smile on his face and on his mom’s face.
- Yunique comes into the library with her sisters and brothers. Her older sister wanted some books and so did she. The look on her face when she received the Barbie and Hello Kitty Book was so precious. She jumped up and down and said “Thank You Miss Alex. I can read them with mommy when I go home.”
- The Mix and Mingle this month was Fruit and Yogurt parfaits. The kids did not know what it was or how to pronounce “parfait.” It was fun listening to them try to say it- parsay, parfat. In the end they thought it was delicious and learned something new.

**Branch Staff Development Day**
There was an amazing portion of work that got done on our closed day. Clerks worked diligently to clear off their processing carts. The arts and crafts area of the AV room was cleaned out and organized. Storage areas in the back staff area were cleaned out and organized as well. It was a blessing to have this uninterrupted time to be able to finish projects that we had been working on piecemeal.
Anecdotes/Other

- We have a group of generational care givers who meet every other Tuesday at the library. They were looking for an organization who would donate books to them. We had just finished our book sale so we let them go through what was left. They were very grateful to be able to get books to give to the children they look after. “This is a godsend” and “you are angels” were some of the comments staff received. They usually are caregivers for grand and great grandchildren and don’t have the time or money to find books. *(Priority #2 Sustainability and Resources: Secure ample funding and resources).*

- Phillis Wheatley’s first poetry slam occurred on May 15. Children, teens, and adults of all ages attended this event. Everyone came out to showcase their talents, some read their own poetry and others performed works of their favorite artist/authors. A patron’s niece attended Wheatley’s first poetry slam. This inspired her to want to write her own poem so that she would be able to perform at our next poetry event.

_Winton Branch, Kathy Wolf reporting_

*Programs*

Dan Hart brought three of his ninth-grade literature classes to visit over two days. They were working on a Children’s Literature project that had to do with comparing a Young Adult book with two or three children’s books that dealt with the same theme. Kathy Wolf gave a short presentation on the importance of Children’s Literature in general. She also discussed how important it is that people be able to see themselves in their
reading material. A good book should serve as a “mirror” to the reader. Another way literature is important is that it can sometimes serve as a window that looks in on experiences we have never had. This allows us to see the world through another’s eyes from a different perspective. (Priority #1 Education and Engagement: Promote Learning and Provide educational experiences for our diverse populations). Wolf pulled a large number of books for them to look through and found them material that matched their themes. There were some interesting themes such as: how people can be affected by trauma, friendship, issues that people in the LGBT face, and how people have value no matter what they look like. This is the second year that Hart and Wolf have worked together, and it has been a wonderful experience!

Anecdotes/Other

- Pat Finnerty helped a young college graduate who was looking for books regarding the Officer Candidate Training (Military) test. Since Finnerty’s son was in the military recently, she was able to help him and answer questions about the test. He told her he would be sure to come in after the test and let her know how it went.
- We had our branch staff day and we were able to get a lot of weeding done. Finnerty tackled the Russian Collection and did extensive weeding of the collection. Ines Munks, our volunteer, continues to help us pare down the NF collection as well.

Selected Meetings & Outputs, May 18 - June 14,
Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director reporting

Standing Meetings
City Senior Management Team (weekly)
RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)
Brie Harrison; Sally Snow; Ana Suro, Tolley Reeves, Tonia Burton – one-to-one meetings (monthly)
FFRPL Executive Director Ned Davis (monthly)
Monroe County Assistant County Executive, Michael Molinari (monthly)
Central Library All-Staff Meeting (monthly)
MCLS System Services and Operations Committee (monthly)
New York State Library – Division of Library Development conference call (monthly)
Public Library System Directors’ Organization (PULISDO) conference call (monthly)
Lyla Grills, Penfield Public Library mentoring meeting (monthly)
City Dept. of Environmental Services Commissioner, Norm Jones (bimonthly)
Other Meetings
Early Grade Literacy Team Meeting (twice)
Elizabeth Andreea conference call
County Legislature Rec & Ed Committee CIP Hearing
Diversity of Library Collections with Luticha Doucette, Alicia Reinhardt, Shamika Fusco & Lyla Grills
City Education Team meeting
Arts & Cutural Council board meeting
Vivian Vande Velde, Rebecca Fuss, Ned Davis on Festival2Go
RPL Children’s Librarians
Neil Massong & Spruce Fraser, USPTO
Community Foundation Staff, Sally Snow, Ned Davis on VIP Passes
Hipocampo Books Grand Opening
Carlson Center for Intellectual Property Panel Discussion
State of the County Address
Central Exhibits Team
Brigit Hurley, Children’s Agenda Budget Analysis
FFRPL Director’s Luncheon
RRLC Annual Meeting
PULISDO Conference Planning phone call
RPL Board Finance Committee with Alesco Financial Advisors
City Budget Hearing
Dr. Reeves & Joan Lee, review of Branch responses to Hester Street study
Project Management Class
Race Equity And Leadership/Justice Initiative first meeting
Genesee Country Village Board meetings
City Council Committee Meeting on Smoking Ban Ordinance Amendment

Email Activity
May 2019

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